



*"Dare to live the life you
have dreamed for yourself.
Go forward and make
your dreams come true."
— Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Steve Vairma's Column

Thanks so much! for the memories, Teamster members

During my 46-year career in organized labor, I've been extraordinarily fortunate in representing the finest workforce of men and women in America — Teamsters Union members.



I am retiring in May of this year, and this is my last column as your Joint Council president. I have been a Teamster all of my work life from the time I was 18.

That is a long time, but the work has never been boring — often difficult and challenging — but never boring. Sometimes, when you win that best-ever new contract or settle a tough grievance or arbitration, or bring a strike to a successful conclusion, life can be great.

But there are no one-trick ponies in our labor-management world. Success requires a really good team, actually not merely a good team, but a superior team. And at Joint Council 3 and Local 455, we've had excellent teams for as long as I can remember. Executive board members of Joint Council 3 and Local 455 have consistently made decisions in the best interest of the union.

And, for the first time in the history of Teamster Joint Council 3 and its predecessor, Joint Council 54, we now have three women on our seven-person executive board, doing excellent jobs in representing members of their local unions.

They are Karla Schumann, Arizona Local 104, Erin Foley in Montana Local 2, and Jessica Prather in Idaho Local 983. I am proud to have worked with them. Women are now 45 percent of our national membership, and that makes our union stronger and better.

My sincere thanks to all who have supported me over the years

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Teamsters Joint Council No. 3
10 Lakeside Lane – Suite 2 • Denver, CO 80212

Montana unions again slam right-to-work gang

~ See Page 3

Most workers want a union A new law is needed

~ See Page 5



**"BIG" arrived at the capitol in
Helena to support Teamster locals**

LOCAL UNION REPORTS: IDAHO

Local 983

Jessica Prather
Secretary-Treasurer



Let's have a bit of Spring after long, cold, snowy Idaho Winter

POCATELLO — Hello brothers and sisters and happy Spring! It's been a long, cold, snowy winter here in Idaho and I think we are all ready for a little bit of sunshine.

The year 2023 started off busy and continues to be! We have ratified the third and final Basic American Foods contract in Idaho Falls.

Our Southern Idaho Master Labor Agreement for our heavy highway construction workers has also been ratified. UPS negotiations have started at both the Joint Council and Western Region levels and will go through most of the summer.

Our IEC Warehouse contract will be opening soon. Solidarity is very important, as always. Please continue communicating the importance of being a union member, especially in a right-to-work state.

The union isn't the business agent—it is the workers standing strong and as

one! We are in this together and it should never be about one man for himself.

We encourage you to look around and remember that there is power in numbers and working together is where our strength lies. If you are interested in being a volunteer organizer/activist, please let us know.

Welcome to our newest business agent and organizer, Jake Blackburn, a long-time Teamster brother from Pocatello Ready Mix. Jake is ready to support current and future Teamsters. He will be taking care of ready-mix and construction along with organizing new companies.

We are continually internally organizing at all of our shops and centers. The more members are informed of the contract language, the more grievances are filed to make the company abide by the agreement.

Non-members don't have a say

when it comes to making proposals and voting on contracts. Please communicate and have open discussions with your co-workers about the importance of being a union member.

If every current member could sign up one new member each month, we would have that much more power at the bargaining table to get what you all deserve. Thank you for your membership and solidarity and as always, if you have an issue or question, please don't hesitate to contact us.

We would like to congratulate all of our recent retirees. We wish you the best of luck in your retirement!

If you are starting to think about retiring, please call our office to schedule an appointment with our WCOT Pension representative. In-person interviews are back every other month but you can also always call them over the phone! The application process can take several

months so make sure to plan ahead if possible. We will be more than happy to help you fill out your application! If you want to contact the pension office directly, call 1-800-531-1489.

Please remember to contact us for any address or phone number changes. Also, if you are going to be off work for a month or more due to illness, leave of absence, layoff, etc., please contact us regarding being placed on withdrawal until you return to work.

As a dues-paying union member, Local 983 provides you a \$4,000 life benefit. Please make sure your beneficiary information is up to date by contacting us.

We hope to see you at our upcoming general membership meeting: They are the first Thursday of every month and begin at 7 p.m. at the Local Union Hall. You can find us on Facebook to stay up to date.

VAIRMA: Thanks! . . . cont.

Continued from page 1
even, perhaps, when a situation might have made support difficult. You were there when I needed you, and I truly appreciate that.

Both at the Joint Council and local union levels, I have benefited from the assistance and support of individuals on whom I depended for advice and special help. They are too numerous to list, but

they are constantly in my thoughts as I come closer to retirement.

In closing, I truly thank the men and women members of the Teamsters Union in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming for being part of an organization dedicated to working men and women.

Thanks again,
Steve


America Needs You!



BUY AMERICAN!

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LOCAL UNION REPORTS: MONTANA

Working together, Montana Teamsters, allies defeat so-called ‘right-to-work’

Local 2

Erin Foley
Secretary-Treasurer



HELENA — The 2023 Montana legislative session kicked off January 2, and, no surprise, the attack on labor appeared overwhelming.

The recent elections in Montana produced a Republican super majority in the legislature, and a Republican governor, creating a daunting task of fighting against anti-worker legislation such as “right-to-work” (RTW).

Dozens of bills directly attacked unions and the rights of workers to organize and negotiate for fair wages, benefits, and safe working conditions. It didn’t matter if you worked for a public employer or in the private sector, your right to collectively bargain and negotiate better contracts came under attack in Montana.

The Montana labor movement was united in beating back the anti-work agenda. In preparation for this year’s legislative session, the two Teamsters Union locals in Montana, Local 2 and Local 190, held meetings with labor leaders from around Montana to strategize on fighting the anti-labor bills.

“In addition, the political team at the IBT was there every step of the way with us, providing help with messaging, testimony, and bill materials, and joining us during the RTW hearing and rally,” said a spokesperson for Local 2 and Local 190.

More importantly, Teamster members from both locals also traveled to Helena to testify against RTW. Local 190 UPS feed-

er driver Thomas Richey worked his driving shift until midnight, then got into his car with two fellow UPS employees, Jocelyn Rodd and Tyler Cervantez, to drive three and a half hours to the Capitol to testify.

The following week, Sean Krebs worked his shift at Sysco until 2 a.m., then joining Local 190 Secretary-Treasurer Jim Soumas and Jeff Grove of UNFI at 3 a.m. to drive over from Billings to testify for the Warehouse Worker Protection Act.

“We are proud that we worked with Democrats and Republicans to defeat every anti-union bill before the midpoint of the session,” said Erin Foley, Local 2 secretary-treasurer, who also serves as the president of the Montana State AFL-CIO. Her leadership and commitment led the union fight in Helena.

Jessica Wicks and Rhonda Johnson serve as Local 2 and Local 190 political coordinators and participated in numerous weekly conference calls

Local 190

Jim Soumas
Secretary-Treasurer



and provided testimony in the legislative committees.

Jessica’s experience in this arena was a valuable asset, connecting with elected officials and testifying on bills.

On top of all the legislative fights, Local 2 and Local 190 have been busy with various labor issues and negotiations, not the least of which is the UPS contract

negotiations.

The locals again worked together to hold a steward training seminar in Butte in February for UPS stewards.

Erin Foley has also been selected to participate on the UPS national negotiating team.

Continued on page 10



Happy Teamsters gathered at the Capitol in Helena to rally against ‘Right-To-Work’



UPS Member Thomas Richey testifying against ‘Right-To-Work’



Local 2 Business Representative Jessica Wicks testifying for the Warehouse Worker Protection Act



Secretary Treasurer Jim Soumas testifying for the Warehouse Worker Protection Act

LOCAL UNION REPORTS: UTAH

Local 222

Secretary-Treasurer
Spencer Hogue



UPS announces major change in operations

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Carly Lunt — ext. 21

Cora Lucero — ext. 11

SAVE THE DATE FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

Ralph J. Taurone

Scholarship Fund

Annual Golf Tournament

Saturday, June 3, 2023

Meadow Brook Golf Course

\$500 per team of 4

Call us today to register your team!

Teamsters Annual

Labor Day Event

Saturday, August 12, 2023

Lagoon

Tickets on sale

Thursday, June 1, 2023

*For more information and status updates please visit our website:
teamsterslocal222.org.

Spencer Hogue

Secretary-Treasurer

UPS Feeder — The company announced significant changes to its operations that will affect a majority of the local unions across the country. The full details have not been released yet but Local 222 will be losing some sleeper work and gaining some Local/Brown corridor work due to the changes.

UTA — This year Utah Transit Authority introduced legislation intended

to strip employees of their rights to form a union and bargain collectively. It has been disappointing as this blatantly anti-union, anti-worker legislation passed both chambers. We are holding out hope the governor vetoes the bill, as they don't have support to override a veto. We have temporarily blocked more than \$200 million in funding for infrastructure projects by objecting to federal grants with the Department of Labor as we believe this bad law violates the Urban Mass Transit Act.

Marty Cowin

Business Agent

PS HUB — The company has eliminated the MRA of our combo workers. Some members have lost more than \$4/hour in pay. This is a direct attack on the employees. A new hire now makes up to \$3 more than a tenured member.

This will be addressed in negotiations. We are seeing a high volume of payroll grievances. The company can't even figure out the correct wages after the elimination of the MRA. We had added the new stewards to replace the three stewards who took new 22.3 jobs. I would like to thank Brian Ward, Corby Horton and Allen Woo for

volunteering their time and energy for this role.

DHL — I have no news to report. I would like to thank the group for everything you do.

Alex Rojas

Business Agent

Forterra — We have a new steward, Cody Franeen. Thank you for volunteering.

American Airlines — A lot of progress has been made in negotiations. If you can, please follow them on Facebook and Instagram to stay up-to-date with the latest news.

Hertz — We will be gearing up for contract negotiations for the Gold and CSR departments. We will be branching out soon with contract proposals and meetings.

UTA — We are in the process of contract negotiations as I write this column. Negotiations are going very well with a lot of progress being made.

American Red Cross — Contract negotiations are going very well. We are getting close to having a ratification vote.

Once again, I would like to thank all the stewards for everything they do!

Utah Retirees

Looking like Spring!

SALT LAKE CITY

— This year we have had a very snowy, cold winter. We hope by the time you read this the weather is looking like spring. I am excited about new members joining our club.



Jim Chandler

President

Don't miss out on our friendship and lunches.

We had soup for our March lunch and Café Rio catered our April lunch. May 10 is fried chicken, so bring a side dish and enjoy the day. Drawings are held for cash prizes and sometimes we have guessing games.

New retirees have their \$25 dues paid by the union for their first year. This includes great lunches and reminiscing for you and one guest every month for the entire year. Don't miss out! Meetings and lunches are held every second Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Teamster Union Hall at 2641 So. 3270 W. Salt Lake

City. Any questions call Jim Chandler at 801-513-5402. Please leave a message if we are not home.

JANUARY

Rick Duffey — GRANITE CONSTRUCTION

Carol Myers — YRC

Wayne Roberts — GENEVA ROCK

Todd Smith — ABF

Ralph Smith — UPS

Kevan Miller — UPS

Timothy O'Connor — MONROC

Roger Staley — UPS

Sherri Cooley — UPS

Michael Stocking — UPS

Kent Packard — GENEVA ROCK

Artine Ouzounian — ABF

FEBRUARY

Mont Brindley — ABF

Travis Drage — ABF

Robert Gauthier — HERTZ

M. Steve Moffat — UPS

Craig Whetton — UPS

RTW takes another hit; Michigan repeals law

LANSING — Workers' rights advocates in Michigan applauded recently as Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed a repeal of the state's so-called "right-to-work" law and restored the prevailing wage standard for state-funded construction projects.

Michigan is the first state in nearly six decades to roll back anti-union right-to-work laws,

which bar unions from requiring that all workers in unionized jobs pay dues.

"It feels great to be a Michigander today," said Lonnie Scott, executive director of Progress Michigan.

"Any day that the corporate interests and lobbyists in Lansing fail is a day that deserves special recognition. It's refreshing to see workers get the recognition and rights they deserve

after years of Republicans doing everything they could to undermine unions and the ability to organize in the workplace."

In a statement, Whitmer's office cited research from the Economic Policy Institute that showed people living in states without right-to-work laws are paid \$1,600 more per year on average and have higher rates of insurance coverage than workers in states with anti-union rules. States without the anti-worker laws also have lower rates of workplace deaths.

Passage of Michigan's right-to-work law in 2012 provoked an outcry and drew labor advocates from across the county to Lansing to rally against the law.

Decades-old labor laws hurting today's workers

More than 16 million U.S. workers were represented by a union in 2022, an increase of 200,000 from 2021. Although more jobs were unionized, the share of workers represented by a union declined from 11.6 percent to 11.3 because nonunion jobs were added at a faster rate. As a result of decades of relentless attacks on the right to organize, the current unionization rate is well under half what it was roughly 40 years ago.

Other key data points show:

- **The entire increase in unionization in 2022 was among workers of color—workers of color saw an increase of 231,000, while white workers saw a decrease of 31,000.** Of all major racial and ethnic groups, black workers continue to have the highest unionization rates, at 12.8 percent. This compares with 11.2 for white workers, 10.0 for Latinx workers, and 9.2 percent for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) workers.
- **The gender gap in unionization is small—0.6 percentage points—and held steady in 2022.** The unionization rate for men is 11.6 percent and the unionization rate for women is 11.0.
- **States with the largest increases in unionization in 2022 were** Alabama (40,000), Maryland (40,000), Ohio (52,000), Texas (72,000), and California (99,000).

- **Industries with the largest increases in unionization in 2022** were transportation and warehousing (+46,000), arts, entertainment, and recreation (+62,000), durable goods manufacturing (+76,000), and state government (+99,000).

There is further evidence that many more workers would like to form a union but face barriers to doing so. Between October 2021 and September 2022, the National Labor Relations Board saw a 53 percent increase in union election petitions, the highest single-year increase since the fiscal year 2016.

Further, the share of nonunion workers who would like to have a union at their workplace is far higher than the share who actually have union representation. Survey data show that nearly half of the nonunion workers (48 percent) would vote to unionize their workplace if they could. That means that **more than 60 million workers** wanted to join a union, but couldn't. The Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act and the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act provide crucial reforms that would strengthen workers' rights to form a union and engage in collective bargaining.

"The fact that tens of millions of workers want to join a union and can't is a glaring testament to how broken U.S. labor law is. It is urgent that Congress pass policies that make it easier for workers to form a union, including the

PRO Act and the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act. State legislatures must also take available measures to boost unionization and collective bargaining," said Heidi Shierholz, Economic Policy Institute President.

Previous Economic Policy Institute research has shown why it's not surprising that workers want to unionize.

Unionized workers have higher pay and better benefits, on average, than nonunionized workers. Unions help close racial/ethnic wage gaps and also improve the health and safety of workplaces. This all points to the fact that dismantling barriers to union organizing and collective bargaining is crucial to generating a more prosperous, equitable economy.

The PRO Act would solve the problem

U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders and Rep. Bobby Scott recently introduced the Richard L. Trumka Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act (H.R. 20) in Congress.

The evidence is clear: Workers want to join unions, but many are robbed of the opportunity because the barriers are too high.

The share of U.S. workers represented by a union hit an all-time low in 2022, despite strong public support for unions and an enormous increase in union election petitions before the National Labor Relations Board.

The decline is in part because the decades-long, systematic attack on our foundational labor laws has created a hostile environment for workers seeking to organize. An EPI analysis found that employers were charged with violating federal law in 41.5 percent of

union election campaigns, whether it's firing, threatening, or otherwise retaliating against workers who dared to come together in their workplaces to bargain collectively.

The penalties for violating current labor law are not a sufficient deterrent for employers infringing on workers' rights under the National Labor Relations Act. And that's not even taking into account all of the perfectly legal union-busting and union avoidance tactics permitted under current labor law.

The PRO Act would help restore workers' right to collectively bargain for better wages and working conditions. The PRO Act would streamline the process when workers form a union, ensure that they are successful in negotiating a first agreement, and hold employers accountable.



The only 'right' in 'right-to-work' laws is the right to work for less money, benefits and working conditions.

LOCAL UNION REPORTS: COLORADO

Local 455

Secretary-Treasurer
Steve Vairma



Tough to find the right words

Mark Madsen Business Agent

This article is very tough to write. How do I express respect and appreciation for a man who not only changed my life, but the lives of thousands of other Teamster members across the country?

Steve Vairma has been an influence in my life for more than 30 years, through all the positions he has held in Local 455, and as warehouse director with the IBT. Local 455, under Steve's direction, has become one of the strongest, most respected Teamster local unions in the country.

When Steve asked me to become a business agent at Local 455, his direction was always clear: Take care of your members, your family, and yourself. The true sense of "family" has been instilled by Steve in the local union staff to serve the members and support other Local 455 staff members.

I was privileged to work with Steve on various national campaigns when he was leader of the IBT Warehouse Division. Steve's leadership, dedication, and incredible hard work has helped me to be a more professional and relentless advocate of the members I represent.

Finally, working in the same building everyday with Steve has been an absolute privilege. His work ethic, devotion to family, (home and work), and the members of Local 455 is unmatched. I can't express my appreciation for being mentored by and working with Steve Vairma.

USFoods — Local 455 recently filed an NLRB charge for the company not paying COVID benefits properly.

After an extensive investigation by Stewards Joe Cherro and Harry Martinez the company paid out more than \$65,000 to the members affected. Also, the union has been fighting the company for almost a year, and it finally paid off. The company paid \$55,000 to members for using third party workers. Those are two strong victories congratulations to the members.

Safeway — Negotiations were finalized recently, and members ratified the biggest contract in the DC's history. The wage increase was the largest ever. Insurance premiums were locked for five years, the drivers have made major strides in language for working conditions and premiums in pay. The entire negotiating committee did an amazing job.

Safeway Milk Plant — Negotiations were completed in October, with milk plant workers receiving the largest increase in wages in the last 10 years, and a 5-year freeze in insurance premiums. The members also gained in shift premiums, over-

time, and work conditions. I want to thank Gary Moore and John Castro for the work they did during negotiations, and what they do every day as stewards.

Happy New Year!

Don Ramsey Airline RLA contracts

Spartan College — Teamsters are in partnership with this technical school. Teamsters and family members receive 25 percent off certificate tuition and 50 percent off college degree diploma.



<https://teamster.org/2021/05/spartan-college-of-aeronautics-and-technology-and-teamsters-partner-to-provide-scholarships-to-union-members-and-their-families/>

American Airlines Customer Service — The bargaining committee met for the fifth and sixth round of negotiations February and March. February talks netted changes to five articles were proposed to the company — reduction in force, sick leave, holiday vacation, vacation and grievance procedure.

And the union responded to the company changes for article 32 (call monitoring). The company proposed changes to overtime-reservations, Reductions in force and grievance procedure.

Frontier-Technician Group — In the last contract vote we changed language to promote growth of Frontier Teamster Technicians in outlying stations.

In February, we signed LOAs to open Orlando with a start of 20 techs and Dallas with a startup of 36 technicians.

Darren D. brought to Frontier's attention that the company had used a headhunter group that advertised a signing bonus to work at Frontier as a technician.

There were seven technicians who did not receive the bonus. Thank you, Darren, for spearheading this resolution. What an awesome accomplishment!

Frontier Aircraft Appearance Agents — Audits for shift differential are being concluded this week. The company wasn't paying shift differential for vacation, OJI, jury duty, sick or bereavement. We are working on a resolution. Excellent work Delisa on identifying and researching evidence. You are a warrior!

Stewards complained about a really disgusting dumpster they have to navigate for emptying airplane trash. The floor was sticky and slippery. You didn't know if you would slip or lose a shoe in this stinky mess!

Frontier said it is supposed to be steam cleaned monthly. We began documenting through photographs and are monitoring compliance.

Frontier Material Specialists — We are still in negotiations. Frontier says their first financial offer has been prepared and is waiting on final corporate approval. Dates are being considered to reengage.

We lost a beloved coworker from this department. **Caroline Lee Bakken** was laid to rest Friday afternoon. It is a loss to all that knew her. I would visit and she eagerly would get an update, smile, and say thanks and rush off to keep working.

United Airlines-Technicians and Related — All HFWA grievances have been merged into the parent et al grievance. This battle will be fought in court between United and the State of Colorado, but we are keeping a record of all the grievances for immediate relief when the state wins!

Local 455 made a demand to comply in August 2022 and were set to meet with the company. A few days before the meeting United filed for injunctive relief with the state, and we encourage all those who have been violated to file a complaint with the Department of Labor and file a grievance for us to add to the parent grievance. Thank you, Geoff W., for getting the ball rolling on this.

FMLI tax — Local 455 wrote to Scott Kirby and other executives to encourage them to file for an exception to this mandate (allowable for self-insured companies). Financial incentives for the company were emphasized.

EFS bypass for 1463 hours was paid to 10 technicians. Special thanks to **Scott Brown, Angel Zamarripa** and **John Lambert** for the great job identifying, confronting, communicating, and resolving! Thank you, guys!

SBAs — The union presented a System Board Hearing for Termination and awaits the verdict.

Condolences to the Goodyear family. The loss of Karen was shared by hundreds at the beautiful ceremony. Karen worked 41 years at United. The Goodyears are four generations of United Airlines employees. The outpouring of love from coworkers was tangible to celebrate her life.

Ron Baird Business Agent

YRC — The drivers received \$1,500 due to the overuse of PT (subject to applicable taxes and withholdings). Those payments were made on or about January 26, 2023

Bridge Bids drivers receive \$45 a day per diem.

Yellow Corp — A COLA increase effective April 1, 2023, is calculated as follows. The contract specifies a one (1) cent per hour and one-fourth (0.25) mills per mile increase for every two-tenths (0.2) point increase in the CPI-W index in excess of 3.5percent and at least totaling \$0.05. Reaching an index level of 293.565 in January 2023, the index increased 7.599 points above the January 2022 index plus 3.5percent, and that translates to the following COLA increases:

\$0.37 per hour
0.925 cents per mile

The COLA will be applied as outlined in Article 33.

Please note these increases are in addition to the negotiated increases per the 2019 – 2024 YRC National Master Freight Agreement which are effective April 1, 2023:

\$0.40 per hour
1.00 cents per mile

Essentially, this means on April 1, 2023, hourly wages are scheduled to increase by:

\$0.77 per hour
1.925 cents per mile

ABF — The company is in the process of negotiating their CBA.

Canteen — The contract books are back from the printers and have been distributed to the members. We have successfully investigated the overcharging by the company for health care and the company is going back retroactively and will reimburse the members.

Greg Marshall Business Agent

Steve, thank you for everything you have done for my family and the working class in general.

After only 14 months of working under a Vairma contract, my family and I were able to move out of the trailer park and into a two-story house in a great neighborhood.

My work ethic had never changed, however, my pay and working conditions had. That was 10 years ago, and things have always gotten better for us year after year.

I can only imagine the thousands of other men and women you have helped reach middle-class status over the decades.

The Marshall family of six wishes you and Teddi a great retirement that you both deserve so much.

Local 455 leadership left in able, experienced hands

Dear Teamster Sisters and Brothers:

It has been my honor to stand with you in the fight for justice for working men and women in Colorado and across the U.S. and Canada for the past 45 years. Together, we have empowered workers, improved working conditions, elevated Teamster families and celebrated victories against some of this country's most powerful corporations.

Against this backdrop, I have decided to retire on April 28, 2023, confident that we have laid a strong foundation for future generations of Teamsters to build on these successes. I leave Teamsters Local 455 in the experienced, capable hands of leaders whose passion for trade unionism is deep and powerful.



Yep. That's me on the left at age 19, my first year as a Teamster business agent discussing issues with a rank-and-file Teamster. It brings back great memories.

Thank you for your solidarity and support in campaigns to organize, win contracts and raise standards for Teamsters throughout my tenure. I am deeply grateful for your votes that have allowed me to serve members in Colorado, Joint Council 3, the Western Region and the country.

For more than four decades, I have been inspired and motivated by Teamsters whose work moves this country and whose dedication has built our union into the most recognizable in the world. That will not change. I wish each of you success and want you to know I will celebrate every victory.

*Thank you, my friends,
Steve*

Scott Andersen Business Agent

The fight at UPS continues. We are making headway on staffing of drivers in the Commerce City building, and we are working on getting approximately 20 more RPCDs from 22.4s.

The exact amount and date of move is currently TBD pending our TLU455 grievance settlement.

Please keep your eyes on the union bulletin boards and your phones and emails for announcements concerning upcoming craft meetings and contract campaign trainings.

At the end of April, our esteemed secretary-treasurer, Steve Vairma, will be retiring. Every Teamster across the nation has benefited from his leadership in some way.

He will be missed, however, his legacy and contributions to our great union will live on.

Thank you, Steve. Enjoy your well-earned retirement

Roberta Brazell Business Agent

Congratulations to Steve Vairma, one of the greatest Teamster leaders I will ever know. It has been a privilege to work for Steve. Thanks to him for seeing something in me and affording me this once in a lifetime opportunity.

His exemplary conduct and actions as a Teamster leader have not only touched my life but the lives of many. I only hope to be half the Teamster he was for his entire career.

My only regret was listening to others when they said, "Stay out of Steve's office." Little did I realize that by not being a thorn in your side and not spending more time in your office, I was only cutting myself short by not soaking up all of the knowledge I could before you retire.

The best to you in your future endeavors. Enjoy this new chapter in your life!

Herb Whitaker Business Agent

I have been a Teamster since 1991. I met Steve Vairma shortly after starting at Nobel/Sysco in 1992. It took me a while to get involved with the union, but after I learned what it was all about, I dove in. I became a steward in 1993, and that's when I got to know Steve.

He has always been a huge advocate for working men and women. Since I have been a Teamster, Steve has always stood strong and worked to empower the labor movement. I appreciate his mentorship and the knowledge he has shared with me. The Teamsters will miss Steve Vairma.

Thanks, Steve, for your hard work for the labor movement and all you have done for me.

Jason Abbott Business Agent

Teamsters Local 455 members: Let's give a warm welcome to our newest members, Eagle Rock Distribution workers in Littleton, who are now working under the recently ratified Denver Eagle Rock contract, after a long and successful fight for recognition.

In yet another victory, ALSCO Denver Teamsters unanimously ratified their new agreement that provides increases in commissions, base pay, and pensions. These members' demonstration of solidarity led to the first commission increase in more than a decade.

I would like to say a special thank you to Steve Vairma. What can I possibly say about a person that has done more for labor than anyone I know? His hard work and dedication in representing the working class has truly made a difference. Steve's

Leadership will be missed, but retirement is well deserved. I wish him a retirement full of health, happiness, and friendships.

Jake Kucera Business Agent

What can one say about a man so influential that has not already been said? Well, here I go: Steve Vairma, you have opened so many doors for so many of us. You have always offered honest guidance and advice. My family, in particular, wants to thank you for your leadership and for helping to make our desire to be a strong Teamster household a reality! We wish you only the best and hope to make you proud.

Kathy Tiihonen Organizer

The first time I came to know Steve Vairma, was when I attended a Warehouse Division organizing meeting. With his leadership support as the Warehouse Division director, we successfully organized US Foods in Phoenix, AZ. It was one of the biggest fights and wins of my career. I was chosen to work with the division on the Sysco organizing campaign in Michigan and Pennsylvania. In 2016, I was honored to

work as an organizer for his local union. Steve, your faith and confidence in me has meant the world. You taught me a lot, not just about organizing and the labor movement, but also about being a true Teamster. I wish best of health and happiness in your next endeavor.

Joe N Smith III Business Agent

Thank you to an Icon. When one works 45 years of his life fighting for working families across the US, is saying thank you enough? When one spends 45 years of his life fighting for better pay, health care, and pension, is thank you enough? When one devotes 45 years of his life fighting for better working conditions is thank you enough? When one spends 45 years of his life fighting for workers' Rights is thank you enough? When one works 45 years of his life opening doors for men and women, and creating opportunities, saying thank you seems like it comes up short.

You have opened doors for me so I can learn, grow, and prosper, Steve Vairma, and I want to thank you. Thank you for all you have done. I could not have had a better boss, person, or Teamster to work for and with. Thank you to an icon, Steve Vairma.

Local 455 suspends summer meetings

Local 455 is suspending the monthly general membership meetings for June, July and August 2023.

Local 267

Secretary-Treasurer

Mike Cova



It's "forced overtime" time of year in brewery

FORT COLLINS — Spring is here and with summer quickly approaching, I know most of you are looking forward to spending some family time together, especially those of you with younger kids out of school. As we all know, this time of year is when we start seeing more drafting (forced overtime) during the weekends.

The company has hired seasonals in the operations and brewing departments along with new weekenders to try and mitigate some of the drafting of regulars and apprentices.

The training of these new members on the shop floor falls upon those working inside the brewery, so if you are asked to train a new weekender or seasonal—please help out. The bottom line is that no matter how much weekend and seasonal help the company hires, if they fail to receive adequate training, they can't relieve the draft.

Local contract proposals have been compiled and reviewed by a group of volunteers. Thank you to all who submitted proposals and to those who helped in the review process. Mike Cova and Earth Lindsay will be traveling to Merrimack in May to review and discuss all Local 267 proposals with representatives from each brewery.

Local bargaining will most likely begin around August of 2023, then national bargaining will follow once local issues are settled. Our current contract expires February 28, 2024.

In March the Teamsters Brewery Conference and Anheuser-Busch negotiated a \$3/hr. pay raise for all full-time maintenance technicians with at least two years of service. The pay rate will take effect on April 17, 2023. A big thank you goes out to all who were involved in such a significant win for the maintenance technicians working in all the breweries.

In January, the local hosted a shop steward seminar at the Elks Lodge. It was the first time that the local has hosted a seminar of this size. Turnout was great and appreciated by all in attendance. We received lots of positive feedback from participants and look forward to planning it again for future shop stewards.

In January, Colorado started collecting the FAMILI tax which will cover paid FAMILI leave in 2024. Details are still being worked out, but you will notice an additional Colorado tax on your paystubs. We are continuing to bargain locally for a solution to help offset some of the burden that the tax

will cost our members.

Sierra's Race Against Meningitis 5K walk/run will be held on June 17, 2023, at Foundations Church: 1380 Denver Ave., Loveland, CO 80537. This race helps raise Meningitis Awareness and saves lives. Executive Board Officer Kenny Rodriguez will be our contact for the local this year. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the local at 970-482-2749, and we will get you in contact with Kenny. As in years past, Joint Council 3 and Local 267 will continue to support SRAM by contributing \$1500 to the program and the use of JC3 parade truck "BIG" proudly serving as the starting line stage for the 5K walk/run. We encourage all members and their families to come out in support of SRAM on race day. Please visit sierrasraceagainstmeningitis.com if you plan on running or walking. SRAM continues the work of saving lives and needs our support. Sierra's Race has attracted thousands of participants every year and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars — increasing awareness of bacterial meningitis and providing thousands of free vaccinations to protect families from the heartbreaking loss of a loved one.

Members and retirees with high school seniors should consider taking advantage of the multiple opportunities available to them in applying for the following scholarships:

1) Local 267 will be offering five \$1,000 college scholarships for graduating high school seniors of regular, weekend relief, retired, and deceased members in good standing. Details on the program along with applications will be available soon on the Local 267 app and at the office upon request. Deadline to submit applications is May 12, 2023, at 11 a.m.

2) The Teamster Brewery Conference and Anheuser-Busch will be offering four \$1,000 college scholarships. Applications and information will be forthcoming from the company. (Active Members Only)

Local 267 app is now live and over 77 percent of our membership have registered. We are encouraging all members to go on the App Store or Google Play and register. If you have issues getting logged in, please call the hall at 970-482-2749 or contact one of your shop stewards who can put you in touch with someone to assist you in getting registered. The app is a valuable resource where you can find our contract, benefits contacts, and schedules.



Recent Local 267 shop steward seminar drew a crowd.

Local 17

Secretary-Treasurer

Duane Grove



Few layoffs reported at UPS

DENVER — The UPS peak season ended on January 16. The 9.5 language under article 37 has become active once again for the UPS drivers. There have been a few reported layoffs with UPS; mostly in the outlying areas such as Canon City, Trinidad, and La Junta.

Our next membership meeting:

Teamsters Local 17
7010 Broadway #200
Denver, CO 80221

Our meetings are scheduled for the second Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. Please check our website at www.TeamstersLocal17.org for any changes that may be necessary. Our next scheduled meeting is April 9th, 2023.

Our "Life with Dues" is a life insurance policy that is payable directly to the beneficiary of our members in the event they pass.

As a member, please make sure that your beneficiary is up to date.

Do not forget that if you are laid off, on worker's comp, disability or taking any sort of leave, that you can take a withdrawal card. You can call our office at 303-433-6496 ext. 15. to start the process if you need.

The new ACME contract is now available for download at our website along with other contracts. We encourage our members to take advantage of this quick, easy method to obtain your contract.

UPS regional negotiations are under way and will continue through the month of March. The UPS negotiations for the national contract will begin in April.

Please keep an eye on your bulletin boards at work for the latest updates on the process.

Colorado Retirees

Attendance climbing

DENVER — With the coming of Spring just around the corner, the attendance at our retiree meetings has started to pick up. We have had a few new members as well as our regulars.

The meetings are on the third Friday of every month at the UFCW Hall in Wheatridge at 7760 W. 38th Ave. Coffee, doughnuts, and good conversation are available at 1 p.m., with the membership meeting at 1:30 p.m. Kaiser reps are usually at our meetings to answer members' questions and there are the

usual drawings for cash prizes.

Our Spring luncheon for members and their spouses will be held on April 27 at the Thornton Golden Corral, 9751 Grant Street, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. We hope to see many new and existing members at the luncheon, and the monthly meetings as the weather permits.

Our monthly membership meeting will be suspended for the months of June, July, and August.

—Ed Stratman



LOCAL UNION REPORTS: ARIZONA

Local 104

Secretary-Treasurer
Karla Schumann



Another organizing win at Republic Services

Josh Graves
Vice-President

PHOENIX — Republic Services — The second Republic Services in Phoenix won the right to be represented by Teamsters Local Union 104 on March 10. The unit is more than 50 workers who are residential and commercial solid waste pick-up drivers, scale clerks, operators, and lead loaders.

The workers overwhelmingly voted 43 yes votes to eight no votes to become union members. These workers endured weeks of union busters riding in their cabs and captive

audience meetings.

The workers held strong and delivered a huge victory.

The South Yard Teamsters won their election in October of 2022, and are currently about halfway done in negotiations for their first contract.

The Mesa yard votes on March 30. If victorious these workers will win the right to Teamster representation and will join the other two yards in Arizona.

US Foods — The union's committee has met with US Foods for a total of four days of negotiations with the following

future dates scheduled in March and also on April 29, 30, and 31.

We are making progress and will update the membership when updates are available.

Ruan/Fry's — The union held the annual pension diversion vote in February and March. The members in transportation have voted to divert their increase to the pension, which brings the driver's pension rate to \$7.45 effective June 1, 2023. Shop members voted not to divert. Therefore, the scheduled \$0.95 wage increase will remain on their wages effective June 1, 2023.

The RFP process with Ruan and Kroger is getting closer to being completed and we hope to hear good news soon.

Ruan/Holsum — With the contract expiring at the end of July this year, the union will be looking to schedule proposal meetings in late April or early May. Please look at the union board for updates on proposal meetings. We are one person away from being 100 percent union and, with negotiations approaching, this would be a great sign of solidarity and unity entering negotiations being 100 percent for the first time.



Republic Service workers vote to join Teamsters Local Union No. 104

Daniel Sandoval
Business Representative

UPS — I am the newest UPS business representative for the Tempe and Gateway UPS facilities.

I was born in Tucson and started my career at UPS in 2015 at the Phoenix Gateway Hub. I was elected steward in 2016 by the membership. I became a driver in Tempe/Scottsdale Center in 2021. The following year, I was elected to be a driver steward by the membership.

I am excited and motivated to represent the membership at UPS.



Congratulations to Ben Dominguez who retired from Windigo Warehouse (previously Atlas) after 21 years.



Contratulations to Ray Sandoval who retired from Cemix after 44 years.



Our newest Business Representative for UPS, Daniel Sandoval

Hansen's History

Teamster pact gets farm help better wages

Reprinted from the May, 1961

Rocky Mountain Teamster

By Jim Hansen

Los Angeles — Bud Andle Incorporated, one of the nation's largest growers, packers and shippers of lettuce and celery, last week signed a 3-year contract with Teamsters Local 890 of Salinas, William G. "Bud" Kenyon, secretary of the local and the Southern California Produce Council announced.

The contract establishes minimum wages from \$1.12 to \$1.25 per hour for 300 cutters, trimmers, packers, field loaders, lidders, and

spray men of the firm in California and Arizona.

Effective last Thursday, the pact also provides for overtime pay, call time, holidays and union security. Incentive provisions will bring pay in some classifications up to \$1.50 per hour.

A 6.5 percent pay hike becomes effective on July 1, 1961 and another on July 1, 1962.

Carl Windschanz, secretary of Los Angeles Fruit & Produce Drivers, Warehousemen and Helpers, and President of the Southern California Produce Council, said completion of negotiations represented the first step in a state-

wide organizing program of farm workers.

Teamster locals presently have contracts throughout California and Arizona covering drivers, packing shed workers, and vacuum cooler employees.

Spokesmen for the huge Angle complex of farms in California and Arizona said that organization of farm workers was inevitable and previous bargaining and contractual relations with Teamster locals had proven them a "good, responsible, strong union." Windschanz said the contract was a major breakthrough in the Produce Council's drive among California and Arizona farm workers.

Montana Locals 2 & 190 ~ continued from page 3

Sample of the anti-labor bills defeated in Montana:

House Bill 448: Revise Laws Related to right-to-work Position: OPPOSE Status: DEFEATED

The bill saw only five proponents, one of whom was the legislator who carried this bill last session, and four of whom were from outside special interest groups. Workers flooded the Capitol for the hearing, packing the halls on the first floor. More than 80 business representatives, working Montanans, retirees, and their families spoke against HB 448 and the disastrous impact it would have on working

people in this state.

In addition, the two largest private sector employers in the State — Northwestern Energy and Stillwater-Sibanye Mine — spoke out in opposition to the bill, along with other private sector business leaders.

Senate Bill 140: Revise union membership laws Position: OPPOSE Status: DEFEATED

This bill would have implemented right-to-work in the non-profit sector, banning union security clauses, and putting additional barriers in place for employees to have dues payments deducted from their paycheck.

House Bill 216: Generally, revise laws related to public employees and labor organizations Position: OPPOSE Status: DEFEATED

This was a far-reaching attack on Montana's public employees and their chosen union. Under the guise of maintaining compliance with the Janus v. A F S C M E Supreme Court decision, proponents backed a measure that ended union contracts annually,

inserted government into private contract negotiations and imposed unfair barriers to payroll deduction for union dues.

Senate Bill 343: Generally, revise public sector unions law related to use of taxpayer resource Position: OPPOSE Status: DEFEATED



Always a hit - "BIG" and Montana Teamsters joined the festivities and fun at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Butte.



Teamster volunteers help get "BIG" dressed for the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Butte.

Other Voices . . .

Before Norfolk Southern poisoned Ohio, it poisoned the statehouse

The company plied state lawmakers with cash and lobbied against rail safety measures.

By Jim Hightower

The Wreck of the Old 97" is a classic bluegrass song recounting a spectacular train crash in 1903, caused by the company's demand that the engineer speed down a dangerous track to deliver cargo on time.

Fully 120 years later we have the "Wreck of the Norfolk Southern" — a devastating crash caused by the company's demand that it be allowed to run an ill-equipped, understaffed, largely unregulated, 1.7 mile train carrying flammable, cancer-causing toxins through communities, putting profit over people and public safety.

This rolling bomb of a train was hardly unique, for the handful of multibillion-dollar railroad giants that

control the industry also control lawmakers and regulators who are supposed to protect the public from profiteers.

A measure of their arrogance came just two years ago, when an Ohio legislative committee dared to consider a modest proposal for just a bit more rail safety. Norfolk Southern executives squawked like Chicken Little, asserting a plutocratic doctrine of corporate supremacy on such decisions. They even imperiously proclaimed that state lawmakers have no right to interfere in safety matters.

Ohio's Chamber of Commerce dutifully echoed Norfolk's concern for profit over people, testifying that "Ohio's business climate would be negatively impacted" by the bill. Never mind that Ohio's public safety climate can literally be "negatively impacted" by train wrecks!

Plunging deeper down the autocratic rabbit hole, the Chamber insisted that corporate control over work-

ers is sacrosanct. It postulated that a crew-safety provision in the Ohio bill was illegal because it "would interfere with the employment relationship between employers and their employees."

Yes, that's a corporate claim that executives have an inalienable right to endanger workers.

Sure enough, bowing to the corporate powers, Ohio lawmakers rejected the 2021 safety bill. And that is why, 120 years after the wreck of the old 97, train catastrophes keep happening.

This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords. org.



A Health Care cliff is coming

18 million Americans could soon lose Medicaid access. Here's how to keep people from falling over the edge.

By LT Talarico

I'm one of the 84 million Americans who get our health care through Medicaid. And I'm one of the 18 million who might lose it starting this spring unless our policymakers take action.

I went to college, got a degree, and planned on being self-sufficient. But in my early 20s, I was struck by an autoimmune condition that caused painful, chronic flare-ups that affected my ability to stand or walk.

I worked some desk jobs, but the health coverage was inadequate. I struggled financially, relied on thrift store wheelchairs, and lived with pain for 10 years before I got Medicaid. It changed my life — I was finally able to get a diagnosis and treatment.

Today, I work as a dental hygienist.

But Medicaid is full of holes and paperwork. You have to reapply frequently. And small increases in income can throw you off the program, even if you don't make enough to buy insurance on your own.

For a while, Medicaid was improved during the pandemic. In exchange for increased federal matching funds, states agreed not to kick anyone off the program until the end of the federal Public Health Emergency. We didn't have to keep applying — we could focus on staying healthy, taking care of our families, and doing our jobs.

That enhanced coverage will end on March 31.

The Urban Institute estimates that 18 million people will lose coverage as a result. That includes an estimated 7 million eligible people who will lose care anyway thanks to paperwork confusion and inefficiencies, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities reports.

Children, Black, and Latinx people will be disproportionately affected. But people of all ages and races will be impacted. The majority of people on Medicaid are working-class white people like me.

My modest pay is just high enough that I will likely lose coverage, and my contract job doesn't offer health benefits. I can get a plan through my state's disabled workers program or the Affordable Care Act's marketplace, but if I have to pay those premiums, I'll be living in fear of car repairs, extra medical bills, and rent increases.

Federal action to keep Americans from falling off this cliff is unlikely in a divided Congress. So states need to start preparing now to make sure eligible recipients don't lose care.

States will need to do outreach to Medicaid patients, field questions, and re-enroll people with their existing information rather than requiring unnecessary paperwork that could result in them losing coverage. And they must broadcast widely that everyone has the legal right to file for an appeal if they're cut.

States governments need to make sure renewal agencies have the correct mailing addresses, email addresses, and mobile numbers for enrollees. And they'll

need to collaborate with trusted community-based organizations to reach everyone who might be impacted.

Inexcusably, 11 states still refuse to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. That needs to change. But states that did expand Medicaid will cut patients off, too.

In Pennsylvania, where I live, nearly 1.2 million could lose care.

The deeper problem is that our system treats health care as a source of profit for the wealthy. If we guaranteed health care as a public good, we could all get the care we need — with less paperwork and at a lower cost than the private market.

Care should be a human right, for everyone — no matter where we live, what we look like, or how much money we make. That's why I'm part of a national network called the Nonviolent Medicaid Army. We believe that those with the most to gain and least to lose from uprooting our profit-driven healthcare system must come together and fight back.

Wherever you live, you can do something! Share your story about why Medicaid matters to you, join up with us, and tell your policymakers to start preparing now.

This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords. org.



LOCAL UNION REPORTS: NEW MEXICO

Local 492

Secretary-Treasurer
Andrew Palmer



Local 492 set for heavy load of negotiations

Tracy McCarty Business Agent

ABUQUERQUE — ALBUQUERQUE — Freight — In freight news, the IBT has started the sit-down negotiations with TForce Freight.

I attended the two-man meeting for the TForce proposals. I believe that what was presented would be a great help to both the membership and the company. When anything comes out that I am allowed to share I will make it available through emails from the local. Make sure your email is correct.

ABF — We have met for the two-man and will be in sessions by the time this column is printed. I will be sitting on the National Committee.

President O'Brien has put all these companies on notice that bargaining will not be strung out. Again, if any communications are allowed out, I will make them available through the local union email, so make sure your address is correct.

Yellow — Your contract is coming due soon. Start thinking about any changes you would like to be made to the contract. There is still a large problem with the dispatch in Albuquerque's lack of direct supervision in the office. Yellow is aware of this but seems unable to hire enough personnel.

OTR drivers need to make sure your paperwork is handed in and processed.

Just a reminder that agents and staff at the local union work hard to make sure your issues are addressed in a timely and efficient manner. We try to visit all the barns but do not always have the opportunity to meet or see all of the members while there. However, we are at all the monthly membership meetings to address any concerns you have.

Ernest Ortega UPS North

Spring is around the corner and days are getting longer, and I know most drivers are looking forward to more daylight. I hope everyone has a Happy Easter and enjoys

time with their families.

During this time of negotiations, we've been busy with a Unity Contract Campaign. We are trying to reach as many Teamsters as possible to show UPS we are united with fellow Teamsters and our Negotiating Committees to win a strong contract.

As for those who haven't yet filled out a unity pledge card, you can do so on the UPS Teamsters app. There has been a lot of negative publicity regarding the upcoming contract. I'd like to remind everyone that we have to remain positive and not stress over what so far have been rumors.

There is no reason to believe that we will not get what we deserve in the next contract if we stay united. Those of us who have been through a few of these contracts know of the challenges with our competitors poaching UPS customers, which directly affects our work. Let's make sure UPS doesn't divide us. We will not be victims of any tactics or bad decisions by UPS.

David Trujillo UPS South

I hope this column finds you and your loved ones well.

There is a lot going on in the southern centers as well as the Aspen facility. 9.5's are already starting to roll in and as spring turns into summer it's probably going to get worse.

We must keep holding the company accountable for all violations of the contract. We need to remember that we ALL are the union. Not just those of us working for you at the hall. Share knowledge and experience with those around you. We are only as strong as we choose to be.

This means standing together and enforcing the contract by letting management know we will not let them do our work. We will take appropriate action, including filing grievances for the time they are working. Communication is key, so be sure to tell your stewards what is going on around you. Be safe and stay united.

Joe Russom White Paper

Hertz implemented a "soft rollout" to the VSA Productivity Standard. The agreement has yet to be signed, so a note to all VSA members: No discipline will be issued regarding this rollout.

We are nearing the completion of a negotiated contract with Franklin's Earthmoving and preparing for negotiations with Bimbo Bakeries. Penske is scheduled to open a "non-union shop" in Farmington. We are working on this!

NCRTD, better known as "The Blue Busses," is looking for drivers for both the Taos and Espanola areas.

There has been some confusion over vacation language and companies not

applying it according to our contracts. It is important to read your contracts. If you have questions, contact me at 505-344-1925 Ext.15. In closing, remember to report all accidents immediately. In most cases, it will save your job. Take a little extra time and work safely everybody.

Retired

Felipe Lopez (ABF) 25 Years
Donald Wood (ABF) 30 Years
Anthony Vargas (Aramark)
44 Years (see attached article)
Mark Seaburn (UPS) 42 Years
Sharon Willis
(American Airlines) 40 Years
Sean Farrell (ABF) 36 Years
Deceased
Adrian Martinez (ABF)
Charles Cannon (Roadway/YRC)

More than 44 years a Teamster at the same company

Brother Tony Vargas has been working as a Teamster since April 17, 1978.

Although the company name has changed several times, Tony has been working for the same company as a Teamster for more than 44 years!

He started delivering linen supplies for Welch American linen in 1978, then American Linen, Ameripride, and then in 2018 it was changed again to Aramark.

Tony has only had one fender bender his entire career.

Brother Vargas won the first Golden Eagle Award for top sales in the Western region. Tony has two kids and his hobbies include fixing up cars and motorcycles.

One of Tony's fond memories is when the CEO, Larry Steiner, grandson of one of the Steiner Brothers who started American Linen, once rode along with Tony on his route and then took him to lunch.

Brother Vargas also remembers

delivering to H.L. Gallas Jr, at their location on Lomas and University, and also recalls delivering to the old yellow tractor shop on 2nd Street.

Tony still delivers to some of his original accounts from 44 years ago like UNM Hospital and Ace Upholstery. When Tony started, he worked out of an old building on 4th and Roma which was Welch/American Linen, and the first delivery trucks were just small 8-foot trucks.

Brother Vargas has been a steward and/or alternate for Teamsters Local 492 for 37 years. He has been a great Teamster and we are going to truly miss his great help.

I hope all of you will join us in congratulating Brother Vargas on his retirement and the honorable career he has had as a Teamster Brother!

Article by Trey White
Retired Secretary-Treasurer

Your Teamsters Union

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters, with 1.4 million members, is one of the largest labor unions in the world. It is also the most diverse union in the U.S.

Today, it would be hard to identify a Teamster on the streets because we are everywhere. The union represents everyone from A to Z – from airline pilots to zookeepers. One out of every ten union members is a Teamster.