DRIVE (Democrat – Republican- Independent - Voter –

Education)

DRIVE is the Teamsters political action fund (PAC) and the way our union is able to

support politicians that support workers. Our PAC fund was started in 1959 under

the leadership of James R. Hoffa.

Dues dollars cannot be used to support political candidates, that is why the DRIVE

fund was established. Money given to political candidates is voluntarily given by

our members into the PAC fund. Teamster members across the country

contribute as little as one dollar a week into DRIVE, some contribute as much as

twenty dollars a week. DRIVE contributions are the only way that we can support

Labor Friendly candidates.

The Department of Political and Legislative Action has ten representatives that

travel across the country talking to members and asking them to join DRIVE. It is

so important that members contribute to DRIVE. DRIVE contributions give us the

ability to elect labor friendly politicians who fight to pass laws that protect

workers. We have 1.4 million members across the country and about one

hundred thousand participate in DRIVE. That might sound like a lot but just

imagine if every Teamster contributed to our PAC fund. We could support so

many more labor friendly politicians that introduce and pass worker friendly

legislation. Things like:

• 40 hour work week

• Minimum wage

• Overtime

• Meal and breaks

• Vacation leave

• Holiday pay

• Jury duty leave

• Sick Leave

• Safe Working Conditions

• Fairness in the Workplace

Corporations spend a lot of money lobbying for laws that will help to build their

businesses without consideration of their workers. The Supreme Court ruled that

corporations are people, so they can spend as much as they would like on funding

political campaigns and they do. We have to remember that all the benefits we

have and enjoy today were fought for by the workers who came before us. Some

of these things are so commonplace that we forget they were fought for.

There was a time when workers didn’t get a lunch break, had no set work hours,

worked 12 hour shifts without overtime and were not even given a day off. It

doesn’t sound possible but it is true. It took an act of Congress for you to get a

day off of work. Laws also had to be enacted so that companies would not be

able to work little children. Yes. Child labor laws had to be passed by congress.

Things have change but we still have a long way to go. The federal minimum

wage has been $7.25 an hour since 2009. No one could live off of $7.25 an hour

in 2009 and nothing has changed.

These are some of the reasons that it’s so important for all of us to donate to

DRIVE. We have to keep fighting and DRIVE contributions help us to fight. We

have to elect political candidates that have workers in mind. It’s going to take all

of us to fight this fight!! We have to invest in our futures just like corporations

invest in theirs. Joining DRIVE is an investment into the welfare of our workplace

and our union. It allows us to have input into the laws that we have to work

under. Ask your Shop Steward or Business Agent to help you join today!