



And so you asked

By Jon Hunt • ATU Local 757 President

So what's next for Local 757? Contracts will be our first priority. We have a total of six coming up by the end of the year. Members' forums will help guide us through negotiations.

New officers' training will be happening quickly. We will be working with our Executive Board over the next few months on our mission statement and articulating the goals that we want to accomplish over the next three years. Ongoing training for our officers, and strategic planning, will be top priorities. Getting our members involved will be an ongoing project.

Look to the upcoming issues of The Bulletin in the Northwest Labor Press for committee and volunteering opportunities. These will include Central Labor Councils, safety committees, attending board meetings at your individual prop-

erties, picnic auxiliaries, and political coordinators.

I had the opportunity to visit with a lot of our members during the last election cycle. I will be putting into motion a lot of the ideas you have shared with me.

At TriMet we successfully lobbied to increase the payroll tax to one-tenth of one percent. This means that TriMet will receive more funding, which we hope will help prevent layoffs.

Our retirees' picnic will be held at Oaks Park on July 11, starting at noon. The Union picnic will be at Blue Lake Park on Saturday, August 29. We would like to see our best attendance yet at this year's picnics. Please submit any ideas and suggestions to the Union office.

We have been working on updating the ATU 757 Owner's Manual and hope

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ATU Officer Reports



MV Transportation

As reported by
KATHLEEN BROWN

Hello, Union Brothers and Sisters! Congratulations to Jon Hunt and Sam Schwarz on their re-election and to all of our elected officers.

June 2009 we held four Step 2 grievance hearings. One grievance was corrected and one was settled, leaving two remaining in abeyance. The grievances were related to the "MOU" route reductions, work not made available to operators on request and multiple route cuts.

We are now working on our options with contract proposals. As we enter the end of this contract, we are prepared to open new doors to a better contract. In these economical times, it will be a great challenge. Participation of the membership is critically important. The deadline for

submission of contract proposals was June 30. Soon we will meet with MV Transportation with our proposals, and they will have their proposals. Hopefully it will be a positive outcome for all parties and we will have good turnouts at the preliminary meetings. Together as a union we are strong and we will prevail.

Back to the utilization of our "MOU." Please remember that you must ask for compensatory work and ask for the form when you request it so that you have documentation that you were offered or not offered work. During the summer months, we take a lot of hits on our work schedules, as there are many school closures and people going out of town on vacation. Protect yourself.

If you have any questions, please address any issues that you may have with Cynthia "Cindy" Russell and/or me so that we can be of assistance.

Communication is the gateway to mu-

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VP's Report

By Sam Schwarz • ATU Local 757 Vice President

Well, the election is over, and it's back to work as usual. We have a lot to catch up on. There are several open contracts and several pending arbitrations to settle. In the next few months we have a lot of work to do. We will be training the new officers and swearing in all the newly elected officers and re-elected officers. The President will be appointing new officers to the committees and assigning them tasks for their properties.

The new officers took office on July 1, and the old left. This transition is sometimes difficult for both the old and the new officers. The new officers really don't have a clue as to

what the job entails and are in for some extensive on-the-job training. Remember, if you have a problem, the officer that you elected is your officer, and they are the ones you need to contact for help on grievances and contract information. They should have their telephone number on display on the union board. If not, call the union office and we will get you their contact information.

I am looking forward to working with all the officers, old and new. Have a great summer, and I hope to see everyone at the ATU picnic in August!

Summer picnics

ATU 757 Retirees Annual Picnic

Saturday, July 11
Oaks Park
7805 SE Oaks Park Way
Portland

ATU 757 annual picnic

Saturday, August 29
Blue Lake Park
20500 NE Marine Dr.
Fairview

We are looking for volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please call the Union office at 503-232-9144 or Jeff Hunt at 503-516-9463.

Amalgamated Transit Union - Division 757

Representing working men and women in Oregon and Washington at:

TriMet • Lane Transit District • C-TRAN/C-VAN • Salem Area Transit • WHEELS • Rogue Valley Transportation District • Bend Area Transit • Canby Area Transit • Tillamook County Transportation District • Valley Transit Association • First Transit (TriMet Lift, Portland) • City of North Bonneville • Portland Public Schools • American Medical Response Northwest (Josephine County) • First Student (Portland Public Schools, Corvallis School District, Corvallis City Transit) • MV Transportation, Inc. • Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, Inc. • Lamar Advertising Company • 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.

ATU Local 757 Officer Reports

tual understanding and successful results. Until next time



**First Transit
TriMet Lift**
As reported by
LES GREEN

Now that the election is over for another three years, it is time for all union members to get back to business. We must accept that union members have spoken (or not) with their votes, so we must close ranks and work toward our common goals in this unstable economy.

Also, I would like to thank all of you Lift members who voted. We had at First Transit Lift over 65 percent turnout, and I do believe that shows a strong desire to work for the common good for all of ATU 757.

Now the bad news. We are experiencing a large influx of new inexperienced drivers, and mistakes seem to be multiplying at a rapid pace. For our experienced drivers: Please take an interest in helping our new drivers so we can influence or change some of the mistakes the new drivers appear to be making. I hope that with our help, the new drivers will come to see the light of what is important (safety first) to help guide them through the first year.

Thanks again for taking the time to vote, and with all your help, I know we can continue to improve our working conditions.

Lane Transit District

As reported by
BRIAN PASQUALI

Hello again, brothers and sisters of "the" Lane County ATU 757. It is with great honor and privilege that I return to office as your Executive Board officer at LTD. Our local election is now concluded, and I am ready to continue and move on with the business at hand and dig in for the approaching contract negotiations in early 2010.

Over the course of the end of this year we will be sending out contract suggestion forms and other literature to keep you, the member, in the loop. In addition, our Lane County Web site <http://laneatu757.blogspot.com> will be updated with great frequency in order to stay in touch, and I hope any of you interested take the time to visit.

Please welcome John Gelsomino and Darryl Whitaker as our new secretary and liaison officers. Former secretary Tom Shackelford will be taking over as maintenance liaison officer as well.

The union's position on cell phone use while operating district vehicles is not much different than LTD's: Don't do it. If you have been one of the rumored operators participating in cell phone calls while driving, you are risking far more than your job. As you know from recent YouTube footage, you can become a celebrity overnight and get your name in the paper, if not a legal notice. Recently a suspension was levied on a driver doing just this, and while a grievance is currently in circulation regarding the severity of punishment vs. past practice of the district, it will not mean a free pass upon settlement of that particular issue. I myself was struck by a drunk driver a couple of years ago and for all intents and purposes, I view those using the cell phone while driving as being in the same category of those committing DUI. 'Nuff said.

The other issue related to this case, and one that troubles me even more, is just how the operator member came to be in a disciplinary situation to begin with. It has come to my attention that a fellow union member witnessed the event as the operator drove through Eugene station, and without pause, informed a supervisor, thus initiating an investigation. Okay, big problem here. Regardless of who the fellow co-worker is, your relationship prior to what you witnessed, or their overall status in the organization, we all took an oath as Union brothers and sisters to not cause harm to another fellow member. Because this member was suspended, harm in the form of monetary loss has been caused. To say the least, this could have been handled better and without said person risking their membership in good standing status. Firstly, the person could have spoke to the cell phone user directly in a way to remedy the situation. If that person was not comfortable approaching the other member, for any reason, they could have also spoken to a union officer and would have been guaranteed a response. And if that was still something they were uncomfortable with, a call could have been made to the Portland main ATU office. Anything but speaking to a supervisor as the first action would have been appropriate. By going to a supervisor first, it is a universal truth that a fellow member will be put in harm's way, and the union would end up involved regardless. As in this case, given the publicity surrounding similar events nationwide, termination was even on the table at a point. Pending the outcome of this grievance, since the discipline has been issued as a two-day suspension, ALL members will face the same in the future for such a violation, which means that this act has harmed the entire membership in this bargaining unit. All of this because one person felt the best solution was to go to a supervisor first. More to come on this matter.



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

Spring has sprung into Summer's song, and it will be a first for many LROs. Do not let the kids drive you crazy. They will be with us every day and most of the night. Do not let them control you. They hold the doors, you put them on release. They are rude and you are pleasant. Maintaining your good humor will help you live long and happy. The little buggers will grow up to be big buggers, and there's nothing we can do about it. Be safe, stay well-hydrated and maintain your good humor. That is what will get you through the "heatwave" more than anything.

If PSC would hire two more full-time operators, we would not have the hysteria surrounding the situation as it now exists. Better planning on the part of all is needed, not insulting phone messages. Let's fix it folks. It's been going on for too long. We have growth in our future, so let's plan for it.

Sadly, two people I have had much fun with in the last years have been replaced by younger, better-looking ATU Members. Yes, Mr. Jim Fowler and Mr. Mike Conner have gone on to bigger and better, and have been replaced by Bruce Duncan and Joe Ruffin. Jim's mood swings have the essence of legend in them, and Mr. Conner's political diatribes rival anything that Newt Gingrich can come up with. While they were here, they represented their members well and their Union better. I will miss them greatly and miss the support that both of them have provided me (the kiss of death). But, out with the old and in with the new, and that is the way of things. A hearty welcome to newcomers Bruce Duncan and Joe Ruffin. Just do what I ask and lend me money when needed, and we shall get along fine. Just don't buy any Irish Sweepstake tickets from

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July Meetings

Charter

Charter members meet 7:30 p.m. Monday, July 20, at the Salvation Army, Rose Center for Seniors, 211 NE 18th Ave., Portland (18th & Sandy Blvd., adjacent to the ATU office.) Charter day members meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 21, at Schoppert Hall, 1801 NE Couch St., Portland.

Salem Transit/WHEELS

Salem members meet 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 21, at the West Salem Branch Public Library 395 Glen Creek Road, Salem.

Lane Transit

Eugene members meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 22, and Eugene day members meet 10 a.m. Thursday, July 23, at the Woodworkers Local Lodge, 1124 South A St., Springfield.

Corvallis City Transit

Corvallis members meet 7:45 p.m. Thursday, July 23, at Woodstock Pizza, 1045 NW Kings Blvd., Corvallis

Rogue Valley Transportation

Medford members meet 7:30 p.m. Thursday,

July 23, at the Hampton Inn, 1122 Morrow Rd., Medford.

C-TRAN/C-VAN

Vancouver members meet 7 p.m. Sunday, July 26, at the Laborers Hall, 2121 NE Andresen, Vancouver, Washington.

Tillamook County Transportation District

Tillamook members meet 1 p.m. Sunday, July 26, at 212 Main Street, next door to Beach Pancake House in Tillamook.

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.

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me. We have over-lapping territories and are forced to work with one another. Let's make it an all-around great experience. Welcome and good luck. You both have large shoes to fill.

The Fall sign-up will begin this month — July 20 to 24. The signup will be at Ruby and Elmo, and in conjunction we shall be able to sign up for any insurance needs we have. The Parker Group will once again be on hand to take care of our needs, including, new this year, pet insurance and identity theft and prepaid legal. Check the bulletin boards for the proper announcements. Sign-ups may be your most important exercise. Take your time and be safe. No changes after the next person after you has signed. This is the on-going mantra that someone always forgets to read. It is three months out of your life and the life of your family. Be careful and obey the rules. Rules are there to make it equal and they are to be applied equally. If you think you have been treated poorly, then it is incumbent on you to complain. The quiet mouse never gets the bird; or is it the cheese? Anyhow, you get the message. E-mail me at mtgbo2002@msn.com

Bend Area Transit

As reported by
VICTOR GILARDIN

We have had a busy month. I went in with two write-ups. One was a write-up instead of a suspension; one was a three-day suspension. Finally got word back about the latest driver's grievance: It's gone to arbitration. That will make four cases in arbitration.

We are getting ready to move into our new facility, with bigger everything. We will have a huge drivers' room and a whole wall for bulletin boards. Additionally we will have a huge conference room and employee parking. Just a lot of things we don't have now.

We are setting for our new route changes. That's going to be interesting.

We had an annual free ride day June 15. It was a total snafu. The public was not notified; no advertisements were out at all, no fliers of any kind. Just a last-minute drivers-saying-free-ride day.

Will talk more next month.



TriMet Powell Maintenance

As reported by
DAVID KAY

I would like to thank the members for allowing me to continue my efforts on your behalf. With the elections wrapped up, we can now focus our full attention on the issue probably first on many folks' mind, the working and wage agreement. Many people have already sent in some very good proposals, and there is still time for more. Please forward any ideas you may have. Suggestion forms are available from your property officer or on the ATU 757 web site.

Grievances: We have settled an issue about warranty work and contractors. The original issue was settled by an agreement with Steve Banta, recognizing that this is our work and agreeing to keep one of our people with the contractor. A second issue was settled with an agreement not to assign the attending mechanic a bus to work on at the same time. I am continuing negotiations on several issues arising from the last bus buy and the rules governing the inspectors.

By the time this article reaches your home, I should be back to work on the buses. A bit of an issue with my back had me sidelined for a time, but I am on the mend.



C-TRAN/C-VAN

As reported by
ROY JENNINGS

No grievances have been filed this month, but we currently have four in the hopper. If we can't come to an agreement with C-TRAN on these four grievances, then we will be filing the paperwork.

I would like to thank Randy Smith and Joe Hendrix for keeping Scott and me on our toes. This election has shown all of us (in the Union leadership) that we have work to do, and Scott, Jim, and I have heard you.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite each and every member to this year's Union picnic on August 29, at Blue Lake Park. A lot of great prizes will be given out. I invite all of you to come out and party with your fellow Union brothers and sisters. If you would like to volunteer to help out, contact Jeff Hunt @ (503) 516-9463.

Shortly a posting will go up, informing the membership that all the shop steward positions will once again be up for reappointment. Anyone interested in being a shop steward, please check the Union boards.

Due to C-TRAN not having enough time to work on it, and because of all the problems with their new financial program,

the HR department was not ready nor able to discuss the floating holiday MOU last month. Debra Write is currently working on it, and it's my hope that it will be ready for the membership in a month or two. Watch the union boards for more information.

The fixed route operator and paratransit operator contract expires Sept. 1, 2010. With this in mind, we will start working on our proposal shortly. We will be contacting you in person and/or through the mail in the next couple of months. When you receive the forms, please fill them out and send them back.

Our next Union meeting will be on Sunday, July 26, 2009.



Portland Public Schools

As reported by
RANDY SHAW

This will be my last article in the ATU Bulletin. I want to congratulate Terry Howard for winning my open seat for Executive Board officer for Portland Public Schools. I have already agreed to serve as a shop steward under him, so it will be an easy transition. Terry will build off what I have started at PPS, and take us into the next term stronger than ever with his strength, vision, and dedication in his new position.

I want to thank everyone I worked with these last three years, especially Jon Hunt, who has taught me patience, and Sammy S, who has taught me: "Don't take crap from anyone; if you are right, go in swinging and don't stop until you get a settlement." Evette F has taught me you do not learn your job overnight. You have done an excellent job.

I am very proud of what I accomplished in my term as your E Board officer, and working with the union. I know Terry will not let us down, but will continue moving us forward in our journey to make working at PPS a career with a future, and not just a job.



TriMet Merlo Maintenance

As reported by
JEFF HUNT

This month I have had one new pre-filing at WES. They have created a new job out there to perform all the same duties as mini-clerks and timekeepers. Sounds good, as they need the help, but management would like to make this a non-union position. This is a contract violation of the WES agreement. It was denied by TriMet and will be moving on to Step 2.

I had one grievance at Step 3 which also was for WES. It has to do with taking away

floating holidays. The Step 3 panel split on their decision, and so this grievance will be moving on to arbitration.

Over the course of this last month I have had the opportunity to speak with a lot of operators. When I would tell them I was a mechanic at Merlo, there was a common complaint I heard about operators getting sick on the buses, and about exhaust fumes, and more importantly, what was I going to do about it.

Without looking at a given bus at the time an operator is having trouble, or knowing the exact issues, or whether it was something from fuel or wire or water vapor or an exhaust leak, it's hard to know, and so I will not drone on about boring mechanical stuff but rather inform you of the steps I have taken to help operators. I have brought it up at the safety committee, and the buses that come into the work line will be set aside to have the safety department come do air quality tests on them before mechanics work on them so we can find the problems. Remember to write a work card on a bus that smells to you.

I would also like to remind everyone that the picnic is going to be at Blue Lake Park this year on August 29. We need volunteers for it. If you would like to help, call me at 503-516-9463 or the union office.



TriMet Powell

As reported by
ROSE JORDAN

First of all, I'd like to say thanks to all of you for a great three-year tenure as your Executive Board officer. I have enjoyed serving all of you and making sure that your needs were met. I will be available to assist Khris Alexander while he makes the transition into his new position. Congratulations to Khris!

I will continue to move forward with the driver forum that takes place once a month at Reflections Bookstore. This is an important time for all of us to unite to build a better and stronger union. We are going to face some difficult times ahead, and it's up to each one of you to look for future postings that will contain information for the upcoming contract negotiations. Again I say thank you to all who I helped with grievances and all union activities in my three-year tenure.



Secretary-Treasurer's Report

By Evette Farra • Financial Secretary-Treasurer

I have gotten a few questions about the dues increase and how it meets the International's minimum dues requirements.

Each property under Local 757 pays a different amount of monthly dues based on income, local regional per capita, and International per capita, which is \$10.80 per month for all members. The regional local per capita range is \$1.01 to \$2.84 per month, depending on what region you work in. These three amounts combined determine the amount of dues you

see coming out of your paycheck.

The International's dues minimum does not include the per capita. Dues increases occur July 1 of every year, if needed, and the guidelines are in the International's Constitution. Also, each property gets a letter every year to remind the membership of their minimums. That letter should be posted along with this year's increases for your property.

President's report

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to see a final product published shortly. Once the paper copy is out, we will work on providing additional and updated information on the Web site. Additionally, we are working with a union embroiderer to provide U.S. union-made apparel to our members.

Your full-time officers attended the Northwest Conference in Seattle and found the arbitration panel particularly productive. Lance Norton, Seattle Local 587's President, is retiring, and we wish him good luck in his retirement.

We say goodbye also to Mike Siano,

ATU International Executive Vice President, who is also retiring. You can read his farewell in InTransit.

Congratulations to Ron Heintzman, who will be officially appointed to the position of ATU International Executive Vice President on August 1 of this year. Although we will miss Ron and his expertise on a local level, I know the ATU as a whole will benefit under Ron's leadership.

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; John W Brown; Handy Brown; Donald J Callaghan; James R Camenzind; Arlene C Chambers; In S Chang; John H Clark; Jane F Clark; Max D Collings; Vern A Collins; Steven L Davis; Paul A De Shaw; Enrique B Del Rosario; Donald K Dickson; Billie D Dixon; Roscoe L Edge; Robert M Gardner; James W Garman; Dennis P Hartney; Craig B Heverly; Robert J Hughes; James E Jackson; Robert E Johnson; Naomia Johnson-Dubose; Johnny B Jones; Jimmie J Jones; Charles W Lee III; David N Lieberman; Patricia B Madaia; Carl McCray; Craig Michelson; Patricia A Millard; Richard D Miller; Judith A Moore; Greta M O'Brien; Millard B Peake; John E Quinn; Gary T Rictor; James E Rock; Glenn R Siefker; Durelle Singleton; James B Smith; Michael L Stahr; Phillip T Staton; Janice M Thompson; Robert E Van Dyne; Richard L Vaughan; Patricia R Wilkie; Johnny B Williams; Bryan D Zellner.



There will be no regularly scheduled ATU 757 Retired Member Chapter meeting in July. The retirees' picnic will be held at Oaks Park on July 11, 2009, beginning at noon.

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 MaintenanceDAVID KAY
 TriMet Powell TransportationKHRIS ALEXANDER
 TriMet Merlo Maintenance.....JEFF HUNT
 TriMet Merlo TransportationJEFFREY ACKERSON
 TriMet LRT MaintenanceJOE RUFFIN
 TriMet LRT Transportation.....MICHAEL T. OLIVER
 TriMet Monthly Rated Employees.....BRUCE DUNCAN
 Lane Transit District (LTD).....BRIAN PASQUALI
 Portland Public SchoolsTERRY HOWARD
 First StudentANNA TOMPTE
 C-TRAN.....ROY JENNINGS
 Salem Area Mass Transit District.....KEN RICHINS

Liaison Officers

TriMet Merlo Extra BoardSTEVE ECKLES
 TriMet Center Extra BoardCHRIS DAY
 TriMet Powell Extra Board.....KHRIS ALEXANDER
 TriMet Ruby JunctionDOUG "SPUD" HENDERSON
 TriMet Ruby Junction MaintenanceJOE RUFFIN III
 TriMet ElmonicaC.J. HENDERSON
 TriMet Elmonica Maintenance..... VACANT
 SAT Maintenance.....DON ELZNIC
 LTD Chairman.....DEB BITTERLICH
 LTD SecretaryTOM SHACKELFORD
 LTD Maintenance.....LEE LASSE
 LTD Extra BoardOPEN POSITION
 Rogue Valley Transportation DistrictTHOMAS HENNEY
 Valley Transit.....NICK NOTARAS
 AMR Southern Oregon-Josephine County TRAVIS HAMLYN
 First Student (Portland School Bus)DANIEL OTTO
 First Transit (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 Cnty. Trans. Dist.....PATRICIA OSTRANDER-NICE