



# TEAMSTERS LOCAL 727

## MEMBER NEWSLETTER

### FALL 2018

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John Coli, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer ▫ TeamstersLocal727.org ▫ 1300 W. Higgins Road, Suite 111 ▫ Park Ridge, IL 60068

## Local 727 & Chicago Tribune Reach Agreement on \$68 Million Pension Fund Merger

### Nearly 850 Participants' Pensions Saved!

Following years of negotiations, trustees for the Teamsters Local Union No. 727 Pension Plan and the Chicago Newspaper Publishers Drivers Union Pension Fund have reached a tentative agreement on the terms of a pension merger which saves the pensions of approximately 850 participants.

As part of the merger agreement, the Chicago Tribune pension fund will be required to pay \$68 million dollars over a period of 6 ¼ years.

Additionally, current Chicago Tribune employees will receive 4% wage raises and a lump sum bonus no later than Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>. Drivers may also choose to take a buyout and receive a severance package which includes one week of pay for each year of service (up to 34 weeks) and medical coverage for 12 months (or until the driver reaches 65 years of age).

On Thursday, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>, Chicago Tribune drivers represented by Local 727 overwhelmingly voted in favor of the merger agreement.

The pension merger agreement will next be submitted for approval to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), a federal agency tasked with protecting pension benefits in private-sector defined benefit plans.



## Local 727 Ratifies New Contract with MV Transportation Chicago

### Members Receive Largest Wage Raise in Bargaining Unit History

Just two weeks after voting to authorize a strike, Local 727 members employed by MV Transportation Chicago Division 135 overwhelmingly ratified the richest contract in bargaining unit history. The new three-year contract covering paratransit drivers, dispatchers, schedulers, reservationists, and payroll clerks includes historic wage raises, a large increase in paid time off, and enhancements in workplace protections.

Among the top achievements of the Local 727 bargaining committee was the successful negotiation of the largest wage increase in the unit's history. Eligible members not only received wage raises retroactive to June 1<sup>st</sup>, but also received a second wage raise effective Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>. Overall, the nearly 150 MV Chicago members saw their wages increase a

minimum of \$1.50 and, dependent on the employee's length of service, as much as \$3.25.

The Union's new agreement also enhances employees' PTO benefits. Members will now receive Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a paid holiday. Additionally, effective Jan. 1, 2019, all eligible full-time employees will receive, for the very first time, paid personal days each year. Finally, beginning on April 1, 2019, Local 727 members at MV Chicago will no longer have to accrue vacation days before being able to use them. Instead, employees will be receiving vacation days, as well as three additional sick days, upfront at the beginning of each anniversary year.

See **MV**, Page 4

**IMPORTANT DATES****Membership Meetings:**

Held at noon in the meeting hall at 1300 W. Higgins Rd, Suite 114, in Park Ridge, IL

■ Sunday, December 16

■ Sunday, January 27

**Union Office Closings:**

■ Thanksgiving  
Thursday, November 22 &  
Friday, November 23

■ Christmas Eve  
Monday, December 24

■ Christmas Day  
Tuesday, December 25

■ New Year's Eve  
Monday, December 31

**Upcoming Union Events:**

■ Funeral C.E. Seminar  
Wednesday, December 12

**TEAMSTERS LOCAL 727**

1300 W. Higgins Road  
Suite 111  
Park Ridge, IL 60068  
**Phone:** (847) 696-7500  
**Fax:** (847) 720-4984  
TeamstersLocal727.org  
**Office Hours:** 8 a.m. to  
4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

**TEAMSTERS LOCAL 727  
BENEFIT FUNDS**

1300 W. Higgins Road  
Suite 103  
Park Ridge, IL 60068  
**Phone:** (773) 685-0340  
**Fax:** (773) 685-0463  
**Office Hours:** 8 a.m. to  
4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

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Check out our videos on  
[Vimeo.com/Local727](https://vimeo.com/Local727)

**BRIEFLY SPEAKING****Join Teamster Caucuses & Committees!**

- **Chicago Teamsters Hispanic Caucus:**  
[ChicagoTeamstersHispanicCaucus.org](http://ChicagoTeamstersHispanicCaucus.org)
- **Teamsters Joint Council 25 Women's Committee:** [TeamsterWomen.com](http://TeamsterWomen.com)
- **Teamsters National Black Caucus Chicago Chapter:** [ChicagoTNBC.com](http://ChicagoTNBC.com)

**Withdrawal Cards**

Contact the Local 727 Dues Department at (847) 696-7500 for information on taking a withdrawal card if you plan to be off work for an extended period of time.

**Know Your Weingarten Rights!**

The U.S. Supreme Court's 1975 decision in the Weingarten case held that if the employer requires an employee to submit to an investigatory meeting and denies the employee's request for union representation, then the employer is in violation of the National Labor Relations Act.

If you are called into a meeting and have reason to believe that disciplinary action may be imposed, you have the right to have a union agent present during the meeting.

Read this statement to management: "If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated, or affect my personal working conditions, I request my union representative be present at the meeting. Without representation, I choose not to answer any questions. This is my right under the U.S. Supreme Court decision called Weingarten."

For more information on your Weingarten rights, contact your Local 727 business representative at (847) 696-7500.

**Teamster Benefits & Discounts**

In addition to job protection, benefits and wages provided for in Teamster contracts, the International Union provides additional services offered at a discounted cost to the membership. Because of the strength and size of our membership, the International is able to negotiate these lower costs for services ranging from legal to medical to financial. Visit [Teamster.org/benefits](http://Teamster.org/benefits) to find out more.

**Order Illinois Teamster License Plates**

For the first time, Illinois drivers can purchase Teamster specialty license plates for registered vehicles. Plates can be purchased for all passenger vehicles, B-trucks and vans weighing 8,000 pounds or less.

Total fees for new vehicle plates or replacement plates for existing vehicles vary depending on individual vehicle registration. Any member who submitted an original interest form for Teamster license plates in previous years will have their initial Teamsters special plate fee waived.

Teamster license plates can be purchased or renewed through the Secretary of State's website ([CyberDriveIllinois.com](http://CyberDriveIllinois.com)), by mail, by phone at (800) 252-8980, or by visiting a driver services facility.

**Local 727 Executive Board**

**John Coli, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer  
**Curt Ziedrich**, President  
**Darryl Poelinitz**, Vice President  
**William Coli**, Recording Secretary  
**Anthony Wendel**, Trustee  
**Patrice Jefferson**, Trustee  
**Jose Delgado**, Trustee

**Local 727 Staff**

**Ana Barrera**, Receptionist  
**Stephanie Brinson**, General Counsel  
**Jayna Brown**, Assistant General Counsel  
**Kristen Leet**, Bookkeeper  
**Mike McManus**, Director of Referrals  
**Linnette Medina**, Titan Operator

**Anabel Ornelas**, Office Manager  
**Margaret Upstrom**, Lead Titan Operator  
**Maggie Ward**, Communications Director

**Local 727 Business Agents  
and Organizers**

**Caleen Carter-Patton**, Lead Business Agent  
**Mike DeGard**, Business Agent  
**Zach Frankenbach**, Lead Business Agent  
**David Glass**, Business Agent  
**Don Leiva**, Organizer  
**Nick Micaletti**, Business Agent  
**Chris Owoyemi**, Business Agent  
**Ben Rodriguez**, Business Agent  
**Melissa Senatore**, Lead Business Agent  
**Donnie Von Moore**, Business Agent

# Local 727 Wins Election & Ratifies First Contract for University of Chicago Shuttle Bus Drivers

With 100% of participants voting 'YES' for union representation, 47 University of Chicago shuttle bus drivers employed by First Transit, Inc. have overwhelmingly chosen to join Teamsters Local 727.

"My father was a union member for 40 years and because of the union we were able to live a good middle-class life," said driver Jamesramy Harvey. "As a former soda company Teamster myself, I witnessed firsthand how the union fought to protect workers. I know that with Local 727 in our corner we will be very well-represented."

The Union and First Transit opened negotiations for the University of Chicago employees' first collective bargaining agreement on July 18<sup>th</sup>.

On Saturday, Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>, following nearly three months of contract negotiations, University of Chicago drivers overwhelmingly ratified their first union contract.

The three-year agreement includes annual wage increases, paid sick and personal days, a grievance and arbitration process, and other job protection clauses.

"The Union worked to negotiate a contract for our newest First Transit members that is in-line with the transportation



industry standards Local 727 has fought hard to secure over the last decade," said John Coli, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer of Local 727. "This is a strong first agreement that truly demonstrates the value of a union contract."

Local 727 represents more than 1,200 transportation drivers, dispatchers, schedulers, customer service representatives, and mechanics at MV Transportation, CDT, and First Transit locations throughout the Chicagoland area.

## NEGOTIATIONS & CONTRACT HIGHLIGHTS

### CDT (NATIONAL EXPRESS):

Local 727 and Cook DuPage Transportation Co., Inc. (CDT), a subsidiary of National Express, have met nine times in the past two months to negotiate a new collective bargaining agreement covering over 750 paratransit workers.

While CDT has continuously dragged its feet throughout negotiations, Local 727 has succeeded in securing multiple tentative agreements, including an agreement requiring CDT to rebid all schedules by seniority following the Company's facility change. As part of the rebid, CDT must include some 8-hour opportunities for D-Van drivers.

The parties' contract extension agreement expires on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>. The Union will continue to update members on the progress of negotiations.

### ROLLEX CORPORATION:

Teamsters Local 727 members employed by Rollex Corporation overwhelmingly voted to ratify a new collective bargaining agreement less

than a day before an Unfair Labor Practice Strike was set to begin.

Under the new five-year agreement members will receive annual wage raises totaling \$3.20 per hour over the life of the contract.

In addition to hourly wage increases, all current members will also receive three additional paid vacation days each year as well as enhanced job and workplace protections.

### TRADE SHOW INDUSTRY:

The Union opened negotiations with Freeman Decorating Company and Global Exposition Services (G.E.S.) for a new Master Trade Show Agreement and new contracts covering employees within the Freeman and G.E.S. warehouses on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Local 727 has presented the Companies with comprehensive contract proposals. Among the Union's top proposals was the withdrawal of trade show industry and warehouse workers from the Central States Pension Fund and the adoption of a new Hybrid Plan.

Negotiations resume for the Freeman warehouse contract on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>, the G.E.S. warehouse contract on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, and the Master Trade Show Agreement on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Local 727 will continue to update members as negotiations move forward.

### SKYWAY CONCESSIONS:

Teamsters Local 727 represented toll booth collectors employed by Skyway Concessions Co. have ratified a new three-year contract that includes the largest wage increase in the bargaining unit's history.

In the first year alone, employees will receive a \$2.65 per hour wage increase. Toll collectors will also see a 150% raise in their Training Premium and the addition of a new Overnight Shift Premium that adds \$0.25 to the base wage rate for any hours worked between 8 PM and 8 AM.

The new CBA also improves employees' PTO benefits and requires the Company to address employee safety issues.



## 727 Legal & Educational Assistance Fund Awards \$3.1M in College Tuition Reimbursement

The Teamsters Local 727 Legal and Educational Assistance Fund awarded a record-setting \$3.1 million in college tuition and educational fee reimbursements this month to hundreds of eligible participants, their spouses, and dependents.

Each school year, the Teamsters Local 727 Legal and Educational Assistance Fund Board of Trustees allocates funds to provide college tuition reimbursements for eligible participants and their family members who are full-time students at accredited colleges or universities. Participants, their spouses, and eligible dependents under the age of twenty-seven who have incurred tuition and educational fee expenses over the previous school year and submitted a complete and timely application, may receive up to \$10,000 in reimbursements per year per student.

Participants who attend an accredited college or university on a part-time basis (i.e. complete between 12 and 24 credit hours per academic year) may apply to receive up to \$2,500 in tuition reimbursement each year.

Since the program's inception in 1999, the Board of Trustees have distributed over \$27 million in Educational Assistance

Benefits to participants and their families.

"We are extremely proud to be able to distribute to participants nearly double the amount of funds handed out by the IBT's James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund each year," said Secretary-Treasurer and Local 727 Benefit Fund Trustee John Coli, Jr. "It's incredible to hear from our members the impact these funds have on their families. It makes us all truly proud to count ourselves members of this great Union."

**Please note, in order to be eligible for this benefit your contract must require your employer to pay contributions to the Legal and Educational Assistance Fund on your behalf. If you are uncertain of your, your spouse, or your dependent's eligibility, please contact the Local 727 Benefit Funds Office at (773) 685-0340.**

*For more information on Teamsters Local 727's Educational Assistance benefit & other scholarships available to union members, please visit [TeamstersLocal727.org/scholarships](http://TeamstersLocal727.org/scholarships)*

**MV**, from Page 1

Local 727's new agreement with MV Chicago also enhances members' workplace protections. Should an employee be temporarily removed from service, the CBA requires the Company to offer the employee alternative work for the same or greater rate of pay and, if the investigation fails to prove any wrongdoing, MV must make the employee whole for all lost time.

"I am extremely proud of our MV Chicago members for staying strong and remaining united, even in the face of a potential strike" said Local 727 Secretary-Treasurer John Coli, Jr. "Because they stood together behind Local 727, the Union bargaining committee had the power it needed to negotiate the wealthiest contract in this bargaining unit's history."

### Support Your Teamster Brothers & Sisters! WATCH THESE SHOWS



#### Shows Returning This Fall

**Shameless (Showtime)**  
Sundays at 9 P.M.

**Chicago Med (NBC)**  
Wednesdays at 7 P.M.

**Chicago Fire (NBC)**  
Wednesdays at 8 P.M.

**Chicago P.D. (NBC)**  
Wednesdays at 9 P.M.

**Empire (Fox)**  
Wednesdays at 8 P.M.

**The Chi (Showtime)**  
Season 2 - Premiere TBD

**Easy (Netflix)**  
Season 3 - Premiere TBD



## CONGRATULATIONS!

**Benjamin Zuraitis,**

son of Local 727 Member Charles Zuraitis (CVS)

**&**

**Miriam Lynn,**

daughter of Local 727 Member

Kevin Lynn (Beverly Ridge Funeral Home)

**RECIPIENTS OF THE 2018  
JAMES R. HOFFA  
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

# GRIEVANCES & ARBITRATIONS

## Union Achieves Huge Win in Long Fight for CDT D-Van Drivers

The Union filed a grievance in 2015 on behalf of D-Van drivers unjustly being paid the significantly lower car wage rate. Though this grievance was settled in 2016, CDT almost immediately disregarded the agreement and continued paying drivers the incorrect rate. As a result, the Union pursued a new grievance to arbitration.

The arbitrator ruled that CDT must honor the original settlement agreement and backpay D-Van Drivers. Thanks to the Union's persistence, all D-Van drivers have been made whole.

## 727 Resolves Grievance on Behalf of Part-Time Skyway Members

This Summer, Local 727 learned that Skyway had imposed an arbitrary cap on part-time employees' vacation accrual, despite no such limit existing in the Skyway CBA. The Union immediately filed a grievance on behalf of all part-time Skyway employees.

As a result of the Union's persistence, part-time employees that average 80 hours or more per pay period will accrue vacation time at the same rate as a full-time employee with the same seniority.

## Sour Over Union's Massive Arbitration Win, Tribune Attempts to Overturn Award

The Chicago Tribune filed a lawsuit in September against Teamsters Local 727 in an attempt to avoid paying nearly 120 Teamster newspaper truck drivers backpay awarded to them by a neutral arbitrator this past July.

The arbitration originated in March 2016 when Local 727 filed a grievance after learning that the Chicago Tribune intended to cease its long-standing past practice of paying drivers gap pay when a driver is called into work within the ten-hour guaranteed rest period between his shifts. When the parties were unable to settle the grievance, the Union advanced the matter to arbitration.

Arbitrator Amedeo Greco issued a decision on July 25<sup>th</sup> finding that the Tribune violated the CBA when it failed to pay drivers gap pay and ordering the Company to "make whole all affected current and past drivers who were deprived of gap pay..." The award requires the Tribune to pay drivers ten hours of gap pay anytime they are required to work beyond their shift and make whole drivers who were not paid gap pay since March 7, 2016.

Rather than abiding by the final and binding arbitration award, the Chicago Tribune instead filed a lawsuit with the U.S. District Court requesting that the arbitration award be vacated. This lawsuit flies in the face of the grievance and arbitration procedure agreed to by both the Chicago Tribune and Local 727. Complaints to vacate final and binding arbitration awards are routinely denied by federal court judges who grant great deference to arbitration decisions. Seeking to vacate a binding decision is a further waste of time, money, and good faith.

"The Tribune had an opportunity to argue its case during arbitration. They lost. It's time the Company accept the consequences of its actions and honor their agreement to abide by the arbitration award," asserted John Coli, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer of Local 727.

## Union Brings Down the Hammer on Non-Compliant Valet Companies

Teamsters Local 727 has had huge arbitration wins against Chicago Parking Valet, PAS, Reliable Valet and River North Parking. These valet operators thought they could get away with shirking their responsibilities under their contracts, but they were sorely mistaken.

Chicago Parking Valet was ordered by Arbitrator Edwin Benn to pay Local 727 more than \$250,000 in outstanding benefit contributions and unremitted union dues. The Union demanded compliance by CPV and filed an enforcement action against the Company. In Nov. 2017, CPV owner Julio Gonzalez was arrested and hauled into court by federal marshals for failing to appear to defend the Company against the lawsuit. In early September, a bankruptcy court confirmed CPV's debt owed to the Union was not discharged.

Local 727 is also successfully battling PAS LLC. The company has been ordered three times by the National Labor Relations Board to honor its financial obligations to Local 727 by paying back dues totaling about \$4,555. When PAS failed to pay the back dues, the NLRB and Local 727

advanced the case to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, which issued a judgment enforcing the NLRB's order. PAS was also ordered by Arbitrator Edwin Benn to pay penalties, back dues, and late fees totaling more than \$225,000, after it created a sham company to avoid its financial obligations. Since PAS failed to pay the arbitration award, Local 727 filed an enforcement action. The owners of PAS have been served with citations and are required to produce financial documents by Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Union also won a huge arbitration victory against notorious valet operator Jack Kupiec. His company Reliable Valet, and its alter ego River North Parking, was ordered to pay more than \$400,000 in unremitted dues and unpaid PTO benefits that were owed to employees. Kupiec has since filed for bankruptcy; however, Local 727 looks forward to the bankruptcy court confirming Kupiec's debt cannot be discharged.

*Nothing in this newsletter should be read as the union's waiver of any legal argument, position or additional grievance. The union does not forfeit its right to make any and all supplemental arguments.*

## In Case You Missed It...

# Teamsters Local 727 Charitable Fund Raises Nearly \$17,000 at First Annual Golf Outing

On July 6<sup>th</sup>, more than 110 golfers came together to raise nearly \$17,000 at the First Annual Teamsters Local 727 Charitable Fund Golf Outing.

Golfers not only had the opportunity to play 18 holes of golf, but also participated in multiple on-course competitions and raffles. The winners of the outing went home with four tickets to a Cubs vs. Cardinals game at Wrigley, while the winners of the “Longest Drive” and “Closest to the Pin” contests took away a new set of golf balls and gift certificates to local area restaurants. One lucky raffle winner received a one-night stay at the Hyatt Regency O’Hare and an assortment of additional prizes.

**Interested in joining  
Local 727 at our  
next Golf Outing?**

**Contact Maggie Ward  
at (847) 696-7500**

all those that made our very first golf outing such a success,” said John Coli, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 727. “We’re already looking forward to next year’s outing and hope to see everyone there.”

“We are thrilled to have had such an outpouring of support for our first outing and honored to contribute to the work of the Standing Tall Charitable Foundation,” added Anthony Wendel, President of the Teamsters Local 727 Charitable Fund. “We hope to continue to grow this event in the future and raise even more funds for this fantastic organization.”

Proceeds from the outing will assist the Standing Tall Charitable Foundation in providing scholarships to Illinois students in need.



**Did You Miss  
Secretary-Treasurer  
John Coli, Jr.’s  
Labor Day Message?**

**Scan the QR code below to  
watch the video now!**



**Or visit the Local 727 Vimeo  
page at [Vimeo.com/Local727](https://Vimeo.com/Local727)**





## Local 727 Members Join the Fight Against Breast Cancer

Teamsters Local 727 members, families, and friends came out to Park Ridge earlier this month for the American Cancer Society's annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk. Dressed in head-to-toe pink, the Local 727 team joined together to spread awareness and support the fight against breast cancer.

Local 727 once again partnered with the American Cancer Society for their annual walk, this year serving as the Big Pink Chair sponsor.

"It was wonderful to see so many Teamster families come together to support the fight against this terrible disease," said John Coli, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer of Local 727. "Thank you to everyone who walked, donated, and supported the Local 727 team."

To date, Local 727 has raised over \$4,000 for breast cancer research. The Union team will continue to accept donations for the American Cancer Society through December 31<sup>st</sup>.



### MORE PHOTOS ONLINE

See more photos of the MSABC walk, as well as hundreds of photos of Teamsters Local 727 members on the job and at other Union events at [flickr.com/TeamstersLocal727](https://www.flickr.com/photos/TeamstersLocal727/).







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# TEAMSTERS LOCAL 727

## MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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TeamstersLocal727.org

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## A Message from Secretary-Treasurer John Coli, Jr.

### A Dedication to Education

Education has the power to transform our society, elevate our communities, and strengthen our Union. That is why Local 727 has dedicated itself to supporting our members and their families as they expand their knowledge and pursue their educational goals.

Through our biannual continuing education seminar we are able to offer our funeral industry members free access to twelve hours of classes that may help them continue to thrive and learn in their professions.

Concurrently, the Teamsters Local 727 Legal and Educational Assistance Fund improves and grows each year as the Union continues to successfully negotiate the benefit into more contracts. In its nearly two decades, the Board of Trustees has distributed over \$27 million in educational assistance benefits to participants. *(See story on Page 4.)*

Whether its in the workplace or in the classroom, Local 727 will always be there to back our members up.



*John Coli*