



NEWS FROM **Teamsters Local Union 117**

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TEAMSTERS AT SYSCO IN SEATTLE OVERWHELMINGLY RATIFY NEW 3-YEAR CONTRACT

Contract provides annual wage and pension increases to 230 union members

(TUKWILA, WA) – Teamster drivers and warehouse workers employed at the Sysco distribution center in Kent have voted overwhelmingly to ratify a new 3-year contract. The agreement provides annual wage and pension increases and affordable medical coverage for 230 members of Teamsters Local 117 and their families.

“Our negotiations committee worked incredibly hard to achieve this agreement,” said John Scearcy, Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 117 and the lead negotiator for the union. “Together with last year’s contract at US Foods, this agreement sets the standard for food service contracts across the country.”

Sysco is a massive multinational food service conglomerate. With over 600,000 clients, it is the largest broadline food distributor in the world. The company has made life difficult for Teamsters in other parts of the country. Earlier this year, union members in Seattle showed solidarity with Teamsters in Oklahoma after the company fired several shop stewards. In Missouri, Sysco employees established an unfair labor practice picket line at the end of 2017 to protest alleged violations of federal labor law.

In the Pacific Northwest, the workers beat back proposed concessions at the bargaining table. On August 25, union members sent a powerful message to the company when they voted unanimously to authorize a strike.

“We went into these negotiations with clear goals and expectations,” said Rowan Griffin, a shop steward on the union’s bargaining team. “John Scearcy’s skills as a negotiator are undeniable. We are lucky to have such strong leadership in our union.”

Will Buff, a rank-and-file veteran of several Sysco negotiations, reiterated that point: “We were successful because we have strong leadership and solid member participation. There was trust between our negotiations team and our union’s leadership like never before.”

“Our members at Sysco take pride in their work and know their value,” Scearcy said. “They stuck together and fought to win a contract that reflects the important service they provide to families who rely on meals at hospitals, schools, daycare centers, and nursing homes across our region.”