



TEAMSTERS

GENERAL TEAMSTERS LOCAL 959 • STATE OF ALASKA
Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters



Life as Usual? I Think Not.

by Secretary-Treasurer Ken Coleman

Well, never a dull moment these days in the state of Alaska! I'd like to say it's politics as usual, but clearly, Governor Palin has once again shocked the citizens of Alaska, and the nation, with her recent announcement to step down as our governor on July 26.

With speculation raging as to Governor Palin's true intent for this move, one can fully understand her stated concern in the monies being spent by the state in responding to the numerous ethics complaints filed against her. While some may find these complaints frivolous and without merit, others wholly believe it is within their rights to question our state's leader and her actions. I believe it's a fine balance between the two, and one not likely arrived at easily.

Being tasked with overseeing the welfare of the populace of Alaska is no small responsibility. As with any of our past leaders, Governor Palin has had her hands full. We are currently participating in an era of movement around our state in many areas, but particularly once again in the area of resource development. I urge you to stay informed and involved in the events taking place that define whom we are in relation to the rest of the nation and the world.

Speaking of resources, Local 959 President Rick Boyles and I recently attended a construction conference in Whitehorse, Yukon, to participate in discussions on the proposed gas pipelines from the North Slope of Alaska and the Mackenzie Delta. Held June 24 through June 25, the conference was extremely enlightening with representatives from several pipeline entities from Canada, more specifically including the Pipeline Contractors Association of Canada; TransCanada; Denali, the Alaska Gas Pipeline Project; First Nations' representatives; and a host of others.

Some topics of discussion were aboriginal land use issues (which seem to be resolved in Canada), permitting, fiscal issues, timing of construction, projected needs, and labor issues. We also had discussions with Canadian counter-parts regarding job requirements, manning, and cross border labor utilization. We plan to further those discussions with the Canadian Teamsters later this year. All in all, the conference was well planned and we left with a much better understanding of how the Canadians view our gas project and what they have been doing on their side of the border to facilitate construction.

On our Local Union level, I've announced around the state in both general and quarterly membership meetings that the Pension Board actuaries and Plan professionals were scheduled to meet the first part of July. The Pension Board, Trust Administrator, and I recently spent three days in

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Calling all Alaska Teamster Retirees!

**Notice of Alaska Teamsters 2009
Retiree Annual Reunion
Come one - Come all!**

September 22 - September 25, 2009

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Life as Usual? I Think Not. *cont. from page 1*

Tacoma discussing the necessary steps in continuing to secure the health and integrity of our Pension Plan during these difficult economic times. Our fiduciary responsibility is not taken lightly in this matter and we are forever prudent in making decisions with our members' retirement fund.

In the past year and longer, I've spoken extensively on the health of our Pension Plan in relation to its funding abilities. Be aware that the current downturn in the market value of a majority of defined pension plans is not unique to our Alaska Teamster Plan. The world over has experienced an economic decline in numerous areas with the failing of banks and mortgage companies, auto giants and the like. Our Pension Plan is performing well compared to many at this time. While no final decision has been made as to any changes that may take place in the future to ensure the continued health of our Plan, be assured you will be kept informed on any steps that may need to be taken. The Pension Board will meet again in August for continued discussions on any potential Plan revisions.

With a number of our members having questions on the operation and procedures of the hiring hall, a hiring hall committee is being formed to assess the application of hiring hall rules to current situations. Members are being asked to submit their questions or concerns relevant to the industry in

which they work. Ten rank and file members from around the state will then be chosen to form a roundtable committee.

I've asked Fairbanks and Anchorage dispatchers Kim Brandenburg and Sandra Gardeline to chair the meetings, along with resource participation from Fairbanks and Anchorage former dispatchers, Jackie Bloom and Cal Stroble. Also involved from a staff perspective will be Director of Construction Rick Boyles, Director of Freight Mike Jones, and Executive Director Rick Traini. My expectation of the group will be to sort through any inconsistencies that may have occurred over the years, ultimately formulating a plan to bring our hiring halls into complete harmony with one another statewide. If you have any concerns on the operation or procedures of the hiring hall, please forward these concerns to the dispatchers or your business representative no later than August 15, 2009.

In closing, I wish all Local 959 members and their families a delightful and prosperous season. Enjoy our long days of summer and take the opportunity to enjoy Alaska.



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LOCAL 959
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Don't Forget to Buy an ALIVE Raffle Ticket!

STATE PERMIT 09-0177

FALL DRAWING

\$12,500 First Prize
500 Tickets Sold at \$100.00 Per Ticket
(SEE BACK FOR PRIZES)

Drawing will be held at the Teamsters Building
520 E. 34th Ave., Room 121
Anchorage, Alaska
October 22, 2009 - 6:00-8:00 p.m.

SPONSORED BY ALASKA LABOR INDEPENDENT VOTERS EDUCATION

100th Ticket Drawn Wins.....	\$ 750.00
125th Ticket Drawn Wins.....	\$ 250.00
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Seller of Most Tickets.....	\$ 2,000.00
Seller of Second Most Tickets.....	\$12,500.00
Seller of Third Most Tickets.....	\$ 500.00
Seller of Fourth Most Tickets.....	\$ 250.00
Seller of Fifth Most Tickets.....	\$ 150.00
Seller of Sixth Most Tickets.....	\$ 100.00

The drawing is October 22, 2009.

SYSCO Drivers Choose Teamsters! Employee Unit Joins Teamsters Local 959

On July 8, 2009, the drivers at SYSCO Food Services of Alaska voted 3 to 1 to join the Teamsters. The election was held at the employer's Anchorage facility, and the bargaining unit includes all full-time and regular part-time drivers employed by the employer in the state of Alaska. The unit will soon enter into contract negotiations for their first collective bargaining agreement.

Current SYSCO operations include facilities in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Kenai, in addition to servicing the Kenai Peninsula, Denali National Park, and the Seward and Homer regions.

Earlier this year, the drivers at SYSCO contacted Local 959 organizer, Derek Musto, and expressed the desire to address concerns and change a number of workplace issues. The drivers' goal in joining the Teamsters was to secure the ability to negotiate with the company. Unlike our members in related fields, SYSCO drivers lacked workplace security and consistency, a set wage scale, an established bidding and vacation process, affordable health care for their families, and a grievance and arbitration procedure.

During the campaign, drivers experienced a number of obstacles designed to "persuade" them from joining the Teamsters. Company tactics included anti-union videos, phone calls, mailings, and visits outside of work, in addition to mandatory one-on-one and captive audience meetings – all in an attempt to deter the drivers' efforts.



"We are happy with the positive aspects Teamster membership brings," said Andy Mitchell, a two-year driver at SYSCO. "We look forward to having a voice on the job and the opportunity to address our collective issues and concerns as operations continue to grow throughout the state. This opportunity could never have been possible without the hard work and effort of the Teamsters."

Now that the election phase of the campaign is over, the bargaining unit members are working on priority surveys, and will soon nominate union stewards and form a negotiating committee.

"I'm proud of the hard work and steadfast resolve of everyone involved with this campaign," said Secretary-Treasurer Ken Coleman. "These drivers stood united in their efforts to join our organization, and we look forward to addressing their issues and concerns in upcoming contract negotiations."

Local 959 would like to thank everyone who participated and assisted in this campaign. A special thanks is also extended to our new Teamster members at the Wasilla Police Department, who recently secured their first Teamster contract. During the campaign at SYSCO, a number of these members helped along the way and donated time talking and visiting with the drivers at SYSCO.

Membership involvement is key to our Local Union's success. If you are interested in assisting our organizing department, or would like to get involved, please contact Derek Musto at (907) 565-8219.

Weaver Brothers – Provides "Mobe Up" and Rig Work Support

Weaver Bros., Inc. recently contracted with Naknek Electric Association to provide mobilization and rig work support for a drill rig Naknek Electric will be operating at King Salmon.

On Saturday, July 11, 2009, Weaver employees Leonard Everitt (Kenai winch driver) and Jim Och (Anchorage hostler) helped load 14 pieces of Weaver Bros.' equipment onto a Northland Services barge in Anchorage. (The barge is currently sailing to Naknek.) Weaver Brothers will then send a crew down to unload the barge and deliver the rig for "mobe up" at King Salmon. The Weaver equipment for this project included bed tandems, winch trucks, lowboys, oilfield trailers, and a loader.

Weaver employees will be staying at the drill site to support the rig while it is being used to drill an undetermined number of holes. The initial set up period of this project is expected to last about two weeks.

If you visit Naknek Electric Association's (NEA) Web site, it is explained that NEA is exploring geothermal power production to improve its ability to provide electricity in the Bristol Bay and Lake Region areas of western Alaska. Geothermal power will be used as an alternative to using fossil fuels.



Southeast Area Report



Pictured are 959 Kiewit articulating truck drivers working on the airport job in Petersburg. From left to right: Mike Picken (seated in the pickup), Alex Guthrie, Geoffrey Gillen, Rodney Littleton, and Ken Rider.

Construction) is currently finishing up its work in Wrangell on the airport project that was started two years ago. We had a couple of our Teamster members working on this project for a short time.

The first phase of the Petersburg Airport project was completed in June, with our last members being laid off at that time. This project employed Local 959 members from Wrangell, Juneau, Petersburg, Kake and Ketchikan. The second phase of this project, however, appears to be going to a non-union contractor who is the apparent low bidder.

Secon has started work on the Mitkov highway project in Petersburg. This project will employ eight or more Teamsters.

A number of our members at Miller Construction are finishing the Cabin Creek project in Petersburg.

In the Juneau area, Miller Construction employs both surveying members doing tech engineer work and construction drivers. At press time, we have gained three new members working for Miller. We are pleased that Miller continues to employ our apprentices in an effort to give them experience in their fields, in addition to keeping as many of our members working as they can. Recently, the Glacier Highway and Trailhead Stage II road project was awarded to Miller construction. This project is in at just under \$10 million.

AGGPRO is also keeping busy by keeping our mixer drivers pouring at several work sites in the Juneau area and outside of Juneau. AGGPRO is always looking for experienced mixer drivers.

The Harborview School renovation in Juneau should be completed this fall. This project started last summer and we have two 959 members working for the contractor, Cutting Edge Development.

The construction season for Juneau and the rest of Southeast started off a bit differently this year due to work bids coming out later in the season. Considering this delay, we still had a few major construction projects go to our signatory companies during the end of June and the first part of July.

Granite Construction (formerly Wilder

Southeast Earthmovers and McGraw Construction are in Juneau from Sitka. Both companies are involved in two Project Labor Agreements. One is the new Public Works facility at seven mile in Juneau and the other is the new aquatic center by the new high school in the valley. Currently we have six drivers combined working for these two companies.

North Pacific Erectors, Inc. of Juneau has signed a construction compliance with Local 959. This contractor is a very welcome addition to our group of signatory companies in Juneau.

Now that the Kensington Mine has the go ahead to proceed, we are looking forward to a number of our members being put to work at the mine. We had 20 plus members working there before and hope to have as many back again. This, of course, depends on who the contractor will be and when the contractor will be allowed to start.

Negotiations with Catholic Community Service in Juneau were completed the end of June for the drivers and dispatchers for Care-A-Van. A new agreement has been reached and the increases for these members took place July 1.

Our members in Skagway with both the White Pass and Yukon Route Railroad and Southeast Stevedoring are just as busy as they have been in years past. Negotiations with the railroad will commence sometime this fall for a new successor agreement, and negotiations with Southeast Stevedoring will be open this winter as well.

AT&T members working at Lena Point in Juneau are continually working on the radio systems throughout Southeast. Currently, they are adding another channel to the microwave radio north from Lena Point to Haines.

UPS members in Sitka, Juneau, and Ketchikan are busy with the summer season in full swing. The number of members in this group stays right at 12 members.

In closing, the next membership meeting for Juneau is scheduled for Monday, September 14, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. Do come and show your support for your Local Union.



Pictured is Brenda Louise who is a CVO (command vehicle operator) for Kiewit on the Petersburg airport job.



Attending the Juneau quarterly membership meeting in June are (from left to right) Robert Olson, Secretary-Treasurer

Ken Coleman, Danny Edersheim, Randy Sadler, and Trust Administrator Rose Kalamarides. Robert, Danny, and Randy are construction drivers for Southeast Earthmovers.

Southcentral Construction Season Gets Stimulated

Like it or not, President Obama's economic stimulus package will likely play a huge, and welcomed, part in salvaging a rather sluggish construction season for Southcentral Alaska in 2009. Remove the infusion of federal funding from the equation and the result is a bleak one. Along with roadway repaving projects on the Glenn Highway, as well as Minnesota Drive in Anchorage, communities such as King Salmon and Kodiak are going to benefit from the transportation dollars, which should put some Teamsters into action on those projects.

As workers began to migrate in from the North Slope in late April, however, many quickly became aware of the fact that they were in for a bit of a wait for summer employment opportunities. As May slipped away and June came grinding in, the mood in the Teamster's hiring hall morphed from hopefulness to frustration.

As a few projects that were carried over from last season began to ramp back up this spring, some fortunate Teamsters found their way out of the hall and back into the summer construction in fairly short order. AIC, LLC continued to work on the 48th Street project (otherwise known as the Boniface Avenue Extension/Tudor Center Drive project). QAP also began to work on the continuation of the Port of Anchorage Expansion project, employing several Teamsters as rock truck drivers.

Anchorage is currently receiving a facelift of sorts with the 6th Avenue improvement and resurfacing project being performed by AIC. The new multi-lane reconstruction and sidewalk upgrades associated with that project have

provided additional work for the Teamster mixer truck drivers employed at AGGPRO in Anchorage as well.

Lastly, the much talked about and highly anticipated Trunk Road Reconstruction Phase I in Wasilla is scheduled to begin July 15, 2009. With the possibility of the project's general contractor, Scarsella Brothers Construction of Kent,



Pictured is QAP's Dowling Road extension project.

Washington, providing a dozen or more jobs to Local 959 members with this single project, much interest has been expressed in both the Trunk Road project as well as Scarsella Brothers Construction in the last few months.

In light of the downturn in the national economy, including the massive loss of jobs in the Lower 48, much of the country's out of work force has turned their eyes toward the Last Frontier as a possible source of employment. In the months to come, Local 959 business representatives will be working diligently to secure as many work opportunities as possible. In turn, working Teamsters will be busy doing what they do best – providing Alaska's construction employers with the safest and highest skilled workers in the business.

Topic: What was the worst job you or a family member ever held, and how would a labor union, such as the Teamsters, have made the situation better?

THE JAMES R. HOFFA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

2009 Essay Contest

Deadline for submissions is *September 30, 2009*

For Students attending a community college, 4-year institution or a technical/vocational program, Age 23 and Younger, who are Children or Grandchildren of Teamster Members.

For an application, contact your Teamsters Local Union office or visit www.teamster.org



Interior Summer Construction Season Well Under Way

The following report lists some of the work being performed by our Teamster members in Interior Alaska:

Alaska Industrial has several members working on the Dalton Highway near Galbreath. Alaska Industrial continues to work on Fort Wainwright and several other smaller jobs in and around Fairbanks.



Pictured are 959 members Terry Pauli and Terry Aldridge from Alaska Industrial.

Alaska Interior Transport signed a new AGC agreement on June 4, 2009, and is currently working on several small Interior Alaska jobs.

Becker Brothers has been working around Fairbanks as well. The company has been hauling gravel for the upgrading of Chena Hot Springs Road, with the paving portion of this project beginning soon.

Black Gold Express has also signed a new AGC agreement on June 9, 2009. Black Gold is working on several jobs including work on Eielson AFB, Fairbanks International Airport, and the Richardson Highway. We are looking forward to a long-lasting relationship with owner, Jim Huffman.

Brice Inc. is currently working on the Airport at Savoonga.

Delta Sand and Gravel, Fairbanks Sand and Gravel, and University Redi-Mix are all doing well this summer delivering concrete to the projects in the Fairbanks' area.

Emulsion Products will be hauling quite a bit of hot oil for the airport paving work being completed by Exclusive Paving.

Great Northwest is performing the repaving work at Pioneer Park, in addition to necessary clean-up work at Eagle due to the terrible flooding occurring in that area this spring.



Pictured are Teamster members Alejandro Michel and Pascha Mann from H.C. Redi Mix.

A special thank you to Roy Williams of Anchorage who came to Fairbanks and conducted a two-week concrete mixer truck training course. Seven students participated in



Pictured is 959 Shop Steward Donnie Siebels from Exclusive Paving.

this introductory class, including two apprentices. Michelle Mathews, upon completion of the class, went back to work on the North Slope for Norcon. Pascha Mann was dispatched to HC Redi-Mix here in Fairbanks. Shane Barna, Craig Jordan, Jeremy Hunt, Richard Smith, and Nick Hutchens also attended the class.

Articulating Construction Driver and Mixer Truck Training Provided

The Teamster Training Center provided Articulating Construction Driver Training to Teamster members pictured below. Front row: David Wade and Andrew Lojo. Second



row: Mark Beaumaster, Marion Hoskins, Courtney Garner, Pascha Mann, Richard Lancot, Samuel Ehimen, Ray Munoz, and

Harold Semaken. Back row: Scott Moore, Ondar Gibson, Bryan Corrigan, Paul Noga, and Jeffrey Rind. (Not pictured is Chris Neeson.) The Alaska Department of Labor provided the grant funding through the State Training and Employment Program (STEP) for this training.

Also recently, the Training Center conducted mixer truck training in both Anchorage and Fairbanks. (Thank you to Anchorage Sand & Gravel for donating the mixer truck). Teamster members who participated in this training were: Richard Lancot, Paul Noga, Jeffrey Rind, Chris Neeson, Bryan Corrigan, Richard Smith, Pascha Mann, Michelle Matthews, Nick Hutchens, Craig Jordan, Jeremy Hunt, and William Walter.



Teamsters' Public Sector Update

Municipality of Anchorage, Transit and Solid Waste:

In an effort to meet the Municipality's call to balance its budget, People Mover and Solid Waste employees recently agreed to forego their negotiated 3% wage increase for a six-month period in exchange for an extension to the Agreement. These employees recently ratified a three-year extension to the collective bargaining agreement, with a wage opener in the third year. With this extension in place, the contract now expires December 31, 2013.

Also during this renegotiation process, the performance step program was tweaked to fix an inadvertent error in the program that was pointed out after the negotiation and ratification process of the original program.

AMEA Takes MOA-Requested Concessions:

AMEA and the MOA recently entered into a Letter of Agreement (LOA) that gives the City the concession it was requesting in order to help balance the 2009 Anchorage municipal budget.

The MOA had requested that AMEA give up its 2.7% wage increase for 2009. Instead of giving up that wage increase, however, the AMEA and MOA negotiated provisions that require all full-time employees utilize 56 hours' leave without pay by December 31, 2009, which achieves the same savings.

Additionally, the LOA extends the 2008-2012 AMEA-MOA collective bargaining agreement through December 31, 2013,

with a wage reopener to determine the 2013 wages. In both 2011 and 2012, the option for a wage reopener was eliminated and the previous CPI-U five-year average will be applied to each of those respective years as wage adjustments, with a minimum increase of 2.5% up to a maximum of 3.9%.

On January 1, 2011, and January 1, 2012, each employee will be credited with up to eight hours for a personal holiday based on each employee's budgeted full-time equivalent.

The LOA was ratified by AMEA's membership and subsequently approved by the Anchorage Assembly on Tuesday, June 16, 2009.

M. V. Transportation:

A vote was recently held by the bargaining unit employees at M. V. Transportation in an effort to bring the employees into the Alaska Teamster-Employer Pension Plan. The attempt was defeated, however, with a ballot count of 24 for and 27 against. In these difficult economic times, the group chose to place the full amount of the scheduled increase onto their wage instead of diverting a portion to the pension plan.

First Student, Southcentral:

While summer school is currently going on, most of our members employed at First Student on the Peninsula are off for the summer months. Plans are currently gearing up for the startup that will occur the first part of August with the route bidding process and school starting the third week in August.

Anchorage School District . . . Summer Break Slowdown?

Warehouse and Maintenance Bargaining Unit:

The school zone lights have stopped flashing for the summer. Kids are playing baseball, vacationing, and otherwise enjoying three months without teachers and homework. Does this mean schools are closed and no one is working? Not in this town.

The summer months are busy times for Teamster members working for the Anchorage School District under the Warehouse and Maintenance contract. Projects that just cannot be completed when kids are in school are getting under way.

Many maintenance projects begin when our kids go home for the summer. Parking lots get new striping. Schools get a fresh coat of paint, both inside and out. Plumbing projects and major heating maintenance takes place. Roofs that have been patched together during the winter months get permanent repairs. Football fields and soccer fields have to be installed and upgraded. And schools get a lot of cosmetic makeovers so they will have an up-to-date feel when the kids return in the fall. Add to all that the fact that literally tons of new equipment and supplies must be delivered by the Warehouse employees, and it's no wonder the short summer break is a busy time.

Summer is also a time when extra help is needed to accomplish these tasks, and so the Anchorage School District hires dozens of temporary employees to assist in making sure these projects get completed.

Food Service Bargaining Unit:

Except for the summer school programs, summer is a time of layoff for many of the Teamster members who work for the School District in the Food Service department.

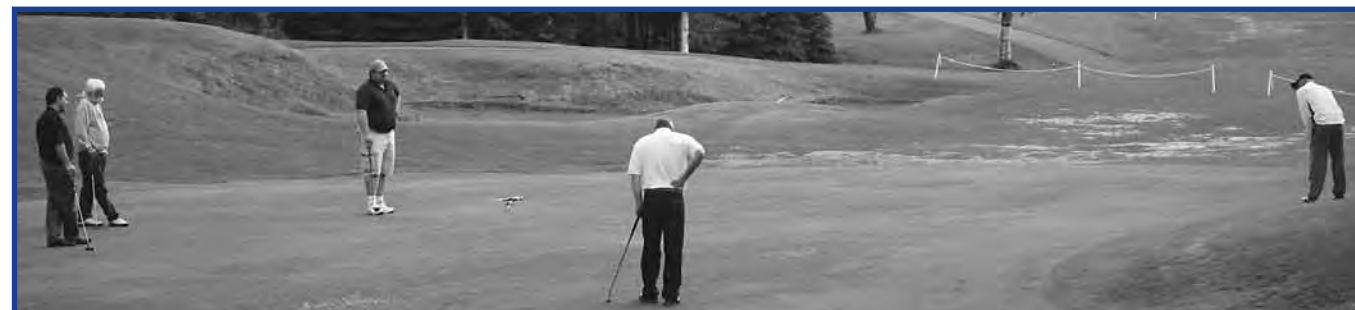
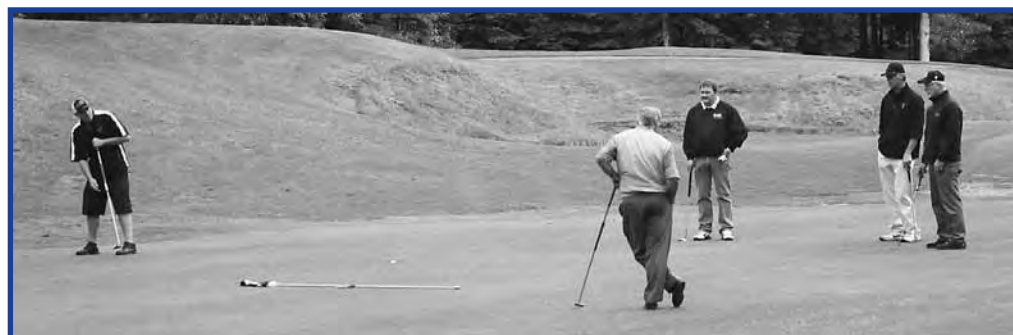
Lunches were prepared and frozen before the end of the school year that will be served during summer school programs. A small group of employees will work during the summer in these programs, but for the majority of food service employees, summer means a well-deserved vacation and a time to regroup and get ready to do it all over again come August.

Negotiations for a new contract in the Food Service unit are ongoing, but slow. The negotiating committee is struggling to get a tentative agreement on the medical portion of the Agreement, but will continue working on it. Hopefully, we will have an agreement to bring to the members by the time school resumes in August. Until then, we will continue to work under the terms of the existing contract and see where it goes. If you have any questions, you may contact business representative, Dale Miller at 565-8126.

Pupil Transportation:

The bus drivers and attendants bargaining unit is also currently in negotiations with the Anchorage School District. However, the parties have reached an impasse in negotiations on the successor agreement. Mediation is scheduled for the first week in August in an effort to resolve the differences between the parties.

Silver Anniversary of the Jesse L. Carr Charity Golf Tournament



Here's to the next twenty-five!

Donations of over \$3,700 were received from Local 959 active members and retirees, families and friends. Thank you to the following who gave so generously: Mike Alexander, Gary Atwood, Gary and Barbara Bergman, George Berry, Buddy and Leslie Bise, Bobby and Patricia Blakney, Jackie and David Bloom, Tammi Bond, Jimmy Brett, Marvin and Zona Brink, Frank and Jeanne Brumann, Lynn Buchheit, Tim and Veronica Burzinski, John Carr, Dennis and Jerri Clontz, Ken Coleman, John and Elizabeth Cronin, Gerald and Martha Curt, Daniel Cusick, Dan and Candace Dufour, Eric Eiland, Karen Elfering, Leonard and Jodi Everitt, Larry and Marjorie Foster, Bill and Pam Gates, Michael and Jacqueline Herter, Paul Huseman, Mark and Bertha Johnson, Fred Kaiser, Michael Killian, Elwood and Ruth Killian, Jonnie and Laz Lazarus, John Leeney, Michael and Beth Leonard, Jesse Lewis, Jr., Edward Meena, Charles Miller, Ralph and Jo Ann Mingo, Brendo and Elizabeth Montuya, James Moore, Fred and Mary Jane Nelius, Denis and Andree Porchet, David Prince, Joe Pritza, Mike Pritza, Leonard and Donna Pulliam, Armando and Eugenia SanJose, Gerald and Janet Schoneck, Jack and Nadine Slama, Ron and Ruth Sterling, James Stevenson, Harry Stober, Cal and Connie Stroble, John Stuart, Jr., Robert and Frances Testu, Michael and Constance Thomas, John Vanden Bos, Frank and Jeanne Walczyk, Skip and Sharon Weeks, Larry and Jane West, Michael and Kathie White, Larry Wilkinson, and John Willford.

For every five dollars donated, each contributor received one raffle ticket for a special prize awarded after the tournament. Congratulations to this year's lucky winners, Ralph and Jo Ann Mingo, who have won a weekend stay at Denali National Park.



Local staff arrived bright and early to welcome participants to the 25th anniversary of the Jesse L. Carr Charity Golf tournament, held June 12 at the Anchorage Golf Course at O'Malley's on the Green. At 6:00 a.m., it looked like the weather could go "either way," but thankfully, despite the overcast sky and somewhat chilly temperature, there were no raindrops.

Corporate teams from Alaska Regional Hospital, AES, PPC, Elmendorf Support Services, AT&T Alascom, Quality Asphalt, Totem Ocean Trailer Express, Anchorage Chrysler Center, Neeser Construction, Carrs/Safeway, and IBEW Local 1547 arrived and were checked in by Local and Trust staff volunteers. By 7:00 a.m., the golfers were in their carts and on their way. After several hours of a game that has been described as a nice long walk ruined by a little white ball, the players were back at the club enjoying lunch; some commiserating on their scores, others eyeing the first place trophies.

After the luncheon, President Rick Boyles awarded the 22 donated raffle prizes, including two state-of-the-art GPS units, a Kenai fjords tour for two, a stay for two in Denali, and a one-month platinum pass to the Alaska Club, to name just a few. The grand prize of two Alaska Airline mileage tickets was won by golfer James Ingram. Tournament winners were Packer's Pebbles in the open division and Neeser Construction in the corporate division.

Twenty-five years of tournament memorabilia, collected and generously loaned by retiree Cal Stroble, was displayed at the luncheon. We, Teamsters, have created a fitting legacy to the late Jesse Carr, having donated over a million dollars to Alaska charities since the first memorial tournament in 1985. We believe Jesse would be pleased, and we are proud of our 25 year commitment to the charities that provide support to the people of our community and state.

ARCTEC Alaska Members Enjoy Increased Work

Heading into the summer and fall seasons, Teamster employees at ARCTEC Alaska are expected to have one of their busiest seasons to date. In addition to performing the normal operation and maintenance work, ARCTEC has been awarded over \$17 million of "over and above" work. The over and above work is work in addition to the scope of work agreed upon in the contract between ARCTEC and the federal government. It is a tremendous boon, given that this type of work had declined early in the contract and was only forecast to bring an additional \$1.5 million in work per fiscal year.

ARCTEC employees are represented by the ETO, which is comprised of the International Union of Electrical Workers, the International Union of Operating Engineers, and General Teamsters Local 959. The three unions have been working hard to staff ARCTEC with employees to fill the ambitious list

of scheduled projects to be completed. In addition to the extra employees performing work at 15 remote sites, there have been additional temporary upgrades and openings for both a material coordinator and a logistics specialist at PHQ.

Adding to the busy season, several bargaining unit members have been assisting in the renegotiation of their current collective bargaining agreement. The current contract expires September 30, 2009, and the bargaining team, consisting of representatives from all three Unions, has been meeting with the company to negotiate a successor agreement.

With the advent of the record amounts of over and above work, and the current contract negotiations, you can be sure that ARCTEC employees will find themselves busy well into fall.



↑ Radar Specialist Phil Fonteyn is shown in this picture installing an Azmuith motor drive at the Cape Newenham ARS site.



Local 959 members, Wes Walker and Bill Miranda, are pictured changing a bearing at Tatalina. ↓



↑ Radar Specialist Jay Fisk is shown hooking up a radar oil system in Cape Newenham.

← ARCTEC Alaska employees Tom Mayhan and Jon Shirley are pictured with Olli Bay from the Finnish manufacturing company, Vaisala, while working on the computer connectivity cable for the new AN-FMQ-22 AWOS (automated weather reporting station).



Station Technician Wendy Simpson is repairing the runway lighting at Point Lonely. ↓



United Parcel Service – Changes in the Future?

The outlook for work at United Parcel Service (UPS) has been deeply affected this last quarter, not just by the economy, but volcanoes as well!

UPS is down about three flights a day from the number of scheduled flights in the past, which has had a big impact on the workload that is available for the air side of the operation. The workload has also been affected by Mount Redoubt and Russia's Sarychev volcano, causing some flights to be either diverted or canceled over the last couple of months. This, in turn, has caused a number of rescheduled and cancelled employee shifts. The Union has been working hard to maximize the efficiency of the shifts through a negotiated rebid, thereby allowing more employees to continue to work and capture guaranteed hours.

The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed the Federal Aviation Reauthorization Bill with key labor provisions. The Express Carrier Employee Fairness Amendment would remove most of the employees employed by Federal Express from the Railway Labor act (RLA) and place them under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA). The National Labor Relations Act would allow Fed-Ex employees to be unionized at a local level. The resulting level playing field means UPS and Fed-Ex would be operating under the same labor laws. Both the Teamsters and United Parcel Service have been working with Congress to close this unfair loophole that only benefits Corporate Fed-Ex. The bill is now before the Senate, and Fed-Ex is fighting hard to have this amendment removed from the bill. Please contact Senators Murkowski and Begich to let them know that UPS and Fed-Ex need to compete under the same labor laws. UPS shop stewards have sample copies of letters, along with contact information for both of our senators, that may be used when contacting the senators.

AT&T Alascom Employees Work on Major Projects

AT&T Alascom Teamster employees began a busy season with a number of major projects scheduled.

While the AT&T 3G mobility switch in the Anchorage Toll Center was completed and turned on at the end of May, Teamsters continue working to finish the final touches, including installation of a humidity system for this major project. A large portion of the third floor of the Toll Center was demolished to make room for this switch, including the lounge/breakroom area that employees have enjoyed using for many years. Work has currently begun to build a brand new lounge/breakroom for employees that will have all of the necessary modern conveniences.

The Eagle River Earth Station is getting a major upgrade as well. A building is being constructed to host a new mechanical system and our Teamster members will be upgrading the HVAC, boiler, cooling, and fire systems. This project is expected to take approximately two years to complete.

Our AT&T Alascom Teamsters are a diverse group of folks who work across the state, and summer is a prime time for maintenance of all the sites. Teamster members can be expected to travel more in the summer, and do so from AT&T's main sites in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau. These members work in all regions of Alaska, and recently completed a project for a new communication system with Internet access for the lodges in Kantishna near Denali National Park.

As one project ends, another begins, and the approximately 186 Teamsters continue striving to complete tasks in a timely manner on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis. There is no slowing down for this group!

Recycling a Way of Life

By Fairbanks Shop Steward George Berry

I'm proud to say our Teamster brothers and sisters from the Interior are always pitching in to help out in their communities for just about any event or anytime help is needed. So it's no surprise to me that my co-workers always pitch in to help recycle line wide on the Trans Alaska pipeline.

We, at the Alyeska Central Warehouse in Fairbanks, handle a multitude of materials and equipment every day. This, in turn, correlates to a lot of packaging materials that can either go in the garbage or get recycled. We choose to recycle to keep these materials out of our landfills. We urge all Alaska teamsters to do the same.

Pictured are 959 members Jaimie Allmond, Carl Russell, Jr., James Clow, and George Berry who are employed at the Fairbanks Central Warehouse of ARSC-Houston Contracting.



End of 2009 Legislative Session Update

The following legislative update was provided by Barbara Huff Tuckness, Director of Government and Legislative Affairs, General Teamsters Local 959.

SB 1 – Senator Wielechowski’s minimum wage bill passed both bodies and will be sent to Governor Palin for signing. This bill adjusts the State’s minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour effective July 1, 2009, and then increases by \$0.50 to \$7.75 an hour effective January 1, 2010. While it is still the lowest on the West Coast, and considering the inflation proofing mechanism was removed, it was a compromise that ended up being better than nothing. The industry folks wanted a “tip credit” provision that we believe will be a hot topic for next session. Several legislators came out supporting the tip credit legislation, but after polling the majority in the House, they realized they did not have the votes to pass that provision and backed off the amendment.

SB12 – Senator Davis’ limit of overtime for registered nurses (RNs) was held in Senate Finance. Representative Wilson’s companion bill, HB 50, is in House Finance and was placed in a subcommittee two days before session ended. It will be worked on during the interim between sessions. Several hospital spokespersons said they were in negotiations and wanted to resolve the issue at the table. We will also be proposing similar overtime language during negotiations with South Peninsula Hospital (SPH) in Homer. Currently, SPH can work RNs up to 16 hours a day. However, under the proposed legislation, the hours per day worked would be reduced to 14 hours. There are also reporting requirements in the bill to track overtime problems at the various facilities around the state.

SB 23 – Senator Elton’s bill on repealing the defined contribution retirement for the State’s PERS/TRS made it through two of the three committees this session, but ended up stalled in Senate Finance. As you may remember, Senator Stedman (who co-chaired Senate Finance) was a supporter of the “defined contribution” plan when Senator Ben Stevens was Senate president. While we knew Stedman was going to be a tough nut to crack, we did not anticipate the same reception on the House side. HB 30, Representative Harris’ bill, and HB 54, Representative Tuck’s bill, are both held in House Labor & Commerce. While HB 30 was heard, it never moved out of Labor & Commerce and still has two other committees to be heard in (State Affairs and Finance).

SB 75 – The Capital Budget ended up with a combination of federal stimulus money and cruise ship head tax revenue for construction projects this year. Representative Harris had submitted a request on behalf of our Teamsters Training Trust for \$600,000 for the purchase of tractors. Unfortunately, those and many other dollars were removed by Senate Finance and never placed back in the bill for consideration. Governor Palin, supporting the Finance Committee’s reductions, gave them no room to add funding back into the bill. Needless to say, this is going to be a bad year for the construction of projects; some predict the leanest ever.

SB 126 – Governor Palin’s bill on reemployment of retirees and exempt service is in Senate Finance. HB 157 made it to the Rules Committee, but was never calendared before session ended. The bill allows rehired retirees to collect their retirement

compensation and a paycheck at the same time when employed in the public sector. The feeling is that if public employees were paid a livable wage to begin with, they wouldn’t then have to come back as retirees, which would in turn entice younger folks to come into the system. The State also uses this tactic to poll employees from union positions to exempt status positions so they do not need to bargain with the unions.

SB 170 – Senator Ellis’ unemployment compensation bill amended the “qualifying time” so the State could qualify for additional federal stimulus money. This bill passed both the House and Senate bodies and is being sent to Governor Palin for signature.

HB 37 – Representative Gatto’s right to work bill was actually heard in House Labor & Commerce several times. Representative Olson, chair of House Labor & Commerce, has stated that he may have hearings during the time frame between sessions. We will keep you posted on any hearing dates before next session. Other than two public testifiers, one from Fairbanks and the other from Anchorage, the only other person to testify in favor of this legislation was the right-to-work representative from Washington, D.C. It was inspiring to have so many from around the state testifying in unison against this legislation.

HB 105 – Representative Coghill’s State Training and Employment Program (STEP) bill was finally passed in the final hours of session. The big change with the program under this bill is that it gives the authority to approve grants to the Alaska Workforce Investment Board, which removes it from the Department of Labor. The sunset provision was removed in HB 105, so this bill won’t be coming up every year like it has been.

HB 136 – Judiciary Committee – Public Records Exemption bill moved through one committee and is sitting in House Judiciary. This bill would allow certain public officials, such as police/troopers to exempt their personal information (e.g., home address, etc.) from public records in an effort to protect them and their families from predatory individuals. It picked up a huge cost factor from the Department of Natural Resources and all of the parties involved agree to work on this bill before next session. We have talked with Senator Hollis’ office about introducing a companion bill as well.

HB 185 – Representative Kelly’s bill on labor neutrality for state contractors would prohibit any entity from using project labor agreements (PLAs) on construction projects. While not currently mandatory with the state or municipalities, it is a tool they have to use in an attempt to ensure local hire, reduced costs, no labor unrest, and projects being completed on time. The bill was heard once in House Labor and Commerce, with no action taken by the committee and will continue into next session.

HB 240 – Representative Johnson’s bill on “tip credit” was introduced the day before session ended. This bill, highly supported by CHARR (restaurants’ lobbying arm) would allow the employers to offset the minimum hourly wage by the amount the employee receives in tips. This is such

continued on page 13

International Brotherhood of Teamsters Unity Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada – May 2009

By Kim Brandenburg & Sandra Gardeline

In May, we had the opportunity to attend the Unity Conference, hosted by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, with more than 1200 other Teamsters from all over the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico, including principal officers, business agents, rank and file members, and even “want-to-be-Teamsters”! It was an exhilarating experience for us – to see and feel the energy and enthusiasm of all those people in one room from all different industries and walks of life. People who were all there for the same cause like we were!

Traveling with us to the conference from Local 959 was Secretary-Treasurer Ken Coleman and President Rick Boyles. Ken’s wife, Vicki, also accompanied Ken to Las Vegas. Also attending the conference representing the International was Local 959 retiree, Mark Johnson.

Several influential people spoke to the conference attendees, including Vice President Joe Biden via video (and who, by the way, welcomed us back to the White House); Teamsters General President James Hoffa; General Secretary-Treasurer Tom Keegel; U.S. Representative Maxine Waters; New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo; and numerous other Teamster leaders. Two events especially highlighted were the successful election of President Barack Obama, and that over 43,000 new Teamsters were organized last year. The International’s focus this year is again on increased organizing and the training of 1000 new organizers, and the passage of the Employee Free Choice Act.

In addition to the many others who attended the conference, were guests from the Continental Airlines Fleet Service (whom the International Union is in the process of organizing), who spoke regarding their strong belief in the

Teamsters Union. There were disgruntled ex-employees of Fed-Ex who spoke of their Fed-Ex employment experience and the harassment they experienced when trying to organize their co-workers. There were many, many extremely interesting people to talk with, listen to, and learn from.



Pictured from left to right are 959 Anchorage Dispatcher Sandra Gardeline, IBT General President James Hoffa, 959 President Rick Boyles, IBT General Secretary-Treasurer Tom Keegel, and 959 Fairbanks Dispatcher Kim Brandenburg.

During the conference, President Hoffa honored the three members of the crew that crash-landed a Boeing 747 in a field near Bogota, Colombia, on July 7, 2008. President Hoffa explained that Captains Bryant Beebe, Ivan Dankha, and Richard Dunlap managed to land the 747 fully loaded with 73 tons of flowers on the ground after losing power in three engines. All eight crew members on board survived the crash. This was the only off-airport Boeing 747 crash in history to have survivors.

During the conference we attended the workshops for TITAN updates. (TITAN is the computer system used

and provided by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters to all Teamster Union Locals). We came back with a lot of new information on the use of the TITAN system.

We also attended a banquet dinner, along with most of the conference attendees. We made a lot of great contacts and met people face to face whom we had only talked to on the phone before. And, we made our impression on General President Hoffa when we drug him out of the crowd so that we could get pictures taken with him!

The Unity Conference was a very motivational experience that left us with an overwhelming sense of power and pride in being a Teamster. We feel so fortunate to have attended such an inspiring event!

End of 2009 Legislative Session Update *cont. from page 12*

bad legislation that even Senator Stedman thought it was inappropriate. The tip credit bill is guaranteed to be a big issue next year.

HR 5 – Representative Johnson’s resolution opposing legislation on the Employee Free Choice Act had one hearing and moved out of Labor & Commerce. It currently sits in House Rules waiting for 21 supporters before it is put to the floor.

HJR 14 – Representative Kelly’s resolution asking that Bush’s Executive Order prevailing on PLAs for federally funded

projects not be overturned. The resolution was introduced just days after President Obama rescinded Bush’s Executive Order. No hearing was held on this resolution.

If you would like to better understand the legislative process, track bills, or contact a legislator, please visit the Alaska Legislature’s Web site at www.legis.state.ak.us. There is a very educational PowerPoint presentation under the “Student Page” that completely explains the legislative process, including how bills move from committee to committee.

In Memory

Deceased Brothers & Sisters

NAME	DEATH DATE	EMPLOYER
APRIL 2009		
Florence Sawby	03/31/2009	ITT Arctic Services
Clarence Hughes	04/05/2009	Big State Motor Freight
Don Tolen	04/11/2009	Alaska Aggregate Corp.
Jerome Torczon	04/18/2009	Chris Berg, Inc.
Otis Vienna	04/23/2009	Kodiak Oilfield Haulers
Nova Wilber	04/13/2009	Wien Air Alaska
Shelton Sturgeon	04/07/2009	Sturgeon Bus Lines
James Piaskowski	04/29/2009	Anchorage Sand & Gravel

MAY 2009		
Warren Cole	04/23/2009	Rogers & Babler
David Morrison	04/12/2009	ARCTEC Alaska
Peggy Burgin	05/05/2009	Alaska Teamster-Employer Service Corporation
Paul McLaughlin	04/28/2009	K. V. Beck & Associates
Stanley Bowen	05/12/2009	CSX Lines of Alaska
Glenn Schrader	05/12/2009	Better Concrete Products
Clarence Nicholson	05/09/2009	H&H Contractors
Samuel Edge	05/11/2009	Sea Star Stevedore
Erwin Lorenz	05/18/2009	Alascom, Inc.
John Pannick	05/20/2009	ARCTEC Services
Paxton Sam Collie	05/18/2009	Good Year Tire & Rubber
William Boyle	05/26/2009	Usibelli Coal Mine

JUNE 2009		
David Gibbons	06/13/2009	Sea-land Freight Services
Ann Rick	06/14/2009	Continental Baking Co.
Del Herrick	06/11/2009	Enserch Alaska Construction
Betty Fay	05/21/2009	J&J/BMAR
A. P. Roberts	05/27/2009	Sea-Land Freight Services
Roland Usibelli	06/23/2009	Usibelli Coal Mine
Roland Reese	06/20/2009	Alaska Distributors

Retired Brothers & Sisters

RETIREE NAME	LAST EMPLOYER
APRIL 2009	
Joe Beaudion	Lynden Transport, Inc
Robert Cooksey	AIC, LLC
Ernest Love	Anchorage School District
Lake Trump	AT&T Alascom
Tom Park	Sea Star Stevedore
Thomas Smith	Safeway, Inc.
Fred Smith	Doyon Associated
Jerry Sanders	Horizon Lines of Alaska
Gary Bivins	United Freight & Transport, Inc.

MAY 2009	
John Beaty	ARCTEC Alaska
Douglas Thomas	Great Northwest, Inc.
Leonardo Aguilar	United Parcel Service
Cameron Gilbane	Aleut Global Solutions
Robert Ray	Anchorage Sand & Gravel
Martin Buzby	V.T. Griffin Services, Inc.
Janna Longlet	Interstate Brands Corporation

JUNE 2009	
Melvin Porter	Continental Baking Company
Peter Wansor	Usibelli Coal Mine
Allen Risinger	Sea Star & Horizon Lines
Kathy Harrington	AT&T Alascom
Georgia Ahren	City of Fairbanks
Wilfredo Noble	Safeway, Inc.
Thomas Marciel	Safeway, Inc.
Murray Clayton	Aleut Global Solutions

Milestones

Congratulations to the following individuals who have achieved 35, 40, and 45, years of continuous dues-paying membership in Local 959.

APRIL 2009

Steven Coburn	35 years
Charles Heustess	35 years
Tim Burzinski	35 years
John Hood	35 years
Thomas Lamal	35 years
Bruce Dove	35 years
Michael White	35 years
Patrick Rasmus	35 years
Michael Fink	35 years
William Gates, III	40 years

MAY 2009

Gary Moore	35 years
Hugh Tordoff	35 years
Brian Whittle	35 years
Harvey Manson	35 years
Daniel Ostrowski	35 years
John Cruikshank	35 years
Eugene Bottcher	35 years
William Davis	35 years
Patrick McCollor	35 years
Stephen Hovenden	35 years
Daryl Spaeth	35 years
Curtis Greimann	35 years
Joe Marrufo	40 years

JUNE 2009

Brian Sherburne	35 years
David Prewitt	35 years
Michael Leonard	35 years
Gregory Bowman	35 years
Georgia Ahren	35 years
David Goodwin	35 years
Keith Ensley	35 years
David Harvey	35 years
Roy Willis	35 years
David Kornfeind	35 years
Kent Peterson	35 years
Vernon Peake	35 years
Michael Tyree	35 years
William McNeight	40 years
Ben Dean	45 years

Jacob Brewer, a Special Olympian



Dressed in his “Special O” track uniform, Jacob Brewer recently spoke at an Anchorage membership meeting and asked for help in raising pledges for the Special Olympics. Jacob was able to raise almost \$8,000 for Special Olympics, most of which came from the generosity of members of Teamsters Local 959.

Jacob, a life-long Alaskan who was born and raised in Anchorage, is the son of Jeff and Mary Brewer. Jeff is a linehaul driver for Horizon Lines of Alaska and has been a 959 member

since 1981. Mary is a school teacher for the Anchorage School District.

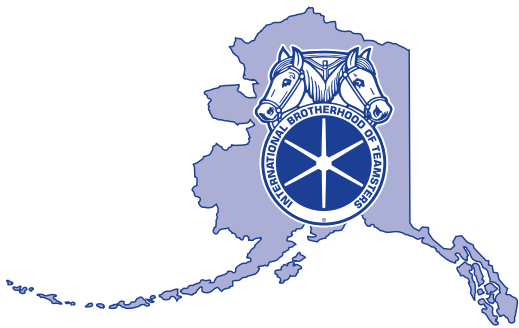
This spring, Jacob participated in the Alaska Law Enforcement Torch Run. He was one of over 800 people who simultaneously ran, walked, or strolled in 17 Alaskan communities to raise

awareness and funds for Special Olympics Alaska. With Dad’s help, Jacob also went door to door in his neighborhood to solicit donations for the Torch Run.

Jacob was diagnosed with a seizure disorder shortly after birth and is learning disabled. He became involved with the Special Olympics about ten years ago and participates and competes in summer and winter games, track and field in the summer and Alpine skiing in the winter. He has quite a collection of medals – many of them gold. Jacob enjoys jigsaw puzzles, the outdoors, swimming, and helping his grandmother. He also loves potlucks and going out to dinner. Jacob has two siblings, a brother, Jared, and sister, Rebecca.

Jacob is 19 years old and graduated from South Anchorage High this year. He plans to attend the ACE program through the Anchorage School District next fall. The ACE program is a two-year school that focuses on independent living skills.

Jacob and his family wish to sincerely thank all those who contributed to this year’s Special Olympics’ Torch Run.



Local 959 President Rick Boyles presents John Gonzales with a gold pan commemorating Mr. Gonzales’ 50 years as a member of Teamsters Local 959. Mr. Gonzales attended the June Fairbanks General Membership Meeting to accept the pan. (As this newsletter goes to press, we are saddened to learn of the passing away of Mr. Gonzales on July 14, 2009.)



Steve Fisher Joins Local 959 Staff



Joining the staff of Local 959 as an Anchorage-based business representative on May 3, 2009, please welcome Steve Fisher.

Raised in Hillsboro, Oregon, Steve grew up working on farms and racing bicycles. He moved to San Diego after graduating from high school and continued racing bicycles.

It was then he met Tina, whom he married in 1990.

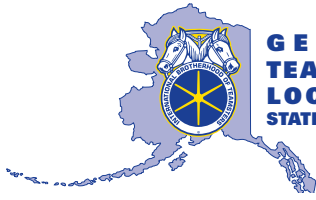
Steve and Tina moved to the Portland, Oregon, area in 1990 for a short time. In 1992, they moved to Santa Rosa, California, and Steve worked as a Christmas helper for United Parcel Service. Shortly after that, he became a member of Teamsters Local 624; a local his wife’s grandfather had been the secretary-treasurer of in the late 1960s. Steve worked the pre-load for United Parcel Service for one year before he became a full-time service provider (UPS driver) in March

of 1994. In the summer of 1999, Steve and his family moved to Alaska and Steve transferred to Local 959 and continued his career as a UPS driver. Steve was asked to become a shop steward for the UPS bargaining unit in 2006.

Steve and Tina have three children and live in Eagle River. They enjoy spending time with their kids in the outdoors. Steve says he loves the Alaska lifestyle and all that there is to do here, both in the winter and summer seasons.

Steve stated he is looking forward to working with all of his assigned bargaining unit members as their new business representative. He believes he brings a strong and diverse background to the position and looks forward to the many challenges to come in the future.

Steve Fisher is the business representative for the bargaining units at United Parcel Service, Interstate Brands Corp. (Sunrise Bakery Division), and DynCorp International on Elmendorf Air Force Base.



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The Luck of a Teamster Member



Local 959 member Stephen Gregory of Galena was one of two lucky winners in this year's Nenana Ice Classic. Stephen shared the \$283,723 payout with Claudia Russell of Juneau. Congratulations, Stephen!

August - December 2009 NSTC Training Schedule

Anchorage - 8-Hour Classes (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)			
08/15/09	IBEW/NECA	5800 B Street	337-9508
09/19/09	Teamsters Hall	520 E. 34th Avenue	565-8266
10/03/09	Operating Engineers	4001 Denali Street, Ste. B	561-5044
11/14/09	Laborers Training School	13500 Old Seward Hwy.	345-3853
12/05/09	IBEW/NECA	5800 B Street	337-9508

Fairbanks - 8-Hour Classes (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)			
08/22/09	IBEW/NECA	1978 Burgess Avenue	479-4449
09/12/09	Teamsters Hall	3207 International Street	452-2959
10/10/09	Laborers Local 942	2740 Davis Road	456-4584
11/14/09	Plumbers & Fitters	1978 Burgess Avenue	479-4449
12/12/09	Operators	3002 Lathrop Street	456-5421

