



# 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



Teamsters at Coke take a stand! Union members, family members, and community supporters raise pickets against Coke for multiple unfair labor practices.

## Teamsters at Coke unite with community in powerful strike!

In an amazing display of courage, solidarity, and strength, 500 Coke employees from 6 Teamsters Locals across Western Washington held a week-long strike starting on August 23 in response to the Company's surveillance and intimidation of its employees and its refusal to bargain a contract in good faith.

The strike was a rallying cry for Union members and a wake-up call for Coke. With their actions, striking workers sent a powerful message to their employer that they will not tolerate the Company's refusal to bargain in good faith over critical issues, such as maintaining reasonable health care coverage for Coke employees and retirees.

"Our actions have demonstrated to

Coke the value of our professionalism and our labor," said Blaine Parks, a 32-year driver at Coke's production and distribution facility in Bellevue. "Now the Company knows that they need to take the collective bargaining process seriously."

### THE LINE HELD STRONG

The Coke strike was an unmitigated success. Hundreds and hundreds of Coke employees, family members, and community supporters walked the picket line at 6 locations. Not a single Union member crossed.

Although Coke spoke of a "contingency plan", it was clear from the start that they had none. Scab replacement drivers, many of whom had no business operating Company vehicles, struggled to deliver the

product. Retail shelves throughout the region were bare and production levels dropped below 20%.

### AMBULATORY PICKETING AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT KEY

At Coke's facility in Bellevue, Teamsters engaged in organized ambulatory picketing. Groups of "scab trackers" followed non-Union drivers and picketed their trucks as they attempted to make deliveries. In many cases, customers refused to accept deliveries outright or slowed the delivery process to a standstill in solidarity with the striking workers.

The Teamsters' actions also galvanized unprecedented community support. Community members joined striking workers on the picket line and at a series of other Union actions, including leafleting activities at the Seahawks and Sounders games at Qwest field.

Community support in all of these actions has helped gain considerable leverage in bargaining.

Washington Teamsters United will continue to pursue the Unfair Labor Practice charges brought against Coke before the National Labor Relations Board.

Negotiations are scheduled to resume on September 28, 29, and 30.

Thank you again to all Union members for your incredible support of striking workers at Coke. You have shown Coke and the community at large that you are willing to stand up and fight for what is right.

## A message from your Secretary-Treasurer



Brothers and Sisters:

Over the past nine months, we have battled the corporate greed of Waste Management and Coca-Cola Enterprises, highly profitable, multi-billion dollar companies that have tried to capitalize on a weak economy in order to squeeze unnecessary concessions from workers. Our battles against corporate greed have been well-received by our communities. Our friends and neighbors understand that it is wrong for Coca-Cola to increase its already large profits at the expense of the health and welfare of its workers and retirees.

It has been surprisingly more difficult to cultivate an understanding among our members and in our communities of the value of public employees and how wrong it is for the government and citizens to blame public employees for budget deficits.

More than half of Teamsters 117 members work for public employers: the Washington State Department of Corrections, the Port of Seattle, King County, Pierce County, the cities of Seattle, Tacoma, Pacific, Auburn, Steilacoom, Fife, Kent, Lake Forest Park, Lakewood, and so many more. Our members in public employment are truly public servants. Public employees care about protecting their communities, providing services to their communities, and enhancing their communities. Most public employees have the education, qualifications and ability to make significantly more money in private sector employment. They have chosen to work for the public.

I am sickened by every newspaper editorial – and there have been so many - that characterizes public employees as lazy or overpaid or selfish. I know how wrong they are. Public employees have suffered significant loss of pay through unpaid furloughs, reduction in workweeks, and increases in healthcare costs.

I fear that we have become that old Pogo cartoon: “We have met the enemy and he is us.” We don’t want to pay more in taxes or fees to continue the public services we have always had. We want someone else to pay for it, and when government has no money, the only other ones to bear the burden are government workers.

It is not fair or just for us to ask public employees to give more than anyone else. If we are going to expect and enjoy public services, we must be willing to pay for them.

It is time for all of us to stand up in support of our public employee members. They have sacrificed so much in order to serve us, our families and our communities.

There will be many calls to action in support of our public employee members over the next several months. Please respond to these calls for action and come out in solidarity and support for your Teamsters 117 brothers and sisters.

In Solidarity,

Tracey A. Thompson  
Secretary-Treasurer



## HANDS OFF HEALTH CARE FOR STATE EMPLOYEES!

The State of Washington and Coke have something in common: They both want their employees to shoulder an excessive burden of the cost of health care.

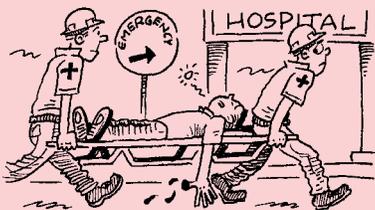
Coke's profit-driven proposal to increase its employees' health care premium share by 800% and to eliminate health care coverage for retirees led to a week-long work stoppage.

Now, the Governor is proposing that State employees pay massive increases on the cost of their health care premiums. Like workers at Coke, State employees and their supporters strongly oppose the Governor's proposals and are fighting back.

### TAKE ACTION!

Go to your Local Union's website at [www.teamsters117.org](http://www.teamsters117.org) and sign a letter to the Governor telling her to negotiate fair and equitable health care for State employees!

Or call the legislative hotline in Olympia at 1-800-562-6000 and tell the Governor to stop cutting health care for State employees!



# Diamond Parking nets trophy in first Local 117 soccer tourney

Six soccer teams from across our Union faced off on Saturday, September 11 in the first-ever Teamsters Local 117 World Cup. The event was held from 1:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. at Valley Ridge Park in Seatac.

The tournament, organized by Local 117's Comité Latino (Latino Caucus), featured teams from the rental car, parking, and steel industries. Local 117 staff also fielded a team.

Approximately 80 members and their families turned out for the event. Local 117 Organizing Director Leonard Smith served hot dogs for players and spectators alike.

### SOLIDARITY, FAMILY, AND FUN

"This was a great way to build camaraderie and solidarity in our Union, especially for immigrant workers," said Chrisptoffer Berrocal, a Local 117 member at Seattle Iron and Metals, who helped organize the tournament. "We hope that this can become an annual event."

The tournament consisted of two groups of three teams, with the winner of each group advancing to

the final game.

In group A, the *Washington Chain Turtles* squared off against the *Seattle Iron Aves de Hierro* and the *Diamond Parking Lions*, while in group B, it was the *Simon*

*Metals Falcons* taking on *Snow White and the 7 Somalis* from the rental car industry and the *Staff Strikers*.

In the championship game, *Diamond Parking* defeated the rental car team by a score of 4-1.



In victory, the *Diamond Parking* received a trophy, a sports bag for each player, and will enjoy a dinner with Teamsters Local 117 Secretary-Treasurer, Tracey A. Thompson.

"I want to congratulate the *Diamond Parking Lions* and all of the teams that participated in today's tournament," said Thompson. "It was great to see so many Union members and their families enjoying themselves."

## Meet your new Local 117 Executive Board!



Teamsters Local 117 Executive Board - 2010

**T**eamsters Local 117 Secretary-Treasurer, Tracey A. Thompson, and the other 6 members of the Local 117 Executive Board will continue to lead your Union for the next three years.

At the Local 117 general membership meeting on Thursday, September 16, Thompson and the other members of the new Executive Board, were nominated by the membership to serve your Union.

Your new Teamsters Local 117

Executive Board consists of the following members:

- Tracey A. Thompson, *Secretary Treasurer*
- John Scearcy, *President*
- John Williams, *Vice-President*
- Dave Roberts, *Recording Secretary*
- Cynthia Adams, *Trustee*
- Gwen Crittendon, *Trustee*
- Jesse Howard III, *Trustee*

Another Local 117 member was nominated for the position of Secretary-Treasurer, but he was deemed ineligible because he did not meet the requirements under the Union's bylaws of good standing for a continuous unbroken period of two years preceding the nominations meeting.

As a result, there will be no

election proceedings and the abovementioned members nominated to the Executive Board will serve in their respective positions for the next three years.

"It is an incredible honor to continue to lead this great Union as we fight together to protect and expand the rights, wages, and benefits of working people," Thompson said.

"We will continue to stand up to large corporations and unscrupulous employers who use the economy as an excuse to strip essential benefits from workers. Whether we are taking on Waste Management over retirement security or Coke or the State of Washington over health care, these employers need to know that we will not back down," she said.

***Congratulations to Tracey and the other members of the new Local 117 Executive Board!***



### Teamsters Local 117

14675 Interurban Ave. S., Suite 307

Tukwila, WA 98168

206-441-4860

1-888-872-3489

[www.teamsters117.org](http://www.teamsters117.org)



#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**Nov. 2** – Election Day

**Nov. 20** - Local 117 Annual Blood Drive

**Dec. 9** - Correctional Workers Day of Action

**Sign up online to receive an electronic copy of Teamster Talk at [www.teamsters117.org](http://www.teamsters117.org).**