



## And so you asked

By Jon Hunt • ATU Local 757 President

### Paratransit Services, Inc.

## Hard-fought contract for Bend Area Transit workers

After a difficult organizing campaign, a win that wound up being contested before the National Labor Relations Board and upheld, and a year of negotiations (including eight months with the assistance of a federal mediator), on June 6, 2008, workers at Bend Area Transit who are employed by Paratransit Services, Inc., ratified a first-time three-year agreement with ATU Local 757.

The agreement runs from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2011. The agreement provides an immediate \$1-an-hour increase, and increases of 5 percent the second and third

year of the contract. A three-year bus operator who currently makes \$13.06 an hour will go to \$16.61 an hour during the term of agreement — a 27 percent increase, \$7,384 a year for a fulltime employee.

Full-time employees were paying toward employee-only insurance coverage. With this agreement, the employer will pay 100 percent of the full-time employee-only coverage, and will split increases with the employee up to a maximum of \$25 for the life of the agreement. The employer will now pay 55 percent

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# Officer Reports



### TriMet Light Rail Maintenance

As reported by  
**MICHAEL CONNER**

As I write this at home recuperating from surgery, I am reminded of how fortunate we are to work in a union shop! Recently after many strong urgings from my wife to go in and get the procedure every 50 year old dreads, I broke down and made the appointment. As I am sure it is with most people who get this done, the hope is to suffer through some indignity and have the doctor say "your colon looks great, See you in 10 years." Not so for me. The doctor informed me that a dangerous type polyp had grown through the intestine and into the surrounding tissue. Needless to say, scary stuff! To make a long story short, I am lucky. It had not turned to cancer yet, and aside from being short a foot of the large intestine I was born with, I hope to be back to work by the time you are reading this.

But what is really important for all of us as I stated at the beginning is that even though this surgery will have cost tens of thousands of dollars, if all goes well the out-of-pocket costs will be minimal — a huge benefit which so many at non-union jobs no longer receive.

Secondly, for maintenance employees, we frequently work unusual shifts, where we don't always get to take care of our health as far as diet and sleep. We work in toxic environments. Some of this we have no control over. So use your benefits to get a physical and utilize wellness programs that are included in your benefits package.

You will also see representatives around your facilities from an insurance group that is partnering with the union to allow you to purchase an income protection policy so you can provide for your family during a time of disability. The E-Board listened to many presentations, and this policy seemed like it would have the most to offer our members.

And last but not least, we wish shop steward Tim Keller best of luck in his new job as

MOW substations supervisor. Tim was oftentimes able to enlighten me on what I did not know about LRVs, and as an assistant supervisor brought an interesting perspective and skill to the shop steward job. It is always interesting though, when they move to the other side of the table. Good luck, Tim!

Even though I told someone a couple of weeks ago I was OK for now for shop stewards, it looks like the search is on for a replacement. Watch for postings if you are interested.



### Portland Public Schools

As reported by  
**RANDY SHAW**

May 31, 2008 was a good day for a number of people. The Northwest Oregon Labor Council recognized me, along with Pepper the mascot, for outstanding support of organized labor for my work with ATU Head Start program.

In addition, our rodeo team from Portland Public Schools participated in the state safety exercise held in Redmond, and came away with a third-place trophy for mini bus, and first place in mini, transit, and conventional. We also had one team member who took first place, with the highest overall score in all three competitions.

It is the first time someone who competed in the mini bus has won this honor. We are very proud of all our competitors. We are especially proud of our overall first place winner, who represents not only Portland Public Schools but also the State of Oregon at nationals in Calgary, Canada.

We at PPS would like to thank the ATU for their support of the rodeo team.

We will be holding a number of fundraisers to raise money to send our driver to Calgary. The first one will be a garage sale to be held at 2923 NE 54th Avenue. The event will be held on July 12 and 13. I know July 13 is our picnic, but he has to be in Calgary

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## VP's Report

By Sam Schwarz • ATU Local 757 Vice President

It was a very busy month. Let's start with Canby Wheels. We settled two grievances. One was over the number of full-time and part-time runs, and the other over driver seniority. Thanks to Daryl and Jason, we had the correct information on those two issues. We are still hopeful of settling the other two grievances.

At MV Transportation, we have two new grievances, both over losing time. It seems that they are taking rides away from senior operators. We hope to solve this one soon.

At TriMet, the summer started early with five youths causing trouble on a bus. When the operator called for help, she received none from the officer who showed up. At least the supervisor who showed up knew

what to do. As the youths stood across the street waiting for the bus in the opposite direction, the officer didn't even question them. TriMet needs to hire more fare inspectors and supervisors. These people know the system. They were brought up on it. The police that were brought in for security are not familiar with our system. Our members don't feel safe 100 percent of the time, and never will while the District is more concerned about public image than safety.

At the IBEW Poker Run for Doernbecher Children's Hospital, we raised a bunch of money, and you will be happy to know ATU 757 is now the new chili cook-off champs. We hope to see you all at the picnic at Blue Lake Park on July 13

## 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.

# June Meetings

## Charter

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

## Salem Transit/WHEELS

Salem members meet 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 22, at the West Salem Branch Public Library 395 Glen Creek Road, Salem.

## Lane Transit

Eugene members meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 23, and Eugene day members meet 10 a.m. Thursday, July 24, at the Woodworkers Local Lodge, 1124 South A St., Springfield.

## Corvallis Laidlaw City Transit/Schools

Corvallis members meet 7:45 p.m. Thursday July 24, at Woodstock Pizza, 1045 NW Kings Blvd, Corvallis

## Rogue Valley Transportation

Medford members meet 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 24, at the Hampton Inn, 1122 Morrow Rd., Medford.

## Portland and Laidlaw School Bus Drivers

Portland School Bus members meet 6 p.m. Thursday July 24, at Rigler School, 5401 NE Prescott, Portland

## C-TRAN/C-VAN

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

## Tillamook County Transportation District

Tillamook members meet 1:00 p.m. Sunday, July 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.

# 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.....SANDY GUENGERICH  
 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).....CAROL ALLRED  
 Portland Public Schools .....RANDY SHAW  
 Laidlaw Education Services .....ANNA TOMPTE  
 C-TRAN.....ROY JENNINGS  
 Salem Area Mass Transit District.....KEN RICHINS

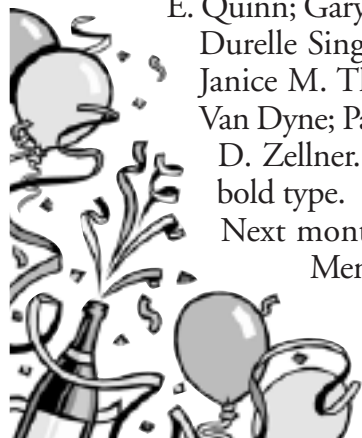
## Liaison Officers

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 .....BRIAN PASQUALI  
 Rogue Valley Transportation District .....THOMAS HENNEY  
 Valley Transit.....NICK NOTARAS  
 AMR Southern Oregon-Josephine County ..... TRAVIS HAMLYN  
 Laidlaw Educ. Services (Portland School Bus) .....DANIEL OTTO  
 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 July: Gene L. Andersen; George G. Baertlein; Margaret O. Bain; Joseph R. Barnes; Ricky Bolden; William R. Boyce; Handy Brown; John W. Brown; Donald J. Callaghan; James R. Camenzind; Arlene C. Chambers; In S. Chang; Jane F. Clark; John H. Clark; Max D. Collings; Vern A. Collins; Steven L. Davis; Paul A. De Shaw; Enrique B. Del Rosario; Donald K. Dickson; Robert M. Gardner; James W. Garman; Dennis P. Hartney; Craig B. Heverly; Robert J. Hughes; James E. Jackson; Robert E. Johnson; Johnny B. Jones; **Reino E. Karjalainen**; Charles W. Lee III; David N. Lieberman; Patricia B. Madaia; Carl McCray; Craig Michelson; Patricia A. Millard; Judith A. Moore; Greta M. O'Brien; Millard B. Peake; John E. Quinn; Gary T. Rictor; James E. Rock; Glenn R. Siefker; Durelle Singleton; Michael L. Stahr; Phillip T. Staton; Janice M. Thompson; Richard L. Vaughan; Robert E. Van Dyne; Patricia R. Wilkie; Johnny B. Williams; Bryan D. Zellner. The names of the 50-year members are in bold type.

Next month's regularly scheduled ATU 757 Retired Member Chapter meeting is Wednesday, July 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

(From Page 1)

on July 19. We have volunteers. What we need are items to sell. If you would like to donate, contact the ATU office. They will put you in touch with me. I am bringing in outside help on the 13th so no one misses the picnic.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the management team at PPS for working with me this last year to make 2007-2008 a successful year. It makes it a lot easier when we work as a team. It makes it more like a family. We will always have our problems, but we can work them out if we treat each other with respect



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

This is old news by now but once again the fare inspectors have been moved from Finance into Field Operations. These folks have taken it on the chin lately, so I hope this move works out for them. Time will tell.

In early June we had a meeting with management and labor to discuss the future of Field Ops. Topics ranged from new ways of doing daily business to training needs. The question was raised: Could we merge bus and rail supervisors and inspectors, and what would the hurdles be? Please don't anyone panic. This is just a question, not a proposal.

On the day of our Field Ops meeting we once again had another high profile crime on one of our Yellow Line trains. A 28-year-old woman was beaten and robbed by five punks. It was her first trip on MAX. I've said it here before and I'll say it again: Fred, your policy of more police and Wackenhut obviously isn't working. Hire more inspectors and supervisors. This is our system, and we want to keep it safe. Give us the numbers and we will.

We were able to settle the grievance regarding the vacation year beginning prior to April 1 as it did this year. The District agreed to pay our member her full vacation.

Also, the District has agreed that dispatchers should be eligible to apply to be Extra Road Ops coordinators.

We had all four rail supervisors pass their training, but only two will be brought on as rail supervisors at this time even though we are very short handed. Congratulations to Rick Jones and Jason Choi. I'm sure you'll both do a great job.

Congratulations are also in order for controllers Sandy Dodge and Bruce Werley. Sandy applied to Sound Transit in Seattle for a position in their new Light Rail and has been hired, and Bruce is moving to Texas to take another position. You'll both be missed but I know you'll do well in your new jobs.

It looks as though things are moving forward to bring four tens to Field Operations. I believe the target date is the September sign up.

Station agents were given the opportunity to work in the field during the Grand Floral Parade. I believe they were doing customer service and other related duties. With all this necessary customer service work, even to the point of recruiting volunteers, I wonder why our bargaining unit Customer Service staff were not offered

overtime. Perhaps there's a grievance to be explored.

I hope you all have a safe end enjoyable summer.



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

We are now in July and I hope our new contract has been signed and sealed. It was a hard battle, but in retrospect I do believe we have a much better contract for the next three-and-a-half years. Of course, I was disappointed that all did not pass, and with the actions of a few involved, but on the whole it was a great experience for all, and I was very pleased with the high turnout.

I do hope that with this experience we will get more drivers involved not only with the union but in planning for the future. Even if we have a good contract it can always be improved upon, if we stick together and do not split apart into factions as with this last (new) contract.

In the near future, we must groom some new leadership at First Transit Lift to carry on the real fight to improve our working conditions and the working lives of the drivers.

I would like to pass the torch to new leadership that the drivers trust to lead them, along with ATU, to better things in the future.

Remember to be safe out there and to take your breaks, which in the long run will make a better and safer driver.

I feel very humble and small in helping to lead with all your help this past four years and hope that in the future the new liaison officer and his staff can improve on the humble beginnings that with your help I have tried to get. With that said I will close.



**Laidlaw PPS**  
As reported by  
ANNA TOMPTE

Hello my brothers and sisters. I know you are having a great summer, with picnics and back yard barbecues. Enjoy a meal for me, as I am still working for you this summer to keep management at the table.

We all send a welcome out to our new contract manager, Laura Hansen! She was the contract manager at First Student Tigard. We hope and desire to have a strong working relationship with her.

I also want to encourage you all to get in to see John in the training department to be sure to keep your credentials up to date. If you have wanted to upgrade to the 84 Pacs, now is a great time: See the training department. The same goes for you qualified drivers who need more time behind the wheel of the big buses: See one of our most excellent trainers. They are here to serve and support you.

Be aware that there is a group out there giving us TV commercials bashing union leadership.

They want your money and want to bring down the leadership that has taken Oregon workers into the new millennium, leadership in the U.S. labor unions that have given us the open door to management that was never there before. They actually say they are for unions but against the leadership. Wow, sounds like sour grapes to me. If we think we have a problem with our leaders, we will take the action needed to make a correction. Right now, brothers and sisters, we have the power! We stand united.

I look forward to seeing you in August. Until then, the stewards and I are here to serve you. Just ask!



**Lane Transit District**  
As reported by  
CAROL ALLRED

I want to talk to you about problems between Union members.

It has come to my attention more and more that members are going to management when they have a problem with another member or when they observe another member doing something "wrong."

If you are having a conflict with another Union member, know something personal about another Union member or see another Union member doing something you believe to be wrong, please try to deal with these issues on a one-to-one basis with that member first.

If you don't feel comfortable approaching the other person on your own, please contact me. We can decide what to do and where to go from there.

Some of us view supervisors as friends, and while you might have a friendly relationship with a supervisor away from the workplace, they are not your friend in the workplace.

More and more, I am having management inform me of personal issues concerning members that other members have told supervisors. More and more, when a member is in a disciplinary situation, some of the information the District is using has come from our own member-

ship!

We are a family. Yes, we might squabble amongst each other, but that is where it should stay. We should be taking care of and protecting each other.

Our jobs are hard enough without finding out another Union member has turned us in or told management about some personal issue we are having.

Okay, enough of the scolding!

On a much happier note, congratulations to our seven new bus operators. Big congratulations to Carrie for passing her CDL exam with a 100 percent score. Please help these new operators become a success.

I remember when I started and how hard it was. There is so much more now to learn and remember, and a lot of these new folks have had to go on one Board or another.

Everything we are doing now on a daily basis we have been able to learn little by little as new equipment comes online and new ways of scheduling occur. They have to learn it all at once, plus read time cards that were written with type so small only a gnat could read them!

And finally, when you get a chance, please thank lead station cleaner Diane for the marvelous job she does every day. She is out there on the platform and in the restrooms cleaning up after passengers, and cleaning some stuff that most of us couldn't even look at. She does this in the rain, snow and worst of all in the hot summer months that are coming up! Please take the time to tell her how much she is appreciated.



**TriMet Light Rail Transportation**  
As reported by  
MICHAEL T. OLIVER

Give a loud shout out to James Walker and to Marion Carrion, both recovering from surgery.

Posting for the Elmonica Liaison Officer is out, and I need your input. The replacement for Jason Choi will be chosen at the July E-Board

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## Hunt

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of the employee-only premium for part-time employees and split increases with the employee up to a maximum of \$25 for the life of the agreement. The employer will also reimburse the employee for ODOT medical examinations.

Full-time employees will continue to earn 80 hours vacation after one year, 120 hours after five years, and 160 hours after 15 years. Part-time employees earn one half of the above amounts. Fulltime employees will continue earning six days of sick leave annually, while part-time employees earn half that amount. Fulltime employees will continue earning nine paid holidays at eight hours, while part-time employees will be paid four

hours for the same nine holidays. In addition, the contract provides for a retirement plan available to both full-time and part-time employees, three days of bereavement leave and paid jury duty.

The first-time agreement also addresses working conditions, including seniority, job assignment bid procedures, representation rights, hours of work, overtime, safety, grievance and arbitration procedures, corrective action and other contract issues and conditions.

While it was a hard-fought campaign and contract, it represents a very good first contract and starting point from which future contracts can build, and is fair to both the employees and to the employer.

# ATU Local 757 Officer Reports

(From Page 15)

meeting and voted upon that evening.

Rumors abound, and some may even be true, but this clears up one that's not: Steve Banta can be a pleasant gentleman, and in a wide-ranging conversation at Elmo he convinced me that the rumor that one has to make it at rail or "go out the door" is simply not true. TriMet spends a lot of time and money training us and they do not treat our professionalism lightly. On the other hand, when a trainee begins revenue service, some people do not make it. The demands are difficult and multi-tasking is not for everyone. Those people have already proven themselves as bus operators, and that's where they shall return. Run rumors by me and I shall run them to ground.

It's been the year of the sign-up, and here come some more. The Fall sign-up is upon us and hopefully we will get a break from these god-awful splits. Working a 13 hour 57 minute day and being paid eight is as regressive as you can get. We need some relief and we need it quickly. We have always cooperated with the Scheduling Department, and it should be a two-

way street. Let's not wait and see. Rather, let the Scheduling Department at Holgate Plaza know that you are fed-up. E-mail or drop a note. They are good folks and I hope they get the message.

Congrats to the Rail Supervisor Training Class. Everyone made it. Two will stay and two will return. To new supervisors Rick Jones and Jason Choi, a loud hurrah, and to Jerry Krahn and Jill Hall, supervisors-in-waiting, we say, "Welcome back. We missed you."

As usual direct all slurs, comments and checks to mtgbo2002@msn.com



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

Normally I begin my articles with a progress report on my grievances. I think this month I will begin with my reason for coming back to bus. It was not an easy decision to make. I was running into conflicts between the work I

need to do as an E-Board officer to represent my members and the training that was necessary to work on the trains. Because TriMet only had three people scheduled for each shift, my being away would put more of an onus on the other mechanics. After weighing the pros and cons I felt that I would be able to serve the membership best by returning to Merlo.

At Merlo, Bob Johnson and I have been working on reducing the number of grievances that are filed by meeting at least two to three times a week and looking at potential problems and working them out before they become grievances.

In Facilities Maintenance, I have had one pre-filing concerning a situation where one person of lower seniority was given overtime and the person of high seniority was sent back to the shop.

Also in Facilities Maintenance, Joe Ruffin and I had a joint Step 2 grievance. This one was about contracting out ticket vending machine pedestals and the electric wiring for them. TVM is the fare tech work, but the pedestals and the electrical wiring is Facilities Maintenance work. We have had our Step 2 contracting out com-

mittee meeting. We are just getting started. We have a lot of hard work ahead of us, but in the long run we will stop a lot of contracting out and keep the work in-house, and reduce the amount of grievances on contracting out in Facilities Maintenance.

The picnic is coming. If you would like to be involved, please talk to your officer about volunteering or call the union office and let them know you are interested. The picnic is at Blue Lake this year on July 13.

Help to welcome Merlo's new shop stewards: Lorin Widmer, John Chong, Mel Bean, George Tanner, and Dave Benes.



## Secy-Treas Report

By Evette Farra • Financial Secretary-Treasurer

My personal "thank you" goes out to the members who worked Portland's Starlight Parade. My son was marching for Aloha High School's band. I was a proud mother and a very proud ATU officer. From the members behind the wheel and drum handle to the green-vested foot soldiers keeping everyone safe (including my son), most people don't know what it takes to safely and efficiently keep a transit system up in the middle of a parade. But I was in the crowd; I am very proud of all of you and do not take your professionalism for granted.

Enrollment in TriMet's Child/Elder care assistance program is up. It's nice to see members using the fund for what it was originally intended. We would love to see even more of you using this fund. Please call me if you have any questions about the program or how to qualify.

In June there were two conferences attended by Local 757 officers: the Women's Conference in Savannah, Georgia, and the Northwest Conference in Calgary, Canada.

There have been recent changes in how the local provides for officers attending those kinds of events. Now, when any officer heads off to a conference, convention or caucus, they are only issued a per diem check by the local, which is based on federal cost of living guidelines for the city hosting the event. Additionally, any planned meals (usually one or two per event) are deducted from their per diem before the officer even receives their check.

I am looking forward to this year's picnic and meeting even more of you. I will be watching for baseball mitts (as well as any other gear you can scrounge up) and look forward to a good softball game or two. TriMet's Merlo Road Hogs have thrown the gauntlet to any and all members brave enough to challenge them in the softball tournament. See you there.