



COPPEA CLIPS

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

May 2016



May Trainings on threats to your contract

Public Sector Unions are constantly facing judicial and legislative threats to our members' contracts and jobs. On April 26, Local 17 held a Steward training to discuss these threats, the negative impact on members if anti-union measures are successful, and how to talk about the value of a Union with fellow members and the public.

Mark your calendars! Additional trainings for all members are coming up in May. **There will be one on May 17 from 12-1 p.m. at Interstate, in the Kelly Butte Conference Room; and another one on May 18 from 12-1 p.m. at the Portland Building, Fir Creek Room, 3rd Floor.** You can RSVP to Nikola Davidson, PTE Local 17 Special Project Coordinator, at nikola@pte17.org, or just show-up! There will be another training held soon at the Water Pollution Control Lab – check your Local 17 emails for updates!

Upcoming Membership Meetings

June 7
12-1 p.m.
Portland Bldg.
Fir Creek Room
(3rd floor)

July 5
Cancelled
Happy 4th of July!

LMBC Results: new pharmacy provider and changes to your health plan on July 1

In February, the Labor Management Benefits Committee (LMBC) – in which unions and management work together to find sustainable health plans – voted on a new pharmacy provider for the City Core plan, called Express Scripts (ESI). The LMBC also voted for the ESI restricted formulary, and on design changes for the 2016-17 health plan. The changes beginning July 1, 2016 are:

- Delta Dental Plan: Night guard coverage added to the plan, covered once every two years, payable at 50% up to a maximum benefit of \$150.00.
- Basic Life Insurance for DCTU and Recreation Employees: Increase their member coverage from \$10,000 to \$50,000, which is equitable with coverage for other represented employees, like Local 17 COPPEA Chapter members.
- Rx and Medical Claims: ESI's restricted formulary is a cost-savings for members. The LMBC voted to extend these savings to members by lowering the out-of-pocket maximum for all medical/pharmacy expenses from \$3,500 to \$3,000 per person.



Your Local 17 Union Rep is:

Amy Bowles
800-783-0017
ext. 118
amy@pte17.org

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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Member Spotlight: Sarah Spotts

Sarah Spotts, a Senior Civil Engineering Associate at the Water Bureau, enjoys working at a local level to ensure that Portlanders have a reliable supply of clean water. Sarah is with the Operations Group, and recently managed the shutdown analysis for the Tabor Reservoir Project, where she successfully used a hydraulic model to assess the impact of time delays on large pipe-shut-offs and the flow of water to customers and required pressures for firefighting.

Sarah – who is also a Local 17 Steward - says that the Union is important to her because it “helps protect jobs.” She was bumped from her position two years ago. While management was supportive, “it was also a great comfort to have the Union backing me as well,” she said. “I think Union support for all members is one of the greatest parts about being a member of PTE 17.”

Sarah works on the 2nd floor of the Interstate Building in the far SW corner. Stop by her desk and say “hi” if you are in the neighborhood!



What do I do if...

I think I've been doing work outside of my classification?

If you have been working out-of-class, then you may be entitled to retroactive pay and seniority. If your out-of-class status is indefinite, then you may be able to reclassify your position (and also receive retroactive pay and seniority!)

Your Union Rep, Amy Bowles, can help you assess your status, and your eligibility to reclassify. It may simply take filing a P4 (Classification request form) with your manager and the Bureau of Human Resources (BHR), or Local 17 may need to file a grievance on your behalf. Contact your Union Rep as soon as possible if you think that you may be eligible.

For more information on reclassification, visit BHR Administrative Rules 8.05 and 8.06 on the BHR site: www.portlandoregon.gov/bhr/61163

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)
Priscilla Partch, Treasurer (BDS)

Stewards:

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

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

Bureau of Transportation
Ruthanne Bennett, Cate 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
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