News Items - July 2015

Hoffa: A blueprint for getting America back on track

*July 6, 2015* │ The American economy is not working. As the Teamsters have stated repeatedly, there needs to be a commitment to boost and expand America's middle class, which is the lifeblood of our country. But that alone will not fuel a national renaissance that will raise up a majority of people. There needs to be a buy-in from the business community that puts long-term economic health before short-term profits. The Roosevelt Institute, of which I am a board member, recently released a detailed blueprint called "Rewriting the Rules of the American Economy" authored by its renowned chief economist Joseph Stiglitz in an effort to tame income inequality. To put this nation back on track, the document makes clear that the U.S. must rethink the economic assumptions it's made during the past 35 years. [Continue reading...]

Rest in peace, Brother Matthew P. Shonko

*July 7, 2015* │ We are saddened to announce the sudden passing of our Teamster brother, Matt Shonko (Leonard Paper). The Local 570 executive board and members extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends and coworkers. Visiting hours will be held at the Connelly Funeral Home of Essex, 300 Mace Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21221, 3 pm - 5 pm, and 7pm – 9pm, Friday, July 10, 2015. A Catholic prayer service will be held at the funeral home at 10 a.m, Saturday, July 11, 2015.

What's next for US Foods?

*July 7, 2015* │ Now comes the hard part for US Foods. Sysco's $3.5 billion proposal collapsed on June 30 after a federal judge ruled against the deal on anti-competitive concerns, leaving both companies back where they were in late 2013 – as fierce head-to-head competitors, each seeking to chart a new path for future growth. [Full story...]

Baltimore workers ratify Teamster contract with First Student, Inc.

*July 27, 2015* │ After months of tense negotiations, drivers and monitors employed at the Baltimore and Severn locations of First Student voted July 18th to accept a three-year supplemental contract to the Teamsters First Student National Master Agreement. The contract provides significant increases for all wage classifications. [Continued...]

Here's 7 reasons not-yet-union folks should join one

*July 29, 2015* │ We know that our union jobs generally pay significantly more than non-union jobs and our negotiated contracts provide benefits like paid vacation, holidays and sick days that many non-union workers don't get. So how about that non-union worker friend of yours who doesn't get that being a member of a union can greatly improve his/her work life? [This short and to-the-point article](#) can help you talk with family members and friends who may be on the fence about joining a union.

Teamsters remember James R. Hoffa on 40th anniversary of disappearance

*July 30, 2015* │ Today marks the 40th anniversary of the disappearance of one of the greatest labor leaders in American history – James R. Hoffa. As Teamsters General President, Hoffa honed his well-earned reputation as a tough and effective bargainer and gained the respect of labor and business leaders alike across the country. He worked hard to expand the number of working men and women who were protected by union contracts and under his leadership, the union’s membership rose to include more than 2 million workers. [Continued...]