

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1



Empowering working women throughout Washington, Alaska, and Northern Idaho

9/13/2023



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## Inside this issue:

2023 Women's Conference Nashville	2
March to Yellow's Headquarters	2
2022 Women's Conference Seattle	3
March on Amazon Headquarters	3
Labor Day	4
Upcoming Events	4
Teamster Women Highlight	5
JC28TWC contact info and Mission Statement	6
September Women's Health Awareness	6

## Note from the President



Hello Sisters and Brothers:

My name is Traci Bronson, President of the JC28TWC. I have been a member of Local 839 for over 16 years, where I also serve on the board as a trustee. I have been a longtime Steward at Ben Franklin Transit where I work as a Dispatcher. I am looking forward to getting to meet everyone. Hopefully in the near future we can get some boots on the ground and come up with some great ideas and opportunities to benefit and empower women to be the leaders of the future.

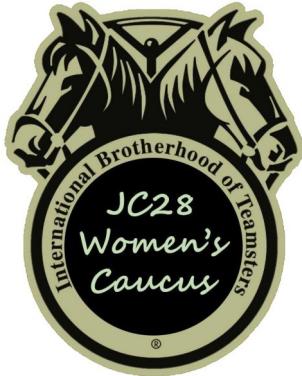
## 2024 Women's Conference will be in Puerto Rico!

These conferences are chalked full of information seminars, networking opportunities, and powerful soul building rallies. You can't help come away with a sense of Brotherhood/Sisterhood and superior pride in being a Teamster.

Want a chance to win a trip to next years conference? All expense paid excluding time loss!

Remember, you must be a active member to be eligible to win. Drawing will be held next year.





# 2023 Women's Conference – Nashville

This years 2023 Women's Conference was held in Nashville. Over 1,500 women attended the 3 day conference and took part in many workshops that were offered.

Day 1 of the conference opened up with Ashley Alvarado reviewing this years theme - Sisters in Harmony - which is a marker of our past, present, and the future. General President Sean O'Brien and Secretary Treasure, Fred Zuckerman also addressed the Teamster Women present. "It's women that our leading the way and driving these campaigns. That's how we're able to organize. That's how we're able to fight back against corporate America. Because of you."

The 3 day conference held several workshops from Embracing challenges Teamster Women face, Becoming Stronger Stewards, Grievance Procedure, Mansplaining, Harassment in the workplace and many more. There was even a march to Yellows Corporate Headquarters.

The conference ended with several closing speeches, but the one that stood out the most was from VP Lindsay Dougherty "Every day we have to get up and fight. We have to continue to support each other, show up on picket lines, and build worker power. We have to continue this fight nationwide – because when we fight, we win,"



## March to Yellow's Headquarters

Teamster Women who attended the 2023 Women's Conference also held a rally marching to Yellow's Headquarters. The march to Yellow came weeks after Yellow closed its doors on 22k members despite all the givebacks in wages the company received. General President, Sean O'Brien stated Yellow took advantage of our members for over a decade, and these executives are still treating them with the same disrespect."

Teamsters are currently pushing for legislation that prioritizes its workers during corporate bankruptcy procedures.



# 2022 Women's Conference, Seattle



September 19 –21 2022, our own Joint Council 28 hosted the Teamsters National Women's Conference in Seattle. It was the first Women's Conference with our new Leadership, Sean O'Brien and Fred Zuckerman. In attendance were close to 1,400 Teamsters from the U.S., Canada, and Puerto Rico, in sisterhood and solidarity.

It started off with a rousing opening ceremony hosted by Ashley Alvarado, Conference Director and President of Local 856. And welcome by Rick Hicks, International Vice President Western Region, President Joint Council 28, and Secretary Treasurer of Local 174. That night was a '70's themed reception.

Some of the workshops included: Assertiveness skills, Strong Union Communications, Domestic Violence Awareness, Election Outlooks, Women's History, NLRB, Pay Equity, Becoming a Powerful Steward, Collective Bargaining (legal), Implicit Bias Training, and "How to Intelligently Deal with Difficult People". Excel and 6 Titan workshops! There were 2 empowerment and self care workshops presented in Spanish.



Distinct fields included Cannabis Workers, Amazon organizing (see below), and UPS.

## March on Amazon Headquarters

On September 20, 2022, over 1,400 strong Teamsters Women showed up to march against Amazon headquarters in Seattle. With chants of "Union Busting Is Disgusting" we closed down streets where we marched and President Sean O'Brien gave a thrilling speech.

Amazon is one of the largest employers in the world, with over 1.5 million employees globally. The company has been criticized for its treatment of employees in the past, with concerns raised about working conditions, wages, and benefits.

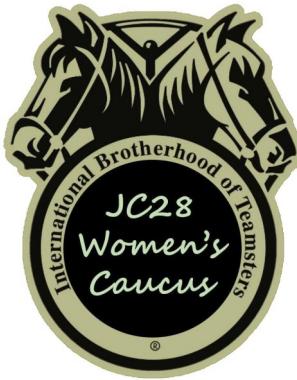
The working conditions at Amazon, particularly in its fulfillment centers, employees have reported long hours, high workloads, and limited opportunities for breaks. There have also been concerns raised about the company's approach to unionization, with some employees claiming that Amazon has actively discouraged unionization efforts.

Overall, while Amazon has made some efforts to improve its treatment of employees, there are still concerns about working conditions and employee rights that need to be addressed.



According to Teamster.org, "Amazon employs one third of the warehouse workers in the U.S. but is responsible for half of all workplace injuries in the sector as its employees sustain serious injury at five times the national average. Injury rates at Amazon facilities are nearly 80 percent higher than all other employers in the ware-





## Labor Day 2023

Observed on the first Monday of every September, Labor Day isn't just a three weekend holiday. The first idea of Labor Day was celebrated in New York in 1882 with a parade to celebrate union members. This celebration grew and by 1887 Labor Day was celebrated in 4

additional states. Pushed by Labor activists in 1894 to recognize the contributions laborers had made to America's growth and prosperity, it became a federal holiday, signed by President Grover Cleveland.



Labor Day is celebrated differently through the US, with either parades, picnics, BBQ's or sometimes, even working.

Local 839, along with other unions in the Tri Cities area hold an annual Labor Day picnic. Completely hosted by unions throughout the area, as a way to give back to their community. They provide food, drinks, cotton candy, live music, face painting, a bouncy house and a classic car show. The picnic brings close to 2,000 community members together to celebrate the fun.



## Upcoming Local Events

- \* **JC28** Teamsters Women's Caucus meeting, dates TBD
- \* **Local 117** is hosting a Womxn's conference on Sept 16 at the Tukwila Hall, providing workshops and lunch. Any Teamster is welcome to join.
- \* **The Seattle Coalition of City Unions** (CCU) is hosting a BIG City Workers Rally for #RSPCT on Tues., Sep. 19 on the steps of Seattle City Hall (600 4th Ave)
- \* **Next newsletter** by 11/17/23. Please have anyone interested join or contact someone on the board for more information.
- \* Please share with us any upcoming events for your local

UPCOMING  
EVENTS

# Teamster Women Highlight!

## Meet Janita Stone

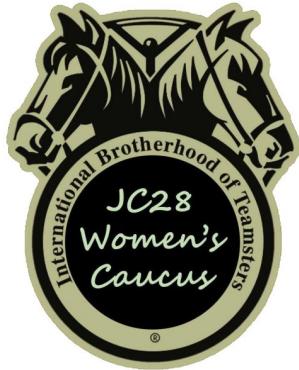
Janita is a UPS business agent with Local 174. She's been a Teamster for 21 years!

### Her Union Story and why she got more involved:

I started working for UPS in 1992. I was hired as a temp to cover a data entry job in night billing for a woman on maternity leave. Night billing was located on Gateway in Tukwila. I keyed in driver time cards (they were all handwritten then) and I keyed in NDA bills the drivers hand wrote on long legal size forms. There were other billing forms I keyed in also. There was a group of us doing data entry. When the woman came back from maternity leave my boss there hired me as a UPS employee. (This was before UPS went public and before DIAD came in!) So I stayed in the non-union, non-management job until sometime in July 2002. Then UPS decided to outsource all the billing and key entry. We were either offered severance packages or offered one of the non-union jobs out in the hubs and centers. I chose a revenue recovery job in the Tukwila Center. I soon switched to ODC which was the International Dept. then and I processed and keyed in International packages on the Local Sort. In the 2002 contract all of the non-union jobs like revenue recovery and ODC were made union jobs. I and one other woman who were UPS employees and not temps became union and were then in Local 174. Once I experienced how great the union job was I was thrilled. I worked Local Sort and became a Responder and a Clerk. I became a Saturday Air driver also. All this was because I was a Teamster now! Later on in 2006 when Rick Hicks and his slate campaigned for being in charge of Local 174 I got involved in fundraisers and promoting his campaign and I also started a 22.3 job in Pacific as a Preloader/Air Driver combination. Once Rick's slate won I went on to become a Shop Steward in Pacific Preload. My 22.3 position later turned into full time inside thanks to my ST and President of Local 174. (Rick Hicks and Ted Bunstine) I did that until I was fortunate to be offered the job of BA for Preloaders in Pacific, Port of Tacoma and Seattle buildings in May of 2021. I've been doing that since and I like working for the members and trying to solve problems, settle grievances and help them in any way I can.

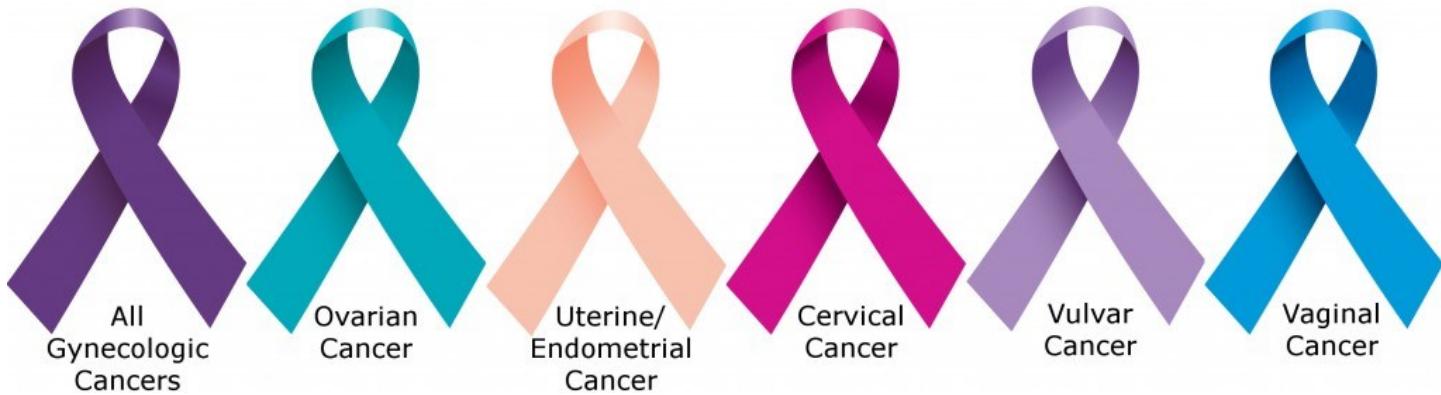
### What she would like to share with other Teamster Women:

Don't ever give up! Great things can and will happen for you. I am proof of that! Being a Teamster has made so many good things happen for me and they can happen for you also.



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Find us on Facebook  
New website coming soon!

The Joint Council 28 Teamsters Women's Caucus is dedicated to promoting the interests of its members and to unify the Women members of Washington Teamsters Local Unions through a provincial network. The Caucus wishes to encourage Women to get involved in social and union activities; to find strength in the diversity of our culture, race, and age so as to advance and strengthen our Union organization in the community, and in the labor movement; and to foster the opportunity for Teamsters women to participate and serve at all levels of the Union structure.



The American Cancer Society has 24/7 information, answers, support, and hope! Contact them at: 1-800-227-2345

[www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)

National Ovarian Cancer Coalition Information: 888-OVARIAN (888-682-7426) [www.ovarian.org](http://www.ovarian.org)

National Cancer Institute offers free information on cancer topics in English and Spanish. Get live help at 1-800-4-CANCER  
[www.cancer.gov](http://www.cancer.gov)

Each year, the month of September is both Gynecological Cancer Awareness and Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month to help educate people about these cancers to promote education, early detection, and support for those affected by them.

Gynecological cancers encompass a group of cancers that affect the female reproductive system, including ovarian, cervical, uterine (endometrial), vaginal, and vulvar cancers. These cancers can have a significant impact on health, and early detection is crucial for better treatment outcomes.

Ovarian cancer, in particular, is often called the "silent killer" because it can be difficult to detect in its early stages. Raising awareness about the symptoms and risk factors of ovarian cancer can help those with female reproductive systems to recognize the signs and seek medical attention promptly.

The TWC would like to emphasize the importance of regular screenings, early detection, risk reduction strategies, and support for individuals and families affected by these diseases.