

# City of Seattle Bargaining News



## Bargaining Team Update

### Municipal Court Negotiations

Negotiations have started with the Municipal Court contract. The first session took place on Nov. 14, 2007. With the tentative agreement reached at the coalition table, the negotiating team hopes to finish negotiations very soon.

### Master Contract Negotiations

The Master contract has had several sessions and continues to move forward.

"The Local 17 negotiating team continues to make progress. Our team spends a lot of time and effort negotiating our contract, I am proud to be a part of such a hard working group," stated Dan O'Sullivan, Local 17 negotiating team member.

Once completed, the Negotiating Team looks forward to bringing a full and complete proposal to a vote of the entire membership.

### IT Negotiations

The IT Professional bargaining team has continued to meet regularly to prepare for bargaining. The team is preparing draft proposals and is working with the City to get dates for bargaining. It looks forward to getting to the bargaining table soon.

## Coalition Successfully Negotiates a Puget Pass

During this round of Contract negotiations, Local 17 and the Coalition of City Unions successfully negotiated with the City an increase in the transit subsidy.

If it were not for the Coalition of Unions and Local 17, there would have been no transit subsidy increase. The Coalition and the City considered various ways to increase the transportation benefit. The City looked into the Flexpass program for City employees, and found that it would not be cost effective.

Local 17 did its own research—and a Local 17 member who works on the Flexpass program confirmed—that it would not make sense for the City to implement the program given the way it operates.

The City would have to purchase a Flexpass for every employee (there are approximately 10,000 employees), regardless of whether the employee uses public transportation.

Additionally, the Flexpass program would have allowed the City to pass on up to 50 percent of the cost onto employees—an employee would not be able to "opt out" of this program because the program requires 100 percent participation. Over the years, King County has presented the City with multiple proposals but none of

## Look for the UNION LABEL!

Local 17 has three different Bargaining Agreements with the City: the Master Agreement, IT Agreement and the Municipal Court Agreement.

Some things are the same in all three agreements, Medical (language), for instance. However, there are also some things that are different. When the teams are in bargaining for any of these agreements, the Bargaining Teams communicate to our members in different ways. One of those ways is via this newsletter.

One thing is constant with the newsletters, if it is from the Bargaining Team and the Union, the newsletter has the Local 17 logo on it.

Local 17 always uses the logo on any communications we send to our members. If you do not see a logo on a flyer, newsletter or other written communication, it did not come from the bargaining team or the Union office.

them has been cost efficient for the City. Currently, only around half of Local 17 members use public transportation.

Instead, effective January 1, 2008, the City agreed to increase the current \$15/month transit pass subsidy by \$15/month for a total transit pass subsidy of \$30/month. The City also agreed effective January 1, 2009 to increase the transit pass subsidy to an amount equal to the current monthly rate of a "one-zone" peak Puget Pass (the current value of the Pass is \$54.50).

Increased transportation subsidies not only enhance employee benefits, but they also improve quality of life and encourage people to take public transportation.

## Your Retirement Questions Answered

There have been some questions raised about the Seattle City Employees Retirement System (SCERS).

In order to answer these questions, the Negotiating Team forwarded the questions to the City of Seattle.

On the back, are a few of the questions and answers that were received from the City. (The first page of the response). If you would like to see the complete list of questions and answers you can view it on the Local 17 website at [www.ifpte17.org/units/city/seattle/](http://www.ifpte17.org/units/city/seattle/)