



And so you asked...

Around the union

By **Jon Hunt**
President



We have been resolving outstanding TriMet arbitrations and grievances through a mediation arbitration process. Over 200 grievances and 11 arbitrations have been settled at this time. Big thanks to Sam Schwarz and Kevin Kinoshita for assisting on this project.

Listening to the concerns of our members who have reported problem schedules, we have negotiated three new Schedule

Writer I positions with TriMet; 80 percent of the job of the schedule writer will be out riding the buses and discussing with the operators how to make the schedules more manageable. Please assist this process by giving accurate, detailed information. Obey the speed limit, do not drive through yellow

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ATU Local 757 Officer Reports

WHEELS

As reported by
JOHN HARVEY



We are working on a grievance for two accidents. In this case the company did not follow the progressive disci-

pline rule. As a union, we expect the company to treat all employees equally. This is not being done. The company is allowing some individuals to break the rules and then sweeping it under the carpet. We will be watching this. If you think you have been disciplined in situations where others haven't, please let me know.

and includes a lot of meetings. Pre-filings, Step 2s, grievances and then Step 3s. So when you hear other members commenting on, or asking the question, what is the union doing about everything? Perhaps you now have some insight as to why some things take so long.

Jon, Sam, the E-Board and all the Union staff are working day and night to serve you.

TriMet Merlo Maintenance

As reported by
JEFF HUNT



We had no new pre-filings this month. We are waiting for a decision on a Step 2 regarding non-revenue work and we anticipate meeting on two more Step 2s.

I have had a lot of questions about the grievance process and how it works. First, talk with your Executive Board officer or steward about your problem or situation. The first step is called a pre-filing conference, where the member and the officer meet with the supervisor to review the situation. Frequently it can be settled there.

If not, the next step in the process is called Step 2, where the Executive Board officer, the member and the manager meet. Discipline issues always begin at Step 2.

Step 3 is where your Executive Board officer will present your

grievance to a panel of two union officers and two managers, and a manager will present the company's side of why they think the grievance should be denied. The four committee members will deliberate and then render a decision on the grievance.

If you are not satisfied with it you have the right to ask for your grievance to be presented at arbitration. You will come before the Executive Board to present your side with your officer. The Executive Board will make a recommendation to the membership to arbitrate or not, but it is the membership's decision, not the Executive Board's. This is one of the many reasons why it is so important for you to be at the meetings.

MV Transportation

As reported by
DENNIS TONG

The day of reckoning is near regarding MV operators taking 10-minute safety/rest breaks. At issue: Is MV management or the individual operator ultimately responsible for breaks being taken according to Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) guidelines? Can MV be held blameless if an operator claims that keeping on schedule makes taking a break too stressful? Can MV be held blameless if an operator does not attempt to request assistance from MV management or dispatch to fit a break into their manifest? Can an operator be disciplined for not taking breaks according to BOLI guidelines? Will Central Dispatch/Scheduling ever relieve operators of having to schedule their

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VP's Report

By **Sam Schwarz**
Vice President



At TriMet, we have had a slew of terminations, most of them unjust and without progressive discipline. TriMet management has made it very clear how they intend to deal with the operators, and make no mistake, it is with hostility.

They have deliberately misinformed operators, and what is worse is that the only thing the contract is being used for is punishment. And it is being misinterpreted for everything else. If you have a question or a concern, please contact your union officer and get the straight scoop.

The summer sign-up kicked off April 16, and I will ride with Merlo Transportation union officer Bruce Hansen to check out the newest run put together by scheduling. Our goal is to see if it can be done by someone without superhu-

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TriMet Center Transportation

As reported by
JACK NEWBERRY

Hi Brothers and Sisters! Since I have been filling in as the E-Board officer, I have been keeping records of all kinds of things, such as accidents, oversleeps, time loss, CSIs, road supervisor observation reports, and terminations.

Please take it from me, the company has been busy! I've had about 200 letters, and most of them have been in the area of time loss and oversleeps. "Intent to Terminate" letters are a close runner-up. It is our responsibility to follow up on everything that comes our way. So the union has been very busy as well.

Please remember that all the work we do takes a lot of time

**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 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



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own breaks regardless of the impact to on-time performance, by inserting breaks into the manifests while they construct them?

These questions may be answered at a Step 2 grievance hearing soon to be scheduled. In the meantime, be sure to document when you take your breaks on the manifest cover sheet.

Operators have expressed concern that "Drive Cam" audio and visual recording devices installed in 9400 series buses will be used by management to discipline them for not wearing their seat belts properly or doing other unacceptable things while they drive. Management states that the cameras can be used to protect the company's and the driver's interests if a motorist or passenger makes false claims against them.

If the camera makes you uncomfortable, just remember that uplifting pop tune, "He ain't heavy, he's my BIG brother." Happy May Day!

TriMet Powell Maintenance

As reported by KEVIN KINOSHITA



At the last mediation session, we did not win the body shop mediation case. It was a long drawn-out battle with management. Bob Heistand gave excellent testimony on why we need to have a training assistant for the body shop. There are times when you do all of your investigation and work and the decision still doesn't go in your favor.

This month we had another mediation case. It involved the service worker pay upgrade. This too has been a long battle. It began with a service worker being upgraded to a higher pay when performing in a higher classification. Then the service worker had to repay the District for being upgraded. We finally got a decision and the worker will be receiving back pay, also for those who were not upgraded and paid properly, they will be receiving back pay.

This month I have been at the union office preparing for the upcoming organizing class. Organizing has become a lost art and we will learn different ways of regaining this lost art. The national AFL-CIO, the International and the Local are collaborating to put on this class. I have been working with Ed Tynes, the senior organizer from the national AFL-CIO out of Albany, Georgia. Ed has been in the labor movement for over 30 years. He was very instrumental in organizing the Miller Brewery Company in his hometown. Ed has been all over the United States as an organizer, activist, and in many other capacities. Ed's longest organizing campaign was a four-year workforce organization. He understands the fight of "blood and sweat" it takes to successfully organize a workforce.

I have learned so much working with Ed Tynes this last week. With this class, our Local will be an even stronger force. The most recent groups that Jon and Sam organized to sign union cards for an election are the Canby and Sandy bus operators. We have sent the proper paperwork to the NLRB (National Labor Relations Board.) There will be an election on April 27 for the Canby bus operators.

Lastly, we lost one of our own at Powell recently. Kappy Roberts passed away after a strong fight with cancer. Kappy worked at bus and rail facilities. She was always laughing and having fun. Kappy was one of those individuals that you will never forget. Our prayers are with Pinky and family.

TriMet Light Rail Transportation

As reported by MICHAEL T. OLIVER



My apologies to all those who did not know what I was talking about in last month's column. My use of initials and some-such was confusing and unnecessary. Folks other than us read the paper and deserve something that is at least understandable. In the future I shall attempt

to refrain from using all this crap.

We are losing one of our own; Dee Wagoner has decided to take the money and run. Her retirement became effective last month and we are so sorry to lose her. For the last few years Dee has been hanging out at Elmo and operating a Redline. She will be missed, and the best for her in her extra long retirement. Chuck Oberman is at home recovering from surgery. Call him. I'm not going to tell you what to call him.

Summer sign-up is over and if you did not get what you wanted, wait until next year. Change comes slowly for many reasons. Bryan Gillespie is the union brother in charge of light rail schedules, and he has our best interests at heart, but that sometimes takes second place. Eventually, the Redline will extend to Elmo then turn around and go to PDX. Eventually does not mean this year, although it may mean next. If you have ideas or suggestions, e-mail Bryan or fill out the suggestion cards available at both garages.

Congrats to Jill Hall for being voted Operator of the Quarter, and stay the heck away from her parking space at Elmo and Ruby. Jill has worked the board since coming here and she is always here. Her super attendance helps us all and a big "thank you" to her. Keep your letters and bribes coming to mtgbo2002@msn.com

Portland Public Schools

As reported by RANDY SHAW



We met with the District in April, and we gave them our wage and medical proposals. In so many words, the District negotiator told us that we are not professionals, just part-time employees who don't deserve a raise, and even if we did, the School Board has not authorized one. Fortunately, the state legislators feel we are professionals and empowered the Board of Education to oversee the Department of Student Transportation, which

governs the rules and regulations we work under. In addition, the state reimburses the school district 70 percent of the total cost of every dollar spent on transportation.

Ask yourself this: Do you think the state went to all that expense and trouble for a bunch of part-time bums and misfits to transport the Districts' children, or for the professionals that they are paying and expecting to get for their money? We weren't sure they fully understood the laws they were working under, so our ATU Officers enlightened them through our lobbyist, Jim Markee. They had him explain the law so the group from the District would understand the law and would try to explain it to the School Board. I was very proud of our officers who used some very colorful language (things you can't say in church) to remind them of what they promised us. We deserve everything we are asking for and more. If we have to, we are prepared to take this to Salem and to the public and tell them how our drivers are being cheated. They told us that any concessions we got would have to be explained to the public. The public wants us to make a livable income; what needs to be explained is why administration costs so much. That's what the public wants to know.

The District's attitude tells me they don't really care about our drivers, the students we transport, or the public in general. They can't use the "we don't have any money" excuse anymore because we already showed them they're getting reimbursed. They have used the no-money story so long it has become a habit, or else they're passing the buck or just don't care any more as long as they get their raise and a check every payday. This is not just a job for us, it is a career. We work with people, not numbers, so we can tell the District paper-pushers: You do your job, and we will continue with our careers.

TriMet Salaried Employees

As reported by JIM FOWLER



The Wackenhut issue continues to be a hot item in Field Ops. I'm hoping that by the time this goes to press we have had at least one of the planned meetings to resolve the question as to what Wackenhut officers can and can't do. There is an arbitrator's ruling in place that allows them to be on the property doing security work, but I'm sure the arbitrator never meant that to mean that they can then do our jobs.

Many of you continue to see on a daily basis that we are still missing pullouts due to the lack of operators. Perhaps if the District would take their game plan for hiring assistant managers and apply it to hiring operators, we could eliminate the problem.

There have been many personnel changes in the various departments over the last few weeks. Congratulations go out to Leslie Lee. She has been selected as a new assistant supervisor in Customer Service. From the Road Department, Marc McClintock and Gary Babikoff have retired. Together they leave with almost 70 years of outstanding service. Also retiring is Brian Gagnier, Chief Station Agent at Powell. Good luck to all of you. We wish you the best.

Controller Jeremy Ferguson has departed the "room" to take a position in Marketing.

I would like to also welcome newcomers Cara Lynn, Charlene Mixon, and Juli Morgan. They have completed a tough training program and are now dispatchers.

We also have two new fare inspectors coming on board, Nick Rogers and Mark Levingston.

In closing, please remember that if a manager wants to speak with you about anything that might result in discipline, take a union rep with you. It's your right.

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ATU Local 757 Officer Reports

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TriMet Lift As reported by LES GREEN



All seems to be quiet on the western front as Laidlaw Lift awaits what will be coming down from the merger (buy-out) of Laidlaw Transit to First Transit. We do not know at this time if or when any management changes will be coming down the pipeline and how it will affect our union drivers. I for one do not see any major changes for at least a year or more, but I could be wrong.

Since we have enough problems to iron out with Nela (Main Office), it is sure to keep me busy for the rest of our current contract.

One note: We will be bidding on our routes in May, and I expect to see what we have in the next week or so.

Well, that's it for now, so remember to take your breaks and be safe out there.

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



Here at C-TRAN, operators are only fare informers. We are not fare enforcers. A few pieces of silver are not worth your job or your life. Take care of yourself and let C-TRAN worry about customer satisfaction as it applies to their fares.

On May 30 and 31 the Union will open negotiations on the Paratransit Dispatcher contract. Jill has been working tirelessly on behalf of the Paratransit Dispatchers. On June 6 and 7, the Union will also start negotiations on behalf of the Administration Assistants and the Passenger Service Representatives. As most of you know, the Operators' contract is in mediation. During two days of mediation there has been some movement, but we are still a long way apart. Our next meeting with C-TRAN is set for June 26 and 27.

As I've reported before, we

have an agreement with C-TRAN that no discipline will be awarded due to the init (GPS) system. If the GPS system on the bus shows that you are running early or if it shows that you are off route, no discipline can be awarded. Now, if dispatch sends a supervisor out to check on you, and that supervisor sees that you are running early or off route, if discipline is awarded then that discipline is coming from the supervisor and not the GPS system.

Mark your calendar, as our Union meeting this month will be on May 27. I hope to see everyone there.

TriMet Center Maintenance As reported by CHAD MATHER



No report given.

TriMet Light Rail Maintenance As reported by MICHAEL CONNER



Hello to all, it's been a couple of months since I have written an article, and I have missed keeping you up to date, but I am back now. Speaking of the last couple of months, it has been some of the most challenging to date in my job as your E-Board representative.

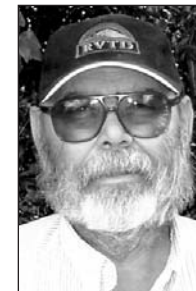
First off, Shayne Jenkerson, our Elmonica liaison officer, bid out of Rail Maintenance. Most all of us here have either directly or indirectly been assisted in some way or another by her. She leaves us to be able to spend more time with her family, which she will be able to do working the helper job she was able to bid. I wish her much happiness.

Welcome to Chris Hix and Brandon Richardson as our new shop stewards at Ruby Junction. Chris is an overhead cantenary journeyman and Brandon is a sig-

nal journeyman. They will both be of great assistance in being the union's eyes and ears in Maintenance of Way. Work Safe.

Rogue Valley Transportation District As reported by TOM HENNEY

No report given.



TriMet Powell As reported by ROSE JORDAN-FAIRLEY



No report given.

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Hunt

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lights, and when you find yourself having a problem on your run, please notify the scheduling department. The goal is to create workable schedules.

We are still in talks with TriMet concerning the three-day mini-run work week as well as the four-day work week for full timers. We are looking at the data and once both parties are able to come to an agreement we will present it to the membership.

TriMet is looking for mini-run operators. If you have family or friends interested in starting a career at TriMet, now would be a good time to check online for information.

We have been in recent talks with TriMet regarding bringing mini-runners full-time quicker. Please watch for postings in the near future.

In Salem we have reached a three-year agreement of a \$3.75 wage increase retroactive for 2007 and \$3.75 each year afterwards. Journeyman mechanics received a \$1.00 an hour wage adjustment. Night differential was increased from \$0.70 to \$0.85 per hour. The District will maintain current benefits at 100 percent of premiums, medical, vision, prescription, dental, and life insurance, increased VEBA from \$11.54 to \$13.00 biweekly pay period. Trainers will receive a training premium of 5 percent

above the regular rate.

At Portland Public Schools, we have pulled out of the District Council of Unions. We are now negotiating with a new head negotiator from Portland Public Schools, Tom Gunn. We are hopeful that this change will create opportunities for better dialogue with PPS on settling this contract.

Contracts that we are currently negotiating are Tillamook, C-TRAN, C-VAN, Clerical and Customer Service.

We have had our first negotiating meeting with Lane Transit District. We have presented our proposal and are waiting for theirs.

AMR Josephine County has given us an offer that we will

be presenting to the membership; however, they continue to put in a corporate medical plan that is unacceptable to our members.

We have recently organized Bend Area Transit. However, the employer has contested the election. We have gone through the first round of hearings with the NLRB, which found no merit in their charges and ruled in our favor. However, the employer is appealing. Since then they have terminated one of our shop stewards, and we are taking the necessary action.

We have had two groups approach us asking for representation: WHEELS in Canby, and Sandy. We have filed a pe-

tition for representation and we should know the results by the end of next month on both of those. Additionally, we want to welcome the brothers and sisters of North Bonneville. We now represent the city workers of North Bonneville. We are starting the initial negotiation process and hope to have a contract soon.

Lastly, I would like to thank you for your support during these troubling times. We are anticipating that we will be out of trusteeship by May 2, at which time we will start the election process for the financial secretary position. Please read the union board for future updates.

May Meetings

Charter

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

Salem Transit/WHEELS

Salem members meet 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 22, at the Comfort Inn and Suites (formerly Salem Inn) 1775 Freeway Court NE, Salem.

Lane Transit

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

Corvallis Laidlaw

City Transit/Schools

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

Rogue Valley Transportation

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

Portland and Laidlaw School Bus Drivers

Portland school bus members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, May 24, at Rigler School, 5401 NE Prescott, Portland.

C-TRAN/C-VAN

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

Tillamook County Transportation District

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

JONATHAN HUNT.....President-Business Representative

SAM SCHWARZ.....Vice President-Assistant Business Representative

VACANT.....Financial Secretary-Treasurer/Recording Secretary

Executive Board Officers

TriMet Center Maintenance.....CHAD MATHER

TriMet Center Transportation.....VACANT

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..... VACANT

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 SEAN GARTLAN

Laidlaw Educ. Services (Portland School Bus)ANNA TOMPTE

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 Cnty. Trans. Dist. ...PATRICIA OSTRANDER-NICE

Schwarz

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man powers.

The operators at Portland Public Schools are waiting for some more dates for negotiations. At MV Transportation we have several grievances that are not solved, and the brake situation has not improved. Laidlaw Portland still has a few issues that are ongoing and we hope to get them resolved soon. At Laidlaw Corvallis I have received calls from operators saying that management has been unfair and threatening. At Lane Transit we had our first joint labor committee meeting, and the next one that was scheduled was changed the day before it was to take place. Of course, we were not notified.

At C-TRAN, we are waiting for mediation, which should take place sometime in the next month or so. Down South in Grants Pass we are having some difficulties with the employer and may have to take legal steps.

Congratulations to all our recent retirees.

Local 757 Officer Reports

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Laidlaw Corvallis

As reported by
**CHRIS GROOMS/
BOB McGUIRE**

No report given.

Salem Area Transit

As reported by
KEN RICHINS

No report given.

Lane Transit District

As reported by
WALT BOYNTON

No report given.

Laidlaw Portland Public Schools

As reported by
ANNA TOMPTE

No report given.

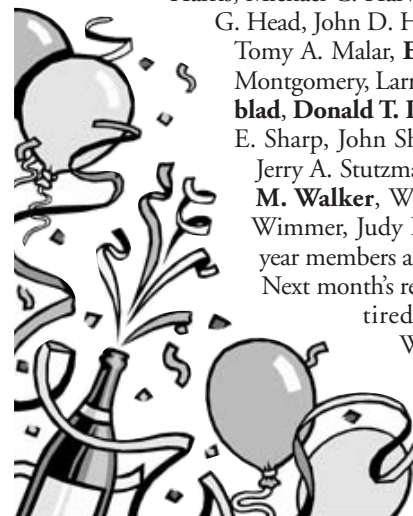
TriMet Merlo Transportation

As reported by
BRUCE HANSEN

No report given.

Retirees' Corner

The following retirees will celebrate birthdays in May: **Darrell W. Baker, Edward C. Becker, Barent B. Boicourt**, Leslie M. Braunbeck, James W. Britt, James L. Bryant Jr., Arlet M. Caldwell Jr., Melvin R. Chamberlain, Lawrence T. Collins, William H. Danforth, Gwendolyn J. Follings, Theodore A. Fry, Norma J. Gilgan, **Joseph M. Griesenauer**, Fred L. Harris, Michael C. Harvey, **Jack K. Hasbrook**, Dennis G. Head, John D. Hodgdon Jr., Rockne O. Lechelt, Tomy A. Malar, **Edwin H. McClincy**, Robert L. Montgomery, Larry C. Nelson, **Kenneth A. Palmblad, Donald T. Pattison**, Tom R. Pousche, Dave E. Sharp, John Sheffield, Johnny W. Shirrell Sr., Jerry A. Stutzman, Eldon H. Thompson, **Mary M. Walker**, William L. Wascher, Wilfred W. Wimmer, Judy L. Zullo. 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, June 6, 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.