



Cingular Unity

January 2007

Company/union committee

bargaining agreement.



2006 WashTech Chief Steward Election

At the November Stewards Meeting, an announcement was made that WashTech Local 37083 would elect a Chief Shop Steward with the below-outlined duties for the one-year term leadership position:

- Serve as point-person for all the stewards.
- Keep a master file of all past and ongoing grievances.
- Work with Vice Presidents to write monthly agenda for Stewards meeting and assist in running Stewards meeting.
- Serve as Liaison between union and management.
- Educate and mentor new stewards in areas such as contract interpretation and grievance handling.
- Works under the direction of Cingular CBU Vice Presidents.
- Serves one-year term and must run for re-election, if desired, at conclusion of each term.

Stewards Rich Atherton, Mitch McMurry, Pat Ray and Ben Schlechty all accepted nominations to run for Chief Steward. McMurry and Schlechty later withdrew their bids.

Campaigning by the remaining candidates, Rich Atherton and Pat Ray, took place between Dec. 1-12. A certified email vote amongst the Stewards only, took place from Dec. 10-15.

BEUC Rep. Rich Atherton became WashTech's first Chief Steward, garnering 7 votes to Ray's 5 votes. Local Election Chair Brian Roberts certified the final vote.

Atherton became active as Chief Steward on December 18 and will be sworn in by the CWA Local Legislative Board next month. He will address the stewards and the bargaining unit, in a statement in February's UNITY newsletter.

WashTech Officers sworn in, Assume roles on Planning Council

Elected by a plurality of votes by the Cingular Collective Bargaining Unit in October, WashTech Vice Presidents Les French, Nancy Wright and Bill Montgomery were sworn into office at 2006's last general membership meeting on Dec. 12. Staff Representative Craig Gamble was also sworn in on Dec. 12 as WashTech's Vice President at-large.

The four of them will serve collectively on the WashTech Planning Council, which rank-and-file voting members delegate their decision-making authority to between meetings of the General Assembly. The Elected Officers and Committee Chairs comprise the rest of the Planning Council, which meets regularly.

The Cingular CBU Vice Presidents work under the direction of Local President Marcus Courtney and are responsible for prompt, timely grievance filing and subsequent appeals at higher levels of the union. Together with the Chief Steward, they run the monthly Stewards meeting, facilitate member orientations, conduct worksite meetings, perform other duties as assigned and are



Member Gorganne Burke Passes away at age 56

It is with great consolation, that we announce the passing of WashTech member Gorganne E. (Fern) Burke, of heart failure, on Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2006. Fern was employed most of her life in the telecommunications industry and worked for AT&T Wireless/Cingular the past seven years as a customer service representative in National Business Services.



Born in Southern California in 1950, she was raised the only child of Rolf and June Gylfe. She was known by early friends as Gigi and by her family and other Washington friends as Fern. Gorganne attended Marlborough High School and had one year of college at Cal State Northridge.

In 1975 she married Doyle Burke from Washington State. After moving to Vancouver, Wash., Fern gave birth to her beloved daughter, Sabrina, and a year later, her treasured son Paul.

She was an avid Beanie Baby collector and gardener, but her main interest was her family. Fern is survived by her loyal husband, Doyle, daughter Sabrina of Seattle, and son Paul (Marcia) and granddaughter, Layne of Florida.

Memorial services were held at First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue on Dec. 13th. In lieu of flowers, the family prefers donations to the American Heart Association.

Credit: The Seattle Times

Protecting our Weingarten Rights

Federal law states that anytime an investigatory meeting between management and an employee is held that "could lead to discipline", a union member has the right to exercise their Weingarten Rights. Members can have a Shop Steward present at such meetings to take notes, ask clarifying questions and serve as an unbiased third party to what occurs.

If you feel like your meeting with management could lead to discipline or a note will go in your personnel file as result of such, it is a good idea to request a Steward be present to protect your rights and document the meeting. You can do so by verbally requesting a Steward and showing a Weingarten Rights card, which you can get from any Shop Steward.

If management initially denies you a Steward during an investigatory meeting, the meeting should end right then. Repeat your request for a Steward and refuse to answer any questions until a Shop Steward is present. This process is similar to the lawyer-client relationship during a criminal investigation conducted by law enforcement.

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