Includes a message from President Mike McGaha, Finance Report, Special Notice, 2020 Primary Endorsements, Workplace Updates, and more…

The Voice of Teamsters
Spring 2020

Local 391 stewards Jason Kauer (UPS Morrisville) and Stefan Williams (UPS Cary) represented the Union at the HKonJ/Moral March in Raleigh on February 8 and stopped to chat with Congressman David Price.
Message from the President

Like you, I’ve been dreading it. I didn’t want to see it or hear it, but it doesn’t matter. It’s here.

The 2020 election is upon us and although I would rather watch paint dry than to listen to a politician, I know is as important as ever that Local 391 get involved in the 2020 election.

There’s an old saying in politics that, “if you’re not at the political table, you’re on the political menu.”

One things for sure, labor has definitely been on the menu over the last four years as we’ve seen greedy corporations and their puppet politicians take bite after bite from the small gains we’ve gotten over the last generation.

I am very aware that we have many members in our Union who support conservative principles and go to the ballot box to support those candidates. I also know that as sure as our Union makes endorsements of any Democrat, I will hear it from these members.

I’m also aware that we have many members in our Union that vote Democratic and it peeves them to no end to see Local 391 endorsing anyone from the Republican side of the ticket.

Both sides need to understand that Local 391 makes endorsement decisions based on a few criteria:

1) If they’ve ever held office, they must have a track record of getting work done for Local 391 members.
2) If they’ve never held office, they must show us a time in their life – whether it’s work, leadership, or personal life – where they’ve sided with workers over management.
3) We also ask to show us their path to victory. Let’s be honest, anyone can make promises, but the key is winning a seat.

I’ve talked to members in this Union who want us to have a different criteria. Some on the right have suggested we get into religious issues while some on the left want us to get involved in social issues.

Those are not our buckets of work and it’s not how we make decisions on who to support or oppose as a Union.

So when you see endorsements in this newsletter, and more endorsements coming later in 2020, know that those candidates have been vetted on worker issues and nothing else.

Know that they’ve been asked questions about pension solvency, pay raises for public school employees, collective bargaining for public employees, health insurance, Supreme Court nominees, employee safety, due process rights, and other issues important to workers.

The bottom line is this: Look at Local 391’s endorsement list and use it as a point of information for when you go vote.

But whatever you do, please exercise that right to vote. That’s something we can all agree on.

In solidarity,

Mike McGaha
President

McGaha Appointed to NC Film Council

Local 391 President was appointed by Governor Roy Cooper to the Governor’s Advisory Council on Film, Television and Digital Streaming in October 2019.

The first-term governor announced in October the creation of the Council in effort to continue growing North Carolina’s film industry. The Film Council has held one meeting so far.

“The industry is changing with streaming now and with digital,” Governor Roy Cooper said. “With all of the opportunities that are there, we want to be at the cutting edge of places where they would want to come and to produce all of these.”

Governor Cooper signed Executive Order 111 to create the council at Screen Gems Studios in Wilmington, where many Teamsters work when film and TV productions are shooting.

“As we are beginning our big push to see film rebound in North Carolina having this council together with all of those people who can help me with strategy, but can also be ambassadors all over the place for film in North Carolina is a positive step,” Cooper said.

President McGaha said he was honored to be appointed to the advisory body and that he would use the platform to not only promote film, TV, and streaming entertainment, but he was open to finding other opportunities for Teamsters to get needed work.

“North Carolina’s film industry already has created many Teamster jobs while expanding opportunities for companies to invest in our state,” said McGaha. “Gov. Cooper’s decision to create this council will greatly aid efforts to expand this industry and help North Carolina continue to prosper, but we also need to get back to where we were before the film tax credit was allowed to sunset back in 2014.”

McGaha said any investment in the film industry in North Carolina is not an investment in one geographical area, but an investment in North Carolina and the workers who drive the economy which grows other employment opportunities for North Carolina residents.”

Cooper says film job opportunities in 2019 are up to 10,976 after dropping off over the last several years. Production spending has also increased and stands at $165 million so far in 2019.
Local 391 stewards Latarsha Jackson, Howard Lazoff, JoCarolyn Wilkins (Trustee), Will Hopkins, Tim Brown, Mary Suzan, Kim Haith, and Yolonda Williams attended the International Civil Rights Center & Museum 2020 GALA sponsored by the International Civil Rights Museum in Greensboro on February 1.

February 1, 2020 celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the Sit-In Movement which was launched from the historic F.W. Woolworth building on February 1, 1960 on Elm Street in downtown Greensboro.

This event also marked the tenth anniversary of the Museum’s opening.

“Thank you for representing this Union on the 60th anniversary of the internationally recognized Greensboro Sit-In,” said Local 391 President Mike McGaha. “A celebration of 60 years of a nonviolent civil rights struggle that in many ways began right here in Greensboro. Local 391 is proud to remain partners in that struggle as we know a fundamental part of civil rights are labor rights.”

In attendance at the February 1 event was Governor Roy Cooper, Reverend Jesse Jackson, 6th District Congressional candidate Kathy Manning (bottom left photo), Al Sharpton, and actor Danny Glover. Local 391 members took the opportunity to meet these civil rights and popular icons and got a few photographs.

“In one remarkable day, February 1, 1960, four college freshmen went for a walk to the Woolworth’s lunch counter in downtown Greensboro and changed the course of American history,” said Wilkins, who is a trustee and attended the event. “The act of simply sitting down to order food in a restaurant that refused service to anyone but whites is now widely regarded as one of the pivotal moments in the American Civil Rights Movement.”

The students were Ezell Blair, Jr. (now Jibreel Khazan), David Richmond, Franklin McCain and Joseph McNeil. The foursome would go on to be called the Greensboro Four, and were credited with inspiring sit-ins across the United States.

“It was about solidarity with those four students and a city that rallied behind them,” said McGaha. “Local 391 is still standing with them.”
As the IBT contemplates an endorsement of a United States Presidential contender, it is gathering information from its members across the country about the candidates running and vetting them on based on Teamster and labor issues.

One of those members the IBT is relying upon is Local 391 Steward Jason Kauer (UPS), who along with his wife Camille and daughter Vanessa has been conducting political reconnaissance work as presidential hopefuls make campaign stops in North Carolina.

Last fall, the Kauer Family visited back stage with Vice President Joe Biden and Senator Elizabeth Warren and took the opportunity to specifically ask the candidates about policy positions on collective bargaining for public employees, appointees to the National Labor Relations Board, and the multi-employer pension bill called the Butch Lewis Act.

Jason even took Senator Warren to task about her health care proposal that would essentially end health insurance, including the health care plan bargained and won by Teamsters in negotiations with UPS through the years.

“All the money goes back in our pocket,” Jason wrote in his report to the IBT in describing the Senator’s answer to his question. “Sounds good really, but I don’t think that UPS will give the money without a huge fight.”

The IBT is collecting this information from stewards and members like Jason and it will help inform the Union on a 2020 presidential pick.

“We appreciate Jason and Camille for representing Local 391 at these political events and for asking the tough questions to candidates,” said Local 391 Recording Secretary Rachel Eitzen. “Jason's reporting to the IBT along with the upcoming polling of the IBT membership and surveying local union leadership will inform the General Executive Board and the General President of how we should proceed with an endorsement – or the decision to make no endorsement.”

Local 391 Candidate Screening Process

Local 391 uses a multi-faceted approach to determining which political candidates it recommends to its members, including a review of voting records and actions on behalf of Local 391, written answers to questionnaires, and in-person interviews.

Secretary-Treasurer Vernon Gammon, Vice President Rick Armstrong, and Recording Secretary Rachel Eitzen accomplished much of this work by participating in the NC AFL-CIO screening of candidates back in early December in Raleigh.

“The screening gave us an opportunity to not only review written statements, but to ask candidates directly on how they were going to help our members,” said Gammon. “We took those answers and put them in the context of past actions for our Union, and we determined who our slate of endorsed candidates would be.”

Gammon said that Local 391 and the NC AFL-CIO is usually 99% on the same page, but sometimes the Union parts ways with the umbrella organization on some candidates.

“We represent so many in the public sector that we often see candidates through the lens as an employer to our members as well as politicians,” said Gammon. “Sometimes they’re good employers and sometimes not. We only endorse good employers.”

Local 391 VP Rick Armstrong listens to Governor Roy Cooper at the NC AFL-CIO screening in Raleigh in December.
Local 391 Primary Endorsements

As the primary election approaches on March 3, Local 391 announced its recommended candidates to its members at February membership meetings in Greensboro and Raleigh.

Candidates without primary opponents – like Attorney General Josh Stein – are not listed in this batch of candidates, but will be released in November for the general election.

"A primary election is an opportunity for voters to choose a candidate for each office to represent their party in the General Election in November," said Local 391 President Mike McGaha. "This list is comprised of candidates we believe will fight for our members and workers across North Carolina."

In a primary election, Republicans, Democrats, and Libertarians vote in their respective political party contests, while unaffiliated voters can choose which party they would like to participate in.

Local 391 reminds voters that a photo identification is not necessary to vote in the primary election this year after a federal judge found North Carolina’s voter identification law to be unconstitutional and issued a restraining order against the law taking effect.

And while February 7, 2020 was the deadline to submit a regular Voter Registration Form, voters can still register to vote if they early vote between February 13 and February 29. Note: Voters cannot register to vote on primary election day (March 3).

"In order to vote in North Carolina, you must be registered," said President McGaha. "If you’ve already registered, you should still double-check that your registration is current and correct."

President McGaha said voters can look up their registration online at the NC State Board of Election website (ncsbe.gov). Voters can also download sample ballots.

"Remember, you can take Local 391’s print list or a list on your phone into the polling place when you vote to help you remember who you want to vote for," said President McGaha.

Primary Endorsements

Cal Cunningham | U.S. Senate
Roy Cooper | Governor
Chaz Beasley | Lieutenant Governor
Ronnie Chatterji | Treasurer
Jenna Wadsworth | Commissioner of Agriculture
Beth Wood | State Auditor
Keith Sutton | State Superintendent
Kathy Manning | Congress 6th District
Monika Johnson Hostler | Congress 2nd District

Candidates listed are contested races for the primary on March 3, 2020.

Early voting begins Thursday, February 13.

Photo: Keith Sutton for State Superintendent
Local 391 Special Notice to Members

Pursuant to Local 391’s By-Laws (Article V), notice is hereby given of the Executive Board's recommendation that the Officers, Agents and Organizer receive a three percent (3%) wage increase to become effective March 1st, 2020.

The recommendation was presented to the membership at its February 8th and 15th, 2020 meetings, and is to be voted on at the Greensboro General Membership Meeting, Saturday, March 14th, 2020 at 10:00am and at the Raleigh General Membership Meeting, Saturday, March 21st, 2020 at 10:00am.

Local 391 Brother Will Be Missed

With heavy hearts, Local 391 shares the news that member and steward (Holland) Greg Womack, 51, died Saturday, February 1, 2020 at Duke Regional Hospital in Durham.

Womack was born in Durham to the late James Lloyd Womack and the surviving Laura Sue Womack. In addition to his mother, Greg is survived by his daughters, Danielle Womack, Carlie Womack; son, Wyatt Womack; sister, Theresa Boyce (Jeff); nieces, Kelsey Boyce, Kamryn Boyce; and many other nieces and nephews.

“Greg was a fixture at Local 391 membership meetings in Raleigh and was regularly accompanied by his son Wyatt,” said Local 391 President Mike McGaha. “Even with health challenges in the last couple years, Greg made it to the Raleigh Union Hall and would make it to the microphone to make parliamentary motions from the floor. He will be missed by this Union.”

Local 391 Secretary-Treasurer Vernon Gammon, Vice President Rick Armstrong, and Business Agent Keith McCorkle represented Local 391 at the visitation.

The family requests any memorial donations be made to the Christian Motorcycle Association Chapter 699: 2742 Dillon Ct., Creedmoor, NC 27522.

Meet Local 391’s Newest Business Agent

Local 391 President Mike McGaha, Vice President Rick Armstrong, and Business Agent Keith McCorkle traveled to Wilmington on February 11 to announce that UPS Steward Doug Irving (center) will be the Union’s newest business agent starting on April 1.

Irving, who has been a package car driver with UPS for 25 years, will primarily focus on UPS in eastern North Carolina with Business Agent McCorkle and Vice President Armstrong.

“Bringing Doug on as a business agent will enhance our representation of our UPS members and give us someone on the ground in Wilmington who can react to problems right away, even in the middle of the night,” said President McGaha. “I spent a career at UPS and I know how the company operates. I feel we have the best team to stand up for our members and to fight for fairness in the workplace.”

The addition of Irving brings UPS business agents up to six, including McGaha, Armstrong, McCorkle, Chris Vaughn, and Jody Whitlock (UPS freight) members.
On January 9, 2019, Raleigh police officer Charles Ainsworth was shot several times at close range in the line of duty. Ten months later and multiple operations later, he finished a 4-mile race and is back on the job at the Raleigh Police Department.

“Charlie was shot multiple times and nearly died while responding to call to investigate a stolen car suspect on Western Boulevard,” said RPPA President Matt Cooper. “He spent the past year in rehabilitation from the injuries and subsequent surgeries. Part of Ainworth’s training included running to strengthen his body and mind in anticipation of his return to service.”

Ainsworth showed off that training with “no complaints and all smiles” while finishing the a 4 mile event run in October, the Raleigh Police Department reported on its Facebook page. Ainsworth followed up the the distance run a week later with another feat: He returned to work at the Raleigh Police Department, this time in an administrative role until he is fully recovered.

“Charlie (Ainsworth) is an incredible human being and because of his toughness and resolve he is not only alive today, he is back serving the citizens of Raleigh,” said Local 391 Vice President Rick Armstrong, who services the Raleigh Police Protective Association, of which Ainsworth is a member. “There was a time in the hours and days after the shooting last year that we thought the worst. I am proud to report that our brother is back and stronger than ever.”

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**Teamster College Scholarships**

Local 391 members with children who are high school seniors have two scholarship funds for which they can apply from Local 391 and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. The scholarships are in the amount of $750 each year to high school seniors who are the dependents of the Local Union’s active, retired, or deceased members. Local 391 scholarship application forms may be obtained at the Local Union office or on the Local 391 website.

The deadline to apply for a Local 391 scholarship is April 30, 2020.

The students must be dependent children or step-children, both natural and adopted, of members of Local 391 who have been in good standing in Local 391 for at least one year. Children of full-time representatives, organizers and officers are ineligible.

Required materials include a high school transcript; three recommendations from persons such as a pastor, neighbors, or an employer for whom the student has performed summer work if available; and a written statement from the student setting forth his/her ambitions. The written statement includes what the students interest are; what plans the student has for the future, what area of study is planned, and why the student feels qualified.

"Once the application and required materials are received by the Local Union office and it is determined that the Teamster parent is a member in good standing, the student will be sent an acknowledgment letter in which they are advised whether or not they have been selected as a finalist, and an interview will be set up with them," said Local 391 Secretary Treasurer Vernon Gammon.

Visit the Local 391 website at www.teamsterslocal391.org for more information.

A second pool of scholarship money is the IBT’s James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund, which is available to the sons, daughters and financial dependents of Teamsters. The deadline for this scholarship fund is March 2, 2020.

“In 2019, $1.2 million was awarded in $10k and $1k academic scholarships for the children of Teamster members to attend four-year college and universities throughout North America,” said Gammon. “Additionally, many scholarships to support the costs of vocational/trade school programs were awarded.”

Please visit the scholarship fund’s website at www.jrhmsf.org in order to find out information.