



COPPEA CLIPS

A Newsletter for the COPPEA Chapter of Professional & Technical Employees Local 17

December 2015



Happy Holidays from Your Union Rep!



Your Local 17 Union Rep is:

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I've had another wonderful year working with you all! We faced some challenges, but have also had some significant gains. The Bureau of Development Services (BDS) continues to expand with new hires and Local 17 has been instrumental in addressing workplace morale issues across the City. We have also worked within the Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) and with elected officials on innovative funding mechanisms.

This year, Local 17 also welcomed several new Stewards into the Chapter including: Patrick Bardel (Water), Ed Connolly (BTS), Neil Revello (BES), Sarah Spotts (Water), and Michael Trabacca (PBOT).

I continue to be inspired by your commitment to each other, and to the work you all do for the City of Portland. I hope that you have a happy and healthy holiday season! See you in 2016!

-Amy

Professional Development Fund

The Professional Development Fund (PDF) for 2015–2016 expires on June 30, 2016. There is still money left, but hurry! In the last two years, the PDF has run dry months before the end of the fiscal year. Always apply early for the best chance at getting a grant. But, don't despair – if the PDF is depleted when you apply, you will be added to a waitlist. Visit the Local 17 COPPEA Chapter webpage for a link to the application form: www.pte17.org/coppea/

Upcoming Membership Meetings

Jan. 5
12-1 p.m.
Portland Bldg.
Fir Creek Room
(3rd floor)

Feb. 2
12-1 p.m.
1900 Bldg.
Room TBD

Mar. 1
12-1 p.m.
Portland Bldg.
Fir Creek Room
(3rd floor)

The agenda for the next meeting can be found on the Local 17 COPPEA Chapter webpage:

pte17.org/coppea

Want to learn more about what's happening in the Local 17 COPPEA Chapter?

Visit our webpage where you'll find meeting notes, training opportunities, important updates, legislative actions, COPPEA Clips archives, and more!

pte17.org/coppea

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Your input is needed on health care issues!

Your PTE Local 17 Union Representative, Amy Bowles, serves on the Labor Management Benefits Committee (LMBC). She is also the labor representative on a sub-committee tasked with selecting the new City Core Plan pharmacy provider. The committee will interview pharmacy providers on January 11. Bowles will describe the finalists and ask for input at the January COPPEA Chapter meeting on January 5 from 12-1 in the Fir Creek Room (Portland Building).

Also in 2016, the LMBC will continue to work on designing a wellness program. The Housing Bureau most recently adopted a health-care split of 95/5 or 90/10 in its new contract, where the employee has the lower contribution if he/she completes one preventative health screening in a year. Local 17 is not interested in this carrot-and-stick approach and will continue to work with elected officials and research other successful wellness programs, such as the King County Health Incentives Program (<http://www.kingcounty.gov/audience/employees/healthy-incentives.aspx>) to find out their applicability to Portland.

How do I... *Convert unused sick leave to vacation leave?*

The Attendance Incentive is a benefit in your contract that allows you to convert unused sick leave to vacation leave. The requests must be made between the first pay period of the calendar year and June 30. In order to convert unused sick leave for 2015, you will need to file the request with your timekeeper before June 30, 2016.

Employees are eligible for this benefit if they have a balance of 100 hours or more of sick leave at the end of the calendar year (December 31, 2015) and have used less than ½ of their annual sick leave accrual in that calendar year (January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015). Not all of your sick leave can be converted, however. Only 15% of the remaining leave can be converted. Contact your timekeeper to see if you are eligible.

Also, check-out the Local 17 COPPEA Chapter webpage for an informational video about the Attendance Incentive featuring fellow members. You can also find a description in Article 12, section 2 of your contract.

Meet Your COPPEA Officers & Stewards!

The Chapter elections were held this fall, and were uncontested. Your newly elected officers have a lot of experience and are excited to represent you for the next two years, which includes our next contract bargaining cycle.

Rachel Whiteside, President (BDS)
Paul Cone, Vice President (BTS)
Katharine Enriques, Secretary (BTS)
Priscilla Partch, Treasurer (BDS)

Stewards:

Bureau of Environmental Services
Ana Brophy, Andrew Neuman, Stephen Rae

Bureau of Technology Services
Paul Cone, Ed Connolly, Katharine Enriques, Brian Ventura

Bureau of Transportation
Ruthanne Bennett, Cathy Perry, Michael Trabacca, Gudrun (Goodie) Utz, John Wilson

Bureau of Development Services
Lizbeth Dance, Priscilla Partch, Rachel Whiteside

Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
Tyler Bump

Parks
Jeremiah 'Aulani' Johnson, Gerry Verhoef

Water Bureau
Patrick Bardel, Stephen Ngai, Mia Sabanovic, Sarah Spotts, Jamie Wilde

Shared (Fire, Police, Revenue, Bureau of Gov. Relations, City Attorney's Office)
Karen Obana