

Guide Dog Dash motorcycle poker run raises cash for a good cause

Forty-seven motorcycle riders participated in the 8th annual Guide Dogs Dash Aug. 23, sponsored by Machinists Lodge 63 and Machinists District W24. This year's ride was held in honor of Chuck Drake, who passed away last December. Drake had the original idea for the ride to raise money for Guide Dogs of America. Guide Dogs was founded by the International Association of Machinists in 1948 in Sylmar, California, to provide guide dogs free of charge to the blind community. The organization depends solely on voluntary donations, bequests, and fundraising events, such as the motorcycle poker run. This year's event raised nearly \$3,500.



Guide-dog-in-training Zeus enjoys the poker run.



(PHOTO LEFT) This Harley, with license plate UNION 2, belongs to IAM W24 Assistant Directing Business Rep Bob Petroff.



Laborers Local 483 reaches tentative agreement at Metro

Laborers Local 483 reached tentative agreement Aug. 14 on a new collective bargaining agreement with the Metro regional government, covering about 500 workers at the Oregon Zoo and Metro's regional parks and natural areas.

The four-year agreement provides an immediate 2.5 percent cost-of-living wage increase, followed by annual raises equal to the increase in the Consumer Price Index (minimum 1.25 percent, maximum 3.5 percent).

The agreement grants up to 50 hours of paid sick leave, institutes premium pay for split shifts, and guarantees at least four hours of pay when an employee reports to work.

It provides new rights to workers who are classified as "temps": After 2,080 hours (two years), they will no longer be considered at-will employees, and will have the right to contest unfair discipline through a grievance process and binding arbitration. The agreement also improves the contract's definition of temps.

Local 483 agreed to halt further informational picketing at the Zoo as part of the agreement.

Local 483 also made several concessions. The agreement increases employee contributions to health insurance premiums to 8 percent, up from

the current 6 percent. It also adds a new parking charge of \$10 a month starting January 2016 (\$40 a month for those who don't currently have a parking spot.)

If approved, the contract would be retroactive to July 1, 2014 and would run through June 30, 2018.

Members were slated to vote on the agreement the first week of September.

...ILWU

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United Grain and the Clark County Board of Commissioners tried to persuade the county sheriff's department to provide escorts, but Sheriff Garry Lucas declined. [United Grain offered to pay the sheriff's department for the service.]

Without police escorts, grain inspectors refused to enter the facility, effectively shutting down grain exports at the Port of Vancouver.

On Aug. 12, FMCS announced that a tentative agreement had been reached.

Members of ILWU have loaded grain for export in the Pacific Northwest since 1934.

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