

Alaska TEAMSTERS



Local 959 Newsletter

April 2021

Message from Gary Dixon, Secretary-Treasurer

PENSION RELIEF

On March 10, 2021, the US Congress passed the Coronavirus Relief Bill and President Biden signed that bill into law on March 11, 2021. In the bill was the Butch Lewis Emergency Pension Relief Act, which helps Multiemployer Pension Plans with financing. According to the Alaska Teamster Pension Plan's Actuary, Paul Graf of the firm Rael & Letson, our plan qualifies for such assistance. That is good news for our plan participants and retirees. How it will work and "ALL" the intricate details still remain. Here is what we know and what the criteria for qualifying are:

The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) will have 120 days to issue regulations for special financing assistance applications. During the first two years following the date of enactment, priority for applications will be given to plans that are:

1. Insolvent.
2. Likely to be one insolvent within 5 years.
3. Have a present value of over \$1 billion in unfunded bested benefits.
4. Have previously implemented benefit suspensions pursuant to the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act (MPRA).

We will wait for the actuary to let us know when we can apply.

Qualifying for Special Financial Assistance comes from having to satisfy one of the four criteria:

1. Plans in critical and declining status (not us),
2. Plans that were previously in critical and declining status that were approved for benefit suspension pursuant to the MPRA Application process (not us),
3. Plans in critical status with a funded percentage less than 40% on a current basis, and with active to inactive ratio less than 2 to 3 (we qualify),
4. Plans that became insolvent after December 16, 2014, that remain insolvent but yet have not yet terminated (not us).

As more information becomes available, we will let you know.

Please mark your calendar for the General Membership meetings on August 3rd in Fairbanks and August 5th in Anchorage because the Alaska Teamsters Pension Plan's Actuary, Paul Graf will be attending to give the Membership a presentation of the latest information on what the Butch Lewis Emergency Pension Relief does for our pension plan.

NEW PROPERTY IN FAIRBANKS

For the last 30+ years, our Local has rented office space for our Fairbanks Union Hall. The sad part is, we actually built and owned the very building we have been renting out of but, during the late 1980's we lost the building. Ever since, we've been renting a small portion in the old building we use to own. Through the years, for one reason or another, the Local never purchased another Fairbanks building.

This past year I have been watching the commercial real estate market in Fairbanks, figuring with the COVID-19 pandemic maybe some property would come on the market at a good price. Well, one finally did and soon after finding it, Eileen Whitmer, James McMilon, Kim Brandenburg and myself worked through our due-diligence process to make an offer to purchase—and it was ACCEPTED!

After closing the sale on the new Fairbanks property and some remodeling, our tentative move-in date will be the end of October 2021. We will have a ribbon-cutting celebration on November 2nd at the Fairbanks monthly General Membership meeting.

LOCAL 959 TURNS 80

This year we celebrate the Local's 80 year anniversary. From 1941-2021 we have represented Alaskans statewide. From Ketchikan to Prudhoe Bay, Teamsters Local 959 has the most diverse group of industries of any union in the state of Alaska. We hope to hold celebrations this Summer in Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Kodiak. We are keeping our fingers crossed that this corona virus will let us have these three events to memorialize our longevity as one of the strongest Alaskan labor unions. As Summer gets closer, we will share the dates, venues and times of these celebrations on our website and social media platforms—stay tuned.

~ Gary Dixon



In This Edition

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- And More...

NEWS FROM THE HALL

Employee Spotlights

In 1997, when **Stevenson Polintan** was 13, he and his younger brother moved from the province of Pampanga Philippines to join their parents in Anchorage, Alaska. A few years later he graduated from Dimond High School and began working at Alaska Commercial Co. In 2006, he saw an ad in the newspaper for a warehouse job with Lynden Transport, Inc. and started his Teamster career with them as a Warehouseman/Driver. Years later in 2013, Stevenson went on to work a season at Safeway as a Driver but, soon after in 2014, couldn't pass up an opportunity to join the Driver ranks at United Freight & Transport, Inc. (UF&T). Then in 2019, after nearly five years with UF&T, he switched gears and joined the staff at Local 959's Hall as a Business Representative.

Stevenson has quickly become an asset to the 959 Team! He was instrumental in helping develop the first ever Freight Driver Apprenticeship Program. When he is not out recruiting or proudly visiting members, you can find Stevenson spending time with his family and shooting hoops with his oldest son.

✧ Keep up the GREAT work, Stevenson ✧



**Stevenson Polintan,
Business Representative**



**Kelsey Taylor,
Business Representative**

Kelsey Talyor was born in New Hampshire where he lived until age 10. Where after, a cross-country road trip with his older brother, mom, a dog, and two cats took him to his new home in Anchorage.

Kelsey once held an interesting job at M Bar D Feed & Track where he cared for horses and worked in the warehouse slinging hay. Though, he quickly decided to give his notice after a horse he was working with got spooked, reared up and ran him down!

In 2005, Kelsey took a job with Alaska Waste. A few years in, the company decided to decrease the retirement-match, leading Kelsey and his coworkers to organize Alaska Waste as a new Teamsters bargaining unit in 2008. Since then, he has worked private and public sector jobs throughout his 17-year career and has seen first-hand the benefits of Union membership.

Kelsey joined the Business Representative ranks of 959 in 2020 and now represents First Student-Wasilla and the Municipality of Anchorage's Public Transit and Solid Waste Services divisions. His goal is to do the best he can for the Members; being the Business Rep. he would want. With mottos like, "Practice makes better" and "Challenge accepted" we believe he is doing just that ☺

Outside of work, Kelsey enjoys spending time with his wife and daughter, playing hockey, curling, and being a self-proclaimed *Super Fan* of the Iditarod—enjoying all that Alaska has to offer.

✧ Welcome aboard, Kelsey ✧

Meet Lynn Hettick ☺ Lynn was born and raised in Seward, until 4th grade, when her family moved to Anchorage. She returned to Seward in 1993 to help her father, Joseph Stanton run his mobile home/RV park business. Lynn and husband David bought the business in February 1999. In 2009, Lynn enrolled in Kaplan University to study business administration and business management. She graduated with an associate's degree in 2010 and a bachelor's degree in 2012. By 2014, she had earned a master's degree in logistics and supply chain management through Colorado Technical University. Most recently, Lynn served as a camp supervisor on Alaska's North Slope. The Hettick's have nine children ranging in age from 16 to 36. Lynn and David purchased a house in Anchorage last May and now split their time between Anchorage and Seward.

✧ We're so happy to have you, Lynn ✧



**Lynn Hettick,
Dues Clerk**

Keep your record current! Please remember to inform the Dues office of any changes to your information, such as: address, phone numbers, e-mail address, and/or beneficiary information. This will ensure that you receive union correspondence.

Contact Dues at (907) 751-8500

Email Updates to: 959dues@akteamsters.com

Executive Officers:

Gary Dixon
Secretary-Treasurer

Jace Digel
Recording Secretary

Eileen Whitmer
President

Trustees
Norman Blair
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TEAMSTER INSPIRATION

First and Last Union Job

Rex Smith took his first and last Teamsters Local 959 dispatch in 1988 with J.B. Gottstein & Company—now Carrs Safeway. He was hired on as a Dry Picker and through the years worked positions as a Freeze Picker and in Receiving. After almost 33 years, Rex was all set to retire on January 30, 2021, but decided he wouldn't hang his hat

just yet, choosing to stay on a while longer to help train new members. This is what a role model looks like.

✧THANK YOU, REX ✧



Brother Greg Belden & Business Representative, Jeremy Holan



Free College for Union Members and their Families

Meet Laya Untiet, daughter of Public Transit member, Brother Steven Untiet. Laya has decided to earn her college degree using the completely online and **FREE** Union Plus Free College Benefit 🎓 The Free College Benefit helps union families achieve their college education without piling on thousands of dollars in student debt. As a family member of a Local 959 member in good standing, Laya completely qualifies for this benefit and will start her Health Services Degree program within just a few weeks.

Laya took an interest in healthcare after completing an EMT course at King Tech High School. She felt it wasn't the direction she wanted to go in but it opened her eyes to the medical field. She looked in to 2-year programs that ranged from 50k –70k until she learned about the Free College Benefit. Laya wants to see where this degree can take her professionally and may use it as a stepping stone to further her medical education.

✧GOOD LUCK, LAYA ✧

Find the Union Plus Free College Benefit and info on other Union Plus benefits and discounts at www.unionplus.org/benefits/education/free-college



Brother Rex Smith—Carrs Safeway

Golden Wrench Award

A going-away party was recently held for Brother Greg Belden where he was awarded the first ever coworker-presented Golden Wrench award—an award created to memorialize his many years of service & dedication to his coworkers ♥ This award was created and signed by the many Teamster members who've worked with him over the years at Sourdough Fuel.

Greg was hired on November 7, 2001, and throughout his career held positions as a Driver, a Shop Steward, and a Lead Driver.

We wish you good luck in your next adventure! You will be missed at Sourdough Fuel. ✧THANK YOU, GREG ✧



Brother Steven Untiet—MOA's Public Transit & his Daughter, Laya Untiet

GRIEVANCE AWARDS & TEAMSTER ACHIEVEMENTS



Willie Esera—Weaver Bros., Inc.

said, "Best decision ever for me and my family. Pay and the hours are great. Without the apprenticeship, it's hard for a company to hire a driver just because he/she has a CDL and with no driving experience. With the apprenticeship program, it lets the company know that this person can be trusted and deserves an opportunity. Without the program, somebody like me would not have been able to have a career in this field with no experience." ✨Congratulations Willie ✨

For information on all of Local 959's Apprenticeship Programs offered through the Alaska Teamster-Employer Service Training Trust, please call their office at (907) 278-3674 or visit their website at www.akteamsterstraining.com.



Business Representative, Thor Brown, presents Local 959 Member, Brother Talosaga Vanilau (TJ), with a check for back wages.

Brother TJ recently earned his CDL and is hard at work delivering beer in Anchorage.

✨Congratulations TJ ✨

Brother Willie Esera has the distinct honor of being Local 959's **first ever** Freight Apprentice through the Alaska Teamster-Employer Service Training Trust!!! For this program, we partnered with Weaver Bros., Inc. over the past year and now Willie will be finishing his apprenticeship this Spring. Once completed, he'll begin his career as a Journeyman Truck Driver. When Asked about his apprenticeship, Willie

said, "Best decision ever for me and my family. Pay and the hours are great. Without the apprenticeship, it's hard for a company to hire a driver just because he/she has a CDL and with no driving experience. With the apprenticeship program, it lets the company know that this person can be trusted and deserves an opportunity. Without the program, somebody like me would not have been able to have a career in this field with no experience." ✨Congratulations Willie ✨

For information on all of Local 959's Apprenticeship Programs offered through the Alaska Teamster-Employer Service Training Trust, please call their office at (907) 278-3674 or visit their website at www.akteamsterstraining.com.



Business Representative, Derek Musto, presents Local 959 Member, Brother Jo Po, with a check for double-time back wages and penalty pay.

We would like to acknowledge and congratulate Sister Shani Pritchard on her

14th PERFECT Municipal Inspection

at her cafeteria at Lake Hood Elementary School.

✨You Rock, Shani ✨



Shani Pritchard, ASD Food Service

TEAMSTER AWARDS



**Joe Allen, Shop Steward
Carrs—Safeway**

Teamsters Local 959 recognizes the hard work and dedication of our Shop Stewards. Beginning in 2017, we began to formally recognize our Union leaders by creating an annual award:

~The Larry K. West Award for Shop Steward of the Year~

Our Annual Shop Steward Award is dedicated to the late Mr. Larry K. West who exemplified the true meaning of Stewardship.

This year's award goes to Anchorage Shop Steward, Joe Allen. Joe has been working as a Union member at Carrs—Safeway since 1989. He was approached by former Secretary-Treasurer, Jack Slama and former Business Representative, Eric Wasserman back in 1990 to become a Steward. Two words of advice he received from Jack Slama that hold true to this day, "You will spend 90% of your time seeing 10 % of the workforce" and "You can't save them all."

Joe is a no-nonsense kind of guy that has been getting the job done and representing the contract and the members at Carrs—Safeway for over 31 years! Joe is the guy to call when issues come up. He knows the contract well and has been involved in the negotiations for most of his Stewardship. Joe will be presented with a Local 959 engraved watch and have his name added to the award plaque which you can find hanging in both the Anchorage and Fairbanks offices.

Being a Shop Steward is one of the most important jobs of the Union.

✧ Thank you, Joe ✧

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A SHOP STEWARD?

Shop Stewards play a vital role in the representation of our members. A successful Shop Steward must possess a number of traits, including: leadership abilities, good communication skills, and have the ability to put aside their own personal opinions to professionally and objectively represent all of our Teamster-represented members.

What is a Shop Steward?

A Bargaining Unit's Shop Steward is the go-to Union Representative on the job site. They have a number of responsibilities from contract enforcement and assisting in grievance procedures, to keeping members informed and motivated about their Union. A Shop Steward:

- ♦ is familiar with your contract and can answer general questions;
- ♦ assists new employees in joining the Union and are knowledgeable about the benefits of being a member;
- ♦ is familiar with the grievance procedure and can direct you through the proper steps;
- ♦ is available to help you identify violations of the contract and can assist you in referencing sections of the contract;
- ♦ acts as a liaison between employees and the Union;
- ♦ understands problems and challenges facing your department/company and relays information to the Union;
- ♦ participates in contract negotiations;
- ♦ attends Union meetings and is kept current on Union-wide updates and labor issues.



If you are interested in being a Shop Steward or would like to recommend someone for the role, please reach out to your Business Representative.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

REMINDER FOR CONSTRUCTION CARD HOLDERS

~ A message from the Dispatch Department ~

All "A" Construction Card members with out-of-work dates prior to July 1, 2021 who have worked less than 600 hours in the preceding 36 months, and "B" Construction Card members who have worked less than 80 hours in the preceding 36 months, are required to re-register their cards during the month of July (July 1 through July 31) in order to receive a July 1 out-of-work date. If re-registration takes place August 1, 2021 or after, the member will receive the date in which they appear in Dispatch to re-register.

This re-registration practice takes place every July for "A" and "B" Construction Card members who have not worked a total of 600 hours or 80 hours, respectively, in the preceding 3 year period.

Please remember to re-register your Construction Card by coming in to the Anchorage OR Fairbanks Dispatch office to have it stamped at least once every 90 days. Please note that it is 90 days, not 3 months! If the 90th day falls on a weekend or holiday, you will need to re-register the Friday before the weekend or the day before the holiday. Additionally, if you are on the Remote List, you are able to mail your card to the Anchorage OR Fairbanks Dispatch office to be stamped as long as it is postmarked within the 90 days.

Should you have questions regarding any of this information, please contact either Kim in the Fairbanks Dispatch Office at (907) 450-6123 or Devin in the Anchorage Dispatch Office at (907) 751-8568.

Remote List Construction Card Mail-In ONLY:

ATTN Kim / Dispatch
Teamsters Local 959
751 Old Richardson Highway, Suite 127
Fairbanks, AK 99701

OR

ATTN Devin / Dispatch
Teamsters Local 959
520 East 34th Avenue, Suite 102
Anchorage, AK 99503



TEAMSTER'S LOCAL 959

Work Date _____

Name _____

Last Employer _____

Terminated _____

Classification _____

Ledger _____

Signature _____

Eligible for Rehire

Yes ☐ No ☐

Approved _____

Re-Register Within 90 Days
(OVER)

Sample
Not for use



☆ JOB BOARD ☆

www.akteamsters.com/job-board

Be sure to check out the Local's Job Board on our website at: akteamsters.com/job-board.

The Job Board is your online resource for finding non-construction Teamster employment! All positions listed are union represented and subject to the Hiring Hall rules and procedures of Local 959 and its contracts.

The Job Board is extremely user friendly! Either scroll through the list or type a city in the Search bar to see a list of non-construction jobs available throughout the state. Wages & benefits are listed along with a brief job description, required qualifications for each job, and the location of the job.

You may also subscribe by entering your email address where indicated which will enable you to receive instant, automatic notifications of each job we post on the Board in real time as they are posted!

If you have questions or need additional information regarding any of the non-construction jobs listed **OR** if you have questions about construction jobs (which are not listed, as they change daily), please contact Kim in Fairbanks Dispatch at (907) 450-6123 or Devin in Anchorage Dispatch at (907) 751-8568.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION (CONT.)

VIRTUAL NEW STEWARD TRAINING A SUCCESS!

This past February, over 30 newly assigned Shop Steward's attended our very 1st Virtual New Stewards Training Skills Session held through Zoom. Training was provided by Ms. Iliana Flores with the IBT's Training & Development Department. The information shared was detailed and engaging. It was empowering for our new stewards to chime in answering topical questions about their role in the bargaining unit. All of the positive feedback we received post-training proves we can thrive in changing times. **If you are interested in becoming a Shop Steward or would like to recommend someone for the role, please reach out to your Business Representative.**



**Shop Steward
James Tallant
ASRC Federal
Assigned November 2020**



**Shop Steward
William Hess
Lynden Transport, Inc.
Assigned June 2019**



**Shop Steward
Jennifer Jones
ARCTEC Alaska
Assigned June 2020**



**Shop Steward
Rebecca Piilani
AT&T Alaska
Assigned November 2018**



**Shop Steward
Justin Lavatai
K&L Distributors
Assigned January 2021**



**Shop Steward
Jeremy Espinosa
UPS
Assigned January 2021**



**Shop Steward
Chris Rhem
ALSCO, Inc.
Assigned January 2021**



**Shop Steward
Cole Sterner
Lynden Transport, Inc.
Assigned January 2021**



**Shop Steward
Tony Higbee
UPS
Assigned January 2021**



**Shop Steward
Ray Fine
United Freight & Transport
Assigned April 2020**



**Chief Shop Steward
Katie Watson
South Peninsula Hospital
Assigned 2020**

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Jesse L. Carr
Charity Golf
Tournament**

July 16th

**80 Year Summer
Celebrations
STAY TUNED
TBD**

**Anchorage, Fairbanks,
Kodiak**

**New Building
Ribbon-Cutting
in Fairbanks**

November 2nd

-Fall Shop Steward School- AT THE HOTEL CAPTAIN COOK

Please mark your calendar for our full Shop Steward School set for October 9 & 10, 2021. Join with other Stewards to familiarize yourself with the duties & responsibilities of the very important role you hold within your bargaining unit. This year's school will be held at the Captain Cook Hotel in downtown Anchorage. We also continue to follow CDC recommendations, government mandates, and city orders in support of the health & safety of our communities. Should changes and adjustments be required that could affect our Shop Steward School, we will keep you notified. We look forward to gathering with you all soon.

Please RSVP with Jennë Kriner at (907) 751-8542 or jkriner@akteamsters.com

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

UPDATES—STATEWIDE

~James McMilon, Business Representative (Fairbanks / North Slope)~

North Slope Update: 2021 Winter Season has certainly had it's challenges, between projects being put on hold as a result of Covid-19 and the resulting crash in oil prices. The North Slope is not in the renaissance period we were heading in just as recently as 1/1/2020.

Houston Contracting: Our members are currently working for Houston Contracting on the GMT-2 Pipeline Project which is in its second year of the two-year project. We have over 60 Teamsters on the job including four Construction Driver Apprentices and one Survey Apprentice.

The GMT-2 Pipeline Power & Fiber Installation Scope of Work—2021 Winter Construction Scope: The 2021 Winter construction scope consists of the demolition of 5,000 feet of existing 4" Raw Water Line and 54 existing VSMs, the installation of 1700 feet of 6" .500 wall Raw Water Line and 47 VSMs, and the installation of 4 pipelines, power, and fiber from GMT1 to GMT2. 8.71 miles of 20", 14", 8", and 6" pipeline from GMT1 to GMT2 will be installed. The pipeline will be installed on existing VSMs.

AFC/NANUQ has built and maintained ice roads across the field including those for the GMT-2 Pipeline Project and Alpine Resupply ice road.

~Jeremy Holan, Business Representative (Fairbanks / North Pole)~

Redi Mix in Fairbanks: We are currently starting negotiations with FS&G Redi Mix, H.C Redi Mix, and University Redi Mix. The current CBA's expire between March 2021 and July 2021. The negotiation committees will be meeting with each of the employers in hopes to have the new contracts in place before the concrete season begins.

School Busing: Fairbanks School Busing is going through some major changes. Durham School Bus Services was awarded the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District contract. We have been working with our members, making sure they get their applications in to the new bus contractor. Negotiations with Durham will start as soon as possible.

The negotiation process with First Student—Ketchikan starts soon as well. This will be Ketchikan's second time at the negotiations table. The Union is setting up pre-negotiation meetings with the group and coordinating negotiation dates with the Company.

April 1, 2021, we should know if First Student will be maintaining the Healy School District Contract. Once we find out, pre-negotiation meetings will be set with the bargaining unit and dates set with the Company.

White Mountain Beverage: We recently learned White Mountain Beverages dba K&L Distributors is being sold, it's still early in this process. Unexpected negotiations will take place with the new employer as soon as there's more information. Justin Lavatai was assigned as a Shop Steward in February. He also participated in the Shop Steward training class held on February 13, 2021.

UPS: Tony Higbee was assigned as a Shop Steward this past February. He participated in the Shop Steward training class held on February 13, 2021. Jeremy Espinosa, a senior UPS driver, also participated in the Shop Steward training as a guest to learn more about the role shop stewards have with Local 959.

Alaska Rail Road Corporation: Lengthy negotiations which were hindered by COVID-19 travel and group meeting restrictions were finally completed this past January. Our members across the state ratified the tentative agreement over 87%.

~Terri Quinlan, Business Representative (Anchorage / JBER)~

I am sure I am not alone when I say I have spent a lot of time discussing COVID issues during the past year. The contracts I represent are mostly communication based and the employees are considered essential workers. Though I haven't been able to spend much time interacting one on one with the members because of COVID, I am proud to say the members have diligently kept working and adapted to the daily changes made because of COVID. All essential workers deserve a pat on the back. Because many of our members travel frequently, we worked on issues related to the travel mandates. We also drafted agreements between the Union and the Company related to COVID. Although there were COVID related grievances filed, we were able to find resolutions to the problems prior to arbitrating. It's been an interesting year here at the Hall!

~Yolandous Williams, Business Representative (Anchorage / Wasilla)~

Republic Parking: Due to COVID-19, we had nine members laid-off in the Airport operation. The remaining twelve members are doing a great job. We will be working on a new contract with the Company which ends November 30, 2021.

MV Transport: The Company had a reduction of 65% of their business due to COVID-19. We went from 77 to 40 members during the past year. Discussions with the Company on the contract will begin soon, which expires June 30, 2021. Normal operations have not yet resumed but the volume of work is slowly starting to rise.

UPS: This past year has been very busy in the face of COVID-19—150+ new employees were hired and given new hire orientations, 600+ part-time and full-time employees continue to cover the Anchorage—Wasilla area, and 200+ grievances were filed on behalf of our members. UPS has announced that our Gateway is scheduled to double in size over the next two years and there is also a new Gateway General Manager and management team. We are working hard during this transition to make sure our members are successful.

~Jace Digel, Chief of Staff / Business Representative (Anchorage / Kodiak)~

AMEA is currently in negotiations for a wage opener. Genevieve Cook and Alison Horn are leading the negotiation team to reach an agreement.

Big Dreams Transport continues to grow now making runs out of Washington state to Alaska three times a week. Big dreams is going on it's 5th year as an owner-operator agreement with Teamsters Local 959.

🌟 Congratulations to Freddy Sifuentes for all his accomplishments 🌟

~Norm Blair, Business Representative (Kenai / Kodiak)~

The Covid-19 crisis hit Kodiak pretty bad, marking the Island the 15th most infectious city in the nation at one time last year. Fortunately, all of our members stayed working and employment was only minimally affected. We had a handful of people who were infected with Covid

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BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS (CONT.)

UPDATES—STATEWIDE (CONT.)

~Norm Blair, Business Representative (Kenai / Kodiak) (cont.)~

and were able to take advantage of the FFCRA leave. All of the companies in our bargaining units were very understanding and accommodated the workers in such situations.

I can't believe it's already time to start negotiations with **Choctaw Defense Services (CDS)**. We're looking to start the process this summer and hopefully have it ratified by December 2021. Recently, the Dept. of Labor awarded our CDS members back pay for misclassification of labor as well as shorted OT.

Brechan Construction worked last summer until October, hauling rock for the new barge dock for Lynden. They're currently closed for the season and we are waiting to see what 2021 brings for construction work on Kodiak Island.

Casillas Partners LLC is the new contractor awarded the Commissary support contract at the Coast Guard base on Kodiak (previously held by Trusted Hand Service, Inc.). We are currently in negotiations for a three year contract.

UPS workers deserve a big handshake and a word of gratitude. These hard working members were on the front lines of the pandemic delivering packages to ensure timely arrivals of goods to our doors. At one time, UPS saw a 40% increase in package count nationwide and, of course, the increase package numbers trickles down to our local guys. They didn't get any extra pay or extra benefits, just lots and lots of overtime and some drivers worked a grueling 60+ hours/week, week after week after week. So, when you see that Teamster in brown just remember, they're one of many hero's we call essential service employees.

December 6, 2020, **Matson Navigation of Alaska** group in Kodiak sadly lost one of our long time members and he will be sorely missed by all his co-workers and friends. Brian Gregory was a long time Teamster and a good friend. Forever our brother.

The Matson Maintenance contract was ratified this past June and we feel pretty good with the outcome.

Lynden Transport, Inc.—Kenai has slowed down a bit but our members kept working through the Covid crisis.

Weaver Bros., Inc.—Kenai is steaming along. We agreed on a one year contract to get over the Covid hurdle. We will meet again and negotiate the contract this summer.

I would like to use this space to thank all the members I represent. I would also like to say a big, huge *Thank You* to all the Stewards out there. I know what it's like to be in your shoes and understand the challenges you face daily as Stewards. The job can be emotionally rewarding and at the same time very thankless. In this role you can be a hero or a zero and some members will have no problem letting you know which. You see, without you Stewards doing what you do in the field, we could not do what we do. You are the first responders to members' crisis, the defender against disciplinary actions, a shield against contract violations, fielder of questions/concerns or just an ear to yell at and maybe a much needed friend. At the end of the day, you make the process much easier and help make the workplace just that much better. ✨Keep up the good work and please, know you are much appreciated ✨

~Stevenson Polintan, Business Representative (Anchorage)~

Lynden Transport: On July 17, 2020, Teamsters working under City Driver and Linehaul contracts ratified 4 year statewide agreements. Benefits include a 7% overall increase in wages, continued pension contributions, and health care. Thank you to the negotiation team members—Steven Dinkins, William Hess, Joe Wiedman and Cole Sterner.

United Freight: The Collective Bargaining Agreement was ratified on August 18, 2020, and fully executed on September 1, 2020. It is a 4 year agreement from July 1, 2020—June 30, 2024. There were substantial changes to the pay steps that gave employees an annual anniversary increase in addition to a calendar year increase. Pay Increases are as following:

July 1, 2020	\$0.35/hour
July 1, 2021	\$0.70/hour
July 1, 2022/23	\$0.35/hour

Double pay on Sunday went from the beginning of fourth year employment to third year employment. Vacation Accrual of 174 hours per year at the completion of 15 years of service is now at the completion of 10 years of service, with continued pension contributions and health care. Thank you to the negotiation team members—Ray Fine, Jeff Freeman, and Vince Cruz.

~LyDette Kieffer, Business Representative (Homer)~

At **South Peninsula Hospital**, we survived the first six months after our Chief Shop Steward, Maria Soto, retired. We appointed a new Chief, Katie Watson, who has been at the hospital for over ten years and has served as a steward for many of those years. To fill the space left by Maria, we were fortunate to have Holley Hightower return to Homer and step back into the steward position quite nicely! We continue to work through this year and look forward to returning to "normal" times soon.

In spite of the snowy weather, COVID-19 and all the social distancing, we have managed to stay busy with members and Shop Stewards. There is much concern about the ongoing situation from the pandemic although none of our members here have been laid off or lost their jobs over the past year. We have worked together to come up with creative staffing and accommodations for the folks who are at a higher risk. COVID-19 vaccines have been made available to all staff involved with patient care.

~Derek Musto, Business Representative (Anchorage / Wasilla)~

Alaska Railroad Corporation: In January 2021 our bargaining committee completed a lengthy negotiation process and ratified a new three year agreement. Negotiations were significantly hindered by the COVID-19 pandemic and created new challenges in communicating with our members due to the limitation of travel and group meeting restrictions. The Alaska Railroad is a state-wide agreement with members across the state working along the rail belt from Fairbanks to Anchorage as well as other locations like Whittier and Seward.

ASD: In January of 2021 I began representing our membership in three new contracts with the Anchorage School District (Food Service, Warehouse and Maintenance and Bus Drivers and Attendants). Since then I have been out meeting members all over the municipality and getting ready to renegotiate two new contracts. Locations are broke down into three groups: Food Service who are cafeteria

(continued on page 10)

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS (CONT.)

UPDATES—STATEWIDE (CONT.)

~Derek Musto, Business Representative (Anchorage / Wasilla) (cont.)~

workers that stock, prep, cook, serve and sometimes deliver food and meals at over 80 locations in schools of all sizes from Girdwood to Birchwood. Our Food Service members are also responsible for work in the general food service warehouse and central kitchen where many meals are prepped, cooked and received. Warehouse and Maintenance technicians work multiple shifts and can be found supporting all of the District's parking lots, buildings and property so most likely you have seen them and didn't even know it. Our Members under this contract maintain our auditoriums, AV equipment, electronics, automotive and vehicle fleet, heavy equipment, and playground equipment. Many more Teamsters work in the general warehouse, Student Nutrition, the mechanical department, drive trucks and loaders, and do work in a number of other classifications and work units. And, last, but not least, our School Bus Drivers and Attendants that are responsible for transporting our most precious cargo every day and transport our children to and from school. 2021 will be a busy year at ASD as we are currently getting ready to go into contract negotiations with both Food Service and School Bus. Assorted through this page are some of our members that I've encountered in my many bargaining unit visits.

First Student: The last year Covid-19 has been hard on our economy and like many other industries our members were significantly impacted. It is not uncommon for employees in the school bus industry to use unemployment benefits for school breaks and summer months so when schools started shutting down it was all hands on deck to represent our members and work to keep them paid and informed of the continual changes and limited options in their industry. Local 959 lobbied our elected officials, testified at school board meetings and secured 4 hours of pay each day for our Mat-Su First Student members while schools were shut down and employees were unable to work due to pupil transportation not being required. These efforts continued by Teamster officials all over the state for our membership outside of the Mat-Su, unfortunately, our efforts were not successful in other areas. This benefit in Mat-Su helped bargaining unit members maintain future unemployment benefits and addressed immediate financial needs for many at a time most people were out of work. Over the last year Local 959 representatives have worked to maintain communication with our school bus members and continue dialog with both school bus contractors and our elected officials to improve members safety, pay and working conditions.

~Thor Brown, Business Representative (Anchorage / JBER / King Salmon)~

K&L Distributors has been sold to a company owned by Junior Bridgeman. Mr. Bridgeman is a former NBA player and business owner in the lower 48. The new company will be bridging our current agreement and no jobs will be lost. We look forward to working with our new partner in the future.

~ A Message from Mike Littlefield, North Slope Shop Steward ~

"The '20-'21 winter construction season has been challenging. The mask mandates and social distancing requirements have made the North Slope work even more difficult than normal. Working for Houston Contracting as a Teamster Shop Steward on the ConocoPhillips GMT-2 project has enabled me to represent my fellow Teamster union members in contract, jurisdictional, and even conflict resolution issues. I have worked with new apprentices along with long time journeymen alike, proudly representing our union and membership."



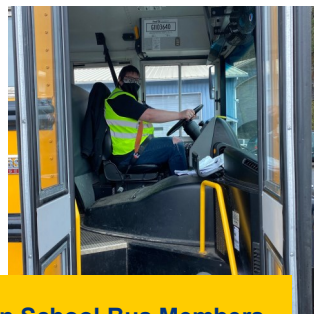
Mike Littlefield
Shop Steward
ASRC ES Houston



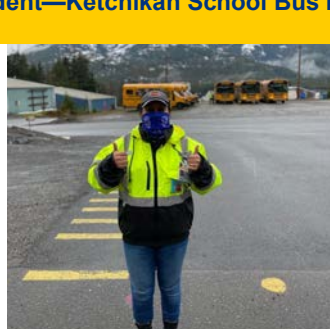
Pratya Yordsripeng
Bus Driver
ASRC ES Houston



Tamara Thompson
Bus Driver
ASRC ES Houston



First Student—Ketchikan School Bus Members



United Parcel Service, Inc.—Ketchikan

MEMBERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Anchorage School District

We'd like to give many THANKS to all the wonderful workers with the Anchorage School District (ASD)! From Food Service to Warehouse & Maintenance, and Bus Drivers & Attendants, thank you for all you do for our ASD students!

- 👉 Preparing & Serving Nutritional Meals
- 👉 Monitoring Student Bus Safety
- 👉 Delivering Supplies/Services to Schools
- 👉 Health & Safety of School Facilities
- 👉 Transportation of ASD Students
- 👉 AND SO MUCH MORE!!!

🌟 THANK YOU 🌟



**Clark Middle School
Food Service**



West High School Food Service



**East High School
Food Service**



Central Middle School Food Service



**Romig Junior High School
Food Service**



**Leah Borneman,
Cafeteria Manager
Williwaw Elementary**



**Don Williams
Chief Technician Lead
Warehouse &
Maintenance**

Thank You.



**Jim Rodgers—Shop Steward
ASD Bus Driver**



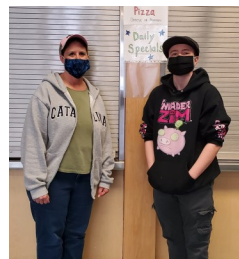
**Jane Romanchuk &
Roxanne Bullock
Chinook Elementary**



**Ken Taylor
"Master of Keys"
ASD Lock Shop**



**Danny Gaines
Material Control
Warehouse &
Maintenance**



**Debra Mardis &
Brittany Helmso
Chugiak High School**



**Vanessa Debrill
Cafeteria Manager
Rogers Park Elementary**



**Carpentry Shop
Warehouse &
Maintenance**



**Creekside Elementary
Food Service**

ALASKA TEAMSTER-EMPLOYER SERVICE TRAINING TRUST

WWW.AKTEAMSTERSTRAINING.COM

Training Trust News

2021 Construction Driver & Freight Transport Driver Apprenticeship Opening

The Training Trust will begin recruiting for eligible applicants for these two apprenticeship programs beginning April 9, 2021. Construction Truck Drivers work primarily on the North Slope, Trans-Alaska Pipeline, and local highway construction. Freight Transport Drivers, also known as a City Driver/Town Hostler, work in the Anchorage freight industry. There will be a 30-day opening to obtain the application starting April 9 and a two-week period only from May 10 - 21 to submit a qualified application. If you know someone who'd make an excellent Teamster in these industries, please refer them to our website: www.akteamsterstraining.com/apprenticeship



All the information regarding minimum qualifications, expectations and specifics about the apprenticeship programs can be found on our website along with the application process. Additionally, our apprenticeship outreach partner, Alaska Works Partnership (AWP), is recruiting for the 2-week Women-in-the-Trades pre-apprenticeship program, to be held in Anchorage June 7-18, 2021. This is an incredible opportunity for women interested in the Construction Truck Driver Apprenticeship to get a hands-on introduction. AWP also hosts Alaska's Helmets to Hardhats program for military veterans. Graduates from both programs have potential direct entry to apprenticeship. To apply, please contact Joanna Makar Jardin at (907) 569-4727 or visit AWP's website at: www.alaskaworks.org

Training Trust Course Schedule

Alaska Teamster-Employer Service Training Trust (ATESTT) is a multi-employer collectively bargained plan that provides training to its eligible plan participants.

Eligibility: To be eligible for training through the ATESTT you must be a current Teamsters Local 959 member who is or has worked for an ATESTT contributing employer for at least 400 hours or more within any five-month period within the previous 24 months. To determine your eligibility, you must obtain your Work History from the Local 959 Dispatch Hall and provide it to the Training Trust when inquiring. *Note: Not all Teamster employer contracts contribute to ATESTT.*

To continue to meet the CDC, State of Alaska, and local requirements; the Training Trust is conducting our regular training programs in smaller

groups. We also conduct individual training programs as needed by appointment. Because classes may need to be rescheduled on short notice, we do not have a published schedule at this time. However, to receive schedule updates, please go to our website: www.akteamsterstraining.com and select the blue Teamster Member Training button. At the bottom of that page, you can register to receive email notifications. If you need training that is not announced, please email us at ATESTT@acsalaska.net and we will do our best to get you scheduled as quickly as possible.



NOW HIRING

ATESTT IS HIRING INSTRUCTORS FOR FAIRBANKS

The Training Trust is seeking two full-time instructors for the Fairbanks location. To find out more about joining our Team, please visit Local 959's Job Board at: <https://akteamsters.com/training-coordinator-truck-driving/>

DOT NEW DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REGULATION COMMERCIAL DRIVER & PERMIT HOLDER'S ALERT

~ A message from the Training Trust ~

Have you registered for the FMCSA Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse? It is a Federal mandatory requirement whether you have a **CDL Permit or a CDL** required by **January 6, 2020**. **Any newly permitted or licensed drivers since 1/6/20 must register.** Regardless of your employment status, you are required to register. If you've already registered, no further action is required. You must register as a Driver or you may be subject to fines. Employers are obligated to conduct pre-employment and annual queries on their drivers. Training providers, prior to performing safety-sensitive functions including training or skills testing, or upgrading a CDL, are also required to register. We are required to query the Clearinghouse to determine drug and alcohol program violation information for any commercial permit holder or licensed commercial driver PRIOR to attending ANY commercial driving courses.

Find instructions on registering at:

<https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov/Resource/Index/Registration-Driver-Instructions>

After reviewing the instructions, register here:

<https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov/Register>

At this time, we do not need any additional information from you. We will review your status with compliance when we have training or testing available for you.

Drug Testing Requirements for CDL & CLP Holders

Per FMCSA regulations, the Training Trust and its subsidiary, CEE, are required to conduct DOT Drug Testing for all individuals attending any commercial driver training or testing. What this means for you:

- ◆ Prior to attending ANY driver program, you must be registered in the FMCSA Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse if you hold a CDL or CDL Permit (CLP)
- ◆ The Training Trust is obligated and must conduct a query in the Clearinghouse prior to attendance.
- ◆ Prior to attending training or skills testing, we will create a referral form and provide you the DOT Drug Screen testing appointment.
- ◆ Once we receive the Negative Test Results; then driver training and/or testing appointments can be made.

~ Meet the Apprentices ~



Murjani Hott

"Joining the apprenticeship program was one of the best decision's I have made regarding my future and my family's. Everyday I'm meeting some amazing people and have learned so many new skills that will last a lifetime."

Warren Erickson

"The apprenticeship was definitely a life changer. It allowed me to travel the great state of Alaska, from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez and everywhere in between. Doing and seeing things I would have never imagined before, also meeting great people along the way. It also gave me a life skill, self-confidence and a career."



Donovan White

"I love how the apprentice program gets us out on the jobs and the job experience we need to become successful, to put a good name out for us and the Hall, being able to work one on one with the Journey Workers who have done this for a long time and soak up their knowledge. The apprenticeship program has put me in a spot in life I wouldn't think I would be in so soon, working awesome jobs and being financially stable. I can't wait to continue this journey, see what this summer has in store for me."



Nicole Knight

"The surveyor apprenticeship has given me a lot of practical and unique opportunities, and I am thankful that I have genuinely enjoyed the work and people in the various projects that I have been assigned to. While getting on-the-job training, the program has given me a chance to progress towards a successful career in surveying. I have learned a huge amount whilst working with amazing mentors and colleagues in the beautiful outdoors of Alaska."

#APPRENTICESHIP



Jaime Darnell

"I haven't had more fun on a job site until I started my apprenticeship. There is so many opportunities to learn new skills that I wouldn't have gotten otherwise. The apprenticeship has given me a chance to earn my place in a male driven career, I wouldn't want to be anywhere else. It has given me the chance to become successful at a trade at a young age and get my career rolling. I wake up happy to go to work every morning. I will **definitely** be a Teamster for life."



Colin Whalen

"I like the apprenticeship because they have all the resources and equipment to thoroughly train and prepare me for work and life on the slope. Its given me a whole new level of skill in my driving career."

Paul Kama

"I'm currently in my second phase of my apprenticeship with the Local 959 Teamsters Construction Truck Driving portion. I came into the program looking to make this my career as construction truck driver. So far, I've had the best experience of my life working with a bunch of great tradesmen from all around Alaska and the lower 48. Some of whom have took me under their wings and have bestowed the knowledge they have gained throughout their time working in the industry. So far, in my short year and half I've been blessed to help build ice roads, put in gravel roads and even hauled rocks on the Haul road. This program has done a lot for me by giving me a platform to make a comfortable living for my family and I look forward to what's to come as I approach my hours to journeying out. Hoorah!"



CELEBRATING RETIREES

Congratulations to the following members for their years of service and on a retirement well-deserved!!!

December 2020

Victor K Luang
Joseph R Riendl
Nancy A Russell
John Gillam
Paul Sarkis
John Eberhart
Caleb F Aldeman

United Parcel Service
Matson Navigation Co
Doyon Aramark Denali
Sourdough Fuel
Weaver Bros
Teamsters Local 959
Anchorage Sand & Gravel

February 2021

David Schuckman
Michael Delaney
Eileen S Leslie

Merrick Management
United Parcel Service
Sea Star Stevedore Inc.

January 2021

Marvin Huske
Randy Spoonemore
Jeffrey L Freeman
Scott G Thompson
Harold Richardson
Neina McCune
Leo R Haag
Edward C Quinlan
Todd Youngs
Lance Myers

Matson Navigation
Norcon Inc
United Freight & Transport
Matson Navigation
Nanuq Inc.
Doyon/Aramark Denali
Sea Star Stevedore Inc.
Nanuq Inc.
Sea Star Stevedore Inc.
AIC LLC



CELEBRATING MILESTONES

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

December 2020

Lyle Stratton 35

January 2021

Kenneth Lewis 40
Frederick Johns 45
Ronald Eckley 50

February 2021

Mark Spohn 40
Alfonso Palma 40

For the latest information on events, meetings, Local 959 news, and more, please follow us—like us—and subscribe!

- ◆ Facebook.com/TeamstersUnionLocal959
- ◆ Instagram.com/alaskateamsters
- ◆ On YouTube, search *Teamsters Local 959* and subscribe to our channel
- ◆ Opt-In for Text Notifications—text TEAMSTERS to 1-833-300-4888



IBT 2021 CONVENTION

Local Union 959 nomination meetings were conducted on February 9, 2021 in Fairbanks, and February 11, 2021 in Anchorage, to nominate candidates for Delegate and Alternate Delegate to the 30th International Convention of the IBT to be held in Las Vegas, NV. In addition, Local 959 received written nominations, seconds, and acceptances for Delegate and Alternate Delegate positions. 6 Delegates and 2 Alternate Delegates are to be elected. The following candidates were nominated:

DELEGATES:

Gary Dixon
Eileen Whitmer
Yolandous Williams
Jace Digel
Derek Musto
Norman Blair

ALTERNATE DELEGATES:

Kirk Johnson
Robert Tarkington

IN MEMORY ♥ DECEASED BROTHERS & SISTERS

August 2020

Robert Isham Alascom

September 2020

Joseph Velarde Brechan Construction
Donald Singleton Kodiak Oil Field Haulers
Donald Murphy Wilder Construction

October 2020

Charles Castona Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc.
Thomas McHugh United Parcel Service

November 2020

Arnold Turner Jr Elmendorf Support Svs
Marion Deyoung Eastwind Inc
Donald Evans H&H Contractors Inc
Merritt Dunsmore North Star Terminal & Stevedore
Lloyd Gunderson S&G Construction
& World Equip JV

Lester McConnell Alaska Interior Transport
Patrick Boettger Longshore

December 2020

Robert New Mukluk Freight Lines
John Covey Kiewit Infrastructure
Don Olson Doyles Fuel Service
Brian Gregory Matson Navigation Co.
Norma Beeman Martin Marietta Operation
Robert Robinson JB Gottstein & Company
James Smyers Anchorage Sand & Gravel
Ed Rose Golden Valley
Electric Association
Longshore

Kim Chiodo
Lester McConnell
Marian Michlig
Dana Henry
Glenn Reed
Jesse Israel
Donnie Turner
Keith Holder
Bruce Jeffrey

January 2021

Byron Peterson
James Sandin
Nida Nelson
Frank Chavez
Larry Harvey
Gordon Souza
Jack Trowbridge
Rickie Hildebrand
John Walker
Jimmie Gibson
Lawrence Taylor

February 2021

William Orr
Carol Smith
Beverly Baker
Michael Clark
Alfred Cook
Elmer Workes
Ferris Fisher

QAP

Alaska Interior Transport
Alaska Distributors
Nanuq
Southeast Stevedoring
PMC/Frontec
Municipality of Anchorage
Alascom
Lynden Transport

Norcon, Inc
Matson Navigation Co
Anchorage School District
Norcon, Inc
Alascom PTI
AT&T Alaska
Matanuska Maid Inc.
Longshore
Alascom
Weaver Bros
Wien Air Alaska

Slana Surveys Inc.
Wien Air Alaska
Alascom
K&L Distributors
Lockheed Martin
Kodiak Oil Field Haulers
Quality Asphalt Paving



*Brother Mark Johnson
August 1, 1943—March 21, 2021
Forever in our Hearts*



*Brother Brian Gregory
October 9, 1968—December 6, 2020
Rest In Peace*



Teamsters Local 959
State of Alaska
Affiliated with the International
Brotherhood of Teamsters
520 E. 34th Avenue, Suite 102
Anchorage, AK 99503-4116

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Celebrating 37 Years

Jesse L. Carr Charity Golf Tournament

Jesse L. Carr



**Charity Golf
Tournament**

Mark your calendars for the 37th Annual Jesse L. Carr Charity Golf Tournament

The Jesse L. Carr Charity Golf Tournament provides much needed help to so many of our Alaskan Charities with sponsorships from many of our corporate partners and members like you ♥

We sincerely look forward to celebrating 37 years of this wonderful event and thank you in advance for your continued support and participation.

This year's JLC Golf Tournament is set for Friday, July 16, 2021, at the Anchorage Golf Course. We are looking forward to having a full-access tournament with a 7 AM shotgun start 🏏

For assistance with sponsorships, signing up to play, or if you have any questions please contact the JLC Tournament Coordinator, Jennē Kriner, at (907) 751-8542 or by email jkriner@akteamsters.com.