



## WHAT'S AHEAD?

### Save the date:

**Labor Day Parade and Activities** - The 26th Annual York Labor Day Parade, sponsored by the York-Adams County Central Labor Council and the City of York, is set for Monday, September 7, 2015. \$450 in cash prizes.

The parade 10 a.m. step off begins at Smalls Athletic Field and ends by Kiwanis Lake in York. The Judges stand is on Roosevelt Avenue. The City sponsors post parade activities. This free, day long, family festival will include a flea market, a fishing derby, parade, food, games, and entertainment! Firework at Lake Kiwanis at 9:00 p.m.

Local 776 members, families, vehicles, drivers, equipment, Local 776 Officers and Agents will gather at the York Union Hall and march to the parade to step off as a unit. If you plan to attend please meet our contingent at the York Union Hall by 9:00 a.m.

### Labor Day Fishing Derby for kids at Kiwanis Lake

Date: Monday, September 7, 2015  
Place: Kiwanis Lake  
Event: Fishing Derby  
Ages: 1 to 8 years of age & 9 to 15 years of age  
Registration: 8 a.m.  
Fishing: 8 to 11:30 a.m.

### Local 776 Children's Christmas Party -

Local 776 Annual Children's Christmas party is set for Saturday, December 12, 2015 at 10 a.m. at the Union Hall. More details will be e-Blasted to participating members and posted at barns soon. Children and/or grandchildren of members ten years old and younger.

### York County Local 776 Community Christmas Party (Christmas for Kids) -

Local 776 is a major sponsor of this annual event to share the holiday spirit with some of the less privileged kids in our York Community. Date is set for December 5, 2015. Name tags will be available October 12, 2015 at the Harrisburg Union Hall. More details will be e-Blasted to participating members and posted at barns soon.

**ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2015.** Remember, "Bad politicians are elected to office by good people who don't vote."

## Local 776 Stewards being empowered and heeded Training sessions aimed to better service to members and coordination within Local

Demonstrating that they meant their pledge to become involved partners with the Local 776 Stewards, one of the first major events under the new leadership team was a training day for Stewards. A capacity crowd of fifty Stewards attended the day-long session demonstrating their commitment to serving the members and the Local.

The new leadership team is committed to selecting Stewards by membership vote. And, then partnering with Stewards to preserve and protect member's rights and employment.

The next training day is scheduled for September 12.



*The first Steward's Training Day, held on the first Saturday in March, was extremely well attended. More sessions are planned to empower your Local Steward. - Stewards are the first line of defense and protection when management threatens employee safety and employment.*

## New Team Sworn Into Office in January



*Teamster International Vice-President William Hamilton, also President of Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters, administered the oath of office to Local 776's new Officers and Trustees at the Union Hall on January 1, 2015*

Newly sworn in President Ed Thompson recognized numerous past local Union Officers who were in attendance including Ron Fike, Tom Griffith, Mel Harris, George Smart, Bobby Snyder, and Dan Virtue.

After a brief "State Of The Union" report by President Thompson the meeting continued with the normal order of business.

## International President Hoffa Welcomed Local 776 Officers to DC Headquarters

*International Teamsters President James Hoffa welcomed the newly elected Local 776 team to his office in Washington where he officiated at a ceremonial "Swearing In" to office.*





## A Message from Local Union 776 President Ed Thompson: First year is a good start

It has been the better part of a year since the new team of 776 Officers, Agents and Trustees were sworn into office.

Then, we were at a crossroads.

### State of the Union – January

The Union had been split by the prior Officers into two or, maybe, three camps. Officers and Agents were working against each other. The member's needs and priorities had been shunted aside.

13 Contracts had expired and their status was unresolved. Another 12 contracts were set to expire in 2015.

There were 891 open and unresolved grievances representing more than one unresolved grievance for each ten members. More than 130 of those were docketed to various grievance panels. Some were past their Statute of Time Limitation due to neglect.

There were close to four dozen mediations and Arbitrations waiting to be heard – waiting to protect and preserve member's rights and employment.

Embarrassingly for a Teamster's Local, the Local's Tractor was out of inspection and required new tie rods and batteries to pass muster. Every driver knows inspections happen every six months but past Officers couldn't meet that simple deadline.

The Local's vehicles, assigned to Officers and Agents to service members at their work sites, were unserviced, had 150,000 to over 200,000 miles and dangerous, with one vehicle just abandoned in the Local parking lot since last November.

Four computers didn't work or had expired software.

Our York Union Hall was closed with no estimate on repairs costs. An appraisal, for which we found a receipt, was missing. There was no plan to restore full service to the York area.

We were at risk politically and legislatively on all fronts, at all levels of government and were seemingly abandoned by former friends and supporters. And, Local Union communication with our members was the last and least priority of Local leaders who had allowed our former newsletter to just die off and vanish. The website was months out of date.

We were in tough shape and the future looked bleak.

No doubt about the fact that it will be a long road back, but today I can report that we're off to a good start to regaining control of the Local Union and physical property, reducing back Grievances and Hearings, replenishing our DRIVE and Scholarship Funds, restoring respect and security for members and their families.

### The State of the Union – September

The introduction of our new newsletter, The 776 REVIEW, is one of the most visible signs of change for the better. Information is power. The more members know and understand, the better able we will be in making life changing decisions.

The Local Union launched a new, improved website on January 1st, the day we took office – [www.TeamstersLocal776.org](http://www.TeamstersLocal776.org). Prominent on the website is an area for members to sign up to receive near immediate information via e-mail. Please visit the site today and sign up today.

We now employ E-mail alerts to notify members union-wide or a targeted group at a specific barn or location of news and events; everything from monthly membership meetings, steward meetings, contract ratification meetings and events the Local has planned for the members. Response to the new website has been overwhelming; members frequently mention it when contacting their BA and members continue to sign up as a registered member.

Particularly visible to members who have been at the Local 776 website is our re-emphasis on the importance of our Union Stewards. It is our intention that all Stewards be elected by the membership and for Agents and Officers to work **with** them – not against them. We have undertaken classes and training aimed at assisting them in helping members and ensuring member rights.

On the political front, we had a successful Primary Election Day. All of our targeted race candidates were victorious. Our DRIVE Fund is strengthening under the direction of new leadership.

We have re-instituted activities to raise fund for our Scholarship Program which, with continued progress, we hope to expand.

Vehicles have been repaired or replaced. Plans for our York facility are close to providing the costs and options we need.

Agents now attend each orientation session at UPS and UPS Freight.

This coming Labor Day, we all have something to celebrate. I hope members and families will come to the parade and post parade activities and share some off duty time with fellow members and their families.

In future 776 REVIEWS, I hope to use my Message to delve deeper into one of the important issues that face us as workers and as union members but it seemed appropriate to recap the last month's highlights in this inaugural edition.

In the meantime, please attend our meetings and functions be they social or work-related. Be active. Participate. Support one another. Remain positive and professional.

If our foes are successful in dividing us from one another, they will win. But, if our message of solidarity rings true, we will be the winners.

In Solidarity,

Ed Thompson, IBT Local 776 President



We were in tough shape and the future looked bleak. Today, I can report that we are off to a good start at regaining control of the Local Union.



## Local 776 DRIVE has a new driver Trustee Patrick Hollingshead rebuilding our political clout

What a difference some leadership can make.

In January, when the new Officers, Agents and Trustees were sworn into office, the Local 776 DRIVE Fund's, the Local's Political Action Committee, balance was \$2,900.00

As of August 15, 2015, the DRIVE Fund balance was \$10,700.00, a three hundred percent increase. Not included in that amount are the monies the Local contributed to candidates for the Primary or General Election campaigns, an amount of \$850.00

Under Hollingshead's leadership and with full backing from the Local 776 Board, Local 776 DRIVE undertook a recruitment drive this summer. The drive, fully supported and partially staffed by International IBT DRIVE, has been a great success and is still underway. Local 776's D.R.I.V.E. Chapter started out with 831 members on January 1, 2015 and, as of August 20th, 2015, now has 1,084 members, a twenty-five percent increase. International IBT returns fifty percent of all contributions to the Local Fund for distribution to the candidates we support locally.

Prior to the DRIVE drive, Local 776 DRIVE hosted its annual Dinner Dance on March 28 at the Radisson Penn Harris Hotel in Harrisburg.



*Local 776 Drive supporters set up shop at the YRC 135 Distribution Center to meet with members, serve them so lunch from the grille and sign them up as DRIVE monthly check off contributors. The Local 776-represented Distribution Center in Carlisle is the second largest in the country.*



*Local 776 attorney and Dinner Dance speaker, Irwin Aronson spends a few minutes at the event with Local 776 Secretary Treasurer, Ron Hicks. These two are always on duty.*

A large crowd was on hand for the night's activities. After welcoming the DRIVE members Local President Ed Thompson introduced our guest speaker Eugene DePasquale, Pennsylvania's Auditor General. From 2007 to 2013, Gene served in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, representing York County-based 95th district. A true friend of organized labor; while serving as a state representative he had a 100% voting approval record from the AFL-CIO.

**Please remember, if we expect people to help us in our hours of needs we have to be willing and able to support them when they have needs and campaign expenses in return.**



## Get a Withdrawal Card when you leave your job. IBT Withdrawal Card Info

If you leave your employment don't forget to fill out a withdrawal card.

The withdrawal Card allows your Teamster membership to continue, under certain circumstances, without having to pay dues. Be sure you obtain a Withdrawal Card when being laid-off, going on leave of absence, lengthy workman's compensation or disability medical leave, or terminating your employment. The charge for a Withdrawal Card is still only 50¢, but all initiation fees and back dues must be paid before the Withdrawal Card will be issued.

It is your responsibility to obtain a **Withdrawal Card**. Please complete and mail it as soon as possible after leaving the company so that you will not be obligated to pay extra dues. Failure to obtain a **Withdrawal Card** may cause you to pay back dues and/or to again pay the initiation fee.

Your card should be submitted before the end of the month in which you last worked. A withdrawal card allows a member to maintain his or her membership on an inactive basis. In other words, you will not owe union dues for any months you did not work after you obtain the withdrawal card.

**Membership Cards:** Any member that does not have a union membership card must contact the Union Hall.

Should you have any questions, please call:

TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION NO. 776 at 717-233-8766

### TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION NO. 776 WITHDRAWAL REQUEST CARD

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Day of Work: (Date) \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for leaving: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Quit, laid off, terminated, etc*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Add 50¢ for the cost of Withdrawal Card

Bring or mail to: Teamsters Local Union No. 776 --

2552 Jefferson Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110 --

Phone: 717-233-8766 Fax: 717-233-6023

\*\*\*please be sure to notify us when you return to work\*\*\*

## Local 776 -- All Green on St. Pat's Day

Every year when St. Patrick's Day rolls around, everyone at Local 776 seems to be Irish. That was no different this year.

Green, green, green. Agents and Officers in green. Kids in green. Even dogs were in green. Our tractor and trailer adorned in green. And, green were the beads Local 776 distributed to parade watchers.



Local 776's presence was felt at the parade – the Local distributed green beads to parade viewers and blasted the tractor's air horn at every opportunity.



Local 776 Officers and Agents gather at the Local 776 tractor and trailer prior to the 2015 St. Patrick's Day Parade in Harrisburg.







## Local 776 Family Day at the Senator's Game Hundreds enjoy All-American Festivities

Local 776 held its Annual Family Picnic on June 28, 2015 at City Island in Harrisburg. It's always a great occasion to get together with fellow workers and members off the clock.

Nearly 2,500 members and family members joined the Local and the Harrisburg Senators for a day of fun in the sun. Hog dogs, drinks, ice cream, and plenty of Cotton Candy were some of the menu items. Peanuts and Cracker Jacks were rumored in the Park too. Clowns entertained the kids and DJ Big John played everyone's favorites.

And, our Senators won beating Altoona 3 to 2.



Nearly three thousand tickets were reserved for the game and picnic. But, the many No-Shows cost the union a lot in unused pre-paid guarantees.



A future Teamster display the Teamster-logged baseball given to each Teamster kid.



The picnic fare was just a big draw as the baseball game itself. Our Hometown Senators beat Altoona 3 to 2.



The Home Team Senator's welcomed Local 776 families with a trailer-sized banner

## Local 776 Golf Outing a Smash Event benefits 776 Scholarship Fund for member's kids

As Local 776 website editor Ron Myrnes wrote, A bright sunny sky, low humidity, and just enough of a breeze to keep the bugs away, one of the best days of this summer, and it was the day of the Local 776 golf outing! 144 of the Local's best golfers, hackers, and duffers teed it up for some serious competition and bragging rights. Afterward the players enjoyed dinner as the winners were announced.

"Local President Ed Thompson remarked, 'Usually when we have contact with a member whether for a grievance, a pay shortage, or any violation of their contract, they are upset. We've had a picnic/baseball game gathering, now a golf outing. It's good to see our members relaxing, having a good time.

Please join me in thanking Local 776 Vice-President Dave Pogue and Secretary-Treasurer/Business Agent Ron Hicks for all their time and hard work that they put into making the golf outing the huge success it was."



Golfers enjoyed their post-round feast nearly as much as the serious, yet fun, competition.



Few balls were hit as close as this one was placed to the hole. All the golf outing participants received a set of Local 776 golf balls as part of their registration package.

### GOLF TOURNEY WINNERS

*Noted for individual and Team achievement are:*

- Long Drive Hitter – Rob Marek
- Long Drive Seniors Hitter – Clint Porter
- Closest to Pin hole #3 – Brian Bogovic
- Closest to Pin hole #7 – Al Swope
- Closest to Pin hole #13 – Mike Hess
- Closest to Pin hole #16 – Rob Ingersoll
- Championship Flight - 1st place: – Robert Fry, Damon Morris, Rob Ingersoll, Jason Hammer
- Championship Flight - 2nd place: – Lou Drayer, Tim Barlup, Gavin Lehan, Brian Sullivan
- Championship Flight - 3rd place: – Steve Lloyd, Leo Tate, Anthony Hall, Chris Heistand
- First Flight - 1st place: – Rich Stover, Greg Flaharty, Michael Zepp
- First Flight – 2nd place: - Jason Seidel, Terry Price, Joe Cielinshy, Tim Wilt
- First Flight – 3rd place: - Mike Baten, Lynn Whitesell, Martin McHale, James Handley
- Second Flight – 1st place: – Shawn Olson, Ben McCreary, Elton Shelton, Eugene Hachusko
- Second Flight - 2nd place: – William Christian, John Rieff, Jeff Kennedy, Cory Smith
- Second Flight - 3rd place: – Frank Wagner, Chris Yingler, Kevin Weagle





## Fifty-year Teamster Feted Local 776 member honored



Local 776 Secretary-Treasurer Ron Hicks (left) and President Ed Thompson congratulate Jim on his retirement and for his service to the Teamsters

The same year that Lawrence of Arabia won Oscars, that Winston Churchill was named the 1st, and remains the only, Honorary U.S. citizen, the Navy's nuclear powered submarine Thresher sank off Cape Cod and soon to be 35-game winner Denny McLain was claimed for \$35,000, William J. Bernheisel joined the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

All but "Jim" Bernheisel have faded from memory.

After 50 years as a member of the IBT (He joined Local 776 as a Carlisle ABF Freight System employee in 1984 and retired January this year), Jim was honored and awarded a Fifty Year plaque at the March Local 776 D.R.I.V.E. Dinner Dance.

## US Marines' Toys for Tots Gets a Local 776 Jump Start in July Moving happiness closer to help others is the Teamster Way

The Marine Corps League, based in York, PA need a helping hand. The league sponsors the Toys for Tots program in the area and had to relocate from a warehouse to a different location across town. Local 776 retiree Dan Eucalano reached out to his nephew; Local 776 Business Agent Bill Olmeda, and got the wheels turning for the Local to supply its truck and a driver for the move. Early on Saturday, July 25th the move took place.

Members of the Marine Corps League were on hand to organize and load all of the toys.

Local 776 member and UPS Freight employee, driver Rich Stover did the rest safely shepherding the valuable cargo to its new temporary home.

Actually was a little Christmas in July.



Local 776 member and UPS Freight employee Rich Stover prepares to move out with a cargo of precious toys destined for children's gifts from the Marines' Toys for Tots Program.



Volunteers prepare to load and move the Marines' Toys for Tots presents from one warehouse to another



## Cleaning Up Local 776

Like so much else within the Union Hall, the area outside the Hall had been ignored for years. It had become a dispiriting jungle of weeds, vines, trash and debris.

And, like some of the mess inside, the new Local 776 team attacked the outside mess with vigor, trimmers, saws, weed wackers and a healthy dose of Teamster energy and determination.

Now, we can be as proud of the outside of our Hall as we are about the cleaned up inside the Hall.



*Before the clean up*



*After the clean up*





# 776Review

## Teamsters Local 776

2552 Jefferson Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Phone: 717-233-8766

Fax: 717-233-6023

[www.Teamsterslocal776.org](http://www.Teamsterslocal776.org)

## ELECTED OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Ed Thompson

[Ethompson776@gmail.com](mailto:Ethompson776@gmail.com)

### SECRETARY-TREASURER/ BUSINESS AGENT

Ron Hicks

[Local776@comcast.net](mailto:Local776@comcast.net)

### VICE-PRESIDENT

Dave Pogue

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## Local 776 Scholarship Program Update Hoffa Scholarship augments Local 776 HACC scholarships

Teamsters Local 776 has an established Scholarship Fund at the Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC), which enables talented students to pursue a higher education. Scholarship recipients may be either full or part-time students.



Local 776 Secretary-Treasurer Ron Hicks and President Ed Thompson presented Maura Vrabel and her Local 776 member and her father, ABF Freight System Driver Richard Vrabel with the official JR Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Certificate. Another benefit for Local 776 members – help for our children's education.

## Are You Missing Out on Important Events? Get on the Local E-Mail Alert list

If you aren't signed up to receive Local 776 e-Mail Alerts, you're probably missing out on important opportunities and vital information.

Since January 2015, Local 776 has sent out 43 E-Mail Alerts. How many did you get?

Did you and your family know about just the events in this Local 776 REVIEW? Plenty more happened we didn't have space for in the REVIEW. If not, sign up for Local 776 E-Mails Alerts. It's easy. It's fast. And you only have to do it once to get near instant information. It's simple:

1. Visit [www.TeamstersLocal776.org](http://www.TeamstersLocal776.org)
2. Click on "Members Resources"
3. Go to "Log In" at bottom of column
4. Complete the e-mail section and you're signed up\*

**YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS WILL NEVER BE SHARED WITH ANY OTHER PERSON OR PERSONS.**

*\*New or Non Members should go to Members Resources to sign up, too. There's a protocol to ensuring we get it right.*





## Your Pension Fund Don't wait until last minute to prepare

Local 776 has made an arrangement with the Central Pennsylvania Health & Welfare Fund to assist member with their correct completion of all the paperwork needed to access your pension at the soonest opportunity.

Members used to have to travel to Reading to get this personal help. And, you still can if you want to.

But, now, the Fund is going to come to our Local Union Hall to provide help.

Beginning in September 2015, Ms. Joann Vogel, an employee of the Funds, will be available at our Union Hall on the fourth Wednesday of each month. (In November, the third Wednesday due to Thanksgiving.)

Members must call the Funds and schedule an appointment with Joann. Please call 1.800.422.8330 to use this new service.



## Driver's Welfare Fund: Death Benefit Payment of \$2,000.00 is a Benefit - not insurance

All full members of Local 776 have a portion of their union dues, \$1.00, set aside on their behalf. That \$1 goes into the Driver's Welfare Death Benefit.

It's automatic and many members may have forgotten they ever signed up for the Benefit.

The Fund will pay, upon the death or retirement of the member or retired member, an amount determined by the member's length of time continuously in this Fund. (Without suspension, Withdrawal Card, etc.)

The benefit for all eligible members and retired members is:

Time in Fund	Payout Amount
Member up to 5 years	\$ 800.00
Five years/less than 10 years	\$ 1,400.00
10 years or longer	\$ 2,000.00

It's a great benefit. If you simply saved \$1.00 a month it would take 166 ½ years to amass \$2,000.00. You may name anyone you desire as the Benefit beneficiary or change that designee at any time.



## Package Car Driver Overtime 9.5 Rights enforcement form on Local 776 website

Local 776 has issued a 9.5 Rights Enforcement packet to make it easier to enforce your protections against excessive overtime. Use your 9.5 rights in the contract to get penalty pay for excessive overtime and to get your load adjusted.

Get a copy from your Steward or Business Agent or to download, view, and print the enforcement packet at [www.TeamstersLocal776.org](http://www.TeamstersLocal776.org)

Go to Member's Resources. Scroll down to UPS Information. Click on 9.5 Rights Enforcement Packet.





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**Fax:** 717-233-6023

[www.Teamsterslocal776.org](http://www.Teamsterslocal776.org)



### IBT Local 776 Upcoming Membership Meeting Dates

Sunday, September 13, 2015      Sunday, December 13, 2015  
Sunday, October 11, 2015      Sunday, January 10, 2016  
Sunday, November 8, 2015

*Local 776 Membership meetings are held the second Sunday of each month.  
Meetings are held at the Union Hall and start at 10 a.m.*

## Presenting the Local 776 Review – Your Union Voice

### What is it? What to expect? What to do?

Prior to the October 2014 Local Union 776 election, the Thompson-Hicks Team promised to improve member communications.

At the time, they stated in their Agenda for Positive Change, “Knowledge is power. Members need information to make important and life changing decisions.” They pledged to reach out to members instead of expecting members to come to the union to find out what was underway.

Elsewhere in this inaugural edition of the Local 776 newsletter, The Local 776 Review, we have outlined some other communications programs and policies the union has already initiated and implemented.

Members who are kept in the dark are powerless to determine the course of the union and their own fate – to have a say in how their dues are spent.

So, welcome to the Local 776 REVIEW. We are hopeful that it will become one of the principal tools in providing information and in communicating with members.

The plan is for the REVIEW to be printed and mailed three times a year.

Over time, the REVIEW will evolve to meet the Local’s and members needs and desires. Length will depend on the amount and timeliness of news members need to know. And, the print format allows us space to delve more substantively into issues of greatest concern to members, the Local Union and our Sisters and Brothers in the Labor community.

And, the Local 776 REVIEW will help us save some money. From this edition forward, some information will now appear only on the website and in the REVIEW instead of separate individually posted communications.

Many members have already seen a change in the presentation of information from the Local. We have been sending e-mail blasts on issues that demand immediate attention. As we increase the number of members who submit their personal e-mails to the Local, you will begin to more speedily and efficiently receive electronically transmitted information. (Please see article on Page 10 to see how to sign up for Local e-mail alerts.)

Neither e-mails nor the 776 REVIEW can substitute for attending our meetings where questions and inquiries are welcome. When the REVIEW shows up at your home or and e-mail lands in your phone, please take a few minutes to give them some attention. We pledge that we won’t be sending information that will waste your time.

And, if you haven’t visited the Local website lately, please go to [www.Teamsterslocal776.org](http://www.Teamsterslocal776.org). You may be surprised at how much information is available at the site. There is information available only to members at the “members” button.

Just click on.

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