

## BUY UNION



## Morel Ink: Owners change, union remains

Morel Ink, a union print shop and mail house, is under new ownership. In July, longtime owners Bill Dickey and Matt Witham sold the business to longtime employees Scott Ballo and Alli Wood and their spouses Shauna Ballo and Ben Wood. Dickey will continue on as an employee.

Morel Ink, named for the wild mushroom Dickey learned to pick growing up in Oregon, employs 19 members of Teamsters Local 747-M. They earn wages of about \$26 an hour on average, plus health and retirement benefits. Local 747-M is part of the Teamsters' Graphic Communications Conference.

Morel specializes in political direct mail for union-friendly po-

litical candidates and organizations. It also produces union mailing, banners and signs, including picket signs. Production takes place at its main facility at 4824 NE 42nd Avenue in Portland and at its subsidiary, ADCO Commercial Printing & Graphics in Vancouver. Morel Ink also mails the NW Labor Press.

Scott Ballo, at Morel since 2009, formerly worked for union-backed political groups and politicians like former Oregon governor Ted Kulongoski. His wife Shauna Ballo was formerly a communications director for SEIU Local 49 and for Basic Rights Oregon. Alli Wood has worked as Morel's bookkeeper since 2004.

## UNION ORGANIZING

# Safeway.com drivers in Tukwila join Teamsters Local 174

Almost 70 delivery drivers at Safeway.com voted Sept 6 to join Teamsters Local 174, a historic victory with potentially wide-ranging effects, as these are the first *Safeway.com* delivery drivers in the nation to vote to join a union.

Voting was conducted by the National Labor Relations Board.

"This is huge for us. Everyone at this company was a union member except for us," said Safeway.com driver and lead organizing committee member Dan Oliver. "And it was clear from our compensation, benefits, and the way we were treated at work that not being union was hurting us. All of that is going to change now."

"I am so proud of these guys for standing up for their rights," said Local 174 Organizer Meaza Ogbe. "It takes courage to stand up to your

employer and demand respect, and these guys had courage to spare."

The organizing victory comes at a critical moment in the home grocery delivery industry, as Seattle-based product delivery juggernaut Amazon has recently purchased the upscale grocery chain Whole Foods.

"This is not just a big win for these Safeway.com drivers, but this is a foot in the door for other organizing opportunities in this same industry in the future," said Local 174 Secretary-Treasurer Rick Hicks. "Home grocery delivery is a growing industry, and from this day forward, it is going to be an industry that includes the Teamsters Union."

Teamsters Local 174 represents Safeway distribution center drivers who operate out of facilities in Auburn and Bellevue delivering groceries

to stores across the state. The drivers and warehousemen recently ratified the richest contract in their history.

The next step is for the union and the company to sit together and negotiate a first contract for the drivers, who deliver customers' grocery orders from Safeway stores directly to their homes, on a strict timeline to preserve the groceries' freshness.

"This just-in-time, right-to-your-home delivery system is not just the next step for the grocery industry — it's the next step for the entire package delivery industry," said Local 174 Secretary-Treasurer Rick Hicks. "This is the future, and it is a future in which Teamsters Local 174 will be an active participant."

Teamsters Local 174 represents approximately 7,200 workers in the Seattle area.



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