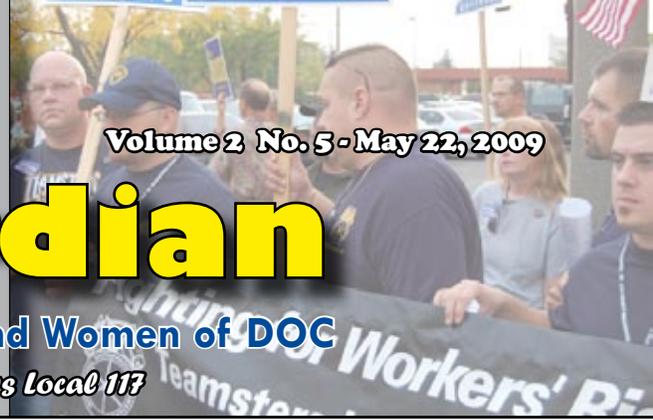




# The Guardian

News from the Hardworking Men and Women of DOC  
Members of Teamsters Local 117

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

## Public Safety Advocates Play Pivotal Role in Halting the Closure of McNeil Island

A powerful coalition of public safety advocates, including the Teamsters Union that represents the State's correctional workers, victims' rights groups, the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, and the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs teamed up to convince the Washington State Legislature not to close the McNeil Island Corrections Center.

"We beat back a Senate plan that would have closed McNeil Island and cut hundreds of good, family jobs in Pierce County," said Local 117 Secretary-Treasurer, Tracey A. Thompson. "Correctional workers across the State can be proud of the role they played in saving these jobs and keeping our communities safe," Thompson added.

### Representatives flooded with phone calls and emails

Thompson said that Corrections' employees and their supporters sent hundreds of emails, made phone calls, and met with key legislators,

calling on representatives to reject the Senate plan to close McNeil Island and urging them not to compromise public safety in their

effort to deal with the current budget crisis.

**See Coalition, Page 2**



## New Business Representatives at CRCC and WSP

As of May 1, 2009, Coyote Ridge Corrections Center and the Washington State Penitentiary will have new Business Representatives.

Eydie Dean, the Local 117 Rep. formerly at CRCC, will be moving

to WSP to replace Al Scamahorn, who plans to retire in July, 2009, while Joe Kuhn, the Rep. at AHCC, will expand his jurisdiction to include CRCC.

For more information about Joe and Eydie, see their bios on page 2.

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## EYDIE DEAN, WSP Business Representative

Eydie Dean became a Teamster in January 2003, when she went to work for the Department of Corrections in the Medical Department at the Washington State Penitentiary. In October 2003, Eydie transferred to the Coyote Ridge Corrections Center where she worked for five years.

Eydie was hired as a Teamsters Local 117 Business Representative in 2008.

Eydie grew up in a union family and has raised her own family with union wages and benefits. Her exposure and involvement with unionism has taught her that unions stand together for a common cause to continuously make the work



environment a better place. Says Eydie:

“I enjoy being a union representative because I have a passion for the good that unions do for their brothers and sisters. I have strong communication skills and I believe I have earned the trust and respect of both management and my fellow union brothers and sisters when dealing with union issues. I believe

in settling any dispute possible at the lowest level but if that is impossible I am like your pet pit-bull who hangs in there until the job is done.”

Eydie can be reached at 509-385-1575 or by email at eydie.dean@teamsters117.org.

## JOE KUHN, CRCC and AHCC Business Representative

Joe Kuhn started at the Department of Corrections in August 1994, where he worked, first as a Correctional Officer and later as a Sergeant, at the Airway Heights Corrections Center.

While at AHCC, Joe got involved with the Union. In 1998, he became a Union Shop Steward, and he was instrumental in the Teamsters’ effort to organize and represent DOC employees.

Joe has many years’ experience as a Teamsters Business Representative. He worked as a Business Representative from 1998 to 2000 at



Local 313. Since February 2002, he has been a Rep. with Teamsters Local 117.

Joe has represented DOC employees at three institutions: AHCC, CRCC, and WSP. As of May 1, 2009, his jurisdiction will include AHCC and CRCC.

“I’ve always been a strong advocate for what is right. That’s what drew me to this job.

The Union is there to represent people and to help people.”

Joe can be reached at 509-220-2939 or by email at joe.kuhn@teamsters117.org.

## Coalition

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Teamsters Corrections’ employees and the victims’ rights group, Families and Friends of Violent Crime Victims, also spoke out publicly against the closure of the McNeil Island facility at a press conference on the Capitol steps in Olympia on April 1.

King County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Satterberg said that the Legislature’s decision not to close McNeil Island is a victory for public safety advocates in the State of Washington. “It doesn’t make sense to be closing bed space in our prison system when we are still renting beds at other facilities out-of-state,” Satterberg said.

## McNeil Island Closure Off the Table

With the closure of McNeil Island off the table for the time being, public safety advocates say that they will focus their efforts on mitigating the impact of the State Legislature’s cuts to the Department of Corrections’ budget in such a way that establishes public safety as a priority. “We will continue to partner with like-minded groups to ensure that communities are safe and that our members’ jobs are protected,” said Thompson.

## Union Protects 12% Share of Medical Premiums

As you recall, when we ratified our 2009-2011 Labor Agreement on April 6, 2009, the legislature was still in session and there was some concern that they might try to increase the State employees' portion of health care costs.

Through a lot of hard work and the efforts of many of you, we managed to get the legislature to pass a budget without mandating any changes to how the medical premiums would be shared. The legislature left it to the parties to go back to the table in the super coalition of all State Unions to negotiate with the Office of Financial Management (OFM).

OFM originally wanted only to address the first year of the contracts and make us go back to the legislature in the second year of the biennium in the supplemental budget which would have left things up in the air for our members. The super coalition convinced OFM to bargain terms of the cost share between the State and the employees for the two-year term of the labor agreements. We also got OFM to continue the current percentage split of the State paying 88% of the premium for the medical while continuing to pay 100% of the premiums for basic life, basic long-term disability and dental insurance.

## TEAMSTERS LOCAL 117 family picnic

**J**oin Teamsters Local 117 members and their families for a day of **FREE** food, games, hourly raffles with prizes, music and loads of fun!

**You must have a ticket to attend ! For tickets:**

- ★ ask your Business Representative
- ★ call Local 117 at 206-441-4860 x1221
- ★ order online at [www.teamsters117.org](http://www.teamsters117.org)

**Free tickets are now available**

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for fun\***

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**Family Picnic - August 1**  
**12 noon - 5:00 pm at Starfire Sports Complex**  
**14800 Starfire Way, Tukwila, WA 98188**