



General Teamster Retirees Club
Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters
Teamster Locals #38, #117, #174, #763
14675 Interurban Ave S • Tukwila, WA 98168
Suite 301
Phone 206 441-0504



March 2009 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING

Where:
Teamster Building (main floor)
14675 Interurban Avenue South, Tukwila
(on METRO bus Line #150)

When
Wednesday, March 11th
11:30 AM – Lunch
12:00-ish – Business Meeting

Special Guest: **Dan Satterberg-** King County Prosecuting Attorney and his deputy **Ian Goodhew..** will share some law and order with us!!

Lunch Menu: **Beef Stew-Ham (carved by Jeff)** veggies, salads, roll, dessert, and coffee

Reservations: Call (206) 441-0504 by **Monday, March 9th** to reserve your place for lunch. The cost of lunch is only \$11.00. ***Be sure to call as soon as possible, as spaces are limited!***

Directions:

From Southbound I-5 take exit #156-Tukwila Interurban Avenue. Turn LEFT on Interurban Avenue South. Proceed south approximately 1 and ¼ miles. The Teamster Building will be on your right.

From Northbound I-5 take exit #156-Tukwila, Interurban Avenue. Take the Tukwila exit, turn right onto Interurban Avenue South and proceed south. Move into the right lane. The Teamster Building will be located approximately a mile and 1/2, on your right. Please park in South lot.

THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

Some of you may remember a popular singing group from the 40's and 50's called the "Ink Spots". I thought perhaps we could get a senior quartet together and call ourselves the "Liver Spots". Let me know what you think of this idea.

Jim Hutchens from the Labor Agency will be here to pick up our donations and the food we have accumulated the last few months. For those interested, there will be a memorial for long time Teamster employee Mary O'Reilly at the Lacey Community Center, March 21st.

Former Trustee Ed Merritt and wife Pat will miss lunch with us because of cataract surgery. Ed has been a major contributor to this club's success. Former club member, and Korean War veteran, Loran Harrington age 77, died February 14th in Yakima. Loran worked 20 years at Rainier Brewery, where he also served as a shop steward.

How did the book and puzzle exchange work out? We are thinking about adding videos and CD's if there is enough interest.

Be sure to mark your calendars (you golfers) for Thursday, August 13th. This is the date of our annual retiree's golf tournament at Foster Golf Links, once again featuring a shot-gun start, great food and lots of prizes. This year is much more critical than years past, owing to the very grim economic conditions. With College tuitions going through the roof, our budding scholars need all the help they can get. So we are starting early, soliciting as many golfers, sponsors, and volunteers as we can. Spread the word!

EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT

Our esteemed representatives have before them legislation that if enacted, could give organized labor one of its biggest victories in history. As you might expect, virtually all of business (large and small) the national Chamber of Commerce, the NAM, the Republican and Libertarian parties, etc are lined up in vociferous opposition.

The current system works thusly. A union organizer gets a call from a worker at Joe's Metalworks. He has 16 of the 18 fellow employees who want to be unionized. They sign bargaining cards, the union takes the cards to the NLRB where they are verified, and notice is given to the company that the union represents a clear majority of their workers. Company says "Hold it, we want an election."

Of course an election won't be "convenient" for the company for 5 weeks. They then use that time to frighten, intimidate, and cajole their employees whom they have shown little

interest in the past 20 years. Employees do not change their mind about unionization for any other reason than fear!

The manager at Joe's has retained a high paid union buster to do his dirty work for him and the threats of closing the plant, or moving it start to take their toll. The most egregious ploy is firing the employee who appears to be the strongest union advocate. Employers are willing to violate the NLRB (National Labor Relations Board) because the penalties for doing so are negligible.

Unfortunately, even if the union withstands all of this and wins the election, and begins bargaining the company more often than not will refuse to agree to a first contract. So tell your friends not to be swayed by this old crapola of "why do the unions want to destroy democracy" or that the Free Choice Act is merely a power grab by the so called "union bosses".

Call Murray, Cantwell, McDermott, Inslee, Smith and even Reichert, and tell them to support the EFCA Act. You can access the Capitol Switchboard at (202-224-3121).

YOU HAVE ALWAYS WONDERED

- What do you get from a pampered cow? Spoiled milk
- What do you call cheese that isn't yours? Nacho cheese
- How do crazy people go through the forest? They take the psycho path
- Why do Gorillas have big nostrils? Because they have big fingers
- Why don't blind people like to sky dive? Because it scares the dog
- What is the difference between a Harley and a Hoover? The location of the dirtbag
- On the 11th, come hear Satterberg, get some great chow, and enjoy yourself.