

TEAMSTER



Summer 2026 Digital Newsletter

Proudly representing Teamsters in Kentucky, West Virginia & Southern Indiana

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Trustee
Local 236

James Brant
Trustee
Local 651



Jeff Cooper

President

Teamsters Joint Council 94

The 31st IBT Convention

The 2026 International Brotherhood of Teamsters Convention has come and gone and it was one for the ages. Our Joint Council was well represented with a strong delegate count and a large number of our members served as floor whips, Sergeant-at-Arms, photographers, speakers, nominators and more.

General President Sean O'Brien, General Secretary-Treasurer Fred Zuckerman, and everyone on the Teamsters United slate were re-elected to a second five-year term at the convention itself, a historic first since our Union began having direct elections for our International Officers. Our union's Constitution states that, in order to be placed on the ballot for International office, a candidate must be supported by at least 5% of the delegates at the Convention via a secret ballot vote. None of the candidates seeking to run against Sean and Fred's team were able to reach that threshold, and so the Independent Election Supervisor certified that the O'Brien-Zuckerman Teamsters United 2026 slate would be unopposed and therefore a full election would not be necessary, making them duly elected by default.

The nominations, delegate vote, and certification all took place over the first twenty-four hours, and with that concluded the Convention continued on and flowed extremely well. This was a new format that was very effective, and far different than past conventions which had spread the nomination and voting process out over several days.

The remainder of the Convention featured a number of IBT directors, rank-and-file members and guest speakers talking about various campaigns, victories, and fights we must take on in the future, including going up against the existential threat of Amazon.

A number of Constitutional amendments were made, most of which were relatively simple "clean up" changes meant to update and modernize language.

All in all, it was the best IBT Convention I can personally recall attending. It was full of energy, focus, and vision for the future. It highlighted our union's victories over the past five years as well as the challenges we face moving forward, and re-energized the delegate body for the fights ahead of us.

And on one final personal note, I was given the opportunity to nominate my friend and mentor Fred Zuckerman to be re-elected as our Union's General Secretary-Treasurer, and it was an honor and a privilege to do so.



Luke Farley
Secretary-Treasurer
Teamsters Joint Council 94



The Faster Labor Contracts Act

The International has been hard at work on Capitol Hill pushing for passage of the Faster Labor Contracts Act. This bi-partisan bill is one of the strongest pieces of pro-union legislation in our lifetimes, and would fundamentally change the game for newly organized shops.

At its core, the FLCA looks to address the fact that current labor law in America is extremely weak when it comes to first time contracts. Sadly, it isn't unusual for a newly organized shop to take years to win a first contract - if they ever win one at all. More often than not, Companies engage in surface bargaining where they do only the bare minimum to avoid a bargaining in bad faith charge and drag the process out for months or years. Usually their goal in doing so is to hit the one year mark from when their employees won their election, and then immediately try to run a decertification election.

Sadly, this strategy is often successful as workers get frustrated by the slow progress and either sour on the union or simply quit, in which case the Company immediately hires an anti-union replacement to further tip the scales in their favor.

The Faster Labor Contracts Act looks to address this by making it a legal requirement that a first contract be in place within one year of when employees vote to unionize, and if that does not happen then the Federal government will step in to mediate and enforce a first contract.

Some have raised concerns about having the Federal government essentially imposing a first agreement as it may not contain everything new members wanted, which is true, but the alternative right now is often never winning a contract at all. Even if a federally mandated first agreement was put in place that doesn't contain everything we were trying to win, it would still be a foundation we could then build on in future negotiations.

Beyond that, the Company wouldn't necessarily want a federally mandated agreement any more than we would, and the knowledge that they couldn't use their current tactics and would in fact be under a first agreement no matter what they did would likely incentivize them to approach first time negotiations seriously and actually try to reach an agreement with the Union before that first year is up so that, if nothing else, their first contract is something they agreed to rather than something the government imposed on them.

As it stands right now, the FLCA has passed the US House of Representatives with bi-partisan support, but still must pass through the Senate. That is far more challenging, as it would have to receive 60 votes to avoid being filibustered, and although there is bi-partisan support in the Senate as well, it is likely not currently enough to reach that threshold. But we will continue to push for this bill to be made into law for as long as it takes so that all workers who organize in the future can be guaranteed a first contract rather than company games and stall tactics.



Fred Zuckerman

*General Secretary-Treasurer
International Brotherhood of Teamsters*



Thank You Teamsters

General President Sean M. O'Brien and I were re-elected without opposition at the Teamsters 31st International Convention in June, and I'd like to take a moment of personal privilege to thank all my fellow Teamsters for entrusting me to serve as your General Secretary-Treasurer for a second term. I'd especially like to thank my friends and colleagues in Joint Council 94 for the support you showed to Sean and I at the convention.

Thanks to the overwhelming support we received from the thousands of delegates at the convention, all of whom were directly elected by our rank-and-file members, our team ran unopposed as no other candidates were able to reach the constitutionally mandated support of at least 5% of the delegate body. This is the first time since our union adopted direct elections that our International officers were elected by acclamation at the convention.

I am extremely proud of the work we have done and the victories we have achieved during my first term in office. Sean and I ran on a platform of returning the Teamsters to militance, and we have done just that. Over these last five years our union has re-established itself as a powerful force in the American labor movement that is not afraid to strike any and every employer who doesn't do right by our members. We have dramatically expanded our organizing capacity, bringing more members into our union than at any other time in modern history. We have strengthened our union's finances, giving us more power and resources to fight for our members. And we have done all these things together, with the support and active involvement of our 1.3 million rank-and-file members.

Serving as your General Secretary-Treasurer for these last five years has been an unparalleled privilege, and the honor of my life. When I began my Teamsters career as a young CDL driver, I never dreamed that one day I would be managing the finances of our entire International. But that is the essence of the Teamsters — with hard work, passion, and dedication, we can achieve anything. That is the philosophy I intend to continue holding to as I enter my second term, and I look forward to seeing what we will all accomplish together to make the Teamsters Union even stronger in the years to come.

Teamsters Local 89

Louisville, Kentucky



Avral Thompson
President

Jeff Cooper
Secretary-Treasurer

Brian Hamm
Vice President

James DeWeese
Recording Secretary

Vincent Rivera, Jim Kincaid, Jay Dennis
Trustees



Report from Local 89 President Avral Thompson

Since our last newsletter report, Local 89 members have ratified new contracts at Avis (lot coordinators), Spider Brandsafway and IMI locations in E-Town, Radcliff, and Brandenburg. We are currently in negotiations with Advance Ready Mix for maintenance employees, GE Factory Service Techs, Legacy/Venture in Bowling Green and SRM Redi-Mix in Glasgow.

We have ongoing organizing drives at Ameripro, Kroger Fulfillment Delivery and of course we are still heavily engaged in the constant war to organize Amazon.

We have a significant number of arbitrations pending at ABM, Bimbo Bakeries, Brown Forman, Caesars Southern Indiana, Clariant, DHL, PPG, Sysco, Taylor County RECC, Transervice, UPS, Vestis and Zenith Logistics.

I am proud to say that Local 89 was well represented at the 31st IBT Convention in June. Not only did we have a large delgate body present, we had a number of our members and victories featured on the stage itself. Local 89 organizers were on stage as part of the Amazon division's presentation, and many of our Local's victories were highlighted by rank-and-file members who spoke at the podium. Brittany Jensen, a UPS Specialist, spoke about our historic organizing victory for the Admins and Specialists which set off a chain reaction across the country. Holly Wicker, a DHL employee, spoke about our organizing victory at the DHL-CVG hub and the difference a union contract has made in the lives of her and her co-workers, Rich Leshner, from UPS Worldport, spoke about teams from Local 89 being sent to UPS locations across the Central Region to build a credible strike threat that resulted in multiple high profile grievances being settled, and Jeff King, an Amazon Tom Team driver, spoke about how he and his co-workers in Louisville became the first Amazon CDL drivers in the entire country to join the Teamsters union.



Teamsters Local 175 **South Charleston, West Virginia**



Steve Day
President

Luke Farley
Secretary-Treasurer

Don Perdue
Vice President

Jenna Jeffrey
Recording Secretary

George Scott, Darrin Kimberling, Kevin McKinney
Trustees



Report from Local 175 President Steve Day

Since the last Joint Council meeting, the Local has negotiated contracts at Pepsi Nitro, Heidelberg Materials, Ryder, and Coke Charleston/Logan. The Local is in negotiations with ABC, ResCare, Vestis Drivers, and The Beverage Market.

As mentioned above, The Beverage Market contract is ongoing. The members who work there have been on strike for over a month. The Company, despite making money, is demanding concessions from employees. The Company wants some employees to go backwards in pay, eliminate significant portions of their retirement, cut paid time off in half, and raise health insurance premiums by over 700%. These economic concessions are in addition to demands for concessions on working conditions. The members voted unanimously to reject the contract and go on strike. The Beverage Market delivers Miller/Coors, Modelo, Corona, and other products to approximately half the counties in West Virginia.

The Local has several arbitrations pending at Pepsi Nitro, Pepsi Fairmont, The Beverage Market, and Republic Services.

The Local had its annual golf tournament on May 16th. Unfortunately, we had to end the tournament a few holes early due to weather. However, it was very well attended, and all proceeds go towards the Children's Home Society.

Teamsters Local 215

Evansville, Indiana



Earl Brown
President

Brian Kneer
Secretary-Treasurer

Shanon VanMeter
Vice President

Michael Baumgart
Recording Secretary

Reggie Eastwood, William Buckner, Cregg Stambush
Trustees



Report from Local 215 President Earl Brown

Even though it feels like summer has just started, Local 215 is already gearing up for one of our favorite traditions of the year—the annual Labor Day Celebration. This special weekend brings together twenty different unions and their families from across the region. It unites public and private sector workers in a celebration of solidarity, community, and the proud history of organized labor.

As we all know, Labor Day was created to honor the contributions of working people whose efforts built this country. First celebrated by unions in the late 1800s and officially recognized as a federal holiday in 1894, Labor Day serves as a reminder that many of the workplace protections we enjoy today that were won through the determination and sacrifice of union workers who stood together for a better future.

That spirit of solidarity is alive and well at our Labor Day Celebration. Throughout the weekend, families can enjoy a variety of free activities, entertainment, food, and fellowship alongside their brothers and sisters from across Southwestern Indiana and into Northern Kentucky. The event showcases the strength of organized labor while providing an opportunity for members and their families to relax, reconnect, and make lasting memories.

For many of us, the highlight of the weekend is the Labor Day Parade. Each year, Local 215 is proud to have a turnout that often exceeds 300 participants. The parade is reminiscent of everyone's favorite childhood memories—standing along the route waiting for bags full of candy, waving to friends and family, and watching union members proudly march together in matching shirts and union insignia. It is a powerful reminder that behind every profession, every workplace, and every contract is a community of hardworking people who stand stronger together.

This year in Princeton, Indiana, we look forward to celebrating our history, honoring the achievements of working people, and continue building the solidarity that will carry us forward for generations to come.

Since our last newsletter we have ratified contracts with A & T Concrete and Vestis Uniforms. Contracts that we are negotiating include Bally's Slot Attendants, Bootz Manufacturing, Evansville-Vanderburgh Building Authority, Knight Township Trustee, Miller Block, Oakland City, Town of Owensville and 17 Vanderburgh County departments.

Teamsters Local 236

Paducah, Kentucky

Darren Woodward
President

Larry Robinson
Secretary-Treasurer

Robin Waggoner
Vice President

Sallissa Lamph
Recording Secretary

Blake Waldon, Aaron Griggs, Darrin Bishop
Trustees



Report from Local 236 President Darren Woodward

Scholarship Awards

Local 236 awarded 2 \$500.00 scholarships this year.



Ms. Madelyn Hall
McCracken County High School 2026
Daughter of Jimmy Hall, UPS
She plans to major in Nursing at Western Kentucky University.



Mr. Kyler Simpson
Mayfield High School 2026
Son of Mitchell Simpson, Arkema.
He plans to study to become a Certified Public Accountant, at Murray State University.



June 15 thru June 12, 2026 Local 236 hosted Rick Patterson and Jeff Stormer, Instructors from Local 519. They trained 23 individuals in the HAZWOPER 40 course.

We have successfully negotiated a 5-year contract with Arkema.

Negotiations with Tipton are still on going.

We hope you all had a great 4th of July!

Teamsters Local 651

Lexington, Kentucky



James Brant
President

Brandon Grow
Secretary-Treasurer

Joe Lance
Vice President

Kristina Hicks
Recording Secretary

Josh Martin, Lisa Jackson, Joe Melvin
Trustees



Report from Local 651 President James Brant

We'd like to welcome Joe Melvin as Local 651's newest full time Business Agent. Joe will be representing part-time members at the UPS Lexington Hub and our members at Vision Works. Joe will also be acting as one of our Local's organizers.

We have been dealing with a number of issues at UPS recently including the driver buy outs, various concerns in Feeders including a fatality, and issues with Automotive including understaffing. We are also dealing with a number of issues at Hecla Water with the Company testing our contract's language from every possible angle.

Our Local 651 Fishing Tournament was a success, and members who attended had a great time. Our golf scramble unfortunately had to be cancelled but has been rescheduled for September 26th.

Finally, we have a number of organizing campaigns ongoing including Neslie in Mt. Sterling, Pepsi in London, and in Lexington we have drives at Costco, Republic and UK Hospital.

Teamsters Local 697 Wheeling, West Virginia



Rick Bauer
President

Mark Christman
Secretary-Treasurer

Jason Dobrzynski
Vice President

Gregg Paske
Recording Secretary

Randy Weekley, Paul Selby, Jackie (JJ) Eddy
Trustees



Report from Local 697 President Rick Bauer

We would like to congratulate our five UPS members who received the buyout and wish them the best in their retirement.

We also have multiple grievances filed and are having a hard time getting labor to schedule a meeting. We will be looking to take legal recourse next.

Carenbauer Distributing

They are hiring and we will be conducting a Steward's election due to the previous Steward becoming General Manager.

Monroe County

I met with the Sheriff about fitness training that was conducted. The sheriff was very helpful with the members to help them all get qualified. I believe this Sheriff will be easier to work with then the last one.

Pipeline

A new 3-year agreement was reached with the PLCA. It contains a 15% pay increase over the 3 years, will be major increases to Per Diem. This was a major priority based on members' proposals.

Highline Warren

We are extremely proud to welcome a new group of 201 drivers and warehouse workers at Highline Warren who voted to join our union. This is one of twelve Highline Warren distribution centers in the country, and is the first organizing win the Teamsters have had at the company. These hard working people manufacture and distribute automotive maintenance and consumable products for brands like Kimberly-Clark, Philips 66, 3M, Chevron and Shell Rotella. We look forward to entering negotiations for their first contract soon.

Myself and the Executive Board wishes everybody a safe summer and looking forward to seeing you in the fall when General Membership meetings start back up.

Teamsters Local 783

Louisville, Kentucky

Justin Scharrer
President

Gerry Francisco
Secretary-Treasurer

Troy White
Vice President

Amos Smith
Recording Secretary

Shirley Cobb, Nuchelle Harvell, Angelo Lewis
Trustees



Report from Local 783 President Justin Scharrer

IBT 31st International Convention- Las Vegas, NV

On behalf of your nominated and elected 783 leadership- Delegates and Alternate Delegate, we truly thank our membership for the honor of representing you at the IBT's 31st Convention, spanning over 123 years of continued service to the best members and Union on the planet! There were many wonderful speakers and much work was completed, making this union a force to reckoned with. The focus was solidarity, organizing, holding the locals and leadership accountable and finding ways to best protect our members. This focused on the Faster Labor Contracts initiative, AI and Autonomous protections, IBT constitutional reform, enhanced strike benefits, completely removing us from the Government's oversight by removing us from the consent decree and much more. Stay tuned for more information that will be published soon about all the amendments and resolutions reformed at this Convention. Most importantly, congratulations to all those re-elected: General President Sean O'Brien, General Secretary- Treasurer Fred Zuckerman and the entire General Executive Board, who received nearly unanimous support, defeating the opposition by such large numbers, they could not even make it on the ballot. Now, let's focus on our members, our contracts and get back to work!

Public Sector

JCPS - We have mitigated numerous issues at JCPS due to their budgetary constraints. Fifteen positions were lost but were able to be returned and we gained one position in the DOC for dispatcher. So, we only had to officially lay off five (5) members. Despite this, we are negotiating to secure raises for maintenance and other members from the recently completed audit, putting them in line with area standards and giving everyone something for the next school year.

Louisville Metro Government - We are in negotiations with several different Louisville Metro Government units, including LMPD and EMS. These are going slower than we prefer and we are receiving some resistance at the table from Metro to align contracts and get some strong, clear language the members are seeking. We are not backing down and soon, Metro will realize we are not accepting any substandard contracts! We are also pushing back and demanding the Mayor to end the contract with a private service backing up EMS because they are not fulfilling the contract, causing harm to the citizens for lack of competent, quality health care and we do not need this service, we just need proper funding.

City of Louisa – Our contract with City of Louisa expires at the end of this year, and we are planning to meet with the members to discuss what they want to see out of negotiations.

Private Sector

We continue to have issues with staffing at both Pepsi and Keurig Doctor Pepper, as both Companies are struggling to keep employees. We're doing what we can to help them maintain staffing, especially as the industry is exploding right now. Soft Drinks are continuing to reach unprecedented numbers in sales, and we are looking to negotiate picking formulas to improve attainable picking quotas to improve wages and maintain productivity.

We are working with Keg 1 (Miller/Coors Distribution) on reorganizing the warehouse to create a better work/life balance for our members and a more stable workforce for the Company. Our contract expires in January 2027, so we will begin working on that later this year.

We have received information that Vestis Uniform Services (formerly Aramark) are experiencing serious issues at the Louisville Market Center. We have been extremely shorted on product and there is no management for guidance. We have reached out to Corporate to set up meetings to discuss these shortages that are negatively affecting our Route Drivers and businesses in the area. This is unacceptable and a poor business model that is unsustainable and will cause irreversible harm if not remedied quickly.

Unfortunately, we have lost members at Waste Management- Landfill, due to a successful decertification vote. This was a very close vote and a small fourteen (14) person unit, but we truly appreciate the opportunity to represent the members who stood with us! Our Chief Steward tendered his retirement notification almost immediately. We hope this does not negatively affect the other members who cannot retire, but now they will be "at will" with no representational rights or defense. The grass is not always greener, and we have been informed immediate changes took place to wages and scheduling by HR. We wish them the best of luck and hope to see them return to the Union.

We have completed negotiations in many units, and the contract booklets are being printed by Farley printing. If you are wondering where your contract booklet is, just know they are on the way and will be distributed ASAP! Thank you for your continued patience.

Airline Division

We have breaking news about a brand new unit we will be representing, due to a successful organizing campaign at Republic Airways! We are pleased to announce that we will be representing ninety (90) new members in Louisville, KY at SDF and ten (10) new members in Nashville, TN at BNA. We have already reached out, had meetings with some members and solicited contract proposal ideas for this new unit. We are working on gaining site access and plan to have more meetings soon, to prepare for negotiations.

We are still in the early phases of the Allegiant and Suncoast airlines merger. Allegiant will have two-thirds ownership of the new company. This merger will result in an increase of 650 routes and approximately 22 million passengers. It will also expand flights to Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean and add more non-stop routes to various cities in Florida. The merger will also bring in a larger charter and cargo business.

Organizing

We are currently engaged in several organizing drives including School Boards, distribution centers for Soft Drinks and Liquor and one public sector Emergency Medical Services unit.

Beacon Credit Union

We are very pleased to announce that Beacon Credit Union has set up a satellite office in our Union Hall! They are open now and they are happy to provide services to our members and our community, from right here inside 783. If you bank at any other credit union, Beacon is an affiliate and they can also help you with your banking needs, as they provide services to all other credit unions. Come on by and see the new office space and let them help you with any of your banking/loan needs.

Teamsters Local 2727

Shepherdsville, Kentucky

Brian Hunley
President

Cliff Jones
Secretary-Treasurer

Doug Davis
Vice President

Aaron Reedy
Recording Secretary

Juan Flores, Kyle Hargrove, Ferron Williams
Trustees



Report from Local 2727 President Brian Hunley

Overview

During the Summer 2026, Teamsters Local 2727 remained actively engaged in collective bargaining, contract enforcement, member representation, safety advocacy, organizational modernization, and member communications. The Local's efforts focused on protecting wages, benefits, contractual rights, workplace safety, and the professional standing of Aircraft Maintenance Technicians and related classifications represented throughout the UPS Airlines system.

Contract Negotiations and Extension Agreement

Local 2727 has been engaged in contract negotiations with UPS since January 2026. During the course of bargaining, the Company approached the Union regarding a potential contract extension. Following several months of discussions, the Negotiating Committee reached a Tentative Agreement that was presented to the membership and was ratified on June 30, 2026.

The extension establishes a three-year agreement effective November 1, 2026, through November 1, 2029, and provides for annual wage increases of 3.3 percent for all members without concessions. The Agreement preserves the economic and contractual gains members have worked diligently to secure while maintaining what remains the strongest total compensation package in the aircraft maintenance industry.

Grievance System Modernization

Local 2727 continued its efforts to modernize internal grievance administration and tracking systems. The Local is implementing improvements designed to strengthen Collective Bargaining Agreement enforcement, enhance accountability, and provide better resources to Stewards and Step 2 Officers.

Planned enhancements include a more user-friendly online grievance portal, expanded tracking and reporting capabilities, improved document management, and additional administrative tools. These upgrades will streamline case handling, improve consistency and recordkeeping, and further strengthen the Local's ability to protect members' contractual rights while preserving all existing grievance procedures established under the Agreement.

Flight 2976 and Ongoing Safety Response

Local 2727 remained actively involved in matters related to UPS Flight 2976. The Local was granted party status in the investigation and for the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Public Factual Investigative Hearing held May 19-20, 2026, at NTSB Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Members of Local 2727's Event Response Team continued to participate throughout the investigative process, demonstrating the Local's steadfast commitment to safety, accountability, and professional representation in matters affecting both the craft and the membership. Ensuring that the expertise and perspective of Aircraft Maintenance Technicians and related classifications are represented in all matters impacting the safety and security of Local 2727 members remains a top priority.

Union Hall Construction

Construction of Local 2727's new union hall commenced on April 8, 2026, and is progressing on schedule with an anticipated completion timeframe of approximately 180 days. The facility will provide members with a permanent home for union meetings, steward training, educational programs, and day-to-day operations.

The Local anticipates hosting its first General Membership Meeting in the new facility during the Fall of 2026, marking a significant milestone in the Union's continued growth and long-term investment in its membership.

Legislative and Industry Issues

Local 2727 continues to monitor legislative developments affecting members working under the Railway Labor Act. Following reports that RLA-covered employees were excluded from the "No Tax on Overtime" provisions contained within the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, Local 2727 took action to advocate for equitable treatment of its members.

The Local submitted letters to Senators Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul, as well as Congressman Brett Guthrie, expressing support for H.R. 5475, legislation intended to extend the same overtime tax benefits to Railway Labor Act employees. In addition, Local 2727 provided members with a legislative outreach template encouraging them to contact their elected representatives and support the passage of H.R. 5475.

Conclusion

The Summer 2026 reporting period was marked by significant accomplishments and continued progress across multiple areas of union activity, including the successful ratification of a contract extension, ongoing contract enforcement, safety advocacy, internal modernization, steward development, and member engagement.

Local 2727 remains committed to protecting the rights, wages, benefits, safety, and professional integrity of the Aircraft Maintenance Technicians and related classifications it proudly represents. Through strong representation, responsible stewardship, and active member involvement, the Local continues to advance the interests of its membership while strengthening the future of the craft.