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SUMMER 2019

# TEAMSTERS LOCAL 572 REPORTER

RICK MIDDLETON | Secretary-Treasurer

## Outstanding New Contract at Costco

Local 572 Teamsters  
in the Schools

Triumph at Storer

Francis Linares,  
Costco Fountain Valley

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# The Diversity of Our Membership Makes Us Great

***Welcome to Local 572's annual summer publication.***



**Rick Middleton**

Our Local continues to grow our membership through successful organizing campaigns that expand core industries such as bussing, and bring new industries, like World Oil, into the family of organized labor.

Organizing victories are proof that the labor movement is alive and well. They provide an example -- to those who don't enjoy the protections and benefits of a Union contract -- of what is possible when workers join together. The Union empowers them to improve their wages, medical benefits, working conditions and quality of life.

***The heart and soul of the Teamsters Union is every one of our members who work at the dozens of companies that have collective bargaining agreements with Local 572.***

In this issue you will get to meet some of these dedicated members, from ones who have been Teamsters for more than 45 years, to others who are just now joining the Teamsters and everyone in between.

We will take you inside the Ralphs Grocery operation to meet members who enjoy working under industry-leading agreements. You will meet the negotiating committee members who helped deliver the outstanding new regional Costco contract.

You will learn about the improvements contained in the new LAUSD contract covering more than 2,600 members. We will visit the bus drivers at First Student and Durham/San Bernardino who transport your children safely to and from school and hear about the new contract improvements at Durham/San Bernardino.

You will meet some of the more than 900 Gate Gourmet members who received their portion of a huge monetary settlement won by the Union, and you will learn details about some of the new contract improvements at both Western States Glass

and UPS that clearly show what membership solidarity and strength can deliver.

We will also recognize 48 years of dedicated service to the Teamsters and Local 572 by soon-to-retire President Dennis Watson and introduce you to our new President, Lourdes Garcia. She brings more than 20 years of experience and expertise as a Union attorney and 17 years as a Teamster member to her new position.

The diversity of our membership is the foundation and essence of what makes Local 572 great. The articles, photographs and stories of success in this publication are an acknowledgement and tribute to those members and to all the members of Local 572.



***Thank you for your dedication to the labor movement, for your continuing participation in Local 572 and the Teamsters as we move forward into the future together.***

# TEAMSTERS in the Schools

## Local 572 represents thousands at LAUSD



Yadira Andrade, SAA

Southern California's eyes were on the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) teachers' strike earlier this year. However, teachers are not the only LAUSD employees working at making our community's schools successful. LAUSD also employs school administrative assistants, plant managers, food service managers, area school bus supervisors, construction inspectors, architects, engineers, and many others known as 'classified employees.'

Within LAUSD, Local 572 represents Unit S which includes about 3,600 classified employees.

Last summer, Local 572

secured a contract with a 6% wage increase for our LAUSD members. That contract also doubled the bilingual differential for members, who play an important role translating and interpreting at Los Angeles area schools.

"Teamsters always fight hard to get us the best contract possible," said Local 572 Executive Board Member and Shop Steward Carolyn Flemister.

"Knowing you have job protection makes working a lot easier." She stressed that she especially values the raises and family leave benefits the Union has secured.

School Administrative Assistant and Shop Steward Norma Muniz fought for the increased bilingual differential pay. She appreciates the knowledge and power of her Local 572 representatives, including Business Representatives Adriana Salazar Avila and Mike Ford.

"Adriana is amazing. In negotiations, she has no hesitation. Anything they throw at her, she knows the answers," Muniz said.

Both Adriana and Mike are committed to winning the best possible contract for these classified supervisors. "They work with students and parents. They are part of the school community and they deserve fairness and good pay for the important work they do," said Adriana. She stressed that members can look forward to preparing for negotiations for additional improvements in a contract re-opener this year.



Gerald Laudenburg, Area Plumbing Supervisor



Trever Thomas, Area Carpentry Supervisor & Business Representative Adriana Salazar Avila



Dartanion Cathirell, Food Service Mgr. and Shop Steward



Christina Acosta, Principal Clerk & Victor Borrayo, Plant Manager



# Setting the Standard at

For nearly half a century, Local 572 has won industry-leading agreements for members at Ralphs Grocery. Today, approximately 700 Local 572 members work at the Ralphs Compton Distribution Center.

Our Local Union represents drivers under the regional Frozen Food Agreement, warehouse workers under the Dairy Plant and Refrigerated Warehouse Agreement, office clerical staff under the Food Industry Office Agreement, as well as members under the Crate and Salvage Yard Agreement. All four of these Joint Council 42 multi-union contracts

offer members wages and benefits that set the standard for the grocery industry. Teamsters working at Ralphs are among the highest paid in the industry. Even in an era where health benefits are constantly threatened, thanks to Union strength the members at Ralphs still enjoy these benefits at no cost to the members.

Business Agents Tait Skifstrom and Steve Badger insist the members at Ralphs are some of the most dedicated and hard-working Teamsters around.

*More photos on pages 5 and 6*



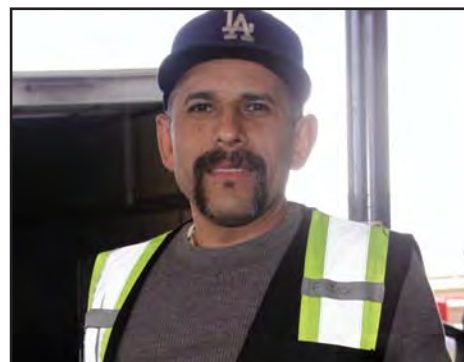
Robert Valoff, Shop Steward and Ralphs Manufacturing Safety Coordinator, with Business Agent Tait Skifstrom



Gabriel Arias



Javier Gener, Shop Steward



Enrique Figueroa



Orise Perry



Leopoldo Ramos & Renato Casas



Chris Perera, Fabian Alcala & Rudy Diaz



Alfred Figueroa



Victor Lares



Glenn Ford and Kenny Taylor



Robert Hollenback



Leon Edmondson

## Dennis Watson: Decades of Dedication



Local 572 salutes Dennis Watson on his retirement from the presidency of Local 572. Dennis has devoted half a century to the

fight for working people.

His path to Local Union presidency started in the rank and file. He began as a seasonal driver with UPS in 1970. By 1973, he stepped up for the cause

by becoming a Local 952 Shop Steward. Watson served as a Shop Steward for 22 years before being appointed as Local 952 Business Agent. His experience and expertise led to his eventual service as Executive Coordinator and President of our Local Union in 2002.

At Local 572, Dennis and Secretary-Treasurer Rick Middleton joined forces to build Local 572 into the strong, dynamic Local Union it is today.

Dennis' full retirement from Local 572 is expected by the end of the year. Until then, he continues to serve the membership with the vigor and pride he's shown in his work for the last few decades. His dedication and leadership have advanced the labor movement and improved the lives of thousands of Teamsters and their families.

***We thank him for his service and salute him for his unwavering commitment to our membership.***

## Dennis Watson's Retirement Brings a New President and Recording Secretary to Local 572

Local 572's Executive Board elected Lourdes Garcia as President to finish out Dennis' term to the end of the year. While she is new to the presidency, she is not a new face to Local 572's members. Many know her as Local 572's powerhouse attorney who is always prepared to challenge management to enforce our members' rights.

Lourdes steps up to the presidency with decades of Union experience. She has been a Union attorney for more than 20 years and a Teamster since 2002, serving as Local 572's General Counsel for almost 17 years. She also served as Local 572 Recording Secretary before her new post.

Business Representative Steve

Badger was elected by the Executive Board to serve as Recording Secretary to finish out Lourdes' term until the end of the year. Steve has been a Teamster for over 35 years, proudly working as a Local 572 Business Representative since 2002.







Salvador Ramos



Bill Turner



Ruben Sanchez



Oscar Perez



Tony Salcedo, Shop Steward



Jaime Castro



David Guterrez, Business Representative Tait Skifstrom & Tony Avina



Dennis Parker



Gilbert Vasquez and Andre Brown



Kenneth Still





Matthew Smith



Business Agent John Flammia & Jordan Kessee



Favio Castelo & Erick Hale

# Across-the-Board Improvements at UPS

**A new contract means wage increases and better healthcare and pension benefit**



Members at UPS ratified a new five-year contract on April 29. Their contract is part of the National Master Agreement.

The five-year agreement brings improvements to wages, healthcare, and pension benefits going back to August 2018. Starting wages are now \$13/hour. Members who are already at or above \$13 will receive wage increases.

Under the new agreement, members will no longer have a deductible on their healthcare

benefits. Part-timers will now be vested in healthcare benefits at nine months instead of a year. A lifetime cap on retiree medical benefits has been lifted. Retired members now have unlimited medical benefits. Members will also see an increase in their pension benefits.

In total, the new agreement offers \$4.15 minimum wage increases and \$5 health and pension increases over the life of the contract.

“This contract not only

increases wages but secures health and pension benefits that are the envy of many. The improvements to pension benefits are so important to Teamsters and our families,” said Gerardo “Lalo” Gallardo, Trustee, Shop Steward and package car driver who has been at UPS for 27 years.

Local 572 represents approximately 600 drivers, loaders, and unloaders at UPS locations in Gardena and at the Long Beach airport.



President Lourdes Garcia, center, with Jose Sanchez, Bret Crofut, Gabriel Guevara & Gerardo “Lalo” Gallardo, Trustee and Shop Steward



Kyle Veasley, Brenda Aguirre, Adrian Gutierrez & Kahlil Pratt





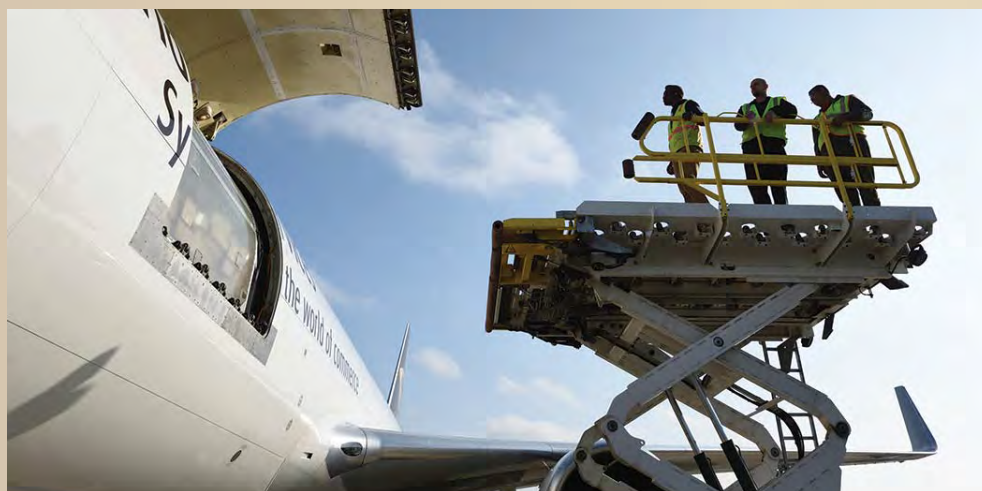
Mack Manning



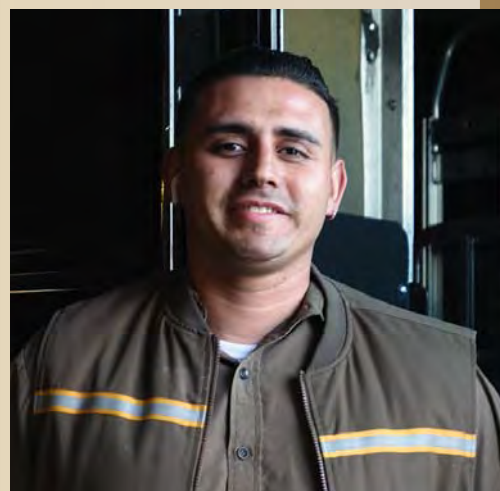
Steven Zamora



Mitch Cortez



Long Beach Gateway employees, ready to unload



Steven Fernandez



David Ramirez



Danilo Legaspi, Ryan Jackson & Brjuan Clinton



Lucious Fuller



Jan Gray, Shop Steward

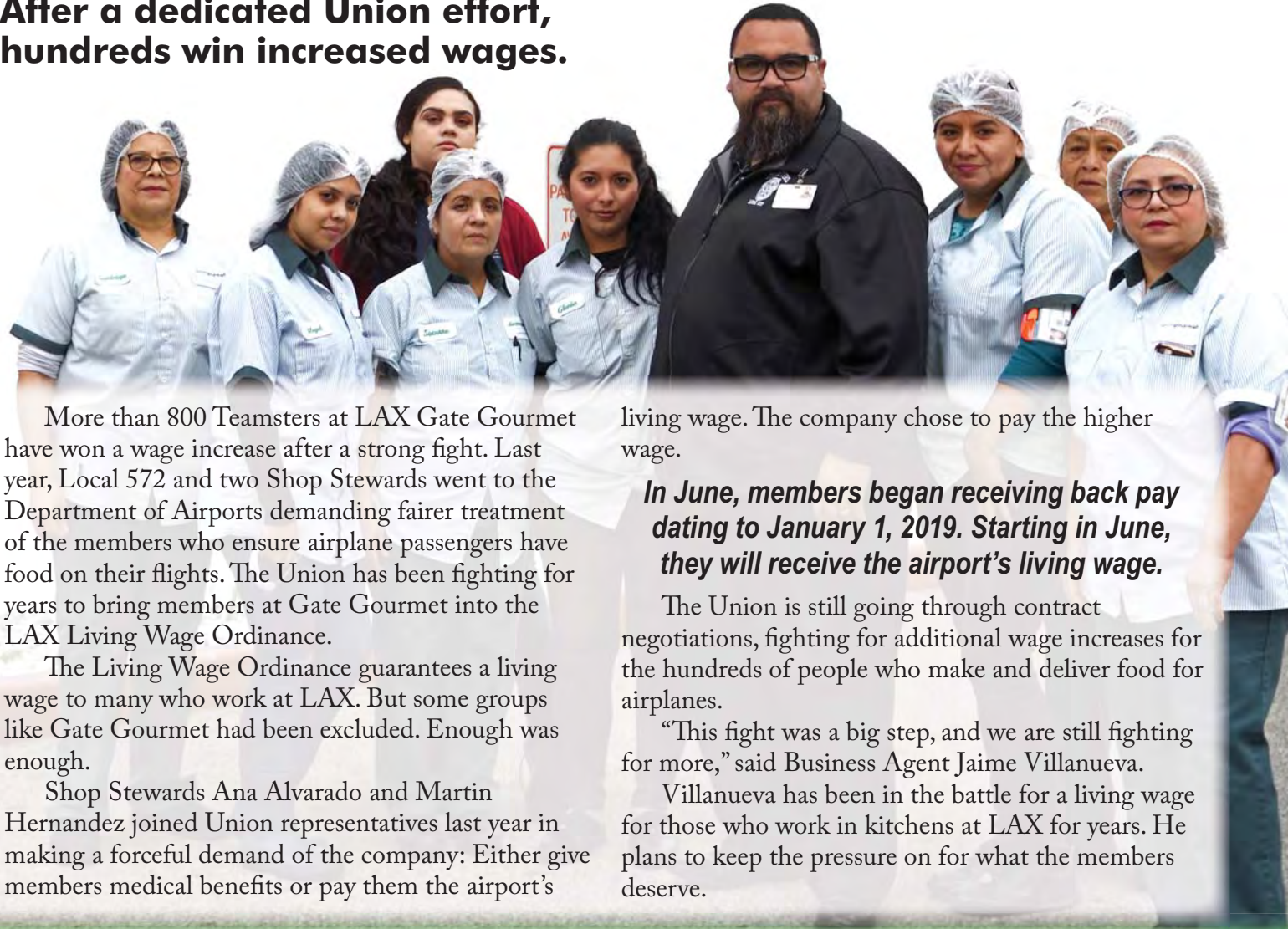


Jerry Rodriguez & Mike Padilla



# a living wage at Gategourmet

**After a dedicated Union effort,  
hundreds win increased wages.**



More than 800 Teamsters at LAX Gate Gourmet have won a wage increase after a strong fight. Last year, Local 572 and two Shop Stewards went to the Department of Airports demanding fairer treatment of the members who ensure airplane passengers have food on their flights. The Union has been fighting for years to bring members at Gate Gourmet into the LAX Living Wage Ordinance.

The Living Wage Ordinance guarantees a living wage to many who work at LAX. But some groups like Gate Gourmet had been excluded. Enough was enough.

Shop Stewards Ana Alvarado and Martin Hernandez joined Union representatives last year in making a forceful demand of the company: Either give members medical benefits or pay them the airport's

living wage. The company chose to pay the higher wage.

***In June, members began receiving back pay dating to January 1, 2019. Starting in June, they will receive the airport's living wage.***

The Union is still going through contract negotiations, fighting for additional wage increases for the hundreds of people who make and deliver food for airplanes.

"This fight was a big step, and we are still fighting for more," said Business Agent Jaime Villanueva.

Villanueva has been in the battle for a living wage for those who work in kitchens at LAX for years. He plans to keep the pressure on for what the members deserve.

## ANA ALVARADO

Ana Alvarado was a Shop Steward at Gate Gourmet for over 20 years. She fought wholeheartedly to win better pay and fair treatment for her fellow Union members. Ana was a leader in the fight for a living wage at Gate Gourmet. She passed away right before she would have reaped the benefits of the fight she won.

Ana was devoted to the Union cause and made sacrifices to advance the cause she believed in. She knew she was doing the right thing for her fellow members and for her family.

Business Agent Jaime Villanueva remembers Ana as one of the strongest Union members he ever met. When he first became a Union Representative,

## *In Memoriam*

it was Ana who gave him a tour of the facility, helped him learn about the working conditions, and assisted the Union effort every way she could.

"She helped me to be a better Business Agent," Villanueva said.

Ana Alvarado played a huge role in winning a living wage for her fellow members at Gate Gourmet. She is survived by two sons and a daughter of whom she was very proud. Local 572 is honored to have known such a dedicated fighter for justice. The Union sends our sympathies to her family.

"Ana was a warrior for the working people," said Villanueva. "We will miss her dearly."





Javier Bermudez, Osberto Diaz, Carlos Salado, Sergio Calderon, Modesto Corrales, Horacio Gonzalez, Hector Galindo, Mario Orta, Secretary-Treasurer Rick Middleton, Carlos Ballejo, Miguel Morales, Faustino Gomez, Francisco Ruiz & Emigdio Perez

# A New Contract at WESTERN STATES GLASS

New contract brings new benefits, wage increases to glass makers

At Western States Glass in Long Beach, your fellow members of Local 572 make high-quality glass products. The glass these members manufacture ends up in windows, shower doors, table tops, and a range of other uses.

On June 1, they ratified a new

five-year agreement.

The glass makers will be participating in the Teamsters' medical plan. They will also see wage increases. The pay raises and increased benefits are a triumph for the 22 members of our Local Union at Western States Glass.

"It's our best contract yet," said member Carlos Vallejo.

Business Agent Jaime Villanueva thanks Shop Stewards Miguel Moya and Modesto Corrales for their excellent service on the negotiating committee, together with Dennis Watson.



Miguel Casas, Modesto Corrales, Javier Bermudez, Hector Galindo, Faustino Gomez, Carlos Ballejo, Francisco Ruiz, Miguel Morales & Jesus Ochoa





Costco Shop Stewards and members of the negotiating committee: Anthony Lujan, Gary Bancroft, Leo Lagunas, John Robledo, Mike LuPayne, Donna White, Javier Garcia, Izack Madrid, Brad Williams, Brandon Smith, Jacquie Smith, Lori Parks, Robbie Alvarez, Cesar Mendez, Matt Ruhlow, Sarah Pimentel, Ethan Holston, Mike Fenger, Chandra McQuarn, Simon Melendez, Eddy Ayala, Local 572 Office Manager Carolina Roth, and Business Representative Doug Brown

# A New Contract at **COSTCO** WHOLESALE

## Teamsters deliver an outstanding retail contract

“Rick Middleton delivered hands-down the best retail contract in the nation,” reported Business Representative Doug Brown. He was talking about the new Western Region Costco contract ratified this spring.

The contract brings substantial wage increases and pension improvements to thousands of Teamsters, including 1,700 Local 572 members.

The new contract includes a generous pay increase. Members will also see an increase in pension

contributions from Costco.

Additional contract highlights include an enhanced procedure for vacation bids as well as increased job protection, and additional benefits for seasonal and probationary employees, such as jury duty pay and Sunday premium pay.

At Costco locations in Norwalk, Fountain Valley, Signal Hill, Yorba Linda, Irvine, and Fullerton, Local 572 members do everything from stocking shelves to ringing up sales to administrative

duties.

“I’d like to thank the Costco Shop Stewards and everyone who served on the Union negotiating committee,” said Secretary-Treasurer Rick Middleton.

***“We came together to successfully negotiate an exemplary contract for our members. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to your fellow Teamsters.”***



Isaac Cueva



Ryan Hutch



Lori Parks

**Irvine**





Abraham de Alba



Daniel Sli, Tommie Wagner & Scott Hamelberg



Jeff Tafulu



Casey Patton



Simon Melendez, Shop Steward, & Mathew Parr



Ray Virgen



Michael Fenger, Shop Steward



Donnifer Celestine



Lou Lopez



Eddie Ayala, Shop Steward



Dawn Sauvageau & Doug Brown, Business Agent

**Fullerton**



**Yorba Linda**



Joe Chen & Cathy Luy



Maddison Huseman & Julia Banuelos



Danielle Arias



Sean Blackburn, Shop Steward



Fran Reddin & Kevin Morrison

**Signal Hill**



Jesse Cervantes



Mike Mendez



Thea Gutierrez & Claudia Sanchez



Ethan Holston, Shop Steward

**Norwalk**



Ben Delira



Danny Foreman



Tony Hawkins



# Local 572 Salutes our Members at



Twice a year – in the summer and fall – the drivers and bus attendants select their routes. Local 572 represents almost 1,000 bus drivers and attendants at First Student.



Bus drivers bid for their summer routes at First Student in Pasadena



Michael Collins



David Garcia, Irma Alvarenga & Kenneth Thompson



Evelyn Loyd



Yolanda Sandoval, Vangelina Smith and Maribel Vasquez



Sharon Hudson, Shop Steward





Ana Acosta, Shop Steward



Estella Esparza



Rachelle Tunstall



Rudy Jardinal, Arturo Sanjuan & David Barraza



Yvonne Navarrette



Nadine Jouwsma, David Morales & Hector Balderrama





Mary Coleman



Sherrie Green



Suyapa Acosta



Mynor Loarca, Shop Steward



Victor Flores, Shop Steward



Rigoberto Banuelos, Helen Brown, Elizabeth Epps, Estella Esparza, Yesenia Cisneros, Sharon Hudson, Shop Steward & Bargaining Committee Member, Business Representative Tait Skifstrom, Danny Rodriguez, Bargaining Committee Member, Lorraine Luna, Phil Correa, Margaret Lucero



Marco Flores



Ed Lang



Jackie Reid, Sheryl Coleman & Carlos Garay



# LOCAL 572 WINS MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS at STORER TRANSPORTATION (PALMDALE)

## The Union triumphed with substantial wage increases and unprecedented benefits

When Storer took over as school bus contractor for the Palmdale School District, Local 572 stepped in to achieve major improvements for the members. More than 100 drivers, bus aides, and mechanics received a substantial wage increase in a new contract ratified in June.

The contract includes a vast improvement in wages. And while the company does not typically offer bereavement benefits, the Union negotiating committee fought to ensure members at the Palmdale location would have this important benefit. The contract also maintains Teamsters TIP health benefits and gives the drivers and bus aides two additional holidays and one additional sick day.

Local 572 President Lourdes Garcia was the chief negotiator

for the exceptional agreement. Business Agent Michael Williams served on the negotiating committee, along with Shop Stewards Tina Brown and Patricia Avery, and Bus Aide Mary Diaz.

“These were successful negotiations, and we couldn’t have done it without the support of our members. When a company knows the Union has the support of our membership, it makes a big difference,” said Local 572 President Lourdes Garcia.

The members were indeed firmly behind Local 572.

“In 13 years, these were the fastest negotiations I’ve ever been a part of,” said Shop Steward Tina Brown. “I’m very pleased. We got

more sick time, more holidays and improvements to vacation time. And we got the bereavement time we fought for. That was big.”

“Our Local Union is proud to win substantial wage increases and important benefits and protections for our members,” said Business Agent Michael Williams. He added that he looks forward to working with the Storer management team to ensure Local 572 members are treated like the professionals they are.



Storer Bargaining Committee Members: Shop Steward Pat Avery, Bus Aide Mary Diaz and Shop Steward Christina Brown



Top Row: Agustin Mota, Linda Lowe, Margaret Lucero, Nadine Jouwsma, Jorge Moreno, Rochelle Tunstall, Business Representative Michael Williams, Business Representative Tait Skifstrom, Yvonne Navarro, Estella Esparza, Maribel Ruedas Bottom Row: Hector Balderama, Phil Correa, Dwight Rembert, Russel Lunsford, Patrick Larco



# Hundreds See Contract Improvements at Durham/San Bernardino

Drivers, bus attendants and mechanics at Durham/San Bernardino ratified a new contract in February. The four-year contract brings significant wage increases as well as numerous language improvements to our members.

The nearly 400-member bargaining unit overwhelmingly voted to accept their contract

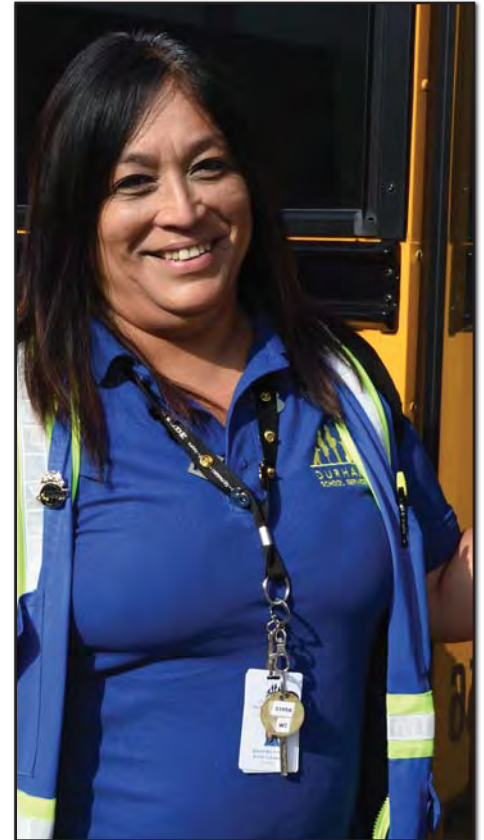
which includes improvements to charter trip rotations, an annual fall bonus for drivers and attendants, a new Accident Review Committee and a Positive Relations Committee.

Business Representative Michael Williams credits Lourdes Garcia for her work as chief negotiator. The Local 572 president

fought hard with the support of Bargaining Committee Members Sylvia Galvan, Maria Flores, Lori Gafford, and Glenn Grieve.



Glenn Grieve, Shop Steward Shawna Gools, Jose Morales, Laketa Jones, Tyesha Cox & Yisel Valenzuela Reyes



Sylvia Galvan, Shop Steward



Armando Gonzalez



Albert Ruiz & Max Gonzalez



Chris Lich





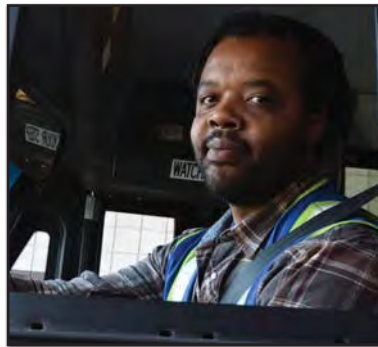
Marcos Lopez, Max Gonzalez, Sylvia Galvan, Albert Ruiz, Rafael Vasquez & Michael Williams (BA)



Johnnesta Hart, Joshey Parson, Shannon Dickinson, Elizabeth Montijo, Seleta Leifheit-Lee



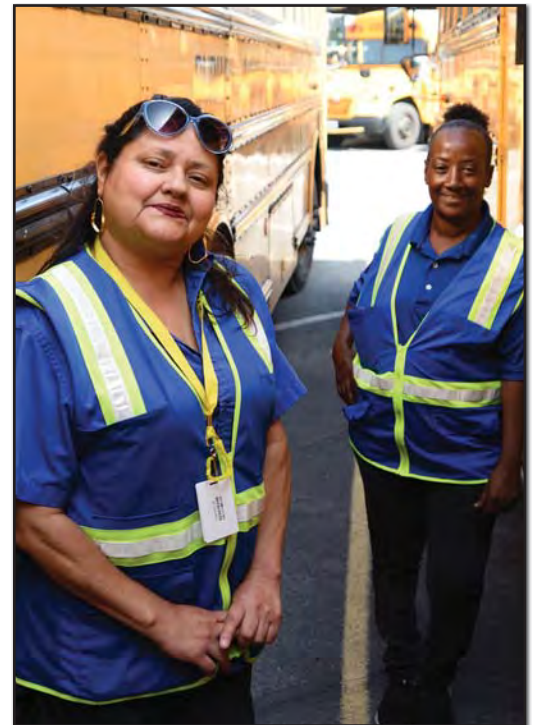
Dhani Olive



Trevor Higgins



Ernie Aveytia



Barbra Lucero & Fernell Oglesby



Beatrice Turner & Manny Soto



Catherine Montoya & Antoinette Diosdado





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## Going the Extra Mile

### Members and Union staff participate in charity 5Ks

Local 572 members go the extra mile to contribute to health causes and healthcare for all. This past year, members from Costco joined with Union staff to run or walk for a great cause.

In April, 27 members of the Local 572 family participated in the Donate Life 5K. The event raises

money and awareness about the life-saving process of donating an organ. Local 572 members also took part in a 5K to benefit those with Alzheimer's Disease.

Hitting the pavement together is one more way our Local Union comes together for the good of the community.



Brenda Quintana and Michelle Gorum

"Rain or shine, Teamsters are never afraid to participate for what's right," said Business Representative Doug Brown.



**Alzheimer's 5K Participants included** Eliseo Avalos, Elayne Bastian, Cookie Espinoza, Danny Foreman, Maria Garcia, Mona Gardea, Gloria Gonzales, Esther Hilario, Norma Juarez, David Lopez, Jennifer Price Luki, Alejandra Martinez, Laura Monarrez, Cindy Montes de Oca, Melinda Morosco, Lorraine Naranjo, Patricia Perez, Gaby Rivera, Peggy Roberts, Pat Rodriguez, Anita Salcido, Nicole Sequeira, Mary Smith, Edwardo Ysaac, Meggan Zenteno, Adriana Carmona, Lizette Escovedo & Cynthia Robles,

**Donate Life 5K participants included** Oonique Salauddin, Matt Ruhlow, David Gomez, Linda Escalera, Maria Madueno, Nick Quintana, Debbie Van Tilburg, Nathalie Aguayo, Cathy Esqueda, Anthony Vigil, Elaine Bastion, Eliseo Avalos, Zulynde Avalos, Tiffany Hamilton, Maria Ceja, Mona Gardea, Michelle Gorum, Esteban Lopez, Anita Salcido, Heather Utley, Laura Marmolejo, Justin Delgado, Doug Brown, Brenda Quintana, Lucas Quintana & Nick Jr. Quintana

