



Puget Sound Taxi Driver

November 2014

FORE TIMES

News for the Western Washington Taxicab Operators Association (WWTCOA) - Teamsters Local 117

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

Western Washington Taxicab Operators Association Annual WWTCOA Meeting

**Saturday, November 22
3 P.M.**

Teamsters Building:
14675 Interurban Ave S, Tukwila

Discuss a possible dues increase and changing our bylaws!

You are invited! At the meeting, we will be electing members of the Leadership Council for 2015. *Join us to continue to build power in the taxi industry!*

WWTCOA ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

- *Elect 2014-2015 Leadership Council members*
- *Discuss the possibility of raising dues from \$25 to \$30 per month*
- *Change the bylaws to include language on a quorum*
- *Learn about what the new taxi laws are and how they will affect you*
- *Look at the finances and membership of your association*
- *Engage in setting legislative priorities for 2015*

TAXI TEAM WINS TEAMSTERS SOCCER TOURNAMENT



WWTCOA taxi operators - the winning team!

Congratulations! to Teamster taxi cab operators on winning the annual Local 117 Solidarity Soccer Tournament! The event was held on Saturday, September 13 at Joseph Foster Memorial Park in Tukwila. Local 117 members from the steel, grocery, and parking industries were also represented.

Taxi Lobby Day

GEARING UP FOR OLYMPIA!



There will be a WWTCOA taxi lobby day in February to talk to elected officials in Olympia about how mandatory L&I coverage affects you and your family.

Check TeamsterTaxi.org and the WWTCOA Facebook page for updates!

TAXI ASSOCIATION SAVES MEMBERS HUNDREDS IN INSURANCE FEES



WWTCOA members have signed up for a new insurance program that will save them money.

For the last two years, the Western Washington Taxi Cab Association (WWTCOA) has been working tirelessly to find reliable and affordable insurance for Teamster taxi drivers.

Taxi drivers have been forced to pay premium rates due to artificially inflated prices and a monopoly of the market by a just a few providers.

Members of the WWTCOA leadership

council, together with Teamsters Local 117 staff, spoke with a number of insurance brokers and lobbied intensively at the City, County and State level to change the laws that limited members' options.

Now, after a great deal of hard work and perseverance, WWTCOA members are able to get low-cost, high-quality commercial insurance that will save them between \$1000-\$2000 a year!

This is an amazing benefit for members of the association that will help them take care of their families.

"It used to be the cost of insurance was too high. Just a few people had a monopoly and they wanted to give us just one rate. They were taking advantage of us," said Raymond Dhillon, a driver who is dispatched through Yellow Cab. "Now we have options. The taxi association and the

Teamsters helped find someone who could give us a lower quote. This will save us approximately \$2000 a year for one person. We're feeling good about it!"

THE LATEST INSURANCE NEWS

At this point, local brokers have done everything they can to try and sabotage the new program, from harassing the drivers, to making false reports to the insurance commissioner. As the insurance underwriters were also harassed, they are refusing to admit any new vehicles into the policy.

We are in the process of taking legal action against brokers, and finding another underwriter. We will not let those who have made their living off of the backs of drivers to continue to prosper. As soon as we have more information on the insurance issue, we will let you know.

WWTCOA - Taxi Updates:

- The lottery for new licenses will begin in January.
- Zones should now be visible on the New Dispatch System at Yellow Cab.
- Tripsheets are no longer required. If you have been told otherwise, this is not a City requirement.
- Customer Service Training certificates are available at the Superintendent's office.
- All TNC drivers in Seattle must have for-hire licenses by December 12.
- The City of Tacoma has passed laws regulating ride-share companies. Taxis and TNC's in Tacoma are now required to follow the same rules, get the same licenses, and have the same insurance.
- On Tuesday, November 25, members of the Leadership Council will meet with Senator Joe Fain to discuss progress on the L&I legislation.
- The Port of Seattle has quadrupled fees for flat-rate for-hire drivers who come to Sea-Tac Airport to solicit passengers.
- The City is hiring one new inspector to assist with enforcement on the new laws. Taxicab owners and drivers with experience in Seattle are encouraged to apply.
- Work to improve the new computer system continues. Expect an update at the annual meeting on November 22.
- The WWTCOA has filed a lawsuit against corrupt insurance brokers in Seattle. The suit names Top Notch and Key Insurance as defendants.
- The City is asking for recommendations for 10 new taxi stands downtown. Please bring your recommendations to the annual meeting on November 22.

WWTCOA

NEW DRIVERS' CAUCUS!

Lease drivers are coming together to discuss their issues and to develop strategies to address them.

The WWTCOA Leadership Council has voted to establish a new Drivers' Caucus as a means of addressing drivers' concerns.

The committee will be comprised of lease drivers who are dedicated to improving working conditions for the driver community.

The committee will function in an advisory capacity to the Leadership Council and will meet on a regular basis.

Interested drivers must be nominated and in attendance at the WWTCOA annual meeting on Saturday, November 22.

For information about city decisions and hearings, plans for action, events within your Local, and news clips, please "like" us on Facebook—WWTCOA- Teamster Taxis—and follow us on Twitter @TeamsterTaxis.