

the **STAND**

News about working people standing together in Washington state

Monday, February 12, 2024



[Port of Seattle electricians are bannering for equitable pay](#)

SEATTLE — The Port of Seattle is refusing to pay about 80 Airport and Seaport Electricians wages and benefits that are equitable with the region's market. As a result, these electricians represented by IBEW Local 46 have been forced to work under an expired contract for nine months. The union and the Port have been in contract talks for over a year and in Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) mediation since November 2023. Now IBEW Local 46 members and their supporters are taking to the streets in a bannering campaign to demand a fair contract. These actions are not a strike, nor are they intended to induce any Port employees to withhold labor or leave the jobsite. This bannering is intended to inform the public about the Port of Seattle's intransigence in negotiations with its employees. [Read more.](#)

TAKE A STAND -- All union and community supporters of IBEW 46 Port Electricians are invited to show their support at the next bannering action on Tuesday, Feb. 13 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Pier 69 in front of the Port of Seattle Office Building. A Port Commission meeting that day starts at noon. Nicole Grant of IBEW 46 and MLK Labor's Katie Garrow will be speaking along with some Port Electricians.

Also from [The Calendar](#) at The STAND

TOMORROW -- On Tuesday, Feb. 13, flight attendants from around the world are coming together to bring their collective struggle to the public eye. Alaska Airlines flight attendants who are fighting for a fair contract will hold a **Solidarity Picket with Flight Attendants** on Tuesday, Feb. 13 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Sea-Tac Airport. Meet at Flag Pavilion (SW corner of Int'l Blvd and Airport Expressway). [Get details.](#)



In case you missed it...

► From the Stranger -- [Big business is fighting to kill state legislation to protect striking workers](#) (by Starbucks employee Rachel Ybarra) -- Rather than negotiate a fair contract, low-wage employers like Starbucks can weaponize the economic instability of their employees. Recognizing that striking workers and our families should have some economic support, New York, New Jersey, and Maine allow strikers to access the unemployment social safety net. SB 5777/HB 1893 would grant workers in Washington the same protection.

TAKE A STAND — Washington state legislators must act now to support HB 1893 / SB 5777, which would allow striking workers to access unemployment benefits!

[Send an email to your State Senator and Representatives](#) urging them to support HB 1893 / SB 5777 and keep this important legislation moving at the State Capitol.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FOR STRIKERS
Rather than negotiate a fair contract, employers can weaponize the economic instability of workers — especially low-income workers of color — to force a strike and “starve them out.” Striking workers and their families should have access to some economic support.

THE PROBLEM	THE SOLUTION
<p>Employers can refuse to negotiate fair contracts with workers, force strikes, and use families' financial distress as a bargaining strategy. Because striking workers lack access to unemployment insurance assistance, employers can use the threat of evictions, repossessions, and other economic hardships to suppress wages and working conditions.</p>	<p>By approving SB 5777 / HB 1893, Washington can join New York, New Jersey and Maine in allowing workers to access unemployment insurance after more than two weeks on strike. This will help level the playing field, discourage economic hardship as a bargaining strategy, and promote good faith contract negotiations.</p>

OWSLC
Olympic Workers Solidarity League of Canada

THAT'S ALL, FOLKS -- The Entire Staff of The STAND is attending a daylong meeting of The Entire Staff of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO on Monday. So our next [Daily News](#) update will be on Tuesday, Feb. 13. See you then!

*All that and MUCH MORE NEWS about working people
standing together at [The STAND](#).*