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Local 495

Automotive, Industrial and Allied Workers

TEAMSTERS

Flash!

Robert M. Lennox, Secretary - Treasurer

August 2009

A SPECIAL EDITION

1939 - 2009

70 YEARS of Solidarity

For 70 years, Local 495 has stood by our members consistently, protecting your interests in the workplace. We've worked hard together and we've hung tough together in good times and in bad. We've passed the test of time and now we are commemorating a milestone anniversary.

PLUS: 2009 Scholarship Winners Announced

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CELEBRATING

Ryder Truck Rental

Ryder employees in Santa Fe Springs, Riverside, Rancho Cucamonga, Pomona, Oxnard, Orange, Montebello, MBM, LA, G & G Produce, Costa Mesa, Coremark, City of Industry, Altadena and Alameda became Teamsters in 1997. Represented by Business Agent George Park, the group includes SI Fuelers, S2 Utility Service workers, Utility Techs, TRP's, Techs 3 and 4, and Mechanics. Keeping the members informed in the workplace are a number of Shop Stewards: Edward Cortez, Craig De Lorm, Valentin Godina, Robert Gonzales, Kenneth Kirkpatrick, Pat Spangler, Luis Duran and Jim Westerskov.



Budget

New to the Local 495 family are the Rental Representatives, Return Agents and Shuttle Drivers working at Budget locations in Burbank (who became members in 2004) and Ontario (2005). Jim Maclay serves as the Shop Steward in Burbank and Ray Cohn is the Steward in Ontario. "This is a fine group of great folks who do a super job every day," Business Agent Jim Lennox noted.





RSI Home Products

Members since 2000, these Teamsters manufacture kitchens, doors, bathrooms and cabinets for Home Depot and Lowe's stores.

The bargaining unit includes General plant Workers, Set-Up employees, Computer Equipment Operators, Forklift Operators, Leads, Mechanic Helpers, and Inspectors. Abel Bucio serves as RSI's Shop Steward. "This is a very hard working group of members," Local 495 Business Agent Roman Delgado emphasized.



Hertz

For over 50 years, the Local has represented a wide variety of Hertz employees including Rental and Instant Return Representatives, VSA's, Mechanics, Tire and Lube, Bus Drivers, Shuttle Drivers and NCGR's at five area airports. Working with Business Agent Jim Lennox are Shop Stewards Mary Gavin, Niki Taylor, Art Cates, Natasha Brantley and Glenn Samuel (LAX); Bobbye Gibson, Eugene Campbell and Jesus Zarate (Burbank); Joyce Sessom (Long Beach); Bente Hulgren and Robbie Lucas (Orange County); and Kim Kline, Diana Hemy-Huls and Pedro Amaro (Ontario). "This is the strongest, tightest group of members in the rental car industry. Period," Lennox added.



National/Alamo

Business Agent Jim Lennox describes the members at National as “hardworking, salt-of-the-earth workers.” Teamsters for 40 years, this group includes Rental and Return Representatives, Service Agents, Mechanics, Bus Drivers, and Tire and Lube employees at multiple locations. The unit’s Shop Stewards include Mike Hsu, Morris Clardie, Sharon Carter, Armando Lopez, Tony Soohoo, Carlos Flores and Luis Arevelo (LAX); Angel Cantuna and Joe Fernandez (Burbank); Chris Brown (Long Beach); Kimo Mangosong and Maria Galindo (Orange County), and Johnny Macias and Mark DelaCruz (Ontario).



Unified Grocers

Providing distribution fleet maintenance and cleaning services for Unified Grocers are a hardworking group of Teamsters at two locations, Commerce and Santa Fe Springs. They are Teamster members since 1998.

Business Agent George Park is assisted by Shop Stewards Joe Turnbow, Daniel Villareal and Leonard Chavez in representing the Stock Room employees and manager, Tire Changer, and the Lubrication, Gas Pump, Steam Rack and Tire Service Operators.





Disney Resort

Proud Teamster members since 1955, Local 495 represents attraction, warehouse, parking and transportation 'cast members' at Disneyland, California Adventure and the Ontario Distribution Center. Business Agent Roman Delgado works closely with a dedicated group of Shop Stewards including John Di Floro, Lydia Surface, Brian Snitzer, Vance Cardenas, James Johnson, Gary Ward, Nancy Clements, Andy Zablan, Andrea Raney, Brian Freeman, Christopher Weide, Mike Wheat, Brian Bailey, Nancy Valencia, Kimberly Seegers, Bob Sanchez, Shawn Stengel, Brent Malone and Gabriel Perez.



Carmenita Ford

Local 495 has proudly represented members working at Carmenita Ford for over 30 years. They include Mechanics, Utility and Maintenance Mechanics, Apprentice Mechanic, Partsman, Warehouseman, Parts Runner, Parts Pick-up Man, Lot Persons, Steam Cleaner, Lubeman and Janitor. Business Agent George Park is assisted by Shop Stewards Francisco Franco, Joe Vaca and Herbert Elmquist.



Tire Centers, LLC

Tire Centers, LLC is located in Fontana. Local 495 represents a large group of employees on three shifts with Shop Steward Martin Bravo assisting the union. The group includes repairmen, builders, molders and inspectors who retread diesel trailer truck tires. "Our members produce quality tires. This is a huge responsibility, and our Teamsters take great pride in their work everyday," Business Agent Gene Rivera pointed out.





Penske

Members working at Penske provide outstanding service and professionalism on the job, and for over 30 years they've proudly called themselves Teamsters. Business Agent George Park represents this large group that works from a variety of locations: City of Industry, Torrance, Sun Valley, Montebello, Santa Fe (LA), Bakersfield, Carson, Olympic, Chino, Corona, Fontana, Indio, La Mirada, Olympic (LA), Ontario, Riverside, Santa Ana and Anaheim. Working with Park is a dedicated group of Shop Stewards that include Rodger Barton, Jesse Bermudez, Jeffrey Caudel, Paul Heredia, Hector Lopez, Daniel Rey, David Salas, Daniel Sheeran, Joel Sponsler and John Vega.





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495

1939 - 2009
Celebrating
70 YEARS

of Solidarity

A special edition celebrating 70 years of solidarity with our members – the core essence of our proud organization.

UPS

Since 1979, Local 495 has been very proud to represent UPS Car Wash, Porters, Tire Service, Stock and Parts Room, Lubrication, Steam Racks, Fueler, Utility Personnel and Part Timers at a variety of locations: Cerritos, Gardena, Grande Vista, Main Street, Olympic, Santa Monica, San Fernando, Van Nuys and the Trailer Shop in Vernon. Business Agent George Park works closely with a team of Shop Stewards including Gary Diaz, Brian Gallager, Gilbert Garcia, Arthur Herrington, Eduardo Ortega, Tim Scott, Rolando Ventura and Thomas Batiste.



In marking seven decades as a local union, we're really celebrating 70 years of solidarity with our members — the core essence of our proud organization. This would be just another date on the calendar if not for your unity and support. So as we observe this anniversary, we honor the core and spirit of our Local — our members.

70 Years of Solidarity

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



Throughout the years, Local 495 has remarkably had only three Secretary-Treasurers. The first one was union veteran Frank Hatfield, Sr. His focus and enthusiasm helped the Local become one of the strongest and best-recognized locals in the West.

Hatfield was a true visionary who expanded the Local beyond worksites that had been automotive in nature — by organizing parking attendants at valet services, downtown lots and the California racetracks. Later, workers in repair shops, gas stations, rock and gravel sites and employees in the food, bakery and dairy industries became Local 495 members.

Karl Ullman, who had a reputation for cementing key contracts and who had served as a Business Agent and President, was named Secretary-Treasurer in 1970 when Frank Hatfield retired. Ullman served with tenacity and, like Hatfield, was responsible for critical contract language improvements and bargaining new agreements with a solid foundation.



Karl Ullman

Ullman retired in 1992 and I was then named Secretary-Treasurer. Hatfield's son, Frank, Jr. perhaps said it best: "We transferred the leadership by evolution, rather than revolution."

This continuity in leadership has given us tremendous stability and leverage at the bargaining table. While employers respect our established experience and depth of knowledge, it's our members who have benefited from this constancy.

In the 80's the Local saw the demise of manufacturing jobs, the loss of positions due to technological advances, and we weathered a serious recession. Much of what is happening today reminds me of that era. And just like then, it has never been more important for you to have representation and solid contracts that will protect you, even as employers are attempting to negotiate reductions and takeaways.

Years ago, while other locals failed, Local 495 remained versatile and resilient. The membership stood tall and stood together. Like then, we will ride out this current economic storm as well. We must look forward and be optimistic. We have President Obama in the White House and a Democratic majority in Congress, and we hope that health care reform will become a reality. Working families finally have a voice in the halls of Congress. And even with this important political shift, we must keep our voices loud and unified. We in the labor movement must be as active as ever in holding our elected officials accountable for the promises they made and the decisions they make.

There is much to be optimistic about and even more to be grateful for. I hope you take the time to read through this special 70th commemorative edition of The Flash. I also hold the hope that you are as thankful as I am to be a member of Local 495.



Local 495 Snapshot

Over the course of 70 years, Local 495 has organized members in a wide variety of industries. Here is a snapshot of our dynamic and diverse groups that we are extremely proud to represent.



Volkswagen

These strong and proud Teamsters have been represented by the Local for over 40 years, Business Agent Jim Lennox points out. Located in Ontario, the group includes warehouse staff and lift operators who stock, package and ship Volkswagen and Audi automobile parts. Juan Hernandez and Roger Dick serve as the group's Shop Stewards.



Waste Management

Members since 1998, the WM bargaining unit includes drivers who pickup residential, commercial and roll-off waste and mechanics who service the trucks. Shop Stewards Adrian Cervantes (Chief) and Art Ramirez work closely with Business Agent Gene Rivera who adds, "These are the men who start early and work very hard throughout the day, rain or shine.

Our hats are off to each and every one of them."



Aramark Industrial Drivers and Office Workers

For over three decades, the Local has represented a variety of employees at Aramark – one of the area's leaders in providing and servicing industrial uniforms. The unit includes Commission and Non-Commission Route Salespersons, Shuttle Drivers, and General Office, Payroll and Accounting Clerks. Anthony Naranjo serves as the Shop Steward, working with Business Agent George Park.



TOYOTA LOGISTICS SERVICES (TLS)

Local 495 members working at Toyota Logistics Services (TLS) in Long Beach prepare vehicles for distribution to dealerships which includes installing alarms, CD players and all other accessories. Chief Shop Steward John Kobren and alternate Jesus Managa work closely with Business Agent Gene Rivera representing TLS shuttlers, production, quality control, accessories and rails employees. Many of these hardworking and committed Teamsters are long term employees.



Avis

This large group includes Rental Representatives, Return Agents, Service Agents, Shuttlers, Mechanics, Tire and Lube employees, and Bus Drivers working at five area airport locations. Shop Stewards Lori Cazarres, Diane Treviso, Mark Emmanuele, Carl Washington (LAX), Sheri Kham (Burbank), Pedro Amaro, Fernando Najera (Orange County), Angelo Warner and Salinda Robertson (Ontario) work together with Business Agent Jim Lennox. The group has been Teamster members for over four decades.



BMW

These Warehouse staff, Shipping and Receiving, Pickers and Packers who stock and ship BMW parts to dealers are long-term members with a commitment to quality service, Business Agent Gene Rivera proudly points out. "This is a tight knit group who take pride in their work and who are very loyal to the local union," he added. Members since 1975, the group's Shop Stewards include Albert Bautista (Chief), Manuel Santaolaya and Al Gervais.



WWL - Wallenious Wilhelmsen Logistics

Local 495 has represented members at WWL for over 30 years. Located in Wilmington, the group prepares Nissan vehicles for distribution to area dealerships. Some of their responsibilities include installing accessories, alarms and CD systems. "Members working at WWL have always been willing to stand up for what they believe in," Business Agent Gene Rivera said. "Chief Steward Gilbert Rios and Assistant Steward Orlando Hendrix do a great job in their daily operation of the union."





Sysco

Professional servicing and maintenance of the fleet of vehicles for the large food distribution company, Sysco, is in the trusted and highly qualified hands of Local 495 Teamsters. The group includes Journeyman, A, B, C Mechanics, and Utility and Fueller 1 & 2 employees. Members for the last 10 years, Javier Maisterra serves as the Shop Steward and George Park is their Business Agent.

Carrier Transicold of So. California

Teamsters working at Carrier Transicold work in various departments including Parts, Warehouse and Repair Service. Our members are well qualified and highly trained in refrigeration mechanics, parts and warehouse operations to ensure shipments to customers. Shop Steward Rudy Caldera works closely with Local 495 Business Agent Gene Rivera who represents the group.



Vons

For over 30 years, the Local has represented Mechanics; Stockroom employees and Manager; Tire Changers, Lubrication, Tire and Steam Rack Operators; Washing, Polishing and Cleaning Operators; and Shop and Yard Clean-Up personnel at the Vons distribution centers in El Monte and Santa Fe Springs. Business Agent George Park oversees the bargaining unit and is assisted by Shop Stewards Jesse Avitua and Javier Hernandez.



2009 Scholarship Winners

Local 495 is proud to announce the recipients of the 9th Annual Scholarship Awards. This year, the Local honors four outstanding high school seniors who each received a \$1,500 cash award.



Veronica Ortiz

Veronica Ortiz, the daughter of **Jose Ortiz** (Penske Truck Leasing, Riverside), graduated from Middle College High School in San Bernardino. Veronica plans on attending UC-Riverside to study environmental engineering. She would ultimately like to pursue a post-graduate degree in mathematics. "I would like to dedicate my future to teaching students the fundamentals of something so interesting and useful as mathematics," she said.



Veronica Ortiz and family

David Campos, the son of **Jose Campos** (Vanguard Car Rental), graduated from San Pedro High School. He will be attending CSU-Fresno in the fall to study civil engineering. David is the first in his family to attend college. "I hope that one day I can improve the conditions of the world that surrounds me. It's clear to me that an education is important."



David Campos and family

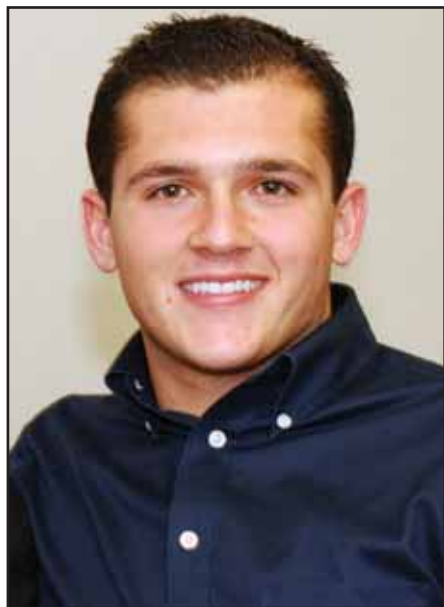


David Campos



“Teamsters helping Teamsters “is the core foundation of our organization. Celebrating the achievements of these students and being able to provide financial assistance to help them continue their education underscores this philosophy,” Local 495 Secretary-Treasurer Bob Lennox noted.

In addition to their studies, these exceptional Teamster children excelled in many areas. We applaud their accomplishments in both the classroom and in their communities.



Mikael Hounanian



Cody Hounanian

Mikael Hounanian, the son of **Alain Hounanian** (UPS, Van Nuys), graduated from Golden Valley High School in Santa Clarita. He plans on attending College of the Canyons and will later transfer to UC-Santa Barbara to study political science. Mikael says one day he would like to be a sports agent. “I have never doubted myself for one second, and I will do what it takes to reach my goals,” he commented.



Mikael and Cody Hounanian (they are twins) and family with Local 495 Secretary-Treasurer Robert Lennox (*middle*) and Local 495 President Rigo Tirado (*far right*)

Cody Hounanian, Cody Hounanian, the son of **Alain Hounanian** (UPS, Van Nuys), graduated from Golden Valley High School in Santa Clarita. He plans on attending UC-Santa Barbara to study science and law. “My future goals are all career oriented,” he said, adding that he’s motivated to finish college with the tools and skills needed to be competitive in the job market.