



And so you asked

By Jon Hunt • ATU Local 757 President

I was recently back in Washington, DC, speaking to our congressmen about reauthorizing SAFETEA-LU (an acronym for The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users.) Along with the Employee Free Choice Act, this is at the top of the International's legislative priorities for 2009. Aside from providing funds for the federal transit program in 2010 and creating incentives for states to invest in public transportation, it would also give local transit systems the option of using their FTA funds for operating purposes to avoid service cuts, fare increases and layoffs. This is key, because though it's great to receive funding for the new trains and freshly painted stations, if we have no operators or customer service people to run the system, then no one benefits.

At TriMet, where ridership is up while payroll tax is down, we're in a unique and compli-

cated situation. Operations Manager Steve Banta addressed this in his letter to operations employees posted online in April in an attempt to dispel some of the anxiety that the layoff rumors have provoked. He states that in mid-May they will get to see their first quarter payroll tax receipts and at that time will be able to determine whether additional service cuts will be needed in December. The letter ends with this quote: "At the end of the day, the last things we want to do are eliminate service or take someone's job away. Decisions over layoffs are difficult. They need to be transparent, discussed with ATU and in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement."

There has been nothing formal yet in terms of contract talks, but I have been approached by management to see whether we would be

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ATU 757 official notice of nominations and elections

Attention Active and Retired Members of Local 757. This is official notification of the upcoming election of the Union's elected officers whose terms will begin July 1, 2009 and expire on June 30, 2012.

Nominations for all elected Union positions will be held at the Regular Charter meeting, May 11, 2009. See the Union bulletin boards in your area for further information, call the Election Committee at (503) 231-3563 or (1-800) 797-4373 Ext 0 or send an e-mail to atu757election@gmail.com.

Bylaws

The complete set of ATU 757 bylaws can be obtained by contacting the Election Committee or by going to the "Documents" button on the ATU 757 Web site, www.atu757.org.

The following provisions of the ATU757 Bylaws describe the duties assigned to the open positions in upcoming election. Section 3, Officers of the Division; Section 5, Office of President Business-Representative; Section 6, Office of Vice Pres-

ident Assistant Business Representative; Section 7, Office of Financial Secretary-Treasurer/Recording Secretary; Section 8, Executive Board; Section 9, Extra Board Liaison Officer.

The following provisions of the ATU757 Bylaws pertain to the election process: Section 13, Nominations; Section 14, Election; Section 15 Election Committee; Section 16, Eligibility and Qualifications of Members. These provisions are set forth below as follows:

Section 13 - Nominations

Nominations shall be held at the first regular Union meeting in May every three years. They shall be held at the 7:30 p.m. meeting as set forth by the Financial Secretary-Treasurer.

Names of nominated members shall be recorded at the time of nomination by the Financial Secretary-Treasurer/Recording Secretary and shall be placed on the ballot in alphabetical order.

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Upcoming Union Officer Election

Nominations and acceptances for the open Union positions will be accepted prior to the Charter nomination meeting provided they are received at the Union office by 4:30 p.m. on the day of the Charter meeting. The Charter Union meeting will be in Portland on Monday, May 11, 2009. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Members nominated for Union office must be present to accept their nomination or else submit an acceptance letter to the Union office by 4:30 p.m. May 11. The Charter meeting will be in the Salvation Army Rose Center, 211 NE 18th (18th & Sandy Blvd) Portland, Oregon.

The upcoming election for these Union officer positions shall be for terms commencing on July 1, 2009, and ending June 30, 2012. To be eligible to run for Union office, members must be in good standing with the Union and have paid dues for two years. The following positions will be open for nomination.

Officers At-Large

President/Business Representative *
Vice President / Assistant Business Rep. *
Financial Secretary-Treasurer/Recording Secy *

American Medical Response (Josephine County)

Liaison Officer

Bend Area Paratransit

Liaison Officer

City of North Bonneville

Shop Steward

C-TRAN

Executive Board Officer**(4)

Liaison Officer

C-VAN Liaison Officer

First Student (Corvallis)

City Transit Liaison Officer

School Bus Services Liaison Officer

First Student (PPS)

Executive Board Officer*

Liaison Officer

First Transit (Tri-Met Lift)

Liaison Officer

Lamar Advertising Co.

Shop Steward

Lane Transit District

Executive Board Officer**(3)

Chairman

Secretary

Extra Board Liaison Officer

Maintenance Liaison Officer

MV Transportation, Inc.

Liaison Officer

Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, Inc.

Liaison Officer

Portland Public Schools

Executive Board Officer**(5)

Rogue Valley Transportation District

Liaison Officer

Salem Area Mass Transit

Executive Board Officer*

Maintenance Liaison Officer

Tillamook Transportation District

Liaison Officer

TriMet

Center Transportation Exec. Board Officer**(1)

Center Extra Board Liaison Officer

Center Maintenance Exec. Board*

Merlo Transportation Exec. Board Officer**(7)

Merlo Extra Board Liaison Officer

Merlo Maintenance Exec. Board Officer*

Powell Transportation Exec. Board Officer**(6)

Powell Extra Board Liaison Officer

Powell Maintenance Exec. Board Officer**(2)

Light Rail Transportation Exec. Board Officer*

Light Rail Transportation Ruby Liaison Officer

Light Rail Transportation Liaison Officer

Light Rail Maintenance Exec. Board Officer*

Light Rail Ruby Maintenance Liaison Officer

Light Rail Elmonica Maintenance Liaison Officer

Monthly Rated Employees Exec. Board Officer*

Valley Transit

Liaison Officer

WHEELS/OHAS – Salem

Liaison Officer

WHEELS/OHAS - Canby

Liaison Officer

* Indicates Delegate to ATU Convention.

** Indicates Alternate Delegate to ATU Convention Together with Alternate Number

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



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

Eleanor Roosevelt once stated, "I will do my best to do what is right, not with a sense of my own adequacy but with the knowledge of what the people want. We all should be constantly reminded of what we owe in return for what we have." That was true 70 years ago and it is still true today.

During these tough times of economic collapse in Washington and Oregon, this great Union of ours must carry out what is right for our members. For those of us who were working here five, 10, 15, 20 or even 25 years ago, every time we do our jobs we should constantly be reminded of what we owe to the ones who went before us.

As an example, 25 years ago if operators walked out to their bus on a cold day they could find ice on the inside of the bus. I have been told by one operator that it was not unusual for operators to place a sleeping bag around their legs while they were on route, just to keep warm.

All I'm going to say about how C-TRAN was 15 years ago is that Les White was the Executive Director here at C-TRAN. If you want to know what it was like working under Les White, just ask anyone who was here.

Five years ago, not only did we have Lynne Griffith as the Executive Director, but we also had strategic planning, the "New" Opus buses and the Union took a no-confidence vote. C-TRAN has changed over the years, but one thing is sure, if we didn't have our Union watching our backs, just think where you would be! The Union meeting this month is on May 17. I hope to see you all there!



MV Transportation
As reported by
KATHLEEN BROWN

Hello everyone! The month of April was an interesting one, with multiple grievances pertaining to reduced and closed routes, seniority violations and unsafe equipment. It is really important when your route is closed or reduced that you communicate with window dispatch as soon as you become aware of the problem.

Since July 2, 2008, a Memorandum of Understanding has been added to the contract. We reached an agreement that when issues of compensation were brought up that a compensatory slip would be created to be used for documentation of work offered for the operator and the staff. The compensatory slip is available in window dispatch. We need to let them know as soon as we know our routes are cut and if the route is closed and you stay home you need to call and ask for work. If there is none offered then the next day you are scheduled to work you need to notify the dispatcher on duty that you lost hours and need to replace them. With the work offered you should be offered a com-

pensatory slip that will have the work offered and whether or not you refused the work. Please maintain copies of this documentation for your records. If you are not offered work within the pay period please notify Clark Hart. If you do not have any success with this process please let Cindy Russell or I know so that the issue can be addressed.

As far as the vehicle defects such as turn signals not canceling, we are addressing the issue as a safety concern. There was a previous grievance filed that will be revisited. Please continue to write up these buses even if it is the same bus. Windshields are also important: Excessive glare and etching caused by defective wipers in some angles of light can create hazardous blind spots. Last, but most important, please check the AC units on the buses and turn in a defect report ASAP so they can refill all the buses. It is going to be a very hot summer.

Until next time, be safe.



Merlo Transportation
As reported by
BRUCE HANSEN

Well, we've made it through another signup. On May 24 we re-enter the bus mall. If you have signed up for a run that goes through the bus mall and are still not comfortable, please contact training and ask if someone could ride with you. This is going to be a challenge for all drivers, not just us here at Tri-Met, but C-Tran, MV, and First Transit as well. Also tour buses will end up down there too. The safety committees have expressed their concerns about the dangers involved. Just remember, safety first. I have heard there have been many citations given to the public for illegal turns on the mall. Good luck to all.

Other things are going on here at Merlo. The morale continues to go up here at Merlo. Employees seem to be in better moods. It is being recognized by the managers. During Peggy Hanson's last visit a couple of weeks ago, she also noted the improved morale. Morale building is a very important part of our job. We have a tough job and we know it, but it is not so often recognized by the management. Please continue to do a great job, and thank you for the great job you do.

Our safety committee continues to work on a few issues, such as a three-inch spot mirror on the right side to improve visibility of the front right tire and door area. This issue has just gone in front of TCRC on April 16. Although no one from the committee was able to attend, I do hope the importance of this issue was presented to TCRC by Gayle Reese from Safety. We are also asking that the stop at Scholls Ferry and Cascade is removed or combined with the stop at Nimbus heading into Washington Square. The safety committee has had a couple of buses with extreme exhaust leaks inside. If you have any safety concerns for the safety committee, there is a box by Greg Larson's door. Please put all concerns in this box.

I hope everyone had a good spring break. I know my kids are already looking forward to summer break.

Please remember to take your breaks, safety

before schedule. Remember to drive the schedule do not let the schedule drive you.



Portland Public Schools
As reported by
RANDY SHAW

We hold nominations for elected officers at our general Union meeting in May. Anyone who has been active in the Union can run for an office. My term as your Executive Board officer expires this year. I have encouraged all of our shop stewards to take classes to prepare them to run for office. The ones who took advantage of the classes are happy where they are. I am willing to run for another term, but we need new people who are willing to step forward and learn this job.

Our contract expires in July 2010, and we need to start working on it in September of 2009 so we can get the District to the table before our contract expires and we are cheated out of retro pay. The ATU looks to your officer and negotiating team for advice when we are at the table. No matter who wins the election, I would like Pan Sammons to be a member of the negotiating team. Pan was a big help to me behind the scenes on our last contract. She attended the workshop the Union held in March and is willing to help in any way she can. If anyone else would like to be on the team, contact us after the election.

When I used to train drivers, the last thing I used to tell them after they got their license was to protect it, meaning you worked hard to get it, so do what you were trained to do, do your pre-trip and post-trip, watch your driving habits, and don't pick up bad habits. Use your student management, and if you need help or advice, ask for it. Think of your passengers as family members: You want them safe as long as they are on your bus. In addition, if something unusual happens on your bus, write it up, and keep a copy. A paper trail has saved me a number of times.



TriMet Light Rail Transportation
As reported by
MICHAEL T. OLIVER

My apologies to all for missing my notes from last month. Just plain forgot. I start out this month by congratulating three exceptional LROs who avoided injury to pedestrians by performing their work above and beyond. The first Ruby operator is Linda Humiston: In a two-car consist she was coming down the ramp into Old Town. She noticed a man striding down Everett Street without a care in the world. Something rang a bell in her brain, and she reduced speed by half. Sure enough, the guy kept walking, off the curb, into the train, and under it. Linda hit the mushroom and brought the consist to an immediate halt. Before she could do anything, bystanders gathered and pulled the guy from under the train. His only injury was to his elbow. Linda's quick thinking and acting saved this life. I have reviewed the tapes from

the platform cameras and they are chilling.

Next up: Barbara Scott. Babbs was waiting at Lloyd Center WB for the platform to clear. Even though she could relax for those few moments, she was on full alert. Checking the platform-side mirror, she watched a woman walk between the cars and fail to come out the other side. Calling Control to receive permission to leave the cab, she went back and found an obviously distraught woman needing help. Barbara's experience and professionalism saved the day and saved this women's life.

Lastly we have a relatively new operator, Nancy Goodwin, and win she did. Nancy was EB coming into 82nd Ave when she noticed a man too close to the tracks. She gave him low horn and he moved even closer. Utilizing her training she went to braking and high horn. He stepped into the track-way and looked straight at Nancy. She went to emergency braking as he lay down between the tracks. The train skidded to a halt and Nancy called Control, panned down and was making announcements, seemingly all at the same time. She stayed in the cab and watched the emergency personnel arrive. She was talking to Control when, lo and behold, this guy comes crawling out holding on to the coupler head. He was filthy dirty but didn't have a scratch on him. He sat on the side of the platform, pulled out a cell phone and made a call. He was still talking when the transit police cuffed him. Nancy's actions, appropriate and lightning fast, saved this guy. If she was going faster he would have been hit and would not have had time to lay down. Some will say they were just doing their job but I claim they were doing their job before it was due. A great big hug and a thanks to all.

Mark May 11 on your calendar. That is the night we nominate candidates for all the union positions. I do not have to tell you how important the next months are. Nominations on Monday May 11, ballots mailed within the next 10 days, and counted by June 5. Come one and come all. It's democracy in action. Make your voice heard. E-mail me at mtgb2002@msn.com



First Transit TriMet Lift
As reported by
LES GREEN

These last two months have been one of the busiest times I have seen in three years. It does not seem to stop, and I do hope things will settle down in the near future.

We have had Step One on the handbook issue, and as of this writing we are still far apart on many of the issues that have been brought up by First Transit in the new handbook. This will take time, but with the help of Jon and Susan, we should be able to work out the kinks in the near future.

Also remember this is election time for the union. I urge all at First Transit Lift to look over who is running for what and make sure you vote in these troubled times. At least we do not have to worry about our contract until Nov. 30, 2011.

Also, I would like to thank all who took the time to go to the Drivers' Meeting on Wednesday.

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ATU Local 757 Officer Reports

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day April 8. It was very informative and I am sure it answered many questions that we all had about the state of going in-house, as Jon explained it very well.

Again, if you are called in by anyone in management, please remember your Weingarten Rights and use them until you can have a union representative present.

Lastly, there has been some discussion about having a monthly meeting for TriMet Lift so we can discuss things amongst ourselves on a regular basis. If you would be interested, please let me or Ken know and we will see if the details can be worked out.

Well, I will write more next month.



TriMet Powell
As reported by
ROSE JORDAN

Welcome, my brothers and sisters. Time has really flown by, and Powell Garage is doing well. Thanks to the Union for replacing the television that went on the blink. It was about time, since the television was an older model. I'm fully aware that the furniture in the TV room needs to be replaced, and that will be my next task at hand.

There was an error that was brought to my attention in the sign-up posted times. With the revision, we caught it quickly. Thanks to the victory of returning operators back to work who lost their jobs. The Union is on the move. The Drivers' Caucus is the avenue for your questions and answers, and it is held on a Saturday afternoon from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Talking Drum Bookstore. I am proud to say that our attendance has been great and operators are getting their questions answered. Thanks to the property reps who have given their time and input.

Election time is approaching. Please take note of your union boards for upcoming events.

Thank you to the operators who worked on their RDOs for the Gateway bus shuttle. Overtime is becoming very limited. I look forward to continue to represent you in the upcoming elections. Feel free to call upon my assistance. My number is located on the union board.



TriMet Salaried Employees
As reported by
JIM FOWLER

You should all soon be receiving your ballots for the ATU election. I encourage you to take the time to find out as much about the candidates as possible and at the very least please vote. This is an extremely important election for all of us.

I would like to remind everyone that it is not too late to submit your contract suggestions or get on one of the focus groups for the various issues.

We continue to deal with the issue of training for many of the salaried positions. I know in my capacity as a rail supervisor, we have not had any recertification training for our specific job in over seven years. If you feel that there is training you need then send an e-mail to your manager requesting what you need, and be sure to save all responses and followups.

We currently have a grievance we're working on for graveyard controllers who do not get a 30-minute lunch break away from the console. All other controllers and dispatchers do get this break, and with the added work load on the graveyard shift we feel this issue must be addressed. There is a real chance that the Control Center will not receive adequate staffing for the Green Line, which will complicate this issue.

Some of the salaried employees have received letters for time loss. These are serious and need to be dealt with. If you have a chronic condition or are caring for sick kids or elderly parents and your time loss is covered by FMLA or OFLA, be sure to get your paperwork turned in.

As we approach a busy time with the Mall

opening and the vacation period, all of you in Supervision and OCC should be checking the exception logs for overtime that isn't being offered. The station agents are apparently being told not to cover some work. If you should have been called and it's not an HOS violation, then file a time slip.



First Student PPS
As reported by
ANNA TOMPTE

Hello my brothers and sisters. It is with great excitement that I tell you of the election of new ATU officers and local elections of officers for our yard too. Voting will start in May! The positions to be voted on in our yard are for Union Executive Board Representative and Union Liaison Officer.

Upper management and local management at First Student have continued to have a passive attitude and seem to neglect the needs of their drivers, trainers and mechanics. This leaves us drivers the only option of proceeding to step threes and arbitration with almost all of the grievances filed since September of 2008. We continue with the due diligence in these and our unfair labor practices that have been filed and ignored by First Student. Not having an onsite union office has made our task more difficult, but we are here to serve and listen to you.

Please help your fellow drivers out, and one way is to contribute \$1 per month to the drivers' fund for drivers in need. When we all help we can make a difference to so many.

Stay up on your Weingarten Rights and stay informed. It is your union.

The stewards and I are here to serve you!

Bend Area Transit

As reported by
VICTOR GILARDIN

I am really sorry about the lack of communication on my part. With the three new people on the City Council, we have almost come to a standstill.

We (Jim Hutching and I) attended a meeting. The Public Transit Association Committee had a number of the ridership speak, and Heather, our project manager, stated that she would speak at the City Council meeting scheduled for April 15.

We have had a couple of drivers leave. There are, however, two drivers in training as of today. I will be talking to them and having them fill out Union paper work at the next Union meeting April 7.

I will keep better communications from now on. Talk to you next month.

ATU 757 official notice of nominations and elections

(From Page 1)

The President-Business Representative, Vice President-Assistant Business Representative, and Financial Secretary-Treasurer/Recording Secretary shall be nominated at large.

The eligibility and qualifications of officers and delegates shall be in compliance with the Constitution and General Laws. The person must be on the payroll and drawing wages from a job covered by a Local Division collective bargaining agreement, or employed by the Division, sickness excepted.

No member is eligible to hold office in the Division who has not been a member in good standing for at least two years as of the date of the month in which the nomination meeting is held.

If only one candidate is nominated for any office, the Financial Secretary-Treasurer/ Recording Secretary shall be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for the candidate. The President-Business Representative shall then declare him duly and legally elected, and the name shall also appear upon the ballot. No member's name shall be placed on the ballot unless the member was in attendance at the meeting in person when the member was nominated or has signified in writing willingness to accept the nomination for the position for which nominated.

It shall be the duty of the Financial Secretary-Treasurer/Recording Secretary to mail to each member in good standing at the member's last known address notice of nominations and election not less than 15 days before nominations. The Labor Press may be the method of notification.

Section 14 - Elections

Election ballots are to be counted no sooner than 15 days nor later than 20 days from the meeting at which nominations were made.

Voting shall be by mail. The three envelope system shall be used. Ballots shall be sent by U.S. mail to each member's home address, and a post office box shall be rented in Portland, Oregon, for the return of the ballots. To be valid, ballots must be received by 9 a.m. at the post office box on the day specified for the counting of ballots. Only those ballots returned by U.S. mail will be valid.

All votes that are accepted must be clear and in compliance with the Bylaws of the Division. Any blank or mutilated ballots shall be challenged. Any vote cast for any member who was not nominated as these laws herein provide shall not be counted. The ballots shall be preserved according to the International Constitution and General Laws, as amended.

When two or more members are nominated

for an office, the member receiving the most votes shall be declared elected.

When two or more offices are to be filled, such as members of the Executive Board, each office shall be contested separately.

Any candidate may witness the counting of ballots in person or by a representative.

Section 15 - Election Committee

The Election Committee shall consist of a chairperson and four committee members to be elected during the charter and continuation meetings in the month prior to the month in which nominations for Union officer positions are submitted. Any member in good standing may serve on the Election Committee. Members interested in being nominated for the Election Committee but who are not present must submit their nomination request and acceptance to the Financial Secretary in writing prior to the start of the charter meeting. Nominations for the Election Committee can be made only at the charter meeting.

The Election Committee positions shall be filled with at least one position from members working in Oregon from properties in Salem and south thereof; three positions shall be filled

by members working at properties in the greater Portland Metropolitan area, and one position shall be filled from a property in Washington State.

Wages for the Election Committee shall be governed by the prevailing rate of the department in which the chairperson and four committee members work.

When possible, one person from the previous election, if none are elected to the current committee, should be appointed for technical support. Appointed committee members' wages shall be governed by the Financial Secretary.

The election chairman shall have full supervision of the election. The Election Committee shall be provided with all necessary equipment and shall receive all votes of the election.

The Election Committee shall check all samples of ballots for omissions or errors before printing of ballots.

All ballots shall be printed or mimeographed on uniform color paper.

A separate ballot shall be printed for each department.

The Election Committee shall work until all ballots are counted and elected candidates are known. After the ballots are counted, they shall be

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Secretary-Treasurer's Report

By Evette Farra • Financial Secretary-Treasurer

The office staff and I have put in quite a bit of time and energy in preparation of the elected election committee to ensure members receive their correct ballot. There are 41 different ballot types. Your work location and position as of May 11 will determine the ballot type you should receive in the mail. Please keep the office posted of any address changes so we can streamline this process.

We have hired Joanna temporarily to help fill in the gaps while we prepare for the election. She has been a welcome addition and fits right in at the office.

TriMet members are scheduled to receive a 0.73 percent COLA (cost of living adjustment) pay raise on June 1, 2009. This raise is based on the Portland CPI-W report.

Local 757 is now the proud owner of a \$200,000 10-month Certificate of Deposit with a 3 percent interest rate.

Members who know Jackie Pruitt and are aware of her story will be as thrilled as I am that she will be operating a bus again real soon.

I am very sad to report that long-time office mascot Hershey was recently put to sleep. Anyone who's ever visited the office on a Hershey day (the mailman would actually take him for a walk!) will remember the chocolate lab for his friendly, easy-going manner and how he liked to lean into people who took the time to visit with him. Though he will be greatly missed, I feel very fortunate to work in such a dog-friendly environment.



VP's Report

By Sam Schwarz • ATU Local 757 Vice President

It wasn't that long ago that employers gave praise to the employees and were thankful for even the everyday tasks that they performed. More often you would hear praise of the workforce, and the communication lines were always open. Nowadays the workforce is getting mixed signals and the message is always the same: new rules and new punishment.

At TriMet, they don't bother informing the union of new policies or changes. They just impose them first. Policies should be to improve working conditions, skills or customer service. Policies that complicate or punish get very little accomplished.

One such policy at TriMet is the new FMLA and OFLA reporting policy for union employees. It is not only complicated and time-consuming; it's frustrating as well. No one at TriMet bothered to talk to the Union

before implementing the policy, and no one can answer any questions as to how or why things are done in any particular way.

Our members are being scrutinized by a system put in place by management. As if they didn't already have enough to worry about, now they have to worry about whether they are going to get paid correctly or if the right leave bank is being used. We hope to soon have some answers for our members. I have taken a multitude of calls on this issue and as of April 16, 2009, I have no satisfactory answers.

Canby drivers were saddened to hear that Dan Tibs had resigned, as he was a manager in Canby when we first organized the group.

Please call the union if you cannot get in touch with your officer on the property, as many of them have vacations upcoming.

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; Susan K Cottrill-Mulloy; William H Danforth; Ronald M Driver; Michael A Einhoff; 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; Agnes L Johnson; Melvin S King; Ral-dolf O Lader; Tony A Malar; Rockne O Lechel; Michael L Matheny; Johnny M McClintock; Robert L Montgomery; Larry C Nelson; **Don-**

ald T Pattison; **Kenneth A Palmblad**; Tom R Pousche; Jack R Reeves; Dave E Sharp; John Sheffield; Johnny W Shirrell Sr; Alan D Smith; Jerry A Stutzman; Eldon H Thompson; Edmond J Townsend; Gimmie R Vance; **Mary M Walker**; William L Wascher; Peter E Williams; Wilfred W Wimmer; Gerald P Worland; Judy L Zullo. **The names of the 50-year members are in bold type.**

Next month's regularly scheduled ATU 757 Retired Member Chapter meeting is Wednesday, June 3, 2009, at 9:30 a.m. at Westmoreland's Union Manor, 6404 SE 23rd Ave. Coffee and doughnuts will be served at 9 a.m.

May Meetings

Charter

Charter members meet 7:30 p.m. Monday, May 11th, 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, May 12th, at Schoppert Hall, 1801 NE Couch, Portland.

Salem Transit/WHEELS

Salem members meet 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 12th, at the West Salem Branch Public Library 395 Glen Creek Road, Salem.

Lane Transit

Eugene members meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 13th, and Eugene day members meet 10 a.m. Thursday, May 14th, at the Woodworkers Local Lodge, 1124 South A St., Springfield.

Corvallis Laidlaw City Transit/Schools

Corvallis members meet 7:45 p.m. Thursday, May 14th, at Woodstock Pizza, 1045 NW Kings Blvd, Corvallis

Rogue Valley Transportation

Medford members meet 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 14th, at the Hampton Inn, 1122 Morrow Rd., Medford.

Portland and Laidlaw School Bus Drivers

Portland School Bus members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, May 14th, at Rigler School, 5401 NE Prescott, Portland

C-TRAN/C-VAN

Vancouver members meet 7 p.m. Sunday, May 17th, at the Laborers Hall, 2121 NE Andresen, Vancouver, WA.

Tillamook County Transportation District

Tillamook members meet 1:00 p.m. Sunday, May 17th, 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.

Hunt

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willing to make concessions on wages and benefits. Our position is that until we hear otherwise from the membership, negotiated benefits and wages must be maintained 100 percent. Layoffs would be a last approach.

I'm of the mind that TriMet still looks pretty heavy on the management side in these lean times, and that they need to trim the fat in those areas before they start looking at ours. A better idea to pursue is one we are working on in Lane Transit District, looking at potential incentives to make it worthwhile for longtime employees to retire. The approach used in Eugene was initiated by ATU surveying the group to determine which incentive options might work. The departure of a senior operator with six weeks of vacation saves an employer a lot more money than a mini-runner who has just begun.

As we struggle through this rough patch, it's essential that we stay united. Our discussions on contracts should not be held in the bullpen, but reserved for member meetings and focus groups where we are assured there is no management presence. Remember also that Executive Board officer Rose Jordan's focus group meetings, held monthly on Saturdays at the Talking Drum Bookstore, are another venue for these discussions. The next meeting will be May 9 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Talking Drum.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with it, Labor's Community Services Agency is an organization dedicated to assisting union members in need with things like utilities and even food. During my most recent round of property visits I was signing members up for it through payroll deduction or a one-time contribution, and felt like your impressive response was one bright and reassuring spot in these otherwise turbulent times.

Elections

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placed in a ballot box that is locked and sealed in the presence of the committee chairman and the President-Business Representative and delivered to the Division office safe for secure keeping, subject to the Constitution and General Laws, as amended.

The Election Committee shall make a complete written report of the election, and it shall be presented to the first regular Union meeting following the election. Members who are duly elected will be installed at the first regular meet-

ing following final election. Members will assume their duties effective with the first day of the Local Division's fiscal year, July 1-June 30.

Section 16 - Eligibility and Qualifications of Members

The eligibility and qualifications of members shall be in compliance with the Constitution and General Laws. New members applying for membership in the Division after the ballots have initially been mailed shall be issued challenged ballots.