

## **PRINCIPAL OFFICER'S REPORT**

### **JANUARY 3, 2021**

When the coronavirus crisis hit in March, many of our Union Brothers and Sisters were furloughed. Since then, we have lost loved ones and many of our members and members' families were unfortunately infected with COVID-19. Every single day I have been receiving messages from our Business Agents telling me another member is sick or another furlough is being considered. However, throughout this terrible time, one thing has remained true: our strength. Each and every one of you has shown more strength and integrity than I could have ever imagined. You have continued to work as frontline, essential employees every day, and you have kept our state running and our communities protected. Without Teamsters, Massachusetts simply would not run. 2020 has been one of the longest most dreadful years in decades. It has been incredibly challenging, and sometimes scary, but it has also been the greatest privilege to fight beside you, our members. And what a fight we have had. When the pandemic hit, Local 170 immediately put the employers on notice (see "Signatory Employers" on the Local's website: [www.teamsters170.com](http://www.teamsters170.com)). With that said, we have continued to take companies on whether in contract negotiations, arbitration hearings, labor charges or strike lines.

As the Country moves into the long-anticipated vaccination stage of the pandemic, Local 170 vows to ensure the safety of all our members. I hope that the COVID-19 vaccines start us on a path to normalcy. While our lives will hopefully go back to a simpler time, our work has forever changed. We know the employers that value the health and safety of their employees, and perhaps more importantly, we know those who do not. We know as contracts expire and negotiations begin, the importance of creating language that will secure our frontline, essential members' jobs when the unimaginable happens. We also know, more than ever, the importance of family, and I am forever grateful to you, my Union family. Thank you for all your hard work. For all that you have been through, and for all that you continue to do, we simply cannot thank you enough!

While the Local is doing well, we need to grow. We need to organize. History has shown us there is strength in numbers, which is why we need to stay united. Unions are not a spectator sport; unions require participation. Involvement is the key to success. Remember, you (we) are the Union; be **PROUD**, speak **HIGHLY of YOUR UNION**, and together, let's kick Covid's ass in 2021!

In closing, I want to wish our members and their families a safe and healthy Happy New Year!

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon R. George  
Secretary-Treasurer/Principal Executive Officer