



Teamsters South Sound

Members of Teamsters Local 117



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TEAMSTERS FIGHT ATTACKS ON MUNICIPAL REVENUE STREAMS

Revenue-slicing bills beaten back



Members of Teamsters Local 117 lobby in Olympia to protect jobs.

Good news out of Olympia! Two bills that would have resulted in budget cuts and the loss of jobs for county and municipal employees are dead in the water.

Both HB 2146, which would have cut revenue to counties and cities by reducing the streamline sales tax mitigation, and HB 2490, which would have drained city coffers by centralizing B & O tax collection, failed to move out of the State Legislature.

LOCAL 117 POLITICAL ACTION TEAM

The Local 117 political action team of Lobbyist Teresita Torres and Political Action Coordinator Lily Wilson-Codega

fought hard to kill the two bills: They met with legislators, organized lobby days, and orchestrated letter-writing campaigns.

Lily and Teresita would not have been successful, however, without your help. This legislative session, Local 117 members rallied in defense of public employees. They emailed, called, and lobbied their representatives to save public sector jobs and defend the attacks on municipal revenue streams.

Public-sector members were joined in the effort by Local 117 members in the private-sector and at the Department of Corrections.

THE FIGHT IS FAR FROM OVER

The attacks on workers will undoubtedly continue next session. HB 2146, for example, has retained its status in the House Ways & Means Committee and will likely be reintroduced next year.

But for now we can celebrate our collective victory with the defeat of these two regressive bills!

For more information about how you can get involved in staving off attacks on public-sector employees, contact Lily Wilson-Codega at 206-794-2606.



LOCAL 117 MARCHES FOR GOOD JOBS

Public-sector bus drivers fight for wages, seniority rights

Teamsters 117 marched alongside hundreds of workers on Saturday, April 28 to denounce poverty-wage jobs at Sea-Tac Airport.

Local 117 joined skycaps, janitors, cabin cleaners, fuelers, wheelchair pushers, baggage handlers, bus drivers, and taxi drivers, who are disrespected, underappreciated, and underpaid.

"The Port of Seattle is not doing enough to ensure that all workers at our airport are treated with dignity and respect," said Local 117 Secretary-Treasurer Tracey A. Thompson.

Workers strode down International Boulevard, carrying balloons and waving flags. As they marched, they chanted,

FIGHT THE ATTACKS ON PUBLIC EMPLOYEES!

4 fun ways to fight back!

Public employees across the country are under attack. Last year, corporate-backed politicians in Wisconsin attacked workers' collective bargaining rights. Recently, the State Legislature in Indiana passed "right to work FOR LESS" legislation in an effort to cripple unions.

Don't think it can't happen here! Every year, legislators right here in Washington State introduce the same anti-union bills.

As union members, we often hear that it's "time to fight back," but what steps can we take to protect the rights, wages, and benefits of working people?

Here are four concrete steps you can take to fight back:

1. REGISTER TO VOTE: Support working family candidates through the ballot box. Click on the "Register to Vote" button on your Union's website at www.teamsters117.org and get registered!

2. JOIN YOUR LOCAL UNION'S PIERCE

COUNTY PAC: Fight alongside fellow Local 117 members in support of issues that matter to Teamsters - issues like jobs, public safety, protections for injured workers, and health care and retirement security. Contact Political Action Coordinator Lily Wilson-Codega at 206-794-2606 for more info.

3. CONTRIBUTE TO DRIVE: Take a stand for the middle class by contributing to DRIVE - the Teamsters' political action committee. DRIVE funds campaigns to fight for the rights of Union members to bargain together at work for better pay, benefits, and retirement. DRIVE is non-partisan and independent from any political party.

4. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Respond to anti-union and anti-public employee rhetoric in the media. (See *Secretary-Treasurer Thompson's letter recently published in the Seattle Times.*)

If all of us as public employees can take at least two steps on this list, it will go a long way to turning the anti-worker tide!

GOOD JOBS

Cont. from page 1

"Listen Port Authority, we are the majority!" and "Corporate airlines, workers are your lifelines!"

The event was part of a broader effort by local unions to improve working conditions at the airport for both private and public sector employees.

In early May, 65 airport bus drivers, employed by the Port of Seattle, took a major step toward gaining a voice at work by becoming members of Teamsters 117.

MARCH FOR FAMILY WAGES & BENEFITS

The drivers joined the Teamsters because they wanted family wages and basic seniority rights, said driver Jason Tepper.

"We were insulted to see that other divisions were earning more than we were and that we didn't have a defined seniority system in place. I was a Teamster for eight years before this, so I was happy to spread the word about the importance of being represented," he said.

For other public employees thinking about joining a union, Tepper has some advice: "Don't be intimidated, don't be afraid. Take the chance - it's well worth it!"



Tracey A. Thompson

PUBLISHED IN THE SEATTLE TIMES ON MAY 1, 2012

Misrepresented reality

The editorial "State employee contracts must reflect reset economy," [Opinion, April 29] completely misrepresents the reality of state employee compensation.

The compensation starting point for most state employees is significantly lower than for their private-sector counterparts. Some state employees earn as much as 40 percent less than those performing comparable work in the private sector.

In six out of the past 10 years, state employees have either received no general wage increase or have had their wages reduced through legislatively imposed furloughs and across-the-board reductions. Over this same 10-year period, the cost of living has increased by an annual average of more than 2.4 percent.

Many state employees already earn poverty wages and are eligible for food stamps and state-subsidized health care. Further eroding state employee compensation will only expedite the exodus of qualified, skilled workers from state employment, which in turn will result in reduced revenues.

Rather than undermining state employee collective-bargaining rights, the Legislature should do some hard bargaining to close tax loopholes that cost the state billions of dollars in revenue. Or maybe a total overhaul of our tax system. That hasn't been done since the Great Depression.

— Tracey A. Thompson, Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 117

TEAMSTER BILLIE O'BRIEN IS OFF AND RUNNING

O'Brien has an eye on Assessor-Treasurer position



Billie O'Brien

She's a Teamster.

"I've been a Teamster since 1990. Having been a Teamster for so long gives me a deep appreciation of the Union," she says.

O'Brien brings 21 years of experience to the agency that assesses the value of county property; she worked as an accredited residential appraiser for over ten years.

"I believe it is time the residents of Pierce County were given the option to choose someone with the practical experience that will provide common sense leadership to this office," she said.

LOCAL 117 CANDIDATE SEMINAR

To prepare for the upcoming campaign,

With six candidates in this year's race for Pierce County Assessor-Treasurer, it's a crowded field. But there's a compelling distinction that separates Billie O'Brien from her competition:

O'Brien attended a seminar for Local 117 members who are running for political office or considering candidacy, held at the Teamsters Union on April 28.

The event, organized by Local 117's Legislative Affairs Department, provided prospective candidates with the nuts and bolts of running a successful campaign as well as the fundamentals for implementing pro-worker policy as an elected official.

"It was a great opportunity to meet other people who are in the same position that I'm in," O'Brien said.

RECALL DALE WASHAM CAMPAIGN

Also attending the Teamster seminar was Robin Farris, a former naval officer who spearheaded the Recall Washam campaign.

Dale Washam, you will recall, is Pierce County's current Assessor-Treasurer who, during his vindictive, anti-worker reign, has invited the scorn of this Union, among many others.

For incessant bullying of Teamsters, Washam incited a 154-page unfair labor

practice complaint filed by Local 117's legal department in 2009.

Although Farris and her supporters fell a few signatures shy of forcing a recall vote last year, her effort drew considerable attention to Washam's antics. It also led to a unanimous Pierce County Council Resolution (no. R2012-22) requesting Washam's voluntary resignation.

Farris along with Local 117's Political Action Coordinator Lily Wilson-Codega publicly testified in support of the resolution, but to no avail: Washam has declared his candidacy for a second term.

With Washam rejecting the Council's sage advice, the best chance to unseat him and put an end to worker intimidation at the Assessor-Treasurer's office may very well lie with Teamster O'Brien.

Whoever ultimately steps into the office, it is our hope that the new Assessor-Treasurer will restore respect of workers' rights to the position and ensure fair, accurate, and uniform assessments for the residents of Pierce County.



Organizing Report!

Auburn probation officers join Teamsters 117

Probation Officers and Assistants at the City of Auburn have elected to gain a voice in their workplace by organizing with Teamsters Local 117. PERC certified Local 117 as the group's exclusive bargaining representative on May 8.

The new 8-member group helps preserve public safety by providing counseling to probationers and by ensuring that probationers are complying with their court orders.

CONCERNS OVER JOB SECURITY

Initially, the group contacted Local 117 because they were concerned that they would be outsourced to King County and possibly lose positions in the process.

According to four-year officer Ed Whalen, if outsourcing was inevitable, the group "wanted representation at the table so that our best interests are being communicated and asserted."

Whalen says the group is happy with the support it has received so far. "The Teamsters have gone above and beyond my expectations. We feel like we're getting a lot of support."

The new members in Auburn will become part of Local 117's Corrections & Law Enforcement Division with Rich Groff as their Business Representative.

Please join us in welcoming them to Teamsters Local 117!

PAINTING THE TOWN: TEAMSTERS HELP SPRUCE UP TACOMA-PIERCE

Join Local 117 members as we Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful!



Local 117 volunteers celebrate the finished product:

For three years running now, Teamsters 117 has added a glossy new luster to Tacoma neighborhoods.

Through the Union's participation in Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful, dozens of Local 117 members have volunteered their time to paint the homes of low-income seniors.

"It makes me feel like I'm doing something important for the community," said Gwen Crittendon, a Local 117 member living in Pierce County who has donated her time to the project.

Local 117 organizes member and staff work crews over two consecutive weekends in August. The prep team starts the job by pressuring washing, scraping, sanding, caulking, and applying primer to the bare wood surfaces. On the

following weekend, the painting team coats the house in paint.

It's hard, physical work, but extremely rewarding: All of the recipients of Local 117's labor have been effusive with praise.

"I can hardly express my gratitude to the Teamsters. The house looks beautiful," said 80-year-old Lorraine Gregg, a former choir

director at the University of Puget Sound who had her house painted by Local 117 in 2009.

117 IS LOOKING FOR HOUSE PAINTERS!

Local 117 is looking for volunteers to help with this year's project! If you have experience as a house painter or just want to spend a fun weekend with fellow union members giving back to their community, contact Organizer Brenda Wiest at 206-441-4860 for more information.

Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful is a program of Associated Ministries, the local association of churches whose mission is to build community that is humane, compassionate, and just.

During the summer of 2010, 97 groups, and more than 1,600 volunteers painted 87 homes.

Candidates on Parade!

Pierce County Candidates' Forum: Thursday, June 7

The sheer number of positions and local candidates



vying for political office can be confusing to say the least.

With the array of school board, commissioner, and council member wannabes on the ballot – who hasn't at one point or another errantly flipped through their voter guide on election's eve, trying to catch a tiger by the toe?

There's a better way. Come join Local 117 for a Pierce County Political Forum, where you will have an opportunity to see candidates squirm, duck and dodge the answer to your questions.

Get to know firsthand who will pledge to fully fund your retirement, preserve your collective bargaining rights, protect your wages and working conditions, and carry a picket sign if your fellow Local 117 Brothers and Sisters go on strike.

The event will take place on Thursday, June 7 at the Teamsters 313 Union hall in Tacoma (220 S. 27th St.) For more information, contact Political Action Coordinator Lily Wilson-Codega at 206-794-2606.

LOCAL 117 EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

June 7, 2012 - Pierce County Political Forum

June 21, 2012 - General Membership Meeting

FOLLOW YOUR LOCAL UNION ON THE WEB!



Join your Union's Facebook page, follow us on Twitter @teamsters117 and watch Local 117 videos on YouTube!

For more Teamsters news, visit the Local 117 website at www.teamsters117.org. Connect with other Local 117 members on Facebook or follow your Union on Twitter at @teamsters117!