

Pierce Pages



A newsletter from IFPTE Local 17, AFL-CIO - November 2009

A Message from Local 17 Union Representative Roberta Burnett

Layoffs in PALS: Your Input Needed, Please Fill out the Survey

Local 17 was contacted regarding the Council's decision to cut 22 positions in PALS.

Local 17 Representative Roberta Burnett and Chapter President Troy Lee will be meeting with management on Nov. 23, 2009 to get additional information on the layoffs, bumping and the impact on the entire bargaining unit.

We have posted a survey on the webpage in an attempt to be proactive. The survey results will help us better respond.

Go to: www.ifpte17.org/units/county/pierce/ to fill out the survey. Please take a few minutes and complete the survey as soon as possible.

Union Rep. on Medical Leave

Rene Jankiewicz, your union representative, is on medical leave for an undetermined period of time. In her absence, Union Representative, Roberta Burnett will be working with the Pierce County membership. Burnett can be reached at: roberta@ifpte17.org or 1-800-783-0017 ext. 113.



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Contact Roberta Burnett
206-328-7321 ext. 113, roberta@ifpte17.org

Asbestos Complaint

Once Local 17 Union Representative Rene Jankiewicz made Pierce County Executive Pat McCarthy aware of the issues and specifics around the asbestos complaint, the Executive recognized the importance of taking care of the safety and welfare of Pierce County employees and resolved the issue by withdrawing the L&I appeal.

County Moving Ahead with Open Enrollment

Despite the fact that we are still in bargaining and have not come to any agreement, the County is still moving ahead with open enrollment on Dec. 1 – 16, 2009.

This open enrollment is for the current plans. The County indicated that they intend on implementing the new 2010 premium rates effective January 1, 2010.

Health Care Negotiations News

A Message from Pierce County Chapter President Troy Lee

As you may know, we are in the middle of health care negotiations. Here is the latest. We wanted the county to bid our medical plan out to companies other than Regence. The county rejected that offer. Then we proposed to move to the Washington Teamsters Welfare Trust (Medical Plan), and the County at first rejected that with no explanation, but then reconsidered and is now looking at the plan today.

All of the Unions met at Washington High School to discuss the Teamsters Plan. This meeting had a very short notice, so I apologize for those who couldn't make it. I hope this

Important Chapter Meeting

Mon. - Dec. 7,

4:30 to 5:45 pm

PALs Annex, Conf. Room A

(note new room)

In addition to giving an update on the layoffs and medical negotiations, we will all begin the process of nominating chapter officers. Duties of chapter officers on the back. The nominations process and length of office will be determined at this meeting. See duties of chapter officers on the back.

newsletter will get you up to speed. The report that shows the current Regence Plans and compares them to the Teamster Plan is on the Local 17 website www.ifpte17.org/units/county/pierce/. Please compare it to Plan A because that's where we would go if this options works out. Please remember nothing has been decided, this is only a proposal.

Go to <https://www.fchn.com/providerSearch/providerDirectories.aspx> for a list of current Teamsters plan providers for (WA, OR, ID, MT, AK), and <http://www.beechstreet.com/providers/index.html> for a list of out of state providers.

Additionally, a communication will be posted on the Local 17 website with the latest news: www.ifpte17.org/units/county/pierce/.

Teamster Plan Update

On Mon. Nov. 16, we met with the county to discuss our latest offer to join the Teamsters Medical Plan.

Read more, next page >



The county also updated their offer to us. The county's new offer changed nothing financially, but instead, just agreed to continue to meet with us about the medical plan options. The bottom line is that nothing really changed in their offer.

The county did have a few questions about the Teamsters Medical plan. We pointed out to the county that our proposal saves about one million dollars in premiums (for represented folks only who have tentatively signed onto the Teamsters Plan) and at the same time enhances coverage for most people.

We agreed to let the county know our stance on their new proposal once they have made a decision about

ours. Additionally, some labor groups requested experience data (claims history) so that they may be able to shop around their group. Regence initially agreed but rescinded that offer and is currently not agreeing to release any experience data by labor group.

We asked if that decision was influenced by Regence not wanting to lose business. We were told that it had to do with privacy laws only. This seems questionable because Regence had already agreed to release the data last week. Now, they change their mind after the Teamsters Medical Plan is on the table. We are currently waiting for the county to come back with an answer to the Teamsters Medical Plan and have tentative meetings scheduled for Thursday and Friday this week. ■

Teamsters Medical – Next Step

The process to go to Teamster Medical is multi-faceted; first we have to reach an agreement at the bargaining table with the county; then the Teamsters Trust has to accept our group, and last and certainly not least, the bargaining unit has to vote and agree to make the change. Communication will be posted on the Local 17 website with the latest news: www.ifpte17.org/units/county/pierce/.

Duties of Chapter Officers

As outlined in the Constitution and Policies of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers, Local 17, AFL-CIO/CLC:

“Section 3 – Chapter Officers

A. The officers of the Chapters shall be President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer and delegates to the REC. However, at the Chapter's discretion, the office of Secretary-Treasurer can be divided into two separate offices, Secretary and Treasurer. These officers shall be elected in accordance with Article 8, Nomination and Election Procedures.

B. Each Chapter may elect a member to serve on the Local 17 Political Action Committee Board.

C. It shall be the duty of the Chapter President to preside at meetings of the Chapter, to preserve order, and to enforce the rules, policies, and practices of the Chapter and directives of the REC in accordance with the Constitution and Policies of the Local.

D. The Vice President shall assist the President in the discharge of duties and shall be the presiding officer in the absence of the President.

E. The Secretary-Treasurer shall record and preserve accurate minutes of all meetings of the Chapter and forward copies of the minutes to the Local's office. The Secretary-Treasurer shall make deposits in, and disbursements from, the Chapter treasury as directed by the Chapter.

F. The Chapter officers are accountable to Local 17 for the funds held by the Chapter in the following manner:

1. The Chapter must open a savings and/or checking account using the name of the Local along with the Chapter name and direct the bank statements to the Local 17 office. Office staff will forward statements to the Chapter Treasurer after photocopying them. The account(s) must be two (2) signature account(s) with at least three (3) authorized signatures on file at the bank.

2. The Chapter must mail to the Local 17 office a quarterly financial report within 30 days after the end of each quarter, retaining a copy for Chapter files. Receipts for expenditures are to be attached.

3. Chapter quarterly financing checks will not be sent until the financial report and the minutes of any meeting held during the quarter are received. Claims over twelve (12) months in arrears shall be considered invalid and result in forfeiture of the affected quarterly financing.”