



# Teamsters South Sound



Members of Teamsters Local 117

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## TEAMSTERS RALLY FOR CHANGE IN OLYMPIA

Local 117 joins coalition of Unions, community groups



Members of Teamsters Local 117 climb the Capitol steps in Olympia in the fight for a fair budget.

A confederation of thousands of working people converged on Olympia on November 28 to denounce the Legislature's plans to cut an additional \$2 billion from the State budget and to demand that the State raise revenue to preserve essential services in education, health care, and public safety.

Dozens of members of Teamsters Local 117 joined forces with teachers, health care workers, students, community activists, and members of the Occupy movement for a rally and a peaceful march around the Capitol Building.

As they marched, people chanted, "We

are the 99%!" and "Banks got bailed out, people got sold out!"

### FUND HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION, AND PUBLIC SAFETY!

Afterwards, marchers streamed into the Capitol rotunda, where they demanded that the Governor and Legislators do more to help working families who are disproportionately suffering as a result of the economic crisis.

For the next several hours, the Capitol Building was filled with people engaging in protest, civic involvement, and democratic debate.

Hundreds sat down in the rotunda and

brainstormed solutions to the State's budget crisis; others gathered in front of the Governor's office demanding to be heard; others filled the budget hearing rooms in an effort to disrupt the legislative proceedings.

### TEAMSTERS FIGHT CUTS AT DOC

Four members of Teamsters Local 117 from the Larch Corrections Center – Mark Francis, Sid Clark, Shaun Piliponis, and Robert Stricker - testified at budget hearings about the dangers of further cuts to the Department of Corrections and the early release of prisoners.

"You are looking at releasing sex offenders early into our neighborhoods. That is not an acceptable solution to the problem. Can we really put a price on public safety?" Sergeant Francis said.

### SPECIAL SESSION GETS UNDERWAY

The actions on November 28 coincided with the first day of the special session of the Legislature, during which Legislators are poised to make decisions that will impact our State for years to come.

Over the last three years, Legislators have cut \$10 billion dollars from the State budget.

Local 117 members who attended the rally spoke about why the Legislature must stop the cuts and develop a sensible plan to raise revenue to fund important public services.

"A lot of things need to change in this country. Right now corporations are

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## Teamsters Holiday Bash!



### HOLIDAY MEMBERSHIP MEETING December 15, 2011 at 7 PM!



The grand prize winner!

Throughout the month of December at our DOC facilities and domicile locations, and on December 15 at 7 PM at the

Union hall, Local 117 members are gathering together by the hundreds for cookies, coffee, and solidarity.

Every member who attends a holiday membership meeting receives a \$25 Safeway gift card and is placed in the drawing for one of three flat screen televisions.

Last year, 64 prizes were awarded, including several iPods, Wiis, power tools, bottles of wine, gift cards and the televisions sets. All of the gifts are purchased from companies with

whom Local 117 has a bargaining relationship.

"This is our way of showing our gratitude to our members for their extraordinary contribution to this Union," said Secretary-Treasurer Tracey A. Thompson.

If last year's numbers are any indication, the hall's main auditorium will be packed, so plan to arrive early.

At the meeting, your Local Union will be collecting non-perishable food items for local Food Banks to help families in need, so be sure to bring something to fill up the boxes on display in the front lobby.

For more info., talk to your Business Representative visit your Union's website at [www.teamsters117.org](http://www.teamsters117.org).

## RALLY IN OLYMPIA

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getting tax breaks for shipping jobs overseas," said Andy Johnson, a Local 117 member at Safeway. Andy said his father had recently lost his job after working twenty years with the same company.

James Smith, a 9-year member from Alan Ritchey, had this to say: "Banks have been irresponsible in their fiscal and monetary policies. They took the taxpayers' money and they used it for themselves."

Becky Little, a Shop Steward at Pierce County, spoke about the need to preserve family-wage jobs for working people: "Not everyone can be a doctor or a scientist. We need more jobs with decent wages and health benefits so that people can support their families."

Little also participated in the DOC rallies last year. "Correctional workers shouldn't be stationed alone, and we shouldn't be letting the most dangerous people in our society out of prison early," she said.



**FIGHT BACK with  
DRIVE!**

TEAMSTERS NON-PARTISAN PAC

Working people are under attack like never before. Big Business outspends working people by more than 15-1 to influence legislators and push their anti-worker agenda.

Earlier this year, corporate-backed politicians in Wisconsin slashed worker wages and benefits and eliminated collective bargaining rights for

workers. Similar proposals have been made right here in Washington State.

As Union members, we often hear that it's "time to fight back," but what concrete steps can we take to protect the rights, wages, and benefits of working people?

### FIGHT BACK WITH DRIVE - THE TEAMSTERS NON PARTISAN PAC!

You can take a stand for the middle class by contributing to DRIVE – the non-partisan Teamsters' political action committee. DRIVE funds campaigns to fight for the rights of Union members to bargain together for better pay, benefits, and retirement. DRIVE is non-partisan and independent from any political party.

Stand with your fellow Teamsters. Fight back by participating in DRIVE!

To learn how you can participate in DRIVE, talk to your Business Representative or call your Local Union at 206-441-4860.

**STOP CUTS AT DOC - CALL  
1-800-562-6000 NOW!**

Contact your State representatives at 1-800-562-6000 and tell them that closing and/or repurposing facilities and releasing prisoners early is bad public policy and will put our communities at risk!

Tell them that the State must also develop a plan to generate more revenue to fund the DOC!

# TEAMSTERS FIGHT FOR MEMBERS AT LESA FACING PASSAGE OF SOUTH SOUND 911

## Local 117 to bargain with County over impacts of the new law

While South Sound 911 was enthusiastically endorsed by voters, its passage has caused a stir among Teamsters at the Law Enforcement Support Agency (LESA), the agency currently responsible for handling emergency calls and dispatching law enforcement for most of the residents of Pierce County.

After all, Local 117 has consistently negotiated strong contracts for members at LESA.

### LESA WAGES: HIGHEST IN THE STATE

Highlights of the most recent agreement include broad seniority rights and the highest wages of any dispatch center in the State.

(Incidentally, dispatchers receiving the second highest wages are also working under a Local 117 contract, at the Port of Seattle.)

Since the aim of South Sound 911 is to fully consolidate emergency services throughout the County, Local 117 members at LESA are understandably worried that their wages and working conditions may be at risk.

"We're concerned about keeping our jobs, our benefits, and our pay," said Deann Baumann, a Shop Steward and 11-year LESA dispatcher.

Pierce County officials have indicated that they intend to honor the members' CBA throughout the transition period, but as Baumann points out, it would be a mistake to blindly take them at their word.

"Over the years, we've been promised a lot. The problem is, you can't always trust what they say," she said.

Even if the County is sincere in honoring members' contractual rights, critical questions remain:

- How will the absorption of personnel from smaller municipalities impact Local 117 members' seniority?
- What will happen to members' wages and working conditions when their contract expires?

To address these questions and fight for the rights of Teamsters at LESA as stipulated under their current CBA and beyond, your Local Union has submitted a demand to bargain over the impacts of the new law.

In bargaining, your Local Union will fight to maintain LESA members' wages, hours, working conditions, and seniority rights now and into the future.

Negotiations between your Union representatives and Pierce County are

tentatively scheduled for early next year.

### CONCERNS OVER MEDICAL BENEFITS

Another concern for Local 117 members at LESA is that the transition to becoming Pierce County employees will degrade their medical coverage.

Although this may have been true in the past, it is not likely to be the case today as they will be eligible for coverage under Teamsters Plan A, an equal if not better plan than what they currently have.

Last year, approximately 1700 Pierce County employees elected to dump the County's medical plan in favor of the Teamsters plan, a move that gave them better medical coverage with lower deductibles and co-payments at a reduced cost to the County.

"I'm happy with the change, and I think that is the consensus of those of us who switched over to the Teamsters plan," said Skip Mason, a Forensic Investigator at the Pierce County Sheriff's Department.

Of course, the change will also mean that employees working in other jurisdictions will have the opportunity to become Teamsters themselves.

We welcome them to join Teamsters at LESA and all other members of Local 117 in the fight for family wages and benefits, fair working conditions, and a strong voice at work.

## CONTRACT NEWS:

Bargaining is currently underway for South Sounders at the City of Pacific and the Tacoma Humane Society. The Tacoma Public Library is also in bargaining after the CPI sparked a wage reopener. In all three cases, negotiations are being led by Business Representative Evie Shannon. Evie can be reached at 206-441-4860 ext.1235 or [evie.shannon@teamsters117.org](mailto:evie.shannon@teamsters117.org).

Local 117 is also bargaining at the City of Tacoma. Business Representative Jeff Clark is handling the negotiations there. Jeff can be reached at 206-441-4860 ext. 1239 or [jeff.clark@teamsters117.org](mailto:jeff.clark@teamsters117.org)



# LAYNE GRIFFIN CELEBRATES 30 YEARS AS A TEAMSTER

Old-school Teamster still fighting the good fight at the City of Tacoma



Proud Teamster, Layne Griffin

It's hard to meet a prouder Teamster than Layne Griffin, a Local 117 member and industrial painter at the City of Tacoma who just celebrated 30 years with the Union.

"When I'm wearing my Teamster colors, I walk with pride," he says. "I know I belong to a family across this world."

Griffin has accomplished a tremendous amount over the course of his 30-year Teamster career.

For years, he was active on the Pierce County Central Labor Council, where he served on the Union's political action committee, helping to elect candidates who care about working family issues.

He's been a Shop Steward for 15 years, and he recently became Local 117's Sergeant-of-Arms.

## A LONG HISTORY OF ACTIVISM

Layne's involvement in his Union started years ago when former Local 599 Secretary-Treasurer Dave Lovell helped

iron out some tough issues at his shop. Layne was so impressed that he showed up at the Teamsters hall the next day and asked what he could do for his Union.

Since then, he has led a life committed to the labor movement and committed to serving his community. He took a 12-week course to become a Union counselor, and he volunteers down at the Tacoma Rescue Mission soup line.

"If you can touch one person's life, you are making a difference," he says.

## A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN

Layne even met his bride-to-be through the Teamsters. It was at a Union rally, where he saw Local 117 member Jean Alexander sitting alone, and he asked her to be his date for the night. They were married on the 4th of July of this year.

Layne has no plans to retire anytime soon, and he is still fighting the good fight on behalf of working families at the City of Tacoma.

As a Shop Steward, he is currently embroiled in a difficult bargain, defending the rights of Union members at the City.

"By being involved in labor, I know I've done something for working people. I wouldn't trade it for the world," he says.

## ATTENTION LOCAL 117 WTWT PARTICIPANTS!

### DON'T FORGET TO RE-ENROLL!



If you are a Local 117 member covered by the Washington Teamsters Welfare

Trust, you must take action and re-enroll in one of two medical plans by Dec. 15, 2011:

1. The Trust Medical Plan
2. Group Health Options

For more information about the two plans, contact Northwest Administrators at 206-329-4900.

You can access a re-enrollment form on your Local Union's website at [www.teamsters117.org](http://www.teamsters117.org) or you can re-enroll online at [www.nwadmin.com](http://www.nwadmin.com).

Remember: You must choose a plan and re-enroll by December 15, 2011!

If you do not re-enroll by December 15, the Trust will be unable to continue processing your claims until re-enrollment has been completed.

## PERSONAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT

If you take your Personal Health Assessment by December 23, 2011, you will receive a reduction in your 2012 deductibles (Plans A & B) or a credit toward your mail order pharmacy copayments (Plan C).

To be eligible for the deductions or credits, you must complete your Personal Health Assessment by December 23, 2011.

If you are married or have a covered spouse or domestic partner, they must also complete the PHA.

You can complete your Personal Health Assessment online at <https://wateamsters.online.staywell.com>.

If you have questions, please call the StayWell HelpLine at 1-888-388-8259 or talk to your Business Representative.

## LOCAL 117 EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

December 15, 2011 - Holiday membership meeting

January 16, 2012 - MLK Jr. March and Rally

## FOLLOW YOUR LOCAL UNION ON THE WEB!



Join your Union's Facebook page, follow us on Twitter @teamsters117 and watch Local 117 videos on YouTube!

For more Teamsters news, visit the Local 117 website at [www.teamsters117.org](http://www.teamsters117.org). Connect with other Local 117 members on Facebook or follow your Union on Twitter at [@teamsters117!](https://twitter.com/teamsters117)