

# Alaska TEAMSTERS



Local 959 Newsletter

October 2025

## A Message from Gary Dixon, Secretary-Treasurer

### SPECIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

When the American Rescue Plan Act was passed in 2021, it included a Special Financial Assistance (SFA) program to address the immediate financial crisis coming out of COVID-19 that many multiemployer pension plans were facing. The SFA program provides funding to eligible multiemployer plans to enable those plans to pay retirement benefits to plan participants (without reduction) for many years into the future. The SFA funding, in many cases, is sufficient to enable an ongoing plan, like ours, to improve its financial status and achieve long-term viability under the Pension Protection Act of 2006.

The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) is the government agency that oversees the implementation of the SFA program. The PBGC established priority categories for the multiemployer plans eligible for SFA to make their review process manageable and to push out money to the most financially challenged plans first. Our plan was deemed to be in the lowest priority category of the SFA eligible plans, and therefore, our application was put on hold to be able to submit.

Based on the PBGC's published schedule for SFA eligible plans, March 11, 2023, was the first date that plans in our priority category would be eligible to submit their application. However, due to constraints on PBGC staffing resources, the PBGC established an additional metering program, requiring the lowest priority plans to sign up for a waiting list. Our Pension funds actuaries, Rael & Letson, filed the application and we were notified that we were number 62 on the waiting list of 111 plans.

So, we patiently waited for our turn to be called from the waiting list to submit our SFA application. In late November of 2024, we were informed that we had made it to the top of the waiting list, and on December 10, 2024, we were able to submit our application.

Initially, the PBGC sent numerous requests for clarification and information, and on March 19, 2025, the PBGC requested that we revise our application. The PBGC identified two issues that they had concerns over: 1) modifications made to assumptions regarding future withdrawal liability assessments, and 2) able to modify the future hours assumption (affecting projected contributions) to account for the UPS announcement in January regarding reducing Amazon delivery levels.

Our actuaries revised the application as the PBGC had instructed and submitted the application with the items of concern accounted for as requested. More questions came from the PBGC after that revised filing was submitted. As the review period for the revised application neared its end, the PBGC questioned the mortality assumption being used for the SFA filing, and we were required to submit a 3<sup>rd</sup> version of the application. On July 10, 2025, the 3<sup>rd</sup> version of our SFA application was filed, and the PBGC put the application under expedited review. The PBGC then let us know there was a new wrinkle in the process. Once the application was approved by PBGC, it then had to go through another review/approval process with the President's administration. You can only imagine the frustration that was going on with our Pension Trust Board and our team of professionals. I didn't even want to talk about the SFA money at this point; the frustration level was high.

On September 9, 2025, I am pleased to report that we received an email from the PBGC, letting us know that the application was approved! They informed us that the money will be wired into the pension trust's separate bank account by October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025. In total, the pension trust will receive approximately (continued on page 2)



#### In This Edition

- ◆ Upcoming Events
- ◆ Health & Welfare
- ◆ Business Rep. Reports
- ◆ Longevity
- ◆ Training Trust Info
- ◆ And More...

# MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY-TREASURER (CONT.)

(continued from front page) 170.26 million dollars from the Special Financial Assistance program of the American Rescue Plan Act.

Rather than recognizing the SFA money all at once, our actuaries are required to phase it in over 3 years for our funded status calculations. The funded percentages reported in the annual funding notice that you receive will not show the full impact of the SFA funding immediately.

Additionally, some rules go with taking this money, just like anytime you receive money:

- A plan must report as a Critical Status plan through 2051 for its Pension Protection Act certification (even if, during this time period, the plan is in the green or yellow zone in funding measurements).
- We are limited in how the SFA funds may be invested and will be following the recommendations and guidance of our investment consultants at Alan Biller & Associates.
- We must file an annual statement of compliance, indicating we are meeting the required terms and conditions for a plan that received SFA funding, including specified documentation.
- PBGC may conduct periodic audits to review compliance with terms and conditions.
- No plan improvements on benefits for the first 10 years after receiving SFA money, and after that, plan improvements need to be reviewed by the PBGC before implementing such a change.

All in all, while we were frustrated by the process and delays in ultimately receiving our SFA funding, we are extremely happy to have a major influx of money come into the plan and put us on a significantly more financially sound path.

As of October 10, 2025, the SFA money was deposited into the Pension Trust's bank account.

~ Gary Dixon

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## LOCAL 959 STANDS WITH LOCAL 38



# POLITICAL REPORT

## Alaska State Legislature

The legislative session wrapped up in May 2025 with some good news. Senator Rob Myers (R), North Pole, introduced legislation to set regulations for autonomous vehicles in the state of Alaska. As the use of automation and development of artificial intelligence continues to rapidly develop, there must be parameters set for the technology to protect jobs and keep hard-working Teamsters safe on the jobsite. Senate Bill 148 mandates that any commercial road-operated vehicles with the capability of self-driving technology must have a pilot or operator certified and capable in the driver's seat of that vehicle. This will cover anything from self-driving ride share operators such as Waymo, Lyft, and Uber to any development in freight or construction transportation. This measure will ensure that jobs are not taken away from Teamsters, and we can regulate any AI technology as it integrates into Alaskan life. The House Transportation Committee also introduced a companion HB 217 to move through the House of Representatives and fast-track the process.



## U.S. Secretary of Labor Visits Alaska

On Friday, September 19, United States Secretary of Labor, Lori Chavez-DeRemer, visited the Fairbanks Pipeline Training Center. Teamsters Secretary-Treasurer Gary Dixon received an invitation from Senator Dan Sullivan to attend the event to meet the Secretary, participate in a round table discussion, and have a question-and-answer segment. The Secretary, whose father was a Teamster, enjoyed a tour of the facility and discussed her trips across the country to get a better understanding of how to improve America's workforce. Among her comments, Secretary Chavez-DeRemer highlighted that Americans don't just need a livable wage; they need to be able to afford a mortgage, plant their roots, and have a place they can afford to call home.

While speaking with the Secretary, Gary Dixon emphasized the need for the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to fill three vacant seats to have a quorum to do business. On a national level, that is vital for organized labor groups to move forward with contract disputes and grievance filings. The Secretary understands the vital role of the NLRB in day-to-day operations during contract negotiations.



## Elections

The participation of politically active Teamsters helps bring our message forward for every level of government. Volunteers are needed to help support pro-labor candidates to improve working conditions, bargain for better contracts, and continue making progress toward a better economy. If you can dedicate even a little bit of time volunteering, please reach out to Teamsters Local 959 Political Coordinator, Patrick FitzGerald, at [pfitzgerald@akteamsters.com](mailto:pfitzgerald@akteamsters.com) to learn what you can do to help our union make an impact with the decisions that get made every day.

# BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

## UPDATES—STATEWIDE

~LyDette Kieffer, Business Representative (Homer, Kodiak)~

**PROVIDENCE KODIAK ISLAND MEDICAL CENTER** A new contract was ratified this year. Approximately 75% of all employees received a market increase as well as an increase overall. Shift differentials went up, and travel and education benefits increased. The new booklets were distributed during a membership meeting in August, which had a great turnout and lots of good feedback.

**SOUTH PENINSULA HOSPITAL** Things continue to grow at a rapid pace. We added to the membership by increasing the Plant Ops staff with an electrician, plumber, network tech, landscapers, and snow removal folks – an increase of about 10 members. A new clinic was added for Dermatology and Reconstructive Surgery, which increased the membership by three. The long-awaited Childcare Facility is almost ready for the grand opening. New members were added in eight positions, and there are still open positions. The campus size and remote locations increased by moving Rehab downtown and adding several new clinic locations. It doesn't appear that growth will stop anytime soon.

~Yolandous Williams, Business Representative (Anchorage)~

**REPUBLIC PARKING** The summer season has officially ended, and we want to thank you for the effort you put in working safely. As we prepare for the fall and winter season, we must be more aware of the changing conditions around the Airport with the continued construction work that is being done. Please stay attentive to your surroundings as you drive around the airport.

**MV TRANSPORTATION** In August, we ratified a new agreement with MV Transportation. I want to thank the committee for their hard work in getting an agreement to benefit our members. This agreement will go through to 12/31/2028. As we move into fall and winter, road conditions will change, and we encourage our members to be more aware of the road conditions as we drive throughout the Municipality of Anchorage. Safety is our number one topic for our customers and us members.

**UNITED PARCEL SERVICE** As fall and soon winter start to settle in, we are at another peak season. Safety first is the number one goal for our members. Please be mindful to assist your fellow Brothers and Sisters in the operation as the volume and workload increase. Your Business Representatives and Shop Stewards will be available to assist you when needed. As a team, we work well together, and we would like to continue working in that manner. As the Company has put in a new pay system, please monitor your pay stubs for any errors so that we can get those corrected on time.



Ups Rammers Brother Ed Stoneham, Brother Jarrod Jackson, Brother Anthony Millo, Brother Tate Wellman, & Brother Bradley Andrews

## STAY IN THE KNOW



Opt-in to receive Local 959 Texts or Calls about meetings, events, account reminders, & MORE!

Text the keyword JOIN to 1(907)751-8521.

Text messaging rates may apply.



OPT IN

# TEAMSTER INSPIRATION

## All Aboard for Brother Jordan Hughart

by Business Representative, Jeremy Holan

Shop Steward Jordan Hughart first became a Teamster in October 2014 at First Student as a mechanic and later joined the Alaska Railroad in June 2020 as a journeyman mechanic. His primary responsibility is to maintain and repair on-track equipment to ensure the safe operation of trains. He works on a wide range of equipment, including electronic tampers, ballast regulators, tie handlers, spike pullers and drivers, hi-rail vehicles, and various other heavy machinery. Brother Hughart has been employed by the railroad for over five years and has been a mechanic for more than ten years.

Brother Hughart played an active role in the 2023 Alaska Railroad negotiations as a representative from the Fairbanks area and later stepped up to take on a more prominent role within Local 959, becoming a shop steward on April 9, 2024.

Outside of his professional duties, Brother Hughart enjoys taking full advantage of Alaska's outdoors. In the summer, he spends time dirt biking, kayaking, hiking, fishing, and camping. During the winter months, he enjoys snowmachining and snowboarding.

We are grateful for Jordan's dedication, leadership, and commitment to his fellow members. His years of service, both on the job and within the union, have made a meaningful impact on our Local 959 family. Thank you, Brother Hughart, for your continued hard work and advocacy for your fellow Teamsters.



Brother Jordan Hughart, Shop Steward

### \*WHAT IS A SHOP STEWARD\*

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:

- ◆ 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.**

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## North Slope Winter Work Season is Approaching

The **North Slope winter season** is fast approaching! Teamster Brothers and Sisters who are interested in working on the Slope must ensure the following:

- **Union dues are current**
- **You have a valid Construction Card**
- **Your information is up to date with the Local 959 Dispatch office**

If you **do not currently have a Construction Card** and are interested in working on the North Slope this winter, please get in touch with one of our Dispatch Offices:



📍 **Anchorage Dispatch Office**  
**Devin Campbell**

☎ (907) 751-8568

✉ dcampbell@akteamsters.com

📍 **Fairbanks Dispatch Office**  
**Hannah Maillelle**

☎ (907) 450-6123

✉ hmaillelle@akteamsters.com



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### WORK TIMELINE

- **Ice Road Work:** Starts **November / December**
- **Pipeline Work:** Starts **December / January** and continues through **April**

**NOTE:** Timelines are **weather-dependent** and may shift accordingly.

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### New to the North Slope?

Are you new to working on the Slope, or know someone who is?  
Visit our website for upcoming information and resources:

🌐 [akteamsters.com](http://akteamsters.com)



# MEMBERS ABOUND



During the Women's Conference, Sister **Shiela Mahaney** had the incredible honor of being cast as a model for the **Toronto Mabuhay Philippines Festival**, held August 23–24, 2025, at Nathan Phillips Square. The Mabuhay Festival is one of Canada's largest celebrations of Filipino culture, featuring music, dance, food, and art that highlight the vibrant spirit and heritage of the Philippines. Shiela proudly represented **the island of Mindanao**, showcasing her cultural pride and Teamster sisterhood on an international stage, a true reflection of unity, diversity, and strength.

## Teamster Women Rise Together in Toronto

This year's conference, held in Toronto, Canada, brought together over 1,500 Teamster sisters and brothers from across North America. Through workshops, keynote sessions, and hands-on discussions, participants strengthened their leadership skills, deepened their knowledge of contract enforcement and organizing, and built lasting connections with fellow union members.

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters Women's Conference continues to be one of the most powerful gatherings in the labor movement, a place where strength, solidarity, and sisterhood come together to inspire real change. Since its founding, the Women's Conference has set out to ensure women's voices are heard and valued at every level of the union. The annual conference carries that mission forward, empowering women to lead with confidence, advocate for equality, and continue shaping the future of the labor movement. Each year, attendees return home armed with new tools, fresh energy, and a renewed commitment to lifting one another up. The message is clear: when Teamster women rise, we all rise.



Sister Shiela Mahaney

I want to thank Teamsters Local 959 for allowing me to attend the 2025 Teamsters Women's Conference in Toronto, Canada. It was so great to see the energy and unity of the Teamsters' sisterhood.

I enjoyed the seminars and appreciated the variety. I liked the fact that they had seminars focused on work-related topics as well as seminars focused on wellness and self-care. I was also able to attend the community service event at Variety Village, and listening to their testimonies was very emotional.

Toronto is beautiful, the food was delicious, and attending the Teamsters Women's Conference with awesome people was the best!

~ Sister Irma Baez ~



From Left to right: Sisters Irma Baez, Shiela Mahaney, Araceli Johannes, & Marilyn Morris



Sister Marilyn Morris



Teamster women are organizers, negotiators, mentors, and changemakers. They stand on the front lines of fairness, fighting for safer workplaces, stronger contracts, and respect on the job. Their leadership extends far beyond the union hall; it reaches into communities, inspiring the next generation of women to lead with confidence and compassion.

# MEMBERS ABOUND



## Teamster Membership Family Summer BBQ

There's nothing better than coming together as Teamsters, not just in solidarity for the labor movement, but to celebrate the lives we work so hard to build. Our **Membership Family Summer BBQ** was a reminder of what makes us truly strong: connection, camaraderie, and appreciation for one another. It's a chance to meet and mingle with fellow members, share a few laughs, and enjoy the company of like-minded people who understand the meaning of hard work and pride in what we do.

And as Alaskans, we know how precious our summers are. That's what makes a sunny weekend afternoon spent together, eating great food, laughing, and watching the kids play, all the more special. These are the moments that remind us not only of our shared purpose as Teamsters, but of how amazing we are as a community of people who lift each other up, on and off the job.



# #UNIONPRIDE

# MEMBERS ABROAD (CONT.)



# ALASKA TEAMSTER-EMPLOYER SERVICE TRAINING TRUST

## Alaska Teamster Employer Service Training Trust (ATESTT)

As the seasons shift and we prepare for the demands of winter work on the North Slope, ATESTT is proud to share exciting updates and opportunities for our members.

### Apprenticeship Momentum

This summer's Construction Driver Apprenticeship application period welcomed four promising new recruits. They're currently enrolled in our 6-Week Basic Driver CDL A course—three in Anchorage and one in Fairbanks. Upon graduation, they'll head straight into the 2025 Fairbanks Pipeline Training, joining our second-year Construction Driver and Survey Technician apprentices. These seasoned apprentices will serve as mentors, helping the new recruits build confidence and readiness for their first dispatch to North Slope projects this winter.



Brothers Samuel Santiago & James Lentendre-Gruber

### Who is Apprenticeship for?

#### High School Graduates:

Individuals seeking to enter a skilled trade career without the burden of student debt from a traditional college education.

#### Current Workers:

Employees who want to upgrade their skills, become a CDL driver, Survey Technician, or transition into a higher-skilled position.

#### Transitioning Military Personnel:

Veterans with prior experience in driving or construction can use these programs to find civilian careers.

### Journeyman Upgrades

We've also seen strong participation from journeyman members in upgrade courses this summer, including CDL training and MSHA certifications. These efforts not only sharpen individual skills but strengthen our collective readiness for high-demand seasonal work.

### What is a Journeyman?

A journeyman is a skilled, experienced worker in a trade who has completed an apprenticeship or training program and can perform their job without supervision, holding the credentials and experience to work independently and often to mentor others.



### Fall Training Opportunities

Members are encouraged to take advantage of fall training offerings before the winter dispatch season begins. Whether you're looking to refresh certifications or build new skills, now is the time to prepare. Visit [www.akteamsterstraining.com](http://www.akteamsterstraining.com) or contact our office to explore available courses. You can also register on our website homepage to receive email notifications about our training schedule when new updates are available.



Brother Aaron Lotu-Muaava

### NSTC Certificate & Card Update

Please note: The Alaska Safety Alliance (ASA) has issued an important update regarding NSTC certificates and cards. As of this fall, NSTC training completions will be documented digitally, and physical cards will no longer be issued. Members should ensure their email and contact information are current in their ASA account to receive digital credentials and updates.

Let's keep building skills, mentoring new talent, and preparing for a strong winter season together. Questions? Reach out to ATESTT or follow us on social media for real-time updates and training highlights.

ALASKA TEAMSTER  
EMPLOYER SERVICE TRAINING TRUST

(907) 278-3674

[atestt@acsalaska.net](mailto:atestt@acsalaska.net)

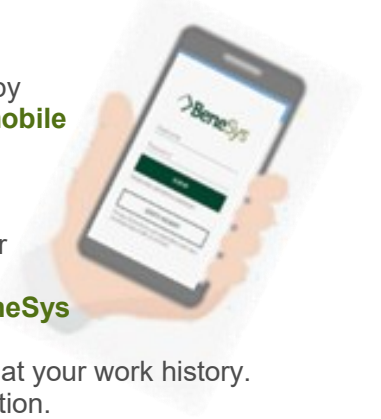


# TEAMSTERS HEALTH & WELFARE AND PENSION FUNDS

## BeneSys Now Mobile App

Your Pension and Health and Welfare Information is available to you day or night, simply by accessing the **Member Portal** ([www.959trusts.com](http://www.959trusts.com)) or downloading the **BeneSys Now mobile app** in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

- ⇒ **Need a copy of your medical ID card?** Download the **BeneSys Now mobile app** to access your digital ID card.
- ⇒ **Need to know your eligibility status?** Download the **BeneSys Now app** to view your most up-to-date eligibility information.
- ⇒ **Want to know how much you've met towards your deductible?** Download the **BeneSys Now mobile app** to see your most current Year-to-Date Accumulators.
- ⇒ **Want to know your work history?** Download the **BeneSys Now mobile app** to look at your work history.
- ⇒ **Need to ask a question?** Download the **BeneSys Now mobile app** to submit a question.



**BeneSys Now mobile app** features include:

- ★Contributions History★Claims Information★Deductible and Out-of-Pocket Accumulators★
- ★Digital Medical/Prescription ID Card★Request New ID Card★Eligibility★
- ★Pension Summary & Pension Details★Most Recent Calculated Accrued Benefit★

## Member Portal at [www.959trusts.com](http://www.959trusts.com)

Would you like to view an estimate of your pension benefit in real-time? Visit the **Pension Benefits Estimator** tool on the **Member Portal** at [www.959trusts.com](http://www.959trusts.com). Click the “Member Portal” link located at the top of the [www.959trusts.com](http://www.959trusts.com) homepage. Want to know how many Pension hours you have? Visit the **Member Portal** to view your Pension hours. Want to know what your employer(s) contributed on your behalf for any given month? Visit the **Member Portal** to access that information. Need a copy of an Explanation of Benefits? Visit the **Member Portal** to print a copy of your Explanation of Benefits. Need to submit forms or questionnaires? Visit the **Member Portal** to upload documents.

### To Register for the Member Portal:

1. From your computer or mobile device, go to [www.959trusts.com](http://www.959trusts.com).
2. Select the “Member Portal” link.
3. Select the “Create an Account”
4. Enter your name, date of birth, SSN or Alternate ID, and zip code.
5. Make sure what you enter matches our records!
6. Provide your email address and create a password.

### What you will find:

- ✓ Eligibility, including future eligibility.
- ✓ Dependent information.
- ✓ Your Dollar Bank Reserve Account information.
- ✓ Claims history & Explanation of Benefits (EOB).
- ✓ Work history and pension contributions.
- ✓ Pension vesting and benefit information.
- ✓ Pension Estimate Calculator.
- ✓ Summary Plan Description (SPD).
- ✓ Forms.

**Please note:** Only one username and password are permitted per email address. If more than one person in your family requires website access, each must use a different email address. Every member, spouse, and dependent over the age of 18 must create their own login to access their Protected Health Information (PHI). **Participants have access to their Pension and Health and Welfare information in real-time and at their own convenience by accessing the BeneSys Now mobile app or the Member Portal.**

### **Need to know if a provider is “in-network”?**

Visit [www.959trusts.com](http://www.959trusts.com) and click the “Health Benefits” button, then click the “Find a Provider” button, then click “Search Aetna Preferred Provider Network.” When choosing a Plan, select the following ↗

### Aetna Open Access Plans

- Aetna Choice® POS II (Open Access)

The search function is easy to use, and it is the same search function that Health and Welfare representatives use. If you don't see a provider's name come up after searching, that means the provider is not in network.

### **Want to make a self-payment?**

Participants can make a self-payment between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of each month by going to the self-payment portal on the [www.959trusts.com](http://www.959trusts.com) homepage (late payments will not be accepted).



The Pension and Health and Welfare Representatives return voicemail calls and emails within 24 *business* hours. We kindly ask that participants and eligible spouses please be patient, as your call will be returned the following *business* day. When leaving a voicemail, be specific with your questions by giving detailed information. This allows representatives to thoroughly research your question(s) before responding.

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

# LOCAL 959 EVENTS

## 41st Annual Jesse L. Carr Charity Golf Tournament

The Jesse L. Carr Charity Fund extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make this year's **41st Annual Charity Golf Tournament** a success! Thanks to the generosity of our members, community partners, and businesses across Alaska, we continue to make a real difference for local charities.

Held on **Friday, July 11, 2025, at the Anchorage Golf Course**, this year's event brought together golfers, sponsors, and volunteers for a fun-filled day supporting two incredible non-profit organizations: **Katie's Handprint** and **Assets, Inc.** Katie's Handprint supports Alaskan families battling childhood cancer by easing financial burdens during treatment, while Assets, Inc. is dedicated to empowering individuals with disabilities by providing personalized support services that promote independence, employment, and inclusion in the community.



We are deeply grateful to everyone who participated, donated, and volunteered to make the tournament a success. Your continued support keeps this long-standing tradition of giving alive and strong.

Plans are already underway for the **42nd Annual Tournament in July 2026**, and we can't wait to see you there!

For sponsorship or participation info, contact **Tournament Coordinator Jennē Kriner** at [jkriner@akteamsters.com](mailto:jkriner@akteamsters.com) or (907) 751-8542.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE UPCOMING HOLIDAY PARTIES!



### Teamsters Local 959 Anchorage Membership Holiday Party

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025**  
**12 p.m. — 3:00 p.m.**  
Santa 12:30 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.



Please join us for a holiday feast, photos with Santa, raffle prizes, sleigh rides, & MORE!

**Dimond High School**  
2909 West 88th Ave  
Anchorage, AK 99502

Please bring donations of NEW travel-sized toiletries to help those in need at the Covenant House in Anchorage.  
Thank you ♥

### Fairbanks Annual

**Teamsters  
Local 959**

**Family Christmas Party**  
**Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025**

**2pm-5pm**

**At Arctic Bowl**

952 10th Ave. Fairbanks

Come join us for an afternoon of

**FUN, FOOD, BOWLING and**

**SANTA**



# CELEBRATING RETIREES

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

## MAY 2025

Brenda J. Cole	Interstate Brands
Daniel P. Wiard	Quality Asphalt Paving
George C. Hamilton	Doyon/Aramark Denali
Helen P. Sharratt	Teamsters Local 959
John E. Schank	Lynden Transport, Inc.
Mark A. Austin	Granite Construction dba Wilder
Mark A. Colby	United Parcel Service, Inc.
Salvador J. Aguilera	Great Northwest
Susan L. Wanzak	Alutiiq Management

## JUNE 2025

Garland A. Davis	AT&T Alaska
Gary L. Graves	Brechan Construction, LLC
Jiles T. Baynes	Chenega Base & Logistics Svc, LLC
Jim A. Gardner	Kiewit Infrastructure West Co.
Kelly M. Ramert	Wilder Construction
Mark R. St. Denny	ASRC ES-Houston Contracting
Vern L. Carstenson	AT&T Alaska

## JULY 2025

Brian N. Darwin	Weaver, Bros.
Donald F. Lachnit	Ahtna Construction
Franklin C. Holan	Netcentric
Lyle L. Stratton	Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc.
Michael E. Frank	Norcon, Inc.
Rickie A. Ward	ASRC Houston

## AUGUST 2025

Abner P. Dris	Interstate Brands
Drew A. Schulz	Facility Services Management
Edward C. Sullivan, Jr.	United Parcel Service, Inc.
Frankie L. Mason	Nanuq, Incorporated
Gary R. Olson, Jr.	World Technical Services, Inc
John M. Turner	Great Northwest
Kim A. Brandenburg	Teamsters Local 959
Laura J. Wachholtz	ARCTEC Alaska
Linda M. Suter	Anchorage School District
Lohnnie J. Hibben	Republic Parking
Pa M. Jagne	United Parcel Service, Inc.
Rafael I. Armstrong	Weaver, Bros.
Ronald D. Hopkins	Nanuq, Incorporated
Scott A. Arbuckle	Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc.
Terry L. Smales	ARCTEC Alaska
Timothy A. Hausmann	AT&T Alaska
Todd R. Smolnik	AT&T Alaska

## SEPTEMBER 2025

Frank J. Whipple	Arctic Surveys Co.
Gary J. Broussard	World Technical Svcs, Inc
Gerardo Rodriguez	United Parcel Service Inc.
Herbert C. Leitzke	Lynden Transport, Inc.
Peter G. Piilani, Jr.	Price Gregory Int'l
Samuel W. Craft	ASRC Houston
Sarah R. Winter	United Parcel Service, Inc.
Shannon C. Ames	Southeast Stevedoring
Sidney P. Harris	United Freight & Transport
Stuart J. Bell	Price Gregory Int'l
Tammy K. Maggard	TOTE Maritime
Terry L. Tedor World	Technical Services, Inc.

## Honoring a Lifetime of Union Pride

A retired Teamster's story is the story of resilience, loyalty, and belief in the power of unity. Through years of hard work and unwavering commitment to their union, they stood strong for fairness, dignity, and the promise of a better life. That dedication helped them reach the American Dream finish line, where hard-earned stability, respect, and security reflect a lifetime of perseverance.

Their union years not only built a good life for themselves and their families, but also laid the foundation for future generations. Every contract fought for, every stand taken, and every act of solidarity adds another brick to the path that leads working people forward. Their legacy reminds us that the strength of one Teamster can inspire the progress of many, and that Labor's proud history continues because of those who never gave up on what it means to be union strong.

To all those who have retired, **CONGRATULATIONS** on reaching this milestone!!! You've earned every bit of the peace, joy, and freedom that come with retirement. May you enjoy this next chapter knowing your years of dedication have made a lasting difference, for your families, your union, and the generations who follow in your footsteps.



# CELEBRATING MILESTONES

**C**ongratulations to the following individuals who have achieved so many years of continuous dues-paying membership with Local 959!

## MAY 2025

Christopher Thomas	10
Larissa Turkington	10
Clayton Bonty	10
Johnny Jones	10
William Carder	15
Nicholas Holan	15
Timothy Brockhoff	15
Levi Rothe	15
James Selkirk	15
Kurt Hala	15
Stephen Hibbert	20
William Chase	20
Solomon Kalugin	25
James Perry	25
Herbert Leitzke	25
Dean Butch	25
Kevin Ingerson	30
Curtis Crocker	35
Jeff Anderson	45
✧ Bruce Nolin	50 ✧
✧ Thomas Henry	50 ✧
✧ Lynn Buchheit	50 ✧
✧ Bart Enberg	50 ✧
✧ Steven Dwyer	50 ✧
✧ Keith Dedrick	50 ✧
✧ Debbie Larsh	50 ✧
✧ Dennis Gardner	50 ✧
✧ Ivan Nelson	50 ✧
✧ Winton Voetmann	50 ✧
✧ Marshall Bise	50 ✧
✧ Andrew Stoffa	60 ✧

## JUNE 2025

Anthony Sapp	10
Merlo Llaneza, Jr.	10
Darwin Clundrina	10
Roderick Huske	10
Michael "Nate" Moore	10
William Considine	10
Jose Olivo	10
Rolf Bilet	10
Joshua Vellieux	10
Darlando Velador-Ruiz	10
Kevin Brewer	10

Ruthanna Carr	15
Gregg White	15
Michael Kief	15
Dustan Cummins	15
Billy Lee	15
Albert Rickey	15
Stacy George	15
Curtis Mike Toms	20
Calvin Dela-Cruz	20
Brett Starr	20
Michael McMartin	25
Sid Harris	25
William Bryant	30
David Anderson	35
Gary Dixon, Jr.	40
Ronald Nelson	40
✧ Kevin Montague	50 ✧
✧ Frank Oxman	50 ✧
✧ Milton Haken	50 ✧
✧ Allan Kara	50 ✧
✧ Daniel Kaushagen	55 ✧
✧ George Patterson	65 ✧

## JULY 2025

Jason Robinson	10
George Pippy, III	10
Kevin Gilmore	10
Xochitl Shafer	10
Vauoti Tuga	10
Christopher Monroe	10
James Newton, Jr.	10
Joseph Mrozik	10
Martha Reeves	15
Jacqueline Worland	20
Katie Watson	20
Lewis Koyukuk	20
Bryce McGough	20
Robin FitzGerald	20
Kevin Hughes	25
Ronald Kardanoff	25
Joy-Lyn Gulley	30
Christopher Castona	35
Jerry Conlon	40
Wayne Longlet	45
✧ Mark Wetzel	50 ✧
✧ Clarence Rowe	50 ✧
✧ John Dougherty	50 ✧
✧ Stanley King	50 ✧
✧ Martin Smith	50 ✧
✧ Denis Porchet	50 ✧
✧ Lawrence Lawrence	50 ✧
✧ Thomas Kimball	50 ✧
✧ Gregory Thompson	55 ✧

✧ Connie Stroble	60 ✧
✧ Calvin Stroble	60 ✧

## AUGUST 2025

Joshua Saunders	10
Karen Grijalva	15
Kelly Nowicki	15
Dennis Vizmanos	15
Nathan Farnen	15
Terry Schaefer	15
Dean Hardenbrook	20
Eric Russell	20
Willie De Las-Llagas	20
David Haugstad	25
Grace Halstead	25
Tamera Wilhoit	25
Shotsay Breaux	30
Donald Johnson	35
Scott Arbuckle	35
✧ Richard Wolfe	50 ✧
✧ Ernest Dummann	50 ✧
✧ Calvin Coots	60 ✧

## SEPTEMBER 2025

Jeffrey Tyler	10
Ray Fine	10
Amy Sorensen	15
Kelly Kay	15
Garrett Gardner	15
Elmer Corral	15
Jacob Mattila	15
Chingwen Mcgrevy	20
Joshua Houston	20
Anthony Haynes	20
William Peters-Naughton	20
Richard Brooks	20
John Holmquist	25
Chris Oberlender	25
Sasha Cederberg	25
Brian Aszmus	30
James Dean	30
James Rowell	30
Richard Anderson	30
Andrea Staniforth	35
George Aquino	35
Frank Popp	35
✧ Gregory Bartholomew	50 ✧
✧ Mark Luiten	50 ✧
✧ John Schank	50 ✧
✧ Joseph Rule	50 ✧
✧ Daniel Dufour	50 ✧
✧ Bruce Daily	50 ✧
✧ Luanne Ziegler	50 ✧

## Honoring the Strength of Longevity

Each year of service within the Teamsters isn't just time, it's a testament to pride, solidarity, and the enduring power of the labor movement. A Teamster's longevity reflects decades of dedication to the values that built this union: better pay, better benefits, and a better life for working people. Those who've stood shoulder to shoulder through the years remind us that progress doesn't happen overnight, it's earned through persistence, unity, and the belief that together, we can always achieve more. Longevity strengthens our foundation. It connects generations of Teamsters, ensuring that the hard-fought gains of yesterday continue to protect the families of today and tomorrow. Every milestone year is a living legacy, proof that the spirit of the labor movement remains strong, proud, and unbreakable. **#UNIONSTRONG** 🇺🇸

# IN MEMORY ♥ DECEASED BROTHERS & SISTERS

## MAY 2025 & Not Previously Listed

John L. Wagner	ARCTEC Alaska
Kenneth J. Jametsky	ITT Arctic Services, Inc.
Harry Wrase	New Wien Airlines, Inc.
David P. Rafter	Sea Star Stevedore, Inc.
Guy A. Kauffman	Arctic Slope Technical Services
Billy J. Anton	Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc.
Wilbur Fynskov	AILU #1 Longshore
Mary A. O'Guinn	The Alaska Hospital
Donald G. Miller	GE Operations Support, Inc.
Geraldine G. Hunt	Anchorage School District
David Salzer	Kodiak Support Services
Richard Dufford	Matson Navigation, Co.
Ernest S. Glaudo	K&L Distributors
Donna J. McCloud	AK Teamster Employer SVS
Timothy D. Felegy	Beta Construction, Inc.
Kenneth M. Horton, Sr.	Colaska DBA Secon
James R. Clow	Wien Air AK/Payroll
Wendall W. Hall	Lynden Transport, Inc.
James R. Davis	Kodiak Oil Field Haulers

Laurence B. Craig  
Gary L. Roberts

AT&T Alaska  
Brechan Construction, LLC

## JULY 2025

Monte S. Shade	Fairbanks Lumber Supply
Robert McComiskey	AT&T Alaska
Frank Russell	AT&T Alaska
Eloy Guarderas	Safeway, Inc. dba Carrs Safeway
Richard W. Mingo	Columbus
Daniel Becker	Nanuq, Incorporated

## AUGUST 2025

Kenneth C. Jones	AT&T Alaska
Morris B. Chaney	Lockheed Martin Operation
Marshall L. Bise	Norcon, Inc.
James E. Roland	Anchorage School District
Marlowe E. Allers	Big State Equip Co., Inc.
William D. Murr	ITT Federal Services Corp.
Jesse A. McConnell	AT&T Alaska
Philip B. Barber	Lynden Transport, Inc.

## SEPTEMBER 2025

Jerry Lewis	Pan Alaska Trucking, Inc.
Frank E. (Francis) Ryno	Weaver Bros., Inc.
Eldon R. Wright	ASRC Houston
Richard W. Jones, Jr.	AT&T Alaska

## JUNE 2025

Jacqueline A. Bloom	Teamsters Local 959
Christine A. Nelson	City of Fairbanks
Jerry Strong	AILU #1 Longshore
Larry R. Jeffries	ITT Federal Services Corp.

## Until we Meet again, ♥ Brother Marshall “Buddy” Bise ♥ 1939—2025

Brother Marshall “Buddy” Bise was a true Teamster through and through, a leader in the field, a friend to all, and a man whose passion for his union never wavered. Initiated as a Teamster in 1975, Buddy built a lifetime of respect and camaraderie among his brothers and sisters. He seemed to know everyone, and just as easily, everyone knew him.

Buddy was a storyteller of the old days, especially those historic pipeline times that shaped Alaska's labor legacy. If you had the chance to sit down with him, you knew to bring a lunch pail, because you were in for a long session. But you never minded the time; his stories were always worth hearing, filled with humor, history, and heart.

Buddy's spirit, leadership, and love for his union will be deeply missed but never forgotten. His legacy lives on in the stories he told, the people he inspired, and the pride he carried as a lifelong Teamster.



## Farewell

## ♥ Sister Jaqueline “Jackie” Bloom ♥ 1951—2025



Sister Jackie Bloom began her journey with Teamsters Local 959 in the dues office in 1974, just a year after graduating high school. Over the next three decades, she embodied the evolution and strength of the modern American woman in the workforce. As her career advanced, she took on greater leadership roles, serving on the Executive Board and the Pension Trust, before making history as the first woman elected Vice President of Local 959.

Beyond her many accomplishments, Jackie's steady presence left a lasting mark on everyone within the Teamsters Hall. Jackie's genuine qualities made her not only a respected leader, but also a beloved member of the Teamster family.

Jackie's influence continues to echo through the halls of Local 959, her leadership, integrity, and heart remain part of the foundation she helped build.



**Teamsters Local 959  
State of Alaska**  
*Affiliated with the International  
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To keep your records current, please inform the Dues Department of any changes to your information such as updates to your address, phone number, e-mail address, and/or beneficiary information.

This will ensure that you receive union correspondence.

The Dues Department contact numbers are:

Anchorage: (907) 751-8521 Fairbanks: (907) 452-2959

Updates may be emailed to:  
[959dues@akteamsters.com](mailto:959dues@akteamsters.com)

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Secretary-Treasurer

**Jace Digel**  
Recording Secretary

**Eileen Whitmer**  
President

**Trustees**  
Norman Blair  
Kirk Johnson  
Derek Musto

**Yolandous Williams**  
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