



TEAMSTER TALK

NEWS FROM MEMBERS OF TEAMSTERS LOCAL 117



**STEWARDS SEMINAR
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BUILDING POWER IN THE WORKPLACE P. 6

WORKPLACE SOLIDARITY ACTIONS LEAD TO
STRONG CONTRACTS



GP
Georgia-Pacific
TACOMA WA.

A MESSAGE FROM

JOHN SCEARCY

SECRETARY-TREASURER OF TEAMSTERS 117



United for the Future

On February 14, more than 230 of our members and their families converged on the State Capitol in Olympia for our DOC Lobby Day.

It was our biggest, most successful Lobby Day event ever. Local 117 members met with dozens of legislators to discuss issues that directly impact their lives.

Our Lobby Day event exemplifies the kind of Union we are working to build. It's a Union where members are engaged, organized, informed, and politically active.

Over the last few months, we have been developing a strategic plan that will shape the future of our Union. More than

2,400 members filled out our membership survey to provide input into the plan.

The survey asked questions about our Union's mission and purpose, how best to build unity, improve communication, and increase member involvement. You can view the results of the survey on our website at Teamsters117.org.

We've also held meetings with member leaders to critically analyze our Union. What are our strengths? Where do we need to improve? What do we need to prepare for? And what opportunities will we want to capitalize on in the future?

Based on your feedback from the surveys and at these meetings, we have

developed a powerful new mission statement (see below). We have also established four strategic priorities that will guide our Union into the future. They are as follows:

1. Fortify our Union against attacks on workers;
2. Build our power through new organizing;
3. Invest in member leadership and development;
4. Build our political power.

These are the issues that you identified as critically important to building unity and power for all working people and to help lift up our communities.

Over the coming weeks, we will be continuing to

build our plan around these priorities. We have formed sub-committees to work on each priority, and we will integrate input from our Shop Steward Seminar event on March 11.

Your ongoing input in the plan is important. If you are interested in working on a specific priority, please email strategicplanning@teamsters117.org.

Thank you for everything that you do.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in orange ink that reads "John Searcy".

John Searcy
Secretary-Treasurer

OUR MISSION:

We build unity and power for all working people to improve lives and lift up our communities. This is our Union.



230 Teamster Shop Stewards gathered at the Washington State Convention Center on March 11.

SHOP STEWARDS GATHER TO BUILD POWER

Teamsters Local 117 Shop Steward Seminar & Appreciation Day.

It was an impressive show of Union strength: Hundreds of Teamster 117 Shop Stewards filled a massive auditorium at the Washington State Convention Center in downtown Seattle.

The occasion? Our **Shop Steward Seminar and Appreciation Day** held on Saturday, March 11. The annual event is both a training opportunity and a chance to thank and honor our Stewards for the outstanding work they perform on behalf of the membership.

"As Shop Stewards, you are the backbone of this Union," said John Searcy, Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters 117, as he welcomed the group to the

event.

"Your work on the shop floor and in the community is essential to our success at growing our Union and building power and unity for working families across the Pacific Northwest."

The theme of this year's Seminar was United for the Future.

"Our strength is our pathway to unity," Searcy said, as he laid out his vision for the future and unveiled a new mission statement for our Union.

The mission was inspired by input from over 2,400 membership surveys collected over the past few months as well as meetings with member leaders.

Our new mission statement reads as follows:

TEAMSTERS LOCAL 117
We build unity and power for all working people to improve lives and lift up our communities. This is our Union.

Searcy was followed by Senator Rebecca Saldaña (37th LD), this year's keynote speaker. Senator Saldaña is a rising star in Olympia who is able to reach across the aisle to get things done.

A former labor and community advocate, Senator Saldaña has introduced legislation to help fight human trafficking, register low-income residents to vote, and improve work opportunities for ex-felons.

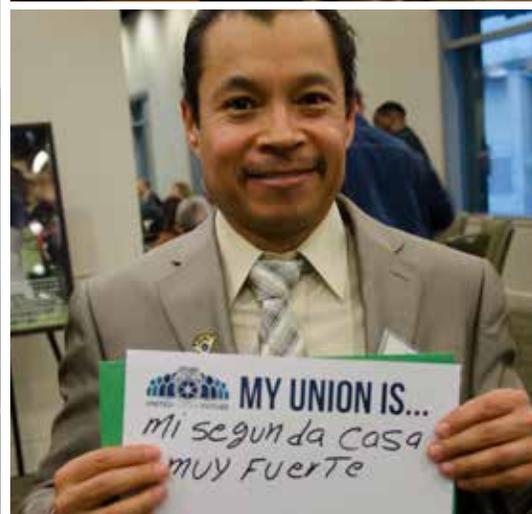
After the plenary, members dispersed into

four concurrent breakout sessions.

The breakout workshops focused on developing our Union's strategic plan, building power in the workplace, and forging our future through family, strength, and community.

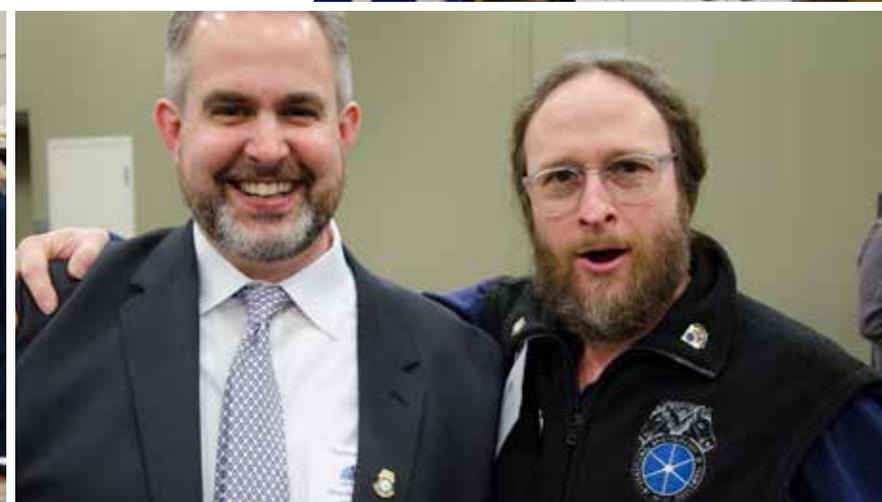
During lunch, the Stewards tried their luck at stumping four attorneys, including three from the labor-side law firm, Schwerin Campbell Barnard Iglitzin & Lavitt LLP, along with our new Associate General Counsel, Marie Duarte.

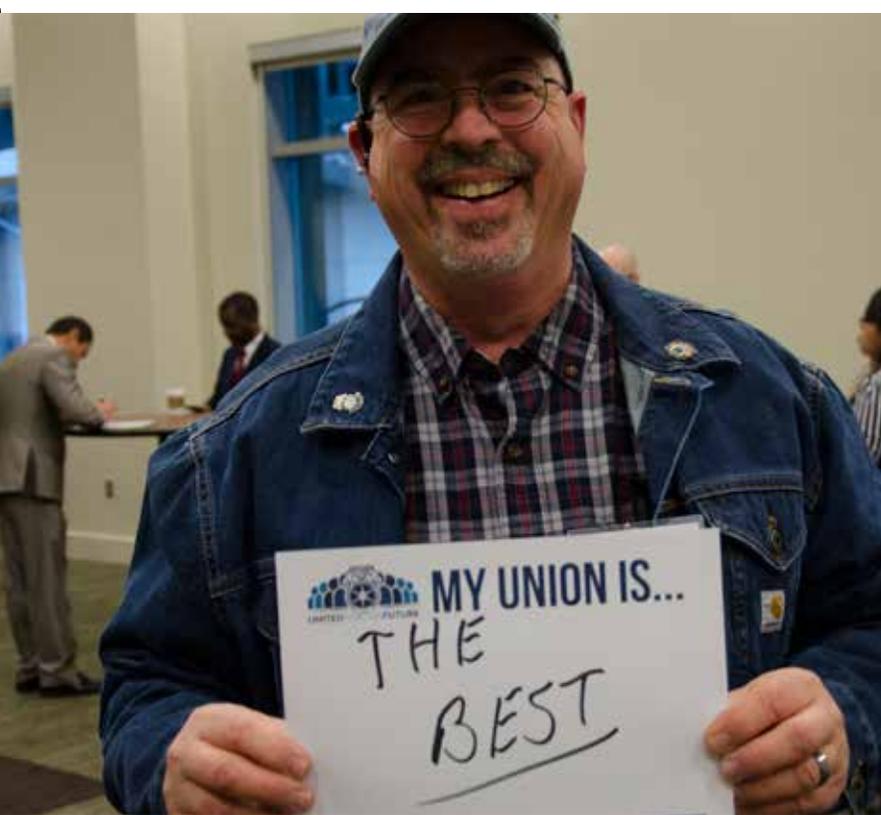
Thank you to everyone who attended the event and to all Local 117 Shop Stewards. You make our Union strong!



“WE NOW HAVE THE BACKING OF A WHOLE ORGANIZATION RATHER THAN JUST BEING A LONE VOICE.”

- Chad Young, DOC Correctional Specialist and new member of Teamsters 117





"THIS IS A REALLY GOOD CONTRACT. IT TAKES CARE OF OUR KIDS...IT'S ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC."

- Richard Milestone, 33-year Teamster at US Foods



Union Reps walk the floor at UNFI on March 16 to turn out members for a critical contract update meeting.

BUILDING POWER

IN THE WORKPLACE



STICKERING UP AT GP GYPSUM



TEAMSTER BLITZ AT UNFI

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TEAMSTERS AT GP GYPSUM WHO RECENTLY VOTED TO RATIFY A NEW 4-YEAR CONTRACT.

The vote comes after a contentious contract fight. Throughout the campaign, members stood together and displayed their Union pride. They plastered Teamster labels on their lockers and wore solidarity stickers in the yard.

"There was more union presence down here, more solidarity," said Shop Steward Skyler Still. "We stickered up, we got some high visibility Teamster shirts. Kris (the group's Rep) came down and got us all together. Then John stepped in during negotiations."

"This group stuck together and fought hard for critical improvements to their contract," Secretary-Treasurer Searcy said.

After our general membership meeting on March 16, half a dozen Teamster Union Reps blitzed the United Natural Foods, Inc warehouse in Auburn.

The group was there to boost member turnout at a critical contract update meeting at the Union hall.

Many Teamsters and community members will remember the contentious three-month UNFI strike that took place at the facility in 2012-13.

Four years later, we're back in bargaining with the company again and are just getting into conversations about economics.

Our members who work at UNFI need to know we have their backs no matter how negotiations turn out!



KILLER CONTRACT AT US FOODS

Teamsters at US Foods voted overwhelmingly to ratify a new 4-year contract on March 12. The agreement covers 128 drivers and warehouse workers who operate out of the US Foods facility in Fife as well as members of three other Local Unions.

"This is a really good contract," said Richard Milestone, a 33-year member and Shop Steward. "It takes care of our kids, we've got four more years of good quality medical, four more years of good quality pension. It's absolutely fantastic."



STRIKE VOTE AT QCD

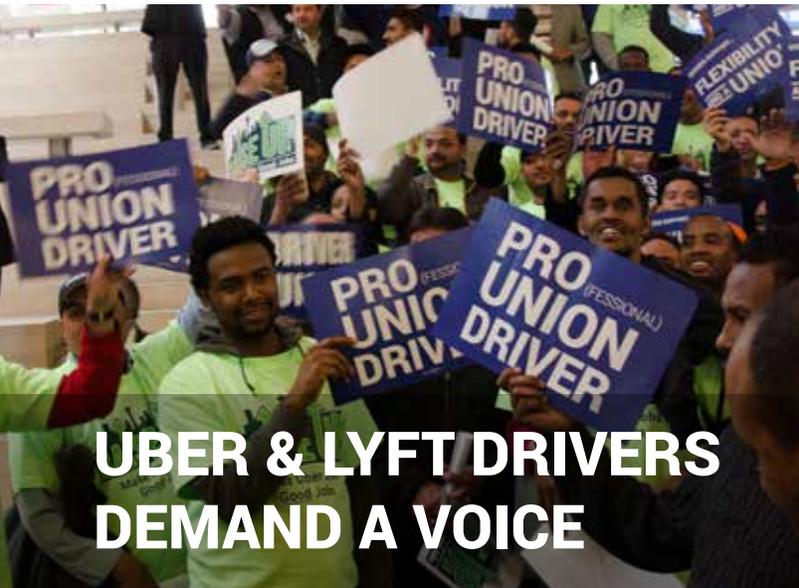
Bargaining was heating up at QCD and our members refused to stand down. On March 19, the group voted overwhelmingly to authorize a strike.

"Our bargaining team made a good faith effort to reach an agreement, but the company was failing to recognize the valuable contributions of its employees," said Secretary-Treasurer Searcy.

The solidarity shown at the strike vote help our Union bargaining team reach a fully-recommended settlement offer just two days later.

"These members stood together and sent a strong message to the employer that they weren't going to back down," Searcy said.

117 ORGANIZING REPORT



UBER & LYFT DRIVERS DEMAND A VOICE

Uber and Lyft drivers rally at Seattle City Hall in Seattle on March 22.

Dozens of Uber and Lyft drivers filled a Seattle City Hall hearing room on March 22 to demand better working conditions and a voice.

Drivers held signs that said, "Pro-Union Driver" and "Raise Up Uber. Make Uber Jobs Good Jobs."

The City is establishing rules that govern its new law that gives drivers the right to unionize. The hearing allowed the public to weigh

in on the new rules.

"I came here today to fight for our rights. We need to have a union," said Mustafa Abdi, who has driven for Uber for three years. "We need to have the same rights that other Americans who work at other companies have."

To support drivers, please sign our petition at www.RaiseUpUber.org.



TRANSEDEV DISPATCHERS JOIN TEAMSTERS

New members of Local 117 who work out of Transdev's office in Kent.

Congrats to a group of fourteen Transdev dispatchers who voted to become members of Teamsters 117 in an NLRB election on Feb. 10.

The dispatchers join 260 drivers at Transdev who became members in 2015.

"We are excited to welcome the Transdev dispatchers to our Union," said Secretary-Treasurer

Scearcy.

"We look forward to ensuring that their rights are protected and that they receive the outstanding representation they deserve."

The group has already held demands meetings and will be sitting down at the bargaining table with the company for contract talks soon.



LEGAL TRAINING & RESOURCE FAIR FOR THE IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY

APRIL 22

11AM - 2PM

At Teamsters 117 in Tukwila. Call 206-441-4860 to learn more.

UPCOMING TEAMSTER EVENTS

APRIL 22 - Immigrant Resource Fair in Tukwila @ 11AM

JUNE 15 - General Membership Meeting in Tukwila @ 7PM

JUNE 15 - New Members Meeting in Tukwila @ 12PM & 6PM

TEAMSTER TALK

TEAMSTERS LOCAL 117
Secretary-Treasurer: John Scearcy
President: Michelle Woodrow

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