

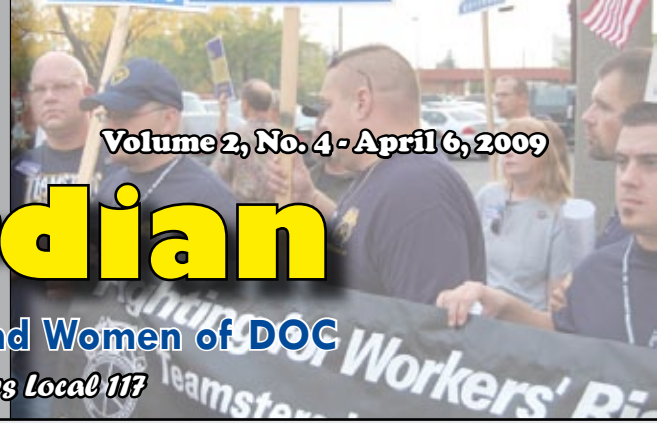


The Guardian

News from the Hardworking Men and Women of DOC

Members of Teamsters Local 117

Volume 2, No. 4 - April 6, 2009



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Teamsters ratify two-year deal

Teamsters at DOC have decisively approved a proposal for their 2009-2011 labor agreement that brings job security and significant language improvements in tough economic times.

Members of the Bargaining Committee counted the final tally – **1670 YES to 158 NO** – on Monday, April 6, after three days of telephone and internet voting, followed by a day of voting in person at the institutions.

“This result shows that we can work with the State to achieve a positive outcome for our members, even during an economic crisis,” said Local 117 Secretary-Treasurer, Tracey A. Thompson.

“We are not willing, however, to stay quiet as the Legislature unilaterally dismantles our criminal justice system, putting our members and our communities at risk in the process,” Thompson added.

Thompson’s remarks referenced the Senate’s proposed closure of the McNeil Island Corrections Center (MICC) and the deep cuts to the Department’s budget as called for by both the House and the Senate.

Thompson, along with Corrections’ employees from MICC and the Washington Corrections Center (WCC) spoke to the media on the issue on Wednesday, April 1, in a press conference on the Capitol steps

in Olympia. Several media outlets covered the event, including KING 5 and KOMO TV, who carried the story on their evening news broadcasts.

The contract proposal had been fully recommended for approval by the Union Bargaining Committee

and by Shop Stewards at the DOC Shop Steward Seminar on March 6. Although the deal includes no wage increases for Local 117 members at DOC, it strengthens many provisions of the existing contract, especially with respect to discipline and seniority rights.

See Contract, Page 2



Corrections’ employees speak out against State’s budget proposals

At a press conference on the Capitol steps in Olympia on Wednesday, Corrections’ employees denounced proposals released earlier in the week by the Washington State Legislature calling

for deep cuts to the Department of Corrections’ budget.

“These proposals will almost certainly lead to the early release of a significant number of prisoners

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Press Conference

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into our communities along with a reduced supervision of parolees. This constitutes a safety risk to the people working inside the prisons and a risk to the public at large," said Tracey A. Thompson, Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 117.

KOMO TV, KING 5 TV, the Seattle Times, the Seattle PI, the Tacoma News Tribune, and the Associated Press covered the story.

McNeil Closure on Table

The Senate's budget, released on March 30, contains plans to close McNeil Island Corrections Center (MICC) effective July 1, 2010. Though the House budget does not propose the closure of any particular institution, it does contain considerable reductions in the Department's budget along with provisions that would permit DOC to release inmates early. As a cost cutting measure, both the Senate and House are also proposing a reduction in the supervision of parolees.

For Local 117, these proposals reflect a stunning turnabout for State government. "It was only two years ago that Governor Gregoire expressed "outrage" over DOC's early release

of 90 inmates from county jails. In February 2007, the Governor stated that public safety is a priority of her administration and that offenders must be held accountable for their actions," Thompson said.

Thompson is calling on 117 members to contact their legislators in Olympia at 800-562-6000 to tell them that saving money at the expense of community safety is unacceptable. "Our concern is that the State is calling for the closure of institutions and the early release of prisoners without having undergone sufficient policy analysis," said Thompson.

Fallen Luciano, a Correctional Officer at the McNeil Island Corrections Center spoke directly to the proposed closure of that institution. "Closing the doors at McNeil will present a hardship for me and my family. We'll need to think about relocation expenses, our mortgage, and how we are going to pay the bills," she said.

Stay informed by talking to your Shop Steward and Business Representative, and by continuing to monitor the DOC News Ticker on your Local Union's website.



Contract Ratified

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Highlights of the newly-ratified contract include:

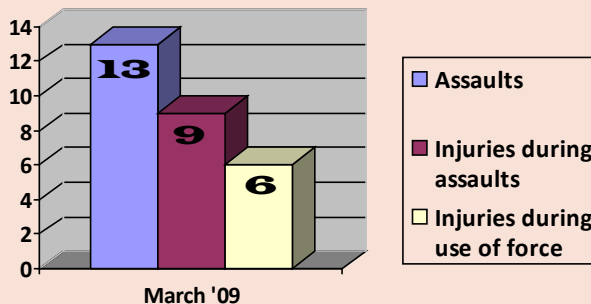
- the ability to review and correct interviews statements in disciplinary cases
- the ability to transfer more easily between institutions by seniority
- the ability to remove written reprimands after 2 years, and all discipline after 5 years
- the ability for laid off employees to make geographic designations for recall
- tolling of accrued seniority for individuals who leave the bargaining unit

If you have questions about the agreement, please talk to your Business Representative.

Stay posted to the Local 117 website for ongoing updates.

ASSAULT WATCH!

March '09 Statistics* - STAY SAFE!!!



*These numbers constitute an approximation for the 13 institutions Local 117 represents and are based on information provided to Local 117 that may or may not be completely accurate.