



Teamsters Local 117

Teamster Talk



Fighting for Workers' Rights Since 1936

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



Don't Miss It!

HOLIDAY MEMBERSHIP MEETING - DEC. 19



Local 117 member Tim Hop celebrates a win.

It's that time of year again when Teamsters across the state, at our DOC facilities and domicile locations, and on December 19 at 7 P.M. at the Union hall, will be gathering together by the hundreds for union solidarity and our annual raffle drawing.

Dozens of prizes are awarded each year, including iPods, Wiis, power tools, bottles of wine, gift cards and 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.

See you on December 19! ●

NEW CONTRACT FOR TEAMSTERS AT DARIGOLD

Lab techs and production workers win new contract after 8-month fight



Darigold workers gather before a leafleting action on Nov. 24.

Teamster production workers and lab technicians, employed by Darigold, have vote overwhelmingly to ratify a new labor agreement that provides wage increases, health care protections, and retirement security for 220 workers and their families. The contract vote took place on Sunday, December 8.

"Teamsters at Darigold showed tremendous solidarity and resiliency throughout the bargaining process," said Tracey A. Thompson, Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 117. "The strength of our members and our strong community partnerships made this deal possible."

A number of proposed changes to working conditions became central issues during bargaining but were ultimately resolved when the Union and Darigold last met on December 5. Bargaining between the Union and Darigold began in April, and Teamsters at Darigold had been working without a contract since June.

In November, Teamsters formed a new coalition – the **Farm to Family Coalition**

– with the United Farm Workers, UFCW, and a number of community organizations to fight for food safety, fair labor standards, and sustainability, not just at Darigold, but across the food supply chain.

FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN JUSTICE

"Workers play a pivotal role in ensuring that the food we enjoy is healthy and safe," Thompson said. "Employers like Darigold need to recognize that intimidating workers at their food processing plants and turning a blind eye to squalid conditions on their suppliers' farms is bad for business and bad for our community."

"If my family goes to buy a Darigold product in the store, they need to know that it is safe."

**JOSH PUTNAM
15-year member at Fred Meyer**

At a press conference on November 16, workers in food-related industries spoke about conditions on the farms, in the processing plants, in the labs, in the warehouses, and in the stores.

"We work 12 to 14 hours a day without

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A message from your Secretary-Treasurer



Tracey A. Thompson

Brothers and Sisters:

When workers go on strike, it is the ultimate test of union solidarity. Who crosses the line and who is willing to risk their livelihood to stand together with their brothers and sisters makes all the difference.

But you don't need a picket line to show union solidarity. Solidarity is also about giving back to your community.

GIVING THE GIFT OF LIFE

On November 16, dozens of Teamsters and their family members donated more than 75 pints of blood to the Cascade Regional Blood Services as a part of Local 117's annual blood drive. Giving blood saves lives. Over the last 20 years, thousands of Teamsters have donated their blood during our blood drive. That's union solidarity.

MEMBERS TAKING CARE OF THEIR OWN

There are countless other ways to show your solidarity. At Food Services of America, Jason Stepner, a longtime Shop Steward, took union solidarity to a whole new level. Stepner rallied together his co-workers in support of a fellow member who was unable to work and in danger of losing his home. Stepner figured that if everyone chipped in \$5 per pay period, they could collectively pay his mortgage.

Teamster taxi drivers are also getting into the act. This holiday season, drivers have collected thousands of dollars that they will be donating to the Northwest Harvest food bank.

For our annual holiday membership meeting on Dec. 19, a group of Teamsters at Fred Meyer are holding a raffle to benefit the Arthritis Foundation in honor of a fellow member who is suffering from the disease. Raffle tickets are \$1. Prizes include a framed drawing of Hoffas Jr. and Sr. as well as a Fred Meyer and Space Needle gift card.

Other ways to show union solidarity this holiday season:

- *Donate toys to the Teamsters for Tomorrow Toy Drive*
- *Donate blood or bring canned food to your local food bank*
- *Donate supplies, clothing, or food to homeless families*

Thank you so much for your service to our communities. I wish you and your family a happy, healthy, and prosperous holiday season.

In Solidarity,

Tracey A. Thompson
Secretary-Treasurer

DARIGOLD

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lunch or rest breaks and without water. On top of that, they steal our wages. We've been fighting for four years and nothing changes," said Margarito Martinez, a

former farm worker at Ruby Ridge Dairy, a 2,000-cow operation that supplies milk to Darigold.

Lisa Hearing, a lab technician at Darigold's corporate lab in Tukwila, spoke about the critical nature of her work and Darigold's intimidation of workers during contract negotiations with the Teamsters.

"The milk comes in off the farm and we test it for raw bacterial count, antibiotics, and a lot of other things. We try to make sure that the milk is safe when it goes to production. It's really frustrating to be working so long without a contract. You never know if you're going to show up for work and be locked out," she said.

EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY

The **Farm to Family Coalition** participated in several consumer actions to raise community awareness about their concerns at Darigold. Workers engaged in handbilling actions at retail locations in California, Oregon, and Washington State. The coalition will continue its work to promote health, safety, and workers' rights across the food supply chain so that workers and consumers are protected and our communities can prosper.

"I want to thank our many labor and community partners for their incredible support during contract negotiations with Darigold. In the end, it was the strength and solidarity of the Darigold workers that really mattered. These workers were willing to risk their livelihoods to achieve a fair contract, and they have succeeded in accomplishing that goal," Thompson said. ●



Darigold members leaflet outside of the Renton Walmart.

“WE ARE ALL MACHINISTS.”

Machinists reject Boeing’s “Piece of Crap” proposal

Teamsters joined hundreds of union members on November 18 at Westlake Park in the heart of downtown Seattle to stand in solidarity with Boeing Machinists who resoundingly rejected a company proposal, which would have converted the workers’ pension plan to a 401k, slowed wage progression, and forced workers to shoulder more of the cost of health care.

117 LEADING THE CHARGE

In the pouring down rain, Local 117 members led the group in a series



Local 117’s Pedro Olguin leads chants at Machinists rally.

of chants: “Union - Power!” “When we fight, we win!” And “Build it here!” in reference to the new 777x that Boeing has threatened to produce out-of-state unless the Machinists agreed to the company’s terms.

With the sales of Boeing aircrafts booming and the company raking in record profits, workers are being asked to accept concessions that would further erode middle class jobs in our community.

“Workers across the country are under attack,” said Secretary-Treasurer Thompson, who spoke at the rally. “Instead of building up our community by preserving good family wage jobs, corporate executives are enriching themselves and tearing down the middle class. We’ve got to fight back. **And when we stand together and fight, we win!**” ●

WHAT’S THE DEAL WITH “RIGHT TO WORK?”

So-called “Right to Work” laws are hurting workers



Don’t be fooled by “Right to Work”

In the wake of the decision by workers at Boeing to hold the line on protecting good-paying jobs and strong pensions, one state legislator from Spokane has introduced legislation called “Right to Work.” What exactly is “Right to Work” and how would it impact us?

Big businesses in Washington D.C.

and our state have funded efforts in recent years to enact Right To Work (for less) laws, which prohibit Unions and employers from entering into Union security clauses – which require all workers who benefit from a contract to share in the cost of representation.

What you don’t hear from folks who support these disastrous laws is the consequences of passing these in states where they already have Right to Work for less legislation:

- Workers in RTW states earn, on average, \$5,500 less per year (or \$458 per month) than in states without RTW laws
- Employers in RTW states offer health insurance at a lower rate than in states without RTW, and the number of uninsured adults and children is higher in states without RTW laws

- The poverty rates for adults and children are both higher in states with RTW (for less) laws
- Workplace deaths are a staggering 58% higher in RTW states

Right to Work (for less) hurts everyone but Wall Street CEOs by driving down quality-of-life standards for workers and the communities of which they are a part. Make no mistake: we should expect the fight to come to Washington state next year and we will need to be constantly vigilant to ensure we protect what we have for all our members. ●

Local 117 Lobby Day January 28, 2014

We will be discussing Right to Work (for less) legislation at our upcoming Lobby Day on January 28.

If you are interested in talking with your legislators about why this would be disastrous for workers, please call Political Coordinator Dustin Lambro at 206-441-4862 x 1262 or by email at dustin.lambro@teamsters117.org.

THE FIGHT FOR \$15

Building on the momentum from the Prop 1 victory in SeaTac



Workers march for a \$15/hr minimum wage in Seattle.

Fresh from the Proposition 1 victory in the City of SeaTac that will dramatically improve wages and working conditions for over 6,000 low-wage workers at SeaTac Airport, Teamsters 117, together with a number of other Unions, is taking the fight to increase the minimum wage to \$15/hr to Seattle.

Workers launched the "Fight for \$15" campaign by marching 15 miles, from the airport to Seattle City Hall, where they held a rally on December 5.

THE MAKINGS OF A MOVEMENT

This is a groundbreaking effort that has

the potential to improve the lives of working families, not just in SeaTac or Seattle, but across the country.

One of the workers whose life will change with the new law in SeaTac is Abdirahman Abdullahi, a Local 117 member who transports rental cars to and from the airport for Hertz.

Abdullahi worked on the Prop 1 campaign in SeaTac, knocking on hundreds of doors to talk with voters about the initiative.

"Too many workers are making poverty wages," he said. "They don't have full-time work and they have to work 2-3 jobs just to pay the bills and survive."

"Now, with the passage of Proposition 1, workers will earn a livable wage, paid sick days, and have full-time work. If you get a good job with a livable wage, you can go to school, you can support your family, you can pay your bills, and you can take your kids to the doctor. This will change the entire community," he said.

Workers in Seattle and across the country deserve the same opportunities. ●

COME LOBBY FOR CHANGE!

Legislative session starts on Jan. 14



Local 117 Lobby Day 2013

The 2014 legislative session is right around the corner, and we are busy establishing our legislative priorities so that we can hit the ground running.

Next year's session will start on January 14 and will last for 60 days. It's a short session, so acting quickly and decisively with lots of member support is key.

A few of the things we will be working on include:

- Educating legislators on interest arbitration for corrections
- Passing a PSERS bill (HB1923) for DOC health care employees
- Passing a bill that would permit taxicab operators the right to opt into L&I
- Passing a statewide Paid Sick Days bill

You can view a complete list of Local 117's legislative priorities at www.teamsters117.org.

To get folks engaged, we will be organizing lobby days so that you have a chance to speak directly with your legislators about critical issues.

To sign up for a Local 117 lobby day, contact Political Action Coordinator Dustin Lambro at 206-441-4860 ext. 1262. ●

MLK Jr. March and Rally

January 20, 2014

@11am Garfield High School,

400 23rd Ave Seattle, WA 98122

Join your fellow **Teamsters Local 117** Brothers and Sisters in honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr on January 20, 2014. We will be carpooling together to the event. For more information, contact Vice President Cetrus Tucker at 206-441-4860 ext. 1263 or visit your Union's website at www.teamsters117.org.

LOCAL 117 EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Dec. 19, 2013 - Holiday Membership Meeting

Jan. 20, 2014 - MLK Jr. March and Rally

Jan. 28, 2014 - Local 117 Lobby Day

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