A NEW NEWSLETTER FOR YOUR LOCAL

We are proud to announce and deliver the second edition of a new, regular newsletter distributed right at the gates where we work. Local 344 members, who every day help make America move, are also a part of making and distributing this newsletter.

FUTURE OF UPS CONTRACT UNCLEAR

On October 5th, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters released the results of the UPS contract ratification vote. Nearly 45% percent of UPS Teamsters nationwide voted, one of the highest turnouts in memory. We’re proud to announce that the majority of Local 344 turned out to vote, well above the national average. Your Local Union held 37 contract meetings across Wisconsin, the most in the country, and more than double the next highest Local. Discussions were had among our sisters and brothers on and off the shop floor in every building. However, despite a nearly 70% rejection from Local 344, and over 54% rejection nationwide, we have heard reports that the UPS contract will be ratified because the national turnout was 5% short of what is required to reject a contract. To confuse things, we have also heard rumors that Teamster National Negotiator Denis Taylor is requesting future negotiation meetings with UPS.

What does this mean?

It means as of the time of this newsletter, we are unsure how the UPS contract will be resolved. There is frustration among many, even those who voted ‘Yes,’ that the democratic process may not be respected. But we in Local 344 responded to the challenge by a member-driven statewide petition drive to let our International Union know how we feel. In 2 weeks, members mailed in over 1,300 signatures, demanding our International leadership meet to discuss the issues, and return to the bargaining table for a deal the members truly want.

KNOW YOUR CONTRACT

It is no secret that the companies we work for violate our contract. The only rights we have are the ones we enforce. Learn the timeline for filing grievances in your union contract. Sometimes a legitimate grievance can be set on a path to failure simply by not turning the paperwork in timely.
MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY-TREASURER, BILL CARROLL

Since our last newsletter, several events have energized and engaged you, the Local 344 membership. Local 344 membership engagement has been crucial in the ongoing and never-ending fight to keep what we have fought for, and to achieve gains where we can.

The October 5th vote count for the UPS Contract offer has been an obvious point of frustration for many of our members. Although the results were not what we voted for, Local 344 members should be proud of the fact that our turnout and engagement was among the highest in the Country. The confusion and subsequent silence coming from the National Negotiating Committee (NNC) regarding next steps for our Contract has understandably infuriated many of our members. Local 344 members took matters into their own hands and collected over 1300 signatures in less than two weeks. This petition, demanding the NNC return to the bargaining table, was conducted completely by rank-and-file members. That, Brothers and Sisters, is membership engagement.

Local 344 members are at the top-tier nationally in other aspects as well. Gold status in DRIVE participation means that more than 20% of Local 344 members participate. This makes us one of only 28 Locals in the Country to hold this honor. Our get out the vote campaign this fall helped us achieve significant gains for working families by electing Labor friendly candidates to all Statewide posts. Your participation in DRIVE helps to secure the resources that have allowed us to increase our political influence in Wisconsin.

“Keep active, keep engaged, keep fighting. Solidarity,” - Secretary-Treasurer Bill Carroll

SEND SUBMISSIONS! WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Got a story from work? Win a grievance? Have a personal life event you want to share? We’d love to share it with our union brothers and sisters! Call (414)258-4545 or email kas@local344.org with any submission.

MEETING DATES

General Membership Meeting: 10:00AM, November 18th, 2018 at Local 344

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Local 344’s Newest Retirees! You earned it!

Join a Committee: Political Action, Organizing. Call or email kas@local344.org for more information.