



## And so you asked

By Jon Hunt • ATU Local 757 President

Season's Greetings to all. Santa Claus is coming to the Union office Dec. 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be handing out presents to all your children and grandchildren, 16 and under. Come join us for a cup of hot cocoa and cookies. Santa will be picking the winning tickets for the 50-50 drawing for Labor's Community Service Agency, which helps out members in time of need, and the Committee on Political Education (COPE). The more you give, the better chance you have of winning. Please contact your union officer or the union office to get your tickets.

I attended the 52nd annual employees' benefits conference in Anaheim, California. I found the classes to be very informative. I'm in the process of putting a class together on retirement. I will be looking to the vendors we are currently using to assist us putting the presentation together. What I found taking

the class is that not enough of us plan for the future. The earlier we begin contributing to some type of retirement, the better. What is the best option for you: IRA, Roth-IRA, 401(k), 457, PERS, or employer pensions? There are many options out there and the class will help you make informed decisions about what's best for your retirement.

We have a lot of contracts currently open at various stages. Please read your union board. We will be sending information to the officers on upcoming rallies and tickets. If you haven't already done so, please fill out a volunteer card. We are in the process of putting a system together that will contact you by e-mail, text message or phone call for volunteer opportunities.

May your holidays be safe and enjoyable. Please take the time to enjoy your family and to give thanks to all of our brothers and sisters in the union movement.

**Santa Claus is coming to the Union Office!**

**Saturday, Dec. 22, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
**1801 NE Couch St., Portland**  
*(one block north of Burnside at the intersection of 18th Avenue)*

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be handing out presents to all your children and grandchildren, 16 and under. Come join us for a cup of hot cocoa and cookies. Santa will be picking the winning tickets for the 50-50 drawing for Labor Community Services (which helps out members in time of need) and COPE, the Committee on Political Education. Contact your Union officer for more information.

# ATU Local 757 Officer Reports



**Laidlaw PPS**  
As reported by ANNA TOMPTE

Well, Brothers and Sisters, what a month it has been! We have been First Student since the first of October, though we continue to receive very little information from corporate.

Carey Paster, president of First Student America, came to have breakfast with us on Nov. 8, giving us an opportunity to ask questions. His plane was late due to fog and we asked questions of our new regional manager first. To his credit, he did not dodge our questions, and we learned that we were not a

merger with, but an acquisition by, First Group. When Carey Paster arrived, he gave me an opportunity to ask him one-on-one about the application form that was sent to each driver. He agreed that a new application was not really needed and only a new background check was necessary with a 10-day extension period in which to submit it. It will all be facilitated through the DDS office.

In this potentially short-fuse situation, I think we did pretty well representing the desires of the drivers and mechanics. The shop was transformed by the mechanics into a banquet hall for this breakfast. Thank you. The buses have been running great due to the hard work of all of our mechanics. Keep your DBVRs coming in with your bus problems as needed. Remember to turn in the white and yellow copies daily.

I want to welcome our new district contract manager, Mike Gately, back to the yard in his new role. Our new region is called the Oregon Trail Region and includes Oregon, Idaho and Wyoming.

This has been a trying time and we did well as a united group of drivers and mechanics. Let's keep the momentum rolling, as we have many more such experiences ahead. To each of you, as your representative, I say, "Thank you for your support!"



**Merlo Transportation**  
As reported by BRUCE HANSEN

We are going to be faced with a whole new management team at Merlo. Lyle will be the new garage manager, Denise will be an ASM, and Richard will be an ASM until around the first of the year, when he will go back to training, and Linda will be the new secretary.

Lyle has mentioned many times that he does not care about past practice. In fact past practice is used quite often. We know we already are going to have an uphill battle with a

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## 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 Transit, Inc. (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



### What IS this?

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

# November Meetings

## Charter

Charter members meet 7:30 p.m. Monday, December 10, in the Machinists Building, 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland. Charter day members meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, December 11, at Schoppert Hall, 1801 NE Couch, Portland.

## Salem Transit/WHEELS

Salem members meet 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 11, at the West Salem Branch Public Library 395 Glen Creek Road, Salem.

## Lane Transit

Eugene members meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 12, and Eugene day members meet 10 a.m. Thursday, December 13, at the Woodworkers Local Lodge, 1124 South A St., Springfield.

## Corvallis Laidlaw City Transit/Schools

Corvallis members meet 7:45 p.m. Thursday December 13, at Woodstock Pizza, 1045 NW Kings Blvd., Corvallis.

## Rogue Valley Transportation

Medford members meet 7:30 p.m. Thursday, December 13, at the Hampton Inn, 1122 Morrow Rd., Medford.

## Portland and Laidlaw School Bus Drivers

Portland School Bus members meet 6 p.m. Thursday December 13, at Rigler School, 5401 NE Prescott, Portland.

## C-TRAN/C-VAN

Vancouver members meet 7 p.m. Sunday, December 16, at the Laborers Hall, 2232 NE Andresen, Vancouver, WA.

## Tillamook County Transportation District

Tillamook members meet 1:00 p.m. Sunday, December 16, 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.

# ATU Local 757 Officers

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

## Executive Board Officers

TriMet Center Maintenance.....CHAD MATHER  
 TriMet Center Transportation.....OPEN POSITION  
 TriMet Powell Maintenance .....DAVID KAY  
 TriMet Powell Transportation .....ROSE JORDAN  
 TriMet Merlo Maintenance.....JEFF HUNT  
 TriMet Merlo Transportation .....BRUCE HANSEN  
 TriMet LRT Maintenance .....MIKE CONNER  
 TriMet LRT Transportation.....MICHAEL T. OLIVER  
 TriMet Monthly Rated Employees.....JIM FOWLER  
 Lane Transit District (LTD).....WALT BOYNTON  
 Portland Public Schools .....RANDY SHAW  
 Laidlaw Education Services .....ANNA TOMPTE  
 C-TRAN.....ROY JENNINGS  
 Salem Area Mass Transit District.....KEN RICHINS

## Liaison Officers

TriMet Merlo Extra Board .....STEVE ECKLES  
 TriMet Center Extra Board .....OPEN POSITION  
 TriMet Powell Extra Board.....KHRIS ALEXANDER  
 TriMet Ruby Junction .....DOUG "SPUD" HENDERSON  
 TriMet Ruby Junction Maintenance .....JOE RUFFIN III  
 TriMet Elmonica .....JASON CHOI  
 TriMet Elmonica Maintenance..... VACANT  
 SAT Maintenance.....DON ELZNIC  
 LTD Chairman.....DEB BITTERLICH  
 LTD Secretary .....TOM SHACKELFORD  
 LTD Maintenance.....LEE LASSE  
 LTD Extra Board .....CARL FADDIS  
 Rogue Valley Transportation District .....THOMAS HENNEY  
 Valley Transit.....NICK NOTARAS  
 AMR Southern Oregon-Josephine County ..... OPEN POSITION  
 Laidlaw Educ. Services (Portland School Bus) .....OPEN POSITION  
 Laidlaw Transit Services, Inc. (TriMet Lift) .....LES GREEN  
 Laidlaw (Corvallis City Transit) .....BOB McGUIRE  
 Laidlaw Education Services (Corvallis Schools).....CHRIS GROOMS  
 MV Transportation, Inc.....DENNIS TONG  
 C-TRAN.....SCOTT MILLER  
 C-VAN.....JIM COLLELL  
 WHEELS .....JOHN HARVEY  
 Tillamook Cnty. Trans. Dist. ....PATRICIA OSTRANDER-NICE

# Retirees' Corner

The following retirees will celebrate birthdays in December: **Alexander Bain Jr.**; Bobby D. Bell; Barlar E. Boothe; Betty J. Boyce; George L. Buckley; Thomas H. Chambers; Larry L. Chartier; Timothy W. Dennis; Kenneth L. Ellis; Etta M. Epling; Sally L. Erickson; Howard P. Glidden; Carole D. Graves; James N. Harlan; Duane E. Howell; Legrande A. Jackson; Henry C. Jones; Donald E. Klippstein; Arline F. Link; Karen D. Maloney; W. David Miller; Paula M. Montpelier; Leonard W. Mummert; David S. Pickrell; Lew W. Polan; Joseph G. Riordan; Warren Rukke; Chester H. Stauffer; Elvin K. Stratton; Marcia L. Weese; Jackie D. White; **Lois E. Wilson**; John D. Wood; Henry B. Zenk. The names of the 50-year members are in bold type.



Next month's regularly scheduled ATU 757 Retired Member Chapter meeting is Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. at Westmoreland's Union Manor, 6404 SE 23rd Ave. Coffee and doughnuts will be served at 9 a.m.

# ATU Local 757 Officer Reports

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new management team, and even more so now. I need to recruit all Merlo operators as my eyes and ears. If you see anything out of the ordinary or unusual, please contact me.

Currently, the hottest issue at Merlo is the USSC seat change. This is an issue that already cost us over \$40,000 last spring. Now they are forcing it again. We have been in contact and taken up this issue with OSHA. We hope to get this resolved before any more operators are injured on the job, due to no air suspension in the seat and their backs effectively being used as the shock absorbers, as well as blood flow being cut off to the lower legs and causing them to go to sleep. These seats are just too large for this cabin area and some of the operators are not able to reach the pedals safely and comfortably. These injuries and discomforts have the potential to cost TriMet more money in workers' comp claims, not to mention the unnecessary pain and discomfort to our operators.

With the holiday season approaching, I would like to remind everyone about the tougher DUI laws for commercial operators, and remind you to be safe while at holiday parties. Be sure to use a designated driver or take a cab. It is not worth your job.

I would also like to wish everyone happy holidays, and remember, safety always comes first: Take your breaks.



**TriMet Merlo Maintenance**  
As reported by  
JEFF HUNT

Supervisors performing bargaining unit work is the subject of our one pre-filing grievance this month. Apparently, supervisors and managers believe there is nothing wrong with capriciously rewriting job descriptions as long as they can justify it to themselves as making good business sense.

Out of all of our Step 3s this month, only one went up to the members for an arbitration vote.

In regards to safety, the eyewash station in the main shop has relocated so that the person in the office can see it better and assist with any problems. The old, dirty dust covers that covered the top of the eyewash station will all now have the quick remove cap.

Within a month the gates should be operational. There are two pedestrian gates, one near the exit vehicle gate and one along the north fence of the operators' lot. All of these gates, with the exception of the vehicle exit gate require a TriMet ID card to enter during most hours of the day.

Remember to be cautious during snow and ice events. Contact the station agent if sliding into the gates is going to be a problem so that the gate operation can be modified.

Congratulations to Jan Wheeler, who retired after 17 years. Jan was a shop steward for this local for six years. Jan's expertise was in conflict resolution. I will miss him and the help he gave us.



**Lane Transit District**  
As reported by  
WALT BOYNTON

By the time you read this report, written on Nov. 12, we will have either settled the contract, will still be in mediation sessions, or will be headed for arbitration. We had our first mediation session on Nov. 9 and saw little movement. Another session is scheduled for Nov. 16. The propaganda put out by LTD prior to the Nov. 9 meeting was very misleading. If you want to know why, ask a union officer.

Thanks to all of you who showed up at the Hilton prior to the mediation sessions. Your support of the bargaining team was appreciated. Thanks also go out to Lee Lasse and Andrew Chandler for the fliers encouraging you to attend the union meetings and rallies prior to mediation sessions. And to Deb for handing out fliers on her own time.

Jon Hunt, Sam Schwarz and I attended pension trust training in Anaheim, California, on November 5, 6 and 7. We received some excellent training on our pension trust.

In closing I refer to the old saying, "I hear what you say, but see what you do." We need a decent contract! Saying how much LTD appreciates the job we do and then offering nickels and dimes doesn't cut it! We need to see the appreciation in our paychecks and benefits, not in words and a slap on the back! We do a great job; now show us you really appreciate us.

Happy and safe holidays to all of you from your local officers and the Executive Board.



**TriMet Powell Maintenance**  
As reported by  
DAVID KAY

Well the holidays are here again! I would like to take a moment to wish everyone a great holiday season as well as a safe one!

Now down to business. The safety vest issue has been settled. On the surface this was a vest or no vest issue and some members were asking why we were grieving the issue. The true issue was with how this rule was implemented. Out of the blue, members were told they would do it. This is in direct violation of the legal requirements regarding changing or implementing a new policy (or in this case enforcing an existing clause in an old policy hence the grievance).

A secondary but important aspect was language the District wanted in the remedy section of the settlement that would have negated negotiating rights of the Association. This language was removed before the settlement.

On another note we are moving forward with our other grievances. Two deal with OT call-out issues, another has to do with vendors, in this instance Cummins NW, doing warranty work. The Step 2 will take place in the next couple of weeks



**TriMet Center Transportation**  
As reported by  
JACK NEWBERRY

Dear brothers and sisters, as I was sitting in the front row at our last union meeting my eyes focused on a plaque that read: Ten Ways to Kill a Union:

1. Don't come to the meetings.
2. But if you do come – come late.
3. If the weather doesn't suit you – don't come.
4. If you do attend the meeting – find fault with the work of the officers and other members.
5. Never accept an office – it's easier to criticize than to do things.
6. Nevertheless, get sore if you are not appointed to a committee, but if you are appointed, do not attend the committee meetings.
7. If asked by the President to give your opinion on an important matter, tell him you have nothing to say – after the meeting tell everyone how things should be done.
8. Do nothing more than absolutely necessary; but when other members roll up their sleeves, willingly and unselfishly using their ability to help matter along – comment on how the Union is being run by a clique.
9. If your Local is struggling from a financial standpoint to maintain offices on your behalf, be sure to muster all the help you can – to vote against a dues raise.
10. Don't bother about new members – let the other fellow do it.

Could this be you? After reading this it made me think more about our own Union and how this applies. We need to come together and unify our objectives, goals and solidarity.



**TriMet Laidlaw Lift**  
As reported by  
LES GREEN

First let me wish all my fellow drivers at First Transit Lift (Laidlaw Lift) a happy and prosperous holiday season and a safe one to boot.

Now for the state of contract talks. We have just begun and as of this writing I foresee a long struggle to get what we want and deserve. If you want a current update check with our contract committee chairman, Ken Brisco.

Also, a fax has been sent to the powers-that-be at TriMet Lift concerning on-time performance. The manifests already have the driver late for a majority of pickups and dropoffs but since no one proofreads the manifests this practice is becoming even more common. This must be stopped at the source.

I do wish to thank you all for helping me out these last two years and I hope I can count on you for the next 18 months. If I survive that long. Again, take your breaks and be careful now that winter driving is in full swing.

**MV Transportation**  
As reported by  
DENNIS TONG

November had two significant events for our operators: open enrollment for medical insurance and annual vacation sign-up.

The month of December is also important for labor agreement benefits available to qualified operators. The following, listed in numerical order in the labor agreement, are benefits available to qualified operators:

ARTICLE 21 - HOLIDAYS, page 17: "...(full time) drivers shall receive two floating holidays per [calendar] year. This is a use it or lose it provision. If you have not used both of your floaters, try to schedule them in before Dec. 31st.

ARTICLE 23 - HEALTH INSURANCE, page 19: Employer contribution for Full-time employee dependent medical coverage. In December, the employer increases contribution for enrolled operators with three years of service from 60 percent to 65 percent, and for 10 year full-timers from 70 percent to 75 percent.

ARTICLE 32 - HOLIDAY BONUS, page 23: "Each year during the month of December, on the first full pay period of the month, the Company will pay a Holiday Bonus to all active employees who were employees for a minimum of one(1) year. The bonus amounts are subject to payroll taxes and are as follows based on shift bid at time of bonus: Full Time Employee - \$100, Part Time Employee - \$75, and Part Time Employee - \$50."

Brothers and Sisters, it is worth remembering that all of the benefits described above were collectively bargained for by us, that is, the Union ATU 757. No employer is required by law to provide such benefits to its employees. With gratitude for all your support to those members and their families who needed us this past year, I wish you a happy holiday season.



**Portland Public Schools**  
As reported by  
RANDY SHAW

After working for twenty months without a contract, the Union and the District met to receive the District's final offer. What offer? They went backwards. We presented ours, and I have to be honest with you, my offer looked a whole lot better. Ron laughed at their offer and told them our drivers would never accept it without the things we had already agreed to put back. We took a break to settle our nerves and give them time to think it over. Upon returning, the District said they would raise the money but that was it. They asked me, do you want a three-year or four-year contract and I told them four-year as I stated in each of my proposals. (I guess they cannot read either. Maybe they will blame that

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on the school board as well, they have been blaming them for everything else).

Our 150 days of negotiating were up, and since they cannot hear either, Ron told them to take it back, write it up and we would send it to the members for a vote. This was on Friday October 5, 2007. Tom Gunn from HR said he would take it back and have his secretary type it up, and then he would send it over. Now I am only mentioning the dates because it took an act of congress to get that offer over to the ATU office. I only type with two fingers and there are a lot of swears in between every few words and even I could have typed it faster than that. I told Jon Hunt I would volunteer to type it up for them, but being the diplomat that he is he said NO! Where is his sense of humor?

Finally, the offer arrived and we got to vote on October 30, 2007 (I told you she was slow). As Ron predicted, the members turned it down by a 4 to 1 margin. Management still cannot believe the drivers voted it down and since the last contract got smart enough to figure out they were about to be screwed again.

Well we're off to mediation and from what I understand the mediator not only can read but his hearing is excellent. In all seriousness management is going to do everything, use every trick they can. They will try to get us to turn on each other. If they talk to you don't say anything, just walk away and report it to one of your shop stewards. They will report it to me and I will pass it on to the union. If you hear something you don't like from another member, remember that this is America. Each of us has the right to think or say what we feel without persecution, so just smile and walk away. The only thing you will do if you respond in kind is build more tension among the drivers. That's the way management tears us down: piece by piece and rumor by rumor. Solidarity works and is the only way to get what we deserve.

We have added Pan Sammons as Shop Steward, and Helen Goche as a political activist. Welcome aboard. You will be a big asset to our team at PPS.

Solidarity forever, and have a safe and happy holiday.



**TriMet Salaried Employees**  
As reported by  
JIM FOWLER

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I would also like to once again remind everyone that if you must drink this holiday season, please don't drive. It's just not worth losing your CDL.

I would like to congratulate Rail Supervisor Don Hambrick on his recent retirement. After 30 years of dedicated service Don decided it was time to get out and I'm extremely envious. Good luck, Don. We all wish you the best. Also retiring recently was Neil Smith, long time Station Agent, but the last several years he's been on the management side. With Neil's departure comes a restructuring of who station agents report to.

Now each station agent will report to the manager of the garage out of which they work. I suppose now that an auxiliary station agent could have six bosses. Just what I needed — more managers to deal with. Just prior to the deadline for this article it was announced that Peggy Hanson will replace Tim Garling as Director of Transportation for Bus and Rail and Jay Jackson will be the new manager of Field Operations.

There is still no word on where we're at in the process of hiring inspector leads, it just keeps dragging on.

Speaking of inspectors, the first week of November was full of media reports about crime on MAX and buses. On Saturday, November 3 there was an article in *The Oregonian* in which the Mayor of Gresham announced plans to put his police on our system within their jurisdiction due to the high rate of crime. Also in the article was a short exchange between the mayor and our own Fred Hansen. Fred kind of played it off as a political stunt and the mayor retorted that TriMet wasn't facing up to its problems.

That very evening a 71-year-old man was badly beaten with a baseball bat at the Gresham Central Platform. Well, this set off a media frenzy with several articles blasting TriMet about the safety of our system. Mr. Hansen responded that he would call for a security summit at the end of November and hire 20 more Wackenhut officers. Now you must remember Wackenhut officers have no power to cite or write exclusions, they can't even check fares. In other words they are just a quick and easy approach with no substance. During the last five years inspector and supervisor numbers have dropped. It should not take a genius to see the Wackenhut approach to our Security needs is not working. TriMet needs to hire more inspectors and supervisors and adopt a zero-tolerance policy for fare evasion and violations of the TriMet Code so that we can cite and exclude these thugs before they take over completely. If they haven't already.



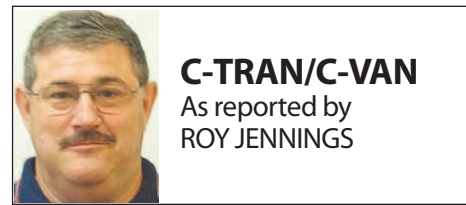
**TriMet Light Rail Maintenance**  
As reported by  
MICHAEL CONNER

Recently in the news we have seen much public interest in safety on our trains, It's interesting that Fred's managers' mistakes are just coming to light now. Those of us that work out on the front lines have known for a long time that while management seems to multiply its numbers, downsizing of the workforce has cost us dearly in security and safety and deferred maintenance. I guess it takes a while when the District puts a pretty paint job over the top of its old worn out type one cars for the rough edges to show up on the Right of Way, Vehicle Maintenance, Fare Revenue Collection, and Facilities Maintenance. Oh well, I guess that they can hire a few more managers to have meetings about what to do about the pesky front-line employees who in the course of keeping the place running with no parts and not enough people are complaining about safety and security and understaffing.

I was recently involved in an event where not only was the safety of the crew I was working

with seriously compromised, I also was questioned as part of the crew, by managers who were trying to "get to the bottom of the issue." As we suspected little was done to improve the safety out in the field, but there certainly was (as those of us on the crew expected to have happen) a large effort by the managers involved to point the finger away from fixing the issue to trying to affix blame on bargaining unit employees.

The moral of the story for those of us on the front line is you can count on, the Safety Dept, your supervisor, your manager to try and make it look as though they are the ones who make this place run, but ultimately they are of little support to those of us who are getting our hands dirty every day.



**C-TRAN/C-VAN**  
As reported by  
ROY JENNINGS

Well, here it is the first of November 2007. Wow, what a month it has been! If you read last month's article in the *ATU Bulletin* you can see that I submitted that article to the Union



**VP's Report**  
By Sam Schwarz • ATU Local 757 Vice President

At TriMet, we're experiencing a game of management checkers. They're moving management around at will. Employees have very low morale and they are putting management in different places in hopes that they will improve morale at these locations.

Several serious issues at TriMet include operators getting sick on buses from an airborne irritant and seats being put in 1700 series buses that are hurting the operators. Also, the assaults on operators have gone unaddressed. TriMet managers that punish the operators

without just cause occur with reckless abandon at TM and depending on the manager, everyday violations of the contract take place in each location.

At PPS, in a recent vote on the contract, the members voted down the proposal by management and are now waiting for the next offer or mediation session.

The Wheels offer was rejected at Canby by the operators and we are now waiting to hear from management on the negotiation session. Have a great holiday season.



**Secy-Treas Report**  
By Evette Farra • Financial Secretary-Treasurer

We had a fantastic turnout for November's Charter meeting. Thank you to all who attended and congratulations to all our turkey winners.

October was a very busy month for me, much of it being spent outside of the union office. I attended the International Secretary-Treasurers' training in Washington D.C., as well as the Pension Trust conference in Anaheim, California. Many of our members are

not aware that elected officers like myself are part of their pension trust board. The more I learn about it, the more I realize that this is a huge responsibility and one that it is essential to take very seriously.

I'm done traveling for awhile and I look forward to getting down to office business. Happy holidays to all! I hope to see you in the new year.