

VOICE OF 294

Serving our 5,500 members and families in over 16 counties in Upstate New York

TEAMSTERS LOCAL 294 NEWSLETTER - ALBANY, NEW YORK



From the desk of **PRESIDENT JOHN BULGARO**

I still find it so surprising that each year seems to go by in the blink of an eye and as we enter the final months of 2021, I invite you to read through our latest edition of *Voice of 294* to let you know what has happened over the past few months and what is on the horizon.

2021 started out at the height of a once in a lifetime pandemic and still many months later, we are not out of the woods yet but we're getting close. As we venture out with our friends and relatives and see our kids get back to school and sports, I want to make sure we acknowledge the toll of the last year. It has been long, difficult, and saddening at times, and none of us will forget it for a long time.

A few of our members have asked about what restrictions or protocols are in place to deal with mandatory vaccinations. While there may be medical or religious reasons for not getting vaccinated, vaccinations are vitally important for the safety of our members, their families, and their fellow workers. The vaccinations have been proven to be safe, effective, and have dramatically reduced infections and the need for hospital admissions for those who have been exposed to the virus. Local 294 is strongly encouraging our members to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

On September 12th, a meeting was held for nominations for our Local 294 election of officers, trustees, and business agents. At that time, officers, trustees, and business agents were returned to office. This was a vote of confidence from our membership, and I would like to thank all Local 294 members. We will begin our new three-year term on January 1, 2022.

In addition to our own Local Election, this year is also an election year for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. International President Jim Hoffa is retiring at the end of his current term, ending twenty-five years as International President. In addition to electing a new General President, members will be electing a new General Secretary-Treasurer, Regional and At-Large Vice President positions and other International Officers. Ballots for the election of International Union Officers were mailed to members on October 4th. These ballots will need to be returned by November 15th.

I strongly urge all Local 294 members to take part in this democratic process. Direct election of your top leadership is one of the unique aspects of Teamster membership. Few other trade unions in the United States have this system. It is the right of every Teamster to vote for the candidate of their choice. Please exercise this right by voting and mailing in your ballot.

It has been a very busy year at Local 294 but one thing that remains constant is that you, the members, are part of a successful and united Local Union. We are committed to providing you with the best possible representation you deserve in the workplace, along with activities outside of the workplace for you and your families to enjoy with each other and your Union Brothers and Sisters. Please take a moment to look through this issue for all upcoming events and be sure to monitor our website and social media accounts for important information concerning our planned activities and any changes due to the pandemic.

As the close of the year approaches, I would like to wish you all a wonderful, healthy, and safe holiday season with family and friends!

TEAMSTERS VOICE *of* 294

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TEAMSTERS LOCAL 294

FROM THE DESK OF SECRETARY-TREASURER
TOM QUACKENBUSH

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TRUSTEE

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PHYLLIS KOZEL

PINA SZEPEK

BONNIE TORCHIA
SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR



Every year we do our very best to get out our Newsletter before Election Day so that you will know the candidates on a local, state, and federal level that we have reviewed and endorsed. These are candidates that we believe will serve best on labor issues that benefit our members. This year, as President Bulgaro explained in his message there is also a Teamsters International Election that you have an opportunity to participate in.

No matter what you believe or whom you support, it is important to exercise your right to vote. People come up with all kinds of excuses not to vote. Some say they don't have enough information; others say they dislike the candidates. The bottom line is if you don't vote, you won't have a say in how things are run. There is power in numbers. The more people that vote means better representation and in turn leads to a better quality of life for our families. When you vote you take an active role in deciding issues and allocating resources.

Voting only takes a couple of minutes and if you don't vote, someone else will. Why would you want someone else to decide the laws and rules that affect your family and community? Low turnout means that important issues are determined by a limited group of voters, making a single vote even more statistically meaningful.

People say all the time "your vote matters" because it does. And in our world "your vote matters" twice this year. Make them both count, vote – vote – vote!

YOUR VOTE MATTERS



Every day at every level of government, elected officials make decisions that affect every person's job and their family life. The first step toward fighting for a better America and a stronger Teamster Union is to exercise your right to vote!

Our Local Union has endorsed the following candidates for this coming fall elections:

Anthony Brindisi NYS Supreme Court Justice, 5th Judicial District

Peter Crummey Supervisor, Town of Colonie

Vincent Pristera Highway Superintendent, Town of New Hartford

Matthew Ossenfort Executive, Montgomery County

Michael Dayian Family Court Judge, Montgomery County

AMERICAN DREAM



Jose DeOliviera, a driver for UPS Amsterdam became an American Citizen on 5/11/2021. Jose, 36, came to the US from Brazil in 2017 to strive for a better life.... “The American Dream.” He is now married with one child and one on the way. He started on the Preload and then continued advancing by working as an Air Driver, Part-Time Cover Driver and in June 2020 he became a Full-Time Driver. Shop Steward Jeff Palmerino says “Jose is an extremely dedicated and motivated worker. He is very dependable and great to work with. We are so proud of him in what he has achieved.” Shop Steward Joe Rackmyre says “Jose is a great coworker and an extremely hard worker. I’m very happy for him on his dedication and accomplishments!” Jose is so happy to be here living the American Dream. “I came with nothing and now I have a beautiful family and a home with a great career.”



CIRCLE OF HONOR

Phil Melino, a 30+ year Teamster has earned the Circle of Honor Award. This award is given to UPS drivers who have driven 25 years in delivery with no accidents. This is a great achievement and not many drivers earn this award. Chief Steward Jeff Kritzman says “The Circle of Honor is probably the highest achievement a UPS driver can accomplish in their career. We have had only a few that have achieved this status in Hudson. Congratulations to Phil Melino for making it to that milestone.”



TEAMSTERS *Really do* CARE



When First Student Syracuse employee Betty “Queen” Thomas lost her home and all her belongings to a devastating fire her Teamster coworkers raised \$400 for her. The Local’s non-profit organization, Teamsters Care, matched the donation for a total of \$800. Betty was speechless by the generosity of everyone and overcome with emotion. She wholeheartedly thanks all who played a part in helping her with this donation. Teamsters helping and standing by each other is what being a Teamster is all about.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE

Save on Car Insurance as a Teamster with our online Defensive Driving Program ONLY \$21 ... Go to www.teamsterslocal294.org for the link to get started.

TEAMSTERS VOICE of 294

Katherine Becker
George Mason University

Allison Bovee
LeMoyne College

Jasmin Brijmohan
John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Alana Connally
High Point University

Giavonna DiToma
SUNY Maritime

Brett Donohue
SUNY Morrisville

Joshua Dziekan
Mohawk Valley CC

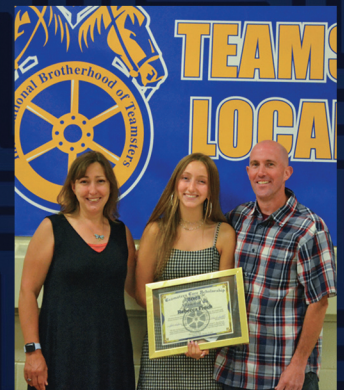
Grace Ferris
Orlo School of Hair Design & Cosmetology

Rebecca Finch
Ulster CC

Nicholas Ford
Mohawk Valley CC

Marissa Hansen
Bryant & Stratton

Rose Head
DePaul University



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

25 Louisiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001



202.624.6800
www.teamster.org

VOTE!

In the Election for International Union Officers

YOUR RIGHT • YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Ballots for the election of International Union Officers were mailed to members on October 4. We must demonstrate to employers, politicians and the media that Teamsters care about their union and are active participants in democracy.

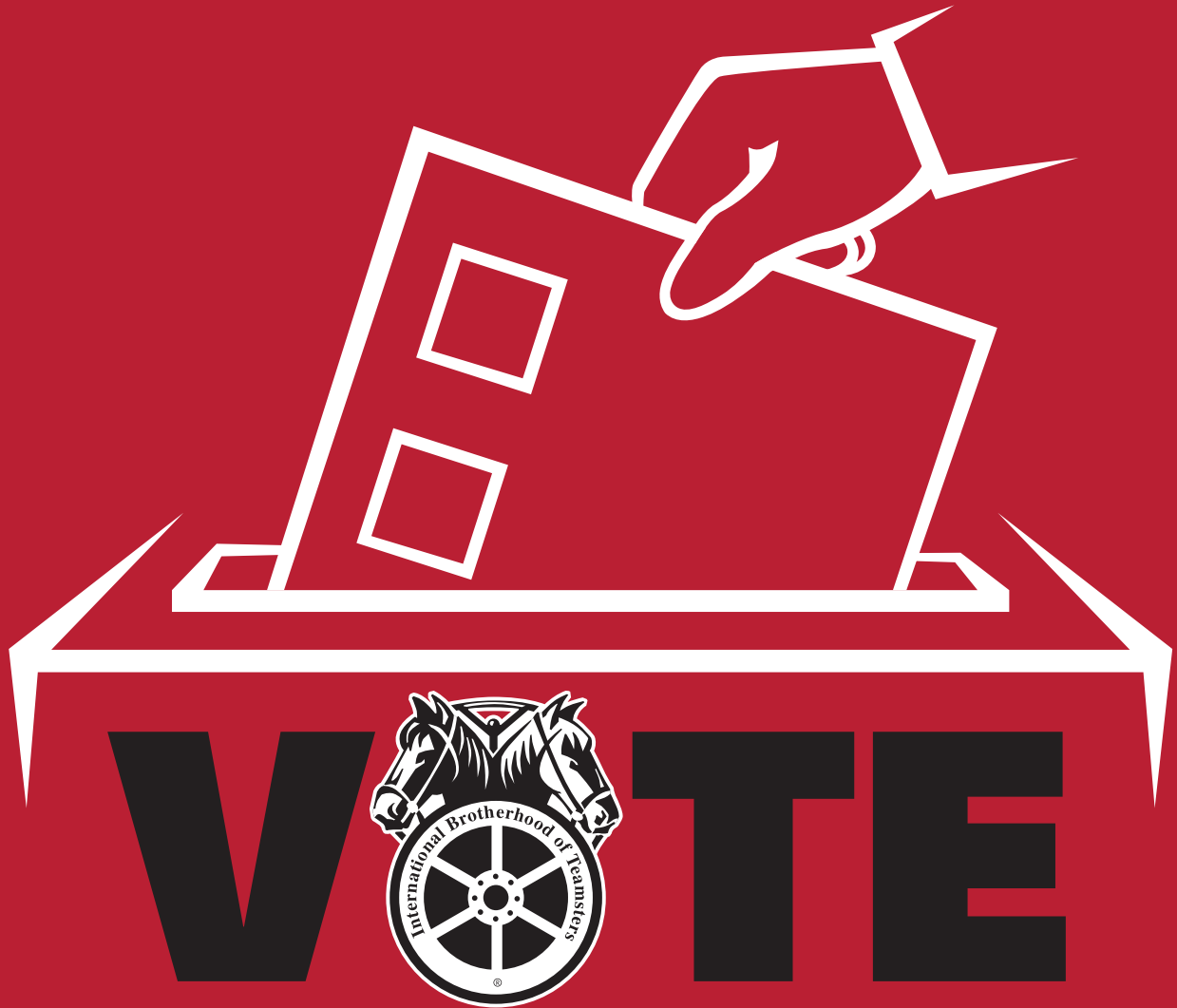
Take part in the democratic process. VOTE in the Teamster election. It's your right and your responsibility.

**Ballots Mailed October 4
Ballots Counted November 15**

Go to www.ibtvote.org or www.teamster.org to see the candidate debates.

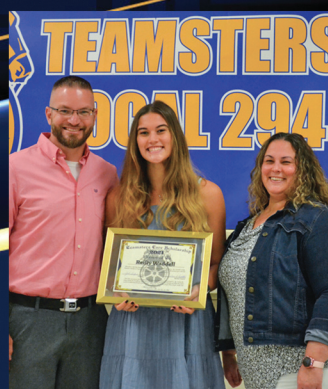
If you have not received your ballot by October 12, please call the Election Supervisor at (844) 428-8683 to request a replacement ballot.

Attention Teamsters Local 294 Members



**IN THE ELECTION OF
INTERNATIONAL UNION OFFICERS**

Ballots Mailed October 4 • Ballots Counted November 15



*Conor Hook
SUNY Polytechnic
Institute*

*Christopher Kane
Utica College*

*Hannah Konow
SUNY Binghamton*

*Daniella Mahar
Russell Sage*

*Cortney Nazak
University of Scranton*

*Isabella Pepe
Methodist University*

*Lauren Pestuglicci
College of Saint Rose*

*Courtney Schwark
Elms College*

*Noah Smith
Mohawk Valley CC*

*Byron Stuart
Siena College*

*Reilly Waddell
Ulster CC*

*Paige Wallace
SUNY Albany*

2021 Teamsters Scholarship Winners

TEAMSTERS VOICE of 294

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS 2021-2022

Our Local Union's General Membership Meetings are held the first Sunday of every month, however, a vote is generally taken at the June meeting to suspend meetings for the months of July, August and September. Meetings are held at the Labor Temple, 890 Third Street, Albany, NY and begin promptly at 10:00 A.M. All members are urged to show support for their Union by attending these monthly meetings.

The following is the General Membership Meeting schedule through the spring of 2022:

November 7, 2021	December 5, 2021 (<i>Christmas Breakfast - Check your union board for details</i>)				
January 2, 2022	February 6, 2022	March 6, 2022	April 3, 2022	May 1, 2022	June 5, 2022

LOCAL 294 TEAMSTERS WOMEN'S COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE HELD AFTER EACH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Teamsters Local 294 takes the health, safety, and security of its members very seriously. Always check www.teamsterslocal294.org for any changes or updates.

STAY CONNECTED!

VOICE OF 294 is published two times annually at 890 Third Street, Albany, New York 12206

You can also get the latest union information and become involved through:

www.teamsterslocal294.org ■ www.teamster.org ■ [Facebook.com/Teamsters](https://www.facebook.com/Teamsters) ■ [Facebook.com/TeamstersLocal294](https://www.facebook.com/TeamstersLocal294)
[YouTube.com/user/TeamsterPower](https://www.youtube.com/user/TeamsterPower) ■ TeamsterNation.blogspot.com ■ @TeamsterPower on Twitter



DON'T BE OBLIGATED TO PAY EXTRA DUES!

Get a Withdrawal Card When You're Not Working!

Whether you are leaving your job, being laid-off, taking a leave of absence, a lengthy medical leave or terminating your employment, it is your responsibility to obtain a withdrawal card. The charge for a withdrawal card is still only 50 cents and your monthly dues must be paid through the date of your request. Failure to request a withdrawal card may cause you to pay back dues. You can now call our office to take a withdrawal using your credit or debit card, stop by Local 294's office, or mail your withdrawal request along with your check or money order for 50 cents to: Teamsters Local 294, 890 Third Street, Albany, NY 12206

TEAMSTERS LOCAL 294 CDL TRAINING & EDUCATION



Call today to sign up for the "Free" training!

Local 294's Training School is for members who are interested in obtaining their Class A License. If you have researched any other training schools you will find that the tuition for such training can cost \$5,000 or more. We have part-time trainers and classes are only available on week nights and weekends. There is a waiting list, so the sooner you call the sooner you will be called. Our Local Union office number is 518-489-5436.

RETIREES CLUB

If you're a retired member (or if you are retiring soon!) you can join one of our Retirees' Clubs. Contact our office and we will mail you an application. Our clubs are very active.

In the Albany Area, monthly meetings are held on the first Monday after each general membership meeting at the Labor Temple, 890 Third Street, Albany, NY at 10:00 A.M. (with the exception of the summer months and holidays). For more information contact Walt Myers at (518) 258-3808.

In the Utica Area, meetings are still on hold due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Monthly meetings are usually held on the first Wednesday of every month at Raspberries Café, 2634 Genesee Street, Utica, NY at 9:00 A.M. We encourage you to contact John Amodio at (315) 725-4800 to inquire when meetings will resume.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENT RETIREES

Lee Otis, Adirondack Beverage
 James Demontozon, Albany County Sheriff Dept.
 Russell Sauer, Bonded Concrete - South
 Leigh Hawkins, Bonded Concrete - North
 Joseph D'Ambrosio, Casella Waste System Inc.
 Evelyn Ryan, City of Rensselaer
 Sal Corleone, Crowley Dairy, Inc.
 Peter Marino, Empire Merchants
 James Binney, Empire Merchants
 Gerald O'Neil, First Student, Inc.
 John Fallon, Town of Forestport
 Richard Winters, Town of Forestport
 John St. Clair, Fort Edward Express
 Catherine Maragno, Gloversville-Johnstown
 Joint Sewer Board
 Bruce Bump, H.P. Hood - Special Products
 Timothy Noffer, Village of Ilion DPW
 Glenn Mitchell, Lamar Central Outdoor, Inc.
 Dennis DeCarlo, Wm. M. Larned & Sons Inc.
 David Mishlanie, Matt Brewing Co Inc.
 James Snetsinger, Midstate Raceway
 Randall Nickerson, Nabisco Inc.
 William Marshall, Town of New Hartford

Joseph Fletcher, Town of New Hartford
 Sheldon Gordon, Town of New Hartford
 Guy Danella, New York Mills Police Dept.
 Thomas Guca, Village of New York Mills Hwy Dept
 Robert Kelley, New York Teamsters Health & Hospital Fund
 Marilyn Ryan, New York Teamsters Health & Hospital Fund
 John Plude, Pallette Stone
 James Wichelns, Pepsi Cola Albany Bottling Co.
 Carl Sorensen, Pepsi Cola Albany Bottling Co.
 Todd Winsman, SI Group
 Janice Hunter, South Colonie CSD
 Diane Irving, South Colonie CSD
 Robert Perry, Town of Broadalbin
 Gary Wheeler, Town of Chatham
 Mike Bradway, Town of Copake
 John Broggi, Town of Copake
 Charles Dennis, Town of Kinderhook
 Mark Klump, Town of Palatine
 Robert Rose, Jr., Town of Pittstown
 Harlan Granger, Town of Putnam Highway Dept
 John Zoulas, United Parcel Service
 Martin Hession, United Parcel Service
 Richard Meyer, United Parcel Service

Neal Konis, United Parcel Service
 William Brower, Jr., United Parcel Service
 Gregory Docous, United Parcel Service
 Gino Campeta, United Parcel Service
 Michael Patynski, United Parcel Service
 Robert St. Dennis, United Parcel Service
 Steve Chorvas, United Parcel Service
 Matthew Kerzner, United Parcel Service
 Todd Gasner, United Parcel Service
 Victor Dejohn, United Parcel Service
 Timothy Tice, United Parcel Service
 William Bonnier, UPS Ground Freight, Inc.
 Jeffrey Hurley, UPS Ground Freight, Inc.
 Philip Sayre, Upstate Milk Cooperatives, Inc.
 Doreen Gachowski, Utica City School District
 Wayne Bevins, Van Auken Express Inc.
 James Regis, Village of Ballston Spa
 Thomas Williams, Village of New Hartford DPW
 Linda Tucker, Washington Center for Rehabilitation
 & Healthcare
 Brian McWhorter, Washington Co Highway
 Stuart Brownell, Washington Co Highway

RETIREE CELEBRATIONS



South Colonie School District

Diane Irving, a classroom monitor for Special Ed students, has retired from the school district after 22 years. Her co-workers recently celebrated with her, and Secretary Treasurer Tom Quackenbush attended to present her with some Teamster retirement gear.

Town of Copake Highway Dept



Teamster **John Broggi** retired from the Town of Copake Highway Dept, and his fellow co-workers had a celebration for him. John is retiring with the town with over 30 years of experience.



Mike Bradway retires with 30+ years working for the Copake Highway Dept. Business Agent Mike Degano stopped to wish him well in the next chapter of his life. His fellow coworkers were there to celebrate with him.



Town of Kinderhook Highway Dept

Chuck Dennis, a 36-year employee with the town recently retired and his co-workers sent him out in style with a surf and turf barbecue.... his favorite.

Village of Ballston Spa DPW

It's the last punch for **Scott Regis** as he completes 29 years of service for the Village of Ballston Spa.



IBT, LOCAL 294
890 Third Street
Albany, NY 12206



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WHAT'S INSIDE

Messages from

- President John Bulgaro

Secretary-Treasurer

- Secretary-Treasurer
Tom Quackenbush

Featured Inside:

- Your Vote Matters!
- Living the American Dream
- UPS "Circle of Honor"
- Local 294 Teamsters
Care Scholarship Winners
- 2021-2022 Membership
Meetings
- Wishing Retirees Well

See Details Inside...

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Organizing the unorganized remains a top priority for Local 294

The Town of Austerlitz has joined the Teamsters. Our new Teamster brothers have been recognized by the town as a bargaining unit and will be negotiating their first contract soon. Welcome brothers!



Pictured above: Jim Casey, Duane Hotaling, Dave Gile, Bobby Miller and Shawn Williams.