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TEAMSTERS LOCAL 572 REPORTER

RICK MIDDLETON | Secretary-Treasurer

Costco Veteran to Give Life-Saving Gift

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VOTE

VOTE

You Play a Major Role If You Vote!

*It continues to be a challenging time for
American workers.*



Rick Middleton

Greedy corporations and anti-worker politicians are determined to erase what unions have fought for: living wages, quality medical benefits, secure pensions, and safe and sensible workplace rules.

We must resist. Our most effective weapons are unity and determination. Management's traditional strategy may be to divide and conquer, but our union strategy is to unite for victory. A divided organization is easy prey when it comes to erosion of the standards we have worked so hard to achieve.

We must stay united as a powerful force to meet the upcoming challenges. This is the most effective way to reduce the dangers that face us, whether it is a contract negotiation or a matter of safety in the workplace.

You have a vitally important part to play to help unions stay strong. You must make sure, at election time, that your voice is heard! Voting is essential. Whether it is for a local judge, a city council representative, a county supervisor, member of Congress or the US Senate, you must participate.

Many believe "my vote does not matter." If you do not vote, you are stuck with the results. The best way to achieve positive change or protect what you have, is to vote. Collectively, our votes make our opinions count.

I urge you to participate in the process, as we uphold our civic responsibility.

Educate yourself and encourage your family, friends, brothers, sisters and fellow workers to vote in all elections.

You need to remember a candidate typically does not start at the highest elected office. A Senator or Congressional representative often begins as a local official or mayor, or even as a member of the planning commission. Ensuring good future leaders requires us to elect good people at all levels and let their careers progress with continual scrutiny by the voters.

I first sought election as the shop steward in my local union and today I serve you and our great organization, as your Secretary-Treasurer, Joint Council 42 Trustee, and Vice President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

***Teamsters are always well
respected in the workplace,
so let us ramp up our
civic participation and
send all others a message
"Teamsters Vote."***



VOTE



VOTE



Negotiations Continue For New LAUSD Contract

Local 572 is currently engaged in challenging contract negotiations with the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Chief Negotiators and Business Agents Adriana Salazar Avila and Mike Ford have submitted 23 pages of proposed improvements. They include language that prohibits the District from discriminating against classified employees, improvements to work schedules and increases in assignment basis. Of special importance are salary realignments and overall salary increases for the entire unit.

The negotiating team includes both active members and hard-working shop stewards. They are receiving major support from Local 572 Secretary-Treasurer Rick Middleton and Local 572 General Counsel Lourdes M. Garcia.

The new contract will cover approximately 3,800 Local 572 members, including plant managers, food service managers, school administrative assistants, information technology specialists, facilities and transportation personnel, area bus supervisors, dispatchers and planners.

"Local 572 members are the backbone of the school system," reported Salazar Avila. "They are the men and women who keep a vigilant eye on everything from

the buildings to the buses, from the computers to cafeterias. They ensure that the District runs as efficiently as possible."

The Health Benefits Committee (HBC)—of which Local 572 is an active participant—recently negotiated a landmark contract with Anthem Blue Cross that will increase benefits for retirees, and, in a period of five years, save the District over \$300 million. Plans are to earmark these funds for the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) to help preserve retiree medical benefits and life insurance.

Representatives of all labor unions at LAUSD negotiate health benefits for active and retired employees separately from the labor contracts. Currently Local

572 active and retired members receive fully paid benefits for themselves and their eligible family members.

LAUSD members are represented by two highly experienced business agents. Adriana Salazar Avila has worked at Local 572 since 2005. She began her career with LAUSD as a classified employee and was a Senior Human Resources Representative when she left LAUSD to join Local 572. Mike Ford has extensive union experience having worked as a representative and organizer for several different unions, including CSEA and SEIU. Both Adriana and Mike have also served as Personnel Commissioners for large school districts.



LAUSD NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE

TOP ROW: Jorge Garcia, Dartanion Cathirell, Carlos Davis, Norma Muniz Ortiz, Teresa Ventura, Secretary-Treasurer Rick Middleton, Eliza Amezcua, Evelyn Galdamez, Victor De Leon and Johnny Young
BOTTOM ROW, left to right: Business Agent Mike Ford, Shazill Dews, and Business Agent Adriana Salazar Avila

Shop Union Shop COSTCO

Low prices, quality merchandise and excellent service by Teamsters Local 572 members are what you can always expect when you shop at six Costco stores.

In Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Irvine, Norwalk, Signal Hill, and Yorba Linda, more than 2,000 Local 572 members serve the steady stream of customers. They stock shelves, ring up your sales, fill administrative positions handling returns and auditing, drive forklifts, and staff the food court, fresh bakery, meat and deli counters, and photo processing center. Teamster members are also on the job at the tire center, pharmacy, and gas station.

Costco Local 572 members

feel fortunate to be working under a union contract. The union has negotiated a 'top-of-the-industry' wage and benefits package.

"Costco is a good place to work for those seeking a long-term career with the company because of the excellent wages and benefits and strong worker protections that the Teamsters contract provides," stated Business Agent Doug Brown.

"Costco is also a flexible and a well-paying place for young people to get a start."

"Shop at one of our six Costco locations!" urged Secretary-Treasurer Rick Middleton.

If you are not yet a member of this discount warehouse, please check out the benefits of membership at your local Costco store where you'll be greeted by a fellow Teamster.



Bradley Brown and Fernando Vasquez

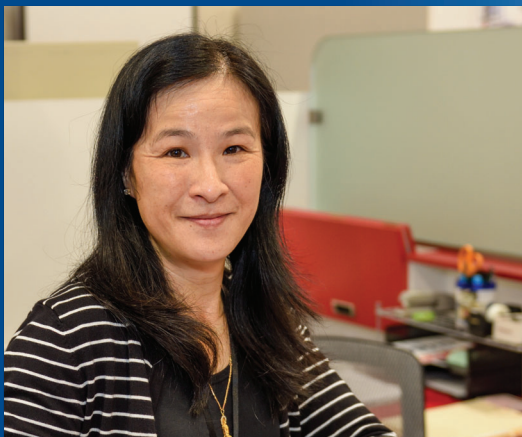
Fountain Valley



Ivan Perez



Simon Melendez, Shop Steward



Stephanie Lu, Hearing Aid Center



Murdy Lovelace



Cindy Bell, Shop Steward, with Agent Doug Brown



Karen Juarez



Izack Madrid, Shop Steward



Ernie Sarracino



Lisa Welks



Sebastian Cobian



Rose Flores



Tiffany Yin and Francis Makris



Anthony Lujan, Shop Steward



Raul Vasquez



Lizbeth De Lo Santos and Richard Jimenez



Thaide Peneda



Anthony Vigil and Isaac Perez



Cathy Burghard



Nick Wulf and Adam Hammer



Julio Bran



Antonio Gonzalez



Rani Gunnemann



David Ortiz



Jay Burk



Kelly Jonston



Angie Mendoza



Javier Garcia, Shop Steward



Christine Guzman, Stephanie Moon and David Barba



Eddy Ysaac and Jose Orozco



Elidia Velasquez



Fernando Perez



Paul Leal and Daraius Bhot

Norwalk



Miguel Villavicencio



Francisco Ornelas



Ron Rodriguez



Kris Brown



Ana Coronado



Brian Olsen



Carlos Clark



Cathleen Beltran



Chandra McQuarn, Shop Steward



Harold Largo



Johnathan Bishop



Karina Salgado



Jose Lopez



Joyce Larson with Agent Doug Brown



Kelly Ou



Shayne Dicus

Costco Veteran to Give Life-Saving Gift

A 22-year Costco friendship has become a lifesaver for Michelle Gorum. Her friend and former co-worker Brenda Quintana is donating one of her healthy kidneys to her ailing friend.

A 22-year Costco friendship has become a lifesaver for Local 572 member Michelle Gorum. Her friend and former co-worker, Brenda Quintana, is donating one of her healthy kidneys to her ailing friend.

Michelle, a Costco veteran at Fullerton, was diagnosed with kidney failure last year. She faced a bleak future – dialysis three times a week and the prospect of an organ failure that could be fatal. A kidney transplant was a possibility, but sadly, the waiting list in Southern California is between eight and 10 years. However, if a patient needing a transplant can receive a kidney from a donor, the waiting time can be reduced to a few months.

Although Michelle tried to keep her condition a secret, her longtime friend found out. “I had a donor’s card and thought, ‘why not now?’ I have two healthy kidneys and need only one to survive,” she said.

An exhausting test schedule followed to ensure that their kidneys were compatible. The two friends spent months visiting the UC Irvine Hospital for EKGs, CAT scans, blood tests, X-rays — and then waited anxiously for the results.

They were encouraged: blood types matched and tissues matched. The much-needed operation has been scheduled for mid-July.

It won’t be easy, but both women are facing the procedure with optimism and cheerfulness. The process requires short hospital stays followed by a long recuperation – three to four weeks for both donor and recipient.

Fortunately, they are not facing financial burdens. Their Teamsters-negotiated health plan covers the entire procedure, including after care. Both women expressed their appreciation to the Teamsters and Costco for providing quality healthcare coverage.

The kidney donor, Brenda, took extended leave from Costco after earning her teaching certificate, and will use her vacation time to recuperate. She noted that she still maintains close ties with Costco – after all, her husband is also a Costco employee.



Happy donee and kidney donor: Michelle Gorum and Brenda Quintana

“We at Local 572 are incredibly moved by this heartwarming story,” said Secretary-Treasurer Rick Middleton.

“We are proud that Brenda Quintana has the generosity and courage to donate this vital organ, so that Michelle Gorum can look forward to a healthy future.”

Now the wait begins. In the meantime, Michelle must undergo four hours of dialysis beginning at 4:45 a.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. But now she has room for hope. “I’m so grateful to Brenda. She’s saving my life.”



Pepsi Drivers Go the Distance

It's 4 am.

While most of Southern Californians are still in bed, 60 Pepsi drivers in Torrance are wide awake and preparing for their daily runs. Before their long day is over, they will have delivered this popular American drink to the warehouses of hundreds of stores in the Southland.

A few hours later, about a hundred merchandizers – also Teamster members of Local 572 – will begin visiting the same stores. Their job is to take cases of America's favorite drink from the warehouse to the shelves. Whenever possible, they display the products in such a way that it creates interest and entices customers to make a



purchase in the very competitive soft drink market.

The business agent for the Pepsi facility is Jaime Villanueva, who worked as both a merchandizer and driver before joining the Local 572 staff 16 years ago. Because of his 15 years with Pepsi, he understands the challenges his members face and is effective in working with members to solve work related

problems.

"The high seniority roster shows that Pepsi is a good place to work," reported Villanueva. He credits shop stewards James Donnie Green and Vince Azarra with tremendous team spirit in their shared efforts to interface well between members on the job and the union that represents them.



Durham Bus Services Now Organized

Negotiations are underway for a contract to protect 150 new members at Durham Bus Services. The agreement will cover drivers, mechanics, bus aides and trainers in both Paramount and Compton.

Negotiations are underway for a contract to protect and improve the working conditions of 150 new members at Durham Bus Services. The contract will cover drivers, mechanics, bus aides and trainers in both Compton and Paramount.

In March Local 572 won the election to represent these members in its continuing effort to maintain a strong local union. Organizing new members is one important factor in protecting current members' jobs since non-union competition threatens union jobs. Non-union companies pay less and provide few, if any benefits. With significantly less payroll costs, these

companies can charge less and outbid union companies for major contracts.

The organizing drive began in early November 2017. "The drivers reached out for our union," reported Organizer Laura Vazquez. "They complained that management promises weren't being kept — and they wanted strong Teamster representation. They knew our good reputation in the school bus industry and wanted to be part of it."

A vigorous campaign followed. Assisted by an active employee committee, Organizer Laura Vazquez was able to show Durham employees that the workers

would benefit from Teamster representation. An overwhelming vote for Local 572 followed.

Traci Smith is the business agent for the newly organized group and is currently negotiating the contract alongside Secretary-Treasurer Rick Middleton and a bargaining committee elected by the new Durham members. "It's reassuring to know that the new members are united and determined to stand firm in their quest for a quality contract," Smith reported.



Eric Catching





Adrian Ramirez



Carlos Borja



Christian Clyde

Teamwork and Fast Pace Mark UPS Work in SoCal

Local 572 is proud to represent 800 members at UPS in Gardena and 50 at Long Beach Airport. The sorters, loaders and package car drivers are part of the 260,000 UPS members nationwide that work under a Teamster contract.

“This is a great bunch of members who stick together,” noted Business Agent John Flammia, who was with UPS for 17 years before joining the Local’s staff 17 years ago. “They are hard working, professional and dedicated. It’s certainly a pleasure representing them.”

Package car drivers must keep

up a fast pace. They are as familiar a part of the Southern California scene as freeway ramps and drive-throughs. Reliable and effective, they hustle from one delivery to another, enjoying the satisfaction of recipients who know their packages have arrived safely.

On-time delivery requires careful teamwork and a smoothly

run organization. Packages must be picked up, sorted, routed and shipped before they can be delivered to homes and businesses.

It takes a combination of talents and hard work to accomplish such difficult jobs, and the UPS employees of Local 572 set a high standard.



Edward Mauritz



David Covarrubias



Daniel Fujii



Owen Wellington



Gavino Orendain, Shop Steward



Kit Hixenbaugh



Thomas Herrera



Jerry H Rios



Agent John Flammia and Oscar Martinez



William Hayes



Malachi Matthews



Lalo Gallardo and Juan Cabral

SAFETY RATES HIGH AT MISSION SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

Local 572 members at Mission School Transportation are charged with a very important task: the drivers must transport about half of the students of the Los Angeles Unified School District safely to and from school, as well as on school trips, team sporting events, and other special events.

The drivers must contend with everything from anxious young children separating from their parents in the early morning, to exuberant sports teams travelling to and from important games.

Cheering, shouting, laughing, arguing, and talk about homework are the background sounds for more than 300 drivers who work long days to ensure all students are safely transported to their scheduled destinations.

A good majority of the drivers are working mothers who take the job of transporting children very seriously. “They know the students and watch out for them as if they were their own,” said Business Agent Traci Smith. She added, “This

is a demanding job that requires skill and lots of patience, especially when dealing with so many little personalities.”

Business Agent Traci Smith’s background has prepared her for the task of representing employees in the bus industry. She began as a driver for First Transit in the mid 1990’s and served as a shop steward and bargaining committee member for many years. In 2004 she was hired as a bus company business agent by Local 572. She notes that as a working mother herself, she has experienced many of the same challenges her members face today.

“School bus yellow” buses must be safe and reliable. They are kept in top shape at the MST Los Angeles and Long Beach yards by skillful Local 572 mechanics. They perform the scheduled maintenance, necessary repairs, and fix emergency breakdowns.

Serving as MST shop stewards are Lois Webb, Sandra Harrell, Yossell Lopez, Danny Rosa, Adonnis London, Billy Heredia, and Juan Carlos Serrano. These stewards diligently assist Smith in protecting the MST contracts and keeping on top of issues affecting the membership.

“Mission School Transportation members are a good group,” praised Smith, “They are strong, and they really stick together.”



Shimere Oneal



Elida Leon, Edna Vasquez, S Figueroa



Blanca Patino



Frank Hernandez



Shop Stewards Adonis London and Billy B. Heredia



Ruben Trejo



Mission School Transportation Local 572 members



Latasha Jones



Mission School Transportation Local 572 members



Luis Ortiz



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Carlos Fernandez – Perfect Attendance Award



Nishal Springman, left – 5 years Safe Driving Award and
Linda Lockhart, right – 10 years Safe Driving Award



Cynthia Miller – Employee of the Year Award

Storer Transportation Annual Recognition for Safe Driving

Linda Lockhart, received the 2017-18 Storer Star
Award for perfect attendance

DON'T FORGET, VISIT YOUR WEBSITE for news and information:

www.teamsters572.org