



www.teamsters572.org

SUMMER 2015

Teamsters Local 572

REPORTER

Rick Middleton, Secretary-Treasurer



Key to this summer's grocery negotiations will be preserving Local 572 members' exceptional health and welfare benefits.

see story Page 12

Kermit Fisk - 40 years

what's inside:

Secretary-Treasurer's Message	2
Costco Negotiations to Start Soon	3
Strong Teamster Team at UPS.....	4-5
Transdev Members Move LA	6-7
First Teamster Pension at MV/MTA	8-9

Mission School Transportation.....	10-11
Grocery Negotiations at Ralphs	12-13
Victory! Wage Increases at LAUSD.....	14-15
Gate Gourmet Fights for Benefits.....	15
New Negotiations at First Student.....	16

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S MESSAGE

Celebrating our union family

by Rick Middleton

This new publication for our members celebrates our local union's successes and will make you aware of our current struggles we face! It's also the best way to honor the great men and women who make Local 572 such a powerful organization.

This issue highlights the strong

network of shop stewards and Business Agents who work together to ensure that every Local 572 member gets the representation they deserve.

We'll also inform you about issues affecting bus drivers — from those driving Mayor Garcetti to lunch on downtown LA DASH buses to



those who safely transport our kids to school.

We are thrilled to tell you that bus drivers at MV/MTA now have a Teamster pension! You'll find more details in the story.

At LAUSD, after years of stagnation due to the recession, wages are on the rise. There is an across-the-board wage increase as well as impressive successes by some dedicated LAUSD shop stewards.

This summer, our local union will be going to bat for members in contract negotiations with First Student, Ralphs Distribution, Gate Gourmet, and Costco. I am most confident in our devoted Union Leaders, Business Agents, Shop Stewards, and Bargaining Committee Members who will fight for these contracts and bring our members the wages, benefits, and job security they deserve.

I thank you all for being such a strong union family, and I wish you a wonderful summer!



The Local 572 office staff, from left to right, are Tish Del Castillo, Office Manager, Carolina Roth, Iris Li, Laura Gutierrez, Lorraine Delgado and Elizabeth Phan.

Costco negotiations to start soon

MEMBERS: Keep an eye out for an important survey as we head into negotiations.



Simon Melendez, Barbara Kingsbury and Izack Madrid, Shop Stewards - Costco Fountain Valley



Brad Williams, Shop Steward - Costco Yorba Linda



Chandra McQuarn, Shop Steward - Costco Signal Hill

Negotiations will begin soon for a contract covering Local 572 members at Costco stores in Norwalk, Fountain Valley, Signal Hill, Yorba Linda, Irvine, and Fullerton. The current contract expires January 31, 2016.

Members will receive a survey in advance of negotiations so that they can voice their key concerns and hopes for the new agreement. Please keep an eye out for this important survey so that we can truly represent you in negotiations. If you have recently moved, please update your address by sending an email to Doug Brown at dbrown@teamsters572.org.

Locals 542, 166, 986, 150 and 853, who represent Teamsters at other Costco locations, will also be involved in the negotiations.

UNION PREVAILS:

Two Members Returned to Work at Costco with Back Pay

Two wrongfully terminated members at Costco have been returned to work with full back pay, thanks to the diligent efforts of Secretary-Treasurer Rick Middleton and President Dennis Watson. Rafael Robles and Sean Rice almost lost their jobs, but Local 572 prevailed in a panel hearing that returned these members to their positions with substantial back pay award earlier this year.



Gary Bancroft, Shop Steward, and Rose Flores
- Costco Yorba Linda

Members at UPS Backed by Strong Teamster Team

A tight network of shop stewards and Business Agents work well together to give members at UPS top-quality representation.

From loaders to drivers, from warehouses to neighborhoods all over Southern California, Local 572 members are critical to UPS operations. Every day, dawn to dusk, they deliver important packages to businesses and residences. To be sure that each of

these Teamsters receives the solid union representation they deserve, a network of 10 full-time shop stewards, several part-time shop stewards, and two Business Agents is constantly on the job.

Driver Daniel Fujii has been at UPS for 13 years. At first,

he had a lot of questions about the contract and how the whole operation worked, for example how to bid on routes in the days before he had his own route. President Dennis Watson, then a Business Agent, answered all his questions. So when there was an opening for a new shop steward, Fujii stepped in. "I love answering questions for others, letting them know about their rights, the contract, and what a union is all about," he said.

Fujii and the other UPS shop stewards work closely with Business Agents Tait Skifstrom and John Flammia.

Skifstrom has been a Business Agent for UPS members for 5 years. He is especially proud of the



Quon Scott



David Joldersma



Mark Eason



Jerry Rodriguez



Jimmy Diaz, Juan Serrano, John Flammia, Business Agent, Omar Ledezma and Edward Ulloa

work Local 572 does day in and day out on workplace grievances. “We have a track record of success with common grievances as well as some unusual grievances. We know we are effective when we successfully get someone back on the job after they have been wrongfully terminated,” he said.

Flammia is the newer Business Agent, fulfilling this role for eight months. But he is by no means new to UPS. He worked there for 27 years before stepping into his new job with Local 572. “I was there so long that I know everyone, and I know the issues that need to be addressed,” he said.

Since becoming Business Agent, Flammia has been working hard to enforce the 9.5 policy, which gives members who don’t want to work excessive overtime a protected alternative. Reflecting on his new job, he said, “I no longer have set hours. Now my job goes all day long—it doesn’t stop when you make that last delivery.” It’s a big change, but he is enjoying it, and happy to be serving fellow Teamsters.



Rosalind Thomas



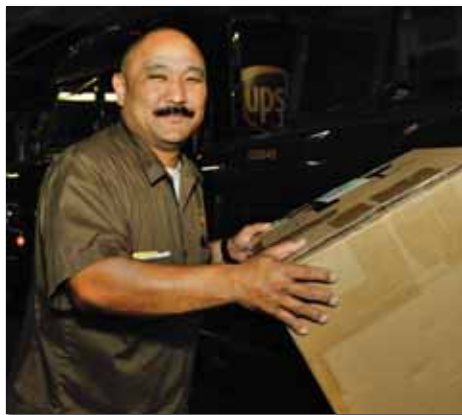
Lallo Gallardo and Mitch Cortez



Odilion Cabezas and Mark Eason



Timothy Magee



Scott Takahashi



Sean Whittle, Safety Co-Chair, and Robert Lucero, Wellness Champion

Transdev Members Move the Mayor – and the Rest of LA

Drivers and mechanics represented by Local 572 transport people on DASH buses throughout Los Angeles—including the mayor and his staff.

When the mayor and staffers need to get from City Hall to an important meeting or their favorite lunch spot downtown, it's often Local 572 members who give them a ride. Mayor Garcetti, a public transit advocate, rides the DASH bus to get around downtown. And he's not the only one — members of his staff and other city leaders also make use of the convenient, inexpensive bus service.

Behind the wheel of those buses are Local 572 members who work for Transdev, a global transportation company with operations all over the world. Locally, their network includes the Los Angeles Department of Transportation DASH buses.

Local 572 represents drivers and mechanics who keep DASH running smoothly in downtown LA and 27 other neighborhoods in the city. Their unit has been unionized for more than 25 years, with the local union standing up

for them in the face of staffing shortages and other issues. The local is always fighting to preserve great union benefits, including a secure pension plan.

DASH driver Liz Peralta became a shop steward 13 years ago because she wanted to help members who have a language barrier. "I'm bilingual, so I saw it as an opportunity to help make sure all members know they have rights and are protected," she said.

The drivers' and mechanics' four-year contract with Transdev ends this year. Business Agent Traci D. Smith will be gearing up to negotiate for a solid new agreement later in 2015.



Rachel Gonzales



Richard Trejo



Members of Local 572 with Business Agent Traci D. Smith, second from right



Business Agent Traci D. Smith with Liz Peralta and Lorraine Brewton, Trustee, Local 572



Arnold Godoy, Mechanic



Florencio Garcia, Mechanic



Chris Stone and Isaura Higueros



Marco Avila, Mechanic



Boris Najarro and Maribel Lopez, both Shop Stewards



Arnold Godoy, Mechanic

Members at MV/MTA win first Teamster pension

Long-term members unanimously ratify a new contract that brings them a Teamster pension.

Bus drivers, supervisors, and dispatchers who keep people moving all over the South Bay have unanimously ratified a new contract that gives them a Teamster pension for the first time. We are proud to celebrate this hard-won victory for longtime members.

Unanimously ratified in May, the new four-year agreement also includes substantial wage increases.

Business Agent Traci D. Smith credits devoted shop stewards with helping to win pension benefits for these longtime members.

Shop steward and bus driver Michelle Patterson has been fighting for a pension for a decade. "I saw so many people before me retire and all they walked away with was a watch; some of them had

to go back and work again. That's why everyone on the negotiating committee held out to get every member at MV/MTA the pension we deserve," she said.

Sharon Dunning, a shop steward who served on the negotiating committee, understands that every negotiation involves compromise. "There has been a whole lot of improvement from when I got here in 2007," she

said. "This is a contract we can be satisfied with—and the pension outcome is great for everybody."

Patterson and Dunning are two of several deeply committed shop stewards who fought for their fellow members. "It comes from within yourself, believing in a better working environment for yourself and everyone you work with, and a better future for all of our families," Patterson said.



Paz Wagner



Katrena Whitman



La Tanya Henry, Secretary-Treasurer Rick Middleton and Archangel Jennings



Linda Forte-Robinson



George Sealy



Secretary-Treasurer Rick Middleton with
Maurice Hayman



Secretary-Treasurer Rick Middleton, Victor Morales, and Business Agent Traci D. Smith



Pamela Ervin



Samyia-Lee Ervin with Secretary-Treasurer Rick Middleton



Antonie Fields

Union benefits are preserved at Mission School Transportation

Local union is hard at work negotiating and preserving strong union contracts for MST drivers and mechanics in Los Angeles and Long Beach.



Jasmyne Garrett, Cristal Nunez and Mario Marrero, members of Teamster Local 572

Change has been in the air for drivers and mechanics formerly with Atlantic Express, a longtime employer in the bus industry. Atlantic Express declared bankruptcy in 2013, and in February 2014 Mission School Transportation (MST) picked up their operations in Los Angeles and Long Beach, including their union contracts. Longtime drivers and mechanics were uncertain what all this change would mean for them. But over the past year, Local 572 has fought for solid contracts that preserve union wages and benefits.

Through the dedicated work of our union, mechanics at MST in Los Angeles and Long Beach have an excellent new contract. The four-year agreement brought considerable wage increases while

preserving health and welfare and pension benefits. We also successfully negotiated a new five-year agreement for MST drivers in Los Angeles last year.

Now Local 572 is getting ready to stand up for MST drivers in Long Beach. Their current contract expires in September, and Business Agent Traci D. Smith anticipates that wages and health benefits will be the key issues in upcoming negotiations for a new agreement.

Shop Steward Lois Webb, a driver in Long Beach, is grateful that members were able to make the transition to MST with seniority, pay rates, and guaranteed hours intact. "Without the union, they could have just hired anybody at any rate," she said.

"MST is a new competitor in

the L.A. area," explained Business Agent Smith. "So far, they seem to be a good employer." Local 572 will keep an eye out to be sure members' rights, wages, and benefits are protected and preserved.



Lois Webb, Shop Steward



Irma Miranda



Jolice Ivory



Linda Clark and Claudia Perez



Rita Reyes



Hugo Vargas, Mechanic



Chasity Hawkins



Mechanics

Members at Ralphs Distribution unite for negotiations

This summer, Local 572 members will participate in grocery negotiations for the first time ever as bargaining committee members.

Local 572 members at Ralphs Distribution are united and determined as they head into negotiations for a new grocery contract this summer. Secretary-Treasurer and IBT Vice President Rick Middleton will chair the talks, with dedicated involvement from longtime Business Agents



Julio Iniguez - 25 years



Travis Momon - 36 years



Jeff Nightlinger

Tait Skifstrom and Steve Badger.

For the first time ever, members from our local union have the opportunity to participate firsthand in negotiating the grocery contract, a major agreement that involves Ralphs, Vons, and Albertsons and more than half a dozen local unions.

"We are thrilled to have Local 572 members participating in these negotiations. This contract has a 40-plus-year history, and it will be great to have members' voices heard in such a significant negotiation," said Rick Middleton.

The current agreement, which expires in September, involves Local 572 as well as Locals 63, 630, 952, 495, 166, and 848.

These local unions have a long history of negotiating as one unit in the grocery industry. That unity has enabled officials to win for Southern California members the strongest grocery contracts in the United States. We consistently negotiate the best health and welfare and pension benefits, as well as the best wages in the industry.



David Roldan

Key to this summer's negotiations will be preserving members' exceptional health and welfare benefits. Other hot topics will be seniority and part-time to full-time ratios.

From offices to warehouses, from salvage to manufacturing, our members are drivers, forklift operators, order selectors, pallet-jack operators, and automated-warehouse operators. Across all of their different locations and job titles, they will unite in the coming months to win the best possible contract for one and all.



Will Acero, Shop Steward - 32 years



Damon Coleman



Andre Brown



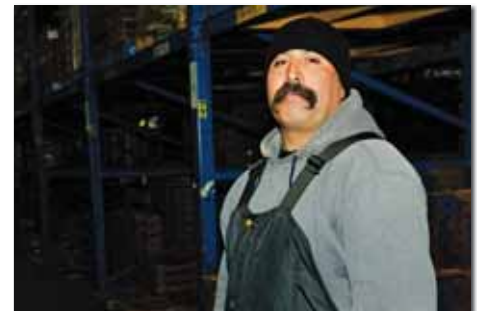
Alvaro Gomez - 20 years



Tait Skifstrom, Business Agent, and Lauro Rodriguez



Bobby Shamburger



Juan Navarro



Victor Gaeta



Victor Lares



Mike Camarena



Andres Aguilar



Tait Skifstrom, Business Agent for 15 years, and Kermit Fisk - 40 years

Victory! Wage increases at LAUSD

After years of hard times, members at LAUSD win wage increases.

Back when Business Agent Adriana Salazar Avila was growing up, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) was known as a great place to work. "You got paid a good wage, you got great benefits, and you could be anything from a teacher to a nurse to a police officer to a chef," she remembers. Both of her parents and her siblings worked at LAUSD, and she is a former LAUSD employee herself. Lots of families like theirs were happy to have well-paying careers with the school district.

But things have changed in recent years. The district was hit hard by the recession, and members who worked there went years without a wage increase. Fortunately, it looks like things at LAUSD are turning around.

A recent wage reopener allowed the union to win significant wage increases across the board. We also negotiated an agreement on health benefits that ensures that our members will not have to pay a premium for health insurance.

"We hope this is the start of LAUSD once again being a great place to work," said Avila.

Local 572 represents people in various jobs at the school



Member Lisa Lozoya, Local 572 Trustee Linda Ward, and Business Agent Adriana Salazar Avila

district, including construction inspectors, school administrative assistants, plant managers, drivers, bus supervisors, and food-service managers. A contract negotiated over a year ago won a 6.5% increase in base salary and a 2% one-time bonus over three years. Through the

wage re-opener, Local 572 was able to secure 10% over two years, across the board.

"Secretary-Treasurer Rick Middleton led us to this victory through his unwavering strength in negotiations," reported Business Agent Tom Beatty.

Shout out to stellar LAUSD shop stewards

LAUSD food-service managers are seeing lots of positive changes, thanks to the hard work of some dedicated shop stewards.

Specifically, stewards like Teresa Ventura worked tirelessly to ensure that this year more than 100 food-service managers received promotions. They had been in 6.5-hour positions, working off the clock to get everything done. "We proved that they should be classified in the higher-paying 8-hour positions, and now they are," said Business Agent Adriana Salazar Avila.

That's not all. This year, for the first time, food-service managers

will be paid at their regular rate during the summer. In past years, the district used to pay a lower rate for summer jobs.

"We were doing the same work, and we deserved the same pay," said shop steward Dartanion Cathirell.

Cathirell has been working at LAUSD for 40 years. In fact, he was part of the original unionization effort. "Before the union, we had no voice," he remembers. "Now, for example with the summer pay, we went into negotiations and told them it was unfair to get paid less for doing the same work just because it was summer, and in the end they



Member Lisa Lozoya, Secretary-Treasurer Rick Middleton, and Business Agents Adriana Salazar Avila and Tom Beatty

agreed. Now we will be paid our regular rate all year round.”

Last year, the stewards took up the issue of minimum hours, insisting that it wasn't worth the gas money to come to work for a 2- or 3-hour position. They won on that front, too.

“These wins happened because the shop stewards pushed for them

constantly,” said Business Agent Avila. “Dartanion Cathirell and Linda Ward have worked hard to positively affect many food-service managers' lives.”

The stewards, for their part, thank Avila and Business Agent Tom Beatty for the tireless work they put in to support the members at LAUSD. “We've been very

fortunate to have great Business Agents. Adriana, Tom, and before them Patty Mohawk-Davis, are some of the best Business Agents anybody could ask for,” Cathirell said.

Hats off to these dedicated Teamsters and their great achievements.

Fighting for better wages and benefits at Gate Gourmet

Business Agents nationwide are negotiating for a better contract at the airline food company.

The last time you flew out of LAX, ideally you didn't think about how clean the plane cabin was because it was simply clean. But it might have been fellow members of your local union who did the invisible work of cleaning the cabin to make it comfortable for passengers. Under a contract with Gate Gourmet, hardworking members of Local 572 are responsible for cleaning plane cabins, preparing food for flights, and delivering food to planes of several airlines at LAX.

Gate Gourmet is the leading

independent provider of airline food services, and it has been a unionized company for more than 20 years. Right now, Business Agents with local unions across the nation are fighting for a better contract for the hardworking people who provide travelers a clean and comfortable flight with good food.

The Gate Gourmet contract falls under the National Railway Labor Act, a federal law that governs labor relations in the railway and airline industries. The law prevents strikes in the industry, which impacts the unions' ability to fight for members.

The law also means that contracts don't expire, but instead come

up for amendment. The most recent amendable date for our members' current contract with Gate Gourmet was two years ago, and we have been fighting for a better contract ever since.

Business Agents across the country are standing up for members in negotiations right now. “These are hardworking and underpaid people,” said Local 572 Business Agent Jaime Villanueva. “We are deep in this struggle, and we will keep fighting for better wages and benefits for these members who have put in many years of hard work.”



Business Agent Jaime Villanueva with members Mauricio De Leon, Wilfred Stewart, Jose Romero, Emmanuel Ruiz, and Jose L. Vasquez



Teresa Cervantes, Business Agent Jaime Villanueva, Eddy Nunez, Maria D. Aguilar, and Wilfred Stewart



TEAMSTERS LOCAL 572

450 E. Carson Plaza
Suite A
Carson, CA 90746

www.teamsters572.org

PRESORT STD
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Los Angeles, CA
Permit No.

New Contract to Be Negotiated at First Student

As bus drivers with First Student are looking forward to their summer vacations, Business Agent Lonnie Holmes is getting ready to negotiate a strong new contract for many of them. Seven of the 14 First Student locations represented by Local 572 are up for a new contract.

"We've been waiting five years to negotiate a new contract,"

Holmes said. "I am committed to ensuring that all of the members are treated fairly and get the representation they deserve."

Holmes will chair a large negotiating committee that will include several shop stewards. "We are working together to get the best possible agreement for everyone," he said.



Vernon Riley and Lonnie Holmes, Business Agent



Sharion McNeal



Maria Zepeda and Carlos Garay



Eric English



Sherrie Green



Essie Matthews, O'Shen Loftis and Shirleen Witherspoon



Edward Lane, Peggy King and O. Estee



Teresa Jones, Lonnie Holmes and Jacqueline Kendrick