

May 2018

General Teamsters Local 959 • State of Alaska

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters



Janus v. AFSCME

***The long term goal of this court case,
“Is to Take out Unions and Their Boots on the Ground!”***

Workers across the nation have repeatedly come under attack from corporate interests looking to tamp down on wages so they can pocket higher profits. The latest example? A court case that was just recently argued in front of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Mark Janus is the plaintiff in Janus v. AFSCME. Mark Janus is an Illinois social worker protesting the reduced union fees he must pay to cover contract negotiations and other business the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees conduct on his behalf.

Those backing his effort are a who's who of anti-union activists who view this lawsuit as an opportunity to disarm collective bargaining in this country.

Workers in right to work states know all too well what effect the law has had on them, slower wage growth, if any, poor healthcare benefits, and, in some cases, no retirement benefits. Right to work states force Labor Unions to represent workers (free riders) who refuse to pay for the services unions provide.

“Janus” is a well disguised attempt to bust Labor Unions across our country. Groups like the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and its right-wing politicians and lobbyists together with a sister group called The State Policy Network, run 66 think tanks that bring lawsuits at all levels of government to weaken workers' rights.

For more than 40 years federal law has provided public workers the right to join together in a union as a way to have a voice in the workplace, protecting their pay, the benefits they receive, and providing safe working conditions.

If the high court overturns decades of legal precedent by disallowing the collection of fair share fees, it will be much more difficult for public employees to have a voice and for Labor Unions to have financial resources to protect and safeguard their negotiated wages and benefits and working conditions.



***“Don't be fooled by lawsuits like Janus or any other
Right to Work for Less Legislation!”***

Stay Strong! Stay Union!



A message from Secretary-Treasurer Rick Boyles



Mobilizing our Members

Workers have had to fight for every gain we have ever made in wages, benefits and working conditions. Neither public nor private employers have ever given us anything out of the kindness of their hearts. Our gains have been established only after employers have recognized that workers have power. Workers who collectively join together to form unions are much more powerful than individual workers. Unions are the most powerful when they have an informed, active and educated membership. A mobilized and active membership helps achieve three major goals: Negotiating contracts and ensuring their enforcement, initiating effective community and political actions, and organizing new members.

Attacks against Labor Unions by wealthy special interest groups are at a level unprecedented. These groups are trying to take away our freedom to stand together and negotiate.

Local 959 is preparing to deal with issues and challenges our public sector members may face once the Supreme Court rules on the JANUS / AFSCME case later this year. This case was put forth by several anti-union organizations funded by corporate interests. Their mission is to defund unions and take away our freedoms and everything we stand for.

In June of this year Business Representatives and Shop Stewards around the state will be attending training and updates on mobilizing our membership and potential new labor laws.

Our Union is only as strong as its members and retirees! We need to stay strong and united and be actively involved in the day to day challenges workers face on the job.

BUTCH LEWIS ACT

The Teamsters support this bill in Congress for pension reform.

Watch for future messages and how you can support this endeavor.

Remember to inform the dues office of any changes in your information, such as address, phone numbers, e-mail address, or beneficiary, so we may keep our records updated. This will ensure that you receive union correspondence and your newsletter.

Contact numbers for the dues offices are:

Anchorage

907-751-8521 or 1-800-478-0959

Fairbanks

907-452-2959 or 1-877-419-4959

Juneau

907-586-3225

Kenai

907-283-4498

Kodiak

907-486-8818

Wasilla

907-864-0959

Or email requests to 959dues@akteamsters.com



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May 2018

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Secretary-Treasurer

Gary Dixon
Vice-President

Barbara Huff Tuckness
President

Eileen Whitmer
Recording Secretary

Trustees

Yolandous Williams • Jace Digel • Derek Musto

New Roles & Responsibilities

Welcome newly assigned Shop Stewards



SHOP STEWARD

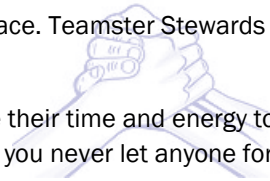
Since October 1, 2017, these members have become 959 Shop Stewards.

ARCTEC ALASKA	Paul Janis	LYNDEN TRANSPORT	Douglas Longerbone
ASRC ENERGY SERVICES	Timothy Foster	LYNDEN TRANSPORT	Edith Hamerlin
ASRC ENERGY SERVICES	Mike Littlefield	SOUTH PENINSULA HOSPITAL	Vanessa Fuson
AT&T	Kurt Foley	SOUTH PENINSULA HOSPITAL	Jane Nollar
CHUGACH FEDERAL SOLUTIONS	Kelly Shryock	UNITED PARCEL SERVICES	James McDermott
FIRST STUDENT	Dale Dosser	WEAVER BROS INC NON-PORT	Harold Piland II

Thank a Shop Steward

Shop stewards are the leadership of their workplace. Teamster Stewards work long hours to make sure the members have a voice and an advocate on the job.

Cheers to all of our Shop Stewards who dedicate their time and energy to keep things moving and are not afraid to speak up to management. You make unity happen, and you never let anyone forget there's a union at your worksite. **Thank you!**



Soon you will be able to Opt in to receive text message notifications about General Membership Meetings, Pension and other special notices from Local 959.

Cheers to New Partnerships

Did you know drinking beer brewed right here in Alaska also supports your Teamster Brothers & Sisters?

K&L Distributors has a long standing partnership with Alaska Brewing Company and recently announced they have also partnered with two more local companies, King Street Brewery, and Glacier Brewhouse.

- ♦ Alaska Brewing Company brews in Juneau and features a variety of year-round, seasonal and limited edition beers.
- ♦ King Street Brewery located in South Anchorage on King Street also features a variety of seasonal brews in bottles and cans.
- ♦ Glacier Brewhouse states they have thirteen craft brews from blondes to stouts brewed in downtown Anchorage.

Teamster office workers and truck drivers handle the beers from warehouse to shipping to many of our favorite stores throughout Alaska.

Help K & L Distributors celebrate their partners by enjoying a locally brewed cold one!

Labor History Education

The [Stand Up Guys & Gals of Alaska](#) are a small group of everyday union workers and retirees who wish to volunteer to locally promote labor education. For more than 10 years, we have successfully put on a play every spring that focuses on key figures and events in labor history. Both Labor Unions and individuals are supporters of our annual theatrical education event.

This is an incredible opportunity to learn more about labor history and how your brothers and sisters have fought for the wages, benefits, and pension, you have today.

April 27 at 7:00 p.m. For tickets contact Angelina (208) 310-0597 amc_rocks@hotmail.com or Alex (907) 727-7652.

Help us pack the house this year! Solidarity forever!

Ian Ruskin
LIVE ON STAGE
ONE NIGHT
ONLY

**FROM WHARF RATS
TO LORDS OF THE DOCKS**
THE LIFE AND TIMES OF HARRY BRIDGES

WILDA MARSTON AUDITORIUM
LOUSSAC LIBRARY FRIDAY APRIL 27, 2018 7:00 PM

Apprenticeship Update By Cheri Lipps

In June 2017, the Training Trust conducted a two week Women in the Trades, Construction Driver pre-apprenticeship class, sponsored by Alaska Works Partnership for six women interested in this trade. Those who successfully completed this program had an opportunity to join the apprenticeship fall class. After the regular application process selections, the overall group went on to participate in 12 weeks of commercial driver and other industry specific classes culminating with the graduation of the annual Pipeline Training in Fairbanks.

Overall, five new apprentices, comprising of two women (Patricia MacDonald & Lisa Northway) and three men (Nick Christescu, Zane Hodgkins, & Rod Huske), began their new careers this winter

season. Four of them, along with our two second year apprentices (Bill Freyling & John Spelta), have been working on the GMT 1 project and the remaining apprentice has been fortunate to work in his home town at the Valdez Marine Terminal.

As the winter season begins to wind down, our Surveyor apprentices will be attending 24-hour HAZWOPER Emergency Response First Responder refresher training, along with several journeyman who are gearing back up for a busy summer season with Merrick.

On another note, there will not be an apprenticeship selection for Surveyor or Construction Driver for the 2018 season. The next selection will be in 2019. Interested individuals can register on our website, on the apprenticeship page, to receive future notices.

Safety's #1, Safety's #2 & Safety's #3

As any of our current or former apprentices can tell you, Safety is the priority not only during our training program, but throughout their careers. It's extremely important to us that each of them not only enjoy a safe work environment, but have the opportunity to make it home after each hitch to enjoy quality time at home with their families and friends.

We're always happy to hear when an apprentice takes that extra step or does something that receives positive recognition on the job from their coworkers and employers. This happened in February for first year apprentice, Patricia MacDonald.

While working the night shift fuel team, Patricia was parked and fueling a line of vehicles and equipment. She noticed another vehicle pull up and park. As she was finishing up and it was time to move her fuel truck, she realized it would be a tight fit, but that she could probably squeeze by. Suddenly, she could hear one of her instructors' voice in her head, "What is your GOAL?" Which means "Get Out And LOOK!" She also recalled the words of her Journeyman, Dave who said, "Never back up if you don't have a spotter, don't do it. Period!" With these reminders, she got out and did a proper 360 of her vehicle and realized it wasn't worth the risk.

She then saw someone in the fuel line get out of their vehicle and approached him. Patricia explained she was an apprentice and was taught not to take chances; given her situation, asked if he would spot her to back up. The gentleman then asked her name and introduced himself as Safety Bob. He shared how pleased he was that she made the safe decision to ask for help.

As recognition for this safe moment, Patricia was awarded the Houston Contracting Company, SPOT Award and a Cabela's gift card. Congratulations Patricia!



This just goes to show: it never hurts to ask for help! Because you never know who is out there watching you.

On another safety note;

Congratulations to Journeyman, Larry Paquette for receiving the Houston Contracting Company, Employee of the Month Safety Award. Larry graduated from the Construction Driver Apprenticeship in 2007.



Fairbanks Pipeline Training 2017

*Left: Introduction to VacTruck with Shop Steward, Bill Evans.
Instructors Jeff Brewer & Dave Lipps.
First and second year Construction Driver Apprentices.*

Right: Surveyor training with Instructor Jesse Lobdell. First and second year Surveyor apprentices.



Health Trust News

Enhanced Member Portals

The Trust office is in the process of transitioning to new enhanced platforms with BeneSys, Inc., the third-party administrator that processes your health claims.

How does this affect you?

At the end of March member portals MediClaims and NETime will go silent. Data under the current member portals will no longer be accessible.

In early May all participants will receive new log-in PINS to the brand-new member portal where you will be able to access your health claims information and pension information with one login process.

Participants must use their PINS to access the new member portal to register for the website. When you receive a letter containing your new PIN, follow the instructions to access your information.

This change will not affect the current Dollars Bank calculator log-in process. However, during this transition period Dollars Bank calculator information will not be uploaded.

New ID Cards

Due to the transition, members will receive ID cards with a new electronic payer number. The electronic payer number is used by your medical providers and hospitals when submitting electronic claims. When you receive your new ID card be sure to inform your providers.

Your member ID information will not change.

If you have any questions, please contact the Health and Welfare customer service representatives at: (907) 751-9700 or (800) 478-4450.



Congratulations Elaine!

January 19, we said “until we meet again” to Elaine Lewis who retired after 23 years of service to the membership working with Teamsters Local 959 and the ATESC. She initially began working as an auditor in the Collections and Audit Department at the old Teamster Building on Tudor Road before moving full time into Accounting and the Employer Remittances-Employer Audits. Elaine also functioned as backup for the Health & Welfare staff when needed.

Elaine was extremely knowledgeable with regards to Employer contracts and their participation in the Trust funds. She had a great eye for detail and always put the members first.



We wish Elaine enjoyment on the next and best part about being a Teamster - **RETIRED!**

A New Teamster Has Arrived!



John and Lindsey Earnest welcomed into their family Madison Lou, born on February 20, 2018 at 7:25 p.m. She was 7 lbs 1 oz and 19” long. Big sister Kalista is very excited to have her around. John, who works as the Network and Computer Systems Administrator at the ATESC, says Kalista is always asking, “Where is Sissy?”

Congratulations! We hope you catch up on your sleep very soon!

Negotiation Updates

Negotiations for a successor agreement with the **Anchorage School District** and Teamsters in the Maintenance/Warehouse bargaining unit started in April of 2017.

After many sessions, including two mediation sessions, we are progressing to advisory arbitration to try to settle the remaining article, Management Rights. At the heart of this disagreement is the fact the District is insistent that Teamsters covered under this agreement continue to waive their right to bargain the effects of management decisions on mandatory subjects of bargaining. With the many changes taking place in the state economy and the District budget, it would not be wise on the Teamster's part to give up the flexibility needed to address unforeseen changes to working conditions during the term of the agreement.

We hope to have a decision by the arbitrator in early April and then move forward to ratify the agreement.

I will begin sitting across the table negotiations with the Anchorage School District on two other agreements scheduled to expire June 30, 2018. These agreements are the Food Service bargaining unit and the Bus Drivers and Attendants. We are optimistic that we'll be able to resolve these contracts in an expedited fashion.

In addition to the two agreements with the School District, I also have negotiations beginning with **MV Transportation** on a successor agreement.

In better news, the **ALSCO** agreement negotiated in February was ratified by the membership. The new three year agreement will see wage increases for all employees, as well as an increase of approximately forty percent to the pension contributions and increased flexibility in the use of sick leave for immediate family members.

In solidarity, Dale Miller



Kenai Peninsula

UPS is seeing a steady flow of package volume, which has continued without a decrease since during its peak season from November and December 2017. A driver for the company transferred from the Kenai location to the much bigger Anchorage facility. Our best wishes and hope for a smooth transition go with the driver.

Lynden will provide "cultures" training in Soldotna for employees March 10 & March 11. All employees will be paid while in attendance. The statewide Employee Relations Committee is scheduled to meet in Anchorage, March 22.

Earlier this year, members ratified the **Weaver Brothers, Inc.** Non-Port agreement. A change to the contract (effective immediately) is the winch truck bump pay. Members with questions regarding pay or anything under the contract should contact the Business Representative, Mike Petrovich at the Kenai office at 907-283-4498.

For **Apple Bus** employees, spring break will be March 12 through March 16. Negotiations started up again on March 19. A letter of agreement was drafted and signed by the Company and Union, providing union access to company property in Homer, Seward, and Soldotna.

~Mike Petrovich



Maritime Updates

TOTE – The shipping lanes are back to normal with one of the Orca Class Vessel's being converted to Natural Gas power over the past couple of months. Shop Steward Tammy Maggard along with Lona Derner and Holly Hubbard are on the negotiation team for the TOTE Office as we go into negotiations.

Matson – The following Hostlers retired in January of 2018:

Mark Slama	29 years at Matson, Horizon Lines, CSX, and Sealand
Ron Kruckenberg	25 years at Matson, Horizon Lines, CSX, and Sealand
Thad Bushue	24 years at Matson, Horizon Lines, CSX, and Sealand
Frank L. Reichert III	18 years at Matson, Horizon Lines, CSX, and Sealand
Kurt Seitz	15 years at Matson, Horizon Lines, CSX, and Sealand

The **Unites States Coast Guard** (USCG) awarded their Service Contract to Choctaw, and Bargaining Unit will be headed into negotiations with the new company in April of 2018.

New Bargaining Unit

Denali Shipping was purchased by Safeway and there will be a new Bargaining Unit with Local 959 covering a warehouse agreement that prepares by-pass products for customers without road access. We're looking forward to embracing the new unit and successfully negotiating their first collective bargaining agreement.

~Jace Digel



Mat-Su Valley Updates

The union commenced negotiations with **Valley Transit**, the Mat-Su's transit service (formerly known as MASCOT), in November of last year. The labor contract between the union and the Company was due to expire on January 31, 2018, so the parties are still in the process of negotiating a new successorship agreement.

Since the Union originally organized MASCOT, (now Valley Transit), MASCOT not only changed its name but also changed its operations from being a transportation service company that provided regularly scheduled routes in the valley area and an "on demand" type of paratransit serve. Theirs was a hybrid type of operation when the Union first organized this group of employees.

Notwithstanding that, as a result of Valley Transit purchasing another non-profit commuter service, i.e., Valley Mover last year, because of state DOT pressure to dos, all regularly scheduled route service is now performed by Valley Transit's Commuter Division, which is the prior Valley Mover operation. The Commuter Division operates commuter service to and from the valley to Anchorage. The original "MASCOT" operation is now operating in Valley Transit's "Demand Response" division as an "on demand" paratransit type service only. There are currently five (5) employees in the bargaining unit.

~Derek Musto

United Parcel Service Update



Progress continues to be made in local negotiations with UPS. The parties met in November and December for a successor agreement to the current five year Collective Bargaining Agreement. The next negotiation dates are scheduled for the middle of April, and we are hopeful that a tentative agreement will be reached.

Western Region Supplemental negotiations continue to move along with meetings scheduled in April and May. The Western Supplement continues important work rules, and the Union continues to bargain aggressively in light of expected changes in how freight commerce evolves.

National Master Agreement negotiations continue in Florida and San Diego in the month of April. Please download the app UPSRISING to receive important updates.

~Rick Traini

Construction Below the 64° Parallel

Just as the local finished negotiations with the Alaska General Contractors Association, we are moving into meeting with Granite Construction for their contract negotiations. Also coming up this year will be AggPro Anchorage, AggPro Juneau and Anchorage Sand and Gravel.



Shop Steward, Matt McCarty

While it appears that the State of Alaska will have another small capital budget again, we are still able to see a good amount of horizontal construction in Alaska. Granite will be starting their second season on the Sterling Highway project and they have just won the bid for the Seward Highway from mile 75-90 to fix the bridges and rehabilitate the highway. Granite will also be rehabilitating a good portion of the Portage Highway to the tunnel and as well as working on the Glenn Highway in Chickaloon.

QAP will be working on the Seward Highway again in 2018 on the Dowling to Dimond project, as well as O'Malley Phase 2. They will be working on the 40th to Minnesota rehabilitation, Parks Highway mile 83-99 rehabilitation, and the Dillingham runway rehabilitation, to name a few.

With many jobs coming out to bid within the next couple months, we hope to see our contractors continue to win these bids, as it appears it will be another decent season of construction for summer 2018 season.

~Joe Rintala

Joint Negotiations for NAC/AAC Pilots Begin Ahead of Merger

Joint CBA negotiations for the pilot groups at Northern Air Cargo (NAC) and Aloha Air Cargo (AAC) began in August 2017. In the wake of the announced merger of flight operations between the two airlines, individual negotiations for separate successor agreements ceased in June 2017. By July, Northern Aviation Services (NAS), a subsidiary of Saltchuk, informed the Union of the impending merger during Section 6 negotiations under the Railway Labor Act. NAS manages both NAC, based in Anchorage, Alaska, and AAC, based in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Once the merger of these pilot groups was made known to the Union, the IBT Airline Division enacted their Airline Merger Policy, which will guide the negotiations and Pilot Seniority List Integration process in accordance with the McCaskill-Bond Act. Under the supervision of the National Mediation Board, negotiations are currently ongoing with notable progress being made during each session. Chief Negotiators and IBT Airline Division Representatives, Capt. Scott Hegland and Capt. Rick Dubinsky, have worked diligently to meld the two negotiations' work products from both NAC and AAC into the new Joint CBA for the combined pilot groups. The parties expect a tentative agreement before the end of April 2018.

Weaver Brothers Non-Port Members Ratify New Contract

January ushered in a new three year, statewide Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) for the hostlers, fuel delivery, yard, and mechanics at Weaver Bros., Inc. (WBI). The parties had been in negotiations since October of 2017, and reached a tentative agreement in mid-December, which the membership voted to approve shortly after.

Business representatives of Local 959, along with Shop Stewards from WBI, accomplished annual wage increases and secured health and welfare contributions, along with some language clarifications that resulted in a successful ratification of the new CBA.

~Rick Canoy

Usibelli Coal Mine

Members at the mine in Healy went into negotiations with pension as a top priority. The bargaining committee worked hard to secure a pension increase, as well as an increase to their 401(k) contribution. Wages will increase annually during the 5-year term of the CBA, with health and welfare benefits to be maintained by the parties.

Thank you to all who participated in ratifying the agreement and a special thank you to all the bargaining committee members for their time and efforts.

~James McMilon



(Left to Right) Tim Cizmowski, Jeff Cizmowski, Kaz Cizmowski

CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS WITH LOCAL 959 & THE MEMBERS!

ANCHORAGE

In addition to Santa Claus, we had a new visitor this year! The Grinch made a special appearance.



FAIRBANKS

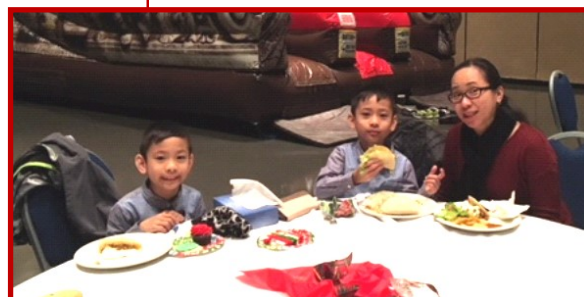
Mr. & Mrs. Claus made their visit to the annual Christmas party held at Arctic Bowl. Members and families enjoyed the buffet.



JUNEAU

Members gathered at the Centennial Hall Convention Center for this year's festivities.

Activities included face painting, a giant inflatable slide, and raffle prizes. The grand prize drawing for the kids raffle was this giant stuffed dog.



Governor's Safety Award of Excellence

Merrick Alaska

On April 4th, 2018 Merrick Alaska attended the 37th Annual Governor's Safety and Health Conference. There, they were awarded the Governor's Safety Award of Excellence in honor of their commitment to demonstrating distinction in the following: safety and health of their personnel, the environment, assets and reputation that demonstrates and promotes superior corporate citizenship. Since 2004, the 959 TAPS Survey workgroup has worked 1.2 million man hours without a Loss Time Accident or Days Away from Work incident. Merrick Alaska has been operating in the State since January 2014 as the Survey Contractor for Alyeska Pipeline Service Company. Merrick provides professional surveying services in support of integrity management, stability monitoring, investigation surveys, construction improvement projects, land survey platting to delineate right-of-way changes on State, Federal, private property and other surveys as required. Surveys are performed at Pump Stations, line wide of the 800-mile Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS), related infrastructure, material sites and the Valdez Marine Terminal.



AK SELECTS

Two Hockey Players from Fairbanks Get Local 959's Support



Two young ladies from Fairbanks received hockey sponsorships from Local 959 and have been chosen to play hockey for AK Selects. AK Selects is a 12u girls competitive Anchorage based hockey team that is headed to Minnesota in May 2018 to participate in the Minnesota Independent AAA Hockey Classic.

Rebecca Holan #24 is daughter to Brother Jeremy Holan, Fairbanks Business Representative. Rebecca has been playing hockey for four years and maintains good grades at school. Rebecca's goal is to play hockey at the collegiate level.

Pacey Lannett #9 is granddaughter to retired Brother John Lannett, a driver for Weaver Brothers. Pacey has been playing hockey for 6 years and maintains good grades at school. Her goals are playing hockey at the collegiate level and playing hockey for team USA in the Olympics.

This tournament may give these young ladies opportunities to help them pursue their goals of playing hockey at both the high school and collegiate level. The girls will have practices while in Minnesota at some of the all-girls private schools and some of the Universities from around the country will have scouts attend this tournament looking for players that may have an opportunity of receiving a hockey scholarship.

Devoted Nurse and Teamster Member By Barbara Huff Tuckness

Jean Aspen worked as a traveling Registered Nurse from 2004-2008, ultimately settling down in Homer, Alaska. Jean is a Registered Nurse II (Obstetrical) at South Peninsula Hospital. She is dedicated to her work, enjoys working with her patients, and her Teamster co-workers.

Jean is also an author and has worked on several independent films with her husband. Her book "Trusting the River", actually began as a series of letters to her son, Lucas. It turned into a book about an aging woman thinking through her life's adventures, family, and friends, and planning a future.

Jean is a proud Teamster sister, and organization appreciates that she and her husband decided to settle the winters in Homer. As Jean said to her husband in her book, "I think life washed us up in exactly the right eddy." If you are in Homer, stop by the Hospital to say hi or swing by the book store and pick up a copy of "Trusting the River." Jean provides a great read, by a great Teamster.



Thank you for your dedication!

By Barbara Huff Tuckness

After 15 years, Local 959 and South Peninsula Hospital (SPH) must wish Holley Hightower a wonderful farewell.

As a Clinical Laboratory Scientist, Holley was not only a hard worker, but a friend to many, and well loved by her patients and coworkers. Her dedication and commitment were strong as a member but also as an Assistant Shop Steward, as well as a member of the Negotiating Committee. She will be greatly missed.

We wish you and Kevin a wonderful second life full of adventure!



Vanessa Fuson is a Clinical Laboratory Scientist at SPH, providing laboratory information to assess patient wellness, identify disease, and monitor treatment. With her skills, your health care provider has all the information to make the best decisions for your health.

The Local is very excited to now have Vanessa as a Shop Steward and a member of the 2018 Negotiating Committee.



Director of Construction

Secretary-Treasurer, Rick Boyles has appointed James McMilon as the new Director of Construction for Local 959. James, who is based out of Fairbanks, will be in charge of the Associated General Contractor (AGC), North Slope, and Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) master agreements.

Before coming to Local 959 in 2011, James was a Heavy Duty Tireman for Alaska Frontier Constructors (AFC) on the North Slope, and a Fueller/Tireman for Houston Contracting on the Trans Alaska Pipeline System.

Congratulations, James!



Welcome Aboard

Anchorage welcomes Jesse Boyles to the Dues Office.

Jessie moved to Anchorage in the fall of 2017 and landed a temporary position at the Local. Eventually he transitioned to full time spot in the Dues Office where he is now helping the Local go paperless.

Jessie has a positive attitude and he says, "there is no "I" in TEAM!"

Jessie is an avid sports fan. He can recite almost any play from any game of any sport from any year!



Legislative Update by Barbara Huff Tuckness

The following are a few House Bills and Senate Bills being discussed in Juneau. President, Barbara Huff Tuckness is attending hearings and meetings to track bills which may impact the Alaska Teamster membership across various bargaining units.

As of March 21, 2018

HB 79 - Workers Compensation Bill. Currently in second reading. This is a good general clean-up bill, helps employers and includes a clear definition of independent contractor. Scheduled to go to debate in the House soon.

HB 83 - Defined Benefit by Rep. Kito. Allows new public employees a choice between a Defined benefit or a Defined Contribution plan. Moved out of House Labor & Commerce, currently awaiting a hearing date in State Affairs.

HB 287 - Education and Student Transportation by Rep. Seaton. This bill provides forward funding for classroom and school bus costs. Passed the House and has one committee referral in Senate that is Finance. No hearing scheduled, nor will there probably be for a while.

HB 312 - Workplace Violence in Health care facilities by Rep's. Claman and Kopp. This bill helps to reduce violence against health care professionals by allowing for the arrest without a warrant (currently unless the police officer witnessed the event they cannot arrest), for a fourth degree assault in a health care facility. It also adds an aggravating factor at sentencing that allows a judge to increase the sentence for a person who commits a crime against a health care professional. There was excellent testimony from several of our Nurses and Emergency Room techs from South Peninsula hospital as well as other health care facilities. The bill passed the House floor and moved out of the Senate Judiciary committee (do pass and one amendment). It is at the Senate Rules committee and awaiting scheduling to the Senate floor. **A BIG thank you to all of the SPH Teamsters who testified!**

HB321 - Fast Track Supplemental Budget includes funding Medicaid has passed both houses. If it had not passed this would have been a huge negative impact on our hospitals.

HJR 38 - Railroad Easements by Rep. Kopp. This bill was heard in House State Affairs. The resolution for the railroad is problematic in that it could lead to loss of control of their right-of way, further creating not only safety but economic consequences, as well.

SB 148 - Powers to the Alaska Police Standards Council relating to background checks and admission to police training programs. This bill is currently in Senate Rules to be calendared for the Senate floor.

SB163 - Definition of Commercial Motor Vehicles. This was transmitted to the House. The bill modifies definitions of commercial motor vehicles to be consistent with Federal Law and adds language to school bus drivers. School bus drivers under the Department of Education are still required to have a CDL and pass drug and alcohol testing.

SB 212 - Police/Fire Defined Benefit Plan by Senator Kelly. This bill would provide police and fire employees only with a Defined Benefit option. The bill was held and is scheduled for future hearing.



Mark your Calendar

ANCHORAGE

April 2: Kick off of the AK Teamster Sisters Scavenger Hunt 2018! (See 959 website for details)

May 4: May the Fourth Be With You! The Annual Spring Adopt-A-Street Clean-up events will be going on at a Local 959 Hall near you. Food & Fun!

June 1: Jesse L. Carr Memorial Golf Tournament

June 8 - 10: 35th Alaska Teamster Retiree Reunion in Anchorage. All Teamsters welcome. Get your registration form from Megan or Jenne.

June 10: Solidarity Picnic on the Park Strip. Fun, Food & Prizes!

FAIRBANKS

May 4: Annual Spring Clean-up at the Local 959 Hall.

July 29: Teamster Family Picnic at Pioneer Park Wilderness Pavilion 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

September 3: Labor Day - Fairbanks Central Labor Council Parade and Picnic. Start planning your float design now and gather all your friends so the Teamsters can win the Trophy!



Retiree News By Mark Johnson

Teamster Retirees held their annual Christmas luncheon in December. As many of you know we make a ROBO call to retirees announcing the event and ask people to RSVP so we know how much food to order. Very few people called in early causing us to worry if we would have enough to eat. As it turned out, a whole bunch called a week before so we had to scramble to meet the needs. We had about 60 attendees and I am happy to report that everybody got plenty to eat and leftovers were taken to the Downtown Soup Kitchen.



35th ALASKA TEAMSTER RETIREE REUNION
ANCHORAGE ALASKA – JUNE 8 THRU 10, 2018 - "CHANGE OF SCHEDULE"
Registration Deadline Extended to May 16, 2018

We have done our best to make this reunion more affordable by utilizing the Anchorage Teamster meeting facility and adding optional events to go along with the reunion events.

A **"Welcome Reception"** at **Reilly's Irish Pub** on Friday June 8th, 2018. Once called the *Cheechako*, Reilly's is family owned and still an Anchorage institution for the working class and many Teamsters. This is an optional event however we will accept donations for hors d'oeuvres.

On June 9th, 2018, a **Business Barbeque** to be held in the Bennie Rule Room at Teamsters Local 959. We will start at 11AM with casual barbeque lunch. We will have reports from Union and Trust staff and end about 2PM.

After the Barbeque we will have an optional event, the **Historic Tour of Anchorage**. We will board a bus at the Union hall at about 2:30 PM with Anchorage's own Rick Goodfellow. The tour will weave through Anchorage streets and alleyways pointing out historic places, events and the supernatural that shaped Anchorage's history.

On the evening of June 10th, 2018, we will wrap up our reunion with a **Farewell Reception at 6:30PM** and the **Retiree Buffet Dinner at 7:15PM** in the Bennie Rule Room at Teamsters Local 959.

Registration forms are posted on the union's web site at www.akteamsters.com under the **"RETIREEES"** tab. Remember **you don't have to be retired to enjoy our reunion, everybody is welcome** but please submit your registration by May 16, 2018 or as soon as possible to assist us in planning. For questions about the reunion you can call Rieta Rule (907) 563-7445, Debbie Dumann (907) 337-6014, Mark Johnson (907) 229-4959.

If any retiree would like to play in the Jesse L. Carr Memorial Golf Tournament an application may be obtained from Local 959's Executive Administrator, Megan Ketchel, at (907) 751-8542.

Celebrating Fifty Years

Jack Slama is the first Local 959 Secretary-Treasurer to celebrate 50 years of continuous membership. He was recently recognized by the membership, Secretary-Treasurer Rick Boyles, and was awarded the beautiful 50 Year pin.



Congratulations Jack!



Parting Out in Kodiak

For over 25 years, Dave Spellman has been at the port of Kodiak as a partsman, shop steward, and serving on negotiation teams to get the Kodiak Maintenance shop the contracts they deserve.

Local 959 would like to congratulate Mr. Spellman on his retirement this April and wish him the best of luck!



Dave is pictured in the center kneeling

Retired

JUNE 2017

Philip Chiaravalle Alutiiq Management

AUGUST 2017

Scott Kasperek Becker Trucking
Jeanette Fentie Bell/Tikigaq JV
Dudley Hunt Weaver Brothers, Inc.
Randahl Sadler Nanuq, Inc.
Stephen Rada ASRC ES-Houston

SEPTEMBER 2017

Brent Dupee City of Fairbanks
Dominic D'Andrea Alaska Frontier Const.
Jeffrey Williams Arctic Slope Telephone
Stephen Dwyer Longshore
Sidney Parrish Arctic Slope World Svcs.
Ernest L. Jones K&L Distributors
Gerald Carroll Great Northwest

OCTOBER 2017

George Brown Quality Asphalt Paving
George Cushing United Parcel Service
David Nixa TOTE Maritime Alaska
Flossie Swanson Arctic Slope Telephone
Brian Taylor Granite Construction
James Wiest Kodiak Support Services

NOVEMBER 2017

Virginia Sutherland AIC LLC
Robert Williams, Jr. World Technical Svcs.
Wayne Iverson Doyon/Aramark Denali
David Smallwood Brice Inc.
Floro Rambac Kodiak Support Services
John Albee Wien Air Alaska
Vance Gregory ASRC ES-Houston
Tommy Brim Brice Inc.

DECEMBER 2017

Julie Brown Brice Inc.
David Olivares SMI
Virgil Lamoureux HC Price Co.
Richard Thistle Longshore
James Aldrich II Longshore
Finau Malupo United Parcel Service
Peter Borman Ahtna Construction
Brian Solem Weaver Brothers, Inc.
Vincent Haag Longshore
Jay Lewis Weaver Brothers, Inc.
Michael Shantz Red Samm
William "Keith" Petit Longshore
Henry Scepurek Longshore

JANUARY 2018

Lynn Buchheit Weaver Brothers, Inc.
John Chamberlin Anchorage School District
Rodney Littleton Secon
Craig Hughes BAE Systems
Francisco Javier Anchorage School District
Robert Bell Black Gold Express
Daniel Conley Ahtna Construction
James Barnes Weaver Brothers, Inc.
Aquilino Rosales Safeway

FEBRUARY 2018

Mary Clancy Georgia Film Fund Five
George Gill Chugach Support Services
Thad Bushue Matson Navigation
Ronald Kruckenberg Matson Navigation
Mark Slama Matson Navigation
Frank Reichert III Matson Navigation

MARCH 2018

Cristopher Smith Flight Engineering Inc.
Paul Dempster BAE Systems
Patrick Nigro Price Gregory



Milestones

Congratulations to the following individuals who have achieved 35, 40, 45, 50, 55 and 60 years of continuous dues-paying membership in Local 959.

AUGUST 2017

Alvin Schubert 35 years
Howard Dash 35 years
Kris Kovach 35 years
Dale Miller 40 years
James May 40 years
Shirley Kedzior 40 years
Gayle Foote 40 years
John Weum 40 years
Craig Fletcher 45 years

SEPTEMBER 2017

Bill Tomaro 35 years

Richard Barber 35 years
Jerry South 35 years
Clyde Armistead 35 years
Joseph Riendl 35 years
Karl Reid 35 years
Richard Randazzo 50 years

OCTOBER 2017

James Frankford 45 years

NOVEMBER 2017

Paul Schroeder 35 years
David Hartman 35 years
Kelly Degenstein 35 years

DECEMBER 2017

Howard Morris 35 years
Diane Puro 40 years
Gerald Schoneck 45 years
Larry Bouwens, Sr. 45 years

JANUARY 2018

Jack Slama 50 years

FEBRUARY 2018

Kevin Heatherly 35 years
Scott Stowell 40 years
Randolph Killian 40 years
Jim Muletta 40 years
Michael Killian 40 years
Larry Gray 45 years
Edward Mayo 45 years
Mark Johnson 45 years

MARCH 2018

Paul Lamoureux 35 years
Richard Funner 35 years
Judith Irons 40 years

959 Business Representative Retires

February 28 marked the last day as Business Representative for Tim Morgan. After joining the Teamsters in April 1977, he worked for a variety of employers, most notably as a School Bus Driver for the Anchorage School District before coming over to the Local 959. After 41 years, Tim and his wife Susan are looking forward to enjoying retirement together and snow birding. Thank you for your service, Brother Morgan!



In Memory of Deceased Brothers & Sisters

JUNE 2017 & PRIOR -- Not previously noted

Richard Murphy	05/01/2008	Great Northwest
Eugene Overturf	10/19/2015	Lynden Transport
James Neill	01/05/2017	Interstate Brands, Inc.
Walter Scott	05/12/2017	S&G Construction
Michael Harris	06/17/2017	Hustlers Inc.

JULY 2017

Joseph Mayr	07/18/2017	Wien Air Alaska
Sharon Truman	07/22/2017	CSX Lines
William Fried	07/23/2017	Carrs/Foodland
George Pugh	07/29/2017	Taywood, Berg, Riedel JV
William Hughes	07/16/2017	New Wien Airlines
A. Russell Caine	07/25/2017	Norcon, Inc.

AUGUST 2017

Thomas Homme	08/01/2017	Alaska Int'l Const.
Thomas Tolson	08/03/2017	AT&T Alascom
Glen Young	08/05/2017	GY Trucking
E. Anthony Pizarz	08/09/2017	AT&T Alascom
Thelma Whitescarver	08/13/2017	Alascom
Betty Jane Richter	08/13/2017	Alascom
William Nicklas	08/18/2017	Alutiiq Management
Earle Beesley	08/18/2017	TOTE
Marjette Castle	08/20/2017	Alascom
John Willford	08/20/2017	Lynden Transport
Wilben Dahl	08/24/2017	S&G Const.
David Alexander	08/26/2017	United Freight & Transport
Ruben Robles	08/26/2017	Continental Baking Co.
Roderic Short	08/29/2017	Wien Air Alaska
Robert Smith, Jr.	08/29/2017	Anchorage School District
Fred McMillan	08/30/2017	Lynden Transport
Albert Patterson	08/30/2017	Usibelli Coal Mine

SEPTEMBER 2017

Harry Bacon	09/04/2017	Enserch Environmental
Rock West	09/06/2017	Alascom
Richard Larson	09/06/2017	Anchorage School District
James Vincent	09/07/2017	AT&T Alascom
Clinton Frazier	09/10/2017	Mukluk Freight Lines
John Forceskie	09/11/2017	Teamsters Local 959
Robert Berna	09/12/2017	Horizon Lines
Charles Martin	09/18/2017	North Star
Raymond Lester	09/23/2017	Earth Movers of Fairbanks
Henry Irish	09/23/2017	TCC Joint Venture
Keith Murrills	09/27/2017	GE Operations

OCTOBER 2017

Jacob Ravnik	10/02/2017	Green Construction
Delbert Combs	10/02/2017	AggPro
Charles Lewis	10/03/2017	Bendix Field Engineering
Jean Cameron	10/06/2017	Peninsula Pony Express
Ivan Enger	10/11/2017	Morrison Knudsen
Douglas Parsons	10/08/2017	AT&T Alascom
Baxter Rustigan	10/13/2017	AggPro
Dennis Ranaldi	10/16/2017	ITT Federal Services
Gladys Bertelson	10/17/2017	Anchorage School District
Wayman Perez	10/17/2017	Arrow Lumber Co.
Francis Hester	10/22/2017	Mukluk Freight Lines
Hilton Townsend	10/26/2017	Wien Air Alaska
Peter LaPlante	10/26/2017	Alascom, Inc.
Jon Shirley	10/26/2017	Arctec Alaska

NOVEMBER 2017

Larry Biggs	11/03/2017	Four Star Terminals
Robert Meyer	11/08/2017	Morrison Knudsen
Glenn Farin	11/12/2017	Mukluk Freight Lines
Edna Kernan	11/26/2017	H & S Warehouse
Calvin Profit	11/29/2017	Anchorage Sand & Gravel
Rick Fifield	11/29/2017	United Freight & Transport

DECEMBER 2017

Donald Van Sickle	12/01/2017	Neil F. Lampson Inc.
Vera Keister	12/04/2017	Alascom
Taylor Moss	12/05/2017	Morrison Knudsen
James Thomas	12/09/2017	AIC LLC
Essex Kirkpatrick	12/09/2017	Arctic Slope/Wright
Kermit Knutsen	12/10/2017	Norcon, Inc.
David Garren	12/24/2017	Lynden Transport
David Imus	12/25/2017	Matson Navigation
Phillip Prickett	12/27/2017	Phillip Prickett Co. Inc.
Hartwell Roberts	12/28/2017	Ahtna
Teddie Williams	12/31/2017	Alascom PTI
Richard Guillaume	12/31/2017	Doyon Associated

JANUARY 2018

Merlin Orth	01/03/2018	Fluor Alaska
William Thomas	01/03/2018	Wien Air Alaska
Thomas Martinez, Jr.	01/05/2018	University Redi Mix
Don R. Crozier	01/06/2018	Green Construction
Douglas Snyder	01/11/2018	Arctic Slope/Wright
Everett Alberts	01/12/2018	Spenard Builders Supply
Mary Bridge	01/13/2018	ATESC
Ricky Burton	01/13/2018	BAE Systems
John Erickson	01/14/2018	Alascom
Andrew Lojo	01/18/2018	Nanuq
Ira Steele	01/21/2018	Sea Star Stevedore
Thomas Holcomb	01/22/2018	Doyles Fuel Services
Tommy Copelin	01/23/2018	ATESTT
Darrell Burgess	01/31/2018	Mammoth of Alaska, Inc.

FEBRUARY 2018

Linda Penney	02/02/2018	AT&T
Raymond Coleman, Sr.	02/06/2018	Anchorage School District
Mary Walton	02/06/2018	Alaska Hospital
David Larson	02/12/2018	Norcon Inc.
William Grant	02/16/2018	Liquid Air, Inc.
Clifford Green	02/22/2018	Lynden Transport



Local 959 Loses Former President

John Forceskie

June 22, 1936 - September 11, 2017



Arriving in Anchorage with no plan, he quickly got work at Martin Van Lines in Anchorage. This was a union company, and one day a union official chased John down and told him he would have to join the union or get off the job.

John joined Teamsters Local 959 in January 1957 where he caught the eye of Jesse Carr, head of the Teamsters in Alaska.

In 1963 John went to work for RCA at Clear Air Force Base. He was well known at Clear for his work and the friendships among Teamsters and other craft workers, many who would become future Alaskan labor leaders. While at Clear he mentored a future (and current) Teamster General President, James P. Hoffa.

In February 1966 at the request of Jesse Carr, John went to work for the Teamsters in Anchorage and started a 30 year career as a Teamster official. In 1974 he became Vice President of the Teamsters and in 1979 was elevated to President, an office he held until his retirement in 1995.

A celebration of life was held at the Anchorage Teamsters hall attended by over 100 members, friends, family and acquaintances.

Calling All Alaska Teamster Sisters!

WIN A TRIP TO THE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE!

The **Alaskan Teamster Sisters Group** is VERY excited that Local 959's Secretary-Treasurer, Rick Boyles is providing a trip for one lucky **Alaskan Teamster Sister Member in Good Standing** to the 2018 Teamster Women's Conference being held in Orlando, Florida this September. In order to qualify for this prize and a few other fun weekly door prizes, the Sister's group has created a very exciting event that all eligible Sister's, statewide can participate in!

Do you remember how fun it was as a kid to participate in a Scavenger Hunt? This is the grown-up Teamster Sisters Photo version. AK Teamsters Sisters Scavenger Hunt 2018 (**#AKTSSH2018**) will be the social media event of the year!

Don't worry you don't have to be a social media wizard to play. All you need is a camera and one of the following: access to the internet to go to the Local 959 website, Instagram, or join the Alaskan Teamster Sisters private Facebook group.

We post the full set of rules and weekly clues for things to take a picture of and submit to us. Photos must be Tagged with **#AKTSSH2018** to count for points. At the end of the event, the eligible player with the highest points will win the Grand Prize trip and will join the other 959 ladies who will be attending the conference this year. There will also be weekly winners of a 959 Surprise Swag Bag of goodies!

So, who are these Alaskan Teamster Sisters that are putting on this contest? It's a group of sisters just like yourself.

In 2017, the women staffers in the Anchorage Hall came together to get involved in social and union activities. They formed the Alaskan Teamster Sisters Group with their mission being to promote solidarity and support within the Teamster Sisterhood!

This dedicated group meets regularly to create fun events for their

Alaskan Teamster Sisters within the membership. In October they turned the Anchorage Hall into Halloween central including a building wide department decorating contest. The Sisters hosted the first Annual Kids Halloween Spooktacular carnival. They had a great time putting it together, there was a fantastic turnout, and the kids and families loved it!



Around the holidays, the Group became aware of two Teamster Sister families that had fallen on hard times and likely would be unable to enjoy the holidays as many of us do. The ladies sprang into action and held two "pass the hat" events. In November they raised enough money to provide one, Teamster family of six a wonderful Thanksgiving meal. In December, a family of two generations of Teamsters, received not only Christmas dinner but breakfast and gifts on Christmas morning for their family of five!

The Alaskan Teamster Sister Group generally meets once a month at the Anchorage Hall for a Wine Down Wednesday. All active member Teamster Sisters are invited to join them. They talk about local issues, how to assist our membership, and creative ideas to have fun throughout the year! They realize not everyone can make it to Anchorage and encourage more Sisters throughout the state to form a local group as well.

We regularly post ideas and events on the Alaskan Teamster Sisters Facebook private group page and you can email us at 959Sisters@gmail.com to stay involved no matter where you are.

If you don't use Facebook, please email us your contact information and we will include you in the email notification group.

The game kicked off April 2nd, but it's never too late to start to play. Everything is posted on the Alaskan Teamster Sisters Facebook page, the Local 959 website, and you can contact us by email. Start playing today!

Looking Back: Teamster Women's Conference

The 2017 Women's Conference was held in San Antonio, Texas. Over a thousand women from all across North America attended, including three of our Local 959 Sisters. The theme that year was, "Teamster Women Spur Change".

In 2016, the theme was, "Lights, Camera, Teamster Women in Action!" held in Hollywood, CA.



2015 took Sisters to Boston, MA where we were "Boston Strong".



As you can see, each year the theme not only ties to the conference location, but to a strong message about empowerment, solidarity and unity of sisterhood. This message is realized throughout the conference during breakout workshops and general sessions.

Each year we have been fortunate that Local 959 has provided the opportunity for several female members to attend. Each attendee has come back with a new perspective on their role as Teamster Sisters!

Here are a few words from past attendee, Angelina Stewart.

"I attended the 2017 San Antonio, Texas conference. I enjoyed being able to choose from so many course options and becoming closer to the ladies in my circle. I returned home with an unstoppable energy from the group; feeling smarter, stronger, and more positive. The learning experiences, chance to travel, networking opportunities, and sense of personal empowerment are unique and lasting reasons to want to participate - woman or man!"



2017 Attendees (Left to Right)
Barbara Huff Tuckness, General President Hoffa, Angelina Stewart, General Secretary-Treasurer Hall & Courtney Heisten

Don't miss your opportunity to attend! Participate in the Alaskan Teamster Sisters group and you could be on your way to Orlando, FL in September 2018 where this year, **"Teamster Women Believe!"**.





**General Teamsters
Local 959
State of Alaska**

*Affiliated with the International
Brotherhood of Teamsters
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Assoc. • ConocoPhillips • G.D. Morris, Inc. • IBEW Local 1547 • ICE Services • International Brotherhood of Teamsters • Joint
Council 28 • Laborers Local 341 • Local 375 Plumbers & Pipefitters • Lynden Transport • Matson Navigation • Mondress
Monaco Parr Longwood • Multiemployer • Optum Rx • Pacific Dental Alliance/Affordable Dental Care • Parker, Smith & Feek •
QAP • Rael & Letson • Russell Investments • Teamsters Local 174 • Teamsters Local 231 • Teamsters Local 313 • The Union
Labor Life Insurance Company • TOTE • United Freight & Transport • Usibelli Coal Mine • Vision Services Plan • Weaver Bros.*

Golf Championship

Teamsters JLC Charity

June 1, 2018

Anchorage Golf Course 7:00 a.m.

Thank you to our annual Corporate and Individual Sponsors!