

History of ATU 757: A Look at the Past

1995...

The Washington Department of Labor and Industries cited C-TRAN for violating state law in response to restroom break and facility complaint filed by ATU in 1992.

Emergency medical technicians and paramedics employed by Care Ambulance in Grants Pass approved a new three-year agreement providing for 3.5-percent wage increases each year of the contract.

ATU submitted nearly 19,500 signatures to the Lane County elections office for the initiative that would limit the Lane Transit District manager's salary and provide that benefits and wages for administrators would not exceed those provided other employees of the District. Sponsors needed 15,086 signatures to qualify the measure for the ballot.

Once again, School Bus Services, Inc. (SBS) lost its appeal before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, who ordered the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to enforce its order to bargain against SBS.

Lane Transit District filed a lawsuit against Lane County in an attempt to stop the equal pay and benefits initiative from reaching the ballot.

A new first-time agreement between C-TRAN and ATU Local 757 was reached. The four-year deal brought the top operator rate to \$16.22 an hour by the end of three years. Many other improvements to the contract were made.

The Local was successful in lobbying the Oregon Legislature for a bill that would make it a Class C felony to assault emergency medical technicians (EMTs) while they are performing their official duties.

On the federal level Congressional Republicans tried to repeal Section 13(c) of the Federal Transit Act. Section 13(c) guarantees collective bargaining rights and other protections for transit workers across the nation.

A new first-time design for a lapel pin and cap patch for ATU Local 757 Retired Member Chapter members was approved.

Trouble began brewing at Rogue Valley Transportation District when the general manager excluded himself from participating in contract negotiations after hiring an outsider known for his union-busting tactics.

The Local and Laidlaw Transit, Inc. reached a new three-year agreement [in Corvallis, Oregon, and wages were increased by \$1.40 an hour over three years, taking the school bus operator hourly wage rate to \$10.00.

ATU fought back attempts in the US House of Representatives to repeal Section 13(c) of the Federal Transit Act. A video was produced showing the Section 13(c) debate in Congress.

At the 51st convention of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757 President Ron Heintzman was elected as an alternate delegate to the AFL-CIO convention in New York City where an historic contest between Tom Donahue and John Sweeney for president were held October 23-26. John Sweeney was elected.

ATU 757 and Rogue Valley Transportation District headed for a full-blown labor

dispute, the first in the District's 15-year history with organized labor.

ATU 757's headquarter building was bought and paid for without increasing members' dues. The 3,200-square-foot building represents the first building or real estate owned by the Local Union.

A new agreement for members employed by Valley Transit Association in Walla Walla, Washington was approved that provided for a 12-percent wage increase over the term of the agreement, a 10- and 15-year longevity premium, and a 25-cent-an-hour premium for transit-related Spanish-speaking and comprehension skills.

A first-time contract was reached between the Local and Mayflower/Laidlaw Transit covering lift operators working under contract with Tri-Met in Washington County, Oregon. The service had previously been operated by ATC/Vancom, Inc.

Doug Stanley, an 18-year Tri-Met and ATU 757 member received a meritorious service medal for valor from Portland Police Chief Charles Moose. Stanley, a supervisor for MAX light rail, helped police officers apprehend a passenger carrying a loaded, 25-caliber semi-automatic revolver at the Gateway platform in Portland.

The dispute at Rogue Valley Transportation District heated up after negotiations for a new contract reached impasse with ATU convinced that RVTD management were pushing for a strike. The Local filed several unfair labor practice charges.

The annual ATU 757 Retired Member Chapter Christmas party was held at the Milwaukie Elks Club, and more than 160 retired members, spouses and guests attended.