

TEAMSTER WOMEN'S NEWS

WINTER 2003



Women Build Unity at Local 480

Local's First Women's Conference a Success



Teamster women from Local 480 in Nashville held their first annual women's conference in October and can be taken as a lesson in how individual locals can hold their own.

Women from Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama gathered at the local to discuss the role of women in the union and ways to become more involved. The theme of the conference was "Building Bridges for Tomorrow." The conference was

about vision and goals, with the main goal to make life better for their daughters who will one day enter the workforce if they haven't already.



"Women have to be involved in the union," said Local 480 Vice President Jerry Froelich. "They have a voice and they need to express it. This is a great start."

Through the years, women have realized life has become better as their roles in society and work have changed for the better. And working women can achieve a greater quality of life through education and unity with the Teamsters.

"You're here to learn, and 33 years ago, I was in your seat," said Cheryl Johnson, President of the Teamsters Women's Caucus. "We have 350,000 women in the field, just like you, just like me. We need to organize, speak our minds, get out in the field and let people know there are women ready to step up."

Speakers included:

- ◆ Johnson, who spoke about women's leadership roles in the Teamsters;
- ◆ Teamsters International Vice President Dotty



Strength In Numbers

Teamster Women to Meet in Baltimore

Teamster women will meet to share ideas and strategies March 6-9 at the Teamsters 2003 Women's and Human Rights Conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

Attendees will tackle a wide range of issues from political action and organizing to women's rights and safety and health.

"Women continue to assert themselves in

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A Message from Women's Committee Co-Chair Cheryl Johnson

Making A Difference

Dear Sisters,

The most fundamental tenet of the Teamsters is, "Unity is Strength". As Teamster Women, we find strength in our sisterhood and commitment to union values. We make a difference by fighting the good fight, whether working on the strike line, an organizing campaign or through the political process.

Members depend on our commitment. A commitment we have had for a century. And one we will celebrate this September. As one of the fastest growing arms of the union, Teamster Women often make the difference between success and failure in our union's endeavors. It is essential that

we are as involved and vigilant as possible.

I also hope that you choose to take part in the upcoming Women's Conference. The conference is a perfect opportunity for us to share ideas and strengthen relationships in order to build a better union. With more than 300,000 women in the Teamsters, our voice is growing stronger every day. We need to speak as one for our message to be heard and heeded. Only through unity are we truly strong.

In Sisterhood,



Tax Relief Available

IRS Offers Information on Innocent Spouse Relief

Do you know what tax relief may be available to you?

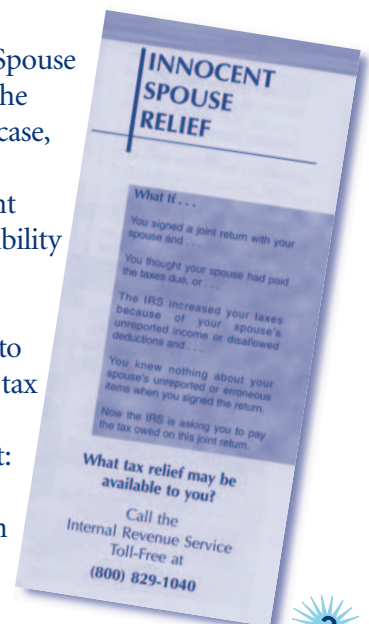
Many Americans unwittingly pay extra taxes without knowing they qualify for deductions and other kinds of federally offered tax relief. Innocent Spouse Relief is one form of tax relief that is little known and often overlooked. If you meet the conditions for Innocent Spouse Relief, you will not be responsible for the tax due on your joint return or any penalties and interest.

What if you thought your spouse had paid the taxes due on your joint return, or, the IRS increased your taxes because of your spouse's unreported income or disallowed deductions? What if you knew nothing about your spouse's unreported or erroneous items when you signed the return? Now the IRS is asking you to pay the tax owed on your joint return. You may have relief available to you.

If you believe you may qualify for relief, find out more

about the Request for Innocent Spouse Relief. The IRS will consider all the facts and circumstances of your case, including your knowledge and whether you received a significant benefit, and determine your eligibility for relief.

Publication 971, Innocent Spouse Relief, explains the rules to qualify for and claim relief from tax liability. This publication can be downloaded from the Internet at: www.irs.gov. You can also order free forms and publications from the IRS at (800) 829-3676.



Women Build Unity at Local 480

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Malinsky on Teamster women making it to the top of the organization;

◆ Local 480 Recording Secretary Dana Barrett on women's history issues;

◆ Teamsters DRIVE Representative Nancy Yoke on the need for women to get

involved in the political process;

- ◆ Nashville attorney Julia Smith on worker's compensation law;
- ◆ Nashville City Council Representative Janice Santana on her political career;
- ◆ Local 480 member Avalon Rogus on the Central States Pension Plan;
- ◆ Teamsters Communications Coordinator Eugenia Gratto on using the web to reach Teamster women;
- ◆ Sherri Samson, the bookkeeper and member benefits coordinator at Local 528 in Atlanta, Georgia, on a personal health crisis that spurred

her to take better care of herself—and to encourage other women to do the same; and

- ◆ Steve Sullivan, Director of Education for Local 25, about his work with the “Skills for Tomorrow” program and how women can get involved in that education initiative.

“Our biggest resource is each other,” Malinsky said. “As you climb toward the top of your union jobs, you need to reach down and bring along your union sisters.”

Dana Barrett, who helped lead the organizing committee for the event, said the conference was another way for women Teamsters to help educate themselves and prepare to lead. “We want to be working together,” she said. “I’m excited about the future.”

Other organizing committee members included Wendy Gordon, Karen Sawyer and Karen Vanhooser.



Strength In Numbers

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leadership roles throughout the union movement,” said Cheryl Johnson, Assistant to the International General President. “This conference is a perfect opportunity for Teamster women to share ideas and strengthen relationships in order to build a

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—Cheryl Johnson

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To register, complete and mail the registration form on page 5. Additional details will be posted on the Teamster website, www.teamster.org, as they become available.



Unions Aid Women

A Letter from Loretta Spencer, Local 174 Member and UPS Shop Steward

Dear Fellow Women Teamsters,

Within our lifetimes we have seen the nature of work and women's roles change dramatically. When the International Brotherhood of Teamsters was formed at the turn of the 20th Century, there were 6,000,000 working women in the workforce. Today, there are more than 63,000,000 working women comprising almost half of the total workforce!

And we can be proud to say that presently, fully 33 percent of International Brotherhood of Teamsters members are WOMEN! Wow! Have we come a long way! Local 174 is responding to the changes in work and society, and along with the labor movement as a whole the Teamsters are fighting to improve the conditions and lives of working class women and their families!

We Teamster women work in a variety of professions and our union continues to strive for our right to choose to work in our fields of choice — including working next to men in the non-traditional jobs. Our union supports the idea that women will play a critical role in the continuance and future development of the labor movement in the 21st Century — that we are intelligent, strong, creative, and have the utmost abilities to reason and convey. And I find this a bit humorous, as this is something we women have known all along!

I had the honor to attend the 2002 Women's Conference in Chicago, Illinois March 22-24, and I was thoroughly impressed with the support of advocating working women's issues and willingly bringing them to the forefront of the Women's Rights Campaign at the national level! We have been faced with many challenges — including discrimination, wage differences, and workplace harassment — and now the time has finally come that our fellow Teamster Brothers have chosen to actively step forward to address these issues, and bring us to equality!

The Conference included 1,200 Teamster Women from all across the United States and Canada. The agenda saw us exchanging ideas and creating goals for ALL WOMEN across this great Continent of North America. One continuing issue remains very troublesome for women in general — that non-union women typically make 40% less than their Teamster Sisters working in comparable jobs. So, as you can see, the root of this particular evil is No Union Representation!

I hope that you can share with me that this makes me proud to be a Teamster, yet ashamed that many women all across our country are struggling day in and day out to make a decent living — and can only dream about giving the best care for their loved ones, buying a home, or rejoicing in the

fruits of their labor. As a woman, each of us possesses the capability to look into the eyes of another woman and see her strenuous daily toils.

Let's reach out our hands to these non-union women and give them strength and knowledge by talking to them about how joining a union could help them. Let's tell them what our Teamsters Union has done for us by bargaining for one of the best wage, pension and health care benefit packages in our nation, and emphasize the unsurpassable power of being a WOMAN TEAMSTER!

Now is the time for us Teamster Women to educate and organize and to stand side-by-side, strong and unified, as we progress deeper into the 21st Century — for together we can make a difference for generations to come!

In Sister Solidarity...

Loretta Spencer



Teamsters 2003 Women's and Human Rights Conference

TO REGISTER

Fill out the attached form and mail with your \$50 (U.S. funds) per person registration check to the address on the registration card below.

Register today! There is tremendous interest in this conference and space is limited. There will be no onsite registration.

Cancellation Policy for Conference Registration

Cancellations for the conference received by February 6, 2003 will be refunded. We are unable to provide refunds for cancellations received after that date.

JOIN US IN BALTIMORE

AGENDA

Thursday, March 6

8:00 am – Noon	Registration
9:00 am – 11:00 am	Opening Plenary
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Tours of IBT and D.C.

Friday, March 7

8:00 am – Noon	Registration
9:00 am – Noon	Plenary
Noon – 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Workshop A
3:45 pm – 5:45 pm	Workshop B
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Welcome Reception

Saturday, March 8

7:00 am – 8:00 am	Registration
8:00 am – 10:00 am	Workshop C
10:15 am – 12:15 pm	Workshop D
12:15 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Workshop E
3:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Workshop F

Sunday, March 9

9:00 am – Noon	Plenary
Conference Adjourns	

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Yes! *I'll be at the Teamster Women's and HRC Conference, March 6-9, 2003 in Baltimore, Maryland.*

Please mail in this registration form, along with your conference registration fee of \$50 (U.S. funds) per person. Make check payable to the IBT.

Mail to: Teamsters Women's/HRC Conference
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
25 Louisiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Country: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Local or Organization Affiliation: _____

Job Title: _____





A Message from Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa

A Year Of Success, A Future Of Promise

As 2002 comes to a close, we can all be proud of the victories we have claimed through our hard work.

Our agreement with UPS was the strongest in history and through the actions of delegates at our Special Convention, we have rebuilt our Strike and Organizing funds. But most importantly, we have reestablished the unity, sisterhood and brotherhood within our union—the key to our success.

This has truly been a year where we have made great strides forward, but much work lies ahead. We must continue to be vigilant and unified to tackle the obstacles that lay before us. This

is why your work with the Teamsters Women's Conference is so important.

The Women's Conference represents the future of the Teamsters. It is from this conference that leaders will emerge and important ideas will emanate. I look forward to meeting you in March when you visit our great International. You are blazing the trail for our union as we step into the future. And it is your fierce loyalty and unity that has inspired so many to join our ranks and follow your lead.

In Unity,

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