Countdown to November

International plans Blitzkrieg to rally Labor

The threats to organized labor are more serious than they have been in a long time, according to the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Attacks on the basic tenets of organized labor are escalating and General President James P. Hoffa predicts working men and women will face disaster if the torch-bearer of the economy’s “1%” wins the White House this November.

“We have a presidential candidate who says there is nothing wrong with sending jobs overseas,” said Hoffa, appearing on “The Ed Show” on July 27, and referring to Republican candidate Mitt Romney. “If that doesn’t make this election a very clear choice, about whether we’re going to have jobs in America, about whether we’re going to bring those jobs back from overseas, this is what it’s about.”

Hoffa is urging the membership to vote against Romney in November, but is keenly aware that the local unions in many states face even larger battles to preserve their way of life.

In Illinois, pension reform for public employees tops the list of threats.

“If lawmakers don’t address this in August, then it will likely happen in fall veto session,” said Tony Barr, Local 916 president. “Reform is coming, but if the changes are draconian, and working men and women bear the brunt of the state’s mismanagement, there will be a fight.”

Approximately 3,400 members of Local 916 are employed by the State of Illinois.

Related stories on page 3

STOP THE WAR ON WORKERS

Like us on Facebook:
Teamsters Stop the War on Workers.

Follow the Teamster Nation Blog:
http://teamsternation.blogspot.com/

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

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Settled Contracts

If you follow the news about Illinois’ dire financial straits, you might get the impression that the entire state and all its operations have ground to a halt.

That’s not the case. Thousands of hard working state employees continue to do their jobs, despite threats to their healthcare and pensions, and disparaging remarks about their worth. The private sector is fighting back from the recession and doing what it takes to keep employees on the job and keep the economy going.

At Local 916, we continue to work on your behalf. Take a look at page 12 and the list of contracts negotiated and settled in the last few months. The employees covered by these contracts are making progress in the area of salaries, benefits and working conditions, despite the world we live in these days.

Now, more than ever. Union Strong.

Get Ready for Election Season

We get a reprieve until about Labor Day, then the onslaught of campaign TV and radio ads will proceed to drown out just about every other sound between now and November.

Don’t let the circus overshadow the substance this fall, though. There is a lot at stake for working men and women in this presidential election.
Hoffa Says Tea Party Governors Will Think Twice About Attacking Workers’ Rights, Earned Benefits

(WASHINGTON) – Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa said the labor movement is more active, energetic and informed as a result of the Wisconsin recall election, regardless of the outcome.

“Scott Walker gave a wake-up call to Wisconsin’s working families, and they gave it right back,” Hoffa said. “These Tea Party governors will think twice before they attack workers’ rights and the benefits they’ve earned.

“It’s hard to recall a sitting governor, especially one with a huge spending advantage. (The) results show that grassroots organizing can hold its own against overwhelming financial advantages.

“Our Teamster brothers and sisters in Wisconsin and across the nation are more active, energetic and educated because of the recall election.”

About D.R.I.V.E.

Through grassroots political action and aggressive lobbying on Capitol Hill and in State Houses and City Halls across America, Teamsters have stopped some of the worst attacks on working people.

You can take a stand for working families by contributing to D.R.I.V.E. – the Teamsters’ political action committee. Your contribution will support grassroots action by Teamster families.

• Elect political candidates who care about working people.
• Keep members and their families informed on the key issues that affect our future, including voter guides that show the records of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.
• Fund rallies, news conferences, advertisements, and phone banks to build support on issues of concern to working people.
• Support voter registration, and financial support for political candidates who will stand up for working families.

Remember in November

Who in the GOP-led U.S. House of Representatives voted against extending the Bush tax cuts and letting the tax cuts expire for the richest 2% of Americans?

Let your Congressman know Teamsters have long memories.
Gary Brenizer Retires With Plans In Mind

*MJ Kellner employee has long list of to-do’s*

Gary Brenizer retired in June but hasn’t had a lot of free time to enjoy it yet. The 33-year warehouse employee has been helping with two infant grandsons born this summer, and with one of the boy’s mother – his oldest daughter, Myla, 35, who is recovering from recent surgery.

He has managed to squeeze in a trip to northern Wisconsin for a wedding and some fishing. Oh, and then there’s the new job two days a week.

“It’s part-time janitor work at the Riverton Christian Church,” said Gary. “I was lucky. It opened up just about the time I was retiring.”

After 33 years, you might think taking on a new job, even part-time, wouldn’t seem that attractive, but the 64-year-old Buffalo resident doesn’t see it that way.

“I like to keep busy and it’s nearby,” said Gary. “Working at the church is also a way to help out.”

Wife Janelle is still working, anyway, at the Illinois EPA. All three adult Brenizer children live and work locally, too. Besides Myla, who works in the kitchen at Calvary Temple in Springfield, there is Jason, 33, who works at Buraski Builders, and Theresa, 32, who works in Physical Therapy at St. John’s Hospital. There are five grandchildren, 10 years old and under: Charity, Joseph, Emily, Ethan and Nathan.

Once things slow down a little, Gary said he plans to do some more fishing, and a little hunting, both locally and up north. One of his relatives has a house on a lake in Wisconsin, near where he was raised.

“I miss the guys I worked with, of course,” said Gary. “It was a great place to work, a family business that takes care of its employees.”

That company philosophy was tested early on, when Gary fell and broke his shoulder in a non-work related accident. He was forced to take 6 months off to recover. “The company said, get yourself healed and back to work. Your job will be here when you get back,” said Gary.

It was, and he stayed a total of 33 years. Now, he has retirement to enjoy, and a little advice for other long time workers who are wondering whether it’s time.

“If it’s possible, do it,” said Gary.

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**New Discount Prescription Drug Card!**

*Teamsters Local 916 is pleased to announce a new partnership with Illinois RX card to offer members their own discount prescription drug card.*

*This card can be used as your primary plan and/or it can be used on prescriptions not covered by your insurance plan.*

*Find out more and sign up on our website: [http://www.teamsters916.org/mbill](http://www.teamsters916.org/mbill)*
Sign Shop Steward Jumps Early to Avoid Pension Uncertainty

Brian Brewer retired in May at age 53

It’s not that he hadn’t logged enough time to retire. Brian Brewer, an IDOT Central Bureau union steward, started his career in 1980 and had 32-1/2 years.

But only 53, and still raising children, Brian was planning to stay for a while.

“But I didn’t want the fiasco with the state’s budget to affect my pension,” said Brian. “I’ve been paying in for more than 30 years. It’s like paying your mortgage for 30 years and having the bank tell you at the end that they can’t afford it and are going to charge you for another ten years.”

While there’s no pension reform yet, Brian knows it’s coming and predicts there will be an extended court battle, litigation that could cause would-be retirees to put off leaving until it’s settled.

So, he retired, leaving a career that left its mark on Illinois, literally. Brian was in charge of the IDOT Central Bureau Sign Shop team that fabricates the state’s road signs. Drive anywhere in Illinois and you’ll pass thousands of stop signs, directional signs, and Interstate highway signs that Brian and team produced.

“I started as a silkscreen operator, worked a few years at District 6 installing the signs, but mostly at the Central Bureau sign shop,” said Brian. “We do all standard signs and all the green, brown and blue Interstate signs outside of Cook County. We do it all in a building on West Reynolds Street in Springfield and most people don’t even know we’re there.”

That’s despite putting out about 70,000 standard signs – stop signs, etc. – per year, and between 30,000 and 80,000 square feet of Interstate signs. It’s not all new aluminum, though. Brian said 80 percent of signs are reclaimed, that is, they are straightened, repaired, or new sheeting put on the faces.

“Signs are damaged by weather, usually wind, but they are also damaged by vehicle accidents,” said Brian. “Just about the time you install a sign in a place where you think nobody will ever run into it, somebody will hit that sign.”

While he’s repaired his last sign for IDOT, Brian is more than managing to keep busy. He continues to work about 8 days a month as a police officer for the Village of Jerome, a part-time job he’s held for many years. He is also raising children – 17-year-old Courtney, 7-year-old Carson, and 19-month-old Brooklyn Rose. Wife Barb works from home, operating a medical transcription business.

“I will make some time for fishing with friends, too,” said Brian, who suspects his second-grader will also want to take up the sport, now that dad is home. “Carson is the age where he’ll be getting into sports, so I’ll be able to be involved with his teams.”

Daughter Courtney will be a senior at Pleasant Plains High School and, this year, is the Captain of the Pom squad, which means plenty of bleacher-warming for Brian and Barb.

Brian said he will stay active but will miss the team at IDOT and, especially miss the leadership role he took on. He spent 7 years as an assistant steward and 11 years as a steward. He said he is grateful for the relationship he had with Local 916’s business agents.

“They were quick to return my calls, when I needed to clarify something while mediating disputes between an employee and the administration, for example,” said Brian. “Tony, Leo, Dave and Tom were there for me.”

“The union is a good brotherhood. I told Sue (Fickas) I’d love to attend one more Steward Dinner Dance this fall,” said Brian, with a laugh. “We’ll see what happens.”
Pension Reform Driving Record Retirements
70 IDOT members jump since January

More than 4,000 Illinois state workers rushed to retire by June 30, an increase of more than 40% over the number last June. That total included 69 members of Local 916 at IDOT alone, a significant increase over previous years.

Not everyone made the move because of coming pension reform, but many did.

“Who can blame them?” said Tony Barr, Local 916 president. “The state budget is abysmal, affecting raises. Pensions are underfunded and lawmakers are trying to reform the system by penalizing the employees. And, public workers are being called spoiled and selfish.”

It’s possible that lawmakers will address the issue of pension reform later this month, when they return to Springfield.

Congratulations to all these Retired Members!

Todd Ahrens      Gerard Henken      Ellen Mumford
Mir Ali          Todd Hill         John Nunes
Carol Anderson   Thomas Hillmer    Rebecca Nutt
Philip Anderson  Jay Howell        Monica Patterson
David Bayler     Lynette Jones     Patrick Petrone
Richard Best     Henry Judy        Vicki Petropoulos
Dennis Blackford Charles Kadlec    David Piper
James Brockrogge Shirley Keck      Janet Pisani
Thomas Burkardt Gary Kinn          Stephen Pollock
Teresa Cheatham  Melissa Kribs     Tom Rauschenberger
Mary Elizabeth Coleman Joseph Larocca Diana Reeley
Mary Collins     Claude Lemrise     Tom Ripka
Cheryl Comperchio Fred Marruffo     Geraldine Romano
Kathy Comrie     Thomas Matousek    Rhonda Searle
James Cooper     Ed McGuire, Jr.   Timothy Smith
Judith Cortese   Steven McMaster   Connie Sullivan
Rickey Craig     Christi Means     Jon Tevini
Timothy Dixon    Charles Messina   Jerry Trumpinski
Thomas Domagalski Louis Midiri      Brian Turk
David Erley      Vernon Mielke     Marie Verdine
Karen Fletcher   Tim Milam         Patricia Walker
Brock Heckel     Craig Mitckes     Rita Williams
Michael Heinen   William Morris    Ronald Zendarosa
We need your updated home address!

Please call Sue Fickas at (217) 522-7932 or toll free (877) 349-4916 or email sues@teamsters916.org to let us know if you’ve moved. We want you to stay informed of all Local 916 news that impacts your livelihood. It only takes a minute!

Congratulations to Local 916 Attorney J.P. Fyans, III

Fyans included in 2012 List of Prominent Young Professionals


- **position**: Attorney, Teamsters Local 916
- **age**: 32
- **email**: jp@teamsters916.org
- **social networking**: LinkedIn, Facebook
- **education**: Lutheran High School – Springfield, IL; Illinois Wesleyan University – Bloomington, IL (B.A., Major – History, Minor – Psychology); The John Marshall Law School – Chicago, IL (J.D.)
- **family**: Kristin Fyans (Wife, expecting 2nd child in late August), Jackson Fyans (son, 4 years old)
- **affiliations**: Illinois State Bar Association, Labor & Employment Law Section; Wisconsin State Bar Association; The Illinois Government Bar Association; Italian American Society; Lincoln Land Community College – Adjunct Professor
- **Advice for someone seeking a career in your field?**: Be diligent in your studies and work while being polite and open minded to new people and ideas.
- **Personality trait that you admire in others?** Patience and courage while facing hardship(s).
- **Best ‘perk’ of your current job?** A definite perk of the job is the interaction and knowl-

edge I gain working on behalf of or as an adversary to distinctive and exceptional personalities while we work through employment issues.

- **Least favorite chore at work or home?** Cat litter duty.
- **Favorite thing to do in Springfield?** Enjoying the outdoors with wife and son at either Henson Robinson Zoo or a Springfield Park (Washington and Southwind parks are our favorites).

Send Us Your Comments!

Want more information on an article? Or do you want to see an issue addressed in the next newsletter? Please send us your comments and suggestions, as well as your e-mail address, by the first of the month to:

Sue Fickas
The Hall Report
3361 Teamster Way
Springfield, IL 62707

or e-mail the editor at sues@teamsters916.org
26th Annual Pro Tech Seminar 2012

Northfield Inn, Springfield

Keynote Speaker: Eric Madir, Chief Counsel, Illinois State Senate

Door prize winners

Guest speaker Andy Manar

Dr. Leslie Fyans and Tony Barr

Leo Carroll, JP Fyans, Matt Hughes, and Ann Schneider
Local 916 Labor Day Weekend Special  
September 1, 2 & 3

Union Members and Families Discount 
Two for the price of one 
Must have Union I.D. card

- Water slides
- Pedal boats
- Giant wave pool
- Driving range
- Bumper boats
- Big Wheel
- Batting cages
- Go-carts

Exit #96 off I-72  
1700 Knights Recreation Drive, Springfield

Questions/concerns about grievances, health insurance, pensions, etc.  
The new toll free line was installed at the suggestion of members.  
Thanks for your input.  
We’re listening!
PRO TECH DIVISION 7
MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION GOLF OUTING

May 18, 2012 • St. Elmo Golf Course, St. Elmo

TOP LEFT: (left to right) Rod Smith, Josh Porter, Steve Niebrugge, Gary (Chico) Porter

TOP RIGHT: Jeff Bowling, Jim Bowling, John Schaub, Derek Stowers

MIDDLE: Neil Sandschafer, Brett Walker, Brent Bierman, Ross Bierman

BOTTOM LEFT: John Coleman, Terry Hoekstra, Larry Hagen, Greg Palmer

BOTTOM RIGHT: Neil Sandschafer, Ross Bierman, Brent Bierman, Brett Walker
Membership Appreciation Day
August 18, 2012
Noon - 2 pm
Local 916 Hall, Springfield
Enjoy the Illinois State Fair while you’re here!

Congratulations to Local 916
Business Agent David Rush

Rush has been appointed to the Joint Area Council Freight Committee, Central Region. The Freight Committee negotiates national contracts with freight employers and hears grievances.
Be Sure to Get a Withdrawal Card

It is important to take a withdrawal card from the Local if you do not work any days in a given month. This applies if you terminate your employment, go on sick leave, workers’ compensation, leave of absence, are laid off, or any other reason that keeps you from your job.

Your request should be made the end of the month in which you last worked. A withdrawal card allows a member to maintain their membership on an inactive basis. In other words, you will not owe union dues until you return to work. A withdrawal card is in effect indefinitely, or until you return to work. If you retire, request a Retiree withdrawal card.

If you allow your dues to go delinquent 90 days you will be placed on suspension status. When you request your withdrawal card, make sure you receive it in the mail within one week’s time. If you do not receive the card, call The Hall at (217) 522-7932 or (toll free) 1-877-349-4916.

August 2012

August 18
Membership Appreciation Luncheon
12-2 pm
The Hall

August 31
Scholarship Application Deadline

September 2012

September 15
Steward Dinner Dance
Crowne Plaza, Springfield

September 20
General Membership Meeting
6 pm
The Hall

Mark Your Calendars!
Upcoming Events

August 2012

August 18
Membership Appreciation Luncheon
12-2 pm
The Hall

August 31
Scholarship Application Deadline

November 2012

November 7
Quincy Holiday Party
6-8 pm
Stoney Creek Inn, Quincy

December 2012

December 15
Local 916 Holiday Party
6-8 pm
Crowne Plaza, Springfield

Status of Local 916 Labor Contracts

SETTLED CONTRACTS
Illinois Secretary of State
Meredosia Terminal
Frye-Williamson Press, Inc.
Association of General Contractors
Central Stone Company
Nestlé USA
Prairie Farms Dairy
Staab Battery
Hillier Moving & Storage
MJ Kellner Company
R.A. Cullinan & Sons
International Pipeline Agreement
Midwest Block & Brick

UNSETTLED CONTRACTS
Illinois Attorney General
Illinois Office of the Comptroller
Illinois Office of the Treasurer
Illinois Department of Transportation
IDOT – Downstate
Negwer Materials
Henry Nelch & Son
Crazy Horse Concrete
SCOPE – Springfield School District 186
City Water Light & Power
Security Guards
A. Gaudio & Sohs, Inc. (Budweiser)
Hostess

Congratulations to newly organized SIU School of Medicine!
Springfield Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co.
Building Almost Complete

New facility near JC Penney on Springfield’s east side

Springfield Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company will soon move its 80 employees from its long-time South Grand Avenue location to a new facility less than 2 miles away.

The move will give the company more room and the ability to expand. Pepsi has told the city of Springfield it plans to add approximately 20 new jobs.

James P. Hoffa Gets 5 More Years as General President

Teamsters General President James P. Hoffa and General Secretary-Treasurer Ken Hall have begun new five-year terms on the union’s General Executive Board. The Hoffa-Hall slate won by a wide margin in November. The election results were certified earlier this year.

Hoffa first took office in March 1999 and won re-election in 2001 and 2006. Under his stewardship, the Teamsters Union has regained its place as the strongest labor union in North America.

“It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve the 1.4 million members of this great union,” Hoffa said. “We have accomplished so much as a union since 1999, but our work is not done. There are new attacks on working families every day and unions are the only ones standing up for people with no voice.”
Local 916 Pro Tech Named “Woman of Influence”

Teresa Haley wins 2012 Award for local leadership, service

Teresa Haley, an Operational Technical Manager with IDOT, was honored at the fourth annual Security Bank/Springfield Business Journal recognition banquet. Women of Influence honors local women for their contributions to the Springfield area community.

Haley is just finishing a two-year term as President of the Springfield NAACP. She is a 2012 Recipient of the Governor’s Volunteer Service Award of East Central Illinois. She was also the first black chairperson for the American Red Cross for the Illinois Capital Area Regional Chapter and is the lead instructor for Save a Life Saturday that teaches CPR to the Springfield community.

Teamsters Endorse Obama

VOTE! November decision a “make or break” for labor

The Teamsters Union in May gave James P. Hoffa the authority to endorse President Obama on behalf of the union, following months of surveying members.

The organization’s endorsement came with a promise to put “boots on the ground” in all fifty states.

“Working families know who is fighting for their rights, and it sure isn’t Mitt Romney” said Teamsters general secretary-treasurer Ken Hall in a statement. “President Obama has worked hard to make sure that Wall Street is held responsible for ruining our economy, enacting the most sweeping financial reform package since the Great Depression.”

Enjoy what’s left of the summer.
The next scheduled general membership meeting will be held on September 20, 2012 at The Hall.
Keep Up to Date on Hostess Negotiations

Visit our website – www.teamsters916.org – or the I.B.T.’s website – www.teamster.org – and stay up on the latest in the negotiations. Your jobs and benefits are on the line. Hostess is in serious financial trouble and your negotiating team is working hard to help keep the company solvent, providing good jobs, and preserving hard-earned pensions for our members. Stay tuned.

James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Application Available

Apply Now – Deadline is September 30

Don’t miss the opportunity to apply for this annual $1,000 scholarship, which is awarded to 50 children or grandchildren of Teamster members nationwide. Our students have won this national scholarship in the past.

The application requires a 500-word essay. The topic this year is: What Role Can Labor Unions Play in Creating Jobs and Jump-Starting the Economy?

Find the application online:

Application for the 2012 Essay Contest

James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund

The James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund Essay Contest will award $1,000 scholarships annually to 50 students. All applicants must comply with the following eligibility criteria.

1. Be the son, daughter or grandchild of an eligible Teamster member;
2. Be enrolled full-time in an undergraduate college, university or community college program, or a technical or vocational program;

The applicant’s Teamster parent/grandparent must be able to demonstrate that:

1. Member was in good standing for (i) 12 consecutive months prior to the application deadline; or (ii) 12 consecutive months preceding the member’s retirement/diagnosis/death; or (iii) 12 consecutive months prior to the member’s layoff (applicant must be no earlier than three years prior to the application deadline); or (iv) a period of less than 12 consecutive months prior to the application deadline, together with 12 consecutive months of good standing during some other period, and
2. Member was not a full-time elected officer during the relevant period of good standing listed above.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

1. Applicant and Teamster parent or grandparent must complete questions 1-12.
2. Applicant must attach, on a separate sheet, a typed essay essay of 500 words or less. (Essays will not be returned.)
3. Applicant must forward the completed application and essay to the James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund office by September 30, 2012. We cannot allow any extensions to this deadline.

2012 ESSAY TOPIC:

What role can labor unions play in creating jobs and jump-starting the economy?

Upon completion please forward

Your application and essay to:

James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund
2012 Essay Contest
25 Louisiana Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Only complete applications will be considered. Essays will be reviewed by a panel of independent labor educators and the winners will be selected based on the quality and content of the applicant’s response. The Selection Committee will consider all applications without regard to race, religion, gender, disability or any other legally protected status. If necessary, winners should be prepared to submit their essay electronically.
TEAMSTERS LOCAL 916 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST 2012
Fri., Aug. 31st – Scholarship Application Deadline

SEPTEMBER 2012
Thurs., Sept. 20th – Membership Meeting – 6 pm – The Hall
Sat., Sept. 15th – Steward Dinner Dance – Crowne Plaza, Springfield
Sun., Sept. 30th – James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Application Deadline

OCTOBER 2012
Thurs., Oct. 18th – Membership Meeting – 6 pm – The Hall

NOVEMBER 2012
Wed., Nov. 7th – Quincy Holiday Party – 6-8 pm – Stoney Creek Inn
Thurs., Nov. 15th – Membership Meeting – 6 pm – The Hall