

VOICE OF 294

Serving our 5,500 members and families in over 16 counties in Upstate New York

TEAMSTERS LOCAL 294 NEWSLETTER - ALBANY, NEW YORK



From the desk of **PRESIDENT TOM QUACKENBUSH**

As most of you have probably heard, long time Teamster and Business Agent, Rocco Losavio, passed away in August. Rocco worked as a Business Agent for Teamsters Local 294 for almost 25 Years. He served thousands of Teamster members over the years and served them well. Rocco was a well-known and highly respected fixture at Local 294 fighting for his members. For those of you who were represented by Rocco, you can attest to what a true fighter he was. I have come to realize since his passing just how big of an impact he had on members and their families.

Rocco was not just a model Business Agent but a true friend to the members he represented as well as his co-workers. Rocco had a way of lighting up the room when he entered. He could be the guy management dreaded seeing come through the door or if you were his friend, he was the life of the party.

While Rocco loved his work, his members, and co-workers, there was nothing more important to him than his family. For those of us that knew him best, there was not a day that would pass that he did not mention his family.

I would like to personally thank everyone that supported Rocco's family, especially his mother, Barbara. Your generous act, your kind words, text messages, or your presence at the church was very much appreciated and a special tribute to the impact Rocco made on so many.

On a lighter note, we are pleased to once again be able to hold our December union meeting at the Crowne Plaza (formerly The Desmond) on Sunday, December 3rd for all members.

Finally, as the year draws to a close and we are all caught up in the holiday spirit, I would like to remind everyone that the season should be a time about hope and appreciation for the things in our life. Enjoy time that you share with family and friends to the fullest. I wish each and every member, along with their families, a happy holiday season and a safe and happy new year!

TEAMSTERS VOICE *of* 294

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Albany, NY 12206
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CHUCK GREENFIELD SECRETARY-TREASURER



Since the appointment of Tom and I to our leadership roles in April, following the retirement of long-time Principal Officer John Bulgaro, our team has encountered numerous challenges. Successfully negotiating the Freight and UPS National Master agreements and Supplements is one of those. Also, losing our brother, Business Agent Rocco Losavio has been extremely difficult. We have successfully navigated through this year with our persistent team approach under the leadership of our new Principal Officer, Tom Quackenbush. We are pleased to report that the Local Union's treasury and membership are at all-time highs. Grants were secured due to the diligent work of Business Agent, Stan Koniszewski, resulting in the addition of a Class B triaxle dump truck to our CDL training program. This vehicle is a fixed asset worth over \$250,000. The Executive Board voted unanimously to discontinue the long-standing practice of requiring a fifty cent (.50) payment to secure a withdrawal card. A simple phone call to the Local Union now secures your status as "a member in good standing on withdrawal" when you leave the craft. Another call is required when returning to work to reinstate the member. Our team is grateful to have the opportunity to represent the members of this local. Have a safe and happy holiday season!

In Memory of

ROCCO A. LOSAVIO

JANUARY 23, 1967 – AUGUST 16, 2023

"Words cannot express how thankful our family is to be associated with the Brotherhood of Teamsters, both local and from all over the United States. Rocco touched so many people who, in return, showed their love and support for him. Rocco was certainly a well-respected man who cared genuinely for each person he dealt with on a personal level. Our family received sympathy cards, flowers, mass cards and many donations which were greatly appreciated."

Our Heartfelt Thanks – The Losavio Family

BACK TO SCHOOL WITH FIRST STUDENT TEAMSTERS!

Members at First Student in Syracuse never go unnoticed and provide safe transportation to all the kids. Thanks for keeping the kids safe on their way to and from school!



A TEAMSTER HERO ON THE JOB!



Teamsters Local 294 member Marta Calderon, a bus driver for First Student in Syracuse, did everything she was supposed to do when it came to protecting the 35 (K-5) students she was responsible for. She acted quickly in a time of an unimaginable incident.

Sister Calderon was making a stop to let a student off to a parent when gun fire at a house behind the bus erupted. She acted quickly to get all the students down on the bus floor, instructed the parent to get on the bus, shut the door and drove away to get everyone out of danger. She did not hesitate or panic and did everything she was trained to do.

We thank you for your courage, quick thinking and selflessness for protecting the people in your community and getting everyone safely out of danger!



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TEAMSTERS RATIFY HISTORIC UPS CONTRACT!



Teamsters voted by an overwhelming 86.3 percent to ratify the most historic collective bargaining agreement in the history of UPS. The five-year contract protects and rewards more than 340,000 UPS Teamsters nationwide, raising wages for full- and part-time workers, creating more full-time jobs, and securing important workplace protections, including air conditioning.

The agreement passed by the highest vote for a contract in the history of the Teamsters at UPS.



TEAMSTER MEMBERS RATIFY IN THE VILLAGE OF SPECULATOR



Congratulations to the Village of Speculator Teamsters! Members ratified their first contract ever that gave workers many protections and improvements on the job!



FALL 2023

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS 2023 – 2024

Our Local Union’s General Membership Meetings are held the first Sunday of every month, however, a vote is generally taken at the June meeting to suspend meetings for the months of July, August and September. Meetings are held at the Labor Temple, 890 Third Street, Albany, NY and begin promptly at 10:00 A.M. All members are urged to show support for their Union by attending these monthly meetings.

The following is the General Membership Meeting schedule through the Spring of 2024:

November 5, 2023	December 3, 2023 – Breakfast at the Crowne Plaza	
January 7, 2024	February 4, 2024	March 3, 2024
April 7, 2024	May 5, 2024	June 2, 2024

LOCAL 294 TEAMSTERS WOMEN’S COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE HELD AFTER EACH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Teamsters Local 294 takes the health, safety, and security of its members very seriously. Always check www.teamsterslocal294.org for any changes or updates.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE

Save on Car Insurance as a Teamster with our online Defensive Driving Program ONLY \$21 ... Go to www.teamsterslocal294.org for the link to get started.

DON'T BE OBLIGATED TO PAY EXTRA DUES!

Get a Withdrawal Card When You're Not Working!

Whether you are leaving your job, being laid-off, taking a leave of absence, a lengthy medical leave or terminating your employment, it is your responsibility to obtain a withdrawal card. There is no fee for the withdrawal, but your monthly dues must be paid through the month of your request. Please call the union office at (518) 489-5436 to request a withdrawal or stop by Local 294’s office at 890 Third Street, Albany, NY 12206.

TEAMSTERS^{LOCAL} 294

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      ... AND STAY CONNECTED!

VOICE OF 294 is published two times annually at 890 Third Street, Albany, New York 12206

You can also get the latest Local/National union information and become involved through:

www.teamsterslocal294.org ■ www.teamster.org ■ Facebook.com/Teamsters

YouTube.com/user/TeamsterPower ■ @Teamsters on Instagram ■ @Teamsters on X

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SHOP STEWARD & NEW ORGANIZING SEMINAR

We will be hosting a Shop Steward and New Organizing seminar. This seminar will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2024 at The Crowne Plaza. We will be having Steward training, hosting speakers from the IBT along with other topics being covered.



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN DECEMBER

Our General Membership Meeting for the month of December takes us on the road! Please join us at 10 AM at The Crowne Plaza (formerly The Desmond) where we will hold this meeting and have breakfast for our members. Shop Stewards, stay tuned for more information to be posted and shared with our members!



ORGANIZING LEADS? TEAMSTERS LOCAL 294

Do you know someone who wants a Union in their workplace? Teamsters stand ready to organize workers who want to bargain collectively. There are real advantages to having a union for you as an individual and for society in general. By forming a union with your co-workers, together you will have the strength to negotiate a legally binding contract with your employer that generally includes provisions on wages, health care, retirement, safety, seniority, discipline, hours, grievance procedure, arbitration, vacation time, holidays and much more!

CALL/TEXT JASON HUGHES/ORGANIZER @ 518-744-8222



CALLING ALL *Retirees!*

- Looking to stay up to date on economic, social and political developments effecting your retirement?
- Looking to maintain ties with your Union brothers and sisters?
- How about coming together for a Summer Picnic and Christmas Party?

Join Teamsters Local 294 Retirees Club! Meetings are held the first Monday of the month at 10:00 AM at the Labor Temple, 890 Third St., Albany, NY. The annual fee is \$25 which includes a Steak Roast Picnic and Christmas party for the member. If interested, please contact us at **518-489-5436** and we will be happy to get an application out to you!

FALL 2023

TEAMSTERS LOCAL 294 CDL CLASS "A" AND "B" TRAINING & EDUCATION

President Tom Quackenbush is excited to offer members a new CDL-B training program at no cost. Funds for this truck and program were made available through grants from WDI (Workforce Development Institute) and Senator Neil Breslin with the hard work of Business Agent Stan Koniszewski.



Teamsters 294 now offers training and education with our tractor trailer truck and new tri-axle dump truck.

Call today to sign up for training!

Local 294's Training School is for members who are interested in obtaining their Class A License and now their Class B License. If you have researched any other training schools you will find that the tuition for such training can run anywhere from \$3,500 to \$5,000 or more. We have part-time trainers and classes are only available on week nights and weekends. There is a waiting list, so the sooner you call the sooner you will be called. Our Local Union office number is 518-489-5436.



YOUR VOTE MATTERS

Every day at every level of government, elected officials make decisions that affect every person's job and their family life. The first step toward fighting for a better America and a stronger Teamster Union is to exercise your right to vote!

Our Local Union has endorsed the following candidates for this coming fall elections:

Dan Lynch, NYS Supreme Court Third Judicial District

Susan Rizzo, Office of Albany County Comptroller

Peter Crummey, Colonie Town Supervisor

Mike P. Galime, Mayor, City of Utica

Paul Nylin, Town of Colonie Councilman

Justin M. Alesio, Cohoes Common Council Ward 6

Shawn Higgins, Cohoes Common Council Ward 2

Jacob Crawford, Guilderland Town Council

Brian Owens, Rensselaer County Sheriff

Larry E. Voght, Highway Superintendent, Caroga Lake



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Albany, NY 12206



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WHAT'S INSIDE

Message from President
Tom Quackenbush

Message from Secretary-Treasurer
Chuck Greenfield

Remembering Business Agent
Rocco Losavio

News On the First Student Front

UPS Historic Ratification

Welcome New Teamsters

Class A & B CDL Training

Your Vote Matters-
Local 294 Political Endorsements

See Details Inside...

WELCOME TO THE TEAMSTERS TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE



New Local 294 members at the Town of New Baltimore ratified their first contract that gives workers major gains!

Organizing the unorganized remains a top priority for Local 294

