



Puget Sound Taxi Driver

February 2015

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

Introducing your WWTCOA Leadership Council for 2015

Leadership Council will serve WWTCOA members for one year



WWTCOA LEADERSHIP COUNCIL - 2015

Bachitter Singh	Harpreet Singh
Badanvir Singh	Bal Singh
Aamar Khan	Jaspal Singh
Sukhchain Khehra	Salah Mohamed
Hassan Osman	Daljinder Singh

Your newly-elected Leadership Council will be meeting monthly, so please contact them with your concerns and ideas!

A Year in Review:

It's been an exciting year for the WWTCOA. Some of the highlights include:

- ✓ WWTCOA Taxi Ticket Program begins!
- ✓ Taxicab drivers participate in Driver Hospitality training
- ✓ Taxis win Teamsters Solidarity Soccer Tournament
- ✓ Taxi association saves WWTCOA members hundreds of dollars in insurance fees

More WWTCOA News:

- ✓ The County is currently licensing TNC drivers
- ✓ Medallions and license lottery will begin in February
- ✓ Andrea and Dawn will be visiting taxi lots and stands with a quick survey
- ✓ In March, we will be holding our first meeting with Key and Top Notch Insurance companies to discuss our insurance lawsuit

Teamster Taxis:

Lobby Day Tues, Feb. 24

Make your voice heard!

Join us on Tuesday, **February 24** for our **Teamster Taxi Lobby Day!** There are three main bills we will be speaking with legislators about:

- **L&I Bill (HB 1821):** Bill would allow drivers the ability to choose whether or not to participate in the State's L&I program.
- **Insurance Bill (HB 2018):** Bill would improve public safety by providing new insurance products for for-hire drivers.
- **TNC Preemption Bill (SB 5550):** Bill would allow TNCs like Uber to escape local regulations.

It is important to keep the pressure on the Legislature regarding these bills, and Lobby Day is the perfect opportunity to speak directly with lawmakers. Collectively, we can have an impact on the legislation that regulates the taxi industry!

We will start the day at 9 A.M. with a training at the **Washington State Labor Council** (906 Columbia St. SW) before heading over to the Capitol to talk with legislators. For more information, call Dawn at 206-441-4860 ext 1254.

Thank you to all of the WWTCOA members who have attended hearings and testified in Olympia so far this legislative session! Your voice makes a tremendous difference! ●

Bill would allow TNCs to escape local regulations

SB 5550 would preempt local laws governing taxis and for-hire vehicles

Over the last two years, Teamster taxi cab operators have worked hard to help create a level playing field for all drivers in our region's personal transportation industry.

Representatives of the **Western Washington Taxicab Operators Association** (WWTCOA) successfully negotiated a policy in Seattle that gives taxis a fighting chance to earn a living for themselves and their families.

SPECIAL LAWS JUST FOR TNCs?

Now some legislators in Olympia want to give **Transportation Network Companies** (TNCs) like Uber and Lyft a special status that would allow these companies to subvert local laws.

Senate Bill 5550 would create a new regulatory framework for TNCs. Under the law, TNCs could easily gain an unfair, competitive advantage over taxi, limousine, and for-hire drivers.

Lawmakers need to know that it's not okay for TNCs to have their own special insurance, training, licensing, and background check requirements.

All stakeholders in the industry should be

treated equally and not be given special preference.

VOTE NO ON SB 5550!

SB 5550 was heard by the **Senate Transportation Committee** in Olympia on February 2. Before the hearing, hundreds of taxicab operators contacted legislators on the committee urging them to oppose the bill.



Senator Pramila Jayapal

Each of the State Senators on the committee received 70 calls from drivers. **That's a total of 1,050 calls!** *Great job collectively standing up for your rights and making your voices heard!*

Additionally, thank you to the members who showed up and testified at the hearing.

Finally, a huge thank you to **Senator Pramila Jayapal** who was a great advocate for WWTCOA members by standing up to Uber and supporting workers' rights!

If the bill makes it to the Senate floor for a vote, we will be calling on WWTCOA members to unite in opposition to the legislation.

For more information about SB 5550, contact Dawn at 206-441-4860 ext. 1254.

Flywheel Trainings



We held our first **Flywheel Training** at the Teamsters building in Tukwila on Saturday, January 24. The training was a success with dozens of WWTCOA members attending and getting trained up on the app.

UPCOMING TRAININGS

Thursday, 2/12 - 2pm-4:30pm
811 First Avenue, Suite 310
(The Coleman Building)

Tuesday, 2/17 - 2pm-4:30pm
811 First Avenue, Suite 310
(The Coleman Building)

Thursday, 2/19 - 2pm-4:30pm
811 First Avenue, Suite 310
(The Coleman Building)

Sunday, 2/22 - 11am-6pm
Teamsters Building (tentative)

Tuesday, 2/24 - 2pm-4:30pm
811 First Avenue, Suite 310
(The Coleman Building)

Call 650-388-6234 to schedule a training time.

ALL 6 IMPARK EMPLOYEES RETURNED TO WORK!



Six Teamsters who were wrongfully fired by Impark for their Union involvement have been reinstated with back pay. "There are no words, I'm just really happy," said **Meseret Ruga**. Impark manages dozens of parking lots in downtown Seattle.

UNION Peanut Butter Drive!

Bring Peanut Butter. Feed hungry

Your peanut butter donations will go to support hungry kids. Here's how you can help local families:

- Bring a jar (or more) of peanut butter to the Teamsters Building.
- Ask other WWTCOA members to donate peanut butter and remind them to buy it at a Union store like Fred Meyer or Safeway.

Get your donations in by May 1!