



Teamsters Local 117

Teamster Talk

Fighting for Workers' Rights Since 1936

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

MASS LAYOFFS FORCE STRIKE AT DAVIS WIRE

Retaliatory layoffs lead to strike at Kent Wire Mill



Workers at Davis Wire went out on an Unfair Labor Practice strike on May 21.

Local 117 members at the Davis Wire mill in Kent went on strike on May 21 in response to mass layoffs and other unlawful actions by the company.

The company laid off 27 employees on May 15 – nearly a third of its unionized workforce – just three days after workers overwhelmingly voted to strike.

"I have no doubt that these layoffs are retaliatory in nature. For Davis Wire to purposely destroy workers' livelihoods and eliminate local manufacturing jobs in an economy that is struggling to recover is unconscionable," said Local 117 Secretary-Treasurer Tracey A. Thompson.

According to Thompson, Davis Wire threatened to move work out of state and close down the Kent facility unless the

Union agreed to the company's terms in bargaining.

11 VIOLATIONS OF FEDERAL LAW

Local 117 has filed Unfair Labor Practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) alleging that the layoffs represent a violation of federal labor law. Since April, the company has been accused of eleven additional violations of the law, including bad faith bargaining, worker surveillance, worker intimidation, and illegal threats to shut down the facility in Kent.

In addition to the Unfair Labor Practice charges, workers have joined a class-action lawsuit accusing their employer of denying them the right to take rest and meal breaks and working employees

without paying them over a three year period.

SWEATSHOP CONDITIONS, NO BREAKS

The complaint, which was filed in King County Superior Court on April 30, describes sweatshop-like conditions, in which employees were pressured to work 12-hour shifts without a break and eat lunch at their work stations while operating dangerous machinery.

"This is a dangerous place and there have been serious accidents here – wire punctures, forklift accidents, and several missing fingers," said machine operator Robert Bruner, one of the employees party to the suit. "When people aren't allowed to take their breaks, workers pay the price."

Strike Support!

117 members needed!



Teamsters on strike at Davis Wire need your support! Davis Wire has:

- Violated federal and state law by denying breaks and working employees off the clock.**
- Threatened Union members with plant closures.**
- Intimidated workers with bogus layoff notices.**
- Spied on workers who stand up for their rights.**
- Unjustly terminated a Union employee and then refused to abide by an arbitrator's decision to reinstate the worker.**

Contact your Local Union at 206-441-4860 to find out how you can help!

A message from your Secretary-Treasurer



Teamsters Local 117:

Since May 21, our Davis Wire members have refused their labor. They have refused to bow to an exploitive and unjust employer. These men have worked together

in an oppressive environment, and now they stand together as co-workers, husbands, sons and fathers, demanding that their employer recognize and honor their dignity as men.

The courage and conviction of our Davis Wire members and their families should inspire every working person in our country.

Workers across America are increasingly overworked, undervalued and put in harm's way. Every worker worries about their family and their future. Employers like Davis Wire, however, don't care about their workers and their families – they care only about their own profits.

It is time for American workers to stand up, like our Davis Wire members have stood up, and say, "Enough is enough!"

There is nothing more humbling than standing on the picket line and looking into the proud, worried eyes of our Davis Wire members. These men know how important it is for them to fight their employer's oppression. They know that their families' futures depend upon it. They know that when they stand on this picket line they are standing up for their own dignity and that of every other working person.

It is time for you to stand up with them.

"What should move us to action is human dignity: the inalienable dignity of the oppressed, but also the dignity of each of us. We lose dignity if we tolerate the intolerable."

Baltasar Gracian

Enough is enough.

In solidarity,

Tracey A. Thompson
Secretary-Treasurer

WASTE MANAGEMENT PREPARES TO LOCKOUT RECYCLE DRIVERS

Deal reached with Allied Waste/Republic; Waste Management threatening lockout



Recycle and yard waste drivers at Waste Management prepare for lockout.

The two corporate giants in the recycle industry are moving in opposite directions.

One company - Allied Waste/Republic - has bargained a contract in good faith that fairly compensates Teamsters Local 117 Recycle drivers for their labor.

Following what were very challenging negotiations because of a large compensation disparity between Recycle drivers and garbage drivers, Local 117 members voted overwhelmingly to approve the agreement at a meeting at the Teamsters Building on June 2.

The other company, Waste Management, is taking an entirely different approach.

"Instead of bargaining fairly as its competitor has, Waste Management is aggressively preparing to lockout hardworking recycle and yard waste drivers, which will disrupt service throughout our region," said Tracey A. Thompson, Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters 117.

Overly the past several weeks, Waste Management has been bringing in their cadre replacement workers from around the country, called the Green Team. Waste Management lockout preparation has cost the Company tens of thousands of dollars. That money could be spent on giving Recycle drivers in our Region a fair contract.

On June 2, nearly 100 recycle and yard waste drivers at Waste Management responded to the company's scare tactics with a unanimous vote to strike. Garbage drivers at the company, represented by Teamsters Local 174, have indicated that they will support their Local 117 Brothers and Sisters in the event of a labor dispute.

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

Unlike Allied Waste/Republic, Waste Management appears unwilling to address the wide disparity in the industry that undervalues workers on the recycling side of the business.

"We drive the same trucks, operate the same equipment, and are often out on our routes for longer periods of time than the garbage haulers. We're just asking for equal pay for equal work," said Becky Colburn of Waste Management.

In 2010 and 2011 Waste Management reported profits on their recycling operations. Waste Management posted \$13.4 billion in revenues in 2011. Its 2011 net income was \$961 million.

Contracts for recycle drivers at Waste Management expired on May 31.

TAXIS LEAD AIRPORT MARCH

Taxis lead march of 900 Sea-Tac Airport workers



Taxi drivers lead march of 900 airport workers.

It was an impressive sight - taxis lined up on Seatac's International Boulevard with signs in their windshields reading, "Make every airport job a good job."

Massed behind them, hundreds of airport workers were holding banners and balloons and waving flags.

TAXI DRIVERS: A POWERFUL FORCE

On Saturday, April 28, taxi drivers joined skycaps, janitors, concession workers, wheelchair pushers, baggage handlers, fuelers, bus drivers, community and immigrant rights and political organizations as well as staff and members of Teamsters Local 117 for a march and rally to demand fair pay, fair treatment, respect, and a voice at work.

By far the largest group of workers on hand were the taxi drivers.

Over a hundred and fifty drivers participated in the event to protest the arcane regulations that funnel thousands of dollars a month out of the drivers' pockets and into the hands of the wealthiest 1 percent.

THE PORT NEEDS TO DO MORE

"The Port of Seattle is not doing enough to enforce its own rules and policies and to ensure that taxi drivers and other workers at our airport are treated with dignity and respect," said Tracey A. Thompson, Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 117.

The Teamsters have been using their political power to support and organize the taxi drivers.

In April, Secretary-Treasurer Thompson made calls to Port officials to help win the reversal of a new limo policy that had taken a sizeable chunk out of the drivers' business.

The Teamsters have also been working to form a new Taxi association - the Western Washington Taxi Cab Operators Association (WWTCO).

The WWTCO's goal with the Teamsters is to combat the rigged system of rules, regulations and policies that choke the drivers' ability to make ends meet and provide for their families.

At the April 28 rally, Yellow Taxi driver

Gurminder Kahlon spoke about the need for drivers to stand together and speak with one voice:

"We need to come together so we are a strong and unified voice that can take on the authorities who regulate us. Working with Local 117 we know we can make this a reality," he said.

A NEW MOVEMENT OF WORKERS

The April 28 event represents the kickoff of a new movement of united Sea-Tac Airport workers. Workers are standing together to demand:

- **Respect and a voice at work**
- **Economic justice**
- **A safe working environment**
- **The right to join a union**

Workers say they will continue to fight for these basic rights until their demands are

LOCAL 117 DENOUNCES CONDITIONS IN AMAZON WAREHOUSES

Temperatures in the warehouse soar above 115 degrees



Local 117 member Joe Harmon at a rally at Amazon headquarters.

Teamsters 117 joined with other unions and community members at a rally at the Amazon headquarters in Seattle to call for an immediate

improvement to working conditions at Amazon warehouses.

Amazon warehouse workers from Pennsylvania attended the May 10 event, where they spoke of warehouse temperatures that soared above 115 degrees.

According to Karen Salasky, ambulances were stationed outside of an Amazon fulfillment center in Allentown, PA to take workers to the hospital if they collapsed

from heat exhaustion.

Local 117 President John Searcy demanded that Amazon treat its workers with dignity and respect.

Searcy contrasted conditions in Amazon warehouses with the working conditions at unionized warehouses, where employees are represented by Teamsters 117.

"Our members earn family wages, have good medical coverage, job security, and retirement security," Searcy said. "Amazon needs to clean up its act and start treating its workers fairly."

On May 24, Local 117 will join other unions and community groups for a demonstration at the Amazon shareholder meeting in downtown Seattle in an effort to hold Amazon accountable for corporate tax dodging and its mistreatment of workers.

WRITTEN IN STONE

Slain Officer Jayme Biendl honored during National Police Week



Officer Jayme Lee Biendl: Gone but not forgotten.

Hundreds of law enforcement officers and their families gathered for a ceremony in Washington, D.C. to honor fallen officers during this year's National Police Week. Among them were the loved ones and colleagues of slain corrections officer Jayme Lee Biendl, a member of Local 117 whose name was added to the National Law Enforcement Memorial.

"It was a huge honor to be invited to come to Police Week," said Paul Crosby, Biendl's brother-in-law. Crosby was in D.C. with Biendl's father, brother and sister, along with Sgt. Paul McDermott who worked with Biendl at the Monroe Correctional Complex (MCC).

Biendl, an eight-year veteran of the Washington State Department of Corrections, was strangled and killed on January 29, 2011, by an inmate while monitoring the prison chapel at MCC. She joined thousands of other fallen officers whose names are etched in the granite wall of the memorial, adorned with hundreds of wreaths, flowers and pictures encircling the memorial's park and reflecting pool.

"The ceremony was very moving and it

really felt like we were part of something special," Crosby said.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

Before her murder, Biendl had raised security concerns about poor surveillance equipment and working alone in the chapel. Her death finally forced the DOC to look at safety problems caused by cuts to staff and other correctional programs.

Tracey A. Thompson, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 117, joined Crosby and the rest of the family in D.C. where President Obama honored the lives of fallen heroes like Biendl.

As bagpipes whined at the memorial site, Thompson said that while some safety improvements have since been made at MCC and other facilities, not enough has been done to remedy the dangerous conditions that contributed to Biendl's death.

"They're still using single-person posts in the chapel. We're still fighting them on that" said Thompson. "They've installed alarms in the microphones and the first responders now have pepper-spray, but we still feel there is a lot more that needs to be done."

For her family, friends, and her brothers and sisters at Local 117, Biendl's sacrifice was etched into their hearts long ago. Now it is forever written in stone in the nation's capital, along with so many others who gave their lives in the name of public safety.

This article was originally published on the International Brotherhood of Teamsters website at www.teamster.org

Let the boss know... THE TEAMSTERS ARE IN THE HOUSE!



Local 117 Office Staff, Jeannie Hoyt

Boss got you down? Put it back in his face with a **Teamsters Til I Die** T-Shirt!

Your Local Union offers an assortment of Teamsters' apparel that you can

wear at work, home, membership meetings, Local 117 events, and during contract campaigns.

LOCAL 117 ONLINE STORE

With your Local Union's new online store at www.teamsters117.org, ordering your Teamster gear is now easier than ever. You can find:

- ✓ **Beanies**
- ✓ **Baseball caps**
- ✓ **Assorted T-Shirts**
- ✓ **Canvas jackets**
- ✓ **Vests**
- ✓ **Sweatshirts**
- ✓ **Do rags**
- ✓ **Lapel pins**
- ✓ **More!**

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So show your Union colors and let the boss know: **The Teamsters are in the house!**

LOCAL 117 EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

June 13, 2012 - Pierce County Candidates Forum

June 21, 2012 - General Membership Meeting

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