

insight

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS & FRIENDS

OF PROTEC17

Jan/Feb
2022
Vol 27
No. 1





On the Cover:

PROTEC17 members in Portland joined in solidarity with their fellow City employees and union members from the District Council of Trade Unions (DCTU) at several rallies during their contentious contract negotiations this winter. PROTEC17 members also showed their support for Teamsters 174 in Seattle, and unionizing workers at Starbucks throughout the country. Read more on page 6-7. ■

News and Features



PROTEC17 at the 40th annual MLK Rally and March.....	4
State members gear up for negotiations.....	4
Membership continues to grow in 2021!.....	5
Law Enforcement Task Force makes plan for 2022.....	8
2022 Public Health Legislative Education Day.....	9
New swag in the PROTEC17 shop!.....	12



Political Action

DOL members testify on PROTEC17 co-written bill.....	10
Legislative session coming to a close.....	11



February is
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

PROTEC17 honors and celebrates the contributions of the Black community to the worker movement and to the fabric of American history.

insight

Jan-Feb 2022
Vol 27 / No. 1

Professional and Technical Employees Local 17

2900 Eastlake Avenue East, Ste. 300
Seattle, Washington 98102
Phone.....206-328-7321
Toll-Free.....800-783-0017
Fax.....206-328-7402
Email.....union@protec17.org
Website.....www.protec17.org

President: Rachael Brooks
Vice-President: Sean Simmons
Secretary-Treasurer: Jessica Garcia
Trustee: Jennell Hicks
Trustee: Emily Tabachnick
Trustee: Renee Thompson

Executive Director: Karen Estevenin
Ext. 101 • karen@protec17.org

Finance Director: Jackie Miller
Ext. 102 • miller@protec17.org

Operations Director: Anthony Davidson
Ext. 121 • anthony@protec17.org

General Counsel: Paul Marvy
Ext. 109 • paul@protec17.org

Union Representatives

Alisha Gregory-Davis
Ext. 116 • alisha@protec17.org
Youssef El Hamawi
Ext. 120 • youssef@protec17.org
Alex II
Ext. 118 • alex@protec17.org
Sarah Lorenzini
Ext. 110 • sarah@protec17.org
Kaite Mark
Ext. 127 • kaite@protec17.org
Steven Pray
Ext. 105 • steven@protec17.org
Suzie Saunders
509-720-4758 • suzie@protec17.org
Brent Wagar
Ext. 131 • brent@protec17.org
Rachel Whiteside
Ext. 113 • rachel@protec17.org
Alexis Young
Ext. 103 • alexis@protec17.org

Union Organizers

Melissa Mafua
Ext. 129 • melissa@protec17.org
Jessica Olivas
Ext. 122 • jessica@protec17.org
Xuan-Trang Tran-Thien
Ext. 106 • tran-thien@protec17.org

Program Directors

Communications: Deidre Girard
Ext. 130 • deidre@protec17.org
Political: Brandon Hersey
Ext. 128 • brandon@protec17.org
Research: Elliot Levin
Ext. 128 • elliot@protec17.org

Office Staff

Communications Specialist: Donna Clarke
Ext. 104 • donna@protec17.org
Membership Administrator: Laura Elia
Ext. 123 • laura@protec17.org

insight

Karen Estevenin, Managing Editor; Deidre Girard, Editor. Insight (ISSN 1093-1694) is the official publication of Professional and Technical Employees Local 17 (PROTEC17). Insight is published bi-monthly by PROTEC17, 2900 Eastlake Avenue East, Suite 300, Seattle, WA 98102. Periodicals postage paid at Seattle, Washington. Postmaster: Send address change to: Insight - 2900 Eastlake Ave. E., Ste. 300, Seattle, WA 98102-3012. www.protec17.org



Karen Estevenin
Executive Director

Change, Courage, and Commitment

2022 is upon us, and it is the Year of the Tiger in the Lunar New Year! Tigers are bold, fearless, and mighty – an excellent model for how we are pursuing the work of our union and what we can also become. The stories in this issue of *Insight* show our members and staff acting with courage, strength, and solidarity, and are a reminder of the tiger within us all.

In the following pages, you can read about PROTEC17 members and staff who spent time on a cold January night rallying with Starbucks workers organizing to secure the same workplace rights that we have the privilege to exercise every day in our union jobs (p. 6). On page 10, you can see how we are pushing a bill (SB5875) in the State Legislature that will extend important benefits and protections to our State Department of Licensing members by including them in the definition of ‘front line workers.’ And you’ll hear how affected DOL members quickly mobilized to support this legislation with powerful testimony in the State Senate. On page 5, there is exciting news of our continued efforts to strengthen our union and extend its benefits by organizing more new workers. Looking forward to the coming year, this issue also highlights how we are approaching contract negotiations for 2022 with new member action teams, a more collective approach, and renewed energy. These stories and more are what make PROTEC17 who we are and more importantly, who we are becoming.

And there is much work to do to become the best and most powerful version of our union, including crucially reaffirming our commitment to racial justice. Whether thinking about engaging with Black History month events or for any other reason, I invite you to explore the resources on our website dedicated to the topic (protec17.org/racial-justice). There, we post events and information that offer the opportunity to learn, honor, and celebrate the achievements and rich history of Black Americans and communities of color in our country. We always welcome ideas, events, or additions to this page — *all year long*. The work of becoming an anti-racist organization occurs daily.

The Labor movement and our union has much work to do to ensure that our efforts are lifting up all workers, and that we are all able to lead lives full of dignity, respect, and opportunity. That will require waking the sleeping tiger in each of us.

In compassion and solidarity,

Karen

PROTEC17 at 40th Annual MLK Day March in Seattle

PROTEC17 staff and members joined the Seattle MLK Jr. Coalition and other community groups at the 40th annual MLK Day Rally and March on Jan. 17. The Coalition aims to keep Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream alive, and to remind civic leaders that the struggle for equity is ongoing. The rally is also a celebration of Black art, music, and culture.

The theme of this year's event was "Truth in Education Now" and served as a call to teach and elevate Black history as an integral part of American history.

Despite the pandemic, hundreds of people turned out to celebrate, following safety and COVID-19 precautions at the rally at Garfield High School and along the march route ending in downtown Seattle.

PROTEC17 is proud to support this annual, joyful event. You can find more upcoming events to participate in on our website at: protec17.org/events. ■



State negotiations kick off in March; bargaining survey open now!



Contract negotiations for our members at the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), the Department of Licensing (DOL), and the Washington State Patrol (WSP) will kick off in March with virtual policy meetings to discuss the bargaining process, priorities, team members, and overall strategy.

The process for negotiating the State contract is unique. Our contract covers the biennium, which is every odd-to-odd year. We're currently in our 2021-2023 contract, and negotiations this summer will focus on the 2023-2025 contract. Every even-numbered year we negotiate, starting in the spring and ending by October 1, which is required by State statute.

The contract then goes to the governor's Office of Financial Management to determine viability, and then the legislature must approve the full contract with either a 'yes' or 'no' vote — no line-item vetos or amendments are permitted. This is part of the reason it's so important to

have elected officials who support State employees in office.

State members should have received a bargaining survey at the personal email address we have on file. If you have not received it, ask a coworker, or reach out to your Union Representative or Steward. The survey is open through March 4 — your input is crucial to determining our priorities during these negotiations.

Two virtual policy committee meetings that will help determine our strategy will be held on Sat., March 12 from noon to 4 p.m. and Wed., March 16 from 6 to 8 p.m. While we don't determine priorities until these meetings, the top topics this year are likely to include telework, targeted wage increases, staffing, and safety. Please join us at one of these meetings and fill out the survey so your voice is heard.

Also, if you are interested in serving on the bargaining team (last year's team pictured above), please reach out to State Union Representative Sarah Lorenzini at sarah@protec17.org. ■

Find more news on our website: www.protec17.org/news

2021 organizing wins: Our union keeps growing stronger!

PROTEC17 grew its membership again in 2021! With public approval of unions being at an all time high, this growth trend mirrors the national wave of workers coming together to advocate for better economic security, health protections, and a say in the decisions that impact their careers and lives. From organizing baristas at Starbucks (see story on p. 6), to workers at Nabisco and Kellogg's on strike last fall, American workers are gaining significant momentum to create positive change in their working lives through the power of unions.

In Washington state last year, union density increased to 19%, up from 17.4% in 2020. In Oregon, density rose 1.6% in 2021 to reach 17.8%. Washington and Oregon rank third and fourth, respectively, after Hawaii and New York, as the states with the highest union membership.

Despite the gains in the Pacific Northwest, the national density rates declined slightly in 2021, in large part due to labor laws that favor the employer over the employee in unionization efforts. Unions, worker-friendly legislators, and the Biden administration continue to push the 'Build Back Better' Act and other policy changes at the federal level that would create stronger protections for unionized and unionizing workers.

New PROTEC17 Classifications

In 2021, PROTEC17 grew its strength, adding nearly 275 workers in 20 newly-represented classifications to our member-powered union. This follows growth in 2020 where over 200 members in 14 new classifications organized into PROTEC17.

As in 2020, many of our organizing campaigns took place within the City of Seattle, but we also welcomed members in new classifications from King County, the City of Portland, and the City of Tacoma. Additionally, new members at the Port of Seattle – a new employer for PROTEC17

featured in the last issue of *Insight* – joined in 2021 as well. From Paralegals and Strategic Advisors, to Victim Advocates and Business Contract Specialists, working professionals know the value of a union, and want to be a part of the PROTEC17 family.

The largest group to sign cards with PROTEC17 last year was the Planning and Development Specialists Seniors classifications at the City of Seattle, adding 59 newly represented positions in various departments across the City to our union.

In Oregon, 15 Capital Project Manager (CPM) II's joined their fellow PROTEC17 CPM I's by securing union representation. This was important to ensure that those workers being promoted maintained their hard-fought union benefits. They are currently bargaining their new contract.

Because of our organizing momentum, we've already had several other groups reach out to organize in 2022. Hearing from current union members is an effective way to spread the word! If you know of colleagues in non-union positions who want to join PROTEC17 and you want to help, please reach out to us at join@protec17.org. We love welcoming new members to our union!

New Hire Orientations

Another pivotal way that our membership grows is when newly-hired employees sign a membership card when they start in their PROTEC17-represented positions.

During the pandemic, many of the new employee orientations were put on pause, or switched to virtual, making it more challenging to connect with new hires. However, in 2021, we launched our own union welcome meetings where new hires can meet with PROTEC17 staff and members to learn more about our union, have their questions answered, and get help with their membership forms.

The first welcome meetings at King County and the City of Seattle were such

a success that they are now being offered for new hires at the Washington State Department of Transportation, the City of Portland, Spokane County, and Skagit County, and they are in development for the Washington State Patrol and the Department of Licensing.

Through these welcome meetings and direct outreach, over 900 new hires decided to join our union in 2021. If you are interested in helping greet potential new members in these welcome meetings and sharing your experience with being part of a union, please reach out to your Union Representative.

Union Building

In addition to growth organizing efforts and our welcome meetings for new hires, PROTEC17 is strengthening our union through member-leader development programs.

In 2021, over 50 members were trained as new Union Stewards through a series of one-hour virtual trainings. In 2022, in addition to continuing our popular, one-hour virtual leadership workshops, we hope to schedule some in-person Steward trainings once it is safe to do so - stay tuned!

Member-leaders also attended other trainings and programs last year with the aim of strengthening our union, including: *Secrets of a Successful Organizer*, hosted by Labor Notes; and a series of trainings on *Race and Labor* that we put on in partnership with the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

Growing our membership and developing and training member leaders were two of the three priorities set by members in PROTEC17's 2020-2022 Strategic Plan, alongside elevating race and social justice initiatives. With the progress we've made in 2021, we're well on our way to reaching these goals. ■

In solidarity!

PROTEC17 stands alongside DCTU in Portland, Teamsters 174 in Seattle, and Starbucks workers nationwide

In solidarity with workers around the country and throughout the Pacific Northwest, PROTEC17 members are starting off 2022 with a show of support for a wide range of unionization efforts and contract campaigns.

In Portland, members stood in solidarity with the District Council of Trade Unions (DCTU) in their struggle for a fair contract with the City of Portland. The DCTU, which bargains for about 1,200 City employees, includes members of AFSCME Local 189, IBEW Local 48, Machinists Local 1005, Operating Engineers Local 701, Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 290, and Painters District Council 5. After working toward a contract since summer 2020, the two sides remained far apart in mid-December 2021, and DCTU declared an impasse.

To show support for DCTU members, community groups held rallies throughout January. The Portland chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) and Portland Jobs With Justice sponsored the Jan. 8 event outside of Portland City Hall. The rally drew about 200 attendees, including many members and staff from PROTEC17, who expressed their support for DCTU members. A second rally and informational picket was held at the City's Maintenance Operations facility on January 18, and shortly thereafter DCTU members voted to go on strike on Feb. 10, should a deal not be reached. Late on Feb. 9, the DCTU announced an agreement with the City.

In Seattle, PROTEC17 President Rachael Brooks and Executive Director Karen Estevenin offered support on behalf of our



“We stand in solidarity with Starbucks Workers United, and with all workers organizing for dignity, respect, and rights!”

Karen Estevenin
PROTEC17 Executive Director

union to Teamsters 174 concrete workers who have been on strike since December 1 to secure a fair contract. On the picket line, they delivered holiday gifts and a donation to let these workers know that PROTEC17 supports them. Over 300 Teamsters at six different companies have been picketing 24 hours a day, seven days per week at 12 different locations since the strike began.

The strike has brought many construction projects in busy downtown Seattle to a halt, demonstrating the essential value of the Teamsters' work. While they remain strong, the strike is taking an economic toll on the group, especially as it extended over the holidays at the end of last year, and now as it enters its third month. PROTEC17 has contributed to

their strike fund. If you'd like to make an individual donation, you can find more information on their website at teamsters174.net/teamsters-local-174-construction-concrete-cement-strike-information.

PROTEC17 members also stood alongside Starbucks' employees looking to form a union at stores located in the same city as company headquarters. The Seattle effort comes on the heels of the first Starbucks cafe to unionize in upstate New York, which prompted a wave of efforts throughout the country to demand better pay and benefits from the world's largest corporate coffee chain. Since the first employees to organize in Buffalo, NY in late 2021, more than 70 Starbucks stores have filed for union recognition. Starbucks Workers United (SWU), an arm of Service Employees International Union (SEIU), is their union.

PROTEC17 member-leaders Gretchen Waschke (City of Seattle) and Lucas Smith (King County) spoke at the SWU rally in Capitol Hill's Cal Anderson Park on Jan. 25 to show PROTEC17's support.

“We are proud of the Starbucks workers at stores in Seattle, WA and Eugene, OR who have petitioned for union recognition, and want to let you know that PROTEC17 members in your communities support your efforts to win union recognition and a good contract,” said Waschke.

Executive Director Estevenin wrote a statement calling on Starbucks' Executives and Seattle City Council to support the right of baristas to form their union, concluding: “We stand in solidarity with Starbucks Workers United, and with all workers organizing for dignity, respect, and rights!” ■

***Want to show your support for your fellow union workers?
Contact your Union Representative!***

GALLERY



Clockwise from top left: PROTEC17 members Gretchen Waschke (Seattle) and Lucas Smith (King County) speak at the Starbucks Workers United rally on Jan. 25; Portland members Janet Strahl and Neil Loehlein support the DCTU; Strahl and member Dat Nguyen at a DCTU rally; PROTEC17 President Rachael Brooks and Executive Director Karen Estevenin on the picket line with Teamsters 174 members; and Portland Chapter President Paul Cone supporting his DCTU co-workers' call for a fair contract.

PROTEC17 Law Enforcement Task Force meets to discuss survey results, create plan for 2022

In 2020, the PROTEC17 Law Enforcement Task Force formed to engage in conversations around public safety and calls for change to law enforcement professions. In order to best serve the needs of PROTEC17 members working in public safety positions, the Task Force created a survey in 2021 to assess their colleagues' needs and interests in an effort to increase support and union power.

In January, the Task Force held two meetings for PROTEC17 law enforcement and public safety members. Participants from across the region, ranging from Washington State Patrol Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officers to City of Seattle Municipal Court Probation Counselors, came to look at the survey results, brainstorm solutions, and share their stories.

According to the survey of law enforcement members:

- 91% of members working in public safety believe their job improves the safety of the community they serve;
- But only 31% of them believe the public understands and appreciates how the work of our members makes the public safer.
- 81% believe it would be helpful for elected officials in their jurisdiction to participate in things like worksite visits and education efforts.
- Only 40% feel they can raise issues related to improving public safety and their employer listens.
- 69% are concerned that calls to re-organize and reform public safety could have a negative impact on their jobs,
- But 66% believe that it is possible to re-organize structures and systems of law enforcement in a way that maintains their positions.



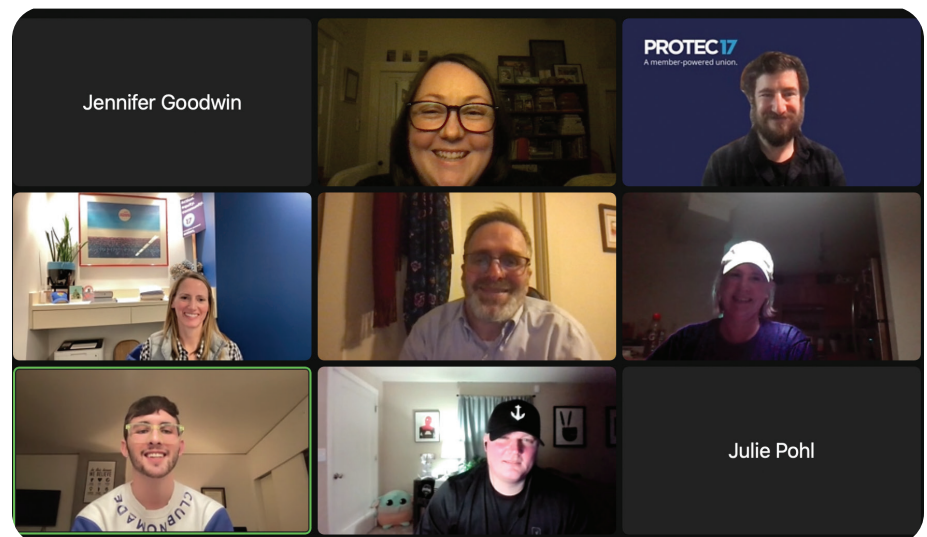
During the meetings, members shared powerful personal stories about working in law enforcement and being in danger at work or at home because of their job. Some of them work closely with detectives or have family members who are officers. Alternately, some have family members who have been victims of police violence. Survey respondents and meeting participants agreed that gathering law enforcement and public safety members together to learn and hear from each other was an important activity for our union to engage in.

Eighty percent of survey respondents said that our union's role in the broader discussion for a reimagined safety system is to protect union jobs and ensure they remain stable with benefits, wages and a

union contract. Sixty-seven percent said they would like to see our union engage more in advocating collectively to raise standards and improve their workplace. Over half think their union's role is to advocate for safe communities with our unique role of representing members in law enforcement. The survey responses reinforced that these bread-and-butter union issues are just as important as ever.

After hearing from members who work in law enforcement and public safety, a few plans have emerged. PROTEC17's new Legislative Director, Brandon Hersey, is helping members get to know elected leaders and policy makers to create lasting relationships and keep our politicians engaged in union issues. Chapter officers and union reps are organizing ride-alongs and bring-your-boss-to-work days in order to increase the understanding of what members do and what their needs are.

The Task Force will meet regularly this year to determine what kind of continued support our law enforcement and public safety members need. If you would like to join in on the conversation and continue this forward momentum, please reach out to Union Representative Suzie Saunders at suzie@protec17.org. ■



Some of the PROTEC17 Law Enforcement Task Force members and staff at a January meeting.

Public Health Legislative Education Day held virtually to learn about 2022 legislation, share experiences



n Feb. 8, Public Health employees from across Washington state – including many PROTEC17 members –

gathered online for Public Health Legislative Education Day, held via Zoom for the second year in a row.

Legislative Education Day is typically a day where Washington's Public Health professionals meet in-person with their local representatives to educate them about the important work they do every day to keep our state safe and healthy. While some virtual meetings were arranged between participants and their representatives after the main morning session, the online format brings the opportunity for professionals to learn about the issues both locally and at the national level from special guest speakers, and how sharing their work experiences can help inform policy and funding decisions.

Participants were welcomed by Jeff Ketchel and Adrian Dominguez of the Washington State Public Health Association (WSPHA), which organized the event. The agenda was packed with Public Health experts including Kristin Peterson, the Deputy Secretary for Policy, Planning and Evaluation for the Washington State Department of Health, as well as various policy advocates on water fluoridation, vaping regulation, cannabis revenue appropriation, and Black health in Washington state.

Of note, Health Policy Director Nick Bath and Health Policy Advocate Sabah Ghulamali spoke at length on the efforts of the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP), of which U.S. Senator Parry Murray (D-WA) is Chair. Murray and the HELP Committee are working on the 'Prepare for and Respond to Existing Viruses, and Emerging New



Presenters at Public Health Legislative Education Day 2022.

Threats (PREVENT) Pandemics Act', which would strengthen funding and rules surrounding pandemic preparedness at the Federal and State levels. While Public Health has responded as skillfully as possible to the COVID-19 pandemic, lessons learned over the last two years will help shape new policy that will allow for a stronger response should another global viral event happen in the future.

Another important presentation by the Tubman Center for Health and Freedom focused on community-led health solutions, highlighting their efforts in Black and Indigenous communities in Washington State.

While Public Health Legislative Education Day is not a day for public health professionals to directly ask for funding, it is an important opportunity to teach them how to give legislators a sense and scope of the most important issues and how budgetary constraints and limitations impact the health and safety of our communities. Also, as it is not a biennium budgetary year in Washington state, WSPHA and other health

advocacy organizations are focused mainly on policy changes in 2022 that will create positive changes in our communities.

The bills that were highlighted at Legislative Education Day are: HB1684/SB5587 concerning the fluoridation of drinking water for improved oral health; bills related to vaping regulation including SB5129 targeting youth tobacco enforcement, HB1676 reforming the vapor tax, and SB5768 on vapor flavor regulation; and cannabis legislation that would regulate Delta-8 THC and industrial hemp products, and restructure cannabis revenue appropriations for Public Health related programs.

We will be tracking the status of Public Health bills and will post updates on our Political Action webpage: protec17.org/political-action. There, you can also learn about our 2022 legislative priorities and how to contact your Senators and Representatives. Whether you are a Public Health employee or not, you can show your support for both Foundational and pandemic-related Public Health causes by reaching out to your state and local representatives. ■

Have a story to share in Insight? Contact deidre@protec17.org

Dept. of Licensing members seek acknowledgement of frontline work via PROTEC17 co-written Bill 5875

Building upon our efforts from last year supporting PROTEC17 members at the Washington State Department of Licensing (DOL), we co-wrote Washington State Senate Bill (SB) 5875 that would add DOL Licensing Service Representatives (LSRs) to the definition of ‘frontline workers’ under the Health Emergency Labor Standards Act.

If successful, this change would allow LSRs access to workers’ compensation coverage for COVID-19-related reasons, and additionally, it would bolster the argument that LSRs deserve hazard pay for their direct service with the public throughout the pandemic.

In its first hearing on Mon., Jan. 24, PROTEC17 members and staff – including LSRs Nicole Chambers, Nathan Fox, Chanel Johnson, Pablo Nichipor, and Union Representative Alexis Young – provided compelling live testimony during the virtual meeting. In their testimony, members shared real stories about how they put themselves and their family members at risk throughout the pandemic, including several members who contacted COVID-19 while at work.

Because they are not officially classified as frontline workers under the emergency



DOL member Nathan Fox gave virtual testimony at the hearing for SB5875 on Jan. 24.

act and cannot access additional leave benefits, many DOL members were forced to use their own leave to recover from COVID-19, or to quarantine at home after exposure, causing severe financial hardship in some cases. LSRs shared that some have questioned whether or not they would even notify their employer if they had COVID-19 simply because they cannot afford to use their own leave to stay home.

“Roughly a week after returning to the office in early August, my child got COVID-19,” said PROTEC17 member and

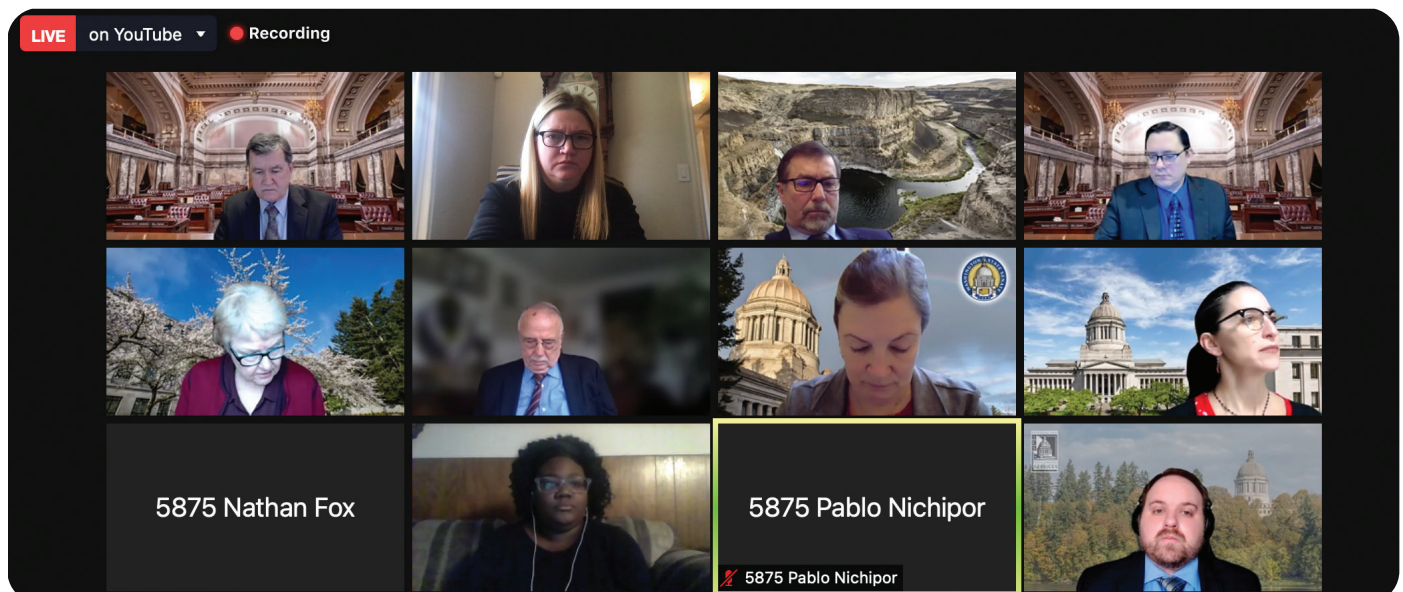
Wenatchee DOL-LSR Nathan Fox in the hearing.

“This resulted in me having to isolate myself for the protection of the community and my co-workers. Unfortunately, this caused me to use up all of my sick and vacation leave and I had to take several days of unpaid leave as well.”

“Any assistance that could be rendered by the government would only help to ease the burden that this disaster has put on us, and as essential workers, help us feel appreciated for everything that we have done,” Fox concluded in the hearing.

On Jan. 31, the bill was discussed in executive session by the Labor, Commerce, and Tribal Affairs committee. With a narrow 5-4 vote, the bill passed through committee and will now reside in the Rules Committee until further action is taken.

PROTEC17 LSRs would like to extend a special thanks to Senator Joe Nguyen from Legislative District 34 for being the primary sponsor of this legislation, and to the Committee members for their support. We will continue to update you on the progress of SB 5875 and will let you know how you can help support our efforts to get LSRs acknowledged for their frontline work. ■



PROTEC17 members and staff give testimony during the virtual hearing for SB 5875 on Jan. 24

Short legislative sessions in Washington and Oregon in 2022 barrel towards finish line, set stage for 2023

The short legislative sessions in both Oregon and Washington state are set to wrap up in early March, but even with the compressed timelines, PROTEC17 is tracking, supporting, and drafting legislation that will directly impact our members in hopes of some solid wins in 2022.

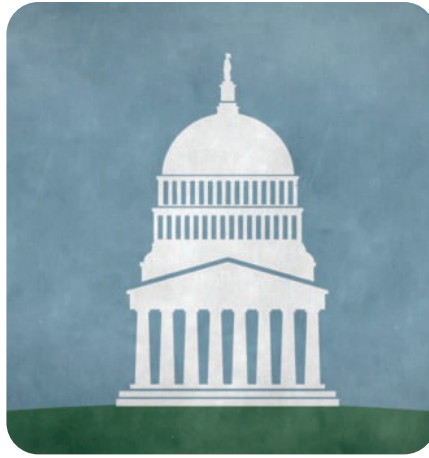
Washington

This year, the Washington State Legislative Session runs for just eight weeks, concluding on March 10. The legislative priorities that PROTEC17 created prior to session are focused on public health funding and investments in infrastructure and transportation. Some of the bills that we are monitoring, as this issue of *Insight* went to the printer, include:

- Senate Bill (SB) 5600, which concerns the sustainability and expansion of state registered apprenticeship programs;
- SB 5911, which would provide hazard pay retention bonuses to certain health care employees;
- House Bill (HB) 5778, which would address the current backlog of vehicle inspections, allowing local law enforcement or contractors to become certified to perform inspections; and
- HB 5898, which would supplement existing highway bond authorizations with an additional pledge of vehicle related fees, for future bond issuances.

We are also closely watching SB 5875 (see story on previous page), which would provide PROTEC17 Licensing Service Representative I and II members with hazard pay and other benefits that acknowledge their duties as front line workers during the height of the pandemic.

In other key changes that will set the stage for next year's long session, Senator



Marko Liias assumed his new role as chair of the transportation committee, and we look forward to working with him in the future to prepare for the adoption of a robust transportation package in 2023.

Next year, we hope to advocate in-person in Olympia during the 2023 legislative session, and will keep you informed on ways to engage with your legislators in the coming months. If you'd like additional information on the current session, please contact PROTEC17 Political Director Brandon Hersey at brandon@protec17.org.

Oregon

February 1 marked the beginning of the 2022 Oregon Legislative session, which is a short even-year session lasting until March 7. Broad priorities of the legislature this year include the State budget, pandemic response issues, housing services, and education funding. The session also welcomes a new Speaker of the House, Corvallis Representative Dan Rayfield. Representative Rayfield has been an ally to labor through his tenure in the legislature, and PROTEC17 members in Oregon have high hopes for his leadership.

Below are a few of the labor-related bills and issues that we're tracking this

session in Oregon:

- House Bill (HB) 4001 aimed to address essential worker pay for front-line workers during the pandemic. Unfortunately, it failed to make it out of committee on Feb. 7.
- Senate Bill (SB) 1506 would give local jurisdictions more revenue authority to increase marijuana taxes.
- SB 1586 stiffens penalties for employers who use non-disclosure agreements to silence workers who have experienced discrimination or harassment. PROTEC17 joined other labor unions in 2019 passing the landmark Workplace Fairness Act, and SB 1586 will strengthen the protections in that bill.
- HB 4002 would provide overtime protections to farmworkers in Oregon. While this bill gathered strong support in 2021 it did not ultimately receive a final vote. We hope to see Oregon joining Washington and California in providing this critical benefit to these vital workers.

While Federal infrastructure funding disbursements are currently being discussed in the Oregon Transportation Commission rather than the legislature, PROTEC17 will be monitoring legislative conversations on the subject in order to assure that appropriate funding reaches local transportation agencies including the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT), and that State projects within the Portland metro area adequately compensate PBOT to mitigate impacts.

If you are interested in getting more information about these or any other Oregon legislative subjects, please email PROTEC17 Research Director and Oregon Legislative Advocate Elliot Levin at elliott@protec17.org. ■

**To learn more about PROTEC17's political program, visit:
www.protec17.org/political-action**

Professional and
Technical Employees
Local 17

2900 Eastlake Ave. East, Ste. 300
Seattle, Washington 98102
www.protec17.org

PRO
TEC17

Periodicals

Postage

PAID

at Seattle WA

Did you move?

Let us know! 800-783-0017

SHOW YOUR PROTEC17 *pride!*

**NEW
Merch!**



Visit our webstore to order *NEW!* PROTEC17 merchandise, like t-shirts, hoodies, hats, scarves and more – *at cost!* – to show your union pride!

protec17.myshopify.com