



FERRY WORKERS UNITED



Wear Your Button at Work!

We go to arbitration on August 2nd and we are fighting to protect or improve upon: overtime comp; passes; the grievance procedure; wages; deck vacation scheduling; holiday pay; maintenance and cure; on-call deck dispatch; on-call terminal dispatch; and AB/OS travel time. All of our proposals seek to help solve a problem that WSF has identified – and most would result in a cost savings for our state.

The negotiating team representing management on the other hand is proposing to gut our collective bargaining agreement. Their 100% take-back attitude includes:

- reducing crew size to COI
- ending short-crew pay
- paying overtime in six (6) minute increments
- requiring car registrations in order to use a ferry pass, and tax you on the privilege
- removing ten (10) days of vacation accrual for most senior employees
- proportional vacation reductions for less senior employees
- reducing holiday comp accrual to a 240 hour cap

A very similar and hostile story is unfolding between this management negotiating team and our sisters and brothers in all the other union represented bargaining units including OPEIU, MEBA, MMP, Metal Trades, and SEIU. All of our unions have decided to join forces in this campaign and essentially put management on notice that we are all paying attention, united in solidarity, and more than willing to fight back. The button that your union is asking you to wear is merely an opening salvo that represents our collective voice. It's perfectly legal to wear it at work so please display it proudly and openly and show your support! We want management and the occasional state legislator that commutes via ferry to see this button!!!

In addition to the counter productive antagonistic bargaining from the state negotiating team, there's the misrepresentation from King 5's "Waste on the Water" series. The state's negotiating team has chosen to use this unsubstantiated reporting as a justification for its hostile bargaining. A thorough response from the IBU will be out soon.

The Metal Trades just voted down their proposed contract because of the provision to tax members' passes. WSF told them “we will see you in arbitration.” WSF does not now, and never had, any intention to settle any issues with any bargaining unit. They believe that by presenting nothing but take backs, and relying on their lackeys at channel 5, they can try to bust every union in the ferry system. By the way, the ferry passes are not taxable if they are under a certain dollar amount. We asked the WSF for justification for their tax proposal at least three times and they could not produce an answer. A quick search of the IRS site shows that transportation passes are not taxable unless they go over a certain amount.

The IBU just kicked their tactics to the curb when the MEC rejected three of their proposals for arbitration. WSF never intended to negotiate and doesn't know the definition of good faith bargaining. What do you do when your boss repeatedly tells you that you are worth nothing but take backs?

-IBU/PSR Union Stewards - 7/31/10

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