

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**

It is hard to believe it is 2021. After a year like no other, a year that has tested us all; we, as brothers and sisters, stood together to fight through the challenges this pandemic has created. We watched coworkers, close friends and family members fall ill and sadly mourned the loss of those taken away. We faced many fears and unknowns along the way, but we persevered. There were times when a brighter future seemed so far away, but now I believe we are finally starting to see a small shred of light at the end of this tunnel.

I am pleased to say that the optimism for organized labor is better this year than it has ever been. Recent pro-labor decisions at the Nation's highest level, like the replacement of an anti-union, sitting general counsel at the NLRB and a Secretary of Labor choice who comes right out of the labor movement have all gotten this year off on the right foot.

Recent passage of the Butch Lewis Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act of 2021, as part of the American Rescue Plan, will finally allow more than 34,000 Teamster members to rest a little easier. This new legislation will help protect Capital Region Teamsters (and thousands of other Upstate Teamsters) from pension benefit cuts and to avoid future cuts – so our families and retirement security are not put at further risk.

This must-pass legislation was a personal goal for US Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer since he visited our local office back in 2018. He recognized then that a pension protection package was essential and fought to ensure that it continued to remain alive. As our country now looks to reopen and rebuild after this unprecedented pandemic, maintaining the solvency of the multiemployer pension system is key to economic recovery.

While a number of important details are left for later regulatory guidance, which may not be issued for several months, it is important to know that the Trustees of our Pension Fund will closely monitoring legislative developments and the potential impact on the Fund and will update participants once they have more information.

Our organizing efforts have been more active than ever because this pandemic has put a spotlight on the vulnerability of workers who had no choice but to go to work or lose their paychecks. Now those workers are choosing to organize to voice their complaints about their safety, pay and working conditions.

Ultimately, our goal is to ensure that our members, new or longstanding, are treated with dignity and receive the pay, benefits, and workplace protections they deserve because we all know this country was not built by CEOs. This country was built by hard-working Americans like our Teamster Local 294 brothers and sisters, who, throughout all the chaos and confusion, continued to provide vital, essential services to keep our economy going. It was all of you that every community could count on to get the essential work done. You showed up consistently to keep roads cleared, waste hauled, students bused, packages (many containing PPE and vaccines) delivered and so much more ...when it was needed the most and got the job done! For that I say thank you!

So, on that note, we keep moving forward, together, united and hoping for a better 2021 for all.

TEAMSTERS VOICE 294

EXECUTIVE BOARD TEAMSTERS LOCAL 294

FROM THE DESK OF SECRETARY-TREASURER TOM QUACKENBUSH

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ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT*

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PHYLLIS KOZEL

PINA SZEPEK



I hope this message finds you and your loved ones healthy and safe! Our Local has had a lot of challenges this past year and one thing I have learned is that Local 294 Teamsters know how to fight the good fight! I was fortunate to be witness to these “fighters”... members who keep our union strong by stepping out of their daily routine to support their co-workers... many times this year.

I am talking about our shop stewards and member leaders who understand that our strength is in our unity and solidarity. These are the members who choose to lead, learn, and stand up for fairness at work. They sit through contract negotiations, dispel anti-union misinformation, and constantly organize their peers for strength. They just seem to inherently know that the next generation of workers depend on today's Teamsters to keep our union strong ... just as we depended on the Teamsters that came before us.

Think about it for a moment, every place of employment, at one point, had no union. Workers had to fight to change how things were. They risked their jobs and their families' livelihoods to stand together as one. They demanded that their right to negotiate with the employer for wages, working conditions, and benefits be recognized, and they won their fight.

We cannot forget these fights. It is important that we all recognize the hard work and dedication of members who step up and become advocates of our union. This keeps us strong and moves us forward. We cannot forget that we stand on the shoulders of our predecessors and it is our duty to preserve, protect and build upon their efforts.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Organizing the unorganized remains a top priority for Local 294

TOWN OF CONESVILLE

TOWN OF CLAVERACK



WORKSTATION CONSULTANTS, INC.

TOWN OF JACKSON

EMPIRE MERCHANTS – ADMIN.

NEW PENN – CLERICAL

TOMRA WAREHOUSE – ESSEX

LOCAL 294 TEAMSTERS IN THE COMMUNITY

On Sunday, October 11, Local 294 Teamsters participated in “Fuel for Finn,” a fundraiser for a 5 year-old boy from Fort Ann who has been diagnosed with Leukemia. It was an outpouring of support to show a little boy with a passion for trucks that he’s not fighting alone. Almost 400 trucks lined up including our very own Teamster Tractor Trailer, as well as Teamster Companies like UPS, Warren Fane, Callanan Industries, Clemente Latham Concrete, Pallette Stone, Rifenburg and the Town of Whitehall Highway Department. The event raised over \$60,000!



2021 LOCAL 294 TEAMSTER SCHOLARSHIP



We will now be accepting applications for the 2021 Local 294 Teamster Scholarship. This annual scholarship is available to all active members, in good standing for the last 12 months, who have children/dependents that are presently high school seniors. The deadline for all applications is Friday, May 7, 2021. Use the application on the next page or call the Local Union Office at (518) 489-5436 for additional applications. A fillable PDF is also available at www.teamsterslocal294.org.

2020 Scholarship Winner Tyler Appleton poses with his parents.

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LOCAL 294 TEAMSTERS CARE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Please print or type all information. All applications and accompanying information must be sent to the following address: "Local 294 Teamsters Care Scholarship" c/o Teamsters Local 294, 890 Third Street, Albany, NY 12206 or emailed to jmeola@teamsterslocal294.org

The deadline for all applications is May 7, 2021

NAME/STUDENT _____	_____	_____	_____
	(LAST)	(FIRST)	(MIDDLE INITIAL)
HOME ADDRESS _____			
CITY _____	STATE _____	ZIP CODE _____	
PHONE # _____	EMAIL _____		

HIGH SCHOOL _____
DATE OF GRADUATION _____
HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR _____
COLLEGES APPLIED TO _____

TEAMSTER PARENT _____
TEAMSTER PARENT LAST FOUR DIGITS OF SS# _____
TEAMSTER PARENT PHONE# _____
TEAMSTER PARENT EMPLOYER NAME & ADDRESS _____

Applications **MUST** include the following:

- 1. A letter of recommendation from the applicant's guidance counselor.
- 2. A current copy of the applicant's high school transcript with GPA.
- 3. Results of either the ACT or SAT, if taken.
- 4. Proof of acceptance at an accredited institution of higher learning.
- 5. A **separate** listing of the applicant's academic achievements, extra-curricular activities, involvement with community affairs, and employment.
- 6. Additional information may be provided by a parent/guardian in the form of a letter.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE _____

PARENT'S SIGNATURE _____



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

Teamsters Local 294 would like to recognize the hard work and dedication of our Shop Stewards.

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

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

What is a Shop Steward?

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

A Shop Steward:

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

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

<p>Mark Campbell UPS Albany Feeder</p> 	 <p>Stan Koniszewski, SYSCO Mike Prendergast, Coca Cola</p>	<p>Todd Brown Fitzgerald Brothers</p> 	 <p>June Van Anten First Student Saugerties</p>
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ALL IN A DAY'S WORK



Quality Carriers/Quala Wash participate in a contract update.



Fitzgerald Brothers recently ratified a new contract that saw substantial wage increases.



Bob Gallagher, Sysco Teamster recently went to arbitration with Sysco and won his case! Teamster Strong!

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS 2021

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 2021:

April 11, 2021

May 2, 2021

June 6, 2021

Teamsters Local 294 takes the health, safety, and security of its members very seriously. Meetings may change due to mandatory guidelines of gatherings in New York State. In addition, masks and appropriate social distancing rules will be required to be followed.

Always check www.teamsterslocal294.org for any changes or updates.

2021 TEAMSTERS LAW ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE

The International will be holding a **2021 Teamsters Law Enforcement Conference**, which will be held entirely over **Zoom on May 13th and 14th**. This law enforcement conference is a great way for sworn police officers, correctional officers and 911 dispatchers to learn about the issues that affect them. The conference will take place from noon ET to 5:30 pm ET on Thursday, May 13th, and will resume at noon ET to 5:00 pm ET on Friday, May 14th. Details on registration to follow at a later date. Please contact our office if you're interested.



Teamster
WOMEN
Local 294 will be hosting a
BLOOD DRIVE



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2021

FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA SITES FOR UPCOMING DETAILS ON THIS EVENT!

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 run anywhere from \$3,500 to \$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

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, our retire clubs have put their monthly meetings on hold. But that does not mean you cannot consider joining and attend meetings when the do resume! If you are interested in joining, contact our office and we will mail you an application.

Below is the clubs' usual monthly meetings and contact numbers for each area. We encourage you to check each club to see when their meetings will resume.

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, monthly meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month at Raspberries Café, 2634 Genesee Street, Utica, NY at 9:00 A.M. For more information contact John Amodio at (315) 725-4800.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENT RETIREES

Jonathan Atwell, United Parcel Service
 Daniel Austro, Town Of Perth
 Ronald Baitsholts, Town Of Cairo
 Daniel Barber, Town Of Kinderhook
 James Boughton, Wm. M. Larned & Sons Inc.
 Norman Brammer, United Parcel Service
 John Breen, Pepsi Cola Albany Bottling Co.
 David Caputo, Town of Bethlehem Police Dept
 Benjamin Carmon, Madison County Sheriff'S Dept
 James Connell, Center For Disability Services
 Robert Cook, Town of Madison
 John Day, Center For Disability Services
 James Doring, United Parcel Service

David Falzo, SI Group
 Michael Farinaccio, United Parcel Service
 Leonard Francesconi, United Parcel Service
 Sally Goetz, Utica City School District
 Bryan Gregg, Town Of Kinderhook
 Dennis Hartley, Pepsi Cola Albany Bottling Co.
 Rea Jones, South Colonie CSD
 Frederick Laverack, Adirondack Beverage
 Peter Lebarron, Washington Co Highway
 David Malagisi, Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Sewer Board
 Michael Miller, Center For Disability Services
 Patrick Morrissey, Village Of Ballston Spa
 William Munro, United Parcel Service

William Myers, Maloy
 Judie Pedersen, H.P. Hood Special Products
 David Rose, SI Group
 Craig Sleurs, Town of Bethlehem Police Dept
 Charles Smith, Washington Co Highway
 Glenn Smith, Empire Merchants
 Daniel Steele Jr., Town of Broadalbin
 Joseph Tozzi, Sysco Frosted Foods
 Timothy Travis, Town of Bethlehem Police Dept
 Steve VanAuken, United Parcel Service
 James Voehringer, Town Of Ballston
 Patrick Volpicelli, United Parcel Service
 Cyrus Waterman, Upstate Milk Cooperatives, Inc.

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.

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

IBT, LOCAL 294
890 Third Street
Albany, NY 12206



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President John Bulgaro

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Scholarship Application

DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday, May 7, 2021
Teamsters Care Local 294
Scholarship Application Deadline

Thursday & Friday, May 13 & 14, 2021
Teamsters International
2021 Law Enforcement Conference

Saturday, September 18, 2021
Teamsters 294 Women's Committee
BLOOD DRIVE

TEAMSTERS *STRONG!*

UPS Teamsters delivering the first 80,000 COVID-19 vaccines to
Albany Medical Center!



Pictured left to right: Michael Sagendorf (UPS Capital South Driver),
Dave Ravenna (Albany Med Receiving Supervisor),
Mark Thomas (UPS On-Road Supervisor).