



# Teamster Talk



*Members of Teamsters Local 117*

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## 28TH IBT CONVENTION SPECIAL!

### Local 117 delegation flexes muscle at IBT Convention



On the Convention floor: (l to r) Azziem Underwood, Will Buff, Lee Mickelson, Jennifer Broadus, Paul Dascher.

The overarching theme of the 28th International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) Convention in Las Vegas was clear: There is a war on workers in this country and Teamsters are fighting on the front lines.

Every speaker, including politicians on both sides of the aisle, referenced the overt, unbridled attack that corporations are waging on the American middle class.

The results have been devastating. In 2010, 21% of America's children lived at or below the poverty line. Income inequality in the United States is at an all-time high, surpassing even levels seen during the Great Depression.

Vice President Joe Biden, who spoke on the last day of the Convention, said that recent attacks on working people by

politicians in state capitals and Congress represent "the most direct assault on labor in modern American history."

Biden challenged Teamsters to fight back. "What other institution in America has the power to take on this concentration of power and wealth?" Biden said. "It's you."

#### **IBT ELECTION THIS OCTOBER!**

The IBT Convention, held between June 27 to July 1, 2011, was a chance for Teamsters from across the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico to come together and build Union power.

It was also a chance for delegates to help formulate Union policy and nominate candidates who will be voted on by the membership in an election this October.

#### **Your Local Union's delegates for the 28th International Brotherhood of Teamsters Convention:**

- Leonard Smith, Local 117 Organizing Director
- Paul Dascher, Bloch Steel
- Joey Mulcahy, Coke
- Joe Harmon, Safeway
- Sid Clark, Department of Corrections
- Cetris Tucker, Local 117 Business Representative
- Spencer Thal, Local 117 General Counsel
- Yancy McKeen, Department of Corrections
- Phyllis Cherry, Department of Corrections
- Dave Roberts, Department of Corrections
- Brent Barrett, Waste Management
- John Van Buskirk, King County
- Gwen Crittendon, Birdseye Foods
- Jesse Howard III, Unified Grocers
- Kirk Duncan, Graybar Electric
- John Searcy, Local 117 President & Business Representative
- Tracey Thompson, Local 117 Secretary Treasurer
- Becky Little, Pierce County
- Scott Anderson, Safeway
- Cynthia Adams, King County

#### **Alternates for the 2011 IBT convention:**

- William Buff, Sysco
- Jennifer Broadus, King County
- Brian Kennedy, Unified Grocers
- Marcus Williams, Local 117 Business Representative
- Floyd Griffin, Unified Grocers
- Lee Mickelson, SuperValu
- Azziem Underwood, King County
- Jim Wise, Fred Meyer
- Deb Dahlin, Macys

For more news and video from the 28th IBT Convention, visit your Local Union's website at [www.teamsters117.org](http://www.teamsters117.org).

## A message from your Secretary-Treasurer



Brothers and Sisters:

It has been a week since the 28th International Brotherhood of Teamsters Convention closed, yet we remain motivated and energized to do whatever it takes to beat back the attack on working families.

One of the first things we need to do is educate ourselves about what is really going on.

Last week, the New York Times reported that Corporate CEO pay increased 23% in 2010. The pay for working people increased a mere 0.5%. Adjusted for inflation, middle class workers had less disposable income in 2010. The gap between the rich and the middle class continues to grow.

As Vice-President Biden said at the Convention, some politicians “believe that a strong U.S. economy rests upon an ever-increasing accumulation of wealth and power in the hands of a few enlightened guys who think they are smarter than you are.”

We know better. We know that in order to maintain the America we all know and love, a strong middle class is essential. It is our job to protect and grow that strong middle class.

In solidarity,

Tracey A. Thompson  
Secretary-Treasurer

## IBT Convention

**Cont. from page 1**

The newly-elected IBT leadership will then chart the course for the International Union for the next five-year term, from 2012 to 2016.

*For this reason, it is critically important that members of Local 117 turn out and vote in the election so that our voices are heard!*

### **LOCAL 117 DELEGATION COMMANDS ATTENTION AND RESPECT**

As the 2nd largest Teamsters Local in the country, your Local Union sent a powerful delegation to represent you at the Convention. The delegation consisted of 20 delegates and 9 alternates and included experienced staff, Executive Board members, Shop Stewards and other rank-and-file members from industries throughout your Union.

Delegates and alternates to the IBT Convention were nominated at a special Union meeting held on January 6, 2011.

Your Local Union's delegates sat on a number of Committees at the Convention, including the Constitution Committee, the Resolutions Committee, the Sergeant at Arms, and Organizing Committee.

Local 117 Secretary-Treasurer Tracey A. Thompson was the co-chair of the Organizing Committee at the Convention.

“It was a great honor to serve on these committees at the Convention. Now with the Convention behind us, Teamsters and other Union members have our work cut out for ourselves. We must take direct action to organize and mobilize working families so that we can stem the tide of corporate greed and aggression that is destroying the American middle class,” said Thompson.

**From the 28th IBT Convention:**

**“We are 20 delegates strong: women, men, black, white, brown, young, not so young, gay, straight, public employees, and private sector employees. We are the face of the Teamsters Union in the West.”**

**TRACEY A. THOMPSON  
SECRETARY-TREASURER**



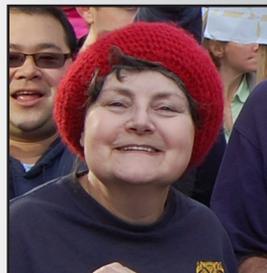
**Back from the Convention**

*“What did you learn at the Convention that you can share with your fellow Local 117 Teamsters?”*



**Floyd Griffin  
Unified Grocers**

*“We saw firsthand the importance of unity and how the Brotherhood and Sisterhood extends worldwide.”*



**Deb Dahlin  
Macys**

*“We learned that our Union is energized, dedicated, and ready to fight for working people and the middle class.”*



**Jesse Howard  
Unified Grocers**

*“Our delegation was professional, respectful, and showed a diversity that needed to be seen on the Convention floor.”*



**Sid Clark  
DOC**

*“We saw how important it is to push DRIVE and turn out the vote in the IBT election.”*

# FIRST-TIME DELEGATES ENERGIZED BY TEAMSTER POWER

## Teamsters for Tomorrow energizing labor



Teamsters for Tomorrow delegation at the 28th IBT Convention: (top row l to r) Joe Harmon, Will Buff, Marcus Williams, Paul Dascher. (Bottom row l to r) Maria Williams, Jennifer Day, Joey Mulcahy.

Your Union's delegation to the International Convention stood out for our diversity in age, race, and gender: Local 117 is the new face of the Teamsters.

In addition to the seasoned veterans in the group, there was a strong contingent of newcomers.

Dave Roberts, a Corrections Officer from the Monroe Correctional Complex and your Local Union's Recording Secretary, attended the Convention for the first time. Dave was revved up by the Convention, not only from the energy in the room, but also from the opportunity to meet Teamsters from across the U.S., Puerto Rico, and Canada.

Dave has been a volunteer organizer helping the Teamsters' efforts in Florida to bring more than 20,000 corrections workers into the Union. At the Convention, he was able to reconnect with

old friends, from Cook County Corrections in Chicago to truck drivers and members from Local 299 in Detroit.

Relating his experiences, Dave said, "When you come to a convention like this, you are meeting the best of the best from the Teamsters. These are members who care and are willing to fight for their Union."

### TFT IN THE HOUSE

Paul Dascher, another first-time delegate, who works at Bloch Steel, was energized and excited from hearing all of the reports about the new organizing that our Union has been doing - 135,000 new members since the last Convention.

Paul had this to say: "This has been an awesome experience, hearing from newly-organized Teamsters and how a Teamsters contract has changed lives. If we keep fighting and moving forward, I know that my kids and my grandkids will have a shot

at a good life because they will have the back up and support of the Teamsters Union."

Paul, along with fellow delegate Joe Harmon who works at Safeway, is an active member of Local 117's Teamsters for Tomorrow Caucus. The Teamsters for Tomorrow is a group of young Teamsters committed to ensuring that the values and interests of today's working families are represented in the workplace of tomorrow.

"It was great to show off our TFT T-shirts at the Convention and show Teamsters from across the country that we are building power through member involvement," Joe said. "There was a lot of excitement about what the Teamsters for Tomorrow at Local 117 are doing. Everyone wanted to know."

## IBT CONVENTION HONORS OFFICER JAYME BIENDL

### A tribute to our fallen Sister

General President Hoffa honored our fallen Teamsters Sister, Jayme Biendl, with a moment of silence at the 28th IBT Convention.

"When tragedy strikes one of our own, we all feel the loss," said Hoffa. "This was the case in January of this year when corrections officer and Local 117 member Jayme Biendl was killed on the job."

Biendl's murder shined a national spotlight on the dangerous conditions corrections officers face on the job, and reminded Teamsters everywhere just how important on-the-job safety measures are.

Hoffa recognized her sacrifice and showed a photo of Officer Biendl on the screen. Thousands of Teamsters in the Convention hall paid their respects to Officer Biendl.

### LOCAL 117 EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**July 30** – Tacoma's Ethnic Fest (Need Volunteers!)

**August 5 - 15** – Paint Tacoma Beautiful (Need Volunteers!)

**September 15** - General Membership Meeting

Sign up online to receive an electronic copy of Teamster Talk at [www.teamsters117.org](http://www.teamsters117.org).