



**TEAMSTERS
LOCAL 700**

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TEAMSTERS LOCAL 700

FIGHTING FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

City of Chicago Members NEWSLETTER

November 2011

Local 700 Prevails Against City With Huge Arbitration Win

After years of struggle with the City of Chicago, not to mention a grievance and arbitration, Teamsters Local 700 has prevailed on behalf of Department of Aviation members.

The Local began aggressively pursuing this case as early as 2010. Originally filed as a grievance in early 2010, and then as an arbitration in February 2011, Local 700's complaint was that the City abused the contract language by sending full-time drivers home after just two hours of work.

"This was a long process from start to finish, but the benefits are undeniable," said Becky Strzechowski, Local 700 Assistant Trustee. "The City will now have to stop abusing our members and honor the contract language."

Local 700 found that the City has been misinterpreting section 4.9 of the contract, which was made to guarantee that at least 2 hours must be worked once an employee is called in.

"The City of Chicago has been enforcing this part of the contract as if it's a limit to the amount of hours these men and women should be working," said William P. Logan, Local 700 Assistant Trustee. "It's very clear this language was not created to be used as a penalty. We are glad to hear the arbitrator agrees with us on that."

Pool Motor Truck Drivers, who are

Emergency Hotline Keeps Members in Touch with Local 700 During Crises

In an effort to stay available to members 24 hours a day, Local 700 is providing members with an emergency phone number.

Members can call (866) 975-2085 to speak with someone during critical incidents and emergencies.

called in for the snow season, will now work at least 40 hours per week.

"At a time when the average working person is seeing wages and benefits slip out from under them, we are proud to be able to protect our members," said John T. Coli, Local 700 Trustee.

In a few weeks, Local 700 attorneys will meet with the arbitrator and attorneys for the City to discuss the resolution of this historic win.

Teamsters Local 700 Avoids Two Arbitrations and Wins Members Backpay

Teamsters Local 700 recently avoided two costly arbitrations with the City of Chicago. Two Local 700 members working for the Chicago Department of

JOHN T. COLI
Trustee

WILLIAM P. LOGAN
Assistant Trustee

BECKY STRZECZOWSKI
Assistant Trustee

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Transportation will receive 10 hours at time-and-a-half pay after they were not given the opportunity for overtime because CDOT officials did not follow the seniority clause of the contract.

Four different Local 700 members, also working for the Chicago Department of Transportation, will receive roughly 15 hours of additional pay after the City failed to pay them premium wages.

The members were scheduled to work Friday-Monday at 10 hours each day. Any time the members worked over those 40 hours they should have been paid at premium wages (double time). The additional pay these members will be receive, when added to their original wages, will equal this premium pay.

“These clear-cut cases are exactly the things members should bring to our attention,” said Becky Strzechowski, Local 700 Assistant Trustee. “Because of the diligence of these six members, Local 700 representatives are now more aware of these types of problems.”

Teamsters Local 700 to Hold Membership Meetings

Teamsters Local 700 will hold its monthly membership meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 8 at 328 S. Marshfield in Chicago.

All Local 700 members are invited to attend and ask questions of the Assistant Trustees and visit with fellow Teamsters. Local 700’s newly elected executive board also will be announced:

William P. Logan, President
Becky Strzechowski, Secretary-Treasurer
Michael G. Melone, Recording Secretary
Vincent F. Tenuto Jr., Vice President
Billie J. Ammons, Trustee
Hector Hernandez, Trustee
Gerald N. Sims Jr., Trustee

The next monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 6 p.m. at the Local 700 meeting hall on the first floor at 1300 W. Higgins Rd in Park Ridge. The Local’s new executive board will be sworn in at that meeting.

The date, time and places for 2012 Local 700 monthly membership meetings are forthcoming.

Hispanic Caucus’ Friday Night Boxing Event a Knockout Success

The Chicago Teamsters Hispanic Caucus Friday Night Boxing on Oct. 7 proved to be a one-two punch of fun

and fundraising.

Local 700 members, officers and representatives joined hundreds of their union brothers and sisters for the sold-out event at the Teamsters Local 705 meeting hall.

All proceeds benefited the Chicago Teamsters Hispanic Caucus Scholarship Program, which helps children and grandchildren of active Teamsters to pay for college. The event brought the program’s total funding to \$25,000.

The evening featured a fight card with eight sanctioned three-round bouts. A mariachi band entertained the crowd early, a salsa band played during intermission, and Teamsters Local 731 member Hector Hernandez III served as the DJ throughout the night.

“It has been truly exciting to see what the new leadership of the Chicago Teamsters Hispanic Caucus has accomplished in such a short amount of time,” said John T. Coli, Local 700 Trustee and President of Joint Council 25. “They have infused the organization with a renewed enthusiasm, and I have no doubt the Hispanic Caucus will continue expand, adapt and grow stronger.”

Before the boxing began, CTHC President and Local 700 member Hector Hernandez presented a plaque to Local 705 Secretary-Treasurer Juan Campos in honor of former Local 705 Secretary-Treasurer Stephen E. Poczowski, who died on July 2.

The CTHC also welcomed three special guests. George Miranda, Executive Director of the Teamsters National Hispanic Caucus, Eastern Region Vice President, President of Joint Council 16 and Secretary-Treasurer of Local 210 in New York City, Al Mixon, Teamsters National Black Caucus Chairman, International Vice President At-Large and Secretary-Treasurer of Local 507 in Cleveland and Ron Herrera, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 396, Joint Council 42 Trustee and Executive Director of the Teamsters Hispanic Caucus were in attendance.

To join the CTHC, complete an application and return it to 1300 W. Higgins Road, Suite 301, Park Ridge, IL 60068. For more information on the Chicago Teamsters Hispanic Caucus, or to get an application, visit chicagoteamstershispaniccaucus.org.

Members Must Request Withdrawal Status When Leaving Job for Any Reason

If you are leaving your place of work for any reason, notify Local 700 and request withdrawal status.

Failure to do so could result in extra fees. To request withdrawal status, call (847) 939-9700 or ask your business agent.