



## And so you asked

By **Jon Hunt** • ATU Local 757 President

This year's picnic was well attended. Additionally, U.S. Senator Ron Wyden and State Senators Ben Westlund and Kate Brown were there, while Commissioner Sam Adams called out bingo. The general manager from Salem, and Tom Chamberlain, president of the Oregon AFL-CIO, were in attendance as well.

This last year has been filled with strife and curveballs that no union should have to bear. With that said, it is time to move on. Our focus now will be on collaboration. I would like to welcome our new financial secretary-treasurer, Evette Farra. We will all be working together to bring Evette up to speed.

I want to thank Kevin Kinoshita for serving as interim financial secretary-treasurer. Kevin is a true union activist and we would like to see him stay involved. We wish the best for Kevin and his family.

We have been in communication with the U.S. Attorney's office and should know more regarding Mr. Wallace's sentencing by mid-September. We are facing a strike with our mem-

(Turn to Page 16)



## VP's Report

By **Sam Schwarz** • ATU Local 757 Vice President

Well, summer is winding down and everyone is getting ready for the fall. The ATU picnic was a very pleasant change this year, at least weatherwise, as the temperature never got above 72. The grand prize was a 67-inch HD Samsung TV with a stand.

Here are a few things we have accomplished over the last fiscal year. At TriMet we have a side letter guaranteeing the second week of hold back vacation for full-time and part-time operators. We also have a side letter agreement on fixed vacation for full-time operators that guarantees 55 weeks per week in the summer

and 40 weeks for Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Those numbers can only go up. At Rail we were successful in adding two more days per week of summer vacation for four months. This added about 34 weeks. We were also successful in getting pay for the operators that were hurt, and getting the letter removed from sign-up that said an operator could not pass up.

The mediation process has been instrumental in solving 20 grievances that were scheduled for arbitration. At Streetcar we are working with the manager to

(Turn to Page 16)

# Officer Reports



### Portland Public Schools

As reported by **RANDY SHAW**

Well, it won't be long now, and we can all say good-bye to Mister Fun and hello to the kids.

We met with the District again in August to work on the contract, but the District didn't come prepared to work. It's funny that they couldn't wait to shove a bad contract down our throats in June, but now that we have had time to review it, they no longer want to discuss it. We told them we would take a modest raise and even pay a percentage of our medical

and we would send the contract to the members for a vote, but they said no. They said if we had let you vote on the bad contract in June you would have accepted it. We told them we explained the June contract to the members and the membership said no; they could see what the District was pulling and they were mad as hell.

For those of you who don't know, the District gets reimbursed by the State for 70 cents of every dollar they spend on transportation. That means if they are willing to pay \$779 a month for medical insurance, it is only costing them around \$234 a month, because they receive \$545 from the State. We're part-time employees. Why should we have to subsidize the

rest of the District for their medical insurance? I can understand this, the Union understands it, and now you understand it, but the problem is THE DISTRICT DOESN'T UNDERSTAND IT.

At this last round of talks, the District had the nerve to tell us that our bus drivers wouldn't back the union; that we would cave in when it came right down to push and shove. We showed them that they are wrong. They have gone too far this time. The drivers are mad as hell and are ready to stand up and be heard. We have heard this for almost two years and still don't have a new contract. Now is not the time to give up. We can't go backwards.



### TriMet Salaried Employees

As reported by **JIM FOWLER**

Summer is almost over and we're still trying to get pay for fare inspectors who were not offered work on the day of the Starlight Parade. We had a large contingent of managers, Wackenhut, and TriMet volunteers out there working the parade, but fare inspectors, who for years have been offered overtime for this event, were excluded. While we're on the subject, perhaps we should insist that all front line bargaining unit people be offered overtime for

(Turn to Page 15)

## Amalgamated Transit Union - Division 757

Representing working men and women in Oregon and Washington at:

TriMet • Lane Transit District • Rogue Valley Transportation District • Portland Public Schools • Lamar Advertising Company (formerly Obie Media) • Valley Transit Association • Laidlaw Transit Services, Inc. (TriMet Lift, Portland) • American Medical Response Northwest (Josephine County) • Laidlaw Transit, Inc. (Portland Public Schools, Corvallis School District, Corvallis City Transit) • MV Transportation, Inc. • C-TRAN/C-VAN • Salem Area Transit • WHEELS • Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, Inc. • Tillamook County Transportation District • ATU Retired Member Chapter



## What IS this?

The four outside pages are news from and about your Union. The other pages are produced by the Northwest Labor Press, and are about the labor movement as a whole.

# September Meetings

## Charter

Charter members meet 7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 10, in the Machinists Building, 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland. Charter day members meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 11, at Schoppert Hall, 1801 NE Couch, Portland.

## Salem Transit/WHEELS

Salem members meet 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 11, at the Comfort Inn and Suites (formerly Salem Inn) 1775 Freeway Court NE, Salem.

## Lane Transit

Eugene members meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 12, and Eugene day members meet 10 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 13, at the Woodworkers Local Lodge, 1124 South A St., Springfield.

## Corvallis Laidlaw City Transit/Schools

Corvallis members meet 7:45 p.m. Thursday Sept. 13, at Woodstock Pizza, 1045 NW Kings Blvd, Corvallis

## Rogue Valley Transportation

Medford members meet 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 13, at the Hampton Inn, 1122 Morrow Rd., Medford.

## Portland and Laidlaw School Bus Drivers

Portland School Bus members meet 6 p.m. Thursday Sept. 13, at Rigler School, 5401 NE Prescott, Portland

## C-TRAN/C-VAN

Vancouver members meet 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 16, at the Laborers Hall, 2232 NE Andresen, Vancouver, Washington.

## Tillamook County Transportation District

Tillamook members meet 1:00 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 16, 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

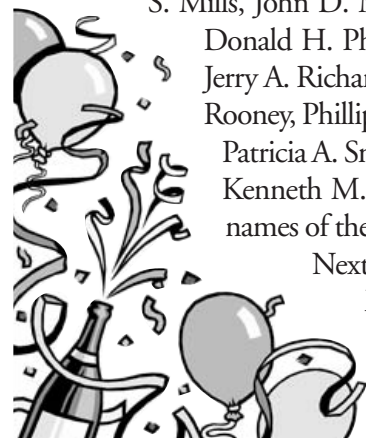
# Retirees' Corner

The following retirees will celebrate birthdays in September: Gerald A. Aaron, **Byron C. Anderson**, Sam L. Avery, Terry E. Bergland, Kenneth R. Bruce, Marian K. Chulos, Michael L. Clafin, Randall N. Conant, Donald G. Coombs, Charles R. Cummins, Arthur T. Deming, Donald W. Dunn, **Clyde H. Earl Sr.**, Richard T. Emra, Stephen E. Gillmer, Raymond A. Goff, Howard M. Green, William J. Guthrie, Ronnie G. Hartman, Dale F. Helmer, Rolf E. Hermes, Robert J. Hoelt, Charles E. Holden, Jimmy G. House, **Chester W. Johnson**, Linda K.

Kallberg, Pauline Kelly, Karl Klotz, Victor M. Kuss, David A. Mariman, Harry S. Mills, John D. Mitchell Sr., Stephen D. Orr, Simone V. Oviatt,

Donald H. Phillips, Darrell R. Propst, Douglass M. Renfrow, Jerry A. Richardson, Greg H. Rivera, Alvin F. Roder, Charles E. Rooney, Phillip J. Rotella, George C. Schmidt, Terry L. Scudder, Patricia A. Smith, Kenneth W. Stambaugh, William F. Strong, Kenneth M. West, Christy M. Yelton, Albert D. 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, October 3, 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.



# ATU Local 757 Officers

President-Business Representative.....JONATHAN HUNT  
 Vice President-Assistant Business Representative .....SAM SCHWARZ  
 Financial Secretary-Treasurer/Recording Secretary.....EVETTE FARRA

## Executive Board Officers

TriMet Center Maintenance.....CHAD MATHER  
 TriMet Center Transportation.....JACK NEWBERRY  
 TriMet Powell Maintenance .....OPEN POSITION  
 TriMet Powell Transportation .....ROSE JORDAN  
 TriMet Merlo Maintenance.....JEFF HUNT  
 TriMet Merlo Transportation .....BRUCE HANSEN  
 TriMet LRT Maintenance .....MIKE CONNER  
 TriMet LRT Transportation.....MICHAEL T. OLIVER  
 TriMet Monthly Rated Employees.....JIM FOWLER  
 Lane Transit District (LTD).....WALT BOYNTON  
 Portland Public Schools .....RANDY SHAW  
 Laidlaw Education Services .....KENDALL GREENAWALT, JR.  
 C-TRAN.....ROY JENNINGS  
 Salem Area Mass Transit District.....KEN RICHINS

## Liaison Officers

TriMet Merlo Extra Board .....STEVE ECKLES  
 TriMet Center Extra Board .....TERRY McMURRY  
 TriMet Powell Extra Board.....KHRIS ALEXANDER  
 TriMet Ruby Junction .....DOUG "SPUD" HENDERSON  
 TriMet Ruby Junction Maintenance .....JOE RUFFIN III  
 TriMet Elmonica .....JASON CHOI  
 TriMet Elmonica Maintenance..... VACANT  
 SAT Maintenance.....DON ELZNIC  
 LTD Chairman.....DEB BITTERLICH  
 LTD Secretary .....TOM SHACKELFORD  
 LTD Maintenance.....LEE LASSE  
 LTD Extra Board .....CARL FADDIS  
 Rogue Valley Transportation District .....THOMAS 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-VAN.....JIM COLLELL  
 WHEELS .....JOHN HARVEY  
 Tillamook Cnty. Trans. Dist. ....PATRICIA OSTRANDER-NICE

# ATU Local 757 Officer Reports

(From Page 1)

these events before we allow managers and outside contractors to do the work. I'm sure station agents, customer service, training, and others would like a piece of the action.

We finally had our meeting with management to discuss how Wackenhut is to be used on our system. We came up with several ideas as to what they can and can't do to stay in accordance with the arbitration decision that allows them to work on TriMet property. Meetings will be set up with inspectors and supervisors to fine-tune the list.

Customer Service is in the process of voting to decide whether or not to abandon the uniform requirement at the Holladay Office. If adopted, they would wear business casual Monday through Thursday and casual on Friday.

I would like to welcome Dick Garvin back to the bargaining unit. He has left management and is now the chief at the new Ruby Junction Station Agent position.

It looks like finally after over three years in temporary positions, Dick Peterson and Wade Hull will finally get permanent status as coordinators. It's about time. Congratulations to you both.

Also, congratulations are in order for April Avery and Jack Goetz, who have both recently retired. You will certainly be missed. I hope you both have a long and healthy retirement. Good luck.

## C-TRAN/C-VAN

As reported by  
JOE HENDRIX

I want to thank Roy Jennings for allowing me the opportunity to write this month's article. As all of you may be aware, we have a new run cut-out for the fixed route operators' service change on Sept. 30. Some of these routes may have unrealistic time points, recovery times, and/or run times, etc., not to mention a lack of proper restrooms and, in some locations, no place for operators to take a break or leave their coaches. This is the result of C-TRAN management, and not our operators who worked on these changes. On Aug. 13, our President (Jon Hunt) sent a letter to C-TRAN's executive director Jeff Hamm demanding a meeting to remedy the above inadequacies and unrealistic demands placed on the operators by C-TRAN management. We all have a right to a safe and healthy work environment!

According to state and federal laws, we all have a right to breaks. The truth is that

when we make these runs work (either by speeding or by giving up our breaks), C-TRAN will always want more. With the new InIt system, the possibilities of getting a break could diminish with every new run cut. If you fall behind, don't worry about it. It's C-TRAN's job to worry about it. Again, it's their job; don't you do their job for them! Remember, this is about you and your family's livelihood. If you have any safety issues, please feel free to contact me.

## Laidlaw Portland Public Schools

As reported by  
ANNA TOMPTE

Wow, my Brothers and Sisters, what a picnic it was! The annual ATU 757 picnic for 2007 went off with as much fun, food and music as you could ever want. The day was cloudy but warm with a light sprinkle as the lucky tickets were called out. Over 25 percent of our drivers and mechanics showed up to the festivities, and all were ready for school to start.

If you want to see your personnel file, you should know that you have a right to go to Defensive Driving and Safety and inspect your file at any time. Though you cannot remove the file, you may make copies. If you have any doubts or questions about what's in your file regarding reprimands or complaints coming from management, be sure to contact your union officer.

With bid day approaching and all the last-minute rush to get credentials updated, you would think it was just another year. However DDS has been training many new drivers to replace the many that have moved on or done that retirement thing again. The mechanics have had no rest this summer, getting buses in from Alaska, Minnesota and California to prep for the Oregon Trail SD in Sandy, Oregon.

I hope you all had a good summer.



## TriMet Center Maintenance

As reported by  
CHAD MATHER

The picnic seemed to go pretty smoothly this year. I found some things we need to tweak for next time. I really want to thank everyone who worked the front sign-in area. It looked like everything ran well this year. Those of us that have worked it before know what an accomplishment that is.

I also can't forget the bingo Nazi. Good

job, Rose. Please send any comments or criticism regarding the picnic to me at chad\_mather@hotmail.com. We will try to get them addressed or resolved by next year's picnic.

## TriMet Center Transportation

As reported by  
JACK NEWBERRY

The Union picnic has come and gone and I hope that everyone had a great time. A special thanks to the Brothers and Sisters who worked so hard together to make it an enjoyable time for all of us. Please don't forget to thank them one and all for another job well done.

Now, back at the ranch, as you have heard, it's time to anticipate some changes. The CSI program, the BOG and yes, the schedules, are getting a lot of well-deserved attention, long past due, so keep up the pressure and fill out the yellow cards. Don't assume that another operator will.

Our new top management team is expressing a willingness to address our many concerns. As you probably know by now, Stephen Banta is our new executive director and Tim Garling is our senior director. Stephen Banta's catchphrase, "we are now open for business" and Tim Garling's motto "employee support" should prove to be an interesting mix for all of us.

I would like to welcome our newest shop stewards at Center Garage: Tim Mulligan is a 25-year operator and the author of Mulligan Stew Reports. Tim Glass is a seven-year full-time operator whose comment was: "may not be the best, but will try to be the best." Recarr (Ricky) Jones is a full-time operator of seven years. Ricky is a strong personality and not afraid to say what she thinks. This makes her a good fighter to have on our side. These and the other shop stewards' names and phone numbers are posted on the Union bulletin board. Please contact them whenever you have any questions or need help. Ben Franklin said, "We must hang together, or they will hang us separately."

We have new operators joining us, so don't forget to introduce yourself and make them feel welcome. I'm sure you remember what it was like back in the day. Let's work together to strengthen our Union and working conditions. Always do your best. No one can be the best at everything, but when all of us combine our talents we can be the best at virtually anything. Teamwork.



## TriMet Merlo Maintenance

As reported by  
JEFF HUNT

There were no new pre-filings this month. We had one Step 2 that will be moving on to Step 3. This particular grievance is about survivor spouse's benefits being taken away. All Step 3s on this month's panel were settled.

The new safety vest standard operating procedure (or maybe it's just a new way to look at the old procedure) is this: We now have to wear them all the time.

I agree with a lot of you that implementing this sort of thing without meeting with us first is ridiculous. The maintenance officers have had one meeting with the Head of Safety, Tommy Galbreath, to address our concerns about it. Please tell your maintenance officer what you like and don't like about it, and we welcome any suggestions on how to resolve this.

Yard safety is very important to all of us. The Merlo Safety Committee is working on, and will soon have, set rules for the yard so that everyone is doing the same thing. If you have a safety problem, tell your rep as soon as possible, before these problems escalate into larger issues. If your rep is not willing to help you, or you are not satisfied with their results or feedback, please contact your Executive Board Officer.



## Lane Transit District

As reported by  
WALT BOYNTON

Goodbye and happy golfing to Ron Anderson, who retired mid-July after 34 plus years of service. Also Betty Raz retired mid-August and can now attend the football games instead of driving the shuttles (not by her choice but because she needed to sign up to avoid being force canceled). Good luck, and enjoy your retirement!

Congratulations to our newest one-year plus employees: Marcos Ballestros, Dee Edwards, Sandra Hansen, Steve Howard, Aaron Maddox and Brian Pasquali. You accomplished no small feat!

Welcome, new drivers: Bill Eisele, Seth Hamlin (former Wackenhut officer in Springfield), Sandy Howell, Randy Dresser, Karen Burns, Cesar Durate and Teresa Robinson. Also, welcome Courtney Stringer, new general service worker.

(Turn to Page 16)

# Hunt

(From Page 1)

bers in Josephine County. The major sticking points are health insurance and wages.

We are busy bargaining our first contracts in our three newest properties — Bend, Candy, and North Bonnevillle.

The battle with Portland Public Schools continues.

We have a tentative agreement with C-TRAN's paratransit and fixed route operators; however, two contracts remain open at C-TRAN.

At NECN, we have been working with the board of directors and expect a settlement soon.

Lane Transit District will most likely be our first transit agency to use binding arbitration. They claim to care about their employees, but we don't see that at the bargaining table.

# Schwarz

(From Page 1)

resolve issues, and the schedules are getting better. Fred Wallace is a shop steward at Streetcar and keeps the union up to date on everything. We have successfully resolved many grievances for road ops and have got them paid. We were also successful in getting the service workers \$1.50 per hour upgrade pay for doing spotter or interior washer work, and had the District go back to July 2004 to pay all those who were hurt.

At C-TRAN our operators are getting ready to vote on a new contract. It took a lot of hard work to bring this contract to the operators for this vote. Many months and hundreds of hours went into the negotiation process. President Jon Hunt, Executive Board Officer Roy Jennings and the entire

wage committee from C-TRAN need to be congratulated on the effort they put forth.

At AMR Josephine County we are in a fight for real, and our brothers and sisters need our support. Their livelihoods depend on it.

In Eugene, at LTD, we are in negotiations and are hoping that it will not be long and drawn out, but if that is the case, we are ready.

We are working hard in Canby to get a contract that the drivers can vote on and with the help of Jason, Daryl, Michell, and Cindy, we will be successful. Then we will all know who is and who is not a union member.

Congratulations to our most recent retirees, Jana Walker and Clyde Peacock.

# ATU Local 757 Officer Reports

(From Page 15)

Now to address the letter put out by LTD about negotiations. It is not true that both parties have agreed to request the assistance of a mediator; it is only LTD. We are going to let the 150 days to settle the negotiations expire (mid- September) before calling in a state mediator. LTD wanted to call in and pay for a mediator. We did NOT agree.

LTD proposed a rollover of the 2004-2007 contract, including continuation of wage increases and maintaining all other benefits. We declined the offer. Let's look at this. Wages: A quarter of a percent increase in most of the six-month periods except two, which would remain the same percent increase as we currently receive. Retirement: Not close to the increase the membership requested. Retiree health benefit: a small gain. Shoe Allowance: A small gain. Greater wage increases in several (only two) Maintenance classifications. Shift differentials in Maintenance: A small gain. Operator instructor premium: Only when you are instructing. And last but not least- Longevity pay-step for 40 years of service. Forty Years! WOW, a whole nickel an hour increase! LTD should be ashamed. Can you afford this? And it would only apply to two, maybe three people, for the duration of this contract!

The District has offered these so-called enhancements without asking for any

concessions from ATU (You are the ATU). Last contract we took a pay reduction and a pension freeze for three years. It's time to play catch-up, LTD! Plus, we were on strike for a week with no paycheck!

Also mentioned in the letter was that our negotiator, Ron Heintzman, International Vice President, was not available to meet until mid-October. This seems strange coming from their negotiator, Jackie Damm, who had to leave early one session because it was her husband's birthday, and who last contract chose to show her horse at a horse show for three hours while we were on strike! They are willing to meet on weekends. We would not be in this situation if LTD would have accepted any of our very reasonable offers for settlement. They just want to argue over nickels and dimes to the people that are on the front lines everyday making their system work with impossible schedules, increased customer counts and traffic and many times who don't get their breaks! Dedicated employees deserve better — a fair contract, not this kind of treatment! LTD to me in the article they released after the last negotiations is trying to make the union the bad guy. Nice try!

In solidarity!

**TriMet Powell Maintenance**  
As reported by  
DAVID KAY

Hello again, Brothers and Sisters. It is good to be back. With all its frustrations and drawbacks, this truly is the toughest job you'll ever love.

That said, we have had one new grievance this last month on the application of the Safety Vest Policy without negotiations. Two others have been requested: one from our members in Facilities concerning contracting out of their work, and one concerning contractors doing warranty work. I have several grievances outstanding that Brother Kevin filed on members' behalf that I am just coming up to speed on.

By the time this article goes to print, the construction at the garage will be complete. Once again we have accomplished a major project without mishap. Great job, folks.



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

Well, another month has come and gone and with Laidlaw Transit, slow motion has become the norm on any problem or mediation with the Union.

We are no closer to an agreement on mapping time, as the Union and Laidlaw management (over two years) still have to set up a Step Two on this matter.

Also, our contract will expire Nov. 30, 2007, and to date this situation is in limbo as well. So maybe it is time for both sides to get in gear on both these minor issues!

On the good news front, we all would like to congratulate Regina on her recent marriage. Also, congratulations go out to Julie L. on her recent marriage. Everyone is wishing both couples well.

I am working on a drivers' meeting in September so we can go forward with plans for the upcoming negotiations.

Please look over our Union bulletin board from time to time in the next few months so we can all stay current.