



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



May 2008 NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING

Where:

Tukwila Community Center
12424 – 42nd Avenue South
Tukwila, WA

When

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

Special Guest: Bruce A. Harrell, Seattle City Councilman- also Bruce played on the U.W. 1978 Rose bowl team-academic all American, etc.

Lunch Menu: Chicken cordon bleu, rice pilaf, veggie, salads, Roll, Dessert and Coffee.

Reservations: Call (206) 441-0504 by **Monday, June 9th** to reserve your place for lunch. The cost of lunch is only \$11.00.

Directions:

From Southbound I-5 take exit #156 – Tukwila, Interurban Avenue. Turn right onto Interurban Avenue South; proceed north. Turn right at the stoplight at 42nd; cross the Duwamish River. The TCC is located immediately on your right.

From Northbound I-5 take exit #156 - Tukwila, Interurban Avenue. Take the Tukwila exit, turn left onto Interurban Avenue South and proceed north. Move into the right lane. Turn right at the stoplight at 42nd; cross the Duwamish River. The TCC is located immediately on your right.

From Northbound or Southbound on Highway 99 turn east onto South 130th Street. Proceed straight; turn left at Macadam Road (north). Cross Interurban Avenue South and the Duwamish River. The TCC is located immediately on your right.

DETAILS, DETAILS

The Labor Agency **will be here to pick up donations**. Rummage through your closets, garage, and pantry for food-stuffs, clothing, small appliances, books and the like. With hard times upon us, many families in need can use our help. Don Smith who monitors our phone messages has requested that when you leave a message that you include your local number, and to **please**, speak slowly and clearly.

He also is donating 10 jig-saw puzzles for anyone who might like one. They will be on a table in front prior to the meeting- first come, first serve. **Ellen Cragg**, long time Secretary of the club died on May 6th. Ellen was a valuable and loyal member of the GTRC for many years and we will miss her. The

Joint Council has endorsed incumbent **Governor Christine Gregoire**, and will be hosting a rally at the Teamster building on June 25th in her support. You and your families are welcome. Last month, we only had 41 members show up. This month we have a great menu, an interesting speaker, free puzzles, and more give-aways. So get your “you know what’s” down here and join us for a good time! You may also want to mention to any scholarship applicants you know of that the deadline is July 6th.

WE CAN ONLY HOPE

As many of you know, our International union has endorsed Barak Obama for President. It appears as of this writing that his nomination by the Democrats is inevitable. Obama was interviewed by the IBT executive board and clearly they are convinced that his vision for labor comports with ours. The Republican candidate, John McCain, is no friend of labor. He represents a right-to-work state, and basically supports the Republican mantra of the “business of America is Business”. Recent Republican Presidents have relentlessly maneuvered the power of government to aid the CEO class to weaken or destroy unions. Roughly 40 decisions by the National Labor Relations Board, with Bush appointees presiding, have made it easier for employers to harass or intimidate pro-union workers, and much more difficult to win union certification. For instance, employers are required to post notices of worker’s rights to **de**certify unions as bargaining agents—but **not** to freely organize them. A September 2007 case undid 40 years of precedent and made it much harder for illegally fired workers to collect back pay. The beat goes on. The union movement withers and dies without the ability to freely and fairly organize. The NLRB is supposed to protect that right, not hamstring it! The Board appointees are not lifers, and a newly elected Democratic President can and must select new members. I suspect that President Hoffa was assured that if Obama wins, that will happen.

SUSPECT HISTORY

Most people don’t know that back in 1912, Hellmann’s mayonnaise was manufactured in England. In fact, the Titanic was carrying 12,000 jars of the condiment scheduled for delivery in Vera Cruz, Mexico, which was to be the next port of call for the great ship after its stop in New York. This would have been the largest single shipment of mayonnaise ever delivered to Mexico. But as we know, the great ship did not make it to New York. The ship hit an iceberg and sank, and the cargo was forever lost. The people of Mexico, who were crazy about mayonnaise, and were eagerly awaiting its delivery, were disconsolate at the loss. Their anguish was so great, that they declared a National Day of Mourning, which they still observe to this day. The national day of mourning occurs each year on May 5th and is known, of course, as Sinko De Mayo. ...groan...

TWO KIDS AGAIN

Two young boys walked into a pharmacy one day, picked out a box of tampons and proceeded to the checkout counter. The man at the counter asked the older boy, “Son, how old are you?” “Eight”, the boy replied. The man continued, “Do you know what these are used for?” The boy replied, “Not exactly, but they aren’t for me. They’re for him. He’s my brother. He’s four. We saw on TV that if you use these you would be able to swim and ride a bike. Right now, he can’t do either one.”