

Alaska TEAMSTERS



Local 959 Newsletter

April 2024

A Message from Gary Dixon, Secretary-Treasurer

HEALTH & WELFARE UPDATE

In January 2019, when I first became Secretary-Treasurer of Local 959, one of my responsibilities was becoming Chairman of both our Health & Welfare and Pension Trust Boards. While I had been a Trustee on the Pension Board since 2013, the Health & Welfare Board (H&W) was a new challenge.

Once I got started with the operations of the H&W Board, I learned we had about one month's worth of reserves in savings. To be in a healthy position, we needed to be more in line with at least 6 months' worth of reserves and we needed to act fast. So, despite the Board's quarterly meeting schedule, I asked that the H&W Trustees and the plan professionals start meeting more frequently to address issues. In doing so, we started with ideas to help our members lower costs on prescription medications. After interviewing various companies, the Board decided to change our Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM) to AmWins/Elixir. With this new company, there would be reduced costs, changes with mail-order prescription meds that were used for 90 days or more, and changes in how our members would receive their prescriptions by mail.

The AmWins/Elixir program got off to a good start but 3 years into using their services we were hearing complaints from our members about poor customer service and delays in delivering prescriptions via mail. The H&W Board again decided to start the timely process of finding a better PBM. After careful consideration, the Board decided on Costco Health Solutions because of their good reputation and background in the pharmacy medication mail order business, and they were based in Washington state, meaning the mail orders were closer. I know changes to these types of programs are a pain in the ass and trust me, we as a Board do not take that lightly. We prioritized having better service for our membership and in October of 2023, we kicked off our new PBM, Costco Health Solutions. To date, neither I nor the personnel in the H&W Trust department have heard a word of negativity from our members about them.

As part of the ongoing efforts to improve our Plan, I asked the H&W Board and the plan professionals to look at whether our Plan set-up/Plan design was comparable with others and what the future viability of our Plan under the current design was.

The Board and plan professionals are currently working on finding the answers to those questions, but I will give you some insight into what we have found so far. We tasked our plan professionals with researching data on a comparison with a Teamster Plan in Washington state, a Plan with about 20,000 members who are actively participating in the Plan. It's a much larger Plan than ours, but we wanted to get a perspective on the cost differences.

The results of the comparison research showed that healthcare costs in Alaska significantly outweigh those in Washington state. Utilizing actuarial geographic factors for large groups released from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services showed Alaska's healthcare costs are estimated to be 40-60% more expensive than Washington state (dependent on the range of specific areas being compared in both Alaska and Washington). The data also showed a lower cost of insurance for those members of the Washington Teamster Plan. So, I asked the question, "What about a Plan merger between the Alaska Teamsters Plan and the Washington Teamsters Plan?" Mind you, I like having our Plan, but I know you must ask those tough questions if you are going to go through the process of finding the best solutions for the membership. In asking this, I was hoping to find a sort of *(continued on pg. 2)*



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(continued from page 1) discount on the price of healthcare if a merger could or did happen (which would be down the road pretty far, even if both Boards agreed). The answer we got was there would be “no discount” and we would be paying our way with the costs we currently have. You may be asking yourself, “Then why bring this up?” The answer is I wanted the membership to know what the H&W Board has been working on and that we are constantly looking for better services and costs for our members. In a state that ranks in the top 5 in the U.S. with high healthcare costs, we must always be looking at our Plan design to see how we can improve.

In 2023, we also changed our H&W investment manager from a long-time company to Alan Biller and Associates. They are the same company that took over as the new investment manager of our Pension Plan.

On a positive note, as of writing this article, the H&W Trust now has 8 months’ worth of reserves. As Chairman of the H&W Board, I wanted the members to know the work this Board has been doing for them and what we are working on for our future.

PENSION SPECIAL FINANCE ASSISTANCE UPDATE

When the plan Actuary first informed the Pension Board Trustees that the plan had qualified for Special Finance Assistance (SFA), we were told that we were at #62 on the list to submit our application to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC). Since then, the PBGC seems to be moving through the applications ahead of our plan, rather slowly. Part of the problem is in the PBGC regulations, if they accept an application, the PBGC has 120 days to process the application or if it goes over the 120-day mark, then that plan’s application is accepted the way the Actuary of that plan came up with the numbers it submitted for assistance. You can see why the PBGC is moving slowly to make sure they have the time to decide before the 120 days runs out. Once the plan is approved by the PBGC, they will disperse the money within 60 days to the plan.

The Pension Plans ahead of us on the list are plans that fall under these categories:

- 1) Already insolvent or projected to become insolvent before 3/11/2022.
- 2) Plans that have suspended benefits under the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act legislation rules.
- 3) Plans that are in critical and declining status with greater than 350,000 participants.
- 4) Plans that were projected to be insolvent before 3/11/2023.
- 5) Plans that were projected to become insolvent by 3/11/2026.
- 6) Plans that present the value of financial assistance in excess of \$1 billion.

The Alaska Teamsters-Employer Pension Plan is none of these and ended up in the group of plans that needed to request a spot on the waiting list. Our plan was placed #62 on the waiting list (out of 112 waiting list plans). As of our last Pension Board meeting on February 29, 2024, our plan now sits at number 48 on the list of applicants waiting for their number to be called. The PBGC has acknowledged that it is taking longer than expected to get through some of these bigger pension plan applications. They are looking to hire more personnel to help move this process along. Part of the problem is some of these big plans have had to resubmit their numbers to the PBGC and that has taken some time to deal with. We are hoping that once these bigger plans are through the process, the pace of accepting and processing the applications will pick up. Something to note, no plan has been denied SFA money in this process.

Once our plan application is accepted, our Actuary has estimated that we will be projected to receive between \$200 to \$215 million in assistance. The SFA funding is a grant, not a loan, and will put the Pension Plan in a much better financial position for the future. The PBGC has rules to follow when plans take the Special Finance Assistance. There are many but here are a few of the big hitters within the guidelines:

- ♦ SFA money must be invested conservatively with the majority invested in bonds with a limit on the percentage of equity investments.
- ♦ The Plan must be certified as a critical status plan until 2051, even if the Plan’s financial results would dictate otherwise.
- ♦ How future improvements are allowed after 10 years of receiving SFA money:
 - retroactive and prospective benefit improvements permitted after 10 years of accepting the SFA money (i.e. returning of pension supplemental monies, raising the accrual rate)
 - with the PBGC approval, if plans can demonstrate it will avoid insolvency.

We will continue to keep you up to date on the Plan’s progress toward getting its SFA application submitted and approved.

~ Gary Dixon

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

POLITICAL REPORT

By Political Coordinator Patrick FitzGerald



U.S. SENATOR for ALASKA

DAN SULLIVAN

Gary: Thanks for all your great work for Alaska! Look forward to beers soon! Dan

Musto attended the AFL-CIO Juneau conference this past January to move legislation that would greatly benefit our membership and talk with lawmakers about the priorities and concerns of our bargaining units across the state.

Two pieces of legislation are at the top of the list and are moving forward through the legislature:

House Bill 88—Warehouse Worker Protection Act (Warehouse Work Quotas)

House Bill 88 has moved through House Labor & Commerce, and Judiciary committees with strong support from Democrats and Republicans. The legislation will allow for workers who are monitored by work speed data (quotas) to have access to their work speed and allow for more transparency between the worker and their employer when discussing workplace conditions in warehouses.

House Bill 179—Employee Free Speech Act (Employee Rights, Employer Speech)

House Bill 179 had its first hearing and will most likely run out of time before the legislature adjourns to be passed into law. The bill sponsor, Representative Stanley Wright (R) has been a champion of the legislation and provided strong information as to the necessity of the bill and will continue to fight for Teamsters across Alaska.

Campaigns and Volunteer Spotlight:

When Teamsters vote, workers win! In the world of political action, there is no off-season. Between federal, state, and local elections there is a lot to keep up with and stay busy. We want to give a special shout-out to volunteers who support strong union values and get involved in the election cycle this year.



Patrick FitzGerald is the Political Coordinator for Teamsters Local 959 and the Business Representative for Alaska Independent Voter Education—A.L.I.V.E.

If you have questions about elections, voting, Local 959 endorsed candidates, the A.L.I.V.E. Fall Raffle Drawing, or anything politically-related, please contact Patrick at pfitzgerald@akteamsters.com or 907-751-8548.

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

Secretary-Treasurer Gary Dixon traveled to Washington DC to advocate for funding for Teamsters Local 959 priority issues which include the Port of Alaska restoration project, continued development on the North Slope Willow and Pikka projects, and to advocate against the Kroger-Albertsons merger. Alaska's federal delegation supported our priorities and has been championing those issues in Washington DC.

To learn more about the Alaska Congressional Delegation, please visit:

www.alaska.gov/CongressDelegation.html

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Political Coordinator Patrick FitzGerald, Business Representative Antwon Dungey, and Organizer Derek



Teamsters Local 959 staff and Teamsters from Anchorage School District doing political outreach to other labor members for the Anchorage Mayor's race.

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

UPDATES—STATEWIDE

~Antwon Dungey, Business Representative~

NORTH SLOPE This winter has been a remarkably busy season for our members working on the North Slope, with multiple contractors battling the environment, weather, and travel challenges unique to the area. Overall, it has been a pleasure visiting all the Teamster Brothers and Sisters.

SUMMER CONSTRUCTION Summer construction is just around the corner with a few contractors beginning to mobilize preparing for the unprecedented number of projects beginning in every corner of the state. For those of us who are following the project award status for construction, you may have seen the headlines about the State Transportation Improvement Plan having difficulties being approved. We have been tracking the progress and are hopeful the issues have been corrected. This should not affect our project but stresses the importance of institutional knowledge and passing it on to the next generation. As members prepare to work summertime construction, this is a great time to verify expiration dates, update your certifications, and look at the courses offered in the Alaska Teamster-Employer Service Training Trust. We are here to help our members to be well-versed and offer industry training relevant to our craft for more work opportunities.

Be safe and have a wonderful start to your summer as we gain more daylight and begin to venture more outdoors.

~Jeremy Holan, Business Representative~

FAIRBANKS JOINT CRAFTS COUNCIL(FJCC)—INDYNE During negotiations, the Company proposed language to remove multiple Union's from their pension. The FJCC rejected this proposed concept but the Company continued to make many different proposals and attempts to remove the Union members from their pensions including offering a decent amount of money going to a signing bonus, and other financial increases. The FJCC Negotiations Committee continued to stand its ground and rejected the Company's proposal and concept to stop pension contributions.

The FJCC Negotiation committee rallied the support of the entire multi-craft bargaining unit by conducting negotiation update meetings and eventually taking a strike authorization vote which was conducted in December of 2023. Many bargaining unit members participated in the strike authorization vote which ultimately gave the FJCC authorization to call a strike (if need be) by a 100% yes vote. This helped the FJCC Negotiation Committee reach a Tentative Agreement that had many improvements for the bargaining unit.



Left to right: InDyne Negotiations Committee Eileen Whitmer, Darrol Wilcox, Michele Nelson, Gary Wengert, & Steven Havens

The Tentative Agreement reached maintained the pension contributions for many Union members just before the December Holidays and was ratified at the beginning of January 2024.

~Thor Brown, Business Representative~



Left to right: Lynden Transport Brothers Rhommel Solis, Nou Keochoumsy, & Derrik Longerbone are our Girl Scout cookie freight delivery guys 🍪

For anyone who has been around Anchorage for a long time, we know pretty much everything is seasonal. Drivers this year, however, have not experienced a slowdown. This year's winter work on the North Slope has kept everything moving at full steam. Line haul driving has been exceptional this year and we have been actively seeking experienced drivers from all over the US. Flatbeds full of pipe fill every yard from Seward to Prudhoe Bay. Supplies of all kinds are heading North along with the normal increase that happens each year for construction in Anchorage. This kind of atmosphere is good for Teamsters and we will continue to push hard for higher wages and better benefits for our members.

This is a good time to be bargaining and we will be doing lots of it. United Freight & Transport, RNDC (formally K&L Distributors), Matson Navigation (mechanics), and the TOTE Maritime office group will all be exercising their rights to bargain this summer. If you see any of these essential workers making deliveries, filling coolers with beer, fixing equipment, or making sure freight gets delivered let them know you're on their side. Solidarity with other workers lifts morale and leads to stronger positions in negotiations. Even though we're not all in negotiations, we are all Teamsters!

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE REPORT (CONT.)

UPDATES—STATEWIDE

~Norm Blair, Business Representative~

It's been a busy winter negotiating contracts, filing grievances, representing our members, and ensuring the managers are adhering to agreements, treating us fairly, and ensuring the workplace is safe. I still have a few more negotiations coming up this spring and summer as well as grievance hearings.



Catholic Community Services—Juneau

CRJ MANAGEMENT SERVICES—Kodiak Commissary workers ratified their new contract this past February with increases in their wages, Health & Welfare, Pension, sick days, and holidays.

MATSON NAVIGATION—Kodiak The Matson Maintenance agreement will expire this June and I will be sitting next to my good friend and Business Representative Thor Brown to bargain for another exceptional agreement.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES—Juneau

Their agreement will also expire at the end of this June and the company has agreed to meet in April to start negotiations.

Hands down the best drivers in town, these Teamster drivers from Catholic Community Services will get you to your destination safely and on time. Pictured Left to right: Emmanuel Dela Cruz (Dispatch), August Williams (Dispatch), Michael Estigoy (Driver), Victor Voit (Shop Steward) and Frances Niuatoa (Driver).

US COAST GUARD BASE OPERATIONS and SUPPORT SERVICE Members at the Kodiak Coast Guard Base (USCG) have been working through contract extensions between the government and the company. They are also currently hiring for an electrician and a plumber—both good jobs with great pay & benefits!

The Shipping & Receiving/Mail Crew at the USCG keep the materials flowing through the Base. This trio can do it all: mail, logistics, freight handling, documentation, HAZMAT, warehousing, and whatever the shipping world throws at them. They make it look so easy! Pictured left to right: Kristoffer Cunanan—Mail Room Clerk 1 / Warehouse Specialist, Patricia Houck—Warehouse Specialist (Leader of the group and 26-year Teamster), and Jemuel Mangalus—Warehouse Specialist.



USCG—Kodiak



Southeast Stevedoring Corp—Skagway

SOUTHEAST STEVEDORING CORP—Skagway

The Teamsters at Southeast Stevedoring Corp., the Longshore and Warehouse variety, are usually the first people tourists will see when they arrive in Skagway. No matter the size of the ship or the job, and no matter the weather they get it done. Pictured left to right: Cory Bricker, Reid Lawson, Savannah Ames, K.C Mayo, Matt O'Boyle, Aaron Rodig, Jim Higgins, and Thomas Cochran (Shop Steward).

UNITED PARCEL SERVICE

Homer, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Sitka

A big shout out to the drivers and the sorters at the above listed satellite stations, they are some of the hardest working Teamsters I know. The same shout-out goes to all the UPS Brothers and Sisters in our Local as well!

PACIFIC & ARCTIC RAILWAY & NAVIGATION CO Skagway

The journeymen at Pacific & Arctic Railway & Navigation are just a few of the many hard-working Skagway Teamsters. This passenger railway operation group put their expert skills and attention to detail to work keeping the trains running smoothly and functioning properly, and maintain the tracks. Pictured left to right: Reid Lawson (22-year Teamster), David Gerlach (Shop Steward), Lars Lawson (25-year Teamster), and Ted Jolley (28-year Teamster).



PARN—Skagway

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE REPORT (CONT.)

UPDATES—STATEWIDE

~Yolandous Williams, Business Representative~

REPUBLIC PARKING Our current contract expires at the end of November 2024. Surveys will be coming out to the work group. Please take the time to review the survey when it comes out and make your comments. We will also have three work sessions in person to discuss what we would like to present at the negotiation table. Watch the Union board at the office for dates and times. It takes all of us to be engaged and voting to get a great new deal!

MV TRANSPORT New drivers are still being added to our work group. Please take the time to welcome them. As the snow is melting at a faster pace, water and puddles are everywhere. Watch for potholes and places where black ice forms. We drive all over the city, let's be careful and follow our methods.

UNITED PARCEL SERVICE—Anchorage New contract books are being finalized with the printers and will soon be made available once they arrive. Training sessions on our new contract have been scheduled with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters for June 2 & 3, 2024. Once finalized, the times and locations of this training will be posted on Union boards throughout the month of May. We hope you come and take advantage of this training. Being prepared and knowing what is in our contract makes us stronger in enforcing what is right. Our UPS Business Representatives do our best to serve our members, so please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you need assistance.



Left to right: UPS members Michael Sepulveda, Tate Wellman, Jason Tangc, Anthony Milo, & Seth Johnson

~Jarrod Tamez, Business Representative~

LYNDEN TRANSPORT, WEAVER BROS., SOURDOUGH FUEL, FREIGHT Despite raising wages aggressively over the last six months, the driver shortage continues. Money is a constant topic of discussion with these employers. It's livable for now, but next season will be interesting, that's for sure.

UNITED PARCEL SERVICE—Fairbanks In addition to Chief Steward Ryan Barile and Steward Tony Higbee, I have appointed three new stewards in Fairbanks, James Proudfoot, Ryan Sloger, and Whitney Page. Congratulate them when you see them and feel free to challenge them with your contract questions.

REPUBLIC NATIONAL DISTRIBUTING COMPANY (RNDC) Negotiations are starting at the end of this April. The company is experiencing challenges with payroll processing. Regrettably, some employees have not been receiving their correct payments on time. Unfortunately, these sort of errors take a lot of time to fix. I urge each of you to double-check your timecards and pay stubs diligently.

REDI MIX Redi-mix season is here again! We've put a lot of people to work this winter on the North Slope and we are hopeful that some of those folks will stick around the interior and work a season at Redi-Mix. It's always been a challenge to fully staff these contracts but this year we are starting to see a bit more excitement over Redi-Mix jobs. Call me if you're interested: Office 907-450-6124, Cell 907-250-7287.

Shop Stewards play a vital role in the representation of our members. A successful Shop Steward must possess several traits, including leadership abilities, good communication skills, and the ability to put aside their own opinions to represent all Teamsters Local 959 represented members professionally and objectively.

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

UNION STEWARD



WORKING CLASS HERO

- ♦ 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 stays current and up to date on Union-wide updates & labor issues.

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.

TEAMSTERS HEALTH & WELFARE AND PENSION FUNDS

TRUST OFFICE TRANSITIONS



Sister Bonnie McCoy

After 39 years working in the Pension Trust, Bonnie McCoy decided it was time to retire.

Bonnie began her journey with the Trust office on June 18, 1984, becoming a second-generation Alaska Teamster following in her father's footsteps. Bonnie processed thousands of Teamster brothers' and sisters' retirements, as far back as when each pension benefit check was hand-typed and manually inserted into envelopes. The knowledge and history Bonnie takes with her into retirement are invaluable! She will be missed by those she worked with in the Trust office and by the many retirees and active members she helped throughout her career.

Leading an impressive career as the Lead Pension Representative, Bonnie exemplified professionalism, integrity, patience, and grace daily. We will miss collaborating with her! Congratulations, Bonnie!

When one door closes, another door opens...Former Trust employee returns!

Second-generation Alaska Teamster Calyssa Britt is back! In 2015, Calyssa had been with the Trust office for six years before leaving to raise a growing family. After seeing the open Pension Representative position on the Local's Job Board page, she decided to apply, and the rest is history! When Calyssa is off the clock and away from the office, she and her husband, Tommy, are raising three children, ages 10 to 2, with some help from her retired Alaska Teamster dad, Joe. Welcome back, Calyssa!



Sister Calyssa Britt

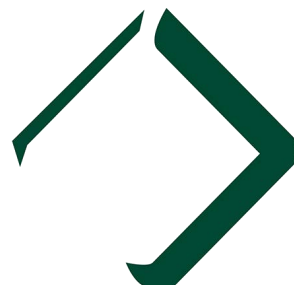
👉 HEALTH AND WELFARE NEWS 👈

BENESYS NOW MOBILE APP

Download the free "**BeneSys Now**" mobile app from the Apple or Google Play Store!

FEATURES INCLUDE:

- ✓ Biometric login using facial recognition or fingerprint
- ✓ User-friendly menu for easy navigation
- ✓ Secure messaging
- ✓ Download frequently requested forms and documents
- ✓ Access to key documents



BeneSys Now App Icon

~ ADDITIONAL BENESYS NOW APP FUNCTIONS ~

ELIGIBILITY & MEDICAL ID CARDS

- ⇒ View dependent enrollment information
- ⇒ Check current Eligibility status, as well as one year of history
- ⇒ Access to an electronic Medical ID card

CLAIMS INFORMATION

- ⇒ Track your family's annual deductibles
- ⇒ Individual accumulator information for each family member
- ⇒ Access 12 months of Explanation of Benefits (EOB)
- ⇒ Twelve (12) months of claims history and payment status

CONTRIBUTIONS

- ⇒ View your last 12 months of contributions

PENSION

- ⇒ See your Defined Benefit summary and pension detail by plan year, including your most recently calculated accrued benefit

***Family members 18 years old and over must register individually.**

**Contact the Health & Welfare
and Pension Offices at
1-800-478-4450**



MEMBERS AROUND



Brother Shane Osgood, Surveyor



Journey Worker Sister Tish Edwins shares her view from Fort Knox Mine



Sister Emily Munns, South Peninsula Hospital



South Peninsula Hospital workers & dedicated others in Homer's 70th Annual Winter Carnival Parade



Sister Christina Nicholas runs her Ahtna Athabascan booth at the Alaskan Teamster Sisters Holiday Bazaar



For the past 7 years, with generous donations from the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alaska, the Alaskan Teamster Sisters have been able to gift family-sized Thanksgiving & Christmas Dinners to those who need a hand-up during the holiday seasons. This Easter, they gifted the Sisters 25 kids baskets to do the same!

We love the communal support this relationship has fostered and look forward to the joy of gifting during these times every year ♥ If you'd like to know more about helping out or if you need help for yourself, please contact Sister Jennē Kriner at 907-751-8542.



MEMBERS ABOUND (CONT.)

Christmas Memories



ALASKA TEAMSTER-EMPLOYER SERVICE TRAINING TRUST

The training center is abuzz with energy and excitement as we transition into Spring! But first, let's recap our activities throughout the winter season:

- The Annual Fairbanks Joint Pipeline Training was a success, with first and second-year apprentices receiving mentorship from third-year apprentice Eddie Chavis Jr. and our dedicated training team.
- Following this, we had three openings for apprenticeship applications, leading to the graduation of eight enthusiastic individuals who completed their CDL and certification courses. Currently, all twelve construction driver apprentices are employed by Price Gregory, AFC/Nanuq, and ASRC-HCC on the North Slope.
- We spent several months updating our apprenticeship programs to align with new national standards before launching a revamped Survey program. This program, now featuring a new name and tailored curriculum from Penn Foster, aims to provide graduates with more industry-relevant material. Three new Survey Technician apprentices have been selected and are gaining hands-on experience on the North Slope.
- Our Construction Truck Driver apprenticeship also underwent a significant change, resulting in a hybrid program that considers the equipment apprentices operate and recognizes their skill development and proficiency. The revised program now requires 3,750 apprenticeable hours, achievable within 2 years.
- These program enhancements are designed to equip aspiring professionals with advanced skills, producing highly skilled journey workers more efficiently to meet the growing needs of our signatory employers.
- Additional Fairbanks Joint Pipeline Training funding was secured post-Pipeline Training to provide advanced training for journey workers in Fairbanks. This training covered essential Stringer Trailer skills needed for work at Price Gregory. In January, all our instructors, led by Director John, were actively involved in Fairbanks, delivering Passenger Bus endorsement training to eleven individuals. This training opens opportunities for them to work as Crew Bus drivers on the North Slope.
- Winter training also saw over one hundred new or returning members completing NSTC courses, all heading North since October.
- After serving as the Apprenticeship Coordinator for over 20 years, Cheri Lipps has advanced to the role of Associate Director. In her new position, she will undertake additional responsibilities to enhance training, operations, and community partnerships.



“I am excited to pass on this legacy to the next generation. I am eager to concentrate on fostering community partnerships, expanding training opportunities, enhancing organizational capacity, and driving growth. It brings me joy to maintain a leadership position as we strive to grow our apprenticeship initiatives and provide promising career paths to Alaskans!” ~Cheri Lipps



- Winter concludes with the arrival of new Apprenticeship Coordinator Jordan Black, a former apprentice (2014-2016) turned accomplished journey worker. Jordan will travel across Alaska to share his experiences and scout for future Teamsters members. Be sure to follow our social media to see Where is Jordan! Additionally, he will be the point of contact for new and current apprentices and be responsible for retention and record keeping along with coordinating their training.
- As Spring approaches, we are actively engaged in new apprenticeship training, including cohorts of high school seniors, Women in the Trades (WIT) participants, and construction and freight driver apprentices.



Instructor Dave has been providing cargo securement and HazMat courses for United Freight & Transport and is gearing up for forklift training for members at Matson for the upcoming summer influx of freight. Instructors Pat and Bill have been attending instructor development courses to become certified instructors/examiners, providing commercial driver training to members and the WIT pre-apprentices. Instructor Jeremy has also been actively involved in Fairbanks member endorsement and upgrade driver training.

- Our team is preparing for the annual journeyman upgrade courses in May. Stay tuned by visiting our updated website and registering on the Teamsters Member page for notifications on upcoming opportunities.

“I am looking forward to working with the next generations of apprentices and giving them the opportunity for success that I had through the apprenticeship and the Teamsters Union.” ~Jordan Black

ALASKA TEAMSTER-EMPLOYER SERVICE TRAINING TRUST (CONT.)

"The Teamsters 959 Construction Driver Apprenticeship program changed me in many ways. They represent quality and professional drivers. I'm getting to experience work in ways that some only dream of. Dreams can come true if you're willing to put time and hard work into them. Teamsters will treat you like family and help take care of you through and through. The Teamsters is an outstanding apprenticeship program, I have no regrets about joining the Team! Thank you for the quality training for my future. I will represent you and the company to the fullest! Furthermore, I thank everyone at Teamsters 959! Keep Calm and Drive On!"
~Joseph Sebring

*Joseph Sebring graduated from the 6-week Basic Driver CDL and Passenger Bus course on February 22, 2024, and took his first dispatch to Nanuq as a B-70 Driver on the Willow project on February 26, 2024.



Brother Joseph Sebring



Surveyors in the Field this North Slope season.



UPCOMING EVENTS

40th Annual Jesse L. Carr Charity Golf Tournament

🏏 Friday, July 12, 2024, Anchorage Golf Course 🏏

The Jesse L. Carr Charity Golf Tournament is reaching a remarkable 40-year milestone supporting Alaska charities. Thanks to the steadfast support of our community partners, Teamsters Local 959 proudly continues to host and present one of Alaska's most outstanding and successful charity golf events.

Throughout the year, the contributions from our tournament play a crucial role in supporting a diverse range of Alaska charities, including AWAIC Shelter, Clare House, Boys & Girls Club, STAR Alaska, Covenant House, Alaska Children's Trust, The Scotty Gomez Foundation, Special Olympics Alaska, March of Dimes, Children's Lunchbox, and Muscular Dystrophy Association of Alaska, among others. Every year is filled with challenges for Alaska charities, and the help we received from all the contributions is more important than ever.

We extend a warm invitation to join us at the Anchorage Golf Course for a 7:00 a.m. shotgun start on Friday, July 12, 2024. Experience a day filled with golfing enjoyment, exciting tournament prizes, an incredible raffle, and the joy of great fellowship with us. We sincerely appreciate your support and eagerly look forward to your participation.

For info on becoming a sponsor and/or playing in the tournament, please email the Tournament Coordinator, Jennē Kriner at jkriner@akteamsters.com or call (907) 751-8542.

~ SAVE THE DATES ~

🏠 May 2024, Anchorage Teamsters Local 959 Clean-Up Day, date & time to be announced

Local 959 participates in the Adopt-a-Road program and have been keeping East 34th Avenue clean during the non-snow months for years. The date / time of our annual clean-up day is always dependent on when the snow melts but usually happens within the first to second week of May during the Anchorage Chamber's Citywide Clean-Up time. The date / time of our Clean-Up Day has not been set yet, but when it is, we will announce it on our website & social media. Stay tuned!

🏠 June 9, 2024, Membership Family Summer BBQ, Delaney Park Strip, Downtown Anchorage, 12 Noon—3 PM

Last year we held our biggest summer shindig in a very long time with food, bounce houses, a dunk tank, and more...and we're doing it again! Invitations will go out in the mail next month so, please keep an eye out for yours.

🏠 July 12, 2024, Jesse L. Carr Charity Golf Tournament, Anchorage Golf Course, 7 AM Shotgun Start

40 years of helping Alaska charities is something to be proud of. We are honored to continue to host this event every year in honor of our 1st Secretary-Treasurer, Jesse L. Carr.

🏠 August 7, 2024, Fairbanks Membership Family Picnic, Pioneer Park Wilderness Pavilion, 4 PM—7 PM

Fairbanks' 30+ year family picnic is a staple for our Fairbanks and surrounding areas members. Don't miss this year's party celebrating in solidarity at Pioneer Park!

🏠 September 2, 2024, Fairbanks Labor Day Parade, time & location to be announced

We celebrate and honor the American labor movement and the power of collective action by laborers who are essential for the workings of our society! We will announce more on this annual event on our website & social media when we get closer to the date.

Opt-in to receive meeting & event reminders from Teamsters Local 959. Text the keyword TEAMSTERS to 1 (855) 904-2989. Text messaging rates may apply.



**Find Your Next Career
at**

WWW.AKTEAMSTERS.COM/JOB-BOARD

CELEBRATING RETIREES

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

NOVEMBER 2023

Beatrice A. Campbell	Anchorage School District
Fernando Encabo	United Parcel Svc, Inc.
Donna S Graham	AT&T Alaska
Deborah Heriard	Alaska Teamster Service

Gene E Jansen	Training Trust
Jonathan Kronbach	TCC Joint Venture
Gary Whiteman	Sea Star Stevedore
Larry Wood	InDyne, Inc.
	Merrick Management, Inc.

DECEMBER 2023

Robert S Cover	C2G LTD Co.
Kim Bertels	Matson Navigation Co.
Allen Irwin	Doyon/ARAMARK Denali
	Nat'l Park Concession

Alan T Johnson	A.I.C. LLC
Robert L Davis	AILU #1, Longshore
Daniel Merrigan	Anchorage School District
Gary Petrick	Fairbanks Pumping & Thawing

Jon P Strang	Sea Star Stevedore
Deborah C Freelen	Elmendorf Support Svc.
Frank L Sutton	Doyon/ARAMARK Denali

William R Taber	Nat'l Park Concession
Paul E Hemmelgarn	United Parcel Svc., Inc.
	Alaska Teamster Service
	Training Trust

Vicky Hiltwein-Hagberg
Jeffrey S Krusell

JANUARY 2024

Patricia A Montague
Betty Mae Steppe
Alan G Morris
Neil Degenstein
Karen V Devine
Charles Klemer
Curtis D Whitcraft
William E Stevens II

FEBRUARY 2024

Donald L Burkhead
Daniel Blackman
John R Tronrud
Peder L Nelson
Wayne A Longlet

MARCH 2024

Donald C Black
Beth Huling
Edmund R Lord Jr
Bruce J Nolin
Russell Jager

Samantha A Bernal
Yoland Howard
Cynnde Ordway

TOTE Maritime Alaska, Inc.
Safeway, Inc. DBA
Carrs/Safeway

Matson Navigation Co.
Teamsters Local 959
Choctaw Defense Svc.
AILU #1, Longshore
Bell/Tikigaq J.V
Doyon/Aramark Denali
AILU #1, Longshore
ASRC ES-Houston
Contracting

Anchorage School District
Matson Navigation Co.
Southeast Stevedoring
Choctaw Defense Svc.
AILU #1, Longshore

ALIU #1, Longshore
Anchorage School District
Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc.
Anchorage Sand & Gravel
Safeway, Inc. DBA
Carrs/Safeway
Republic Parking
Anchorage School District
Wolf Creek Federal Services

TEAMSTERS VOLUNTARY INCOME PROTECTION

Our Union is happy to announce new benefit options for Teamsters members! Illness and injury are often unexpected, and most people are not prepared when they occur. The Teamsters VIP+ Plan is a voluntary member benefit plan that can protect you and your family for as little as a few dollars a day! This plan is available to Teamsters Local 959 members. It offers guaranteed approved coverage with high limits to protect members' hard-earned income. Below are the coverages available:

- ♦ Short-Term Disability (up to \$2,000 a week)
- ♦ Long-Term Disability (up to \$10,000 per month)
- ♦ Life Insurance with accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) (Member coverage up to \$500,000, Spouse coverage up to \$100,000 and Child coverage)

Both Short-Term Disability and Long-Term Disability include coverage for loss of work due to illness, injury, surgery, or loss of license due to medical conditions, with special provisions for members holding CDLs, FAA medical certificates, or specialty licenses. All benefit options are guaranteed approved during open enrollment for all active, US-based, full-dues paying Teamsters. Both Full-Time and Part-Time Members are eligible to enroll!

Our goal is to notify all our members about this voluntary benefit and make sure that you are aware of the benefits and enrollment windows. Unique to this plan, enrollment is open year-round, providing members flexibility, with new coverage effective dates every two months. A member's coverage effective date is determined by when they enroll.

For more information, to use the cost calculator for benefits, or to enroll in one of the short-term disability, long-term disability, Life with AD&D plans please visit www.TeamstersVIP.com or call (224) 770-5304 to learn more about the benefit options available. Enrollment is ongoing with six enrollment windows this year. To get additional information on other Teamster membership benefits including the Teamster Privilege Legal Plan, Life & Accident Insurance, affordable college options and tuition discounts for you and your family, discounted movie, concert and event tickets, and retiree health insurance, please visit www.teamster.org/benefits.

CELEBRATING MILESTONES

Congratulations to the following individuals who have achieved so many years of continuous dues-paying membership in Local 959!

NOVEMBER 2023

Matthew O'Boyle	10
Mark Alexander	10
Robert Cave	10
Christina Tomkins	10
Matthew Wilson	10
Mitchel Halverson	10
Kim Elgee	10
Darrin Carlo	15
Mathew Cooper	15
Brian Hilst	15
Lauren Price	15
Cheng Saechao	15
Jared Vasques	15
Mark Slack	15
Mark Callahan	15
Kellie Collins	25
David Walker	25
Kenneth Meder	25
Nicholas Dougherty	35

DECEMBER 2023

Devin Campbell	10
Deane McNamee	10
William Perkins	10
William Nicolaison	10
Shawn Duval	10
Chad Kimmerling	10
James Walkins	10
Brian Murphy	10
Ion Raileanu	10
Lavelle Jimmie	15
Daniel Swisher	15
Timothy Burr	15
John Ross	15

David Tidwell	20
Saitia Suemai	20
Cathy Davis	25
Christopher McCummings	25
Shelley Fredrickson	25
Edward Anger	30
Michael Maines	30
Peter Blanas	30
James Och	35
Jeffrey Loffert	35
Gordon Siemens	45
Walter Johnson	50

JANUARY 2024

Derek Lea	10
James Michael	10
Kale Trangmoe	10
Jeffrey Levine	10
Eric Berg	10
Aaron Rathbone	10
Shawn VanDuren	10
George Manning	10
Deva Frazier	10
Randy Bjorgan, Jr.	10
James McDermott	10
Araceli Johannes	15
John Gamez	15
Jason Baker	15
Robert Bohanan	15
Kirk Johnson	25
Stuart Bell	25
Joseph Graham	35
Belton Stephens, Jr.	50
Steve Wilson	50

FEBRUARY 2024

Robin Figdor	10
Tracy Greene	10
Rodney Gerdon	10
Christopher Mccotter	10
Leo Wakefield	10
lotamo Falealili Jr.	10
Seth Johnson	10
Christopher Jones	10
Matthew Kessler	10

Makenna Phillips	10
Gregory White Sr.	10
Hannah Zheng	10
Victor Voit	10
Carrie Hess	10
William Evans	15
Cornelio Pentecostes	15
Les Kini	15
Phillip Davidson	15
Gerald Galvez	15
Timothy Galloway	25
Helga Youngblood	40
Gary Bergman	50

MARCH 2024

Michael Houser	10
Sean Cogdell	10
Daniel Mullens	10
Jeffrey Olson	10
Daniel Hobson	10
Kimberly Bryan	15
Larry Smith	15
Adam Watson	15
Aaron Kreber	15
Alexander Flores	15
Donald Castaneda	15
Christian Fernandez	15
Todd Fisher	15
Bruce Foss	15
Kristopher Pearson	15
Ernest Peters	15
Cahm Pick	15
Kong Vang	15
Carol Demar	20
Joses Argones	20
Michele Nelson	20
Jo Ann Merchant	25
Leone Morra	25
Leland Tims	30
William Luopa III	50

Newly retired Brother James "Vern" Burzinski rocks his Teamsters Swag with Lead Dispatcher Kim Brandenburg. Vern is a 48+ year member who spent most of his years of service on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, as well as with various construction companies.

CONGRATULATIONS, VERN 🎉



IN MEMORY ♥ DECEASED BROTHERS & SISTERS

NOVEMBER 2023 & PRIOR (Not Previously Listed)

Wanda Wilson	Alascom, Inc.
Riley Worthley	United Parcel Service, Inc.
Keith Pillman	United Freight & Transport
Marce E Baker	K&L Distributors, Inc.
Joyce Congdon	Alascom, PTI
Jack Suter	Matson Navigation Co.
Emil Sumera	Trusted Hand Service, Inc.
Patricia Shorey	Anchorage School District
Daniel Campbell	United Parcel Service, Inc.
Roger Wood	BAE Systems Tech
Jeanette Henriks	TTOE Maritime Alaska
Donald Evans	Nanuq, Inc.
Joe Morrow	CB&I Federal Services, LLC
Consuelo Gallardo	SMI International
Roger D Winter	Kodiak Oil Field Haulers
Selusi T Ulugaono	Anchorage School District
Donald Gerber	Matson Navigation Co.
Glenwood E Pelletier	Arctic Slope / Wright
Keith Rudd	Kodiak Oil Field Haulers
Robert Graves	United Parcel Service, Inc.

DECEMBER 2023

Rawson Nelson Sr	Mason & Hanger Corporation
Lois Berry	Doyon / Aramark
Paul Dempster	BAE Systems Tech
Owen L Walker	ASRC ES—Houston Contracting
Carl D Gleason	State Constructors
Chester Lambrecht	Anchorage School District
Hermie J Williams	Wien Air Alaska
Esther Stephenson	Alascom, Inc.
Chester Sanderson	H.C. Price Company
Mary Ann Kohnke	Elmendorf Support Svcs
David Garrison	AT&T Alaska
Douglas Arian	Safeway, Inc. DBA Carrs
Jerry McDonald	Page Communications

JANUARY 2024

Burl R Parret
Robert Bemis
Thomas S Walker
William Irvine
Glenn Kooly
Darwin J Young
Karl Francke
James Lounsbury
Bonnie Miller
Edward Moses
Leo Moore
Ferdinand Devillena
Donald Hay
Rodney Cecil
Thomas B Pepin

Alaska Hospital
Houston / Nana Construction
Weaver Bros., Inc.
Martin Marietta Operation
Locher Co.
Nanuq, Inc.
AILU #1—Longshore
Sohio Construction Co.
Continental Baking Co.
D B M Contractors, Inc.
Earth Movers of Fairbanks
Lynden Transport, Inc.
Arden Farms Company, Inc.
Matanuska Maid
New Wien Airlines, Inc.

FEBRUARY 2024

Sharon Audette
Marton Wubbold
Ben Labinski
Leroy Johnson
Mary Keen
Roy Hansen
James Thomas
Anita M Williams
Russell Robillard
Berton Cyr
Marshall Johnson

AT&T Alaska
Exclusive Paving
AT&T Alaska
Kodiak Oil Field Haulers
ARCTEC Alaska
ASRC ES—Houston Contracting
AT&T Alaska
Bendix Field Engr. Corp.
Kodiak Oil Field Haulers
Houston / Nana Construction
Alascom, Inc.

MARCH 2024

William Mann
Robert Stuchko
Joseph Jerkovich
Russell Revel

Matson Navigation Co.
Sea Star Stevedore
CSX Lines of Alaska, LLC
Earth Movers of Fairbanks

Robert (Bob) Lee Bemis

1947—2024

54+ Year Member, Retiree, & Friend ♥

Bob was a proud Teamster and worked in trucking most of his life. He worked long hitches up North and drove the Haul Road countless times for various contractors of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. Bob retired from Houston Contracting in 2004. Residing in the Goldstream area which he loved.

A Celebration of Life will be held June 1, 2024, at the Westmark Fairbanks Hotel, Yukon Room at 10:00 AM. Email Jennifer Peterman at kjpeterman@hotmail.com for details.

Until We Meet Again

We think about you always, we talk about you still.

You have never been forgotten and you never will.

We hold you close within our hearts and there you will remain...

To walk and guide us through our lives until we meet again.

~ Author Unknown ~





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Brotherhood of Teamsters
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