



## WHAT'S AHEAD?

Local 776 Golf  
Outing  
August 1, 2021



Labor Day!  
September 6, 2021



Membership  
Meetings  
Resume  
September 12, 2021



Children's  
Christmas Party  
December 11, 2021



Due to the pandemic many  
events are subject to change.  
Any updates will be posted  
on Union bulletin boards,  
the Local website, and future  
newsletters.

## Local 776 Family Picnic

After more than a year of cancellations, modifications, and general disarray due to the pandemic, the Teamsters Family Picnic was held on June 13, 2021 at Knoebels Amusement Park. What a way to kick off the unofficial start of summer! Schools out, the weather cooperated; just a slight breeze to keep it comfortable, and Knoebels! Over 4,000 members, spouses, kids, grandkids, and retirees had registered for the picnic, making it one of Local 776's largest member events. Inside the park, judging by the number of Teamster hats, T-shirts, and sweatshirts seen there was a steady stream



*As always; It's all about the kids!*

of Teamster Members milling about the park enjoying themselves. As is the custom at Local 776 events, tickets were sold throughout the day for a 50-50 drawing to benefit the Local Union's scholarship fund. Austin O'Brien, who works at YRC, was the lucky winner and was awarded 50% of the money collected.

Commented Local 776 President Ed Thompson "Words can't describe the feeling of seeing my Brothers and Sisters, along with their families and friends, together as one united group enjoying each other, the day and the park. I'm proud of this turnout; it's you, the members, supporting your Local Union, who fuel that sense of pride.



Raffle winner Austin O'Brien. (L-R) 776 Secretary-Treasurer Ron Hicks, Austin's wife Laurie, Austin's daughter Kendra, Austin, Local 776 President Ed Thompson.



## A Message From Local Union 776 President Ed Thompson



"The IBT election will be later this year. I urge you to get involved, study the issues, and participate in the election process."

Hello! As I'm writing this message to you on a warm, sunny day, it's a reminder that we are more than half way through another year. I hope this message finds everyone safe as we continue to emerge from the COVID-19 Pandemic.

What a fitting way to welcome summer; our Family Picnic at Knoebels! Anxious to start to resume normal lives members and their families came out for a day of fun and fellowship at the park. A feeling of pride overtook me as the members and their families streamed into the park grounds, many displaying their "Teamster Pride" wearing various T-shirts, ball caps, etc. There's more information and photos from the picnic later in the newsletter and also on the Local Union Website.

This year is an important year for members of Teamsters Local 776. This is an election year for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. International President Jim Hoffa is retiring at the end of his current term, ending twenty-two 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, among other International Officers. On January 6, 2021, the IBT announced the General Executive Board has determined the pandemic will prevent the International Union from conducting the 30th International Convention in-person and plans were formulated to have a "virtual" convention.

As pandemic-related restrictions eased throughout our area PA Conference of Teamsters and Joint Council 53 President William Hamilton scheduled the annual meetings of both groups to coincide with the convention. PA Conference and Joint Council delegates met and conducted business in the mornings and then joined the convention proceedings electronically later in the day.

The 30th International Convention of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters convened on June 22, 2021. Aside from officially nominating the two slates vying in the International Election, important changes were made in the Teamster Constitution. Pertaining to Article XII in the Teamster Constitution, Delegates voted overwhelmingly to eliminate the "two-thirds rule", which allowed officers to impose a contract after a majority of members voted no if less than half of the members voted. This amendment also affects the vote on supplements and riders.

The IBT Convention Delegates overwhelmingly voted to approve an amendment making strike benefits payable from the 1st day of a strike, rather than the 8th day, as it has been until now. Strike benefit amounts remain the same: five times the monthly dues paid weekly.

At the 30th International Convention, delegates heard how the union is building on past successes to power its latest organizing effort at online behemoth Amazon. Teamsters from all levels of the Union—the International Union, Joint Councils, and Local Unions—voted to pass a historic resolution on Amazon. The resolution sets forth a unified approach to mobilizing the Union and engaging Teamster members. It resolves to maintain standards in Teamster core industries against the threat posed by Amazon and supports Amazon workers as they build power across

the country. The IBT had created a website to keep the membership informed on news and events from the convention. Members were able to stream the daily events through the Local Union's website.

During the PA Conference and Joint Council 53 sessions, Local Union delegates heard from various state and local officials from PA and New Jersey who share the same beliefs and ideals as the Teamsters. Pennsylvania officials attending included PA Attorney General Josh Shapiro, and Lieutenant Governor John Fetterman. 2022 is a mid-term election year; with PA Senator Pat Toomey not seeking reelection this will be a closely watched Senate race. In addition to elected officials, Tyler Longpine (Political Director, IBT), Scott Moore (Eastern Region Political Coordinator, IBT), and John Mataya (State Legislative Director, IBT) spoke on the importance of building strong bonds and supporting candidates who support our agenda. Lastly, Jeanette Barnes, DRIVE –IBT was in attendance to offer support to the Local Unions in their efforts to expand DRIVE registration through their membership. The Conference offered a "Convention Registration Help Table" to assist anyone who still needed to register for the Convention or access the Convention website. In addition, computers, a private voting station and non-partisan technical assistance were provided to the Delegates for voting during the convention. With the closing of the Convention, the IBT election will be later this year. I urge you to get involved, study the issues, and participate in the election process.

Earlier this year the Local Union undertook a project to simplify and streamline our new hire application process. A secure online process was developed where a new member fills out their Local 776 application, dues check-off, DRIVE registration, their death benefit beneficiary, and lastly their desire to be included in Local 776 emails to members. Once completed the applications are transmitted electronically to a Local 776 TITAN operator for input into the Teamster TITAN system. The new system will help to ensure that new members are correctly entered into the TITAN system and be accounted for during the monthly dues billing. Additionally, the problem of an employer's new hire not becoming a member is greatly reduced.

Lastly, I would like to mention the Dauphin County Contracts currently in negotiation. The County has taken an approach that can only be construed as trying to "break" the Union. The Dauphin County BA's have put together an informational article for their members and can be found in the newsletter. Dauphin County members now is the time to stand strong, stand united, stand behind your Local Union as we take this employer on to get you the best possible contract!

Fraternally,

Ed Thompson  
President, Teamsters Local 776



## Local 776 Scholarship Finalists

Local 776 proudly announced the Local 776 Scholarship Finalists for 2021 at the June Monthly Membership Meeting. Again, this year the Local Union awarded three scholarships to member's dependents. These scholarships are made possible by Local 776 fund-raising events held throughout the year. Congratulations to all of our finalists and best of luck as you continue to further your education! This year's Scholarship finalists are:

### Erik Brudowsky



*Erik and his parents Stephen Brudowsky and Marie Hansrote*

Erik, son of YRC Freight Member Stephen Brudowsky, graduated from East Pennsboro High School in 2018 and will be starting his senior year at Temple University this fall. While in high school, Erik was a member of the swim team, the track team, and the math club. At Temple, his activities include the Temple club swim team, and the professional sales organization. Erik would like to thank Teamsters Local 776 for the opportunity to receive the scholarship as he enters his last year of college.

### Benjamin Myers



*Benjamin and his parents Richard and Kelly*

Benjamin, son of UPS Freight Member Richard Myers, graduated from Cedar Cliff High School this year and will be attending the University of Pittsburgh where he will major in engineering. While attending Cedar Cliff Ben played club ice hockey, was on the track and field team and is a member of the National Honor Society. Ben would like to thank his parents for their support in helping him select a school and also the Teamsters for the opportunity to receive a scholarship.

### Sidney Shelton



*Sidney and her parents Elton Shelton III, and Susan*

Sidney, daughter UPS Member Elton Shelton III, graduated from Gettysburg Area High School this spring and will be attending the University of Pittsburgh where she will be majoring in economics. While in high school Sidney was on the girl's soccer team for four years, participated in track and field, is a member of the National Honor Society, member of the Future Business Leaders of America, and participated in Penn State's MINI-THON; which is the PSU high school version supporting pediatric cancer research. Sidney adds: "I would like to say thank you to the Teamsters Local 776 team for giving me this amazing opportunity. To my family and friends, thank you for all of the support over the years, and to my parents, thank you for giving me unconditional encouragement and love. I am a better person now because of you, I love you."

### Dollar\$ for \$cholar\$:



Additional information on these and other scholarship opportunities for qualifying Teamster dependants can be found on the "Member Resources" page of the Local Union website.





## A large collage of 20 photographs showing various people, mostly families and groups of friends, enjoying a day at a fair or amusement park. The photos include people eating at a picnic table, riding a roller coaster, posing for group photos in front of rides like a carousel and a Ferris wheel, and individuals smiling for the camera. Some photos show people in costumes or uniforms, and others show people holding drinks or food.



## Family Picnic at Knoebels! Ingredients for a Good Day at the Park!

Additional photos from the Picnic are available to view in the "Photo Gallery" on the Local Union Website.

News/notes







## Long-Term Teamsters Retire: Combined 172 years of Teamster Membership Congratulations to these recent Local 776 Retirees!

### Keith Chronister



*BA Bill Olmeda congratulates Keith on his retirement*

Local 776 Member Keith Chronister began working at the Springettsbury Township Wastewater Treatment Plant in 1977. Fast forward to April 2021; after 44 years at the Treatment Plant Keith decided to call it a career and retired from the Township. Since retiring Keith, has been able to devote more time to running a family business started by his father, Preston Chronister, and Sons, an auction service dealing primarily with estate sales. When not busy with the business Keith hopes to find more time for other activities, primarily fishing, hunting, and spending more time with his family. Keith has two children and four grandchildren to help him fill in his days. When asked about his retirement Keith replied: "Life's All Good!"

### Dennis Gopear



*Dennis receives his Teamster watch and congratulations from Local 776 BA Bill Olmeda*

Long-time Teamster Dennis Gopear retired from Newberry Twp on Sept 30, 2020. Dennis has been a Teamster for 29 years and 7 months. He is 73 years of age and looks forward to spending time with his family. Dennis was also a long-time Union Steward with Teamsters Local 430 before the merger with Local 776.

### Larry Corbin



*BA Bill Olmeda congratulates Larry on his retirement*

Can you recall what you were doing when you were nineteen? Were you in college, the military, getting married? Larry Corbin was nineteen when he went to work for Metals USA; and after forty-seven and a half years, Larry is ready to move on! Larry retired on May 28; he is looking forward to retirement, he plans to stay active and enjoy the time not working. With five kids and two grandkids, they will make sure Larry is active! As summer begins, Larry can be found in Delaware flounder fishing and swimming. Recognizing a good employee when they have one, Metals USA didn't want Larry to leave, they bought a new, air-conditioned forklift to try and entice him to staying on! Nevertheless, on May 28th, Larry traded the forklift controls for the fishing boat's controls!

### James Haugh



*Jim accepting his Teamster Watch from His BA Bill Olmeda*

If you were around in 1969, you remember American Astronauts landing on the moon. Teamster Member Jim Haugh also remembers starting work at the then Borger Steel Co., now Metals USA. A lot happened in those 52 years, Jim married his wife of 46 years Lisa, they have two children, 4 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren. After 52 years of working, that's more than 1/2 a century, it's time to move on! On June 30th they decided to begin a new chapter in their lives and embark on a new journey: Retirement! They are both looking forward to doing some local traveling, and have trips to Myrtle Beach, Rehoboth Beach, and Freeport, the Bahamas on their horizon. In addition, all those kids will keep them busy! From everyone at Local 776 congratulations Jim, enjoy your retirement, after 52 years you deserve it!

## Dauphin County Contracts Update

Our Brothers and Sisters in the Dauphin County Court Related, County Court appointed Professional and Prison Units are under attack by many of the players at the very top of the Dauphin County Government. Contracts for these units will expire on December 31, 2021. Recently Dauphin County engaged the Teamsters Local 776 in negotiations and presented proposals that could only be construed as insulting and intended to promote and foster an erosion of the Teamsters membership in Dauphin County. Let this be a warning to all members that Dauphin County is actively trying to "bust" the Union! Dauphin County boasts that they have not raised taxes in sixteen (16) years, yet they continue to make up the difference in lack of revenues on the backs of the Union workers by raising healthcare costs and parking costs and offering wage increases that result in a net loss for the members. These units are being forced to seek a remedy through interest arbitration. Now more than ever it is important that we stand together as Teamsters in support of these units. United we bargain, divided we beg.



Dauphin County Business Agents:

L-R: Prison Members: BA Shane Weaver, Court Appointed Members: BA Dave Wolf, Court Related Members: BA Mark Andreozzi

## Central PA H&W, Pension Fund Appointments



Due to a vacancy at the Central PA Teamsters Pension, and Health and Welfare Funds, Local 776 President Ed Thompson has been appointed to fill the vacant position on the board. Recognizing his strong leadership and organizational skills running Pennsylvania's largest Teamster Local, the Fund made a prudent selection in appointing Ed. A Trustee is responsible for the investments held by the plans and for acting solely in the best interest of the plan's participants. With Ed's appointment, this is the first time since 2010 that Local 776 has had a trustee position at the Central PA funds.

## People Helping People

Living up to the motto on the side of the Local 776 tractor-trailer "People helping People", several Business Agents and Union Stewards from TForce Freight helped pack food boxes at the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank. The agents and stewards packed a combined 900 boxes of food to be distributed throughout central PA. The Central Pennsylvania Food Bank is a non-profit organization committed to ending hunger in 27 counties across Central Pennsylvania. Central Pennsylvania Food Bank distributes food through 1,000 local agencies and programs and serves more than 200,000 people in need each month.



Business Agents helping included: (L-R) Spencer Dearth, Mark Andreozzi, Mark Cicak Secretary-Treasurer Ron Hicks, George Goodling, Trustee Dipan Patel, TForce Freight union stewards Kevin Weagle and Joshua Todd

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## IBT Local 776 2021/22 Membership Meeting Dates

Sunday September 12, 2021	Sunday January 9, 2022
Sunday October 10, 2021	Sunday February 13, 2022
Sunday November 14, 2021	Sunday March 16, 2022
Sunday December 12, 2021	Sunday April 10, 2022

*Local 776 Membership meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month. Meetings are held at the Harrisburg Union Hall unless noted and begin at 10 AM.*

## IBT Steward's Meeting Dates

Saturday September 11, 2021	Saturday January 8, 2022
Saturday November 13, 2021	

## Local 776's Truck Gets a New Look

*Our new design supports the message of who we are*



Local 776 unveiled their newly adorned tractor-trailer to the membership at the May monthly meeting. The "theme" of the new wrap remembers our Teamster history as we create our future, and honors our troops as they defend our freedoms. The tractor cab affirms our motto of "People Helping People". The Local is proud to have such a vehicle to represent us and to serve our communities in times of need. The new, bright color scheme is quite a sight going down the road and has already brought comments from those getting a glimpse of it. If you happen to see the rig going down the road honk to let the drivers know you're a Teamster!!

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