TEAMSTER HISTORY:

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

1. The early members of the Teamsters Union were very proud of their status as "craftsmen." Name some of the traditional Teamster crafts.

   Traditional crafts included delivery of coal, ice, gravel, lumber milk, and dry goods.

2. Name the Teamsters General President who first realized the importance of the new "motor trucks."

   Dan Tobin recognized that motor trucks were the wave of the future. The Teamsters began organizing motor truck drivers as early as 1910. Teamsters also made sure members who worked for companies using horses and trucks had the opportunity to learn driving skills.

3. What important role did the Teamsters play in WWI?

   Teamsters were among the few workers who were skilled drivers and could also repair motor vehicles. Motor trucks gained widespread use during World War I.

4. What major strike led to the National Labor Relations Act and the NLRB?

   1934 Minnesota Strike. The Teamsters stood up to the citizens groups and businesses in Minneapolis that were treating them so poorly, which gained national attention. Workers participated in strikes under threat of violence from anti-union forces. Wives and families of the strikers organized a 24-hour soup kitchen and infirmary for the workers and printed a newsletter to insure the public heard their story. The National Labor Relations Act of 1935 was a direct result of the strike.

5. Name 2 things the Teamsters did to help the country during WWII

   The Teamsters Union collected more than two million dollars in war bonds, led drives for scrap metal, rubber and other essential materials for war production. The Teamsters organized blood drives and collected items for care packages sent to G.I.s.
6. What was the “Have it Delivered” campaign?

The “Have It Delivered” project was a highly successful campaign encouraging consumers not to rely on cash and carry, but to have packages from local businesses such as laundries and department stores delivered directly to their homes.

7. When was the first National Master Freight Agreement signed?

The National Master Freight Agreement signed in 1964, standardized over-the-road freight drivers and more than 16,000 employers. The National Master Freight Agreement raised the standard of living for more working families than any other single event in labor history.

8. What major industry did the Teamsters organize during the 1960’s?

The airline industry was the focus of many Teamsters organizing efforts in the 1960s.

9. Who was Viola Liuzzo?

Viola Liuzzo was the wife of a Detroit Business agent who was murdered by the KKK in 1965 for helping with the civil rights movement in Selma, Alabama. Teamsters were actively involved in all aspects of the civil rights movement.

10. Who were the “strawberry boys”?

Young warehouse workers in Detroit who organized a strike against Kroger in 1932. Their leader was 17-year old Jimmy Hoffa.

11. How did Teamsters help cure polio?

Teamsters delivered the vaccine across the country in 4 days from its discovery on April 13, 1955.

12. What is the “hammer” in freight contracts? Why is it so important?

The “hammer” is a clause allowing for strikes at mid-term when negotiations are going badly. It gives the workers more bargaining power and levels the playing field during negotiations.

Extra credit:
What are the names of the two horses in our logo?

Thunder and Lightening “You’ll know it’s the Teamsters ‘cause they have Thunder and Lightening by their side”