



Puget Sound Taxi Driver **FORE** TIMES

April 2012

News for the Western Washington Taxi Cab Operator Association (WWTCA) - Teamsters Local 117

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TAXIS VICTORIOUS!

Airport drivers win reversal of unfair limo policy



By standing together and getting organized, Yellow Taxi cab drivers achieve win at Sea-Tac Airport.

For taxi drivers at Sea-Tac Airport, standing together with Teamsters Local 117 and speaking with one voice is starting to yield results.

Members of the WWTCA, the newly-formed Puget Sound taxi drivers' association, have joined with the Teamsters Union to regain valuable curb space that was taken away by the Port of Seattle and given to the Stila Limousine company.

AN ABRUPT CHANGE IN POLICY

Taxi drivers lost the space in mid-April when the Port unexpectedly began allowing Stila limos to service customers in an area that is traditionally reserved for taxis.

For taxis, the new arrangement had a disastrous effect: Yellow cab operators at the airport were losing one run a day on average, or roughly 20 percent of their business.

Members of the WWTCA voiced their concerns to Port officials, but to no

avail; two weeks later, the Port had failed to take action to reverse the policy.

THE POWER OF UNITY

At that point, drivers, who were losing hundreds of dollars a week, realized that the only way to get the Port's attention was through collective action.

"We all came together and decided to fight back," said Gurdip Singh, a driver for Yellow Taxi. The group resolved to shut down taxi service from the airport to downtown hotels if the Port did not reverse the policy.

The threat of a taxi strike, communicated to Port officials by the Teamsters Union, was enough to win an immediate reversal of the policy.

Because taxi drivers took a stand together, limos are no longer permitted to park in the additional spaces at the arrivals terminal.

"This is a great victory for all taxi drivers. We showed the Port that when we stand together and speak with one voice, we will be respected," Singh said.

The next step, taxi drivers say, is to pressure Ground Transportation and the City of Seattle to do more to enforce the rules that prohibit limos and flat rate cars from illegally soliciting business downtown and at the airport.



Workers at Farwest, Orange, Stita, and Yellow have formed a new taxi drivers' association - the WWTCA.

UNITED WE STAND!

Taxi drivers join forces to form new association - the WWTCA

Taxi drivers across western Washington are starting to stand up and speak out together.

For years, cab drivers have been subjected to unfair rules, regulations, and policies set up and enforced by the Port of Seattle and other public and private entities.

Now the drivers are getting organized and demanding respect.

In the last few months, over 500 drivers at four companies – Farwest, Orange, Stita, and Yellow – have joined a new association with Teamsters Local 117 to build power and gain a voice in the workplace.

With the the Teamsters Union, taxi drivers have formed the Western Washington Taxi Cab Operator Association (WWTCA).

Members of the WWTCA are

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determined to combat the rigged system that pits driver against driver, creates hazardous working conditions, and funnels thousands of dollars a month out of the pockets of hardworking cab operators.

"Taxi drivers in western Washington face many challenges. All of us need to band together and speak with one voice so that we are respected by the port authority and downtown," said Avtar Singh Sokhey, a driver with Farwest Taxi.

The WWTCA aims to educate the public about the essential service that taxi drivers provide to our communities, and it recognizes the drivers' role in supporting a tourist industry that brings millions of dollars into the greater-Seattle area each year.

The WWTCA has eight objectives:

- ✓ **Protecting the rights of taxi drivers**
- ✓ **Building unity among members**
- ✓ **Promoting safety**
- ✓ **Raising standards**
- ✓ **Improving service**
- ✓ **Member advocacy**
- ✓ **Public education**
- ✓ **Growing our print and online communications**

To join the WWTCA, contact Thom McKibbin at 202-439-7125 or at tmckibbin@teamster.org. You can also contact Teamsters Local 117 at 206-441-4860 or at leonard.smith@teamsters117.org.

PORT WORKERS UNITE AND CELEBRATE

Join us as we march for good jobs for all workers at the Port of Seattle



Taxis are the bridge between all workers at the Port of Seattle.

On April 28, taxi drivers and their community partners will gather together at Sea-Tac Airport to celebrate this new movement and to fight for a future with good jobs.

Taxi drivers will lead a march down International Boulevard through the heart of the Seatac neighborhood. The march will end with a rally in the park to celebrate worker unity, with music and fun.

Taxi drivers are leaders of a new, historic movement at the Port of Seattle.

Together with hundreds of other, poverty-wage workers at the Port, they are demanding respect and a voice at work.

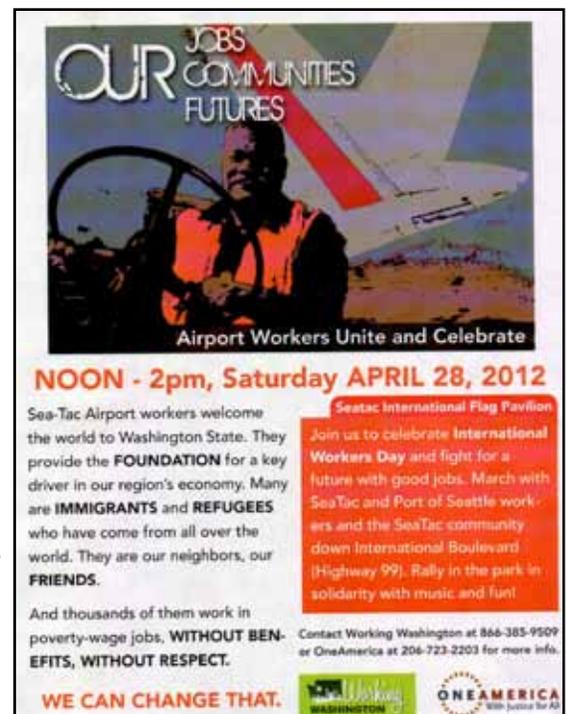
Taxi drivers are standing together with baggage handlers, skycaps, concession workers, janitors, and wheelchair pushers at the airport who are struggling to support their families in jobs with poor pay and no benefits. They are united with truck drivers at the seaport who work for near minimum wage to deliver the goods that drive our economy.

RALLY FOR GOOD JOBS ON APRIL 28!

Taxi drivers are the bridge that connects all workers at the Port. They are fighting the same fight and working under the same broken system of outdated rules and policies that benefit the wealthiest 1 percent and discourage workers from joining a union.

Please join us to kick off this historic new movement to bring good jobs to taxi drivers and all workers at the Port of Seattle.

We will be meeting at 12 noon at the Sea-Tac International Flag Pavilion across from the Radisson hotel. Contact Thom McKibbin at 202-439-7125 for more information.



OUR JOBS COMMUNITIES FUTURES

Airport Workers Unite and Celebrate

NOON - 2pm, Saturday APRIL 28, 2012

Sea-Tac Airport workers welcome the world to Washington State. They provide the **FOUNDATION** for a key driver in our region's economy. Many are **IMMIGRANTS** and **REFUGEES** who have come from all over the world. They are our neighbors, our **FRIENDS**.

And thousands of them work in poverty-wage jobs. **WITHOUT BENEFITS, WITHOUT RESPECT.**

WE CAN CHANGE THAT.

Seatac International Flag Pavilion

Join us to celebrate **International Workers Day** and fight for a future with good jobs. March with Sea-Tac and Port of Seattle workers and the Sea-Tac community down International Boulevard (Highway 99). Rally in the park in solidarity with music and fun!

Contact Working Washington at 866-385-9509 or OneAmerica at 206-723-2203 for more info.

ONE AMERICA We Justice for

Download an electronic copy of the FARE TIMES at www.teamsters117.org.