

# **TEAMSTERS LOCAL 572** REPORTER RICK MIDDLETON | Secretary-Treasu

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Javier Genre, Shop Steward, **Ralphs** Compton

Orise Perry, **Ralphs Compton** 

From left, Precious Seale, Lesly Rodriguez and Alma Valdovinos, Gate Gourmet

#### Secretary-Treasurer's Message RICK MIDDLETON

Welcome to our Local 572 annual summer publication! In the following pages, we celebrate our local union's recent successes, introduce you to fellow members, and update you on some of our fights to win better wages and working conditions for everyone in our union.

Read on to learn about this year's triumphant negotiations at Costco, where the Teamsters organization has secured a contract that brings wage and benefit increases from coast to coast.



We'll also take you behind the scenes of the Ralphs Grocery operation in Compton. Your fellow members are turning food waste into energy, and making some of the best ice cream in the region.

You'll also meet some of the members of the tight-knit unit at UPS's Long Beach Gateway location and the fight to bring Gate Gourmet into the City of Los Angeles Living Wage Ordinance.

All this while school bus drivers are gearing up for another year of transporting children safely to and from school.

As you enjoy these last weeks of summer, we hope you will spend some time enjoying these stories about our local union. Thank you for being a part of our Teamsters family!



Durham School Bus Drivers



Morris Verdugo

### Visit Your Union Hall! Members are welcome at

Local 572 headquarters

Some Members prefer to self pay their dues in person or meet with thier Business Representatives at the Union Hall.

> **Local 572 is open** Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Teamsters Local 572 450 E. Carson Plaza Drive, Suite A Carson, CA 90746



Jason Gonzalez



*Willie Barnes* Employer: First Student, St. Andrews (formerly a Laidlaw school bus driver)

Teamster since January 1996

Shop Steward





Lea Moten

Employer: Durham School Services (employed as a school bus driver)

Teamster since December 1986



David Trujillo

Employer: Durham School Services (employed as a school bus driver)

Teamster since November 2001 Shop Steward



### **Planes, Packages, and People**

Meet the Members of UPS's Long Beach Gateway Location

Local 572 members get UPS packages on and off planes at the delivery company's Long Beach Gateway facility. They are a tight-knit group that makes sure packages flown far and wide get where they need to be, when they need to be there.

#### Jan Gray Shop Steward

Shop steward Jan Gray has worked at the UPS Gateway for 14 years.

"We're a small, tight-knit group – like a family," he said. That's why he is happy to serve as shop steward, keeping an eye out and making sure everyone is treated fairly on the job.

"There's safety in being a union member," he said. "I don't have to worry about asking the company for raises or any special things. That's rare in the corporate world, and there's something great about it."

When he's not at work, Jan enjoys playing drums and guitar. "Maybe one day I'll end up being a rock star," he said. "But until then I'm sticking with my union position. I love being a Teamster."



Jan Gray, Shop Steward (left), and Erik Perez

#### **Erik Perez**

"I really love and enjoy my job," said Erik Perez, who drives a cargo tractor and offloads UPS packages from the belly of a plane. He has worked at the UPS Gateway for 14 years.

Perez appreciates the support of Business Agent Tait Skifstrom. "He is always there when we need him, and he really comes through with his word."

For Erik, being a Teamster is a family affair. His dad, Eugenio Perez, is also a Teamster who works at Progressive Produce.



The Members of UPS's Long Beach Gateway Location



pictured left to right Adrian Gutierrez, Travis McConnell, and Danilo Legaspi





Eduardo Barboza

Chase Marinkovich (left) and Victor Johnson

### Getting Past the Exemption Gate at Gate Gourmet

Gate Gourmet is not yet covered by the Los Angeles City living-wage ordinance because of a grand-fathered status. Local 572 is fighting to change that.

Many people who work at and around LAX are guaranteed a living wage through the protection of the City of Los Angeles Living Wage Ordinance. But exemptions in the ordinance mean that not all who work at LAX are protected – not yet at least. Local 572 is fighting to eliminate exemptions and bring members at Gate Gourmet under the Los Angeles City Living Wage Ordinance.

Local 572 members employed at Gate Gourmet ensure that your flight experience does not leave you famished. They prepare and deliver food for many flights out of LAX.

Gate Gourmet is a leading provider of airline food services and a longtime unionized company.

Last fall, Local 572 was part of a nationwide union team that negotiated a new Gate Gourmet contract that included wage increases. Now, Local 572 is aiming for even more protections for members at the company by fighting





Gate Gourmet is the leading provider of airline food services and a longtime unionized company. to include Gate Gourmet in the City of Los Angeles Living Wage Ordinance.

Business Agent Jaime Villanueva has taken the issue to the airport commission in a fight to ensure that Gate Gourmet is not exempted in the future from any protections for people who work at LAX.

This is not the first time Villanueva has fought for members. It's what he does everyday.

Ebony Thompson, an

international flight coordinator at Gate Gourmet, said the local union has always been behind her. "Jaime goes out of his way to help each and every one of us," she said, recalling a time when Jaime stepped in to resolve an issue she had with scheduling. "I called, and he came a day later and took care of it."

Local 572 is on a mission to delete exemptions to the living-wage law. "We are putting on the pressure to get every kitchen at LAX a fair living wage," Villanueva said.

Edith Chica, with Business Agent Jaime Villanueva

Shown at right Robin Najera and Christian Mata



### **Gate Gourmet Members**





Left to right front row, Genaro Canche, Natalia Espinosa, Jorge Romero, Jose Luis Vazquez, back row, Jaime Villanueva, Isaac Harris and Aaron Young

Ebony Thompson



## <u>fategourmet</u>

Local 572 is on a mission to take care of exemptions to the living-wage law. "We are putting on the pressure to get every kitchen at LAX a fair living wage.

Jaime Villanueva

 $Jose\ Luis\ Valencia$ 



### School Bus Drivers Returning From Summer Break

As fall approaches, school bus drivers bid on routes for the new school year. These are the people who get local children safely to and from school. They've had a summer break, and are now gearing up for the new school year.

Members of Local 572 include drivers and mechanics for Durham School Services in San Bernardino.

In March, they overwhelmingly ratified a new five-year agreement that includes substantial wage increases across the board. The contract also maintains full medical benefits.

Local 572 also represents school bus drivers at Mission School Transportation, First Student, Storer, and Student Transportation of America.

We wish them all a safe and happy return to the important work of transporting our children to and from school.









### **School Bus Drivers Return from Summer Break**



#### Teamsters Celebrate a New Contract at Costco

The new agreement secures quality wages and benefits for Teamsters nationwide

All across the country, Costco shoppers count on quality products at reasonable prices. But until this year, Costco Teamsters didn't enjoy the same coast-to-coast consistency.

They were under separate contracts, which meant different increases in wages and benefits. No more. By voting on a new contract together, Costco Teamsters were able to secure one of the richest deals in the history of Costco negotiations.

"East Coast and West Coast Teamsters were united together in a national struggle and it paid off," said Local 572 Business Agent Doug Brown. "That's huge because it will set the stage for future contract negotiations."

Local 572 represents Teamsters at Costco locations in Norwalk, Fullerton, Yorba Linda, Irvine, Fountain Valley, and Signal Hill. They turned out in big numbers to ratify a new agreement.

"Local 572 was very active during these negotiations," said Brown.

The new agreement includes wage increases and health benefit preservation while beating back company proposals that would have threatened the job security of more than 16,000 Teamsters nationwide.

"Our union did an extremely good job with this contract," said Linda Garcia, a service clerk at Costco in Norwalk.

Heather Madrid of Costco in Fountain Valley agreed. "It's important that everybody got the same treatment," she said. "The union really looked out for everyone."

Local 572 celebrates this victory along with locals 542, 166, 986, and 853, whose members are also included in the agreement.



#### **Teamsters Celebrate a New Contract at Costco**



Anthony Lujan, Shop Steward, with Cindy Camacho, Yorba Linda Costco





Ron Rodriguez, Norwalk Costco



Eric Booker, Yorba Linda Costco





Linda Garcia and Lily Quinterio, Norwalk Costco

Shown from right to left Cathy Luy, Promise Middlebrook, Elsa Murillo and Brina Revelas, Yorba Linda Costco

Gary Bancroft, Shop Steward, Yorba Linda Costco



#### **Teamsters Celebrate a New Contract at Costco**





Anastacio Maese, Signal Hill Costco







Julio Bran and Cesar Esquivel, Irvine Costco



Juan Orozco, Yorba Linda Costco



From left to right, Nelly Bravo, and Shayne Dicus with Business Agent Doug Brown at the Yorba Linda Costco



Debbie Van Tioburg, Fullerton Costco



Dan Richards and Martin Mendez, Norwalk Costco

#### Local 572 Wins Improvements at LAUSD

Members at the Los Angeles Unified School District are enjoying benefits that were fought for by union representatives.



Secretary-Treasurer Rick Middleton and Business Agents Adriana Salazar and Tom Beatty

LAUSD members experienced some difficult years after the recession, including stagnant wages. Now, thanks to the strenuous efforts of Local 572, things are looking up.

Local 572 represents construction inspectors, school administrative assistants, plant managers, bus supervisors, food service managers, and others at the school district.

"They were stuck with the same wages for years without raises. We continue to fight hard to improve their wages and benefits, and it's working," said Business Agent Adriana Salazar Avila.

Local 572 negotiated a 10

percent wage increase for LAUSD Teamsters and an increase in basis for SAAs. The union also made sure that food service managers are paid their regular rate of pay year-round, instead of summer food supervisor pay. Local 572 also eliminated the Satellite Food Service Manager classification to ensure that all managers get an eight-hour day.

The local union is working hard to protect benefits, too. Business Agent Tom Beatty serves as a co-chair on LAUSD's Health Benefits Committee, where he can keep a close eye on protecting members' health-care benefits. We were able to increase PPO dental benefits from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per year (not including the costs of routine dental cleanings).

Other union wins include reducing the number of independent contractors at LAUSD and resolving several wrongful discharge and involuntary-transfer grievances.

Local 572 will continue to fight for members at LAUSD, winning the wages and benefits they deserve. During a re-opener we will propose wage increases based upon compression for specific classes as well as wage increases for all LAUSD members.

#### **Ralphs Members Ratify Contract**

Southern California Teamsters lead the nation in grocery compensation

Southern California Teamster grocery workers lead the nation in total compensation. The Teamsters have a solid history of negotiating the strongest contracts in the industry.

In the fall members from a coalition of seven local unions, including Local 572, ratified a new five-year agreement at Ralphs/Food for Less. The agreement provides wage and pension increases as well as full maintenance of benefits for health and welfare.

### Behind The Scenes At Ralphs

Local 572 members play key roles in Southern California's grocery industry

In offices, warehouses, salvage, and manufacturing, Local 572 represents members at the Ralphs Compton Distribution Center. They play key roles in getting food on the table for families throughout Southern California, because the Compton Distribution Center serves more than 350 grocery stores. Much of their work is behind-the-scenes, in grocery facilities that the average customer doesn't see.

Enrique Figueroa and Gabriel Arias

Jose David Gutierrez



Sovan Sy

### Turning Waste into Wattage

Members at the Ralphs Crate and Salvage yard make energy out of unsold food

At the Ralphs Distribution Center in Compton, members of Local 572 help turn leftover food into electricity.

When food becomes moldy or stale before it can be sold, it runs the risk of becoming waste. But instead, Local 572 members turn it into electricity that helps to power the Compton facility.

A machine called an anaerobic digester takes unsold food from Ralphs and Food 4 Less grocery

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### Teamsters Make Your Summer Sweet

Your fellow members make top-quality ice cream

If you've been enjoying ice cream this summer, there's a good chance you have Teamsters to thank. At the Ralphs manufacturing plant in Compton, members of Local 572 are making deluxe ice cream for Ralphs, and Food For Less, stores.

Teamsters are crucial to this operation, which involves blending ingredients, pasteurizing, packaging, flash-freezing, warehousing, and shipping ice cream to stores throughout the West Coast region.

Shop Steward Frank Martinez reported that during



Frank Martinez, Shop Steward and Trustee

to prevail with member grievances over the years."

We should hope so! The people who are keeping us happy with sweet, cool desserts on these hot summer days deserve to be treated fairly and with the respect they deserve while working.

summer – their peak season – the facility produces 9,000 to 10,000 gallons of ice cream per day. The unit operates 24/7 to make ice cream that the region loves to consume all year long.

Martinez, who has been at the facility for 24 years, is glad to serve his fellow members as a shop steward.

"The local has supported me by giving me all the training I need



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stores and converts it into 13 million kilowatt-hours of electricity per year.

The anaerobic digester is like a large grinder. Members of Local 572 load it with the unsold food, including packaging, and transform it into usable energy.

Local 572 members at Ralphs Crate and Salvage yard in Compton are some of the people working hard behind the scenes to create energy for an industry that helps feed Southern California.



