



Teamster Talk



Members of Teamsters Local 117

Teamsters Local 117: 14675 Interurban Ave. S, Suite 307 • Tukwila, WA 98168 (206) 441-4860 • www.teamsters117.org

Now Accepting Applications!

Stewards hone bargaining skills at annual seminar

**Teamsters Local 117
Jeff Alfieri Scholarship**

Teamsters Local 117 is now accepting applications for the 2010 Jeff Alfieri Scholarship.



The Local 117 Jeff Alfieri Scholarship of up to \$2000 is awarded to outstanding high school seniors whose parents are members of Teamsters Local 117.

For a scholarship application and eligibility requirements, visit the Local 117 website at www.teamsters117.org.

The application must arrive to the Teamsters Local 117 office by no later than April 30, 2010.

Last year's recipients of the award were Abbie Smith, Taylor Church, and Lydia Duncan.

On Saturday, March 6, 250 Shop Stewards gathered at the Washington State Convention Center for the 22nd annual Teamsters Local 117 Shop Stewards' Seminar and Appreciation Day.

The event kicked off with a welcome from newly-elected King County Executive, Dow Constantine, followed by a look at the history of the Local presented by Director of Organizing and Strategic Initiatives, Leonard Smith.

After looking back, Secretary-Treasurer, Tracey A. Thompson, took the Stewards into the future. "Our number one priority as a Union must be to increase the involvement of the members," Thompson said. "Only by increasing membership involvement will we continue to grow and build strong contracts."

There are two essential ingredients

for encouraging member involvement, Thompson noted. Those are: 1) developing leaders and 2) welcoming new members into the Union. Thompson cited the *Teamsters for Tomorrow* leadership summit

held last November and the Steward Advisory Council as examples of building leadership and said that the new member orientation meetings due to start this spring would help welcome new members into their Union.



Other Local 117 priorities include expanding Union visibility, organizing both internally and externally, dues enforcement, staff development, and Teamsters coordination.

Stewards were joined by two International Union Vice Presidents, Al Hobart and Rome Aloise, who told the assembled Stewards that Local 117 is the best Local in the Union in terms of the strength of its leadership, member involvement,

A message from your Secretary-Treasurer



Brothers and Sisters:

Teamsters Local 117 is such a powerful Union largely due to its network of Shop Stewards. Local 117's Shop Stewards are the Union's foot soldiers, carrying our message to their co-workers. They are on the front lines, battling to ensure that our collective

bargaining agreements are honored. Our Shop Stewards file grievances, investigate grievances, participate in grievance and investigatory meetings, and assist the Union in contract negotiations. Much of this work is done on the Stewards' own time.

Outside of work, our Shop Stewards are active in their communities and involved in local labor councils. They coordinate and participate in community organizations, and they engage in collective action and political action.

Every year, Local 117 holds an Annual Shop Steward Training and Appreciation Day to honor and educate our Shop Stewards. Attendance this year was close to an all time high, which further demonstrates the commitment of our Stewards to their Union given that the Seminar was held on a sunny Saturday.

Please take a moment to thank the Shop Stewards at your workplace for all they do for you and for your Union.

In Solidarity,

Tracey A. Thompson
Secretary-Treasurer

Stewards' Seminar

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and representation.

Teamsters Local 117 Executive Board member and former Secretary-Treasurer, John Williams, was also on hand. Williams recently replaced Al Hobart as the new President of Teamsters Joint Council 28, the parent body of twelve Teamsters Locals representing 56,000 members across Washington and Alaska.

The theme of this year's seminar was collective bargaining. General Counsel and veteran negotiator, Spencer Thal, shared his insight into specific strategies and tactics that can be used at the table to help bargain a stronger agreement.

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In the first of two 45-minute break-outs that followed, Organizer, Brenda Wiest, led the Stewards in a session on internal organizing and building power in the workplace. In the second breakout and to the entertainment of all, Local 117 staff performed two skits, one for members in the public sector and one for members in the private sector. The skits simulated the many challenges that the Union faces in bargaining. Business Representative, John Scearcy, and Staff Attorney, James V. Smith II, moderated the lively debate that broke out during the skits.

The event ended with a lunchtime talk from Seattle Times financial journalist, Jon Talton. Each of the Shop Stewards walked away with a Teamsters Local 117 duffel bag as a thank you for the tremendous work they do in making Local 117 a first-rate Union that is committed to protecting and expanding the rights of working families.

Register Now!

TFT Bowl-a-thon

Come bowl for a cause with the Teamsters for Tomorrow!

The Teamsters for Tomorrow are sponsoring a Bowl-a-thon event to benefit the Teamsters Local 117 Jeff Alfieri Scholarship. The event will take place on Saturday, April 3, from 6-10pm at Bowlero in Tacoma (3852 Steilacoom Blvd. Tacoma, WA 98499). All members of Teamsters Local 117 and their families are welcome.

If you pre-register, the cost for the event is \$18 for members/\$8 for guests - pay at the door; if you don't pre-register, the cost is \$20 for members/\$10 for guests. Children 18 and under are free. Price includes bowling, shoe rental, and food and soda. *Important: This is a cash only event (there is an ATM at the venue).*

To register, go to the Local 117 website at www.teamsters117.org and click on Teamsters for Tomorrow.



The flyer features a bowling ball and pins, a Teamsters Local 117 logo, and a starburst indicating the date and time. Text on the flyer includes: "Teamsters for Tomorrow BOWL-a-THON", "All members of Teamsters Local 117 and their families are welcome", "@ Bowlero in Tacoma 3852 Steilacoom Blvd. Tacoma, WA 98499", "Event to benefit the Teamsters Local 117 Jeff Alfieri Scholarship.", "Saturday, April 3 6-10pm", "Includes bowling, shoe rental, food and soda. No additional price to go to the Local 117 Jeff Alfieri Scholarship. \$18 cash only - pay at the door.", "For \$10 include 117 membership, 1/2 pizza, 1/2 beverage, shoe rental, and more! Bring \$1 to help to buy soft rollers.", "To get the reduced rate (\$18 for members/\$8 for guests), you must pre-register. To pre-register, go to www.teamsters117.org or call 206-441-4860 ext. 1222."



3rd and Lander Teamsters poised for possible strike

Workers at Republic Services' 3rd and Lander transfer station in downtown Seattle voted to authorize a strike on February 2 in an effort to protect their pension. A strike at the SODO district facility would have a ripple effect on recycling and sanitation services throughout the Puget Sound. The 13 workers at the facility deal with solid waste and recycling materials that are delivered from all over the city.

"These workers know an assault on their pension when they see it and they are ready to defend themselves," said Local 117 Secretary-Treasurer, Tracey A. Thompson. "This is not just about the 13 workers in this facility. The retirement security of all workers in the solid waste and recycling industries is at stake."

Approximately 750 workers from

two Teamsters Locals – Local 117 and Local 174 – in King County alone bring waste and recycling deliveries to the Republic-owned facility. "A strike at 3rd and Lander would likely exacerbate dangerous working conditions at the facility and it would cause waste and recycling drivers throughout the area to deposit their cargo at other locations," Thompson said.

Republic issued its Last, Best, and Final offer to its employees at the 3rd and Lander facility on January 27. Given the company's insistence on contract language that could significantly erode the workers' pensions, the Union rejected the offer outright.

If you are interested in joining Teamsters Local 117's strike support team, contact Organizer Brenda Wiest at 206-441-4860 ext. 1256.

Union to file lawsuit over denial of CBA and Personal Holidays at AHCC

Your Local Union is engaged in an ongoing dispute with the Department of Corrections over the application of an arbitration decision out of the Airway Heights Corrections Center (AHCC) over their denial of both CBA days and personal holidays. Since losing the arbitration, DOC has instituted an even more egregious

practice and refused to honor their obligation to bargain any changes that involve a mandatory subject of bargaining.

Your Union has filed a grievance over the new denials and is in the process of filing a lawsuit in Superior Court to enforce the arbitrator's decision in the earlier case out of AHCC. The

lawsuit should be filed by Friday, March 19 and will cover all DOC institutions statewide.

Be sure to monitor your Local Union's website for updates and any new developments in the case.



Teamsters Local 117

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Mar. 18 – Membership Meeting

April 3 - TFT Bowl-a-thon

April 17 - Latino Forum

Sign up online to receive an electronic copy of Teamster Talk at www.teamsters117.org.