

Transport Workers Union Local 721

The Dealers Voice



Uniting Casino Dealers of Nevada

December 6, 2007

Dues Check-off & Membership Cards

Show our solidarity and strengthen our stance at the bargaining table by officially joining the Union!! If you haven't filled out a membership form or a dues check-off authorization card yet, contact a negotiating committee member to get them or come by our Local 721 office. Of course the Union will never collect dues until we vote on and ratify our contract.

Contract Negotiations Update

The negotiating committee will have attended 13 negotiating session by the end of the year. We are making progress and building a relationship with our employer! We have reached 7 Tentative Agreements and 1 Interim Agreement so far. First time contracts usually take longer to negotiate so don't lose faith. We're getting closer!

Recent Letter Regarding Insurance Improvements

You may have recently received a letter from the company regarding health insurance improvements. On the bottom of the letter, it was mentioned that these improvements could not be extended to bargaining unit members. At our December 6, 2007 contract negotiating meeting, TWU conveyed to the company that they do not object to these benefits being extended to Wynn Dealers. Also, during the month of December, the company Benefits department is holding open enrollment. You may elect to change your current health plan.



~ Upcoming Events ~

Union election for Caesars Palace Dealers!

Saturday~December 22, 2007

Support your future union brothers and sisters by rallying all of your Caesars dealer friends, family, & acquaintances. Show your support & wish them success - their success is our success!

Democratic Caucus

Saturday January 19, 2008

Be a part of history and participate in the first Nevada Democratic Presidential Caucus. Go to www.nvdemscaucus.com to learn more.

~ True and False ~

False: If we do not reach a contract after one year of negotiating or being certified as a collective bargaining unit, the federal government will intervene and monitor negotiations.

True: Contract negotiations will continue for as long as both sides are bargaining in good faith.

TWU Local 721 Office is now open!

2770 S Maryland Pkwy Ste
510 Las Vegas, NV 89109
9AM-5PM M-F

Phone: (702) 476-0648

Office Manager:
Tammy Chaplin

Local 721 Toy Drive

The 1st annual Local 721 Christmas Toy Drive was a great success! Thank you to all who donated! As our union grows, so will the amount of toys filled with joy for the children. Thanks to Dezari Funk, Gloria Hefner, Kanie Kastroll, Lucie Pochopova, for helping make this happen!

Update your Address

If you are not receiving the Dealers Voice in the mail, please send an updated address to Tammy at the office. tchaplin@twu.org.

Register to Vote

You can register to vote or change party affiliations at <http://www.co.clark.nv.us/election/votequal.asp>. Click on "Click here to request an application"



A caucus is not a primary election. It is like a straw poll to tell candidates what the voters are saying. For more facts on caucuses please visit: www.nvdemscaucus.com and click on the FAQ's link.

This is the first time our state will hold a caucus in a presidential election. Since we are holding our caucus so early, Nevada could sway some of the early voting states in the primary to follow our lead. It is important for candidates to reach out to Western states in order to win the White House.

You may participate in the caucus if you are 18 years old or will be by the general election on November 4, 2008 and registered as a Democrat. Participants may register to vote and change party affiliation at the caucus location.

The caucus will last approximately two hours and will begin at 11:00AM. There are over 500 planned locations; schools, libraries, community centers, churches, or some other public buildings. To find information on caucus locations as they are confirmed please visit www.nvdems.com or call (702)737-8683.

Transport Workers Union Endorses Senator John Edwards

NEW YORK -- The Transport Workers Union of America (TWU), "the union that moves America," announced that it is endorsing Sen. John Edwards for President of the United States and the union will now work to move its members in New York and across the nation to support the Edwards candidacy.

In making the announcement, TWU President James C. Little said, "Some candidates seem to be figuring out how to best triangulate on campaign issues. John Edwards takes on subjects such as job security, health care, retirement and the growing gap in wealth between the rich and the middle class in a straight forward way that the country and working families desperately need.



Union Lingo

Grievance and Arbitration

What is it and how does it work?

Grievance and Arbitration may be a new term for most of us. It is a tool that unions use to defend employees against unwarranted discipline and to ensure that the company is adhering to the agreements set forth in the union contract. Grievance and Arbitration procedures may vary from contract to contract but here's an example of how it works.

When the union believes that someone is unjustly disciplined or terminated from their job, or they believe that the contract is being violated, they will file a grievance. The first step in a grievance procedure is usually done verbally. A union representative and the employee will bring to the attention of management what the issue is that is being grieved. They will meet and present their arguments.

If the issue has not been settled in the initial meeting, they will fill out a grievance form. This is the second step in a grievance procedure. The company will chair a meeting with the union representative and the employee. The union will defend the issue and the company can investigate. The company will then give a reply within a predetermined period of time. If the situation is not resolved in the grievance procedure, they may take the issue to a neutral third party arbitrator which is chosen by both the company and the union to insure fairness. The arbitrator will be presented both sides of the issue and will make a binding determination.

When you hear about a union saving someone's job, this is the procedure they used. Unfortunately, right now the dealers at Wynn do not have a grievance and arbitration procedure. Of course, the negotiating committee is trying to get this in your contract. This is one of the most important elements in a union contract. For now, however, we are still "at will" employees and unless there is cause for an unfair labor practice to be filed, the union's hands are tied. This hasn't stopped the TWU from trying to do anything they can to help.