



## And so you asked

By Jon Hunt • ATU Local 757 President

While reviewing the TriMet contract suggestion forms, I have noticed a misperception on the part of some of our members regarding raises. A couple of people have made the point that they have not received raises in a long time, only their cost-of-living increase. This is an understandable error, but it's not true.

Remember that your TriMet contract guarantees you a wage increase at a minimum of 3 percent up to a maximum of 5 percent a year, based on the most recent six-month Portland CPI-W (Consumer Price Index – Urban Wage earner) figures as reported by the United States Department of Labor. These numbers are reported in mid-August (January through June) and mid-February (July through December) each year. What this means is that in any given year, when the change in the Portland CPI-W index from December of one year to December of the following year is less than 3 percent, then the contract-established yearly increase mini-

mum of 3 percent is automatically used, effective the following June.

This means that for the six years of this contract, we have actually seen increases above the CPI-W for every year so far, except in 2007 when the CPI-W was at 3.8 percent, and so we would have received that amount. Are these all the wages above COLA that we deserve? Of course I'm not saying that.

Thank you to everyone who came out extra early one Sunday morning in October to continue our Focus Group contract talks. We reviewed the notes taken at the first session, and then we went through all the contract suggestions again for the sake of those who were not at the first session.

September saw the start of Valley Transit negotiations in Walla Walla, Washington, and the settlement of the WHEELS bargaining agree-

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# ATU Officer Reports



**TriMet Monthly Salaried Employees**  
As reported by  
**BRUCE DUNCAN**

Signup, signup, signup. I was at seven signups last month, 12 since July, and I have a few more coming up over the horizon. The road supervisors should be getting really good at signing, as they have had four just in their department. The best part of signup is I get a chance to see people I don't see on a regular basis. One thing that has come up on every signup is that we still get people who don't show or send a request. So far I have had to sign someone at every signup except one that I have attended. Please submit a request if you are not going to show up in person.

There has been talk about moving to 4/10s in many departments. Changing to 10-hour shifts is a complicated process that may drastically change the way any department covers their workload. 4/10s have been successful in most groups that have tried it. Creating the initial change is the hardest step. Anyone who is interested in 4/10s, feel free to put together a list of suggestions on how 4/10s could work in your department. Send your suggestions to your managers or me. Remember, if you want something changed or different you have a better chance of making it happen if you submit a proposal than if you just hope someone else will do it for you.

I want to thank Tom, Rick, and Ed for submitting suggestions for improving rail supervisor changes. Your help make Part 2 of the signup far better than Part 1. As with any change, there may still be bugs that need to be worked out, so feel free to continue to make suggestions to help make things better. Which reminds me, thanks to all who showed up on Oct. 18 for the focus meeting on contract suggestions.



**TriMet Light Rail Maintenance**  
As reported by  
**JOE RUFFIN**

Hello, brothers and sisters. I hope everything is going fine for you and your family. However, a lot of our fellow Americans are suffering and going through some hard times right now. But the fundamental truth has never been more critical to the future of this country than it is right now. Because today the American middle class isn't being squeezed: We are being crushed.

The surest, the fastest, most effective way to lift workers and our families into the middle class is with the strength that can only, only come with a union contract! So pay attention to what's going on in Congress, and don't be afraid to call your elected representatives to keep our fight alive for decent medical and a livable wage.

It's been very interesting dealing with some of the managers and supervisors. I'm finding out that they hear what they want to hear and disregard the rest of the conversation that we had. And then they inform the members of their version of a conversation. I want to let you know right now: Pick up the phone and call your union officer before you believe any stories that you hear.

There are going to be some changes for the November signup, with management wanting weekend coverage. I'm willing to work with each department in putting together the best schedule possible for our members, and if you have any ideas or questions, just call me or talk to your supervisor. Remember everyone, in the end, it's management's preference. So we must work united to let our voices be heard.

Pre-filings are on the rise in rail due to seniority violations. Some supervisors don't want to pay for their mistakes. Well, we have a working and wage agreement and written SOP's on overtime call-out procedures, and we're going to hold them to it. With that in mind, winter is right around the corner. I know we're going to have some problems with call-out because no one can produce the proper snow and ice callout list for MOW.

Thanks for your time.

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## VP's Report

By Sam Schwarz • ATU Local 757 Vice President

We are working hard to complete negotiations with MV Transportation. Kathy Brown and I have assured the members that we will bring them a complete contract to vote on.

We are gearing up to start negotiations with Canby Wheels, and have a proposal that we will be finalizing.

At TriMet, there is a pilot program that is taking place during the regular signup that will allow operators to submit a vacation hold back request online at TriNet. This will save time and money. There will be union officers present at the signup as well as each garage. If you have any questions they, will help you

through the process as well as the training department.

I was sent to Tillamook to have a meeting with the manager and one of our members regarding punishment, and was very dissatisfied with the outcome. My next meeting with this manager will be very different.

We are meeting for the last time with our focus group from TriMet and are gearing up for negotiations with TriMet. I would like to thank all of our members who attended these meetings and all who submitted suggestions. I would like to thank all of the Executive Board officers for all their hard work. And a special thanks to our retirees who also attended and volunteered.

## 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 Light, 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

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**Lane Transit District**  
As reported by  
BRIAN PASQUALI

Hello, brothers and sisters. As I said to you last time, we need to come together on an issue of significant importance. It's a classic move by Ops management, and we have seen it from time to time before: They choose someone to make an example out of, one of our members, in order to push their rotten agenda.

I'm sure many of you remember the "Tough Love Contract" brought forth months ago. It was put into play by the new HR safety and risk manager in an effort to reduce on-the-job injuries for all. But, like all good programs, when the wrong people get their hands on it, and twist it and abuse it for nefarious purposes, well ... snafu. In its infancy, it was a good idea and so I went along with it as I did have a verbal agreement with the HR manager that the process would never lead to discipline - simply education and prevention. So much for someone's word though, I don't blame him as much as others for what later transpired.

Some time passed, and people still got injured at the same rate. Sick leave, FMLA, OFLA, SAIF, all are there for the worker, to protect the worker. Yet enough to drive a supervisor nuts. They get angry, and stressed, and it shows even though ultimately, the Director of Operations and the District's GM put us all in this position by cutting our drivers' numbers down over the last year.

So the problem is NOT people getting hurt on the job, but ridiculous understaffing, which costs more, and is proven to cause more injuries by the very hard data presented in the same Tough Love SLCA program adopted by the District. But as logic is a hard attribute to locate in many of the District's overhead, they look outward instead of inward. And who did they find? They found one of our operators, our fellow brother, who, after getting hurt while trying to close a window on a 6200 series bus, a bus notorious for having driver's side windows that bind up, was promptly disciplined unfairly.

Like vultures, they circled the operator like an injured animal — waiting, watching, salivating, then proceeded to attack while he was at his weakest. Rough analogy? When I explained to the Operations Head that this move was not only unprecedented, morally wrong and possibly illegal, I added that in all essence this was the same as kicking someone when they are down. He promptly responded, with a grin, "Sometimes people need to be kicked in the \_\_\_'s."

While the comment didn't surprise me, it has given me all the reason I need, as I hope it does you, to stand up and fight! All we asked was that the non-monetary discipline be removed. Simple and fair. They flat-out refused. But their defiance in this case shows their guilt. So you know, you may be asked to help in this effort, so please be ready to stand in solidarity against those who prefer to kick us while we are down as opposed to helping us back up! Contact a Union Officer for more details. We may have to go all in on this one!



**First Student Portland**  
As reported by  
ANNA TOMPTE

Hello, Everyone. I feel the need to inform all of you that I found out about the health insurance being paid this summer in late August. I also found out that some of you went to the doctor over the summer and now have bills that need to be paid. I suggest that you send a letter and the bill to your insurance agent explaining what happened and hopefully they will take care of it. If they don't, we will file on it.

By now everyone should have completed the zonar training. I think it makes the pre trip go by a little smoother. Once you get the hang of it, you will be surprised by how easy it is.

Drivers, please beware of the GPS. It is up and running, and the company is monitoring all the routes, so please watch your speed. They will call you in on it. If by chance you are called in to management, please do not sign anything. Ask to have your rep or steward present.

The weather is changing, so please be extra careful about your surroundings. What I mean is people in the parking lot and in the yard, also once you get out on the road.

I hope everyone is doing okay so far, but if not please see me or Ray Gibson and hopefully we can help.



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

No new grievances or pre-filings. I would like to tell you about the new signup. It is planned to sign on Nov.10, 11 and 12, which may change, and it will be going into effect Nov. 29. One of the reasons for signing so late is that Steve Banta will not allow someone to sign on the side of the signup. If we were to have them in October, we would have a lot of side signing from people retiring, so we will be doing the signup at each garage the way we have always done it before, with one exception.

Now you will tell the E-Board officer what job you want and a clerk at Center Street will type your name and number into the computer system. All garages will look at the screen to make sure that it is correct. There are other things that will help us to make selections, like how many jobs are at a given shop or who the shift supervisor is. All of the Executive Board officers have looked at this and know it will stop a lot of problems that we have with the paper signup. Even though we don't see problems with it right now, we do recognize that there are always unforeseen problems with signup. All of the Maintenance Executive Board officers will be meeting with all of the managers sometime in October to resolve our concerns with signup issues.

Remember to give your bid cards to your Executive Board officer. I know the up-and-coming contract weighs heavily on your minds. I've heard a lot of rumors out there, but what I can tell you in print is that I believe you have voted

in the best group of Executive Board officers and full-time officers to get you the best contract possible.



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

And another Thanksgiving rolls around again. I'm one of the few that can remember celebrating my first Thanksgiving. It is not a holiday celebrated in Europe, so my first one was on the SS United States, 28 November 1957. It coincided with my parents' wedding anniversary, so we had a big party on this giant of a ship, steaming at 30 knots an hour through the North Atlantic. As a 13-year old, I was impressed with the food — my first taste of turkey, yams and other things, including American accents. You guys talk sooooo sloooow. Quite an adventure, and one I shall never forget.

So to give thanks, Jenny and David and Bob, our East and Westside Cleaners. Not only do I get my train cleaned at Cleveland Avenue, I pop into the shack and get candy from the candy jar that Jenny keeps filled. Drop a buck in the jar every so often so Jenny knows how much we appreciate her kind and generous gesture. At the other end, we have Dave, who does an excellent job and with a smile. He is willing to take care of any request we might make of him and with a smile as wide as his heart. The cream in the cake is Bob at BTC. His totally thorough and speedy cleaning is something to behold. You get out of the cab and he starts. By time you are back in the eastbound cab he has finished the entire consist. These three deserve the best of all Thanksgivings and are awarded "Maintenance Honors" for 2009. Cheers and Bon Appetit to all.

Complaints from both garages about the "pass-up" rule. Give me a break. It is done. File a grievance. 'Nuff said. Holding back vacation weeks will be done differently this year. TriMet is attempting to be more accurate and efficient by instituting an "electronic version" of the hold-back procedure. No more paper flying back and forth, just electronic signals, so check your bulletin boards for the updates.

Winter S/U began Monday Oct. 19, and the best of the drawer to all. Continue to send e-mails to mtgbo2002@msn.com.



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

Wow, time sure has flown by this year! It's already November. Can you believe it? We only have just about two months remaining in 2009. Okay, let's get started. Per our contracts, we need to submit our reimbursement for our fitness dues to C-TRAN in the month of November for payment in December.

Scott and I settled a grievance today with C-TRAN whereby our member was given a miss-out due to extraordinary circumstances. The miss-out was removed, and he was paid for his suspension day. Since the fitness grievance was denied at Step "B," I have already asked the Port-

land office to move this grievance on to arbitration. The membership should be seeing this arbitration request this month or next.

As far as layoffs go, on Oct. 13, the Board of Directors voted 7 to 1 to do the service reductions. On Wednesday, Oct. 14, I was at the trailer park briefing the membership as to what would happen now. So, for the record, the most members that could be laid-off at this time, is now set at no more than 18. On Nov. 9, 2009, Marge, Sharon, Larry and I will start the fixed route run cut for January. Just so you know, the fixed route run cut will decide the total number of full-time as well as part-time operators. I have started discussions with C-TRAN concerning what they will offer the members who want to leave/retire (incentives) in earnest. It's looking good on that front, but only time will tell.

Prior to the board meeting on Oct. 13, our crystal ball was very milky. Now it's cleared up (some.) We can see more of the picture in this crystal ball, but there are still parts that we need to have cleaned up. In the days and weeks ahead, our crystal ball will clear up. As I know more, so will you. If you can't find me, (I'm on vacation) ask one of your other Union Officers. I've briefed them on what's happening (as much as I can) so they should be able to answer most, if not all, of your questions.

Please contact Scott while I'm away being Kathy's husband. Please remember that our Union meeting this month (unless it changes again) will be Nov. 22.



**TriMet Powell Transportation**  
As reported by  
KHRIS ALEXANDER

I have three new grievances, and of course they I won't be settled without going through the steps, since management is never wrong and I have my hands full with two of three managers at my property because I'm the new guy.

I hope a lot of you have got your Trinet accounts set up and have learned the new electronic vacation holdback that will be used in December 2009. If you still need help with it, please contact me or the garage trainers.

Also, I must stress the importance of filling out a signup request slip. Please write down the run number, not line and trains. I would say write down the type of work you are wanting, i.e., split, straight, a.m./p.m., time off, etc. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call or text me at 503-890-4870. Remember, safety before schedules. Take your breaks/recovery time and use the facilities.



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

First the good news. We will soon see our new lift building going up, as TriMet is scheduled to start building in October using government stimulus money. As always, the government puts the cart before the horse: TriMet can only use stimulus money for building or equipment but

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# ATU Local 757 Officer Reports

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very little for operating expenses. Why, we can only guess. The new building will be located where the old trailer was and will bring back memories for us senior drivers.

What is happening on our property? Too much for this small article, so I will just touch on the many problems that are getting the most press. They are: 1) seniority issues; 2) the current letter of direction; 3) the internal conflict amongst management or the lack of direction; 4) loss of workable hours or closure of routes; and 5) additional hiring even if there is a lack of work to go around. If I have missed any, please let me know and I will make sure they are addressed in my next article.

I would also like to give a special thanks to Sam Schwarz for the many hours he is giving to the Paratransit side between MV and First Transit. Without his help, we would have many more problems than we already have.

I would also like to give a hearty round of applause for our budding author Steve Webb. I have read his new book, and overall it is a winner. Keep up the good work, Steve.

Again, I would like to emphasize that rumor is just what it implies. Go to Ken, Rusty or me to see if there is any truth to it.

Have a safe month, and remember the less fortunate this Thanksgiving season. Take care and remember to be safe. Your passengers depend on you.



**MV Transportation**  
As reported by  
KATHLEEN BROWN

Hello, everyone! Brothers and sisters, it looks like now everything is coming down to the wire with negotiations as we are wrapping up for the presentation for all of you. Keep checking the Union board (The glass case in the northeast corner of the bullpen.)

President Jonathan Hunt will be setting up a meeting place to go over the contract and then we will all have an opportunity to take it home and examine it carefully before casting our votes on it. Remember that your vote is a personal decision and that if anyone tries to sway you on how to vote that it is an unfair labor practice.

We recently had two grievances resolved in Step 1 on unjust attendance points and abuse of progressive discipline. We have another open grievance on a termination that is now in progress. Vice President Sam Schwarz and I will do our best to resolve the issue.

Cynthia "Cindy" Russell and I have been working with General Manager Helen Bueno and Window Dispatch Manager Lonna Trombly on a pilot program to alert drivers when excessive hours are cut. So far it seems to be a vast improvement and gives us an opportunity to make up lost work and or change out lost hours. This does not cancel out our compensatory work program; it actually compliments it.

The weather is starting to get wet and it is getting darker outside earlier, so when you inspect your buses, remember that a good flashlight is a good investment. You may not be able to see everything, so please mark on your pre-trip form

that the bus was inspected in the dark. Make sure that you have all of your winter weather supplies and a kit in case you break down and have no power or get stuck in the snow. It can get pretty cold really quick. Taking a little extra time and money to be prepared is priceless when it comes to your own safety. Until next time....



**TriMet Merlo Transportation**  
As reported by  
JEFF ACKERSON

Hello, fellow operators! Welcome to a new chapter in TriMet history. The electronic sign-up will become available for all transportation employees. Computer training is available to all operators. This will be provided by the training department and the ATU Executive Board officers. My belief is that the convenience will outweigh the learning curve.

The ongoing grievance regarding the BDS system has now moved to Step 2. In that meeting, I was informed that the current policy is null and void. So much for bargaining in good faith. The ATU was never informed of this change, which will move us to Step 3.

Regarding policy, our bus open door policy has outlived its intention. Recently, upon returning from a break, a Merlo operator discovered a person in a mobility device had loaded herself on our bus. This is just another in a series of events that proves that this policy should be null and void.

Contract negotiations begin soon. My belief is that wages and benefits are always our first priority. However also in collective bargaining we should focus on our working conditions.

If you have any questions or concerns, I am always available for you.

Congratulations to Buzz Murray and Paul Surbay on their retirements.

**Valley Transit**  
As reported by  
MARK BROTHERTON

A 30 percent service hour reduction was recommended by management at the Valley Transit board meeting in July. The reduction was needed to offset a budget deficit. After the August Board of Directors meeting, a group of concerned citizens met and formed what is now called the Campaign for Valley Transit.

In less than a month, over 2,000 signatures in support of increasing the sales tax rate by 3/10 of 1 percent were gathered, and over \$13,000 was pledged. The Board of Directors voted unanimously to allow Valley Transit to put a tax measure on the February ballot and to forego any service hour reductions until after the outcome of the vote. Success at the ballot should make Valley Transit sustainable at the local level. That sustainability, along with management's ability to write and have grants awarded should preserve and possibly expand services for many years to come.

I would personally like to thank the Campaign for Valley Transit for the group of dedi-

cated people who helped accomplish so much in so little time. Thanks to ATU 757, ATULC, Jon Hunt and Roy Jennings for all their help as well. The first step has been taken in getting the tax increase on the ballot.

After the November election, the fight is on. Getting the tax increase is not going to be easy, but we are in it to win it. By the way, the first round of Union negotiations was the same day of the board meeting in July.

**Bend Area Transit**  
As reported by  
VICTOR GILARDIN

Hi, all. Another month has gone by. Nothing much going on in August. However the month of September has been a little rocky. We had a problem with drivers'

routes not being covered, parts of routes not covered, all management's errors. The driver would get the manifest for Dial-a-Ride in the morning. We had a river route that is covered during the summer months. Seems management didn't cover it and blamed it on a driver. I went in to management's office and told them that it was their problem, not the drivers. All management would say is "I don't care." about five times. The driver and I got a copy of his manifest for that day and a copy of the schedule for that week. Seems the run wasn't on the drivers route to be done.

Another union member just told me that he was assaulted by a member of management about a week after he started work here. He told me, and I asked him to write it up. I just faxed Jon a copy Sunday. I'm waiting for a response so we can get an assault charge against him.

I was on vacation the first week of October. Our Union meeting was Oct. 6 and conducted by my alternate steward Jim Hutchings.

Jon said he would visit one of our Union meetings down here in Bend, and I am looking forward to his visit. Just need to touch bases with him on which month. It's starting to get into the winter here. Should be snowing by the end of October, early November. That's about it. I will write more next month.



**TriMet Center Transportation**  
As reported by  
SANDY GUENGERICH

Hello everyone. I have now returned to work and I have also been very busy dealing with FMLA, Reed Group grievances. We are taking it to arbitration.

The new buzz at TriMet is that sign-up is going electronic for vacation sign-up, so make sure that everyone takes care of looking at their time loss. I also need your yellow cards or at least copies of them so I can help you resolve your issues.

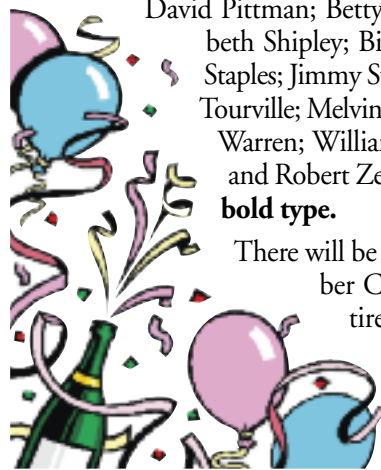
Cell phones are another subject that I've been hearing about. Remember that you have to lock your bus up at a safe spot and step off the bus when making any calls or texts when you are in route.

I also have a lot of complaints on the fax machine that people use for Reed Group. If your fax continues to get denied, keep the transmittal sheet copies so that we can show TriMet that they're not getting through to Reed Group. And when you really want it to get through, take it to Kinko's and get your confirmation and keep all your copies.

## Retirees' Corner

The following retirees will celebrate birthdays in November: Lucille Abernathy; Laura Allen; Frank Anthony; Clarsie Apley; Linda Bilyeu; Carroll Bishop; Terry Brown; Janice Brown; Thomas Christensen; Judy Coleman; Obedell Coxeff; Robert Daniell; Darwin Eisele; Alan Eisenberg; Shirley Ellis; James Gaither; Lynn Gartrell; Dorothy Hansen; Fred Helm; Dennis Hiestand; Roscoe Hollis; Georgia Lamb; **Ralph Lapp**; Carol Larson; Earl Lowery; Warren Mays; Darlene McArthur; June Millhollin; Ola Mitchell; Mario Moll; Patrick Murnin; William Murphy;

David Pittman; Betty Price; Pamela Schmitz; **Donald Seeley**; Elizabeth Shipley; Billie Smoak; Janice Sorlie; Obeary Spires; Kathy Staples; Jimmy Strong; Albert Szejter; Evelyn Tomlinson; Donald Tourville; Melvin Van Vorst; Walter Warren; Avis Warren; William Warren; William Wegesend Jr.; David Wiskow; Eddie Wright; and Robert Zeller. **The names of the 50-year members are in bold type.**



There will be no regularly scheduled ATU 757 Retired Member Chapter meeting in December, instead the Retirees' Christmas party will be Dec. 4 at the Milwaukie Elks.

# November Meetings

## Charter

Charter members meet 7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 16, 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, Nov. 17, at Schoppert Hall, 1801 NE Couch, Portland.

## Salem Transit/WHEELS

Salem members meet 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17, at the West Salem Branch Public Library 395 Glen Creek Road, Salem.

## Lane Transit

Eugene members meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18, and Eugene day members meet 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, at the Woodworkers Local Lodge, 1124 South A St., Springfield.

## Corvallis First Student City Transit/Schools

Corvallis members meet 7:45 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, at Woodstock Pizza, 1045 NW Kings Blvd, Corvallis

## Rogue Valley Transportation

Medford members meet 7:30 p.m. Thurs-

day, Nov. 19, at the Hampton Inn, 1122 Morrow Rd., Medford.

## Portland and First Student School Bus Drivers

Portland School Bus members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, at Rigler School, 5401 NE Prescott, Portland

## C-TRAN/C-VAN

Vancouver members meet 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22, at the Laborers Hall, 2121 NE Andresen, Vancouver.

## Tillamook County Transportation District

Tillamook members meet 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22, 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.

# Report on the ATU Latino Caucus

By Sergio Garcia

Shop Steward, Powell Garage

September 10-14, 2009 was the ATU Latino Caucus' 20th anniversary. Representing Oregon were ATU Local 747 President Jonathan Hunt, Executive Board member Jeff Hunt, shop steward Rose Jordan-Fairley, and myself, a shop steward.

We found the reports of the officers very interesting and well-spoken, addressing subjects such as President Obama and health care, dangerous dogs, alcohol on the job, and new laws the drivers have to follow. The treasurer's report was about all the expenses during the year and many other topics.

The Latino Caucus leadership consists of President Jose G. Guerrero, Vice President Ed Figueroa, Treasurer David Benavides, Recording Secretary Corina de la Torre, and Board members Antonio Vargas (Western Region), Wilson M. Rios (Midwestern Region), Juan Orta (Northeastern Region), Bernardo Menendez (Southeastern Region), and Juan Fernandez, Jr. (Southwestern Region). The Northwestern and Canadian regions' Board positions were vacant. President Guerrero expressed the need for those vacancies to be filled. The Canadian region had no problems filling their open position right away with the person who was nominated, but the Northwest was something else. President Jonathan Hunt nominated me, and a woman from Tacoma, Washington was nominated by someone else. President

Guerrero determined that there was going to be a vote.

With the help of my president, we campaigned as much as we could for a couple of days. The day of the vote arrived, and there was tension, emotion, questions and answers. The vote was tight, but in the end I won.

I am eager to start our own Latino Caucus 757 Chapter here in the Northwest. If you are interested in being an officer or a member, please contact me at 503-573-1144 or e-mail me at sir-garcia@msn.com. Please keep an eye on the union board for notices of upcoming meetings.

From the depth of my essence, thank you very very much to all those who voted for me, starting with Jon, my president, for having the confidence in me to perform such a noble job. Also thanks to Sam Schwarz, Vice President at Local 757, for enrolling me in the union in the first place.

To the Latino Caucus membership, officers, and ATU brothers and sisters, I, Sergio Garcia Lomeli, vow that I will do the work that you want me to do, responsibly with discipline, obedience and pleasure at all times.

Happy 20th Anniversary, ATU Latino Caucus. We had fun, we had happiness and we had a solid spirit to keep going for another 20, 50, 100 to the infinite years of service to the cause to the community and our countries.

From me to all,

Gracias un billon, because you're all divine human beings.

# 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

C-TRAN.....ROY JENNINGS  
 First Student .....ANNA TOMPTE  
 Lane Transit District (LTD).....BRIAN PASQUALI  
 Portland Public Schools .....TERRY HOWARD  
 Salem Area Mass Transit District.....KEN RICHINS  
 TriMet Center Maintenance.....CHAD MATHER  
 TriMet Center Transportation.....SANDY GUENGERICH  
 TriMet Powell Maintenance .....DAVID KAY  
 TriMet Powell Transportation .....KHRIS ALEXANDER  
 TriMet Merlo Maintenance.....JEFF HUNT  
 TriMet Merlo Transportation .....JEFFREY ACKERSON  
 TriMet LRT Maintenance .....JOE RUFFIN  
 TriMet LRT Transportation.....MICHAEL T. OLIVER  
 TriMet Monthly Rated Employees.....BRUCE DUNCAN  
 Tillamook County Transportation District .....MARLENE TAYLOR  
 TriMet Merlo Extra Board .....STEVE ECKLES  
 TriMet Center Extra Board .....CHRIS DAY  
 TriMet Powell Extra Board.....GORDON DUNCAN  
 TriMet Ruby Junction .....JEAN STRICKLAND  
 TriMet Ruby Junction Maintenance .....DAVID LINGLE  
 TriMet Elmonica .....GREG DODGE  
 TriMet Elmonica Maintenance..... DAVE HARVEY  
 Valley Transit.....NICK NOTARAS  
 WHEELS .....OPEN POSITION



# Secretary-Treasurer's Report

By Evette Farra • Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Hi, everyone. It's an exciting time for our beloved executive secretary, Melissa. She and her husband, Steve, are expecting a baby girl, Jessi Marie, due in early December. As you can imagine, we're all VERY excited. Personally, I've already decided how I plan to spoil this child with love and attention. During her maternity leave, other staff members will be sharing her duties until her return. Direct your initial inquiries to Joanna and she will direct your calls.

Speaking of children, the TriMet Child/Elder Care Fund expense reports are due by Dec. 1. If you want to know if you qualify, please contact myself or Catharine at the union office, 503-232-9144. We would be happy to help you. For all our members, in November and December we will be holding our traditional Fred Meyer gift cards drawings at the charter meeting and follow-up property meetings for those who attend. This is an enjoyable season for us, and we would love to see you there.

A few words about fixing equipment safety issues: At the end of your shift, regardless of whether you represent maintenance, station agents, supervisors, mechanics, or transportation operators, the last thing you feel like doing is filling out paperwork. We understand. Most

of us have been there ourselves.

Unfortunately, paperwork is exactly what is needed to fix equipment safety issues. All of us need to make an attempt to leave a trail for OSHA if ongoing equipment failures persist. When we take the time to fill out equipment failure cards, we need to remember that we have union brothers and sisters who work on these issues. These are good people, just like you and me; they've got your back. Persistent issues can then be brought before the properties' safety committees.

Ultimately, failure by management to change and/or repair these issues will result in a union-generated request for federal agencies like OSHA to investigate. Substantiated issues may result in a fine. In the end, it is our desire that resolutions will be enforced to protect your health and well-being. This entire process relies on you to be faithful in reporting equipment safety issues.

TriMet members will not receive a cost of living rate increase in December. This is due to the Portland area reporting a decrease in the cost of living. This means TriMet members will see an increase of at least 3.00 percent June 1, 2010 under our current contract.

# Hunt

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ment. Thanks go out to Ken Richins, Salem Executive Board officer, for his invaluable assistance in

negotiating that contract.

October has been even busier than September; not only have I been negotiating the Canby WHEELS and Corvallis City and School Bus Contracts, but TriMet negotiations were due to begin October 22.