



Teamster Talk



Members of Teamsters Local 117

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Local 117 honored for volunteerism

Union wins back-to-back community service awards

Members of Teamsters Local 117 pride themselves in giving back to their communities. Union members coach little league softball, run tutoring programs at local high schools, volunteer at soup kitchens, and participate in countless other activities that help build stronger, more vibrant communities.

Until now, Local 117's community service had gone on with little notice. Secretary-Treasurer Tracey A. Thompson was determined to change all of that.

At the start of her tenure as ST, Thompson announced that the Union would place a greater emphasis on community

volunteerism. The Local created a community sponsorship program, began to recruit more actively for community events, and pledged to participate in neighborhood revitalization projects.

In just one year since Thompson launched her initiative in 2009, the Union's commitment to community service has already made a tremendous impact on the lives of working people across our region.

Local 117 has donated thousands of pounds of food to area food banks and over a hundred pints of blood to area blood banks. Last summer, Union volunteers painted the home of 80-year-old Lorraine Gregg as part

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A message from your Secretary-Treasurer



Brothers and Sisters:

During the past few months, we have experienced the incredible power of solidarity.

In April, your Union stood in solidarity with our Local 174 brothers and sisters during a

36-hour strike against Waste Management, a billion dollar company. Local 174 represents the garbage collectors in the waste industry, and we represent the recyclers. When Waste Management refused to bargain in good faith with Local 174 and 174 called an unfair labor practice strike, one hundred percent of Local 117's recyclers honored the picket line. It was this demonstration of solidarity that forced Waste Management back to the bargaining table and ultimately to a fair contract settlement.

In May, Local 117 stood in solidarity with our immigrant brothers and sisters to rally for immigration reform and justice for all workers. Local 117 staff and 60 members led a May Day parade of tens of thousands of marchers to Memorial Stadium, letting employers know that we will fight for justice and equality for all workers.

It is our solidarity that gives us strength and the leverage to improve the lives of all working families.

In Solidarity,

Tracey A. Thompson
Secretary-Treasurer

Community awards

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of the *Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful* program. Over the holidays, Teamster for Tomorrow volunteers at Local 117 provided hundreds of toys to laid-off Union members.

People have begun to take note. In March 2010, Local 117 Organizer, Brenda Wiest, received the *Silver Spoon Award* for coordinating Local 117 member involvement in the South Sound Workers' Food Drive. The Union's efforts in the Drive yielded 90,000 lbs of food for families in need across Pierce County. Wiest was awarded the prize at an honorary breakfast at the University of Puget Sound on March 17.

Just eight weeks later, the Local was honored again with another distinction - Tacoma's *City of Destiny Award* - for its outstanding volunteerism in Pierce County.

In a ceremony at Stadium High School for award winners on May 11, Wiest spoke on behalf the Union. "I am honored to be a part of a Union whose members care deeply about their communities and are willing to devote their time and energy to making their communities a better place to live," she said.

On stage with Wiest to receive the award were Local 117 members Gwen Crittendon, Brian Blaisdell, Russ Carver, James Smith, retiree Bob Francis, Dues Office Staff Amy Geltz, and Secretary-Treasurer Thompson.

Smith, a Local 117 member at Alan Ritchey, was featured in a short video about the Union's volunteer work that aired at the event and will be shown on public television in Tacoma, and again at the June membership meeting.

Congratulations to all of the members of Teamsters Local 117 on winning both the *Silver Spoon* and *City of Destiny* awards and for the incredible work you do every day to build stronger communities and lend a helping hand when your friends and neighbors are in need.

NO ON 1082

Stop corporatocracies from taking over our workers' comp system!

Corporate interests are hard at work in Washington State attempting to privatize Washington's workers' compensation system. Right now, Washington pays out the 3rd highest benefits to injured workers while our State's costs are the 5th lowest in the country.

Although far from perfect, it is clear that our system in Washington State protects workers who are injured on the job and prevents them from falling prey to profit-greedy insurance companies.

The Building Industry Association of Washington (BIAW) and its corporate bedfellows are scheming to change all of that. With the help of insurance behemoths like AIG, the BIAW is busy collecting signatures for a ballot initiative (Initiative-1082) that, if approved by voters, would allow out-of-state insurance companies to game the system in ways that would likely lead to wrongful denials or delays of benefits when a worker gets hurt on the job.

Don't let corporate interests corrupt Washington's State's workers' comp. system! Don't sign the petition that would put Initiative 1082 on the ballot this fall!



Teamster unity seals 5-year pact with Waste Management

In a remarkable display of solidarity, determination, and strength, Teamsters Local 117 and Local 174 succeeded in achieving a collective bargaining agreement for sanitation workers at Waste Management that provides wage increases and secures health care protections for workers and their families over the next five years.

Sanitation workers approved the agreement with a 96% vote on Sunday, May 2. The accord will have a lasting impact for Teamsters in the solid waste industry in our region, not only for Local 174 garbage haulers who are covered under the new agreement, but for Local 117 yard waste and recycling drivers whose contract will expire in 2012.

Undivided support from Teamsters Local 117 members, along with strong support from fellow labor organizations, environmental groups, faith-based groups and the community

at large, was instrumental in achieving the new agreement. Local 174 pledged the same level of unwavering solidarity for Local 117 members when their contract expires and contract negotiations with Waste Management commence again in two years.

Teamsters at Waste Management went out on a two-day unfair-labor-practice strike on April 21-22 in an effort to combat the company's illegal bargaining tactics. During the strike, not a single member of the Union, including 350 members of Local 117, crossed the picket line.

"I want to thank all of the Teamsters at Local 117 and the community at large for supporting the Local 174 drivers in their effort to win a fair contract," said Tracey A. Thompson, Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 117. "Your commitment and solidarity were awesome."

King County Teamsters: Want to get involved?

Sign up for the political action and communications committees

Are you a Local 117 member at King County and looking for ways to get involved in upcoming labor negotiations?

Sign up to become a member of your Local Union's Political Action and Communications committees.

On the communications side, responsibilities include joining a "speakers' bureau" that will field interviews with reporters, speak

out at community meetings, and organize press events.

On the political front, members will engage in lobbying visits, petition drives, labor-neighbor doorbelling, voter registration, and letter and email writing campaigns.

For more information, talk to your Business Representative or visit your Local Union's website at www.teamsters117.org.

CONNECT
with LOCAL117

Want to stay connected with your Local Union?

Become a registered member of the Local 117 website at www.teamsters117.org and you will receive action alerts and your Union e-newsletter, *Teamster Talk*.

Meet other labor enthusiasts by joining the Local 117 Facebook group page or follow Local 117 on Twitter.



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

June 17 – Membership Meeting

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