



Automotive, Industrial and Allied Workers

Flash!

TEAMSTERS

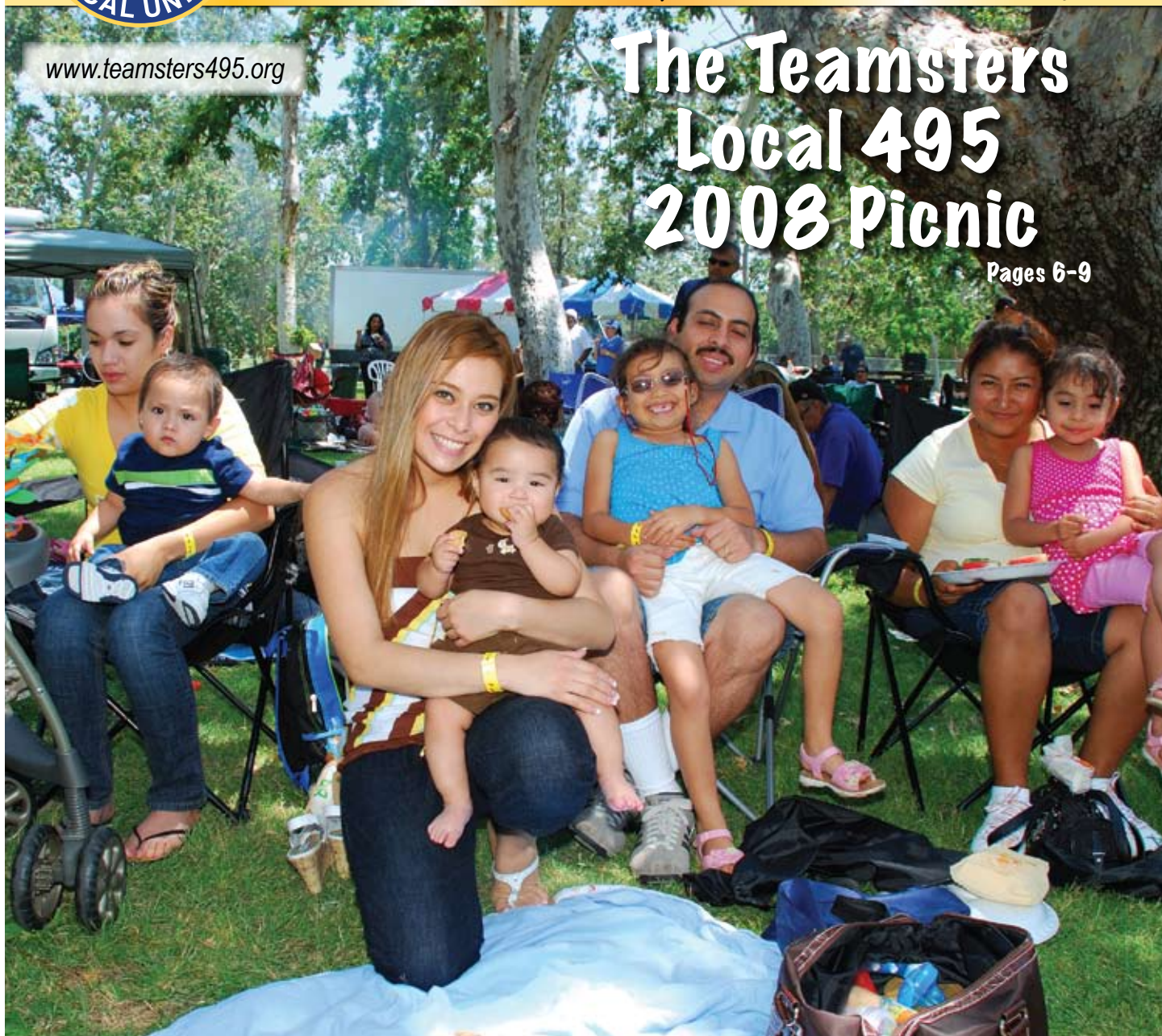
Robert M. Lennox, Secretary - Treasurer

June 2008

www.teamsters495.org

The Teamsters Local 495 2008 Picnic

Pages 6-9



Scholarship Winners Announced

Pages 3-5 & 12

Teamsters Local 495 Way Beyond Tires at Firestone

Pages 10-11

TEAMSTERS HELPING TEAMSTERS

*by Robert M. Lennox
Secretary-Treasurer, Local 495*

Here at Local 495 we're proud to focus on our members both on and off the job.

We do it on the job with negotiations, quality representation and stewards training. Off the job, we meet our goals with scholarships, picnics, holiday raffles, an informative web site. Teamsters helping Teamsters is one of our deeply rooted principles.

This issue of your publication focuses on our members, and how our efforts support their entire family.

We are extremely proud to salute 10 outstanding Teamster children who are the recipients of the 8th Annual Local 495 Scholarship awards. Their focus on education, family and community is noteworthy, and it gives us great pleasure to be able to help them continue their educational pursuits. Congratulations to each of them and their parents.

The Local was also pleased to again host the Annual Picnic. This year over 2,500 members of every age enjoyed a fun-filled day packed with entertainment, great food and games. This gathering has truly become a

celebration of family – our Teamster family – and the perfect opportunity for us to honor you.

Recently, Local 495 members, stewards and officers participated in the Hollywood to the Docks three-day march that ended with a spectacular rally in San Pedro. Thousands of union members joined hands with civic and community leaders, faith-based organizations, and non-union workers to emphasize the need for good jobs with fair pay and affordable health care.

Too many of us know hard-working families struggling to make ends meet. This massive display of unity for the working class throughout our region was impressive and gained national attention. I am optimistic that peaceful gatherings such as this can and will bring about positive change.

Likewise, in these uncertain times, members can be confident that your Local and the Teamsters as a whole will work hard to continue negotiating good contracts that enhance your pay, safeguard your benefits and protect your rights on the job.



2008 Scholarship Winners

Local 495 is extremely proud to announce the recipients of the 8th Annual Scholarship Awards.

“Assisting our fellow Teamster brothers and sisters is the foundation of our great organization. Awarding annual scholarships is just another way for Local 495 to underscore the proud and long tradition of Teamsters helping Teamsters,” Secretary-Treasurer Bob Lennox noted.

“The Local takes great pride in its Teamster members and their families.

It is a pleasure to honor these outstanding students, and to provide financial assistance to help them reach their academic goals,” he added.

Congratulations to the following exceptional Teamster children who each received a \$1,500 award:

Willie Williams, the son of **Marlette Byrd**, graduated from Dorsey High School in Los Angeles. Willie is planning on attending either UCLA or Utah State University in the fall.

In the classroom, Willie has excelled. He was a member of the Honor Society, Circle of Scholars and Upward Bound. He was active in Law Magnet Teen Court and his high school's theater productions.

Willie is also an outstanding athlete, competing in both football and track and field. He was an All-League football offensive and defensive player, and was inducted into the Football Hall of Fame for his 2007-2008 Varsity accomplishments.



*Willie Williams and mother Marlette Byrd
(Hertz Corporation- LAX)*

With a strong sense of community, Willie has volunteered at the African Marketplace, for Meals on Wheels, and has spent many weekends fundraising for different causes.

He proudly notes that his mother, a customer service representative at Hertz LAX, is the most influential person in his life. Willie has aspirations to play in the NFL and adds that he hopes to become a successful youth educator.



*Local 495 Sec.-Treas. Robert Lennox , Araceli Serna and family,
President Rigo Tirado*

Araceli Serna, the daughter of **Raul Serna**, graduated from John Glenn High School in Norwalk. She plans on attending Cal State Long Beach in the fall.

Throughout high school, Araceli excelled in her studies and took a wide variety of advanced placement courses in subject areas including Spanish, American History, Psychology, Studio Art, Spanish and American Literature, and American Government.

She was also very involved in the school's theater department, serving as a stage manager and in costume and wardrobe for a number of festivals, plays, improvisational shows and productions.

Araceli is also a talented photographer and has an interest in wildlife conservation. Following her course work at Cal State, she plans on attending UCLA for graduate studies in Theater Management and Journalism.

Her father is a lube tech for Penske Truck Leasing.

(continued on next page)

2008 Scholarship Winners

Valerie Zepeda, the daughter of **Erwin Huertas**, graduated from El Rancho High School in Pico Rivera. She plans on attending Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego in the fall where she will study both English and music.

In high school, Valerie achieved Honors status for a GPA of 3.33 and received the Varsity Sports Award for having the highest GPA out of all the athletes on the Girls Tennis Team where she was a member all four years.

She was a member of the Animal Advocates Club for two years and was involved in the Drama Club and Worship Group at her local church.



Valerie Zepeda and family

Valerie's goals include becoming a high school English teacher, and one day an English college professor. She would also like to teach music or guitar as a side profession.

Her father is a utility technician for Ryder.

Michael Gil, the son of **Elcar Gil**, graduated Hawthorne High School. He plans on attending UCLA in the fall. Michael hopes to one day become a physical therapist. He is extremely proud of the fact that he is the first child in his family to attend college.

His father is employed at Vanguard at LAX.



Elcar Gil and son Michael Gil

Congratulations!

Tiffany Zing, the daughter of **Rock Zing**, graduated from Gretchen Whitney High School in Cerritos. She plans to study pharmacology at either UCLA or Yale University in the fall.

A National Merit Scholarship Finalist in her senior year, Tiffany received many awards throughout high school, including a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition and a Certificate of Recognition from the California Legislature Assembly.

In addition to her studies, Tiffany was extremely active in a variety of school clubs that included The Great Outdoors, Chemistry, Amnesty International, and the National Honors Society. She was also second chair cellist with the high school's string orchestra, and was a member of the varsity girls tennis team.

Outside of the classroom she volunteered at Tzu Chi Foundation and the Cerritos Library, and interned



Tiffany Zing with father Rock Zing

at the UCLA School of Pharmacy. She was also a member of the ABC Unified School District Orchestra, and the founder and cellist of the ensemble Music from the Heart. She also was a math/English/European history/chemistry tutor, and was a swim instructor. Tiffany says she "wants to pursue pharmacy because it contains knowledge which can help people and change lives."

Tiffany also won an IBT scholarship. Her father is an auto technician with Hertz.

Krystal Martinez, the daughter of **Jaime Martinez**, graduated from Cajon High School in San Bernardino. She will be attending the UC-Riverside in the fall and plans to double major in Sociology and Psychology.

Krystal hopes to become a social worker or counselor and work specifically with children from broken homes. "I want to help children become successful individuals by setting a good example for them as my parents did for me, and inspire them to achieve success," she noted.

She said that one of her greatest accomplishments was her acceptance to UC-Riverside. "I plan to attend college not only to better myself but also to create a pathway for my younger siblings and for members of my community who share the same cultural background," she added.

Her father is a mechanic with Ryder Truck Rental in Riverside.

2008 Scholarship Winners



President Rigo Tirado, Jorge A. Castro, Jr., Sec.-Treas. Robert Lennox, the senior Jorge Castro and family

Jorge A. Castro, Jr., the son of **Jorge Castro**, graduated from Animo Inglewood Charter High School in Inglewood. He plans on attending the Art Institute of Long Beach or Cal State-Long Beach in the fall.

Academically, Jorge excelled in a number of advanced placement courses

and honors classes throughout high school. He graduated with a cumulative AP weighted grade point average of 3.61 and was ranked 22 out of a graduating class of 113.

His father is a parts clerk with Avis at LAX.

Megan Caunan, the daughter of **Manual Cuanan, Jr.**, graduated from Agoura High School. She plans on attending California Lutheran University to obtain a bachelors degree in Law.

In addition to her studies, Megan is an accomplished and talented multi-sport athlete. At Agoura, her specialties included track, soccer and volleyball. She excelled in running the 4x100 and 4x400 relays, as well as the 100- and 200-meter events, in addition to being a member of the varsity soccer and volleyball teams. She was quoted in a newspaper article saying that if there were more time in the school year, she would also play softball, run cross

country, wrestle and possibly kick field goals for the football team.

Megan's talents have received wide attention; she was recently invited to be a member of the USA Athletes International Soccer Team and compete in the 2008 Italian Ultimate Series in Italy in July.

While she plans to play soccer for Cal Lutheran, excelling in academics is a top priority. Megan notes that she hopes to do her graduate studies at UCLA, Stanford or Loyola Law School. She hopes to one day become a Family Law attorney.

Her father is a journeyman mechanic with Avis Budget at LAX

Jacob Wysocki, the son **Michelle Wysocki**, graduated from Narbonne High School in Harbor City. He plans on attending Cal State-Long Beach in the fall.

Jacob's academic achievements include being on the honor roll all four years of high school. He was also a 1st place DTASC Division 8 winner for writing and directing, and in his freshmen year was the Humanities English Winner.

He was involved with a variety of Narbonne's school productions, as well as playing tuba in the marching band. Jacob was also active in his church.

At Cal State he will be a member of the comedy improvisational team "Comedy Sportz - The College League." As an aspiring actor, he said being affiliated with the team will "open doors into the wonderful world of acting and theater." Jacob adds that he plans to also get the needed requirements to become a substitute English teacher.

His mother is a customer service representative for Hertz at LAX.

A Celebration of Family

“This gathering has truly become a celebration of family – our Teamster family – and the perfect opportunity for us to honor you.”

Over 2,500 Teamster members and their families gathered recently to enjoy a day filled with recreation, entertainment, delicious food and amusement at the 4th Annual Local 495 Picnic.

The huge crowd that turned out was treated to a union-sponsored, carnival-themed party at Whittier Narrows Park featuring live music, games, contests and a delicious barbecue with all the traditional side dishes and goodies.

“This is such a great day for our members. It really is a celebration of family and the core values of our organization,” Local 495 Secretary-Treasurer Bob Lennox noted.

Teamster members and their families enjoyed a wide variety of activities throughout the day, including the wildly popular Karaoke Contest and the Local’s huge raffle where members

had a chance to win an extensive array of great gifts.

“Each year the crowd grows larger,” Lennox pointed out. “That’s a true testament to how much our members look forward to this event and how much fun it is. I really can’t think of a better way to honor members and their families each year.”



Teamsters Local 495 Picnic 2008



Face Painting • Volleyball • Raffle •



Señorita Daisy

Four years ago, 8 year-old Daisy Dorado was so mesmerized by the Mariachi singers at the Local's picnic she told her parents that she wanted to learn the time-honored songs.

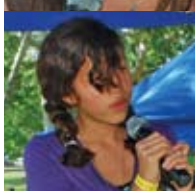
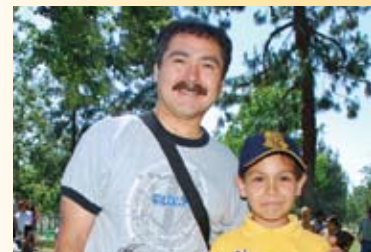
And that she did. At this year's Local 495 Annual Picnic, Daisy came prepared with her own music and entered the karaoke contest. Much to her delight, the young singer won the competition.

"I was very excited. I didn't know I was going to win. I was just there to have fun," she giggled. Daisy's prize, however, has brought her sheer delight. "I won a karaoke machine. I love it! It's in my room and I use it all the time."

Her parents, Maria and Mathias, a 12-year member who works for Toyota in Long Beach, couldn't be more proud. "It was different to see a little girl singing mariachi music in Spanish," Maria noted, adding that Daisy takes classes in Mariachi singing and is learning how to read music and play the guitar.

Daisy's talents are rubbing off on her two siblings, 7 year-old brother Matthew, who is also taking classes and plays the trumpet, and 2 year-old Bianca who loves to sing along.

"We are very proud of her. My husband is from Mexico and he can't believe that she loves all of the traditional music," Maria added.



Kareoke • Golf • Petting Zoo •

Big Slide • Moonbounce • Medals



Water Balloon Toss • Dodge Ball

Way Beyond Tires...

For over 40 years, Local 495 has been representing technicians, mechanics and student apprentices at company-owned Firestone locations in Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

When most of us hear the word 'Firestone,' we naturally think tires. But when it comes to the 110 Teamster mechanics working at 23 area Firestone locations throughout Southern California, let it be known their skill and talents reach far beyond tires.

"Sure we do tires, but we also do alignments, suspensions, brakes, water pumps, timing belts," Corona Lead Technician Miguel Velazquez explains. "We also do diagnostics, general maintenance, radiators, hoses, belts, flushes ... pretty much you name it and we can fix it. The only thing we don't do is major repair work on engines, differentials and transmissions."

"This is a large group of very hard-working, dedicated employees who get up every day and do a fantastic job. My hat's off to them," Local 495 Business Agent Gene Rivera raved.

The group is currently working under a three-year agreement that is set to expire at the end of September. Rivera says negotiations will begin later this summer and will include five rank-and-file members, as well as Local 495 Business Agent Roman Delgado, who also represents the vast group.

"There are a few things that we'd like to see in the new contract," noted

Valazquez, a member of the bargaining committee. "A higher pay rate for technicians, better health and pension benefits, and improved language for paid holidays are some of things at the top of our list."

The Firestone locations – all seven-day-a-week operations – are staffed by only five or six Teamsters at each facility. Together, they work to cover long shifts that include 12-hour days during the week. Currently, the facilities are closed only five days a year: Christmas, New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, Easter and the Fourth of July.

"This is a large group of very hard-working, dedicated employees who get up every day and do a fantastic job."

— Gene Rivera,
Local 495 Business Agent



Rudy Carmona (Baldwin Pk)

The union does enjoy positive labor relations with the company. "It's a good company to work for. They offer a lot of opportunity for their employees to learn and grow within the organization," Rivera noted. "Many of our members at Firestone have been with the company for 10 years or longer. I'm looking forward to negotiating a fair and equitable agreement for this hardworking group."

Local 495 at Firestone



Abboud Bachaalany (Baldwin Pk)



Ray Chavez (Alhambra)

"My hat's off to them,"
— Gene Rivera ,
Local 495 Business Agent



Jorge Campos & Eliseo Navar (Cerritos)



Kuk Khin Chu & Rudy Carmona (Baldwin Pk)



Richard Duran



Trai Van, Joseph Park & Jose Torres (La Puente)

2008 Scholarship Winners

(continued from page 5)

Wendy Espejel, the daughter of Enrique Espejel, graduated from Rancho Cucamonga High School. She plans on attending Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego or UC-Riverside in the fall. Her goal is to one day become a sports medicine physician.

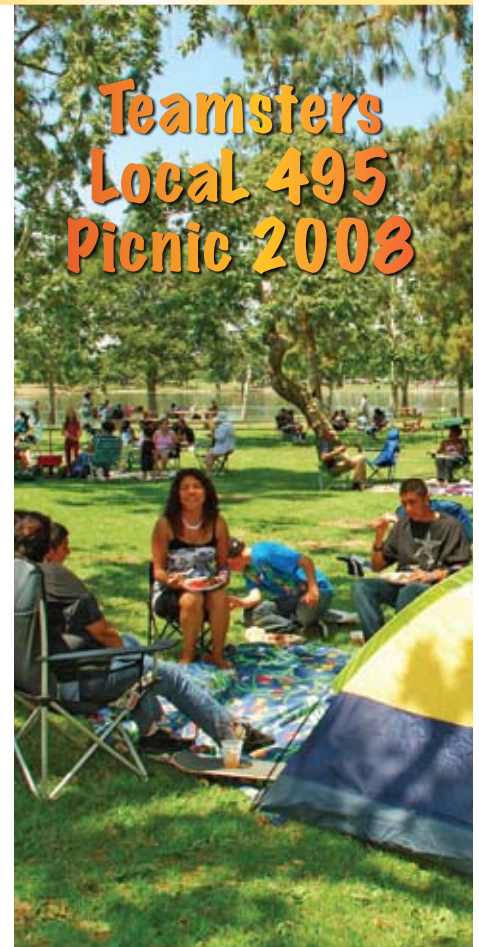
In addition to her studies, Wendy is an accomplished athlete in soccer. She was a two-year member of the OJSC Barcelona and a four-year member of the Claremont Stars club soccer teams. She was also member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes for two years and is currently a member of the (Under 20)

Mexican National Team. This summer, she is planning on attending the World Cup in Chile with her fellow teammates on the national team.

She is also involved in church activities including youth group, bible study, and church camp.

Wendy says that she would love to become a sports medicine doctor because, "as an athlete myself, I feel the need to help fellow athletes achieve their goals by helping them remain in top physical condition."

Her father is a diesel mechanic for Penske Truck Leasing in Fontana.



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