



State Negotiations Newsletter

Professional & Technical Employees, Local 17
2900 Eastlake Ave. E
Suite 300
Seattle, WA 98102

May 2016

Bargaining for your 2017-19 contract has begun!

Your Local 17 bargaining team met with representatives from state management on Thurs., April 28, to begin negotiations for the 2017-2019 contract.

The collective bargaining agreement (CBA) covers engineering employees at the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT); commercial-vehicle, communications, and IT employees at Washington State Patrol (WSP); and pro-rate and fuel-tax auditors and licensing services representatives at the Department of Licensing (DOL).

Your interests are represented at the bargaining table by a group of your co-workers from each of the agencies plus the union staffers.

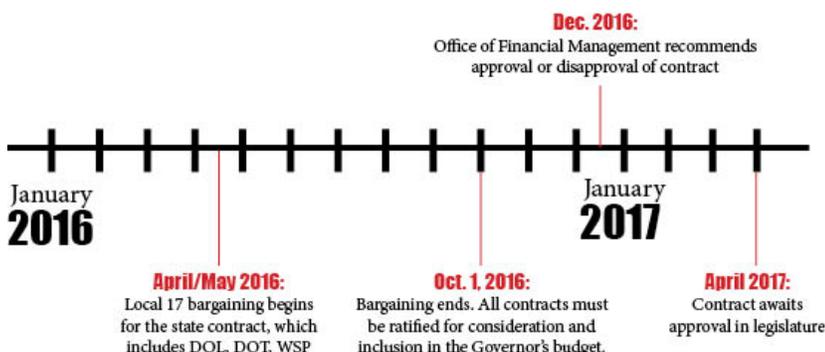
At this opening session, the union presented a set of proposals designed to address several concerns that came up either on bargaining surveys or in grievances and other discussions throughout the year. We are contractually prohibited to publicly detail specific proposals until the end of negotiations, but we can let you know that this set of proposals attempts to resolve issues in scheduling, overtime, holidays, vacation, shared leave, miscellaneous leave, uniform standards, disciplinary investigations and position reallocation.

Economic proposals, such as cost-of-living pay increases or adjustments to specific classifications, will be made after the state's economic forecast is released in June. State law does not allow negotiations on pensions and retirement benefits. The law also limits health-care negotiations to talks on the premium split (how much the employer and employee contribute toward premiums). Health-care negotiations are done in a coalition with other state unions and are due to begin in the summer.



Your PTE Local 17 state bargaining team (left to right): Steve Morgans (WSDOT), Daniel Jones (WSDOT), Dean Robinson (WSP), Josh Jeffries (WSDOT), Brendan Magee (WSP), Michael Wetsch (DOL), Donna Blume (DOL) and Randy Christensen (WSDOT). Not pictured: Local 17 staff Sarah Lorenzini, Yoko Kuramoto-Eidsmoe, and Vince Oliveri.

Negotiations timeline



At the next meeting on June 1 and 2, state management will be bringing its set of noneconomic proposals and initial responses to the union's proposals. Stay tuned.

Visit pte17.org/state for the latest news and information about your contract!



Professional & Technical Employees Local 17
2900 Eastlake Ave. E, Suite 300
Seattle, WA 98102

All future communications about bargaining will be made via HOME email addresses.

Please update your contact information at:

pte17.org/address/form.html

Collective Bargaining 101 - FAQs

What subjects are open for negotiation in the new contract?

Major subjects include, but are not limited to:

- All work rules including hiring, hours of work, seniority, and layoff rules.
- Salaries, overtime rules, and special pay provisions.
- Employee premiums for the state medical plan.

Why aren't our pensions negotiated with the contract?

Under the collective bargaining law, state agencies and unions are barred from negotiating any element of the

state pension plan. By law, all elements of the state pension system are still governed by the state legislature.

How is the Local 17 bargaining team selected?

Local 17 members from each of the agencies along with Local 17 staff are part of our 11-12 person negotiating team. Bargaining team members are selected by their peers from policy committees, chapters, or agency stewards.

Why does bargaining start so early?

By law, contract negotiations must be completed by October 1 of the

previous year. This date allows the Office of Financial Management (OFM) to calculate the financial terms of all contracts so that they may be entered into the Governor's proposed budget. The Governor's budget must be presented to the state legislature prior to the end of the year it is negotiated.

What is the role of the state legislature in our contract?

The state legislature, during the session that sets the biennial budget, approves or disapproves the funding necessary to implement the financial terms of the contract.