



DC Professional Taxicab Drivers Association Newsletter

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Volume I, Issue I

Fighting for our rights

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We congratulate president elect Barack Obama on the historic victory for the White House.

We believe that his movement has taught us that a well organize movement can achieve the impossible. So please let us ORGANIZE

ORGANIZE!!!
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Together we can achieve a lot more.

A moment of prayer

Before you start to read this newsletter, stop and close your eyes for a moment of silence for the two fellow cab drivers who were slain in the past two months. First, DCPTDA would like to apologize for the long period of lack of communication. The DCPTDA 's goal has always been that of serving the taxicab industry in the District of Columbia About a year ago, a long dream was being formulated to bring all drivers under one umbrella to have a driving force at each level of decision making throughout the district. However deception and mistrust were created by those with hidden agendas. A failed attempt to stop time and distance meters coupled with the government's bad policy making has left most industry members questing what's next. Finger pointing at this time is wasteful because all are to blame. But each and every cab driver needs to look into the mirror and ask themselves, "Did I really do my part."

The industry is under attack from the mayor, the city council and the DCTC to impoverish taxi drivers until they are no longer owner-operators but just operators of taxicabs. You have listened to all of the reasons why the government's mandate of the public policies for the taxicab industry was implemented. Now that all the major cities and jurisdictions have time

and distance meters, what is the difference? First, they all have limitations so that a fair return on the owners' investment happens. Second, most cabs are owned by cooperation with the taxicab drivers supplying the labor. Therefore the free entrepreneurial system in the district is on the verge of being over.

REGISTRATION FOR ID TEST

The DCTC has been registering people who completed the taxicab course at UDC to take the exam to attain their hack ID card. The dates to register were November 8, 2008 and November 15, 2008. There probably at least 2,000 more drivers coming into the industry.

FRANKLY SPEAKING

By Aklile Redie

DC Professional Taxicab Drivers Association Inc. (DCPTDA) is an association that can fulfill the vast majority of our (DC Cab Drivers) needs. This Newsletter is just one tiny piece of the work that could be done on consistent bases. As you and I know, there is always a cost behind any work that has to be done well. To produce even this little news letter you need an office, a person typing and setting it up, the use of a computer, Printer, ink for the printer electricity, bills, bills bills...you get the point. All these and all the other work that has to be done require money.

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STATE OF THE INDUSTRY

1. FFARES: During the early part of November 2008, the chairman of DCTC, Mr. Leon Swain, mention that he might have to revoke the one dollar gasoline surcharge because the drop in fuel cost coupled with complaints from supposed customers. In January 2008, the DCTC was supposed to review the rates to determine if the fares were sufficient. Instead six months later shared riding was dropped and the meter rates were set to the lowest of every major city.

2. ROBBERIES: Lately there has been a rash of robberies throughout the city against cab drivers and as we approach the Christmas Holidays, there is always an increase. The DCPTDA has always encouraged full professional service; however caution during this time is more important.



3. MURDER: The murder of District Cab #24 and Dial Cab #678 has shaken every driver in the industry. The question that should alarm every driver is that there wasn't any public response from any public official from the mayor, the chairman of public works and the chairperson of DCTC. DCPTDA feels that this is disrespect for the drivers.

4. HARASSMENT: Hack inspectors seem to have recreated the rules and regulations. Police powers which were not in place for the first twenty years of the DCTC are now being implemented without any change in the laws or rules and regulations. The unreasonable towing, removing tags and scraping inspection stickers off taxicabs by hack inspectors have flipped the civil and constitutional rights of taxicab drivers.

Speaking.... Continued from page 1

Many organizations have come and gone, but DCPTDA's commitment to Taxicab drivers of all nationality, ethnic group, religious affiliation or Cab Company has kept alive and strong. To make DCPTDA stronger and in its fight for our rights and produce the newsletter and other important productions, we need to support it both in financially volunteer work. Please feel out the membership forms and join in the struggle for our rights. Come to the office and give your ideas and other support that you can give. You can also call the office at (202) 832-3002 or go to our website www.dcptda.org and give us your idea. Together we can move mountains.

We have seen the frequent attempts to introduce changes and reforms in the taxicab Industry in Washington DC. In most of these attempts the DC Taxicab Drivers, the major stake holders of the industry, were never consulted or represented at any level. We can change all that. If we were united behind one organization, the City administration and the mayor will have no other choice but to deal with us. We can achieve that by simply joining DCPTDA and become actively involved in the process. Join, get involved, bring in new suggestions, be part of the process in bringing change to the terrible condition we DC Cab drivers find ourselves in.

YOUR IDEAS

We would like to hear your ideas comments and suggestions as to how we can serve you better. If you have articles you want us to include in the newsletter, please mail it to us or bring to the office. Remember we can only succeed if we work together.