



TEAMSTERS LOCAL 700

FIGHTING FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

January 27, 2012

Teamsters Local 700 Staff Attends Pilot Diversity Program

Teamsters Local 700 staff joined Local 727, Local 301 and Joint Council 25 on Thursday to cement their commitment to workplace diversity and equality with the launch of a new program for union representatives and members. The workshop was sponsored by Joint Council 25.

Nearly 80 officers and staff from Teamsters Local 700, 727 and 301 and Joint Council 25 participated in the diversity workshop to bring renewed attention to the necessity of fair treatment for all workers. The program is a first for the international union. Its structure, focus and results are expected to blueprint future trainings for members, stewards, Teamster employers and local unions.

“The Teamsters will continue to lead by example when it comes to equal treatment and representation of workers,” said John T. Coli, President of Joint Council 25, “whether it’s in the workplace or within our own union. We are the most progressive union in organized labor. We must take the steps to protect our members, as well as the men and women who represent them.”

Among its issues, the pilot program concentrated on generational and ethnic diversity, physical and mental abilities, religion, workplace hostility and sexual harassment. Bill Heffernan of Employee Resource Systems, an Illinois-based worker assistance service, and Rev. Scott Onqué of Chicago’s St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church joined guest speaker Bill Munger from the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Adopted during the 27th International Convention in 2006, the union’s Constitution includes a pledge to progressive diversity: “[The Teamsters] are committed to the development of an organization which values and encourages the participation of women, individuals of various sexual orientations and members of racial, cultural and ethnic groups in the policymaking and leadership roles at all levels of the International Union and its affiliated bodies.”