



And so you asked...

Organizing

By Jonathan Hunt

President-Business Representative



I hope you all had happy holidays. I attended the AFL-CIO Organizing Summit last month in Washington, D.C. I met with our new organizing director, Charles Lester, to discuss organizing for ATU in the future. ATU International President Warren George has made the commitment to fund organizing and bringing Charles on is the first step. I was selected to sit on the organizing committee that will meet again at the International Convention in September. The message that I have conveyed is that we must internally organize before we

externally organize.

We will be kicking off the new year with officer training on Jan. 20. Executive Board Officers, Liaison Officers, and Shop Stewards will be attending a day-long training session. Executive Board Officers have been receiving training that began recently at our Executive Board meetings and will be ongoing. We will be actively seeking volunteers to become ATU activists. They will be mobilized for rallies, work actions, organizing, and when our members are in times of need. I see this as a great opportunity for our members to get involved and become united.

TriMet: Recently, we participated in an unfair labor practice (ULP) hearing that lasted seven days. I think it went very well, however, we will not be receiving a decision from the judge until after May, when the briefs are due. So, what's next? First, we've begun mediation on over 90 grievances concerning the Assistant Supervisor-Senior Mechanic upgrade. We have met with TriMet management (Joint Labor Management) and we are working out how we will be settling issues post-Step 3. We are working with retired Federal Mediator Paul Stuckenschneider on the 40+ outstanding grievances headed for arbitration. We hope this new year brings settlement to these.

Corvallis: Negotiations have come to a halt. We will be taking Laidlaw's last, best and final offer to the members Jan. 16 at 7:45 p.m. at the Salbasgeon Suites. We will be recommending a "no" vote and taking strike sanctions.

Portland Public Schools: We are waiting for dates from the District. Keep an eye on the mail for important information concerning our involvement with the DCU.

C-TRAN: We are hopeful that Jeff Hamm, the new general manager coming on board Jan. 1, will be bringing some wisdom to the current management team at C-TRAN and help find a way to get this contract settled. We will be in a test phase for the Connector and will report back to you soon. There was a lot of discussion at the last membership meeting concerning the Connector. Once the dust settled, we all agreed we must stick together. We are one union and we will not be divided.

Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods: We are still waiting for the

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ATU Local 757 Officer Reports

Lane Transit District

As reported by
WALT BOYNTON



Well, we are through the holidays; hope they were good to all of you. I would like to congratulate five operators who made it through probation in early December.

Nicole Butler, Marcia Moffitt, Charles Clarke, Rebecca Bailey and Carol McAfee all are now OFF probation! Congratulate them if you see them, as this is quite an accomplishment! I still think one year of probation is cruel and unusual punishment! Maybe we can get that changed sometime in the future. Even temporary supervisors promoted to supervisor have a six-month probation period. Also, welcome to Tom Rogers, our new general service worker.

Liaison Officer Lee Lasse is progressing quite well with the training program he is setting up in maintenance. We have met with Mary Adams and are working on the language for the training.

We have a committee headed by Jim Stinson to address driver complaints. Mark Johnson and Sue Quick have agreed to meet with us to hear our concerns. We will see how that goes. Bill Hallmark and Melinda Raven round out the committee. They have done a great job addressing issues we think need attention.

The Facilities Safety Committee met Friday, Dec 8, to launch what we hope will be a more aggressive committee to deal with safety issues. We have renamed it the Safety Committee. Just to clarify, the other committee that deals with accidents is called the Accident and Route Review Committee, because that is what they do.

Have a great new year and remember to take your breaks, stay healthy,

and take care of yourselves. As Sam, our vice president, says, if we stick together, we will get what we deserve. If we don't, we will surely get what we deserve! In solidarity!

TriMet Light Rail Transportation

As reported by
MICHAEL T. OLIVER



Mr. Mark Levingston has been named Comedian of the Year by the Aloha Jokers Club. Mark, who came to us from the St. Helens Bus Service (where he drove an antique station wagon), is luckily married. We are so lucky to have him.

And so we return to the sign-ups; seems like a never-ending love story and so it goes. This next one is extremely important because it is the yearly vacation sign-up, with some changes, the most important being: If you have 61 or more hours of time-loss, then you cannot take a second week of your vacation as days. LROs with three or more weeks of vacation can take two weeks as days if they have 60 hours or less of chargeable time loss between Dec. 1, 2005 and Nov. 30, 2006. All LROs can take one week as days regardless of time-loss. If you cannot be at the vacation sign-up, then you are strongly advised to put in a signed, stamped and dated request form, which is available from the station agent or from control. Check the boards for any updates or changes.

A new class of LROs begins on Jan. 14. Good luck to all new trainees, and the good news for them and us is that all who finish the course will come straight to rail. Yippee! Feedback from some applicants is that the newsletter sent to everyone who applies is very informative and useful. Kudos to those responsible.

Ralph Yoder goes Jan. 5, 2007 and Alice Webb goes Feb. 17, 2007. Ralph did his stint as a union officer and Alice did hers as everybody's favorite Mom. Good luck and the best of health to them both.

Wet, cold and rainy means we have to be extra cautious out there. Hope everyone had successful holidays and is glad to be back at work. Send e-mails to mtgbo2002@msn.com.

Portland Public Schools

As reported by
RANDY SHAW



I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season.

Negotiations are getting bumpy. I want to remind all members to attend the monthly meetings.

Remember, we need to stand together to achieve what we deserve. It's called Solidarity. If we think only of ourselves, or "What's in it for me?" we will all lose.

TriMet Salaried Employees

As reported by
JIM FOWLER



I mentioned last month that Peggy Hanson and I had agreed to meet once a month to discuss problems and Union issues. We had our first meeting

Dec. 8. The meeting was also attended by Sam Schwarz, and I'm happy to report the meeting was very productive. We were able to resolve four grievances

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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 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



ATU Local 757 Officer Reports

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and came to an understanding on a fifth issue. That's the good news; the bad news is that once again I was thwarted at a Step 3 hearing. I was certain we would be able to overturn a suspension, but the management team refused to do the right thing, so it looks like we're headed to yet another arbitration.

I plan on working with various managers over the next few months to try to clean up how we do our holiday sign-ups so that we're all on the same page and to insure sign-ups are done in a timely manner. The inspectors signed up for Christmas on Dec. 20. That's ridiculous.

The yellow vests for inspectors and field operations supervisors still won't go away. Our managers just don't understand that to our passengers our uniform is quite recognizable, but when we wear those vests the passengers think we're shopping cart scavengers or parking lot attendants, and from the amount of criminal activity pages we get everyday, it's apparent the vests are not doing anything to deter crime.

Finally, for all supervisors and inspectors, as we do the bus transition from Fifth and Sixth Avenues to Third and Fourth, be on the lookout for managers and Wackenhut doing bargaining unit work. Make sure to document the date, time, location and what work is being performed so we may submit the issue through the grievance process.

TriMet Lift As reported by LES GREEN



Well, it is a new year and we at Lift can look forward to another year of working with Nela and trying to make management understand that we are not working at Disneyland. So until we get some understanding from Nela management we can not live happily ever after.

But enough of wishful thinking, and back to the business at hand, meaning the use and disuse of CSI reports which appear to be expanding faster than the service we provide. Since we in the Lift service do not follow the procedure that has been established by contract with TriMet and Union management, a uniform policy must be established by all services and TriMet. I, for one, will be working toward that goal this year.

Also, this is the year for working out a new contract with Laidlaw Lift. Therefore, we must present a united front so that together we can create a

better contract for at least the next three years.

TriMet Merlo Transportation As reported by BRUCE HANSEN

Our lives are becoming more difficult with the closure of the mall. We have to reroute to Third and Fourth Avenues, where traffic is already heavy with delivery trucks and other traffic. With this change, our schedules will be tighter than ever. One thing I would like to remind you of is to not force the schedules; take it slow and maintain safe distances in these areas. The city will not remove these trees for us but TriMet will wrap them with reflective tape. Please be aware of this additional hazard. In addition to our regular driving challenges, the weather is also changing, so beware icy roads in the early mornings and on very cold days.

We have two new grievances filed. Still working on six current grievances. We had one go to Step 3 that resulted in a split decision.

Remember, health and safety first: Always take your breaks.

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



I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. I would like to officially welcome Jeff Hamm to C-TRAN. It's my hope that with his arrival, a new and better era between the Union and C-TRAN will have started. I look forward to having him at the controls here at C-TRAN.

Scott Miller and I have been working with C-TRAN for the last six months or so on the Connector issue. On Jan. 14 a Connector test phase will start. This will be a first at C-TRAN, not only because the operators will be getting a dollar more an hour and 20 minutes for mapping and cell phone call-back, but also because C-TRAN and the Union both agreed to make sure it works before it becomes binding. Currently, nowhere in our three contracts does it mention anything about the Connector.

This Connector test will set the standard of not only how the Connector will operate but also what happens to the extra board and our part-time floater operators.

When the Union and C-TRAN both agree that the language in the test phase paperwork works, it's my desire to then present it to you, the members, in the form of a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) for a mem-

bership vote.

The negotiations on the Fixed Route and Paratransit Operators' contract are going slowly, but I'm hopeful that we can get this settled before I retire. Please remember that only united will we be stronger.

TriMet Light Rail Maintenance As reported by MICHAEL CONNER



Last month was a busy one for your Union officers. Tom Wallace, Joe Ruffin and I attended the American Public Transit Association (APTA) conference in Sacramento, California. We attended meetings about maintenance standards, specifically in LRV Maintenance and Signal Maintenance. In the future, other areas of Light Rail Maintenance will also be affected, but this brainstorming session was mostly about setting the foundation for where the industry needs to go with this project.

It was interesting to see that a major problem most of the other rail transit industry has is that there is a lot of job turnover. This seems to have not been as large of a problem at TriMet. But we will see it here too. Some work groups are already seeing a shortage of people, which is starting to put a noticeable strain on maintenance. The problems are so severe on the East Coast and Canada that in Canada workers are opting to strike even when double-digit annual pay increases are offered, and bonuses of thousands of dollars are given to employees annually for continuing their employment from year to year. Some districts are even discussing shutting down portions of their system due to lack of maintenance due to the labor shortages.

We also completed the unfair labor practice hearing. I spent several days testifying at it. As with all legal hearings, it is a very slow process and we will probably not get the final ruling until next fall.

Another issue I have been helping with is the Hillsboro fire truck accident arbitration.

As for rail maintenance issues, nasty, dirty platforms and the labor issues involved with them are an issue for us. The garbage cans look like Mt. St Helens erupting. Much thanks to the train operators, rail supervisors, fare inspectors, and other maintenance of way (MOW) employees who are constantly reporting each can that overflows to control. The more public we make the issue, the more likely it is to be noticed by a manager who will do something about it, rather than the facilities managers just covering the

problem up so as not to have their own agendas prevented from moving forward. I wrote a letter to TriMet General Manager Fred Hansen about the problem with his managers in facilities and he has said he would "look into it." Hopefully, he will give it more than just lip service.

Congratulations to MOW Shop Steward Tim Fontenot. He was promoted to MOW Training Supervisor. I hate to lose a good shop steward to the "Dark Side" but I do wish Tim well. If you are interested in being a shop steward, we are always looking for someone. Let me know, and good luck, Tim!

It looks like the new year will be full of challenges for us, and all of us in rail maintenance who are starting to see ragged edges on things due to deferred maintenance hope management will see that they will have to quit hiring managers and hire someone to actually handle the wrenches, meters, brooms and pens.

WHEELS As reported by JOHN HARVEY



No report given.

Rogue Valley Transportation District As reported by TOM HENNEY



No report given.

Laidlaw Portland Public Schools As reported by KENDALL GREENAWALT JR

Let's all band together to hold Laidlaw to a higher standard. Your problems are my problems. I am here for you. Call me or e-mail me. Do not forget your Weingarten Rights! You have the right to union representation. You have the right not to speak in any meeting with a supervisor if you feel you may be disciplined. We are working hard for you.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me. My time is your time. Nothing is more important to me than making sure you are well

represented. On a personal note, I want to thank all of you for donating to our food baskets. All donations are greatly appreciated.

TriMet Center Maintenance As reported by CHAD MATHER



This past month has flown by, and guess what? We had Step 3 hearings again with almost the same results. In maintenance we settled one and in transportation we settled one. I don't need to get into that again. Last month, I hurt some managers' feelings.

TriMet Center Transportation As reported by ALAN EISENBERG



Well, where do I start? We've had Step 3 hearings for our sisters and brothers who have been wrongfully terminated. Guess what? The district representatives said their bosses were right! What a surprise! They keep sending assistant managers that won't buck their superiors' decisions. So if you want to know why we have so many arbitrations, this is why.

Onto problems with your schedules. When you fill out the break form (ask your station agent for one) be sure to specify the problem areas by describing the parts of the run that rob you of your breaks. Please fill out your accident/incident reports. You'll be paid 45 minutes to write it.

As we enjoy our holiday season, let's have a moment of silence for those brothers and sisters that have passed on. R.I.P. for Rick Sollers and Chris Silver of Center St.

May all of you have a healthy, happy, and prosperous New Year. Be careful out there. Peace to all!

Laidlaw Corvallis As reported by CHRIS GROOMS/BOB MCGUIRE

No report given.

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TriMet Merlo Maintenance

As reported by
JEFF HUNT



In Merlo this month, we heard one Step 2, which will now be moving up to Step 3, and three pre-filing conferences. Additionally, we held five maintenance Step 3s and out of those we settled four. Our only split decision was regarding the new Boot Shoe Policy.

The Joint Labor Relations Committee (JLRC) resumed its meetings this month as well. This committee, comprised of ATU officers, TriMet management and a representative from Portland Community College (PCC) is charged with improving the Facilities Maintenance Apprentice Program by, among other things, standardizing training and setting goals. This is not just for apprentices but also for full-time facilities maintenance mechanics. Ultimately, it is the ATU Committee members' goal to staff a full-time trainer.

All three pre-filing conference hearings held over the course of the past month concerned the issue of contracting out. Of those, one will be moving on to Step 2 in the grievance process, and the other two have been settled. In one, the mechanic was paid four hours call out. In the other, TriMet agreed that from now on, anytime a contractor comes on property they will need to have either a plant mechanic or a mechanic and trainee to accompany them and assess the type and length of job. This is beneficial for everyone. Not only can we learn from them, but this allows us to ensure they follow our rules and practices. So, if you see an outside contractor on site working alone, be sure to alert your E-Board Officer, Shop Steward or Liaison Officer.

Finally, Spring Signup begins the first part of February and will be in effect by the end of February for helpers and mechanics.

Salem Area Transit

As reported by
KEN RICHINS

Negotiations on our successor contract began Dec. 8. We already have around 12 initialed tentative agreements on the table. Most of these agreements evolved from the Memorandums of Understandings that were signed over the last five years. Also, as promised, special attention is being given to maintenance issues. There are not very many unresolved issues at this

time that can not be resolved at our next meeting, scheduled for Jan. 15. We also have agreed to meet Jan. 19 if we do not finish up on the 15th. We had a meeting scheduled Dec. 15, but it was canceled.

The most frequently asked questions regarding negotiations are in regards to the resignation of our current general manager and the loss of the levy in November. Neither event has had any impact on the Union's position. Most of our proposals were composed and ready to go before either fact came to be known. The general manager has not been at the bargaining table for many years anyway. The District's chief spokesperson at negotiations works in personnel. The District has not and can not possibly raise any argument about their financial condition that our Union has not heard in the past.

When they raised the issue about the negative press regarding our benefits package as it compares to other public agencies in the area, ATU International Vice President Ron Heintzman just told them that this Union will not allow those voices to dictate the negotiation of our labor agreement. The fact is that when most of the negative press appeared, which was during the campaign for the May election, we won the popular vote in spite of the negative press. On the other hand, during the campaign for the November election (which we lost,) those negative voices did not appear as often. In fact, there was some very strong and positive press in the local Statesman Journal that favored the Cherriot's levy. However, we lost the popular vote anyway.

For those of you who may be wondering, the current contract will remain in effect until the successor contract is completed and signed. Additionally, we have been successful in getting back pay for the days between the end of the last contract and the pay period that the new contract is signed.

TriMet Powell

As reported by
ROSE JORDAN-FAIRLEY



I continue to stress to each operator your responsibility to get your FMLA-OFLA forms in on time so you can receive the proper credit for time off.

Make sure to keep copies of all documents you submit to the District. Powell garage is continuing to handle grievances in a timely manner. Management is trying to work with me to resolve grievances. Hats off to ATU for reinstating a member who was wrongfully terminated with three-and-a-half

months back pay. Job well done! Drive safely.

MV Transportation

As reported by
DENNIS TONG

MV operators set new records in 2006 for hours worked, miles driven, and trips performed while maintaining an admirably low accident frequency rate. Congratulations to all of my fellow operators for their conscientious service last year. I especially want to recognize the less experienced people who have successfully met the challenges of the LIFT program. All of this high quality work was supported by a dedicated and professional management team.

Any part-time operators who have consistently worked extra hours should know they may be eligible for a classification upgrade to part-time-plus or full-time status. If you have worked 30-34 hours or 35-plus hours for 12 consecutive weeks (six consecutive pay periods), see Ron Klein to have your status changed. Both job classifications have benefits such as paid vacation, holiday pay, and paid sick leave. However, eligibility for health insurance depends on being awarded a part-time-plus or full-time job through the bid process.

I have enjoyed meeting newly hired operators since my return to duty as a liaison officer and I'm looking forward to getting acquainted with all the operators to whom I have not been formally introduced. My best wishes to everyone for a safe and rewarding new year!

TriMet Powell Maintenance

As reported by
KEVIN KINOSHITA



It was a very busy month in December and an eventful 2006.

The unfair labor practice (ULP) process started in November of 2006, and we just finished testifying. The next step is that the attorneys will write their briefs for the judge and after that process is over, then he can render a decision. This process probably will take almost a year to complete.

The ULP was held at the Union office in front of an administrative law judge and a court reporter; so everyone got sworn in and everything was recorded. This was a very detailed investigation: We had 18 allegations against Tri-Met, and over 250 documents were prepared and presented as evidence. I would like to especially thank the staff at the Union office and our in-house attorney Susan Stoner for

all of their time, effort and energy. Susan did extensive research and preparation for the ULP, dedicating much of her own personal time.

A lot of the members that testified sacrificed time out of their busy schedules as well; to me, that showed a lot of dedication and guts. I want to say thank you all very much. Taking on

TriMet was very much worth the time and effort devoted to it.

If your FMLA was denied, come and get me so we can figure out why. If your FMLA was denied, it does not necessarily mean you don't qualify or are not eligible for it. Your paperwork

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Hunt

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interim director to get back to us on our last proposal.

Lane Transit: We are getting close to contract time. Let's all get prepared. Please fill out your contract suggestion forms when they come in the mail and return them to your Union officers.

Tillamook: We have sent the contract re-opener for negotiations. Please fill out contract suggestion forms and send them to the Union office as soon as possible.

Rogue Valley: We are now into the mediation process in negotiations. We have reiterated that we are not interested in reducing the medical insurance and that our members need a raise.

AMR Josephine County: We are still waiting for a response from the chief negotiator on the company's last, best and final offer. As soon as we receive the offer, we will be presenting it to the membership for ratification.

Salem: We've had our first round of negotiations. Ken Richins brought forward some good ideas and we are waiting to hear back from the company. Negotiations are scheduled to resume Jan. 15.

Laidlaw Portland: The Safety Committee has been meeting. Lots of discussions have taken place. I hope that Lynne Metz's accident is still in the back of all of our heads. Lynne has been off for close to a year after being in an accident in the yard. Poor lighting, among other things, contributed to the accident. We wish her the best and a speedy recovery.

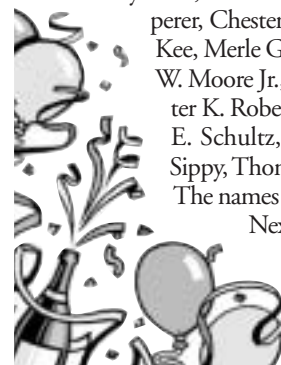
Laidlaw Lift: We are still waiting for mapping time back and have had a grievance on this issue for over a year. Remember to document when you are not getting your breaks and get the information to Les Green.

MV Transportation: We have won an unfair labor practice complaint against MV. Please read the boards. A notice to the employees from the National Labor Relations Board for failure to provide documents should be posted. Rest breaks and mapping time are still major problems. Please document if you are not receiving your rest breaks and or mapping time and give the information to Dennis Tong.

Valley Transit: Nick and Ricardo are working on overtime issues. The Christmas party was missed by all, but we are looking forward to getting together this summer.

Retirees' Corner

The following retirees will celebrate birthdays in January: Harold L. Alt, Diana R. Anderson, Frank R. Bernal, David L. Blowers, Darryl W. Cruze, Kathy E. Danforth, Barbara D. Davis, Margie De Weese, Robert E. Deisner, Donald L. Depeel, John P. Drozda, Betty J. Edwards, Mark N. Eide, Jesse P. Exton, **Paul H. Floyd**, Larry D. Fraley, Lonny C. Fults, Tony Gomez Sr., **Edward J. Gossett**, Rosella Halford, Frank A. Hamel, Sharon L. Hawkins, Paul W. Headley, Harley E. Heen, Richard Hudson, George C. Hysmith, Thomas M. Inukai, Dorothy L. Jones, Walter M. Klemperer, Chester C. Lanz, David W. Magnuson, Arthur F. McKee, Merle G. Meyer, Dale F. Monroe, Paul D. Moore, John W. Moore Jr., Danna C. Osburn, Douglas K. Richards, Walter K. Robertson, Bruce H. Ruby, Charles L. Scholl, Alfred E. Schultz, Ronald A. Scissom, Allan L. Shive, Barbara Sippy, Thomas E. Spears, David E. Stauffer, Jack D. Young. 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, Feb. 7, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. at Westmoreland's Union Manor, 6404 SE 23rd Ave. Coffee and doughnuts will be served at 9 a.m.

January Meetings

Charter

Charter members meet 7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22, in the Machinists Building, 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland. Charter day members meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, at Schoppert Hall, 1801 NE Couch, Portland.

Salem Transit/WHEELS

Salem members meet 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, at the Comfort Inn and Suites, 1775 Freeway Court NE, Salem.

Lane Transit

Eugene members meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, and Eugene day members meet 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, at the Woodworkers Local Lodge, 1124 South A St., Springfield.

Corvallis Laidlaw City Transit/Schools

Corvallis members meet 7:45 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, at Woodstock Pizza, 1045 NW Kings Blvd., Corvallis.

Rogue Valley Transportation

Medford members meet 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, at the Hampton Inn, 1124 Morrow Rd., Medford.

Portland and Laidlaw School Bus Drivers

Portland school bus members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, at Rigler School, 5401 NE Prescott, Portland.

C-TRAN/C-VAN

Vancouver members meet 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28, at the Laborers Hall, 2232 NE Andresen, Vancouver, Wash.

Tillamook County Transportation District

Tillamook members meet 1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28, 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.

Sticking together

By Sam Schwarz
Vice President



We have reached an agreement at TriMet on the second week of hold-back vacation. If you are a full-time operator and have less than 60 hours of time loss or are a mini-run operator with less than 38 hours of time loss,

you will qualify. Full-time operators with three weeks of vacation and mini run operators with four weeks can take advantage of this going forward.

This year the full-time operators will have the most amount of summer vacation weeks to sign since 2001 thanks to a grievance-settling side letter that will guarantee 55 weeks of summer vacation and 40 weeks each Thanksgiving, Christmas and Labor Day. These numbers will remain consistent no matter how many weeks of floating vacation the operators take.

We have settled several outstanding grievances and are working on in-

creasing the summer vacation weeks at Light Rail. Portland Public Schools' contract negotiations are in limbo until the start of the new year.

Laidlaw Portland has some issues stemming from the newly formed safety committee, and before it gets worse, we are directing the officer on the property to look into the problem and report to the full time officers.

WHEELS in Salem has dates for contract negotiations and Liaison Officer John Harvey and President Jon Hunt are on top of all the issues there.

At Salem Area Transit, Ken Richins is hopeful about getting a ten-

tative agreement to bring before the members.

Rogue Valley Transit District (RVTD) and American Medical Response Josephine County (AMR JOCO) are still negotiating, and as soon as there are any new developments, we will report on them.

Lane Transit has some ongoing issues and I am getting together with Walt to discuss and settle some of these issues.

I would like to wish everyone a healthy and happy New Year.

New Year

Tom Wallace
Financial Secretary-Treasurer



TriMet Salaried employees. The members also made contributions to Labor's Community Service Agency and Jobs for Justice. Both of these agencies have helped out our Local and its members.

We received payment from over one-third of our members who were behind on their dues for various reasons, such as being off work sick, worker's compensation, or leave of absence. The next billing will go out by Jan. 15. If you have questions about this, please contact me at the Union office.

I attended an American Public Transit Association (APTA) Rail Maintenance Conference on training standards with Light Rail Maintenance Executive Board Officer Mike Conner and Light Rail Liaison Officer Joe Ruffin. This training is a result of ATU International stepping in when they found out that APTA was trying to impose standards. With Mike and Joe's assistance, we will see that there is adequate training to meet the standards.

Mike Conner and I met with mediator Paul Stuckenschneider, TriMet Maintenance Director Tony Bryant and TriMet Executive Director of Operations Bob Nelson to try and resolve the 100 or so grievances regarding the Assistant Supervisor/Senior Mechanic upgrading. We are now waiting for the mediator's recommendations for settlement.

Should you have any questions on the Union financials, please contact me at the Union office or e-mail at fstreasurer@atu757.org.

I hope everyone had a great 2006, a joyful holiday season and that the new year will be good to you all.

Santa's visit to the Union Hall was a great success again this year. Over a hundred children received a gift and picture while sitting on Santa's lap.

The actions that were taken last month by the membership were moving three grievances to arbitration and appointing two officers. I would like to welcome Patricia Ostrander-Nice as the Liaison Officer for TCTD (Tillamook County Transit District) and Shirley Block as the Shop Steward for

Officer Reports

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may have something missing: dates, prescription meds, etc. There are many times when the FMLA paperwork gets resubmitted and is subsequently approved. We encourage you to always make a copy of all paperwork that you submit to Tri-Met.

We are close to finalizing the required classes for the Facilities Maintenance Program. This has been a long

and overdue process. The journeymen and apprentices have helped out a lot with their input and knowledge. The apprentices currently in the facilities program have been on a roller coaster ride so far. Hang in there, guys.

Lastly, the Powell shagging crew will have some help soon with three new shaggers. This crew has survived a lot in 2006. They have done a tremendous job and deserve the "Survivor Crew of the Year Award."

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.....JEFF HUNT
TriMet Merlo TransportationBRUCE HANSEN
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.....KHRIS 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 BoardCARL FADDIS
Rogue Valley Transportation DistrictTHOMAS HENNEY
Valley Transit.....NICK NOTARAS
AMR Southern Oregon-Josephine County (Acting) SEAN GARTLAN
Laidlaw Educ. Services (Portland School Bus)JOAN NIELSEN
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-VANJIM COLLELL
WHEELS.....JOHN HARVEY
Tillamook County Transp. District....PATRICIA OSTRANDER-NICE