



General Teamster Retirees Club
Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters
Teamster Locals #38, #117, #174, #763
14675 Interurban Ave S • Tukwila, WA 98168
Suite 301
Phone 206 441-0504



September 2008 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING

Where:

Tukwila Community Center
12424 – 42nd Avenue South
Tukwila, WA

When

Wednesday, September 10th
11:30 AM – Lunch
12:00-ish – Business Meeting

Special Guest: Scholarship winner (s) and open mike, who knows what else.

Lunch Menu: Chicken Cordon Bleu, Rice Pilaf, Veggies, Salad, Roll, Dessert and Coffee.

Reservations: Call (206) 441-0504 by **Monday, September 8th** to reserve your place for lunch. The cost of lunch is only \$11.00.

Directions:

From Southbound I-5 take exit #156 – Tukwila, Interurban Avenue. Turn right onto Interurban Avenue South; proceed north. Turn right at the stoplight at 42nd; cross the Duwamish River. The TCC is located immediately on your right.

From Northbound I-5 take exit #156 - Tukwila, Interurban Avenue. Take the Tukwila exit, turn left onto Interurban Avenue South and proceed north. Move into the right lane. Turn right at the stoplight at 42nd; cross the Duwamish River. The TCC is located immediately on your right.

From Northbound or Southbound on Highway 99 turn east onto South 130th Street. Proceed straight; turn left at Macadam Road (north). Cross Interurban Avenue South and the Duwamish River. The TCC is located immediately on your right.

HEADING FOR FALL

There is very little summer left, and I hope that you enjoyed yours. We will be announcing the winners of our Retirees scholarships at the luncheon, and how much they won.

We were pleased with the outcome of the August golf tourney at Foster, and wish to thank all that contributed, and all who participated. An article describing the tourney will appear in the Washington Teamster. Bring your donations to the luncheon, The **Labor Agency** will be there to pick it up. We hope to have some of our scholarship winners at the meeting, if they haven't started school yet.

Myself, former Secretary Treasurer **Clint Copeland** and two other fellows took a two day golf sojourn to the Wenatchee area in mid August. We noted that all of the Rossi for Governor signs said "Do not let the people from Seattle steal this election". We were offended naturally, so we took great pleasure in telling all the tradespeople we came across that we were from Seattle, and we had come over to "steal" the election. We noticed that no one was hesitant to take our money! The election season is heating up, and the race for Governor looks to be particularly contentious. The Teamsters are supporting Gregoire, who has been a good friend to union people.

OH JOHNNY BE GOOD

Now former Secretary Treasurer of local 117, **John Williams** sat down with me for a little chat about his career in the Teamsters. Starting Oct 1, John will step down to devote full time to the directorship of the Warehouse Division of the IBT, and waded into the political maelstrom, pushing to elect **Barack Obama**, and re-elect **Christine Gregoire**.

John was born in Bellevue in 1951. Raised with a brother and sister, he attended parochial school at Saint Monica's, and later graduated from Mercer Island High. John went on to get a degree at Western Washington in labor relations using a program that he fashioned with his professor. He joined 117 in 1968, working at Safeway, AG, and Superior Fast Freight, trans loading and lumping freight. He even commercial fished before taking a position in June 1974 with the Western Conference as an organizer.

Williams told me that his godfather **Bill Bombardier** was a critical part of his development, teaching John how to hunt, and how to establish trust with the membership. John recalled the turbulence of the 70's, and the battles with the budding "union busting" firms. John averred that he had a special talent for organizing, and in

one campaign, made 490 house calls in 29 days! John became a Business Agent in grocery in 1975, and honed his bargaining skills under the tutelage of Bill Grammi.

John shared a litany of problems that labor faced in the 80's after Reagan broke PATCO. Members were disillusioned and striking was extremely difficult. Finally, after the consent decree, and **Arnie Wienmeisters** retirement, John Williams became Secretary Treasurer in April 1992. During his tenure at 117, the local has grown to 16,000 members and maintains a staff of 45 people, the third largest local in the IBT.

Williams radiates energy and enthusiasm, and swims, bikes and hikes to maintain a man-frame many guys his age would envy. He told me that "Arnie's legacy was leadership" and my legacy will be a "work ethic". John said that his greatest pleasure comes when a member tells him that because of his union job, he or she is able to help their child through college. Senior Staff Attorney **Tracey Thompson** takes Williams place at the helm October 1st. She is going to have some major moccasins to fill.

THE ZIPPER

As the bus stopped and it was her turn to get on, the woman became aware that her skirt was too tight to allow her leg to come up to the height of the first step of the bus. Slightly embarrassed and with a quick smile to the bus driver, she reached behind her to unzip her skirt a little, thinking that this would give her enough slack to raise her leg. She tried to take the step, only to discover that she couldn't.

Twice again she went through this process, only to discover she was still unable to take the step. About this time, a large Texan who was standing behind her picked her up easily by the waist and placed her gently on the step of the bus. She went ballistic and turned to the would-be Samaritan and yelled, "How dare you touch my body! I don't even know who you are!"

The Texan smiled and drawled, "Well, ma'am, normally I would agree with you, but after you unzipped my fly three times, I kinda figured we was friends."