



Local 17 News

for WSDOT Members

August 2013

What's the purpose of this newsletter?

This newsletter aims to keep Local 17 members at WSDOT informed about what is going on at Local 17. If you wish to contribute, please contact your Union Representative.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION RE-CAP

What does it mean for WSDOT members?

On June 29, the Washington State Legislature ended one of the longest legislative periods on record.

Session opened in January with a \$1 billion operating-budget deficit for fiscal biennium 2013-15 and an obligation to find an additional \$1 billion in funding for K-12 basic education.

After six months, gridlock was finally broken as a result of two factors: The first was a threat of a government shutdown. The second factor was a better-than-expected revenue forecast that came in mid-June. A budget finally passed on June 28.

PTE Local 17's legislative staffers were able to work with our allies to score a few victories this session, including keeping some harmful bills from passing.

We were able to defeat a series of bills that would have negatively affected Local 17 members. These included attacks on public-employee pensions, the workers-compensation system and health care for part-time state employees.

In the final operating budget, we did achieve many successes with few setbacks:

- Restoration of the original 3% pay cut for state employees, effective June 30
- Creation of the new Salary Step M
- Some changes to medical plans (for more



information, visit our public affairs site - see link at end of this article)

With passage of an operating budget, legislators moved on to remaining unfinished business. Unfortunately, this did not include a major revenue package for transportation.

The transportation revenue package was a much-needed

plan to move transportation investments forward now, and would have provided funding for the Columbia River Crossing project to move forward. Local 17 members in Southwest Region will be directly impacted by CRC's closure.

Some legislators have said they would work during the six-month break to come up with a plan for raising transportation funds, but we anticipate having to fight off renewed attacks on several fronts, including proposals to:

- Contract-out public sector work
- Gut prevailing wage laws
- "Streamline" the environmental process (dimantling SEPA)
- Strip state support to transit and local government road assistance

A big thank you to all Local 17 members who contacted their representatives during the legislative session. For more legislative information, visit our public affairs blog at: pte17publicaffairs.org.

Your Union Representatives:

Real Estate Services:

Natalie Kaminski
nmk@pte17.org
(206) 328-7321, extension 117

Engineers:

Yoko Kuramoto-Eidsmoe
yoko@pte17.org
(206) 328-7321, extension 103

Engineers:

Kristen Kussmann
kristen@pte17.org
(206) 328-7321, extension 110

New Contract in Effect July 1, 2013

Our new collective bargaining agreement (contract) with the State of Washington went into effect on July 1, 2013. Highlights include the 3% salary reduction going away, and implementation of Step M for all employees with 6 years at Step L of their permanent salary range. You may find a complete copy of the contract at: pte17.org/units/state/contract/State_contract_2013-15.pdf.

Approximately 69% of Local 17-represented employees at WSDOT will be eligible for Step M at some point during the biennium according to figures produced by the employer.

Thanks go to the Local 17 members of the contract negotiating team from WSDOT: Vera Anderson, John Collins, Daniel Jones, and Steve Morgans.



Local 17 State team members with Gov. Jay Inslee (seated) and OFM Labor Negotiator Ann Mitchell (right).

Local 17 Wins Callback Compensation for Member

Earlier this year, Local 17 won call back compensation for a member who was notified to change the starting time of his next scheduled shift after his scheduled quitting time.

Steward Dale Daniels states, "It is extremely important for members to know their rights under the contract on issues like callback, and make sure to put in for the compensation you deserve under the contract. If you have questions, contact your rep or steward."

Local 17-represented employees can get callback compensation in two situations:

1. For work preceding or following a scheduled work shift

If the employer wants to change the start time of your shift or have you come back after you depart the worksite, you need to be notified prior to your scheduled quitting time. If the employer does not do this, then this is considered callback and the employer must pay three hours of basic salary in addition to other compensation due.

The employer can cancel callback to work extra hours but cancellation doesn't waive the callback penalty.

2. For work on scheduled days off or holidays

If the employer wants you to work on your scheduled day off or holiday, you need to be notified of such assignment at least prior to your normal quitting time on the second workday preceding the day off or holiday. If such notice is not given, the employer must pay you three hours of pay at the regular rate, in addition to other compensation due.

The employer may cancel work on a day off or holiday, but must do so at least prior to your normal quitting time on the second workday preceding the day off or holiday. If the cancellation occurs later (even if the notification to work on the day off or holiday was timely), you still get three hours of pay at the regular rate.

Employees are not entitled to callback pay while on standby status. All of the callback provisions may be found in Article 42.14.



Why am I involved in Local 17?

"I support my union to honor the workers and organizers who have strived for respect, fair wages, reasonable hours, and security for our families. I am getting a bargain for my dues when I think about the commitment, dedication, honest hard work I receive from Local 17 staff, Executive Board, REC members, stewards, and negotiation teams. I truly value the folks that make unions and collective bargaining work."

-Jeff Graham, Thurston Chapter President, WSDOT Policy Committee Member, and Steward

