



And so you asked

By Jon Hunt • ATU Local 757 President

As I've been conducting site visits and distributing surveys the past month, one of the issues I consistently hear concern about is health care. I'm sure this comes as no surprise. We all know America's health care system is deeply flawed and that reforming it to provide quality, affordable care for everyone is a top priority for voters this fall and for the new president and Congress in January.

A new study by the Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI), a nonpartisan research organization, shows that a key component of John McCain's health care plan, which would push working families into the private insurance market — that same market that raised its premiums by 86 percent between 2000 and 2006 — falls far, far short of what retirees would need to cover their premiums and out-of-pocket expenses.

McCain's proposal is based on high-deductible health savings accounts (HSAs.) These accounts provide fewer benefits at higher costs, and undermine existing employer-based health

care. Additionally, McCain would make health care premiums part of taxable income, essentially creating a new tax for working families.

According to the EBRI study, a man who is age 55 this year will need at least \$132,000 to \$261,000 in his HSA when he retires in 2018 to be reasonably assured of his ability to cover his premiums and out-of-pocket health care costs throughout retirement. EBRI calculates a woman of the same age will need even more: \$181,000 to \$364,000. The only thing more frustrating than trying to calculate how those numbers are determined is trying to figure out how it might be possible for a working family to save that kind of money.

Barack Obama's health care plan is centered on the principle that affordable, high-quality health care coverage should be expanded to everyone. This is just one of the reasons that the ATU has voted unanimously to endorse Senator Obama for president.

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VP's Report

By Sam Schwarz • ATU Local 757 Vice President

We had our first union picnic in Bend with Bend Area Transit, our newest group. It was great to meet those I had not had the opportunity to meet before, and I thoroughly enjoyed everyone's company.

At TriMet we have several issues. TriMet does not want fare inspectors. There was a proposal brought to that group, and we will keep everyone informed. Accident appeal and review at Light Rail was changed. Michael Oliver brought this to my attention and we had it corrected. Extra Board operators are having their original assignments taken away to attend signups, and are losing money. This should be stopped. See your

liaison officer. Runs in the new sign-up that do not meet the break and meal break criteria have to be written up. We currently are having some weekend runs corrected.

In August we had a special meeting for paratransit and we discussed many issues. The Paratransit groups were MV, First Transit, WHEELS, and C-TRAN. We met to discuss specific problems unique to that group. We have made some recommendations and hope to improve our skills and plan of attack for dealing with these companies.

Congratulations to our recent retirees and new members.

Officer Reports



Lane Transit District

As reported by
CAROL ALLRED

The first thing I would like to talk to you about is all the rumors concerning service cuts and the several articles in the Eugene Register-Guard concerning this. The way I read the articles in the Register-Guard, the implication is that we will have service cuts late this year. I have spoken to the folks in charge at LTD, and we will not have service cuts this year (2008). I asked Mary Adams to please tell the Register-Guard to quit reporting things that way. It only serves to cause concern to passengers and employees. If, and I repeat, if, service cuts are necessary, they will not happen until fall of 2009. The process to determine what might be cut will begin later this year. There will be hearings for public input, etc. The good news is that the price of diesel fuel has dropped to under what LTD has budgeted. That will help. If cuts do become necessary, I hope that we will be able to take care of things through attrition and there will be no layoffs. The Union and the District are working together to look for other funding sources. Please try not to worry at this point. I will keep you posted as I know where things stand.

On a much lighter note, I would like to thank Debbie Bitterlich for all of her work researching Wylie Griffen. We have a bank account (we have had this account for several years) that was supposed to be used to purchase a headstone for Wylie's grave. Wylie was the first black trolley driver in Eugene. Deb has visited the cemetery, and done a lot of research on Wylie's life, and we are trying to come up with a way to honor him with a permanent marker, possibly at Eugene Station. Debbie has spent countless hours researching Wylie, and we hope to have something of his history put into writing for you soon.

Please welcome Jim Stinson as our newest shop steward. Jim has lots of union experience and will be a great asset to the membership here. He has done a lot of work on revi-

sions to the customer service form process. We are still in the process of trying to negotiate some changes to the way these forms are processed and what actually constitutes a valid complaint.



TriMet Light Rail Transportation

As reported by
MICHAEL T. OLIVER

We are on the down-side of summer, but still a long way to go. I believe that most, if not all, of the construction signups are finished but it's always the unexpected that gets you. Be prepared.

The latest rumors have the heavy rail coming into BTC on November 6. They will be timed to coincide with the Red Line departures so as to give the Blue Line a break. We continue to struggle to get Cleveland Avenue listed as a relief point. The District continues to refer to our reliefs there as seat slides.

Thanks to all who wrote or signed in support of Bill Farrell's grievance. These things take a while, but I think we shall win in the end. Nine new LROs this week and another training class to begin on September 8. Teach these new folks well and it will pay off for everyone. Good luck to them and the new trainees.

Took the familiarization course with the Type 4 last week and had a blast. Decrisio gave his okay to the vehicle and Hank Kim and Sonny Travis enjoyed the eight-hour training session. All LROs will receive this training before they can operate the Type 4 in revenue service. The cab is spacious and well designed — no head-knocking or other traps that I could see. I look forward to operating it on the Green Line next year.

We will be welcoming Gail Hanks back to Rail for the winter signup. She has enjoyed her stay at PSC but wants to come home.

Consecutive 100 degree days are tough on everyone. Make sure you use the District-supplied ice water at the end of the line, and

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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.



Secy-Treas Report

By **Evette Farra** • Financial Secretary-Treasurer

I can't believe I've already been in office for one year. I have met many people in my travels for training and conferences, but the people I am most eager to meet are the members within ATU 757.

I'm looking forward to getting more of those opportunities. Already I have met some great folks in Bend and Medford. It's nice to finally be able to match a face to the voices I have been speaking to over the phone.

I have had a lot of inquiries about how the pension funds are doing at TriMet. I am hoping to get a joint report from the Union and

TriMet to send out to the membership. We have talked about putting on some informational classes to help members decide if and when they will be financially ready to retire.

I met with the Budget Committee on August 15 and feel like we got a lot accomplished. I want to thank committee members Jeff Hunt, Sandy Guengerich, Carol Allred, and Mike Conner for all their hard work.

I also look forward to seeing those groups at school bus when their meetings start up again this fall.

August Meetings

Charter

Charter members meet 7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 15, in the Machinists Building, 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland. Charter day members meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 16, at Schoppert Hall, 1801 NE Couch, Portland.

Salem Transit/WHEELS

Salem members meet 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 16, at the West Salem Branch Public Library 395 Glen Creek Road, Salem.

Lane Transit

Eugene members meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17, and Eugene day members meet 10 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 18, at the Woodworkers Local Lodge, 1124 South A St., Springfield.

Corvallis Laidlaw City Transit/Schools

Corvallis members meet 7:45 p.m. Thursday Sept. 18, at Woodstock Pizza, 1045 NW Kings Blvd., Corvallis.

Rogue Valley Transportation

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

Sept. 18, at the Hampton Inn, 1122 Morrow Rd., Medford.

Portland First Student School Bus Drivers

Portland School Bus members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 18, at Rigler School, 5401 NE Prescott, Portland.

C-TRAN/C-VAN

Vancouver members meet 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 21, at the Laborers Hall, 2232 NE Andresen, Vancouver, Washington.

Tillamook County Transportation District

Tillamook members meet 1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 21, at the Odd Fellows Hall, next door to the Bay City Fire Hall in Bay City.

AMR Northwest Josephine County, LAMAR Advertising and Valley Transit

See your liaison officers.

PLEASE NOTE: ATU members are invited to attend any of the above-listed meetings.

ATU Local 757 Officers

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

Executive Board Officers

TriMet Center Maintenance.....CHAD MATHER
TriMet Center Transportation.....SANDY GUENGERICH
TriMet Powell Maintenance.....DAVID KAY
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).....CAROL ALLRED
Portland Public Schools.....RANDY SHAW
First Student.....ANNA TOMPTE
C-TRAN.....ROY JENNINGS
Salem Area Mass Transit District.....KEN RICHINS

Liaison Officers

TriMet Merlo Extra Board.....STEVE ECKLES
TriMet Center Extra Board.....CHRIS DAY
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.....BRIAN PASQUALI
Rogue Valley Transportation District.....THOMAS HENNEY
Valley Transit.....NICK NOTARAS
AMR Southern Oregon-Josephine County.....TRAVIS HAMLYN
First Student (Portland School Bus).....DANIEL OTTO
First Transit (TriMet Lift).....LES GREEN
Laidlaw (Corvallis City Transit).....BOB MCGUIRE
Laidlaw Education Services (Corvallis Schools).....CHRIS GROOMS
MV Transportation, Inc.....DENNIS TONG
C-TRAN.....SCOTT MILLER
C-VAN.....JIM COLLELL
WHEELS.....JOHN HARVEY
Tillamook Cnty. Trans. Dist.....PATRICIA OSTRANDER-NICE

Retirees' Corner

The following retirees will celebrate birthdays in September: Gerald A. Aaron; **Byron C. Anderson**; Lisa K. Armani; Sam L. Avery; Gwen Basye; Terry E. Bergland; Kenneth R. Bruce; Dennis E. Bruner; Leilani C. Chartier; Marian K. Chulos; Michael L. Claflin; Randall N. Conant; Donald G. Coombs; Charles R. Cummins; Arthur T. Deming; Donald W. Dunn; **Clyde H. Earl Sr.**; Richard T. Emra; Patrick R. Foushee; John H. Frey; Stephen E. Gillmer; Raymond A. Goff; Howard M. Green; William J. Guthrie; Donald R. Hambrick; Ronnie G. Hartman; Dale F. Helmer; Philip R. Henderson; Rolf E. Hermes; Robert J. Hoeft; Charles E. Holden; Jimmy G. House; **Chester W. Johnson**; Connie E. Johnson; Linda K. Kallberg; Pauline Kelly; Karl Klotz; Victor M. Kuss; Samuel L. Learn; 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; Alvin F. Roder; Norma A. Roland; Charles E. Rooney; Phillip J. Rotella; George C. Schmidt; Terry L. Scudder; Virginia E. Simmons; Patricia A. Smith; Kenneth W. Stambaugh; William F. Strong; Willie G. Sutton; Kenneth W. 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, Sept. 3, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. at Westmoreland's Union Manor, 6404 SE 23rd Ave. Coffee and doughnuts will be served at 9 a.m.

Hunt

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Now, when the ATU endorses a candidate or an issue, they are not telling you how to vote. ATU is simply providing labor's perspective in the hopes that it will inform your vote. The more you know about an issue, the better you will be able to vote in your own self interest.

If you are interested in learning more and getting involved in this issue, or you simply want to be heard by your elected representatives but you don't have a lot of time for activism, there is still something you can do. Health Care for America Now, a new coalition of more than 80 labor and

community groups, has launched a call-in campaign to learn what side Congress is on in the health care reform debate, and you can participate. (The AFL-CIO is part of the coalition, which was launched last month.)

The coalition's "Hey Congress: Which Side Are You On" campaign allows you to call your lawmaker toll-free. Go to <http://tools.advomatic.com/8/hcn> and if you provide your address and phone number, HCAN will be able to look up your lawmakers, provide you a list of talking points and then place the call for you at no charge.

ATU Local 757 Officer Reports

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stay hydrated. Be kind to your riders and their children. Think good thoughts and act like you know what you are doing. Keep the mail coming to mtgbo2002@msn.com



TriMet Powell Maintenance

As reported by DAVID KAY

Work continues on several grievances that are in the pipeline, although the time-frame has been slowed due to vacation time. An offer is on the table to the District on non-bargaining personnel doing bargaining unit work, and a proposal for settlement on failure to pay for mandatory meetings. We are currently waiting for a response from the District.

Last month I was proud to report on the road call mileage accomplished by the Powell Garage team. In the "No Good Deed Goes Unpunished" department, this same team again bettered their mileage only to hear that the District's upper management are now claiming we are "cooking the books" and could not accomplish this feat. Makes one feel warm and fuzzy, doesn't it?

The upcoming bus buy is moving forward, and a new group of flyers is on the way, with production to begin around November.



TriMet Powell

As reported by ROSE JORDAN-FAIRLEY

Take a deep breath. August was a very busy month with Bus Bridge Mania. I'm glad we have all gotten over that ordeal. Though I must say, this particular bus bridge was well organized to allow for drivers to receive a decent break. Hats off to all road supervisors who helped to make the bus bridge a success. The drivers really appreciate your great organizing skills. Another bus bridge will begin in September. Hopefully that bus bridge will be another success.

There is a new assistant manager at Powell. Phil Davis is in place, and Greg Larsen went to Merlo. Phil Davis has a way of getting you into his office to talk about CSIs. Please be aware of your Weingarten Rights. A simple conversation sometimes may lead to documented statements later down the road.

I've received numerous complaints of operator-on-operator attacks. The public beats up the operator force already, so please let's be courteous to one another. If you have a problem, please talk to me, the union rep, before going to management. We can be our own problem solvers. Management just makes things worse.

For the ATU Caucus, held on August 23, the turnout was low. Hope to see you all at the next meeting. Look for future postings on your union boards.

Thanks to Khris Alexander, Extra Board liaison officer, for his skills with the Rec & Roll bus recreation. Thanks to the Powell garage for their

participation in our garage picnic that was held on August 19. Hope all had a grand time.



First Transit TriMet Lift

As reported by LES GREEN

Well, it looks like summer was too short again and school will be starting soon so we can all return to our normal routine. Nothing much has been happening at First Transit Lift except the usual day-to-day routine, but we have a Step 1 hearing on an unfair termination of one of our fellow drivers which we (the union) will fight to turn around.

Also, we have a new backing form which in my opinion is in most respects a waste of valuable time, but I guess that First Transit thinks we have all the time in the world so why not give us another form to complete. Training, not forms, will improve the situation and reduce backing accidents.

On a better note, I hope you all will welcome the new trainers to our group and help them out if you can. Also, I would like to thank the drivers who expressed an interest in my position, and I encourage any other drivers to let me know if they are interested. I can provide information to review so you can make an informed decision.

Again, I encourage you all to take advantage of our breaks (two 10-minute breaks and one 30-minute lunch) and leave the bus so you will be a better driver. You drive the route; the route does not drive you. If Dispatch does not give you any time to take your break, please let me or Mike know so we can get the problem solved. Dispatch knows quite well that breaks are required by contract and state law, so they must allow time even if they have to move a ride. Again, if you have any concerns about what is happening at work, let me or Ken know and we will see what can be done.

Well, enough for now.

TriMet Center Transportation

As reported by SANDY GUENGERICH

Well, summer is almost over, and kids will be back to school soon. Remember that there will be some changes in routes and scheduling. Look for changes in routes descriptions around the Steel Bridge. It will be finished soon. I have been told the Green Line will be opening September 10, 2009, which will be on a Thursday. Also, the mall should be opening around May 24, 2009. They said they will be setting up some training classes for us to learn the new mall. If you have problems with your new schedule, write up a yellow card or come see me.

July was a very busy month for me. I had a real nice family vacation in Canada, which was beautiful. I was in Calgary for the 100-year Stampede. It was the biggest rodeo in the world. Then at the end of July I went to the Western Regional Training Conference in San Jose. The class I took was very good. I learned labor law,

arbitration, and pensions. There was a class on grievances. You really want to have all your information ready for when you start your grievance. I also found out that you may have a really good case and sometimes you have to keep on trying. So make sure you keep everything in writing.

I also have been trying to get the comments out for Center Street drivers. Things have been a little crazy at Center. First let me give you a heads up that they will be watching for people who are not wearing the new uniform. So make sure you have a doctor's note on file and that you keep a copy on you.

There is one more problem that managers are causing for drivers. Let's say you are either starting your run or getting off your bus at the end of your shift and a manager wants to talk to you about a CSI or ADA policy. Be very careful in what you say. Let them know that you know that they can send this information in your company mail and you can take a look at the information to see if you feel you might need a union rep there. If it looks like you may need a union rep, then call me, Sandy Guengerich at 503-729-8958, and we can discuss your problem and see how we can come together to fix it. Remember, even if they say that it will only take a minute or this was an urgent CSI, you should really think if it says urgent you may want to look it over and not say anything yet. That is your right. Also, it is your right to have a union rep with you if you want, because something on paper may only show the perspective of the person who complains. There is always more than one side to the story.



TriMet Merlo Maintenance

As reported by JEFF HUNT

This month I had two Step 2s. The first was about overtime in Facilities Maintenance on apprentices. It is correct to say apprentices don't work overtime, except in certain situations like continuation of work such as road calls. This grievance was upheld in favor of the apprentices to the amount of six hours overtime. The other one was in commuter rail over clerks' work. Can the manager do that work is the question. The short answer is no, but since there are no clerks at Wes yet, the clerk, i.e., timekeeping, will be done by the assistant supervisor.

This month in the contracting out committee, we went over more things they would like contracted out. The one that is okay to contract out will be the complete replacement of all the big overhead heaters.

The mechanic sign-up went well, but the helper sign-up had a few problems over Red Line changes that were made. During the seven days that it was posted at Powell garage, it did not get changed correctly after the sign-up. The maintenance officer looked at it and found that no one was harmed, but we have a meeting scheduled with management to prevent this type of thing happening in the future. I don't like to have to re-do a sign-up unless I have to, as it has a big impact on all of our lives.

I attended a weekend class offered by the University of Oregon's Labor Education and Research Center (LERC). You know the old saying that those who don't remember the past are con-

demned to repeat it? I took a class at LERC called "One Hundred Years of Labor History." One of our union's first concerns was that they wanted to work the same hours as a horse. Horses had to be changed every eight hours and the members wanted the same benefit. The other thing they wanted was to not sit out in the rain. They wanted a cover over their heads.

In the most recent big fight, home care workers in SEIU were fighting to get their employer to give them workers' compensation. Yes, workers' compensation.

In 1947-1952, union membership was at its peak, with 35 percent of households in a union. Now we are at 12 percent — about where we were before the first world war. Men, women and children have given blood, sweat and tears — and their lives — to the labor movement. This Labor Day I hope you took a moment to remember all those who came before us and the sacrifices they made for us. You may think the time for concern has passed. We may not be dying on picket lines, but people are dying because they have no health care.



Merlo Transportation

As reported by BRUCE HANSEN

This last month TriMet managers, ASMs and supervisors have been conducting ADA stop announcement missions. I have had a few drivers tell me that they are standing behind shelters and trees, not making themselves visible to warn the bus. So they are cautioning drivers when they are the only ones at the stops and we know they don't want the bus. But we are still required to stop. Watch for them. They still want us at 100 percent compliance.

I am concerned lately by the number of drivers who have been placed on paid administrative leave over little issues. Some of the issues do not even have anything to do with TriMet. Be sure to always have your union rep with you when talking with management. We still have drivers who believe that our management team are their friends. What will it take for our fellow drivers to understand they are NOT our friends?

I would also like to talk about the negative comments that are being put on our progress reports, some stating that you have six accommodations but that these are offset by five complaints. Why do they feel that we need always the negative instead of receiving positive feedback? We are still addressing positive reinforcement and receiving negative more and more. But they continue to claim that employee support is important.

Our future depends on brotherhood and sisterhood, so if you have issues with other drivers or any employee, please contact your union rep to receive help with the issue. Please do not take our issues to management. Let's try to solve them ourselves.

One more thing I really want to drive home to all operators is that if you have any doubt whether you can make it to the curb to board or deboard a passenger, stay away from the curb. We are hitting a lot of parked cars and poles — 99 percent of the time this happens when we are

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ATU Officer Reports

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trying to be nice. It's our driving record. Please remember to always lower the bus when you can. The review board always looks for anything that you can do to prevent an accident.

Remember to always be safe and take your breaks, safety before schedule.



Portland Public Schools
As reported by
RANDY SHAW

Well, here we are, back for another fun-filled year. If we lucked out on bid day, we will be transporting busloads of happy smiling children.

The School Supplies for Kids program I started at PPS is going to have its biggest year, thanks to the contributions and donations. A special thank you goes to our union for their donation, because this money comes from all our members, and we will be able to help a lot more children on their first day back to school.

I hope everyone had an opportunity to sign up for the short-term disability insurance at in-service. As you all know, what the District offers is not enough if you are off work for an extended time. When I was off work for over five months I used up three months of sick leave I had built up over the years. I could not drive, but through the generosity of the District, management brought me back to work in the office, or I would have been in big trouble.

I want to thank the other Executive Board members who sat through a number of presentations along with me to find the right company to fill all our needs. A special thanks to our VP, Sammy the Hammer, who felt as I did that we all need short-term disability insurance. Like car or house insurance, you may never use it, but it is invaluable if something happens. So, for taking the leadership to follow it through, and bring it all together: Thanks, Sam.

We have a number of new drivers this year. Please make them all feel welcome. Remember, we're a family at PPS.



TriMet Salaried Employees
As reported by
JIM FOWLER

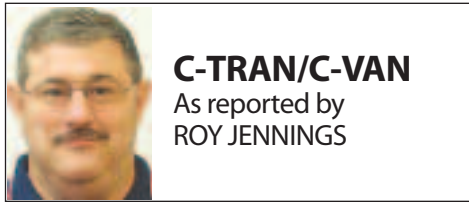
Summer is winding down, and after the hot August we had I'll bet many of you are glad things are cooling off. I know that many of you put in long, hot hours during the three week Steel Bridge closure, and our passengers appreciate your hard work. Your management team will probably give you a bulletin board "atta boy" saying how much they appreciate you, but until they start proving it with their actions, don't buy it for a second.

The latest I'm running into with our managers is what they call a letter of expectations. They will tell you this is not discipline, but I can guarantee you these letters will show up if you have another issue, and I'm sure that next issue will result in at least a letter of reprimand. So, any time your manager wants to give you a letter of expectation, please be represented by your

Union Officer.

As I mentioned last month, the District was making a plan for the fare inspectors. This plan is the eventual dissolution of their department. The top eight will be allowed to stay in their position until they either resign or retire. The remaining seven will be allowed to go to the bottom of either the rail or road supervisor departments, depending on which division was their last position held. This would put the responsibility for checking fares onto the road and rail supervisors. The caveat would be that along with the seven inspectors coming over, an additional 15 supervisors would be hired. This would still be well short of the numbers needed to effectively check fares in the tri-county area. They know that, so you have to ask yourself what this is really all about and which job or jobs will be eliminated next. The inspectors voted to accept this proposal when faced with the reality that all of their jobs would just go away at the end of the current contract. The question now is: Do the supervisors get a say in what amounts to a complete restructuring of their jobs? Stay tuned.

A big shout out to Cathy Athey, who decide to retire after 35 years of service with Customer Service, and also to Doug Graven, rail supervisor, who left us in July to pursue a new career. Good luck to both of you.



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

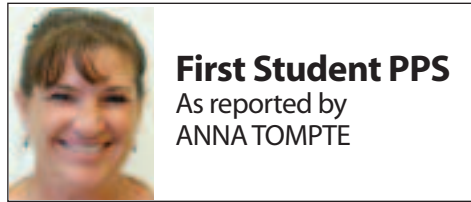
I would like to take this opportunity to thank those members who made it to this year's Union picnic. As I informed some of our members, I was unable to attend due to it being held on the week of my wife's birthday. As was the case this year, Kathy and I had made plans that we could not get out of. I hear that all of our members who went had a wonderful time, and as always the Union gave out a lot of great prizes. It's my hope that next year Kathy and I will be able to attend.

A few weeks ago I received an e-mail from the President of ATU Local 1015 out of Spokane. Dennis (the president) wanted to know if we here in Vancouver had heard anything about CDL drivers being retested by the Department of Labor (after passing their CDL test.) This was the first that I had heard about it, and as you can imagine, I was concerned. During my investigation of this I and others found the following:

1. The Department of Labor is conducting a retest project of approximately 900 randomly selected CDL holders;
2. This retest project is being funded by a federal grant;
3. The retest can be conducted for anyone who received their CDL in Seattle, Tacoma, Vancouver, Spokane, Kennewick, Wenatchee and Olympia;
4. CDL holders who fail to respond or fail to pass the retest will have their CDL privileges cancelled until they successfully pass the retest;
5. You may take the retest as many times as necessary to pass the test;
6. CDL holders will receive notice approximately four weeks prior to the scheduling of

their retest.

After checking into this, I went to C-TRAN and they have agreed that if anyone should receive a random retest from the Department of Labor, the training department will work with you so that you will pass this test. If you have any questions, please contact me.



First Student PPS
As reported by
ANNA TOMPTE

Hello my sisters and brothers. Welcome back to the new school year and the joy of driving our most precious cargo. As you know we are really First Student drivers and mechanics with a large amount of new policies in place. Please be sure to read your new handbook as well as your contract and be up to date on these new ways.

Over the summer we saw our numbers drop and new drivers hired, so lend a hand to each other out there. Should any of us have a question that just is not getting answered, please ask one of your stewards and we will get it answered. If there is one thing I know, it is that just one question really means dozens of drivers are seeking that answer too.

The training staff has been busy all summer with new training to learn and then teach to us and the many new drivers. And yes, they are the best trainers in all of First Student!

As the year progresses and you hear rumors and fantastic stories, come and get the straight answer. Do not let it fester and let division in. We are all members of a great union and we stand together with support for each other.

I want to thank all the volunteers for your support and hard work this summer. There are plenty more opportunities for volunteerism now and in the future. Just check the Union bulletin board in the drivers' room. You will get a t-shirt for your help.

The stewards and I are here to serve you – just ask!



TriMet Light Rail Maintenance
As reported by
MICHAEL CONNER

Last one out at Rail Maintenance turn out the Lights. Once again the District comes to the Union hat in hand, looking for ways to try and get caught up on deferred maintenance. In the Light Rail Vehicle shop the managers keep trying to get the Union to add more production duties to the apprentices. We will just say no, as far as I am concerned. I have also just had the Executive Board approve three shop stewards at Elmonica. Congrats to Dave Harvey, Earl Talovich, and Anna Everett. We are going to try and line up some training for the shop stewards so they will be ready to help me keep an eye on things.

From Fare to MOW to REM to Facilities Maintenance, all areas in Rail Maintenance are suffering from understaffing and the District cutting corners on maintenance every day.

Watch for violations and let me know. Even though we are very busy, if the Union does not know about work rule violations, we can't fight to protect the jobs. Even when the District asks for help due to worker shortages and continued deteriorating assets, even small concessions from the work force are dangerous to our job security. There is not a day that goes by when Rail management doesn't make conscious decisions to violate our rights by using workers out of classification, contracting out, etc. They do it to see if they can get away with it, and they do it all the time.

Signups are in full swing as I write this. I suspect there will be some grievances generated with the MOW group, as they have added a new on-duty location for signals and track. The problem is that no new assistant supervisors are being added. After discussions with the MOW manager and the Rail Maintenance director about the issues this raises, they have opted to take a wait-and-see attitude about what will happen. We will need to watch for supervisors encroaching on bargaining unit work in this area. With staffing at an all-time low, I suspect there will be many problems with this.

With important state and national elections approaching, there is a huge need for people to volunteer to make sure the election goes to help labor-friendly candidates. Call the union office or talk to me about upcoming volunteer opportunities.

Hope your summer was safe and full of fun.

Bend Area Transit
As reported by
VICTOR GILARDIN

Hi, all. We are honored to be in the newsletter! Here in Bend we have seven fixed routes and we have dial-a-rides as well. We as drivers, dispatchers, and customer service representatives just got our first contract, and we are very excited about that! We serve a community of around 75,000.

We just had our first annual union picnic. It was very successful thanks to Jon Hunt and his crew. A big thank you for that.

We are also trying to talk to everyone here in town and convince them to register to vote. We have our transportation measure which will be on the November ballot. Our jobs are very important to us and they depend on the measure before the voters.

We are going through some changes at the present time. We have companies looking at bidding on the City of Bend contract that Paratransit Services now holds. May the best company win!

Thanks to our Union newspaper, we are heading in the right direction. Again, a big thank you to all.