



State Negotiations Newsletter

Professional & Technical
Employees, Local 17
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August 2016

State presents initial compensation package; RSVP for rally on Aug. 31

On Aug. 9 and 10, Local 17 returned to the bargaining table with management. As anticipated, management presented its initial compensation package, including general wage increases (a.k.a. “cost-of-living adjustment,” or COLA raises).

While there was some good news in that the state has responded to recruitment and retention issues for some classifications, there were no targeted increases proposed for some of the classifications that were shown by the state’s own salary survey to be furthest behind their market rates.

Local 17 has requested additional information on the data behind all decisions on targeted increases in all Local 17-represented positions to try to understand why some classifications were ignored. The bargaining team expressed disappointment and outrage that some groups of workers were left out and hope that upcoming discussions lead to changes in those areas.

The state also has proposed a modest general wage increase. That increase would be less than the current contract increases, and would not be adequate to make up for the lost ground in wages that state employees have suffered in recent years, Your bargaining team is dedicated to closing that gap in upcoming discussions.

During the Aug. 9-10 talks, Local 17 and management representatives also discussed Article 4 (Hiring and Appointments), Article 25 (Licensure and Certification), Article 10 (Holidays), Article 16 (Miscellaneous Leave), and Article 34 (Reasonable Accommodation and Disability Separation).

Progress continues in those areas and the other remaining issues, and the conversation is scheduled to continue Aug. 24-25. If the parties are unable to reach a tentative agreement at that point, another negotiations session will be scheduled for Sept. 13-15.

Invest in Washington!
Rally @the Capitol #InvestInWA
 WED, AUG 31 at Noon

99% of state employees are below market rate.

- ▶ **Healthcare**
- ▶ **Real Raises**
- ▶ **Safe Staffing**
- ▶ **Workload Relief**

State employees **protect our children**, keep our parks open, **fix roads and clear accidents**, regulate pesticides, keep drinking water safe, **certify organic farms**, feed babies & mothers, keep small businesses open, **keep the lights on**, fight discrimination, help needy families, **fight wildfires**, keep our workplaces and communities safe, and more.

Invest in Washington Rally! Wed., Aug 31 at 12 p.m. in Olympia

Stand in solidarity with your fellow state employees and union members to let the State know they need to invest in Washington's services and its employees!

Lunch provided! Contact Nikola Davidson, Local 17 Special Projects Coordinator, with questions or to RSVP at 800-783-0017 ext. 111, or nikola@pte17.org