



SPRING 2016

# SOUTH SOUND

FOR MEMBERS OF TEAMSTERS 117 IN GREATER PIERCE COUNTY

## QUICK NEWS

### Contract News

Members at the Tacoma Public Library recently voted to pass a new 4-year agreement.

Members at Pierce Co. Forensics voted unanimously to pass their 2-year contract.

Members in the Pierce Co. General Unit will be voting on their contract on May 17 and May 21 at the IBEW Hall in Tacoma.

Bargaining for members at the City of Kent, City of Auburn, Tacoma Pierce County Health Dept., and the Public Assembly Facilities will kick off this year.

Tacoma Joint Labor bargaining is expected to get underway this summer.

### Scholarships

We're accepting applications for the Jeff Alfieri Scholarship.

The Local 117 Jeff Alfieri Scholarship of up to \$2000 is awarded to outstanding students whose parents are members of Local 117.

*Application deadline is May 6.*

Details for all scholarships are at [teamsters117.org/scholarships](http://teamsters117.org/scholarships).



**Thank you for your membership  
in Teamsters Local 117**

## THANK YOU EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATORS

We celebrate the incredible service of  
Emergency Communications and Records

The second full week in April was **National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week**, an opportunity to thank our members at South Sound 911 and the Port of Seattle for the tremendous work they do to serve and protect the public.

Local 117 Telecommunicators perform challenging and stressful public safety work in service to our community.

They answer your 911 calls, manage essential records, and are the first contact for members of the public in an emergency. In addition to ensuring the safety of the public, they also protect our police officers and firefighters by monitoring their activities and providing them with vital information.

These members perform heroic work, but often receive little recognition for the life-saving services they provide.

Let's honor our Local 117 telecommunicators for the amazing work they do. If you have a story that highlights your experience with one of these members, please share it on our new website

**FamilyStrengthCommunity.org** or email [stories@teamsters117.org](mailto:stories@teamsters117.org).

It's important that we share what it's like to be the *first* first responder.

Let's also welcome Puyallup and Fife Emergency Communications and Records Personnel to the Teamsters.

Of the approximately 250 Telecommunicators who are members of Teamsters 117, roughly 25 recently merged into the South Sound 911 bargaining unit from the cities of Puyallup and Fife.

We are currently in the process of negotiating the eastside appendix on behalf of these new members. The City of Puyallup Teamsters have recently elected two new **Shop Stewards – Doreen Strange and Tina Lewis**. Doreen and Tina will join Shop Steward **Alisha Reynolds** in assisting Business Rep. Julie Yust with the representational work and Business Rep. Jeff Clark at the bargaining table.

We're excited to have our Puyallup and Fife brothers and sisters in Local 117!

### TEAMSTERS LOCAL 117

14675 Interurban Ave. S. - Tukwila, WA 98168  
Phone: (206) 441-4860 - [teamsters117.org](http://teamsters117.org)

### FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



A MESSAGE FROM

## JOHN SCEARCY

SECRETARY-TREASURER,  
TEAMSTERS LOCAL 117



### *Brothers and Sisters:*

I want to draw your attention to a common concern in the public sector work environment. It's a practice called "skimming."

Skimming occurs when managers or outside contractors start performing job duties typically assigned to members within the bargaining unit. Skimming can cause you to lose out on overtime, lose control of your work environment, or even lead to layoffs.

In the South Sound region, Stewards and other members have reported skimming at the City of Tacoma, Pierce County, and other locations.

As a union member, you have protections against skimming under the law and possibly in your contract. It may be a contractual violation or an unfair labor practice, for example,

when an employer fails to bargain the decision to skim bargaining unit work.

**"SKIMMING OCCURS WHEN MANAGERS OR OUTSIDE CONTRACTORS START PERFORMING JOB DUTIES TYPICALLY ASSIGNED TO MEMBERS WITHIN THE BARGAINING UNIT."**

It's important that you are aware of your rights with respect to skimming and that you protect the work you have historically performed.

If you allow your employer to skim your work, it can quickly develop into

an established practice and it may be difficult to recapture that work.

If someone is performing your work who is not a member, be sure to report it to your Shop Steward or Business Representative immediately. A failure to stop skimming will weaken your union, diminish your leverage at the bargaining table, and make it more difficult for you and your co-workers to recapture your work.

Thank you for your service to our communities, and for your membership in Teamsters Local 117.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature of John Scearcy in black ink.

John Scearcy,  
Secretary-Treasurer



4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TEAMSTERS LOCAL 117

## CAR & BIKE SHOW

Rods, customs, classics, and choppers will be on display at this family friendly event. There will be prizes, a raffle, goodie bags, cheap grub, and a bouncy house for the kids.

Cost per vehicle is \$20 (day of show), \$15 (pre-registration) \$10 (retiree). The event is free if you're coming to browse. Proceeds benefit the Local 117 Solidarity Scholarship.

TEAMSTERS HALL | SATURDAY JUNE 18 | 9:30 A.M.



# NEW WEBSITE BUILDS UNITY

## New FamilyStrengthCommunity.org builds member involvement

We've just launched an exciting new website for members of Teamsters 117. It focuses on the values we share as Teamsters – values like family, strength, and community.

The site highlights our shared values – the need for wages to raise a family, strong and healthy communities, a secure retirement, and respect.

The site also emphasizes the need for us to stick together. Right now, working people are facing unprecedented attacks by wealthy special interest groups like the "Freedom" Foundation.

These groups are trying to rewrite the rules for union members in the statehouses and the courts. They're trying to make it more difficult for us to stand together and fight for what we believe in and the values we share.

The "Freedom" Foundation is bankrolled by out-of-state billionaires and wealthy special interests. They use

their vast resources to try to undermine unions. But there are a few things they don't have – our power in numbers, our unity, and our collective voice.

As Teamsters, we're strongest when we stick together. That's why we're asking members to reaffirm their commitment to each other by signing an online pledge. You can fill out the pledge on the new website.

You can also sign a pledge card at work. Shop Stewards and other rank-and-file leaders are going around the workplace, talking with members about the issues members are facing.

This is a part of our **Every Voice Counts campaign**. Over the next several months, we'll be conducting member-to-member interviews across our union.

**To schedule an interview, talk to your Shop Steward or contact Karen Estevenin at 206-441-4860 ext. 1244.**



## National News

### Supreme Court Reaffirms Collective Bargaining

The U.S. Supreme Court delivered a victory to working people in its decision in *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association*. The Court's 4-4 decision leaves intact the precedent that has served as law for four decades.

"The ruling affirms 40 years of precedent that working people have the right to a strong and effective union," said John Searcy, Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 117.

The Friedrichs case challenged the constitutionality of fair-share fees. These are the fees paid by non-union members who share the wages, benefits and working conditions collectively bargained for them by their union. The fees are used to cover the cost of bargaining and do not go towards political activity.

### What happens now?

For now, public sector workers will maintain their ability to negotiate improvements at work through a strong union.

Although Friedrichs is no longer an immediate threat, there are other groups with a clear agenda to defund and bleed unions of our ability fight for working people.

The Friedrichs case was yet another reminder of the attack on the American middle class.

Teamsters 117 public sector members are engaging with each other through the **Every Voice Counts campaign**. This campaign helps build unity through member-to-member interactions. Member engagement is the key to building a strong union.

**Learn more at**  
**FamilyStrengthCommunity.org.**



FAMILY. STRENGTH. COMMUNITY.

OUR VALUES

STORIES

OUR COMMITMENT

WHO'S ATTACKING YOUR UNION?

RESOURCES



## Making a Commitment To Each Other

Our economy is out of balance. As public sector union members, we are facing attacks that threaten our ability to get ahead. Wealthy special interest groups such as the [Freedom Foundation](#) are pressuring us to abandon our union membership. They can try to misguide us, but they can't break our commitment to each other.





# WELCOME NEW REP. JULIE YUST

JULIE MOVES FROM THE TACOMA-PIERCE CO. HEALTH DEPT. INTO NEW ROLE AT LOCAL 117

Julie Yust's pathway from an intern at the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department to Local 117 Business Representative can appear destined. When she became a Teamster in 2008, she almost immediately became involved. Now, 8 years later, she is ready to take the next step.

Julie grew up in Bellingham and attended Washington State University where she earned a BS in Psychology. The daughter of two schoolteachers, Julie was raised in a Union household. Her parents taught her to speak up in the face of injustice.

"I've always been outspoken on issues

that matter to me," Julie says. "The Union gave me the ability to take action and an opportunity to be heard."

While working at the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, Julie counseled individuals battling drug and alcohol addiction. She soon began attending union events. She has phone-banked, attended lobby day events and, more recently, taken a leadership role with internal member engagement. She became a Shop Steward in March of 2015.

Julie hopes to bring her lifelong passion for justice to her new role. "My goal is to empower members to

be the experts on their contract. I want to be a resource, but the true power of the Union comes from the members. I firmly believe that members are the Union."

Julie will represent Local 117 members in various public sector shops in greater Pierce County.

**FUN FACT:** Both Julie's father and grandfather were Teamsters.

**CONTACT JULIE AT:**  
206-441-4860 ext.1275 or emailing  
[Julie.Yust@Teamsters117.org](mailto:Julie.Yust@Teamsters117.org)

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

### MAY

- 1 - International Workers' Day**  
12P - Judkin's Playfield - Seattle
- 22 - Veteran's Caucus Meeting**  
10A - Tukwila

### JUNE

- 16 - Membership Meeting**  
7P - Tukwila
- 18 - Car and Bike Show**  
9:30A - Tukwila

### JULY

- 30-31 - Ethnic Fest**  
Wright Park, Tacoma

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This newsletter was created  
with Union Labor - PZ, IBT-117