

# RETIREE



# BULLETIN

## BAY AREA RETIREE CHAPTER-FEBRUARY 2024 EDITION

### INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

Local #79 - 5818 E. Martin Luther King Blvd. - Tampa, Florida 33619

Phone: (813) 621-1391 - Fax: (813) 626-7915

TeamstersRetiree@Teamsters79.com



This new year, 2024, has the potential to dangerously alter the course of America and the lives we live. Casting your vote in 2024 might be the most important vote you will ever cast. Will it be the last vote you cast? **WE** have to make sure our elected officials are representing us!

When President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan into law on March 11, 2021, participants of Central States had their pensions saved. Had this not happened, Central States would have been unable to pay our pensions beyond early 2026.

How did this happen? Answer: Record Voter turnout. In the 2020 National Election cycle more people cast ballots for the President of the United States than any time in our Nation's history. This turnout caused upsets in two U.S. Senate races in Georgia alone. In a parting of the Red Sea moment, the two Georgia Senators (Warnock and Ossoff) made the difference and voted to save our pensions. The two Senators they defeated were opposed to saving our pensions.

We are now facing another uphill battle to save Social Security and Medicare again. Florida Senator Rick Scott has called for the sunset of both programs after five years. Sunsetting a program means ending that program unless Congress votes to keep the program or change it. You remember Rick Scott, CEO of Columbia/HCA when it paid a \$1.7 billion fine for Medicare fraud; the same Rick Scott who under questioning in a deposition pled the Fifth Amendment **SEVENTY-FIVE** (75) separate times so as not to incriminate himself. He wants you to trust him that sunsetting Social Security and Medicare is best for you.

Currently, Congress can't agree on a budget bill, aid to Israel, Aid to Ukraine, immigration reform, gun safety, defense spending, further action on climate change, women's healthcare rights, voting rights and the list goes on. One Senator by himself jeopardized our military security by halting pending military promotions.

Think about this: Had your pension not been secured under the American Rescue Plan in 2021, and Florida Senator Rick Scott's original plan to sunset (end) Social Security and Medicare had succeeded, how would you and your family survived past early 2026?

The key is to make sure you vote like your life depends on it, because it does!

*because*  
**Vote as if  
your life  
depends on it.**

# Teamsters, Family, and How Not to Cross A Picket Line!

BY A TEAMSTERS DAUGHTER

MY DAD IS A LIFELONG TEAMSTER. ALL 46 YEARS OF MY LIFE. I WAS RAISED AROUND HARD NOSE, NO NONSENSE, TEDDY BEAR TEAMSTER TRUCKERS. LOCAL 79 IS WHERE I SPENT MANY SATURDAYS AT THE HALL, AND AFTER AT A DINER AS 3 HOUR MEETINGS WASN'T ENOUGH TIME FOR EVERYONE TO BE AROUND EACH OTHER. IT WASN'T UNTIL MY LATER YEARS THAT I TRULY APPRECIATED WHAT BEING A TEAMSTER MEANT. A UNION IS ONLY AS STRONG AS ITS MEMBERS, AND OVER THE YEARS I SAW THE SOLIDARITY AND HOW FIERCELY PROTECTIVE AND STAUNCH THEY WOULD BE ONCE THE LINE IN THE SAND WAS DRAWN. I REMEMBER WHEN MY UNCLE CHARLIE UGLES, MY GRANDFATHER ALEX FUNARI, AND MY DAD GETTING READY TO GO TO THE PICKET LINE NOT TO JUST PARTICIPATE IN THEIR OWN STRIKES, BUT TO GO OUT AND SUPPORT THEIR BROTHER AND SISTERS THROUGH THEIR PICKETING. DOUG SAMPSON AND HIS FAMILY BECAME EXTENSIONS OF OUR OWN.

SO, WHAT DID I TAKE AWAY FROM YEARS OF BEING AROUND THEM? 1) I DON'T SHOP AT WALMART. 2) WHEN ANY MANAGER ANYWHERE TELLS YOU THAT YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND SOMETHING, CROSSING YOUR ARMS AND LAUGHING IS MORE THAN ACCEPTABLE. 3) NEVER CROSS A PICKET LINE. EVER!! THERE IS NO REASON TO DO SO AND IT WON'T BE TOLERATED OR FORGIVEN. ANY VEHICLE THAT DOES CROSS A PICKET LINE WILL PROBABLY NEVER RUN THE SAME

FINALLY, FAMILY ISN'T ALREADY DEFINED BY BLOOD, BUT BY WHO AND WHAT YOU STAND FOR. I COULDN'T BE MORE PROUD OF MY DAD AND THE VALUES I LEARNED FROM BEING AROUND LOCAL 79.

# Teamster Trivia Time



*(May be multiple answers)*

- 1.) Retiree Chuck Hietala's hobby is animal training.
  - a.) Bird Trainer (He trained birds at Disney's Animal Kingdom Show called Wonders of Flight.)
  - b.) He has trained and still trains camels at Busch Gardens for visitors to ride.
  - c.) He has trained and still trains guide dogs for the blind.
  - d.) None of the above. (Chuck doesn't like animals.)
  
- 2.) In World War II, Teamsters did the following?
  - a.) More than one member won the Medal of Honor.
  - b.) Red Ball Express was largely manned by Teamster members.
  - c.) Manufactured (in Part) ships of the US Navy's D-day Invasion Fleet.
  - d.) Perished in the Bataan Death March.
  - e.) Helped build the Burma Road.
  - f.) Stormed the beaches of Okinawa.
  
- 3.) Members and former Members of Local 79 have participated in:
  - a.) World War I
  - b.) World War II
  - c.) The Korean War
  - d.) The Spanish American War
  - e.) The Vietnam War

you'  
Got  
This!

ANSWERS  
1.) C  
2.) A, B, C, D, E, F  
3.) A, B, C, E





# Happy Birthday!!

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

CARLOS ANDERSON TOMMY DAVIS  
BRETT BALDWIN BETTY DEVITT  
HEIDI BARLOW HAI DO  
PAYL CAMPBELL ALLEN DODSON  
DANNY DAVIS ERNESTINE DODSON  
RAMIRO GARCIA THOMAS GIELLA  
MARLA GIORGILLI MICHAEL HALL  
DOUG HECHT VICKI HELMS  
CHAD HEWITT JOHN HEYER  
GARY KALESKAS GUS MARTINEZ JR.  
ROBERT MEEKS HUEY MUNGIA  
JOHN OLSON STEPHEN PEACHY  
RICHARD SACCO GREGORY SHERIDAN  
ROLF SIMON SANDRA STOOKES  
MARK WILLIAMS JR. PAUL WIECZOREK



*In Memory of*

**FRANCIS "FRANK"  
LAROCCA**

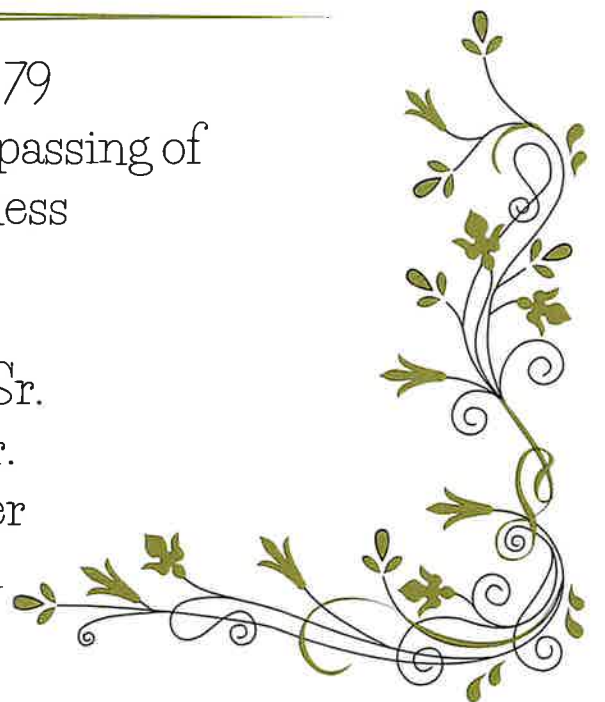
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FRANCIS "FRANK" LAROCCA PASSED ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2023, IN THE CARE OF SUNCOAST HOSPICE. FRANK IS SURVIVED BY HIS WIFE OF 56 YEARS, BEVERLY. FRANK MOVED TO FLORIDA IN 1956 AND SERVED IN THE FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD FOR 6 YEARS. FRANK RETIRED FROM ABF AS A 22 YEAR TEAMSTER AND A MEMBER OF TEAMSTERS LOCAL 79. FRANK WAS A MEMBER AND OFFICER (TRUSTEE) OF THE BAY AREA RETIREES CHAPTER OF TEAMSTERS. FRANK LOVED CAMPING, FAMILY COOKOUTS, AND ESPECIALLY 50-60 AND 70'S MUSIC.



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Teamsters Local 79  
is sad to announce the passing of  
Richard Stromsness  
Ronald Atec  
Jerry Estepp  
Carlos Estrada Sr.  
Collis Jones Sr.  
Wilbert Shorter  
Howard Todd





Here's a few pictures from the December 2023 Christmas Luncheon!  
Mark your calendar for this year!! You won't want to miss it!



*More reasons to join us this December!*



*The more, the merrier!*





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Financial Credit Union  
**NOT BIGGER! BETTER!**



**Bay Area Retirees: Hancock-Hall Benefits is here for you**

- Ensure you are on the right Medicare plan based on your needs
- Provide friendly customer service where you are treated with respect, care and attention
- Ensure you always have a place to go where your questions can be answered
- Eliminate confusion and stress by educating you to better understand Medicare and your options

What we do:

- Assist with Annual Plans
- Reviews and Changes
- Prescription Drug Plan Reviews
- Family Member Consultations
- Loss of Group Coverage

**We are your Union Benefits Specialists**

**Deb Hancock-Hall**  
PO Box 817  
Madison, MS 39130  
office: 601-813-1392  
fax: 1-888-316-0441  
dehall007@gmail.com

Insurance Plan Types:

- Medicare Advantage Plans
- Medicare Supplemental Plans
- Prescription Drug Plans
- Dental Coverage
- Vision Coverage



**Nathan L. Townsend, P.A.**



**Orlando Location:**  
1000 Legion Place, Ste.  
1200  
Orlando, Florida 32801  
Telephone:  
[407-792-6100](tel:407-792-6100)

**Tampa Location**  
8875 Hidden River Parkway,  
Ste. 300  
Tampa, FL 33637  
Telephone:  
[813-988-5500](tel:813-988-5500)

Facsimile:  
[407-982-1314](tel:407-982-1314)  
(Main Mailing Address)

Facsimile:  
[813-988-5510](tel:813-988-5510)

**ENJOY TRUE PEACE-OF-MIND WHEN**

*it has all been taken care of.*



**Pre-planning Benefits:**

- Locks in today's prices
- Affordable monthly payments
- Rational decisions
- Spouses can decide together
- Preserves life insurance
- Ability to choose what you desire
- Purchase in stages

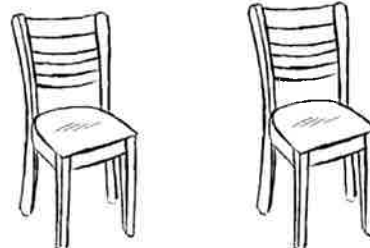
**SAVE 10%**  
when you pre-plan  
your final arrangements!

\*Limited time offer ends 9/30/21. Valid on pre-need purchases only. Excludes opening, closing, and processing fees. Not to be combined with other offers. Includes prior purchase. Minimum 1% down payment required.



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6919 Providence Rd., Riverview, FL 33578  
(813) 677-9494 | [WWW.SERENITYMEADOWS.COM](http://WWW.SERENITYMEADOWS.COM)

**THESE CHAIRS ARE  
RESERVED FOR YOU AND  
YOUR SPOUSE/GUEST AT THE  
NEXT RETIREE LUNCHEON**





**LOCAL 79 SUPPORTS HOPE CHILDREN'S HOME-HELP US**

**HELP THE CHILDREN!**

## **CHILDREN'S HOME FOOD DRIVE**

*PLEASE REMEMBER HOPE CHILDREN'S HOME THIS YEAR!*



(This picture represent the Christmas gifts collected by LU 79's Nurses under contract at HCA/Bayonet Point in Hudson. We can't thank them enough for all they do for the children each year!)

Local 79 is fortunate to have members and retirees who care! We cannot thank YOU enough for the food donated or purchased with the money given by our members at the Food Drives at various work locations and donations sent in. As detailed in a previous edition of this newsletter, the collection for the Children's Home has been going on for some time now. Let's keep it going!

**EXAMPLE: CANNED GOODS, PAPER GOODS,  
DIAPERS, CEREALS, CRACKERS, COOKIES, GIFT CARDS,  
SEASONINGS, DISH DETERGENTS, HAND SOAPS,  
SHAMPOOS, SODAS, ETC.**

*Thank you for all you do!*







# BAY AREA RETIREES CHAPTER SCHEDULE FOR 2024

ALL TIME AND DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITH NOTICE

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

ALL MEETINGS 10:00 A.M. UNLESS OTHERWISE ADVISED

# 2024

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL											
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA					
1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3							1	2						1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	★	8	9	10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	★	11	12	13					
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27					
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30									
													31																			

MAY							JUNE							JULY							AUGUST						
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
			1	2	3	4						1		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	★	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	★	8	9	10
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
							30																				

SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	★	3	4	5						1	2	1	2	3	★	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

### DATES TO REMEMBER!

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

\*\*WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

\*\*CHRISTMAS PARTY ALSO

Be sure that you receive your ATTENDANCE AWARD card at the Retirees Luncheon. At each Retirees Luncheon you attend, your card will be punched for that month you attend. At the December Retirees Luncheon, there will be three (3) drawings— 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners for \$ CASH \$ prizes!

Bay Area Retiree Chapter  
5818 E. MLK Blvd.  
Tampa, FL 33619



To Serve and Improve  
Our Members Life



## UPCOMING MEETING

FEBRUARY 7, 2024 10:00 AM

5818 E MARTIN LUTHER KING JR BLVD, TAMPA 33619

BE SURE TO BRING YOUR ATTENDANCE AWARD CARD!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR FOOD, FUN, AND TEAMSTER FRIENDS!

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day