



# Teamsters South Sound



Members of Teamsters Local 117

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**FIGHT BACK with  
DRIVE!**

TEAMSTERS NON-PARTISAN PAC

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

In Wisconsin, corporate-backed politicians are slashing worker wages and benefits and eliminating collective bargaining rights for workers. The Wisconsin model is being replicated across the country.

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 NOW WITH DRIVE!**

You can take a stand for the middle class by contributing to DRIVE – the Teamsters' political action committee. DRIVE funds campaigns to fight for the rights of Union members to bargain together at work 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 office at 206-441-4860.*

## TEAMSTERS FIGHT FOR A FAIR ECONOMY

Local 117 joins coalition of Unions, community groups



A Fight for a Fair Economy campaign action on June 4 targeting Chase Bank.

With working people under attack across the country, your Local Union is fighting back. Teamsters Local 117 has partnered with other Unions, faith-based groups, and community organizations in an effort to identify leaders in our communities who are willing to speak out against corporate greed and fight to create good jobs with family wages, affordable health care, and a secure future.

The coalition is part of a broad-based campaign that targets neighborhoods that have been especially hard hit by the recession. The campaign, called The *Fight for a Fair Economy FFE*, has 16 hubs in cities across the country, including one right here in the Pacific Northwest.

**HUNDREDS OF ORGANIZING LEADS**

Members of Local 117 are donating their time to speak with members of our communities about the dire state of our economy and how it has impacted working people.

The FFE campaign, which started in Auburn and Federal Way, will be moving to Tacoma later this summer. So far, campaign volunteers have spoken with literally thousands of community members. Those contacts have

generated hundreds of organizing leads in your Local Union's jurisdictions.

Organizing workers in those industries will have the effect of improving wages and benefits for all Union members, both in the private and public sector. More

importantly, the conversations show that working people are fed up and willing to take a stand collectively against greedy corporations and their political stooges that are gutting the middle class and heaping the blame on public employees and other working families.

**NO MORE WAL-MART STYLE JOBS!**

Working people understand that the rich and big corporations aren't doing their part. Healthcare, education and jobs in our community are getting cut, and the wealthy and powerful are not paying their fair share of taxes. We bailed out big business, and we've given big tax cuts to the wealthy. It's time for them to pay their share, create more jobs, and do their part to get this economy moving forward.

Nobody is going to do this for us. That's why Local 117 is joining together with other groups to speak out for the good jobs that will put Washington State and our country on the right track.

*For more information about The Fight for a Fair Economy or if you would like to volunteer for the campaign, contact Local 117 Organizer Brenda Wiest at 206-441-4860 ext. 1256 or visit [www.workingwa.org](http://www.workingwa.org).*



*Teamsters Local 117 members Carolyn Goolsby (left) and Susan Marihugh (right) proudly carry the banner of the Tacoma Public Library Bookaneers.*

## AVAST, ME HEARTIES! TEAMSTERS AHOY!

**By Carolyn Goolsby, Tacoma Public Library**

In Tacoma's Proctor District, the arrival of Spring is marked by a uniquely local event – the Junior Daffodil Parade. This is the second year that Tacoma Public Library has participated with their Book Cart Drill Team – the Bookaneers!

Members of the team marched the parade route while performing maneuvers with library book carts such as weaves, complex formations, and the ever-popular pinwheels. Teamsters Local 117 members Carolyn Goolsby (Technical Services Manager) and Susan Marihugh (Branch Manager at Kobetich Branch) carried the banner, raised the roof, and worked the crowd to the cheers of the spectators.

All along the route, cheers erupted for the Library and for the Bookaneers, as soon as people read the banner and realized who was performing.

The Bookaneers are one of the most recognizable outreach activity of the

employees of the library. The team is a collaborative effort that pulls together both the Library's unions – Teamsters Local 117 and AFSCME Local 120-L for a common cause and for after-work fun.

The Tacoma Public Library Book Cart Drill Team is a volunteer activity – the workers themselves started the team, and arranged for practices and performance at the parade. All team members volunteer their time after work to practice. The Library provides indoor practice space at the Wheelock Library after closing time, and Wheelock Branch Manager Cheryl Towne (Local 117) makes sure everything is ship-shape.

The team begins weekly practices months in advance - but it is all worth it when the spectators cheer the library and the work that the team members do, both on the parade route, and in their daily jobs at the Library.

## LOCAL 117'S PIERCE COUNTY PAC IS UP AND RUNNING

On May 26, a group of Local 117 members from the South Sound region met at the Teamsters hall in Tacoma to discuss building political power at their Union.

The gathering was part of a bold, new political action program at Local 117 aimed at enacting pro-labor legislative reform and electing public officials who care about working family issues.

The program was launched last summer when your Local Union hired Political Action Coordinator Lily Wilson-Codega.

That move, together with changes at the Teamsters Joint Council 28 and, most recently, Local 117's hiring of Lobbyist & Associate Attorney Teresita Torres, has transformed your Union into a political powerhouse in less than a year.

"Our regional PACs meet every month and a half. We lobby legislators, testify in legislative hearings, gather petition signatures, hold voter registration drives, and rally in support of labor-friendly candidates," Wilson-Codega said.

Throughout the 2010 election, Local 117's PAC members participated in 25 phone banks in 12 targeted legislative districts and completed over 7,232 voter contacts statewide. This legislative session over 400 PAC members rallied in Olympia, lobbied over 50 elected officials and testified at 12 legislative hearings.

"Local 117's Political Action Committees are a great way for members to get involved in the fight to protect and expand the rights of working families," said Local 117 Secretary-Treasurer Tracey A. Thompson. "I encourage you to attend the next PAC meeting to see firsthand the great work they are doing."

*For more information about the Teamsters Local 117 political action program, contact Lily Wilson-Codega at 206-441-4860 ext. 1262 or visit your Local Union's website at [www.teamsters117.org](http://www.teamsters117.org).*

# WASHAM RECALL EFFORT PROVIDES HOPE FOR EMBATTLED UNION MEMBERS

## Local 117 joins effort to recall Dale Washam

There is a quiet hope within the Pierce County labor community that a stop can be put once and for all to the tyrannical mismanagement that has stricken the Assessor Treasurer's office through the reign of Dale Washam.

The Washam saga has progressed well into its new phase, as members of Local 117 throughout the South Sound have teamed up with volunteers from his own staff and other concerned citizenry in an all-out recall effort.

Honorary Co-Chairs of the recall group consist of several formerly elected public officials, including the former mayor of Tacoma, Bill Baarsma.

### MISMANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS

The recall is necessary, employees at the Assessor's office say, to stop "the gross mismanagement of public funds" and the

"blatant disregard of employment law" by the Assessor Treasurer.

In 2009, Washam was charged with interference, coercion, discrimination, retaliation, bad faith bargaining, and unilateral changes to bargaining unit members' wages, hours and working conditions in a 155-page ULP filed by Teamsters Local 117. The case was ultimately settled in the Union's favor.

The employees who were subjected to the most grievous retaliation filed civil lawsuits against Washam and are seeking monetary damages.

### VINDICTIVE & OUT OF TOUCH

Despite continued turmoil in his office, Washam claims on his website that his staff is "happy and well."

Conversations with Local 117 members

paint a starkly different picture.

"The atmosphere in the office is extremely tense," said one senior staff member, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "People are fearful of retaliation and worried about losing their jobs, especially if they get involved in the recall."

### 28,000 SIGNATURES GATHERED

Over the last few months, dozens of volunteers have gathered nearly half of the 65,000 recall signatures necessary to call a special election later this year.

Local 117 members who want to get involved in the recall effort can request a petition and sign up to volunteer at [www.recalldalewasham.org](http://www.recalldalewasham.org).

*For more information, contact Local 117's Political Action Coordinator Lily Wilson-Codega at 206-441-4860 ext. 1262.*

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## PIERCE COUNTY GENERAL UNIT RATIFIES ONE-YEAR AGREEMENT

Pierce County approached Teamsters Local 117 Business Representative, Jeff Clark, about the possibility of a one-year contract extension to the current agreement with the County.

A coalition consisting of Teamsters Local 117, PTE Local 17, Teamsters Local 313, IBEW 483, Council 2 – Local 120 and IAM 160 agreed to negotiate over an extension if the County was willing to increase its share of members' medical premiums.

As a result, for the first time in three years, Pierce County has agreed to increase premium contributions.

In 2012, the County will pay the first 10% of any medical premium increase and 100% of the dental and life insurance premium increases.

On June 14, the membership of Teamsters Local 117 (General Unit) in Pierce County ratified the extension agreement by a 6 to 1 ratio.

### UNIONS WORKING TOGETHER

This agreement demonstrates how Unions can work together in tough economic times to protect the wages, benefits, job security and working conditions of its members.

*Thanks to all of the members of Local 117 at Pierce County for your hard work and dedication to public service and your Union solidarity during these negotiations!*

# HUMANE SOCIETY TEAMSTERS

## Bringing joy to pets and people



Patrice Aarhaus & Co. of Tacoma's Humane Society.

If you're an animal lover, a trip to Tacoma's Humane Society will tug at your heart, but it also provides a ray of hope. The shelter houses hundreds of animals, mostly stray or abandoned cats and dogs. All are eagerly searching for a new home.

The 27 Teamsters who work at the Society welcome every pet that comes through its door, and make herculean efforts to find each adoptable pet an owner.

"This can be a hard place to work," confesses Patrice Aarhaus, a member of Local 117 and a 23-year veteran of the shelter. "But it's satisfying when you can find the right pet for the right person and you know it's a good match. It makes a happy ending to a sad story."

### COMPASSION, CARE AND HOPE

There are other reasons to be hopeful as well, Patrice says.

The Humane Society has been able to dramatically decrease pet euthanasia

over the years, thanks to a low-cost spay/neuter program that it launched in 1991. A decade ago, 3000 homeless puppies entered the shelter each year. That number has dropped to just over 300. In the last three years, the organization has successfully found homes for all puppies and adoptable dogs.

"Things are a lot better now than they used to be," says Patrice, who plans to retire from the organization in April next year. "People are much more aware of the importance of getting their pets fixed."

As you might suspect, Patrice and the other Teamsters at the Humane Society are strong advocates for adopting animals from a shelter. Tacoma's Humane Society offers a huge variety of pets, they point out, much greater than a pet store. And, unlike at the major pet store chains, its employees are organized and working under a collective bargaining agreement. Most importantly, when you go to a shelter, you know that you are saving a life.

Patrice advises a prospective pet owner to visit the shelter and not to rush into anything. "We have a meet-and-greet room, so that that you can get acquainted with an animal. It's kind of like finding a spouse. You should take your time because the relationship is long-term."

*Teamsters who are interested in adopting a pet should contact the Humane Society for Tacoma and Pierce County at 253-383-2733. To volunteer, call 253-284-5832*

## ATTENTION LOCAL 117 WTWT PARTICIPANTS!

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



If you are a Local 117 member covered under the Washington

Teamsters Welfare Trust (WTWT), you must re-enroll yourself and all eligible family members by June 30, 2011.

When you re-enroll, it is important to know that, as required under the Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act, the Trust will now begin covering children up to age 26 effective July 1, 2011 even if they are over 18, married, and not enrolled in school full time as is currently required.

### You may choose to re-enroll on the web or by mail.

### THE DEADLINE FOR RE-ENROLLMENT IS JUNE 30, 2011.

- To re-enroll on the web, register and/or login at [www.nwadmin.com](http://www.nwadmin.com).
- To re-enroll by mail, access a PDF re-enrollment form at your Local Union's website at [www.teamsters117.org](http://www.teamsters117.org).

If you do not re-enroll by June 30, the Trust will be unable to continue processing your claims (medical, dental, vision and prescription drugs) until re-enrollment has been completed. Therefore, you are strongly encouraged to re-enroll as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact your Business Representative or contact your Local Union at 206-441-4860.

### TEAMSTERS LOCAL 117 EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**June 26, 2011** – PRIDE (Come table at Seattle's PRIDE parade!)

**June 27-July 1, 2011** – IBT Convention (Local 117 delegation to participate!)

**July 30, 2011** - Ethnic Fest (Come table at one of Tacoma's premiere festivals!)

**August 2011** – Paint Tacoma Beautiful (Join the Local 117 volunteer crew!)

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 us on Twitter.