



And so you asked...

Money back

By Jonathan Hunt

President-Business Representative



If you work at, or are retired from TriMet, you may be entitled to get money back from Blue-Cross BlueShield. Starting in February of 2006 BlueCross BlueShield reduced the amount it was paying for chiropractic treatment. Following a flurry of communication with TriMet and the timely appeal to Blue Cross by one of our retirees, Blue Cross reversed itself. In a letter, Blue Cross wrote the following:

In researching your concerns, our Marketing Department has advised ... that the claims processed after February 1, 2006, were processed ... [so as to cause]...an amount in excess of your usual co-payment to be shown as due.

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Officer Reports

TriMet Powell Maintenance

As reported by
KEVIN KINOSHITA



There is a lot going on here at Powell Maintenance, even though it's the smallest garage. The number of buses that get serviced, cleaned and fixed every day

and night here is amazing. Only two plant maintenance mechanics are assigned to fix everything, not only here at Powell but at all other locations. I believe that this shop utilizes every possible square inch of its capacity. A prime example is the storeroom, if you look at the number of buses and the amount of parts that are stocked and shelved. It's incredible that we even have room for the shelves to hold the

parts.

A lot of issues have been addressed lately, from contractual, safety and policies being implemented to concerns for well-being. If you need to turn any paperwork into TriMet, always make copies for yourself. You are sure to need them later on.

Somewhere in the payroll system a glitch resulted in wrong pay for the assistant supervisor and the senior mechanics. All those who were affected have now received the correct pay. Also, the shift differential pay issue is at the Step 3 level of the grievance procedure.

We had a pre-step for the buyer position for not bargaining with the Union on changes. This has turned into an unfair labor practice (ULP). We also had a Step 2 hearing for the assistant storekeeper on the same issue; this is also in the ULP.

At the last Powell safety meeting, I was concerned about the light poles in the yard that sit in the middle of the

track. Since we all park buses, this is an accident waiting to happen, not only to the maintenance department but also to the transportation department. Hopefully, while waiting for facilities people to repaint the lines, we can come up with a temporary solution so no one will hit these light poles.

On another note I recently talked to Mike Grove about implementing a stretching program at Powell for all shifts and classifications. I would like to see a stretching program personalized for the type of work that is done on a daily basis. Since we all have different jobs, we all use different muscles.

If you see a contract outfit or any other company on the property that's doing or possibly doing bargaining unit work, write it down and let me know the name of the company, how many workers, the time that it happened, the kind of work that's being

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Summer picnic

Portland ATU annual picnic: Sunday, Aug. 13 at Oaks Park

Area reports

By Sam Schwarz

Vice President



Since taking office, I have been very busy. I've been working on the Portland Public Schools contract

with the District Council of Unions (DCU) and have been appointed Vice President of the DCU. The

DCU is comprised of representatives of the trades that are currently employed by Portland Public Schools.

In July, we took a strike vote in Salem and the members of WHEELS voted unanimously to strike. We had the one-day strike on July 7 in Salem with 100 percent WHEELS operator participation.

The operators at TriMet Merlo Transportation have a new manager. Oh, did I say manager? I meant to say menacer. Mr. Booker thinks he is the manager of a little league baseball team and that all players should

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Dues increase on the way

Tom Wallace

Financial Secretary-Treasurer



Section 17 of the By-laws calls for an increase in dues equal to the raise that the member receives at their work location, plus any increase

in the per-capita taxes. The per-capita taxes are the dues that are paid to the International Union, Oregon AFL-CIO and other labor councils affiliated with ATU Local 757.

The International Union per-capita taxes increased by \$0.30. The Local Union dues are increasing by 3

percent. This was the increase that most of our members received at the various properties. There are a couple of properties that did not receive a raise or are currently in contract negotiations. Those members will only pay an increase in their per-capita taxes. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 503.232.9144 or fstreasurer@atu757.org.

There were several challenges to the officers' elections. Three of them have been resolved with a rerun recommendation by the Election Review Committee that was appointed by Al Zullo before leaving office. You, the members, voted on this recommendation at the July membership meetings. The rerun recommendations were for TriMet Merlo Transportation Executive Board Officer, TriMet Merlo Maintenance

Executive Board Officer and AMR Josephine County Liaison Officer. The ballots were mailed out on July 26 and will be counted on Aug. 15. If you work at one of these properties and have not received your ballot, call the union office at 503-232-9144 or 1-800-797-4373 as soon as possible.

There was another challenge; this was to the President and Financial Secretary's race. The review committee requested that the challengers respond by July 25, or they would make a ruling without their input. The Election Review Committee never received a response to their questions from the challengers so they could make a recommendation on the race.

We had a clean-up day at the

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What IS this?

The four outside pages are news from and about your Union. The inside pages are produced by the Northwest Labor Press, and cover the labor movement as a whole.

Amalgamated Transit Union Division 757

Representing working men and women in Oregon and Washington at:

TriMet • Lane Transit District • Rogue Valley Transportation District • Portland Public Schools • Lamar Advertising Company (formerly Obie Media) • Valley Transit Association • Laidlaw Transit Services, Inc. (TriMet Lift, Portland) • American Medical Response Northwest (Josephine County) • Laidlaw Education Services (Portland Public Schools, Corvallis School District, Corvallis City Transit) • MV Transportation, Inc. • C-TRAN/C-VAN • Salem Area Transit • WHEELS • Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, Inc. • Tillamook County Transportation District • ATU Retired Member Chapter



ATU Local 757 Officer Reports

(From Page 1)

done and the location where they were working. Remember, we bargained for our jobs and we are entitled to our work. Recently, we received information and pictures of an outfit doing our work; when we asked TriMet officials about it, their answer was, "No, we didn't contract that out." Stay tuned.

The food event policy that came out recently is being reviewed for some revision. I had a meeting with Tommy Wright of the safety department, and we should see a revised policy. Each garage and shift is different; what works great for one area might not work for another. We should all enjoy the barbecues, take-out food, pizzas or catered events for your shift.

We are still working on the apprenticeship for the facilities maintenance department. The apprentices are close to taking the meat and potatoes of the core classes to prepare them for the state LME license. I recently talked with a person from the IBEW, and hopefully we can get something going with them.

Some of us went to Salem, Oregon, to help our 757 Brothers and Sisters. We walked the picket line for WHEELS. WHEELS provides transportation for the disabled and elderly. These operators—like the ones in Portland—have a very difficult job; they are not on a fixed route, and a lot of times they have to adjust their route while en route.

Summer is among us, and I hope everyone is enjoying themselves. The annual picnic will be coming up soon, so be sure to mark your calendars for Aug. 13. Lastly, keep hydrated, stay cool, and take that extra time to take care of yourself during the dog days of summer.

Salem Area Transit

As reported by
KEN RICHINS

Gary Spore is to be commended for facilitating an amicable transition of Union leadership in Salem. Gary faithfully executed his office for five years. Even during the last week of his office, he successfully challenged management's unilateral decision to lower the number of operators who could bid weekly vacations beginning in September. Thanks, Gary.

This is understandably an emotional time for us as several of our brothers and sisters are preparing for the layoff in September. Doing our part to get the levy passed will enable our friends to be reemployed as soon as possible. This will be our highest priority for the remainder of this year.

The WHEELS strike may be a wake-up call to all of us. It makes no sense that the District would even consider taking a contract away from a local provider, who is doing a good job, and offering it to companies who are from out of town, state and even the

country. For-profit companies cut employee benefits and wages, and then send the profits out of our community. How is that good for Salem and Keizer?

It is not too early to turn in labor agreement proposals. Formal negotiations between ATU and Cherriots will commence in October. I already have a list started, Gary has given me his list, and other members have been sending in suggestions. Feel free to send them to my e-mail address as posted on the bulletin board. Please write "ATU 757" in the subject line of your e-mail.

Lane Transit District

As reported by
WALT BOYNTON

Brothers and Sisters: I would like to thank you for electing me to the position of executive board officer for the Eugene property. I consider it a very important position and will give my all to represent you. To those of you who ran against me and my fellow officers, I would like to invite you to help us in any manner you see fit. We need to put things behind us and move forward in solidarity. The future is ours to shape, and it takes all of us moving in the same direction to accomplish our goals. We have some challenges ahead of us in the next three years. Working together we will overcome! Remember, I am not the Union, we all are. I ask you all to get involved, and one way to do that is come to our Union meetings. Read the Union board. Tom is doing a great job of keeping interesting posters and bulletins up for you to read, and that board also lists the Union meeting dates, location and times. We are trying out having the morning and evening meetings on the same day to cut officer expenses and give them an extra work day. I will keep you posted on how this is working out.

Next, I would like to thank our past executive board officer, Carol Allred, for the incredible job she did while in office. Her accomplishments, of which many of you may be unaware, were phenomenal. Many times all you see or hear are the results of many, many hours of hard work, mostly done on her own time. I don't know how she did it and handled her own health problems. She's a tiger! I have asked Carol to stay involved because we need her; I hope she will. If you see her, please tell her how grateful we are to have had her services for the last three years. Once again, from the new officers, thank, you Carol, we love ya!

It has been a very busy two weeks. We won an arbitration for one employee—thank you, Carol—and lost a reinstatement of employment for a probationary employee. To those of you who are on probation, walk the straight and narrow, do your job, come to work and on time. If you are having

any problems, seek out an instructor or Union officer for advice. In my personal opinion twelve months' probation is cruel and unusual punishment. In the shop, Lee negotiated an in-house promotion of two general service workers to journeyman mechanic. Way to go, Lee! We have applicants for extra board liaison and customer service steward. Those positions should be filled soon. Meanwhile, Deb Bitterlich is watching the extra board with that eagle eye. Not much gets by her. Thanks, Deb. Relief is on the way!

Again, thank you to the membership from the new officers. Thank you, Carol and remember, solidarity. Together we will win!

TriMet Light Rail Transportation

As reported by
MICHAEL T. OLIVER



So, the fall sign-up is completed with less overtime, more runs and the hated Rose Quarter reliefs still with us. These reliefs have been part of our contract

for the last 20 years, and there has never been a time when we were without them. Rumors and extensions abound during election time and just because something is printed as fact does not make it so. When the Red Line was extended to Beaverton Transit Center, there was no need for Rose Quarter reliefs and they ended. No one "worked hard to end them"; they ended because it was the easiest thing to do. Now, they have been reinstated because the District saves \$5 when the relief is not at 11th Avenue terminus. Road reliefs are negotiated items in the contract. Once in, they have to be negotiated out. This has not been done. Along the same line, Portland Streetcar (PSC) will be extended this fall, and a relief point needs to be negotiated for at Portland State University's Urban Plaza. E-mail me with your opinions. PSC has postponed the grand opening to Gibbs Street until Oct. 20 because of the late delivery of the new cars and construction in that area. A shorter than usual sign-up will be held, and I'm hoping that two new operators will be transferred anyway on Sept. 3. Say goodbye to Controller Chris Draus, who is headed for Scandinavia to pursue other interests. Chris was a character who was very popular and he will be missed. The best of luck to you, Chris. My pager number has changed; page me at 503.273.7340, E-mail mtgbo2002@msn.com.

WHEELS

As reported by
JOHN HARVEY



tries to dismantle WHEELS.

Jeff wants to cut wages and benefits by hiring an outside, for-profit company to do the work that WHEELS has been doing for almost 20 years. The survey that Salem Area Mass Transit did at WHEELS rated WHEELS above all other competitors currently bidding on the Cherry Lift contract. If another company is chosen to do the Cherry Lift contract, I am going to feel badly—not for myself because I have the option of moving on. Our riders will not have that option. They will be stuck with a company that just wants to make a profit. Jeff H does not care about the service cuts these people will receive.

WHEELS is a nonprofit company that goes above the standard to make sure that its drivers are trained and re-trained to care for our disabled and elderly clients who need extra care. All of our employees at WHEELS transportation do care. It is a shame that Jeff H does not. I wonder if it would be different if his mother or father were riding on Cherry Lift. Would he still be willing to cut services just to save a buck?

Portland Public Schools

As reported by
RANDY SHAW



Well, I survived my first executive board meeting on July 14 and was glad I wasn't the only new kid on the block. Another new kid was Rose Jordan; some of us "old timers" remember her. We were sworn in at the charter meeting on the 17th, so everything is official now and I am very excited to start working for you.

I want to thank Smokey Stover for the years he spent on the e-board working for us. Smokey's heart has always been with the Union and our drivers. My thanks for making the transition for me to take over so comfortable. Smokey has agreed to stay on as a shop steward. I am going to be counting on him as an adviser along with the other Union officers.

Smokey and Vice President Sam Schwarz met with the District in June to open negotiations on our new con-

tract. We didn't receive any information to pass on to our negotiation committee. As of the printing of The Bulletin I don't have a date for our next negotiation; sorry, guys. If you need me, call; that is what I'm here for. There will be a sign-up sheet for shop stewards in the drivers' room. Our goals are to make this a better place to work, so step forward and sign up to help out your fellow drivers. See Smokey or myself for more information.

I will see everyone on in-service day in August.

TriMet Salaried Employees

As reported by
SHIRLEY BLOCK



TriMet has a lot of policies. They are not very user friendly, but there are a few that can work for you if you're smart and read them carefully. On another

note, I've been told there is a "2004" transportation policy that no one has seen but that's purported sick leave provisions are now being applied to "white shirts" without notice. Not only that, the threatening sick leave letters that are being sent out aren't even accurate. If this happens to you, grieve it! Another practice that has changed is that management used to extend the courtesy of first talking to a person. Now, people just get an unfriendly letter.

One other thing. It has gotten so middle managers are terrified of making a decision. They seem to think that every decision they make will cost them their jobs. I'd like to see these managers start thinking for themselves and sticking up for their own opinions. And then there are the managers who get hired but don't take the time to learn the standard operating procedures (SOP's), the labor contract or past practice. That ignorance hurts the people they supervise and TriMet morale overall.

One more point on this subject. The new management team running the show can't admit it makes mistakes. I wish they'd lighten up and realize that every human being, including myself, makes honest mistakes. The "bad" in the situation comes about when we don't admit our mistakes, learn from them and move on.

Lastly, it'd be a lie if I said I wasn't looking forward to retirement. In the meantime, we need to keep up on the SOPs because they can help us get through difficult situations like road construction. Lastly, we need to encourage each other during these coming hot months to drink adequate fluids and to use the restroom whenever we need to. Take care and best wishes.

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ATU Local 757 Officer Reports

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TriMet Lift As reported by LES GREEN



Well, it is the middle of July already and the summer is half over, so now it is the time to consider company picnics and everything we have not done that we said we would do at the start of summer. With that said I would like to thank all of you who voiced your comments on my last article on the condition of our paratransit buses. Thanks again as it is nice to know that more Union members are reading The Bulletin. I do not have anything to report about Laidlaw Transit at this time, but I am sure that will change in the near future. Again, if you have any suggestions for a future article I would like to hear them. Thanks, and have a great rest of the summer.

Laidlaw Portland Public Schools

As reported by
KENDALL GREENAWALT JR

The crosswalks in the yard are done. There is also a pedestrian walk going in. It will be in front of the employee parking lot and extend all the way to the bottom of the hill. Have a safe and wonderful summer! See you on bid day. I also want to send out a word of thanks to all of our service men and women, past, present and future. Thank you very much for all your sacrifices.

TriMet Merlo Transportation

As reported by
GREG MCGREW



Once again I am appalled at the depths to which the TriMet management team will sink to beat up on its driver workforce. The article in a recent issue of the Operator's Report is my chief piece of evidence. This article whines about a Line 12 bus doing an offline 4 and the overheads not changing so that a "confused" passenger did not get on the bus when it stopped right in front of them. The passenger could not understand why a 12 would be where a 4 is supposed to be. While every driver could wax eloquently on the evils of interlining and its impact on the bus-riding public, my question is, "Why can't management differentiate between an

equipment problem versus an operator problem?" Answer: because they just do not know the difference!

I have experienced first hand the joys of the 20/12/4/9/84. The run is a mess on a good day, notwithstanding issues with the overhead signs. Many of our newer operators have not experienced the joys of the 300s, 900s, 500s, 600s and articulated buses where it was necessary to change the overheads by hand several times a shift. Given that all of those old buses are gone, training might not put too much emphasis on checking the overhead signs.

Still, even with the advent of the BDS automatically changing the signs, there is the odd time when the equipment fails and the signs do not change. Certainly, it then becomes the job of the driver to fix the problem manually if they can.

Sometimes, the equipment will not let the operator enter the new information. Sometimes the operator is too busy with other issues to notice that the sign has not changed. Most of the time, the operator's arms are too short to reach the overhead sign computer to enter the information; and a stop is just not handy enough to complete the job in a timely manner. Whatever the reason why the signs did not change, it starts with an equipment failure. The drivers do their best to manage whatever happens on the road.

C-TRAN/C-VAN

As reported by
ROY JENNINGS



I hope everyone who works at or drives for the Clark County Fair this year has a good time. Remember to take your restroom breaks and be safe. As a reminder, our Union picnic this year will be held at Oaks Park on the 13th. I hope to see most if not all of you there. Bring your whole family. Great prizes will be given away, thanks to the TriMet recreation fund. Maybe someone from C-TRAN will be the grand prize winner this year! Who knows; it could happen.

Well, for us here at C-TRAN, our Union elections are over. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Johnny Sannes and Bud Wolter for all the years of devoted service that they have given to you and ATU 757. It is a well-known fact that a number of us (myself included) would not be here right now if it wasn't for one of them. No matter how you voted, they deserve your thanks. So, when you see them, please make sure you take the time to say thank you.

I also want to welcome our two new liaison officers, Scott Miller and Jim Collell. Scott is the C-TRAN liai-

son officer, and Jim is the C-VAN liaison officer. I know that both of them will do a wonderful job for you. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact them. Their contact numbers along with mine are on the Union boards. On July 17, Scott, Jim and I along with the rest of your Union officers took our oath of office. Each of us looks forward to serving you for the next three years, and I'm proud to be your executive board officer once again.

On July 25, your Union leadership sat down with C-TRAN and started to negotiate the fixed route and paratransit operators' contract. This was our first meeting, and negotiating the contract will be a long process. As we go along, when we can, Jim, Scott, Marge and I will try keep you updated. Please stay strong and stay united!

I would like to welcome our two new paratransit operators, Kathy Scott and Gerald Roby, into the fold. Please join with me in making them feel welcome.

TriMet Light Rail Maintenance

As reported by
MICHAEL CONNER



The election is over, and you--the members--have spoken. Thanks to my opponent Steve Budahl for his interest in Union issues. To all who supported me, thank you. I shall continue to work hard to do my best to represent rail maintenance. Big congratulations to the returning and new officers. With the current environment for our Union and unionism in general, we have our work cut out for us.

Upcoming issues that affect rail maintenance include the upcoming unfair labor practice hearing that will begin in the fall, the large stack of dormant grievance issues and getting that logjam (that was created by District management I might add) moving, sign-up issues, and, of course, the daily issues dealing with contracting out, health care, FMLA and pay. They are never ending.

In a fantasy world, Union officers and management would be able to meet and resolve all the issues, but unfortunately it does not work that way. It definitely promises to be a busy three years. Have a good summer.

MV Transportation

As reported by
DENNIS TONG

My new term of office has been busy. Several hours have been spent in consultation with President Jon Hunt reviewing the grievances that have been filed and are moving forward to

Step 2. In order to ensure that a grievance is properly prepared and submitted in accordance with our labor agreement, contact me first. Only if you can't reach me by phone or with a note in my mailbox at work, then, contact a full-time officer at the ATU office.

Please welcome new operators Karlette Jackley, Eugene Kostenco and Alan Shinkel. Give them all the support you can. As I made a few remarks at their ATU orientation about our affiliation with Local 757 since 1996, it reminded me of the value and importance of Union membership. In the past ten years, our group of paratransit operators has worked for four different companies or corporations and six different managers.

Throughout this period, the only thing that has protected your seniority and given you an opportunity to collectively bargain for wages, benefits and working conditions is your labor agreement. Don't ever forget that TriMet, through the subcontracting process, is trying to get people to do this work as cheaply as possible. Stand up for yourself and stand up for the Union.

If you are interested in serving as a shop steward, please send a letter of interest to Jon Hunt at the Union office (it must be received before the executive board meets on Aug. 18th). As shop steward, you can serve your fellow members by educating them about the labor agreement, communicating member concerns to the liaison officer and learning more about Union service through participation in labor education classes.

TriMet Center Maintenance

As reported by
CHAD MATHER



Well, this is your last chance to volunteer for the picnic. You can e-mail me or call me on my cell to get put on the list. I will start to coordinate the week before the picnic, so if I already have you on my list, expect a phone call the week before the event.

This is to all the great people I met in Salem. It was a pleasure to walk the picket line with you all. I hope that our demonstration accomplishes what we were after.

Now for some Center Street fun. During the last couple of weeks the graveyard mechanics were not allowed to work overtime. Every other shift was allowed to work overtime. We have mechanics who are entitled to hours and hours of overtime only because of a serious lack of communication within TriMet management. I will be coming around to talk to everyone.

Once again, I hope to see everyone at the picnic.

TriMet Center Transportation As reported by ALAN EISENBERG



Welcome to all the new full-time officers and liaisons. Welcome to new members to ATU. Now, on to more serious items. If you have a problem with another member, don't go to management first. Please contact your rep and see if they can help. Next and very serious is an incident related to me by my 13-year-old son. While biking with his bike camp group, a bus "buzzed" them by coming so close to them in their lane that my kid said, "Dad, I was scared s***less!" It could be your kid or anyone's. The point is: Like it or not, please share the road. I'm sure you don't want to have nightmares for the rest of your life.

Meanwhile, the folks that keep the 1600s have brought back that other tool of torture, the 1400s. Can you say Petri dish? Oldie and moldy? This will bring pain to the healthiest of us. To all people above the first floor at Center Street: Your bathrooms will be closed in order to save water, and you will find your solar-heated port-a-potties on track 53. Likewise, all hot water will now be cold in order to save money and provide a happy, healthy work environment.

Well, that's it from the center of things. Remember, take your break, drink lots of water and be careful out there.

TriMet Powell

As reported by
ROSE JORDAN

First, I'd like to thank each and every Powell operator who felt confidence in me to fill the big shoes of Sam Schwarz. It didn't take long before I was sitting in with operators and management. I'm looking forward to continuing to make our working environment a better place for all. Again, I say thank you.

TriMet Salaried

As reported by
JIM FOWLER

No report given.

Rogue Valley

As reported by
TOM HENNEY

No report given.

TriMet Merlo Maint.

As reported by
TOM PRIOR

No report given.

Laidlaw Corvallis

As reported by
CHRIS GROOMS/ BOB
McGUIRE

No report given.

August Meetings

Charter

Charter members meet 7:30 p.m. Monday, August 21, in the Machinists Building, 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland. Charter day members meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, August 22, at Schoppert Hall, 1801 NE Couch, Portland.

Salem Transit/WHEELS

Salem members meet 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 22, at the Red Lion Hotel, 3301 Market St. NE, Salem.

Lane Transit

Eugene day members meet 10 a.m. Wednesday, August 23, and Eugene members meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 23, at the Woodworkers Local Lodge, 1124 South A St., Springfield.

Please note the day meeting will occur on Wednesday a.m. rather than Thursday a.m.

Corvallis Laidlaw City Transit/Schools

The August meeting has been cancelled. Please feel free to attend the charter meeting or any of the other scheduled meetings.

Rogue Valley Transportation

Medford members meet 7:30 p.m. Thursday, August 24, at the Hampton Inn, 1124 Morrow Rd., Medford.

Portland and Laidlaw School Bus Drivers

No meetings in August. Please feel free to attend the Charter meetings.

C-TRAN/C-VAN

Vancouver members meet 7 p.m. Sunday, August 27, at the Laborers Hall, 2232 NE Andresen, Vancouver, Washington.

Tillamook County Transportation District

Tillamook members meet 1 p.m. Sunday, August 27, at the Odd Fellows Hall, next door to the Bay City Fire Hall in Bay City.

AMR Northwest Josephine County, LAMAR Advertising and Valley Transit

See your liaison officers.

PLEASE NOTE: ATU members are invited to attend any of the above-listed meetings.

Hunt

(From Page 1)

It has been determined that the chiropractic claims in question will be reprocessed to reflect the same benefit level that is stated in your 2005 contract.

So, if you saw your co-payment for chiropractic care increase, you should get a refund. If you don't, call Cynthia Kodachi at TriMet, 503-962-4993. She is aware of this problem; TriMet was instrumental in correcting it. A special thank you goes to the retiree who made the timely appeal. He helped every one of us when he

stepped forward.

Please remember that when Blue-Cross BlueShield makes a mistake, it is up to the members to file a grievance. The Union has no legal standing to do so. We can help you word the grievance. Anytime you think that Blue Cross has changed a policy, please let us know. Our contract provides that the benefit levels must stay the SAME. But, as this last incident shows, all Blue Cross participants have to remain vigilant because neither BlueCross BlueShield nor TriMet informs the Union when a change is made.

Schwarz

(From Page 1)

know each other's stats. I have left numerous messages; however, as of July 20 he has yet to return any of my calls. Well, Mr. Booker maybe you should first try finding out exactly what our Union members do for a living and then take the time to even find out if you're qualified to do the same job. It appears to us that you are lacking people skills and are oblivious to the working and wage agreement! The Merlo report card will be posted on the Union board and sent to the TriMet board members for all to see.

Contract negotiations at Laidlaw Corvallis and Rogue Valley Transportation District in Medford (amongst others) are in progress. We anticipate

an uphill battle and are prepared for it.

Our Brothers and Sisters at Lane Transit District are facing issues about vacation and a change in their uniform policy that they also will be tested on because of the new officers.

There will be a plaque dedication ceremony in memory of our dearly departed sister, Joyce "Diane" Boothe at the TriMet Merlo garage at noon on Aug. 12. A reception lunch will be at 1 p.m. at the Aloha American Legion.

Don't forget the annual ATU picnic on Aug. 13 at Oaks Park. Invitations are not being mailed out this year. Members will receive their commemorative Frisbee, ride bracelets for dependent children (16 years and under) and a raffle ticket for the prize drawing at registration.

Wallace

(From Page 1)

Union office on July 22. I would like to thank TriMet Merlo Maintenance employee Jeff Hunt, TriMet mini-operator James Hummel, TriMet Executive Board Officers Mike Conner, Kevin Kinoshita and Greg McGrew. I would also like to thank President Jon Hunt and Vice President Sam Schwarz for their assistance. With everyone's help we were able to pressure wash the sidewalks and parking lot. Thank you, Mike, for bringing your personal pressure washer; it made the job a lot easier. Once the parking lot was nice and clean, we were able to repaint the designated parking lines.

The rest of the crew were inside the

Union hall taping and painting walls.

There will be another office clean-up day scheduled on Aug. 26. If you would like to participate, please contact me at 503-232-9144 or fstreasurer@atu757.org.

This is a reminder to everyone out in the summer heat; you need to drink plenty of fluids to keep yourself hydrated. Make sure to use the restrooms as needed. Should you have an issue with your schedule, please fill out a card for reporting these schedule problems and be sure to send a copy to the Union office.

If you have any questions about the Union financials, please contact me. Thank you for your support, and enjoy the summer.

Plaque dedication for Joyce "Diane" Boothe

A plaque will be dedicated to Joyce "Diane" Boothe on Saturday, Aug. 12, at noon at the TriMet Merlo Garage. Please join us in the operators' report area at 16130 SW Merlo Rd., Beaverton, Oregon.

A reception will follow at the Aloha American Legion Hall, 20325 SW Alexander St., Aloha, Oregon. Lunch will be provided at 1 p.m. with a no-host bar.

ATU Local 757 Officers

JONATHAN HUNT.....President-Business Representative
SAM SCHWARZ.....Vice President-Assistant Business Representative
TOM WALLACE.....Financial Secretary-Treasurer/Recording Secretary

Executive Board Officers

TriMet Center Maintenance.....CHAD MATHER
TriMet Center Transportation.....ALAN EISENBERG
TriMet Powell MaintenanceKEVIN KINOSHITA
TriMet Powell TransportationROSE JORDAN
TriMet Merlo Maintenance.....TOM PRIOR
TriMet Merlo TransportationGREG MCGREW
TriMet LRT MaintenanceMIKE CONNER
TriMet LRT Transportation.....MICHAEL T. OLIVER
TriMet Monthly Rated Employees.....JIM FOWLER
Lane Transit District (LTD).....WALT BOYNTON
Portland Public SchoolsRANDY SHAW
Laidlaw Education ServicesKENDALL GREENAWALT, JR.
C-TRAN.....ROY JENNINGS
Salem Area Mass Transit District.....KEN RICHINS

Liaison Officers

TriMet Merlo Extra BoardSTEVE ECKLES
TriMet Center Extra BoardTERRY McMURRY
TriMet Powell Extra Board.....CHRIS ALEXANDER
TriMet Ruby JunctionDOUG "SPUD" HENDERSON
TriMet Ruby Junction MaintenanceJOE RUFFIN III
TriMet ElmonicaJASON CHOI
TriMet Elmonica Maintenance.....SHAYNE JENKERSON
SAT Maintenance.....DON ELZNIC
LTD Chairman.....DEB BITTERICH
LTD SecretaryTOM SHACKELFORD
LTD Maintenance.....LEE LASSE
LTD Extra BoardOPEN POSITION
Rogue Valley Transportation DistrictTHOMAS HENNEY
Valley Transit.....NICK NOTARAS
AMR Southern Oregon-Josephine County (Acting)KEN HUGHES
Laidlaw Educ. Services (Portland School Bus)JOAN NIELSEN
Laidlaw Transit Services, Inc. (TriMet Lift)LES GREEN
Laidlaw Transit, Inc. (Corvallis City Transit)BOB MCGUIRE
Laidlaw Transit, Inc. (Corvallis Schools)CHRIS GROOMS
MV Transportation, Inc.....DENNIS TONG
C-TRAN.....SCOTT MILLER
C-VANJIM COLLELL
WHEELS.....JOHN HARVEY
Tillamook County Transportation DistrictLORETTA LANE

Retirees' Corner

The following retirees will celebrate birthdays in August: Leann O. Adams, Richard L. Anselm, Luther T. Avery, Lois V. Barbour, **Kenneth K. Barnes**, Donald L. Bateman, Elizabeth A. Broker, Michael D. Burdette, Irvin G. Ching, Doris Y. Cushman, Melvin J. Freauff, Neil K. Gibson, William B. Hill, Paul T. Hogle, Robert I. Hoover, William J. Hunt, Joree Jackson, Herbert L. Kelley, Cheryl I. Kelly, Thalia A. Kindel, **Kenneth W. Kjersten**, Jesse C. Kraut, John W. Larson, Gary C. Marino, Robert L. Meadows, Winer L. Melonuk, Donald R. Moon, **Delbert H. Olenslager**, Jody P. Olmstead, Kenneth J. Olsen, Albert Rouse, Edgar J. Trout Jr., **Richard E. Turnage**, Rollyn M. Turner, Victoria J. Vicari, Mary B. Williams and David C. Yule.

The names of the 50-year members are shown in bold type. Next month's regularly scheduled ATU 757 Retired Member Chapter meeting is Wednesday, Sept. 6, at 9:30 a.m. at Westmoreland's Union Manor, 6404 SE 23rd Ave. Coffee and doughnuts will be served at 9 a.m.

