



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

Shop Steward Seminar and Appreciation Day

Wash. State Convention Center
March 6, 2010

The annual Teamsters Local 117 Shop Stewards' Seminar and Appreciation Day will take place on March 6, 2010 from 8:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at the Washington State Convention Center in downtown Seattle.

If you are a Shop Steward, you will be receiving an invitation to the event and a packet of information in the mail. The theme for this year's seminar is collective bargaining.

If you have questions, talk to your Business Representative.



Teamsters march in honor of King's legacy

Teamsters Local 117 members and their families joined more than 1,400 people on Monday, January 18, for Seattle's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. march and rally. In the impressive sea of marchers, the sizable Teamsters contingent was arguably the most vocal, chanting, "Union power, Teamster power!" and "No justice no peace, no contract no work!" The focus of the event was on improving conditions in health care, housing, jobs, and education.

It was a daylong celebration honoring the great civil rights leader with workshops in the morning, an 11 am rally, and a noonday march from Garfield High School in Seattle's Central District to the federal building downtown. Speakers at the rally included King County Councilmember Larry Gossett and two newly elected officials - King County Executive Dow Constantine and Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn. "I come every year to the MLK March for peace and justice," said Azziem Hassan Underwood, a Local 117

A message from your Secretary-Treasurer



Brothers and Sisters:

In January, we celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day. As Americans, we all recognize the extraordinary contributions Dr. King made to the advancement of civil rights in this country.

King organized the Montgomery Bus Boycott, led a groundbreaking march on Washington, and paved the way for the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964.

Dr. King was also a champion of organized labor. In 1961 King stated, "In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, such as 'right to work.' It is a law to rob us of our civil rights and job rights." King recognized that the fight for civil rights was inextricably bound to issues of social and economic justice.

In April 1968, King went to Memphis to lend his support to city sanitation workers who were striking in protest of low wages and poor working conditions. King not only worked tirelessly for an end to racial discrimination, segregation and Jim Crow laws, but he also worked to improve conditions for workers and to end poverty.

On Monday, January 18, 2010, a group of Teamsters Local 117 members and their families joined with over 1,400 people in the annual MLK march and rally in Seattle. The event was an opportunity for us as Teamsters to celebrate the legacy of Dr. King and continue to pursue King's ideals of expanding the rights, wages and benefits of all working families.

In Solidarity,

Tracey A. Thompson
Secretary-Treasurer

MLK march and rally

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Shop Steward at King County who attended the event. "As a Union member, I have a good job with good benefits, but we've got to make sure that all of us can achieve that."

Said Teamsters Local 117 Secretary-Treasurer, Tracey A. Thompson, "We all recognize the extraordinary contributions Dr. King made to the advancement of civil rights in this country. As Teamsters, we are proud to honor his legacy at this event and by continuing our efforts to expand the rights, wages and benefits of all working families."

In addition to his achievements on promoting civil rights, Dr. King was a champion of organized labor. In 1961 King stated, "In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, such as 'right to work.' It is a law to rob us of our civil rights and job rights." King recognized that the fight for civil rights was inextricably bound to issues of social and economic justice.

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Teamsters unite for beverage bargaining

Teamsters from across the region have joined forces in a united multi-Local campaign to achieve strong collective bargaining agreements for working families in the beverage industry. Since early January, Teamsters from Locals in Everett, Bremerton, Tacoma, Olympia, and Tukwila have filled their respective Union halls to state their priorities in bargaining and map out a coordinated strategy.

"It's important for all of us to stick together, especially in this economy," said Local 117 member John Sharp, a 15-year Teamster mechanic at the Coca Cola bottling plant in Bellevue. Said Chris Pringle, a longtime Local 174 Shop Steward at Coke, "The advantage to multi-Local bargaining is that if there is a labor dispute, we have the ability to take out all of Western Washington."

Sharp and Pringle, along with

approximately 240 of their fellow Teamsters from Locals 174 and 117, gathered for a Coke demands meeting on Saturday, January 9. Earlier in the day, Teamsters from Safeway beverage held a similar meeting, while later that afternoon an assembly of another 120 or so Teamsters from the Pepsi Bottling Group outlined their demands.

Members at the meetings were quick to point out that the beverage industry as a whole has performed remarkably well despite the economic downturn. Coke reported "strong profit growth" in 2009 with 3rd quarter profits up in excess of 15% from the same period in 2008 while Pepsi stock soared to a 52-week high in late 2009.

Bargaining is set to kick off on January 26, 2010 with Teamsters Local 117 Secretary-Treasurer Tracey A. Thompson heading up the negotiations. A force of

Teamsters executive officers, business agents, and rank-and-file leaders from Locals 38, 117, 174, 252, 313, and 589 will make up the bargaining committee.

Teamsters contracts in Southern California and Northern California are also up for negotiations. Bargaining is being coordinated with the help of the IBT Brewery and Soft Drink Conference to ensure maximum leverage for all Teamsters Locals.

Solidarity, a united front, and a strong Union presence are the keys to a successful bargaining campaign. Talk to your Local Union's Shop Steward and Business Representative about staying involved. Keep an eye out for upcoming meetings, planning mobilizations, and bargaining updates by checking in at your Local Union's website. Said Pringle, "Let's send a strong message to the Company that we're serious about making our lives better."

MICC and LCC form lobbying teams

Teamsters Local 117 members from the McNeil Island Corrections Center (MICC) and the Larch Corrections Center (LCC) are forming teams to lobby the Washington State legislature in the wake of the Governor's budget proposal recommending unit closures at both facilities.

The Governor's proposal as it now stands would:

- Reduce the McNeil Island Corrections Center (MICC) to a 500 bed minimum; MICC inmates

would likely move to the Coyote Ridge Corrections Center (CRCC)

- Close the Larch Corrections Center (LCC) for several years
- Build new units at the Washington State Penitentiary (WSP)
- Possibly close one unit at WSP during construction.

The lobbying teams are a part of a political action plan to prevent critical closures at DOC and boost the presence of Local 117 members in Olympia.

For more information or if you would like to get involved, contact Teamsters Local 117 Government Relations Coordinator Anna Jancewicz at 1-888-872-3489 x1258.



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Jan. 18 – MLK march and rally

Mar. 5 - DOC Stewards' appreciation day

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