



# TEAMSTERS LOCAL 727

## MEMBER NEWSLETTER

**FALL 2022  
EDITION**

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

## Local 727 Celebrates Opening of Teamsters Local 727 Wellness Center

On October 30th, Local 727 celebrated the grand opening of the Teamsters Local 727 Wellness Center located at 2550 S. Oak Park Ave. in Berwyn, IL. In partnership with Everside Health, the Wellness Center offers primary care services such as annual physical exams, DOT physicals, mental health services, school and sports physicals, sick and urgent care, and select onsite medication all at no cost to Local 727 Health & Welfare Fund participants.

Along with the rank-and-file membership who came out in droves to support their Union and Local 727's Executive Board and Staff, attendees included

Berwyn Mayor Robert Lovero, representatives of Everside Health, and the medical staff of the Wellness Center.

"This is a proud day for all of us at Local 727," said John Coli, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 727. "To be able to provide this level of health care to our members and their families is truly an honor and a privilege. With same day appointments and an extensive range of services from top level providers, it's a real game changer for our members. I'd like to thank everyone who made today such an overwhelming success for all of their hard work and dedication."



*Nothing in this article should be read as the union's waiver of any legal argument, position or grievance(s), or as a waiver of any rights, arguments, or defenses under any contract, collective bargaining agreement, or applicable law. The union does not forfeit its right to make any and all supplemental arguments.*

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4:30 P.M., Monday-Friday

## TEAMSTERS LOCAL 727 BENEFIT FUNDS

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4:30 P.M., Monday-Friday

## 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.



Sign up for weekly  
email updates at  
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[Vimeo.com/Local727](https://vimeo.com/Local727)

# COVID-19 Preventative Measures

## Practice Social Distancing



Stay at least 6 feet (2 meters)  
from other people

Do not gather in groups

Stay out of crowded places and  
avoid mass gatherings

## Wash Your Hands Often



Wash your hands often with  
soap and water for at least 20  
seconds especially after you  
have been in a public place,  
or after blowing your nose,  
coughing, or sneezing.

If soap and water are not read-  
ily available, use a hand sani-  
tizer that contains at least 60%  
alcohol. Cover all surfaces of  
your hands and rub them to-  
gether until they feel dry.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose,  
and mouth with unwashed  
hands.

*Source: "Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) -  
Prevent Getting Sick," Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention, April 2020,  
([cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus))*

### Local 727 Executive Board

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

### Local 727 Staff

Ana Barrera, Receptionist  
Jayna Brown, General Counsel  
Mike McManus, Director of Referrals  
Linnette Medina, Titan Operator  
Anabel Ornelas, Office Manager  
Kathy Sundberg, Titan Operator  
Margaret Upstrom, Lead Titan Operator

### Local 727 Business Agents and Organizers

Caleen Carter-Patton, Lead Business Agent  
Mike DeGard, Business Agent  
David Glass, Business Agent  
Don Leiva, Organizer  
Sean McGough, Business Agent  
Nick Micaletti, Business Agent  
Ben Rodriguez, Business Agent  
Melissa Senatore, Lead Business Agent  
Donnie Von Moore, Business Agent  
Tom Wilcox, Business Agent





## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

**Carolyn German represents Teamsters Local 727 at the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk held in Libertyville on October 9, 2022.**

## Local 727 Members Attend 2022 Women's Conference in Seattle

Thirteen members of Local 727 attended the 2022 Teamsters Women's Conference held in Seattle, Washington from September 18th thru the 21st. The conference, which is held annually, brought together more than 1,200 Teamster members from the U.S., Canada, and Puerto Rico in sisterhood and solidarity. Activities during the conference included speakers, educational workshops, and a rally at Amazon's corporate headquarters which called out the behemoth Company for exploiting their workers. There was also time for fun, including a 1970's themed party.



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# Bargaining Updates

## Teamsters 727 Funeral Members Overwhelmingly Ratify New FDSA Agreement

On August 2nd, Teamsters Local 727 funeral industry members overwhelmingly ratified the new Funeral Directors Services Association (FDSA) collective bargaining agreement, which covers funeral home employees and compliant union trade members working with signatory FDSA employers.

Some of the most significant provisions negotiated into the new three-year agreement include annual weekly wage increases starting with a 6% increase this year, a new per-case cremation pay, a stand-by call pay increase, payouts of unused vacation time, seniority carry over with other FDSA employers, and annual trade director/embalmer/removal rate increases.

**THE NEW AGREEMENT  
PASSED WITH A 94%  
MAJORITY VOTE.**

"Teamsters 727 Union bargaining committee representatives understood the contract demands of our funeral industry members and were therefore able to successfully negotiate an agreement that addressed the concerns," said John Coli Jr., Secretary-Treasurer of Local 727. "The number of ballots returned, and the overwhelming votes in favor of this agreement confirm that the members felt the same."

## New Meter Members at Laz and Securatex Ratify First Local 727 Contract

On Friday, August 5th, Parking Regulation Enforcement Agents at LAZ and Securatex overwhelmingly ratified their first Teamsters Local 727 contract.

This has been a year and a half in the making. Months after Laz purchased SERCO in mid-2021, the bargaining unit authorized Local 727 as their bargaining agent. Following multiple demands sessions with the group, negotiations took place in June and July at the Union's office in Park Ridge. Among other enhancements, the Union's bargaining committee is pleased to announce that this contract creates a road map for the Parking Regulation Enforcement Agents to merge into the existing Meter contract - a more mature agreement which has greatly improved over the previous four contract negotiations dating back to 2009 - effective October 1, 2024.

Contract highlights include a strong raise upon ratification with retro pay from July 1, 2022, the addition of another paid sick/personal day, and the addition of two paid holidays (MLK Jr Day and Juneteenth). Additionally, on April 1, 2023, full-time employees will have the ability to participate in the Local 727 Bronze Health and Welfare plan, which has no monthly premium charged to the employees. Full-time employees who elect to opt-out of the plan in April will receive a stipend of \$250 per month. Part-time employees will have access to the 727 Dental, Vision, and Life Insurance benefits.

The Company and Union are currently working together with the common goal of ensuring that the City of Chicago keeps the current incentive program in place for employees covered by this agreement.

## Local 727 Secures A New Three-Year Contract for Vitalant Members

Local 727 members at Vitalant recently ratified a new three-year contract for Distribution Drivers and MUA (Mobile Unit Assistants). The Union's bargaining committee is proud to announce contract improvements in wages, the addition of MLK Day as a recognized holiday, protection of job classifications, increased minimum hire rates, increased access to full-time benefits, and a CDL wage premium.

These hardworking Chicago Teamsters have worked throughout the pandemic to keep the blood, platelet, and plasma supplies up and running for American families in critical need of blood. Every day in the United States patients in hospitals, surgical centers, and emergency treatment facilities need approximately 29,000 units of red blood cells, 5,000 units of platelets, and 6,500 units of plasma. These Teamster members literally save lives while risking their own and the bargaining unit at the Rosemont facility has played a critical role in making sure the Company is successful in its mission to help families throughout the country.



## Local 727 Welcomes GLCC Alsip's Quality Assurance Department in to the Union

On October 13th, Quality Assurance employees who work out of GLCC Alsip overwhelmingly voted in favor of a first-time collective bargaining agreement. Significantly, this agreement folds the QA group directly into the current seasoned GLCC agreement and gives QA employees many of the benefits currently available to other GLCC union members. The agreement also gives QA members numerous provisions specific to their department which include:

- ✓ Average of 15% increase to wages upon ratification
- ✓ Annual wage increases over the life over the agreement which average over 22%
- ✓ Payout of 2022 vacation time with previously scheduled vacations being honored
- ✓ Sick and Vacation time with a 100% payout of unused time upon retirement or death
- ✓ 2 sick days to be used in 2022
- ✓ Defined classifications with a path to training by no later than April 30, 2023
- ✓ Grandfathered Lab Tech and Syrup Batchers positions with the option to train to QA tech
- ✓ Creation of a Joint Committee to develop required or additional training
- ✓ Employees may not be forced to work more than one additional shift per week
- ✓ Creation of an Employee Relations Committee within the first 60 days of the CBA
- ✓ Shift premiums for those begin work between 1pm-7pm or 10pm-5am

"I'd like to personally welcome the QA Department to Teamsters Local 727," said John Coli, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 727. "You are now part of an overall group that has shown solidarity and strength from day one of being represented by Local 727. I am sure you will be no different. I want to assure you that the representatives of Local 727 and all of the groups we represent - not just in the Soda Industry but throughout the Chicagoland area - are here for you in solidarity and I look forward to meeting each of you in the days and months ahead."



**YOU ARE NOW PART OF AN OVERALL GROUP THAT HAS SHOWN SOLIDARITY AND STRENGTH FROM DAY ONE OF BEING REPRESENTED BY LOCAL 727.**



## Pepsi Merchandisers and Express Drivers Send Message to Company with Results of Vote

On September 1st, Merchandisers and Express Drivers from the 35th Street, Elk Grove Street, and 51st Street Pepsi facilities voted by an extremely narrow margin to accept a Company proposed mid-term wage increase. The fact that this wasn't overwhelmingly accepted by membership sends a clear message to Pepsi that although a wage increase won't be refused outright, it's still not nearly enough. Compared to Pepsi competitors GLCCD and KDP, also represented by Local 727, Pepsi employees make less in wages across the

board - even with this bump to Merchandiser and Express Driver pay.

"The message from membership to Pepsi is clear but it's not a surprise," said John Coli, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 727. "A minor wage increase for these two groups sixteen months before the expiration of this contract is not enough. This bargaining unit needs to be compensated properly across the board in order to bring the entire group up to the industry standard and to show that

the Company values the hard work these members have performed to help make Pepsi the most profitable of the soda groups. Pepsi better plan to make up for this in 2024 or being able to retain and attract a reliable workforce will be the least of their problems."

The wage increases for Merchandisers and Express Drivers will go into effect on January 1, 2023.

## Event Roundup

### Teamsters 727 Charitable Fund Event a Success

The Local 727 Charitable Fund Board of Directors would like to thank all who participated in this year's event held on July 30th at the Club Hawthorne Sportsbook and OTB in Crestwood.

A special thanks to all those who attended the event, or sent a donation, or volunteered their time to make this year's event a great success with over \$50,000 dollars raised. We look forward to next year's event!



### Local 727 Members at Hawthorne Race Course Make Opening Day a Success

On Friday, September 23rd, Hawthorne Race Course in Stickney, IL opened its Fall Thoroughbred Horse Racing meet. As always, Teamsters Local 727 members at the Starting Gate and Valets in the Jockeys' room contributed to the track's success on opening day.

Local 727 race track members were previously able to work for ten months of the year between Arlington Park and Hawthorne but that changed when Arlington Park (Churchill Downs Inc) walked away from Illinois Horse Racing and sold their property to the Chicago Bears. This has made 2022 a transitional year for Thoroughbred racing in Illinois as Hawthorne runs both Harness and Thoroughbred racing at the same track. Hawthorne has expressed a long-term goal of moving Harness racing to its own facility in the south suburbs which would allow them to focus solely on year-round thoroughbred racing; unfortunately, until that happens there will be less work available for these hard-working and dedicated Teamsters members.

With all of this in mind, the Union's Bargaining Committee commenced contract negotiations for this group on Friday, October 21st.



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# Fighting for What's Right

## It was the Summer of Local 727 Wage Victories at MV Transportation Division 72

Over the summer, Teamsters Local 727 filed three separate grievances demanding backpay for members who were short changed or treated unfairly by MV Transportation in Batavia, IL. The first grievance was filed following the contractual wage increase that was set to go into effect on July 1, 2022. Knowing MV's poor track record with providing contractual increases, Teamsters Local 727 submitted a request for information and discovered that five members did not receive the correct wage increase. Through the grievance procedure, all five members were made whole with wage increases and backpay.

The next grievance victory came when a member was taken out of service for a non-preventable accident and was forced to lose three day's pay. The Union filed a grievance and demanded that the member not be punished for something they had no control over. The Union was

successful, and the member was paid for those three days.

The most recent grievance involved a member who was hired at a lower pay rate than the contract requires. When the member realized almost a year later that they were being underpaid, they contacted the Union. Business Agent Sean McGough immediately filed a grievance. The Company was at fault and had no choice but to cut a check to the member for the difference in pay.

"These wage victories clearly show the difference having a Union can make for paratransit workers," said John Coli, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 727. Without oversight, companies like MV Transportation will try and squeeze every nickel and dime from their hard-working employees, but Teamsters Local 727 will fight tirelessly for members to get what is owed to them."

## Teamsters Local 727 Health & Welfare Fund Now Covers Hearing Aids for Plan Participants

Participants in the Local 727 Health & Welfare Medical plan and their dependents over the age of 19 are now eligible for hearing aid coverage of up to \$2000 per ear (subject to deductibles and coinsurance) every three years. Participants and dependents under the age of 19 already receive coverage without dollar limitations every three years. Also covered under the plan are hearing exams, consultations, initial fittings, and follow-up appointments for adjustments.

"At a time when every penny counts, we are extremely proud to be able to offer this benefit to our participating members," said John Coli, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer. "The Health & Welfare Fund will continue to pursue other opportunities like this to assist our hardworking members and their medical needs."

## 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 a 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."*

Contact your Teamsters Local 727 business representative at (847) 696-7500 for more information and to receive a handy wallet-size version of your Weingarten rights.





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

Despite a global pandemic, this year brought more unprecedented change as inflation rose to historic highs. As a united Union we have fought back against the rising costs that come with inflation and the impact it has on 727 members and their families. We have demanded more out of every employer whose contract reopened in the pandemic and have achieved historic wage increases. Every day I am reminded that it is our frontline 727 members and their solidarity in their Union that gives us the ability to fight back and demand more during these unprecedented times. Your hard work and sacrifice will never go unnoticed by the Union; your work has value, and the integrity you bring to your workplace deserves to be acknowledged, respected, and celebrated year-round. Here at Local 727, we know the hard work is never over and we will continue to tackle new challenges as they come our way. When we stand united and speak with one voice, we make change happen.



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