



TEAMSTERS LOCAL 117

The Guardian

News from the hardworking men and women of DOC

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Teamsters Local 117: 14675 Interurban Ave. S, Suite 307 • Tukwila, WA 98168 • 1-888-872-3489 • www.teamsters117.org

SMALL BUSINESS IS ON OUR SIDE

Newspaper ads, radio spots, and op-eds highlight small business support



MCC Teamsters with the owner of the Sky River Bakery in Monroe

Small businesses across our state are showing their support for DOC correctional employees.

In Walla Walla, 32 businesses have signed a letter saying that they stand with us in our effort to get our contract funded.

In Monroe, 42 businesses have signed on. In Aberdeen, it's 21. In the Port Angeles area, it's more than 50.

In all, over 140 local, small businesses are standing together with corrections.

Business owners have not only signed the letter of support that we've sent to legislators, they are also displaying window clings in their store fronts stating, "WA State Correctional Employees: You Protect Us. We Support You."

A \$527 MILLION ECONOMIC BOOST

Small businesses are rallying behind correctional employees because they

understand the important role the men and women of corrections play in protecting our communities.

They also understand that funding the corrections' contract will pump \$527 million into our state's economy. More money in the pockets of working families helps small businesses in communities across our state thrive.

To highlight the small business support, we have run ads in several local newspapers. To date, ads have run in the **Peninsula Daily News**, the **Walla Walla Union Bulletin**, the **Everett Herald**, and an ad is scheduled to run in the **Olympian** on May 27.

RADIO ADS RUNNING STATEWIDE

In addition to our print ads, we're running radio spots on multiple stations statewide.

Our radio ads feature DOC members talking about their work and asking the public to call their senator about funding our contract.

Thanks to the following members who helped record the ads: **Michelle Alejo** (RN) and **Derek Kennedy** (CO2) of WCC, **Dave Roberts** (CO2) of MCC, **Eduardo Michele** (CO2) and **Jeannie Stoddard** (OA3) of WSP.

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By Nicholas Cannady

CBCC member changes his view of the union



CBCC member, Officer Nicholas Cannady

My name is **Nicholas Cannady**, and I am 22 years old. I have worked as a Correctional Officer at the **Clallam Bay Correctional Center** for 2 years.

When I first started with DOC, I was not a big fan of the union. I had the common misconception that the union didn't do anything except take our union dues.

Well, back in January, one of the shop stewards kept talking about the lobby day and how it would help us get a raise, so I figured, Why not?, and I decided to go.

While at lobby day, I saw how hard all the Teamsters actually work. They cared about getting us our raise and going out of the way to help DOC members.

Then, when I talked in front of the House Committee, I got to see how determined and hardworking the Teamsters staff were again and it really changed my opinion of the Union all together.

They care about getting DOC their raise and helping DOC employees who are facing problems inside and outside of work.

I'm proud to say I am a Teamsters Shop Steward. ●

A message from your Local 117 President and Director of Corrections & Law Enforcement



Michelle Woodrow

GETTING OUR CONTRACT FUNDED

Brothers and Sisters:

We've changed the conversation in Olympia, but there is still work to be done.

The legislature is now in special session because they've been unable to reach agreement on a new two-year budget. The biggest sticking point between the House and Senate budgets has been over compensation for state employees. Both sides recognize that in order for a deal to get done, they're going to have to fund the contracts.

This was not a foregone conclusion just months ago. What changed was the pressure the collective power of our Union put on the legislature to get it done.

Back in January, when we held our annual – and largest to date – Lobby Day with over 200 members and their families, we kicked off a long engagement with legislators that has spanned some 130 days.

In that time, we've accomplished the following in our campaign to pressure legislators:

- Over 140 small businesses, from Forks to Walla Walla, have signed on to support funding for our contract campaign;
- We've run ads in areas with a density of small business supporters in the Port Angeles Daily News, the Walla Walla Union Bulletin, the Everett Herald, and in the Olympian;
- We've been on the radio, blanketing the state with ads in every major market, talking about the importance of funding our contract;
- We've met with legislators in their offices, testified at committee hearings, and engaged legislators in-district, on the phones and over email;
- Members have submitted over a dozen Letters to the Editor and we've placed 3 op-eds in local newspapers.

Together, we've done a lot of great work, but there's still more to be done. Call your Senator today and encourage your co-workers to do the same. *Your voice makes a difference!*

Respectfully,

Michelle Woodrow
President and Director of Corrections & Law Enforcement

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You can listen to the ads on your Union website at www.Teamsters117.org.

OP-EDS & LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We've also had great success placing guest editorials and letters to the editors in a number of newspapers statewide.

Local 117's new **Secretary-Treasurer John Searcy** published an op-ed piece in the **Walla Walla Union Bulletin** on May 5 (see page 3), and **Joschue Reyes**, a classification counselor and Shop Steward at CBCC had an opinion piece published in the **Forks Forum**.

We've placed letters to the editor in several newspapers across the state. In his piece in the Peninsula Daily News, Scott Henderson, a CO2 at CBCC, writes:

"Working in a maximum security prison comes with many risks. In 2009, I found myself in a physical altercation with an offender who had no issues necessarily with me, but who had issues with the uniform I wear and what it represents.... Some correctional employees have been

permanently injured and some have made the ultimate sacrifice doing the work we do to ensure our communities are safe. At what point do our state senators begin to respect the sacrifices we make and fund our negotiated contract?"

All of this work is having an impact. Our lobby team on the ground in Olympia says that legislators have seen and heard our ads and that they're making a difference.

Still, our work to ensure that our contract is fully funded is far from over. Be sure to share our ads with your co-workers and patronize the businesses that you see listed in the newspapers. *Above all, make the call to your State Senator now!* ●



Michelle Alejo (RN) and Derek Kennedy (CO2) of WCC recording our DOC radio ads.

ACT NOW! Call the legislative hotline in Olympia at 1-800-562-6000 and tell your State Senator to fund our DOC contract! **DON'T WAIT. CALL NOW!**

Woodrow shares strong words for Senate Committee

Michelle Woodrow, your Union's President and Director of Corrections & Law Enforcement, called out Senate budget writers for voting against funding our DOC contract.

Woodrow's testimony, which she delivered on March 31 before the **Senate Ways & Means Committee**, appears below. You can view her testimony on TVW or at www.teamsters117.org.

Good afternoon Chair Hill and committee members. My name is Michelle Woodrow and I am the Director of Corrections and Law Enforcement at Teamsters Local 117.

On behalf of the 5,700 Teamsters at DOC I must tell you we are infuriated. Our members provide a vital public safety service keeping their communities, your constituents, safe. During contract negotiations with the State it was proven that these workers were 20-45% behind their comparables and have lost 11% of their purchasing power since their last general increase in 2008. Purchasing power that negatively impacts small businesses in communities from Sequim, to Centralia, to Redmond where our members shop.

For this committee to completely ignore those facts by rejecting their contract and offering them a thousand dollars per year over the biennium is appalling. You should be ashamed of yourselves for the disrespect you've shown for all state workers. Workers who put their lives on the line every day to ensure we have safe communities to live in.

All state employee unions have engaged in collective bargaining with the state as established by law and this committee's actions have completely undone the good faith bargaining process that these laws ensure.

Your proposed budget will cause damage to state workers, families, and services our state provides. ●

Published in the Walla Walla Union Bulletin on May 5, 2015

SUPPORT OUR CORRECTIONAL EMPLOYEES WHO KEEP US SAFE

By John Searcy, Local 117 Secretary-Treasurer



*John Searcy
Local 117 Secretary-Treasurer*

The recent brawl that took place at the Washington State Penitentiary is another reminder of the inherent dangers of working inside a prison.

The fight broke out in the West Complex gym and involved 25 to 30 inmates. The officers on duty at the time were faced with the difficult task of restoring order while at the same time protecting themselves and other inmates.

Given the challenges, prison staff responded quickly and effectively, quelling a dangerous incident that could have escalated into a deadly riot.

Correctional employees routinely face this type of violence.

In the 12 prisons scattered across the state, they are assaulted, spit on, thrown at with cocktails of bodily fluids, and called to break up fights. They do their jobs without body armor, a baton, a gun, or a Taser.

At the same time, these workers oversee, nurse, train, counsel and protect some of our state's most dangerous offenders, the majority of whom will be released back into the community.

These are important, difficult jobs. Yet too often correctional employees don't receive the recognition they deserve.

We can support our state's correctional employees by fully funding their contract, which is currently being considered by the Washington State Legislature.

The contract contains modest wage increases that were awarded by an independent arbitrator and deemed financially feasible by the state's Office of Financial Management. The state's House of Representatives voted to approve the contract, while the Senate voted against it.

It's been seven years since these workers have received a cost-of-living adjustment or general wage increase, and they have seen their real earnings shrink by more than 10 percent. Approving the corrections contract would help our state's economy.

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis' impact model indicates that a fully-funded Department of Corrections contract would generate \$527 million of economic activity statewide.

Small business owners understand that when local workers have more money in their pockets, the entire community benefits. That's why over a hundred small businesses across the state, including 32 in Walla Walla, have signed a letter supporting funding the corrections' contract.

The first week in May is Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW). This is a time to showcase the accomplishments of our public servants and to express our gratitude for the important services they provide.

Correctional employees risk their lives every day to protect our communities. Now it's up to the state legislature to make sure we honor the brave men and women who perform this difficult work that helps keep all of us safe. ●



Local 117 members have been hard at work publishing letters in their local newspapers. Here is a sample of just a few...

"Our state's correctional employees perform some of the most difficult, dangerous work imaginable."

- John Searcy, Secretary-Treasurer, Local 117
Peninsula Daily News

"Despite becoming targets of assault, attempted murder, murder, contamination with blood and bodily fluids, and the physical, emotional, and psychological impacts these events create, we Department of Corrections state employees must assume multiple roles while maintaining a professional attitude."
- Joschue Reyes, Shop Steward CBCC
Columbian

"At what point do our state senators begin to respect the sacrifices we make and fund our negotiated contract?"

- Officer Scott Henderson, CBCC
Peninsula Daily News

"Approving the corrections contract would help our state's economy... a fully-funded DOC contract would generate \$527 million of economic activity statewide."
- Tracey Thompson, Vice President - Local 117
The Olympian

"Assaults on correctional staff are common, and the psychological toll of working in a prison is profound. Over 44% of correctional officers report symptoms of PTSD, a percentage on par with the veterans who have served our country in Iraq and Afghanistan."

- Officer Carl Beatty, Shop Steward MCC
Seattle Times

"We ask the public to please contact your district senator and ask them to show us that they value the work that we do and prove that our work is not in vain by funding the Department of Corrections contract as it was negotiated between the union and the state."

- Joschue Reyes, Shop Steward CBCC
Everett Herald

"This is not simply about a raise, which hasn't happened in seven years; it is about the economic stimulus, the benefit to the safety of the public, and simple gratitude for an underappreciated group of society."

- Dennis Fleury, AHCC
Spokesman Review

WhatTeamstersLookLike.org



Teamster corrections employees make Washington State work by protecting the public and keeping all of us safe.

Then, after their work is done, DOC Teamsters volunteer in the community, raise money to fight cancer, adopt foster children, coach little league teams, help our churches, and care for our families.

So, close your eyes. **What does a Teamster look like?**

We look like hard working, strong, essential members of our communities. Ready to recognize a fellow Teamster?

Visit WhatTeamstersLookLike.org and nominate a co-worker today!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

June 6, 2015 - Emergency Food Network Volunteer Event

June 18, 2015 - General Membership Meeting

June 20, 2015 - Teamsters Car Show

June 30, 2015 - State budget deadline

TEAMSTERS 117 ON THE WEB!



Visit your Union's new website at www.teamsters117.org. 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.