



2800 Trumbull Ave.  
Detroit, Michigan 48216  
(313) 965-9833

## Understanding And Using Your "Weingarten Rights"

The United States Supreme Court, in the case of NLRB v. J. Weingarten, Inc., 420 U.S. 251 (1975), upheld a NLRB decision that employees have a right to union representation at investigatory interviews. These rights have become known as the Weingarten Rights. During an investigatory interview, the U.S. Supreme Court declared that the following rules apply:



**RULE 1:** The employee must make a clear request for union representation before or during the interview. The employee cannot be punished for making this request. If you do not ask for representation and begin the interview you have waived your right to representation under the Weingarten law.

**RULE 2:** After the employee makes the request, the employer must choose from among three options. The Employer must either grant the request and delay questioning until the union representative arrives and has a chance to consult privately with the employee, deny the request and end the interview immediately, or give the employee a choice of having the interview without representation or ending the interview.

**RULE 3:** If the employer denies the request for union representation, and continues to ask questions, it commits an unfair labor practice and the employee has a right to refuse to answer. The employer may not discipline the employee for such a refusal.

If you are called into a meeting with management and believe discipline could result, read the following statement about your rights during the interview:

**"If this discussion could in any way, lead to my being disciplined or terminated, or affect my personal working conditions, I respectfully request that a Union representative be present at the meeting. Without representation, I choose not to answer any questions."**

**THESE ARE YOUR WEINGARTEN RIGHTS!**

## Stay "Connected" With Local 337

### Local 337's Website



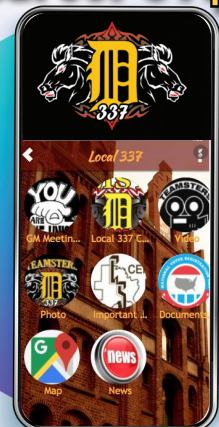
[www.teamsters337.com](http://www.teamsters337.com)

Log on to our website to receive information on important union news and events seven days a week, 24-hours a day.

## Downloads Local 337's App

### AN EASY WAY TO STAY "CONNECTED"

Local 337 Stewards and members can download our Local Union's mobile app for iPhone or Android by visiting their phone's app store.



TEAM

# 337

FALL 2020

# NEWS



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

# COVID-19 Has Forever Changed The Way We Live and Work; Teamwork and Common Sense Are Keys To Defeating It

By TODD LINCE



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**JEFF LEE**  
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**KURT DENZER**

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Hello Local 337 Brothers and Sisters. I hope this issue of *Team 337 News* finds you and your families healthy. This year has been extremely tough as COVID-19 has wreaked havoc on our jobs, our lives and our companies. This virus has affected every ethnicity, race, age, gender, sexual identification, political party and religion.

Unfortunately, Local 337 members have also been directly impacted by this plague. We have had members quarantined, hospitalized and, very sadly, some have died from COVID-19. This has been a horrible situation and it is not yet over.

While we can never forget those who are no longer with us, we know that, in some way, life and work must move forward. However, COVID-19 is a sober reminder that this virus may impact any of us at any time and we need to plan ahead, prepare and take all necessary precautions.

### Essential Workers Power Our Economy

Local 337 is extremely proud of all our members who have stood by their posts, going to work every day to keep food and other essential items vital to keeping stores and restaurants operating. Our Local 337 "Essential Workers" showed immense courage as they stepped up to the plate and hit home runs during this virus. I want to give a special shout out to our Healthcare workers who went to their jobs every day to deal with COVID-19. You are all true American heroes!

Since the COVID-19 outbreak began, we have worked with our companies to help our members during these unprecedented times. We have implored companies to provide hazard pay to essential workers to acknowledge their service

and sacrifice, and most complied. Some of our companies did not need prodding — they did what is right and stepped up for our members and their families. We salute each of those companies for supporting their workers and showing respect for their selfless service every single day.

Companies that rejected our calls and refused to do the right thing will be dealt with appropriately at the bargaining table once their contracts expire. Our members came to work because they were deemed Essential Workers and their bosses simply took advantage of them. Local 337 will never reward such bad corporate behavior — especially during a national health emergency.

### COVID-19's Impact on Bargaining

None of us could have ever have imagined that we would be negotiating collective bargaining agreements, filing arbitrations, attending hearings and processing grievances by telephone or video conference. Local 337's preference is to meet with our companies face-to-face. Nothing beats direct interaction. However, while most of our members are required to come to work, we are dealing with employers unwilling to do likewise — refusing to meet in person or travel for meetings.

Since we are not out of the woods, we must all stay vigilant in protecting ourselves and those around us by wearing Personal Protective Equipment and following CDC guidelines. Since we know it will be some time before a vaccine is available, now is not the time for any of us to become complacent and let our guard down.

If your employer is not following COVID-19 workplace safety guidelines, contact your

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Continued from page 1

Steward or Business Agent right away. Be safe, wear a mask and maintain social distancing. Following these common sense public health steps will help us control the virus so we can resume our lives and meet again as Union Brothers and Sisters.

### Focusing On Strong Membership Representation

As President, I try to be involved with all the Business Agents and their contracts as much as possible. My approach is different than previous Presidents. Typically, Local 337 Presidents did not have companies that they represented because of the size of the Local Union and the day-to-day operations.

However, I do have companies that I represent and am able to handle the workload thanks to great Stewards that stay in constant contact with me and deal with issues as they arise, as good stewards should. Fortunately, we are one of the Locals that still pay the Steward's dues every month and hold them to a higher standard. I represent RNDC, GLW&S, Michigan Dairy (Kroger), Prairie Farms and InStock Marketing. All my companies have been extremely busy working and really have not missed a beat with the pandemic going on.

It is amazing the amount of wine and liquor that has been purchased during the pandemic. Members are used to having an uptick in business during the holidays, but not a prolonged increase like we've seen during this Pandemic. It has been difficult working lots of hours and, rest assured, that I and the other Officers and staff I appreciate everything you do to keep the stores and restaurants supplied with products.

On the jobs front, GLW&S (Great Lakes Wine & Spirits) is looking for drivers and warehouse employees. So if you know someone looking for employment, this is a fantastic opportunity.

Thank you to all of our members and keep up the great work!

### How to Contact Teamsters Local 337

Phone: (313) 965-9833 • Fax: (313) 965-0570

Email: [Contracts@teamsterslocal337.com](mailto:Contracts@teamsterslocal337.com)

### TEAMSTERS LOCAL 337 OFFICERS & STAFF

Todd Lince, President .....(313) 965-9833 - ext. #237

Alex Young, Sec'y-Treasurer .....(313) 965-9833 - ext. #233

Jim Parrinello, Vice President.....(313) 965-9833 - ext. #246

Tony Reisdorf, Recording Sec'y .....(313) 965-9833 - ext. #251

Jeff Lee, Trustee .....(313) 965-9833 - ext. #238

Dave Hughes, Trustee/Organizer .....(313) 965-9833 - ext. #225

Kurt Denzer, Trustee .....(313) 965-9833 - ext. #232

### TEAMSTERS LOCAL 337 OFFICE STAFF

Laurie Grafton, Bookkeeper .....(313) 965-9833 - ext. #223

Garrett Bencsik, TITAN/Dues .....(313) 965-9833 - ext. #239

Heather Baker

Contracts/Administrative Asst.....(313) 965-9833 - ext. #240

## Secretary-Treasurer's UPDATE

by **Alex Young**  
Business Agent



**D**o you think you have what it takes to become a Union Steward? I ask this question because the pandemic has reminded us that good Stewards are invaluable when it comes to providing top quality and effective Union representation.

Local 337 members at our Companies have the strongest, most dedicated and active Stewards who are always ready to step in and defend the membership when the boss steps across the line. Stewards not only enforce our contracts, process grievances and serve as our frontline defenders of workplace justice, during times like these strong and involved Stewards are a vital element in helping companies work through the uncharted waters of a global health emergency.

### Eight Decades of Powerful Union Steward Leadership

Over the more than 80-year history of Teamsters Local 337, Union Stewards have always played a vital role in the standing up and speak out for rank-and-file members. A Steward is a true worksite leader committed to protecting your contractual terms and conditions of employment. Stewards are the ones who, through their selfless service, helps the Union fulfill its commitment to the membership.

There is no question that serving as a Union Steward is a tough, and often thankless job. However, on the flip side serving as a Steward brings great personal and professional satisfaction in helping make a difference in the workplace as a trouble shooter and problem solver.

As many of our veteran, long-time Stewards are nearing retirement, it is time for a new generation of Union leaders to answer the call, grab the wheel and keep driving the labor movement forward into a stronger and more prosperous future. Together we can keep our Union strong, but it will take time and commitment from everyone, including strong leadership from Stewards.

If you believe in a strong Union, care about your fellow Teamsters and want to make sure the boss doesn't crush the rights of your peers, then I encourage you to consider becoming a Local 337 Union Steward. All you need for this responsibility is the willingness to participate, drive to hold employers accountable and a burning desire to make a difference. As I see it, active Union involvement beats inactive complaining every single time!



Meanwhile, on the collective bargaining front, I currently have four contract negotiations underway at different stages of the process. These include Detroit Frito Lay, JAL Frito Lay, Total Vending and Alside Building Supply. These groups have strong Bargaining Committees dedicated to bringing the best possible tentative agreements back to the membership for a ratification vote.

## 337 TEAMSTERS Order Form

In Stock Marketing



### Heavy Thermal-Lined Quilted Vest

**S-XL-\$72.50 ea.**  
**2XL- \$94.50 ea.**  
**3XL- \$95.50 ea.**  
**4XL- \$108.00 ea.**  
**5XL- \$109.00 ea.**

Shell: Nylon Taffeta  
Insulation: 4.2oz./yd.<sup>2</sup> Polyester Fiberfill  
Lining: Raschel Knit Thermal (Double Ply)



**INCLUDES:** Embroidered Logo

In Stock Marketing

### Bayside Adult 9.5 oz., Pullover Hooded Sweatshirt

9.5 oz 80% heavyweight preshrunk cotton/ polyester pullover hooded sweatshirt  
Double lined hood with matching drawstring  
Front pouch pocket  
Rib knit cuffs and waistband with Lycra®.

**S-XL-\$46.00 ea..**  
**2XL- \$52.00 ea.**  
**3XL- \$60.00 ea.**  
**4XL- \$69.00 ea.**  
**5XL- \$71.00 ea.**



**INCLUDES:** Screen printed logo Front and Back



### Maxfield Soft Shell Bonded Fleece Vest



**S-XL-\$80.00 ea**  
**2XL- \$83.00 ea**  
**3XL- \$85.00 ea.**  
**4XL- \$87.00 ea.**  
**5XL- \$89.00 ea**



94% polyester / 6% spandex bonded fleece full zip vest. A full zip-through collar with an additional fashion right-chest zipper. Welt pockets and a hemmed bottom.



**INCLUDES:** Embroidered Logo

King Louie  
America

### Bayside 100% Acrylic Knit Cuff Beanie

100% acrylic knit:  
Made in the USA  
Approximately 12 1/2" long uncuffed



**\$14.00 ea.**

**INCLUDES:** Embroidered Logo



**All Garments**  
**are decorated by**  
**In Stock Marketing**  
**Services, LLC**  
**A proud member of**  
**Teamster Local 337**  
**734-855-4271**







## NLRB Continues Its Attack On Workers and Union Stewards

Kevin J. O'Neill, Local 337's Attorney at Law

In a decision issued by the National Labor Relations Board in July, the NLRB reduced the ability of Stewards to properly represent their members. The case is General Motors, LLC., under the National Labor Relations Act, Union members and their Stewards are not to be disciplined if they engage in PROTECTED ACTIVITY. Over the years, Stewards, when representing members in a discipline meeting, were given a lot of protection in what they could say or do against management. You could tell a manager, "that is BS" or worse without fear of reprisal.

The same protection was given to members on a picket line, giving them a lot of latitude on what they could do or say. With this new ruling, those protections are being reduced. Now, conduct that was acceptable for years can be punished. The Board in the case ruled such conduct will now be reviewed under the Wright Line Test. Meaning, if the steward or member is disciplined for union activity, the employer can argue it disciplines all employees for that kind of language or conduct. But that is not fair. Stewards defending a member and employees on a picket line should be granted more freedom on how to act than how they conduct themselves on the job site.

Going forward, Stewards and members are going to have to be aware of their actions and just how far they can go without being disciplined.



### Get A Withdrawal Card When You Leave Your Job

Be sure you request a withdrawal card when being laid-off, going on leave of absence, lengthy medical leave, or terminating your employment. Make sure you contact the Union hall upon returning to work. It is your responsibility to obtain a withdrawal card within three months from your last day worked. So please take care of it as soon as possible after leaving the company so you will not be obligated to pay extra dues. Failure to request a withdrawal card may cause you to pay back dues.

Return form to:  
Teamsters Local 337, 2801 Trumbull Avenue, Detroit, MI 48216

### WITHDRAWAL CARD REQUEST

Please PRINT!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

My last day of work \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for requesting a withdrawal card: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are off on workers' compensation or off-the-job injury, while off, you have the option to keep up your monthly dues

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Lost Timer Update

by Leroy Mickens  
Night Steward  
RNCD of Michigan



During this summer I spent time meeting with and showing appreciation for the Essential members of our Local. I got to witness the Local 337 members hard work in different job settings, and consistency through these times and was able to let you know that whether in route or on site, it does not go without notice.

For each member I talked to, the theme was focused on providing for their families, on providing consistency and results for their respective companies, on providing stability for their careers for years to come. It was awesome to answer questions and present knowledge to new members eager to start their membership with a new understanding of their rights and how it is paramount to protect those rights. It was impressive to see our tenured members showing pride and spirited perseverance in the midst of a pandemic, displaying hard work during long hours.

All of you members are true heroes, and as a fellow member, I truly appreciate your efforts.

I sincerely thank Local 337 President Todd Lince for allowing me the opportunity to engage members as a Loss Timer. It has truly been a terrific experience for me so far.

### TEAMSTERS LOCAL 337

## Safety Report

Safety, it is a word that we should all respect for its definition: "being protected from or unlikely to cause danger, risk, or injury." As Teamster Brother and Sisters, we need to protect ourselves and our co-workers to the best of our collective ability.

This year, two Local 337 members tragically lost their lives to unsafe working conditions or because they were not following safety protocols. We also had members who were seriously injured and who required hospitalization and surgery.

Sometimes we become comfortable or complacent in what we are doing and assume that accidents can't happen to us. Unfortunately, as we saw with these two members, it can happen and it does when we least expect it. Stop and think before you become too routine in your work or skip an important safety step. If you see a co-worker doing something unsafe, let them know and let them know that safety starts with YOU.

No member should have to put their life on the line to earn a paycheck. REMEMBER SAFETY FIRST! Together we can make sure that Local 337 members who punch in every day or night can return safely to their families at the end of their shift.



## Vice President's VIEWPOINT

by Jim Parrinello  
Business Agent



Heartland steel has two locations here in Michigan. The Company has announced it will be closing the Marlette, Michigan facility where we represent 24 members. While the Company is offering employees the ability to follow their work to Heartland Steel's Marysville facility, also represented by Local 337, we have negotiated a comprehensive severance package for those who do not want to travel to Marysville to work.

As this issue of **Team 337 News** goes to press, I have two contracts up for negotiations: the Northville Downs Racetrack and Earl Smith Distributor. Northville Downs has been fighting in the State of Michigan for Racino slots at their facility. In months past, we were fortunate to have State Representative Isaac Robinson fighting with us on this issue. Unfortunately, Robinson's death from COVID-19 earlier this year has changed the dynamics of this campaign. Local 337 continues fighting to get slot machines into the racetrack and this is why we have waited to see if this goal would become a reality so we could finish the contract.

### Local 337 Celebrates Eight Decades of Powerful Union Steward Leadership

At Earl Smith Distribution, we hope to resume negotiations for Drivers and Warehouse workers soon.

UPS has seen a dramatic spike in packages over the last six months and has hired several new drivers at both of our Local 337 locations in Port Huron and Cass City. Meanwhile, many other Companies, pressed with a growing need, are continue struggling to hire drivers and warehouse workers.

Ryan Transportation has kept most of their employees working throughout these unprecedented times. I suggested they give Drivers a choice of what to do around the yard, and they helped fix up the building while all these changes were taking place.

Members at First Student are continuing to face challenges on how to keep working safely under the Pandemic. The main goal is to ensure the Drivers and students stay safe while continuing to serve the community, the Port Huron School District.

For the 2021 calendar year, Smith Distributing in Bad Axe will be the first contract up for negotiations. We are all well aware of the challenges posed by the Pandemic and are preparing for what we expect will be difficult contract talks.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has changed the way we work and live. I encourage all Local 337 members and their families to stay safe and healthy during these uncertain times. If you encounter an issue at your workplace, or if have a question about your contract, feel free to contact your Steward or Business Agent at the Union hall any time.

## Recording Secretary's REPORT

by Tony Reisdorf  
Business Agent



Despite ongoing concerns with COVID-19, your Local Union has been working everyday to keep our Union moving and make sure the rights of our members are fully protected. Below is a rundown of some of the recent developments impacting Local 337 members.

**FAYGO** – Faygo members have been extremely busy working unprecedented hours and overtime as sales have increased throughout this Pandemic. Our Stewards have been fighting hard everyday to maintain strong lines of communication with the Company. Early on things were not as transparent as they should have been, however, I am happy to report that we have had regular meetings with Faygo to discuss any and all issues related to COVID-19. Keep up the great work Stewards!

**DR. PEPPER KEURIG** – Local 337 and the IBT's Brewery and Soft Drink Division negotiated the hazard pay and COVID-19 Leave process. The members have been working night and day to meet the 140% volume that has been established through the Pandemic. Contract negotiations are scheduled to begin in February of 2021, so let's keep our eye on the prize and continue standing together and fighting for what we deserve.

**GREAT LAKES COCA-COLA** – Early on in 2020, it was a battle to get Coke to do right by their workers. Teamwork between the Union and our Stewards/Members convinced the Company to provide vital masks, gloves, sanitizer and other PPE for workers. Coke also tried to change the leave policy, but Local 337 resisted and we currently have three pending Arbitrations on that issue. These are tough times for all of us. However, by standing together and fighting for what is fair and just, we will win our campaign for respect in the workplace.

**EVERFRESH** – Volume is through the roof at our Warren production facility. The Company has added another shift – Crew 7 – and has been hiring to fill positions. Our members continue to preserve and protect our hard-fought contract through the grievance procedure, showing the Company that we will that we will not stand by and tolerate their workplace games.

**PEPSI – DETROIT** – Contract was recently ratified. The Bargaining Committee did an outstanding job. We were able to eliminate the 2 tier pay rate over a 2-4 year period, protect our Teamsters Health Insurance, and gain retirement improvements! Pepsi has also been doing a lot of hiring to address the volume increases for the business.

**PEPSI – HOWELL SALES** – Contract negotiations will begin this November. Sales Drivers are looking to address the current Two-Tier wage system as well as gain additional improvements.

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## Recording Secretary's Report

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**PEPSI – HOWELL MANUFACTURING** – The addition of a Third Shift has turned the facility into a true 24-hour-a-day operation. We continue having issues with management trying to perform our work and have contested them each time. We have a pending arbitration on this issue. Overtime has also been plenty as the Company works to keep pace with the growing demand.

**PEPSI – MILAN** – Our Milan guys have been helping out other facilities during the COVID-19 Pandemic by building pallets in Milan and shipping them to other Distribution sites. This has become a welcome earning opportunity for the members.

**YOU ARE THE UNION! We are at our strongest when we stand together as ONE VOICE.**

## Business Agent REPORT

by **Kurt Denzer**  
Trustee/Business Agent

Everyone at Local 337 has been extremely busy during this crazy pandemic and the current political environment.

Considering the impact of COVID-19, we have had to get creative to try and keep as many members working as possible. We have been loaning Union members from slow companies to companies that have seen an increase in their business. Some U.S. Foods members helped out at Frito Lay and Sysco members helped Penske and Sygma get through this challenging time. That is a perfect demonstration of Union Brotherhood and Sisterhood at its best!

At U.S. Foods in Wixom, after delays and eventual voting electronically, a new contract was overwhelmingly ratified. Members received the largest pay increases that have ever been negotiated in this contract. Their weekly contribution for great health insurance was reduced, the new hire second tier catch-up was cut in half, along with many other benefits that were improved. As a result, all members are now on the same top-level insurance.

After ratifying the Sygma contract and enduring a tough strike back in March, the Company almost immediately began violating the contract they just agreed to. We have five arbitrations scheduled to resolve contract language that the Company has ignored. Local 337 and our Stewards have been resolving grievances and have gotten discharged Drivers returned to their jobs.

There are currently four arbitrations with Sysco over contract violations. The Sysco contract expires in early 2021, so we will soon begin negotiating the best contract that we can for our members during these tough economic times.

We also have contract negotiations coming up at Brighton Center for Recovery, Touchpoint and Caramagno foods. We know that these are tough times, but I look forward to negotiating great contracts for these Brothers and Sisters to ensure that they can provide for their families both today, and well into the future.



## Business Agent REPORT

by **Jeff Lee**  
Trustee/Business Agent

The last six months have been an unprecedented time given the ongoing outbreak of COVID-19.

Even as the virus continues to wreak havoc on our state, Local 337's first priority is membership safety. We demand a safe work environment with all necessary protective measures. We will never accept efforts by any Company to cut corners on safety which puts members and their families at greater health risk.

These last six months have also been extraordinarily busy when it comes to negotiating new and strong contracts. Cintas and G & K have merged and the new contract was overwhelmingly ratified. Royal Banana's contract also received a strong membership ratification vote.

The new McKesson's contract yielded the biggest raises and contract improvements members have had in years. Ongoing negotiations include Bimbo, Domestic Linen, Ferguson, Metropolitan Baking, Perfection (Port Huron), Cintas (Port Huron) and Veritiv.

Unfortunately, our Annual Helping Hands golf outing was postponed this year due to COVID-19. However, the need continues and we can still use all the support we can get from our Teamster Brothers and Sisters. Any and all support is greatly appreciated.

Finally — Notre Dame is off to a strong start. **GO IRISH!!**

## Business Agent REPORT

by **Dave Hughes**  
Trustee/Organizer

To begin, I hope everyone is well and your families are safe and healthy too. It's been a stressful time for all of us during 2020, but I remain optimistic that we will get through this together.

I have been handling day-to-day issues, some resulting in grievances which is to be expected. Employees having a voice is one of the beauties of a Union and having the ability to utilize the grievance process, which is very important for a bargaining unit, especially during a pandemic.

Over the past several weeks, I have also been on the front lines making sure that Companies are protecting their workers — our members — which has been a constant struggle given the scarcity of PPE and cleaning materials that were available when the pandemic started. A growing number of Companies are now receiving the materials they need to keep everyone as safe and healthy as possible.

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I am fully committed to making sure all of our facilities are upholding the CDC guidelines while maintaining a clean workplace. It has been tough, but with the help of our Stewards and the understanding of the membership, we are working through this as best we can.

Bay Logistics' contract is open for negotiations, with Ferndale Laboratories and Better Made Driver's contract negotiations approaching.

It has been an uphill battle as companies are not able to maintain full staffing, which is one of the main reasons members have been asked to work so much overtime. The money is good, but the extremely long hours can cause employee burn out and lead to attendance problems. Nonetheless, we must grab hold of the positive things and feed off positivity to get through this.

### Expanding Our Union's Ranks Through Organizing

Organizing is one of the most important parts in maintaining the strength and solidarity within a Union.

Although organizing is tough and timely, Local 337 remains committed to organizing for the future, continuing to educate and motivate individuals not only to recruit new people, but to make sure that we sign up new employees within our existing bargaining units as they get hired. Our overall program is really a two-fold strategy: reaching out to new workplaces and encouraging new employees to join with us as Teamsters to make our workplaces safer, stronger and better.

We are committed to organizing within Local 337 internally. Local 337 has been using Loss Timers to help organize internally. Leroy Mickens is currently with us as a Loss Timer from RNDC and has been very helpful in internal organizing in the past.

Local 337 is actively engaging more organizing targets within our jurisdiction. If you have any leads, call me at (313) 965-9833 ext #225 or by email to [dave@teamsterslocal337.com](mailto:dave@teamsterslocal337.com). Local 337 pays for organizing leads that result in both an election victory and a first-time contract.



**If you know someone who would benefit from Teamster wages, benefits and job security, call Local 337 today (313) 965-9833, ext. #225.**



If you are being treated unfairly by your boss, don't take matters into your own hands. Call your Steward or Business Agent right away. Teamsters Local 337 has the experience to stand up for you and make sure your rights and your job are fully protected.

## Local 337 Remembers Our Lifelong Friend, and Tireless Fighter For Working Families, State Representative Isaac Robinson

The State of Michigan, especially the Southeastern Detroit area, and the entire Michigan Labor movement lost a loyal champion of workers' rights early on in the Pandemic when State Representative Isaac Robinson became one of Michigan's COVID-19 victims on March 29, 2020.

Robinson was an undergraduate from the University of Michigan and a graduate of Northwestern Law School. He used his education to help people, and not shield corporations. After law school he served as a law clerk at the UAW, became a political director for the Michigan Teamsters and went on to work as a U.S. Senate staffer.

Before his service in Lansing, Isaac worked a period of time as the Michigan Teamsters Political Director. Isaac stood shoulder-to-shoulder with working people throughout his life. He was a persistent and determined fighter for Teamster members and all working families.

"Isaac's passion was so strong, he never lost touch with his friends, and those around him would gain strength and purpose by just being in his presence," declared Local 337 President Todd Lince. "Isaac worked tirelessly for the people. He was a true blue Union Brother, always there to lend a hand and take the lead whenever he felt workers were getting the shaft. He was a friend and we will forever miss his commitment and determination to help working families build better lives."



Isaac Robinson (center) with Sygma Drivers during their strike.