



TEAMSTERS LOCAL 117

DOCK TALK

News from the hardworking men and women of the grocery warehouse division

Members of Teamsters Local 117

Winter 2010



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

Check out the TNBC!



WASHINGTON TEAMSTERS
Black Caucus

The Washington Teamsters, which includes members of Teamsters Local 117, are organizing a State chapter of the Teamsters Black Caucus.

The Teamsters National Black Caucus (TNBC) states as its mission "to unite blacks and other minorities, and other persons of good will for promoting cultural, civic, legislative, political, educational, fraternal, charitable, welfare, social and other activities which further the interests of minorities directly or indirectly."

For more information about the Washington Teamsters Black Caucus, visit your Local Union's website at www.teamsters117.org or contact Local 117 Business Representative and former Fred Meyer warehouseman, Marvin Patterson, at 206-441-4860 ext. 1266.



Teamster Business Representative John Scearcy meets with SuperValu member, Marty Reynolds

GROCERY SUMMIT PLANNED FOR EARLY FEBRUARY

Your Local Union is planning an industry-wide grocery summit on February 5, 2011 to prepare for upcoming contract negotiations.

In the past, your Union bargained a "master agreement" that maintained working conditions, wages and benefits for all Union members throughout the industry.

The idea behind the summit is to build solidarity and bring the power of a united grocery membership back into the bargaining process. The summit will be the first meeting for members of all the grocery houses to come together and discuss ways to improve communication and

establish partnerships across the industry before bargaining starts in 2011.

The summit will also be an opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with other Teamster leaders in the grocery industry in our area and to identify key topics for contract negotiations. Members from Fred Meyer, SuperValu, Safeway, and Unified Grocers will be in attendance.

"These are tough times and it's critically important that all of us are on the same page and present a united front as we get into

see Grocery Summit, Page 4



GROCERY SHOPS FORM UNION STEERING COMMITTEES



Teamster Order Selector at SuperValu, Matt Kizer.

Your Local Union is forming steering committees at all of the major grocery warehouses across the industry in our region in order to improve communication during bargaining. Each steering committee will have captains that will be responsible for distributing critical information to teams of ten members.

Of the four major grocery shops in the area, Fred Meyer was the first to organize its steering committees.

"We took the seniority list and divided up the names into teams of 10," said Business Representative Cecil Fouts. "With about 300 members in the unit, we will have 30 captains for our committee."

The first step to establishing a strong steering committee, explained Fouts, is to update members' phone numbers, emails, and mailing addresses. Once members' contact information is current, steering committee captains can distribute

bargaining updates, meeting times and locations, and other information out to their teams, quickly and efficiently.

"The steering committees will help us achieve better communication, better turnout for meetings, and greater member involvement, which in turn will build solidarity and increase our power at the table," said Business Representative John Scearcy. "Our solidarity throughout the industry will send a strong message to employers that we are united."

"I signed up to be a steering committee captain because there is so much at stake - everything from our wages, health and welfare, and working conditions," said 23-year SuperValu forklift driver, Mike Lee. "If we're going to get this done right, we need to get involved and for everybody to stick together."

Thank you to the entire group of steering committee captains for assuming this leadership role!

GROCERY INDUSTRY

UNIFIED GROCERS

Jason Christianson
Rodney Ford
Ken Garcia
Floyd Griffin
Jesse Howard III
Slyvester Price
Calvin Wagner

FRED MEYER

Matt Collins
Victor Hurst
Tim Kirby
Les Liedtke
Aaron Schrupp

Brando
Jim V

SUPERVALU

Phil C
John F
Greg

Phil M

SAFEWAY

Mike H
Andrew



CONGRATULATIONS A BUILDING A STR

STEERING COMM

FRED MEYER

Steve Ballou
Clint Boyd, Jr.
Daniel Breshears
Frank Dawson III
Tommy Eidson
Marcuis Garber
Duane Gray
Joshua Hartle
Don Hummel
Terry Johnson
Faleofa Kata
Tim Kirby
Wayne Kistenmacher
Kyle Leeberg
Mike Lyons
Tony Missall
Robert Myrick
Josh Putnam
Jake Sidmore
Scott Stephens
Larry Stigers
Brian Siverson
Brandon Wells

UNIFIED GROCERS

In the works!

SAFEWAY

Rebec
Jodi B
Alberto
Russell
Mark M
Scott M
Tom F
Ryan F
Phillip
Scott V

SAFEWAY

Emilio A
Colby C
James C
Joel D
Carlos E
Mike
Justin
Dionn
Rick H
Doug
David L
Jarrod
James

RY SHOP STEWARDS

n Wells
Wise
RVALU
cery
Carter
Morris
Wiest
zen
ckelson
EWAY
cery
Holden
Johnson

Mike Patterson
Variety
Phil Cragerud
Todd Frick
Frozen
Bill Barnett
Gilbert Nelson
Al Wright
Produce
César Camarena
Joe Harmon
Al Stipek

AND THANK YOU FOR
ONGER UNION!



MITTEE CAPTAINS

EWAY
y Variety
ca Beck
butuso
o Garcia
Garrard
McLallin
cMullen
Pasion
Reeves
Rogers
Williams
Grocery
asuncion
honzena
onnely II
e Jong
carnacion
Harris
n Hays
e Holly
olmes
Jones
ogsdon
Manes
Nagle

Ruben Argueta
Safeway Produce
In the works!
SUPERVALU
Jace Beckerman
Tracy Gordon
Joe Hunt
Mike Lee
Brian Lester
Dan Maguire
Juan Mendoza
Tom McCoy, Jr.
Anthony McKinney
John Morris
Marty Munce
Dave Patterson
Benhur Perez
Jeff Rufthen
Marty Reynolds
Chris Schey
Aric Shehan
Joe Worley



Safeway Produce Shop Stewards: Joe Harmon (l), Cesar Camarena (r)



Fred Meyer Shop Steward, Matt Collins

SHOP STEWARDS IN PLACE FOR 2011 BARGAIN

Over the last several weeks, your Local Union has been conducting Shop Steward elections throughout the grocery industry so that we have in place a strong group of experienced Union leaders as bargaining approaches.

Unified Grocers was the first grocery shop to hold elections, which took place in early October, followed by Fred Meyer later in the month.

At SuperValu, elections were held on Monday, November 29, with a total of six members running for three spots; elections took place at Safeway on Wednesday, December 1, throughout the day, swing and graveyard shifts.

The results of all grocery Shop Steward elections are listed in the table to the left.

Congratulations to all of the newly-elected Union Shop Stewards!



SuperValu Shop Steward, Greg Wiest



Unified Grocers Shop Steward, Jesse Howard III

Grocery Summit

Cont. from page 1

bargaining," said Teamsters Local 117 Tracey A. Thompson. "Make no mistake – this is going to be a dogfight, and we need to be ready."

Shawn Griffith, a Safeway order selector who attended a Local 117 grocery workshop last summer, stressed the importance of learning more about the bargaining process. "We have a big group of new guys who are still getting educated about why we have a Union and why we have a contract. There are a lot of issues that we are facing and it's important that we get involved."

John Morris, a 31-year Shop Steward at SuperValu sees health care as the number one issue in upcoming contract negotiations. "These companies are going to try to achieve takeaways that dilute our health benefits. We've got to take a stand and let the employer know that

we're willing to fight."

24-year SuperValu forklift driver, Scott Fueston agrees. "Health and welfare will be one of the hottest issues in bargaining. The Union has done a great job estimating our health care expenditures, so that will be a big bargaining chip for us."

Monty Johnson, a 17-year order selector/forklift driver at SuperValu, is concerned about his Union pension. "We've got a great pension now. The more we can work to strengthen it, the better our collective futures will be."

As soon as the Feb. 5 date for the summit approaches, your Union will be sending a turnout message through your Shop Stewards and communication networks.

Your participation in the summit is a critical step to achieving the kind of strong Teamsters contract that the hardworking men and women of the Puget Sound grocery industry deserve.

UNION REWARDS – APPLY NOW!

Did you know that your Union provides lots of great Teamster benefits above and beyond the protections offered by your contract?

Through your Local Union's community sponsorship program, you can apply for financial support for a team you coach or play on. If you have a son or daughter in high school, he or she can apply for a Union scholarship in their senior year.

You can also earn cash incentives - up to \$500 in your Union's high school education program or up to \$1000 as part the Local 117 organizing incentive program.

For more information about any of these programs, talk to your Business Representative or click on the Member Rewards Program button on the homepage of your Local Union's website at www.teamsters117.org.



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Jan. 17, 2011 - MLK Jr. March and Rally

February 5, 2011 – Grocery Summit

WANTED! Reporters, writers, photographers and other Teamsters in the grocery industry who are interested in contributing to this newsletter. For more information, contact Local 117 Communications Coordinator, Paul Zilly at 206.441.4860 ext. 1269.

For more Teamsters news, visit the Local 117 website at www.teamsters117.org. Connect with other Local 117 members on Facebook or follow us on Twitter.