



And so you asked...

Same meeting, different results

By Al Zullo
President-Business Representative



Contagious management practice

Sometimes, you have to wonder if management folks come from another planet. Or maybe they attend conferences where too many pina colodas are served. Whatever the reason, they have developed this annoying habit of misstating what goes on in meetings. Let me give you two recent examples.

One employer announces that it is going to eliminate a number of rights under the guise of an "emergency." Right. We all know there's no emergency, but that is a big fight for another day. Anyway, the Union demands a meeting. We meet. They tell us their woes, we tell them how to solve their problem without violating the contract and they promise they'll write both sides' opinions down on paper so we can see the differences and discuss them with our folks. Now, we are talking about a meeting where there were more managers than you have fingers on your hand. But, do they get it right? Nope. Instead, they write a letter announcing that we'd agreed to everything they'd said in the meeting!

We have another employer whose managers participate in discussions, make proposals, we tell them "Heck, no!" and then they leave. The next day, without fail, we get a letter from them and guess what it says? You got it; they state they are writing to "memorialize" our agreement. Then, they set out the proposal we'd rejected. Not surprisingly, their letter is copied to their boss.

To be charitable, you could claim these well-paid folks simply experienced some kind of mental burp. If you are feeling not so charitable, you might say they simply lied in an effort to cover their absence, salary cost or whatever. It is happening so frequently these days that the Union is

(Turn to Page 20)

Summer picnics

Medford: Saturday, June 25 at Emigrant Lake
Retired member chapter: Wednesday, July 16 at Oaks Park
Portland ATU annual picnic: Sunday, Aug. 14 at Oaks Park
Eugene: Sunday, Aug. 28 at Jasper Park

What IS this?

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

With Laidlaw Transit

Two-year accord reached in Corvallis

By Jon Hunt
Vice President



A new two-year agreement has been reached between Laidlaw Transit and ATU 757 that covers school bus and city transit operations under contract with the Corvallis School District and the City of Corvallis. The contract runs retroactively from July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2006.

Since the school bus operators were organized and obtained their first contract in 1999, their wage increases were added to each employee's existing wage rate with no step progressions. For example, employees with six years of service made the same as a new hire. The Union's primary goal was to create a five-year, five-step wage scale so that employees would receive wage hikes, in addition to annual across-the-board increases, on their employment anniversary date.

The new contract creates the five-year, five-step wage progression on the last day of the two-year agreement, which will establish the steps for all future increases. In reaching this goal, employees' wages will be increased between 5.9 percent and 16.2 percent over the term of the two-year agreement with a portion retroactive to July 1, 2004. On the last day of the contract, a starting employee will be paid \$9.93 an hour and will increase to \$11.19 an hour after completing four years of service. A new agreement will then be bargained beginning July 1, 2006. A substantial gain is in the extra work pay area. Charter/extracurricular pay increases from \$7.25 under the old contract to \$9.25 an hour in the new agreement.

Work rules regarding extra work were revised to provide that any trip of less than one hour's duration could be assigned to a driver without being put on the trip list. Regarding turndowns, the new agreement provides that if a driver has a written, pre-approved time off at least two weeks in advance, then his/her rejection of extra work will not be considered a "turn-down."

The new contract also clarifies that

employees will be reimbursed for meals while on overnight trips.

Other new gains include the right of school bus operators to carry water bottles on buses when temperatures rise, and the lifting of prohibitions against carrying cell phones. The new agreement allows operators to carry cell phones, but they are not allowed to use them while the bus is in motion or while students are being loaded.

The new agreement also provides some revisions to city transit operator benefits. The city ordinance provides that the contractor provide fully paid family insurance coverage with no higher than \$10 co-pays. Laidlaw's renewed insurance program instituted some higher co-pays than the required contract maximum. In those cases, Laidlaw has agreed to reimburse the employees for all out-of-pocket co-pay costs that exceed the \$10 maximum. Another clarification provides that life insurance will not be reduced by the employee's age.

A special thanks to President Al Zullo, Liaison Officers Bob McGuire, John Muir and Chris Grooms, and International Vice President Ron Heintzman for their assistance.

ATU Local 757 Officer Reports

Laidlaw Portland Public Schools

As reported by
KATHY MITCHELL



To our drivers and trainers, I understand that we as bus drivers have good days and bad days; however, that does not give us the right to get upset with a co-worker and go to the manager to complain about that individual. It's okay

to dislike someone, but I find it to be a problem when we let our personal feelings overcome our professionalism.

I honestly believe that the management loves to see co-workers degrade each other because it makes their job that much easier. Do you truly feel that the management genuinely cares about you and your loved ones? I am going to continue fighting daily for your rights as workers to be equal for all.

Laidlaw has purchased a "new toy" to discipline drivers with—a radar gun. This violates Article XIX, Section 8 of the contract, which states, "The company will notify the employees and the Union (shop stewards) at least 14 days

in advance of any new rule or policy, and...if any existing rule or policy is modified or changed." Because no notification happened, I filed an ATU grievance to cover all employees who have received warnings resulting from radar gun use. Harassment and favoritism by management shouldn't be conducted in the workplace.

The school year is winding down with five grievances at Step 3 and more to come. Just remember your Weingarten Rights.

(Turn to Page 2)

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 • Obie Media Corporation • Valley Transit Association • Laidlaw Transit Services, Inc. (TriMet Lift, Portland) • American Medical Response Northwest (Multnomah, Clackamas and Josephine Counties, Oregon, and Clark and Cowlitz Counties, Washington) • Laidlaw Education Services (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



ATU Local 757 Officer Reports

(From Page 1)

Laidlaw Corvallis

As reported by
CHRIS GROOMS/ BOB McGUIRE
No report given.

TriMet Merlo Transportation

As reported by
GREG MCGREW



There are always a couple of items not covered in the District's press, so I thought I would pass along what I know. The long-awaited automatic stop

announcement project is nearing completion. Prototypes could possibly be installed and tested in Center Street vehicles between June and August. Notice that I am hedging my bets here since the highly sophisticated equipment is still undergoing field tests. When the field test phase is done, we will have a better installation timetable. Meanwhile, keep entertaining your friendly, local quality assurance rider with your stop-calling virtuosity.

Sam Schwarz and I have had some fruitful discussions with management over raising the road relief pay for holiday runs. The end result of the discussion is that on holidays when there is but hourly bus service, a drivers-only shuttle bus will run from Center Street to the downtown mall. If it takes more than an hour for a driver to reach their relief point or to return to the garage, the District will honor a time slip. The service will begin on Memorial Day.

It took only a year, but many of Merlo's extra board operators are going to see some extra money in their paychecks. Aspen Liggett had filed a grievance over the use of part-time operators to fill last summer's runs that put those operators over their contractual limits. The District agreed that this was an egregious error and elected to pay those operators on the board who were hurt by doing this. A list of names is posted on the Union bulletin board.

Lastly, we are working with management, the training department, the safety department and the accident reviews/appeals board to develop a new additional accident category. The working title is the "safety incident." Many of our accidents are due to passenger slips, trips and falls from stops due to traffic conditions. Upon investigation, many of these are deemed preventable. Some fall into a gray area, however, where operators could benefit from some additional training in how they watch traffic and handle their vehicle. Not all of the details are ironed out as yet, but we could have

some direction on this before the end of the year.

MV Transportation

As reported by
TODD WATSON

Our grievance with MV Transportation involving farebox removal and reconciliation is moving to the next step in the grievance process. When TriMet issued its directive to have operators perform these functions to both of its lift contractors (MV and Laidlaw), these employers should have notified the Union. We are entitled to this notification and/or the opportunity to discuss any changes in the working conditions prior to implementation. We never had the opportunity to do this. I also think TriMet could have done a better job of communicating this to both employers. I hope in the future that this will not happen again with rules that alter working conditions.

TriMet Powell

As reported by
SAM SCHWARZ



The summer sign-up is complete and the Starlight and Grand Floral parade sign-ups took place May 17.

The temporary agreement for the three-day mini-runs is not going according to the contract and should be canceled or revisited. As usual, the interpretation is TriMet's, and the Union has no input. The Bus Operators Guide (BOG) is out, and I for one intend to object to its contents--the wording of the rules, which are aimed directly at the drivers.

The intention is to create a hostile work environment by making us perform duties that were not bargained for and by creating unsafe situations for our operators. Supervisors have written up dozens of operators based on the new BOG even before the Union had a chance to read it or before any rules were posted so operators could read them. The new BOG has language that is contrary to the contract as far as payoff of unused floating holidays and vacation days. The Union officers were never made aware of anything that was being put into the BOG that could lead to discipline.

Remember, the contract states any new rule or revision can be grieved. The safety of our members is a serious concern and should be a concern and a priority of the District! The new BOG states, "When dealing with people overtly threatening or carrying a weapon, defuse the situation by: being firm, assertive and respectful." I would like to know who tested this theory?

TriMet Powell Maintenance

As reported by
DAVE KAY



In May an icon at TriMet retired. I am referring to Mr. Al Thomas. This was by far and away the best retirement gathering I have seen in my 23 years. I

must, however, point out an obvious omission: Other than the immediate supervisors Ed Trimpler and Brad Reusser, not one management-level person was in attendance. Is this employee appreciation? Mr. Thomas had 25 years of service to the District.

On Monday, May 16th, weather permitting, construction will be completed on a pad for the purpose of motorcycle parking and other uses during the winter. This was necessitated by the new steps for the maintenance parking area.

The Union and the District sat down in a series of seminars to attempt to learn new methods for addressing issues before resorting to the grievance procedure. Hopefully, these will work out and shorten the entire process.

Lane Transit District

As reported by
CAROL ALLRED



We have been working hard going through the contract tentative agreement word by word, comparing it to the expired contract and our notes from

negotiations. Hopefully, we will be able to quickly resolve any language discrepancies that exist, so that it won't take the year or more it has taken some properties to actually get a printed contract. If you have questions about your medical insurance or Veba account, or feel you may need to access the new stop loss account, please contact either myself, Lee Lasse or Mary Neidig in human resources.

So far, two people have had to access the stop loss account. It is a simple procedure once you know exactly what forms to fill out and how to access the information to submit.

I attended a health care summit presented by United Way in early May. The topic was the large number of Lane County residents who do not have any health insurance and what can be done about it. I was disappointed that the sole focus was getting folks who are at 200 percent of the poverty level covered by insurance. I was also disappointed that the solu-

tions were not to make employers more responsible and to address skyrocketing costs but to somehow provide access in other ways. While these may be necessary and noble, they do not address the problem.

I am amazed that at least two of the LTD board members who work closely with United Way have chosen to spend their time trying to obtain health care for people who do not have health insurance in ways other than forcing employers to be responsible and forcing insurance companies to be more accountable. In my mind, it just proves that some of our board members are part of the problem and not part of the solution.

Summer is fast approaching, and as you all know we have a lot of road construction that will lengthen running times on routes. Please remember to drink lots of water and use the restroom when you need to. You are not the problem, and dehydrating yourself and not using the restroom will not solve the problem.

On a lighter note, the Bus Rodeo is scheduled for July 17. Sign up and drive the Rodeo and show your stuff! This is a chance to show off our driving skills. The winner of the Rodeo will get to participate at the national level.

Saturday, July 16, is Labor Night at the Ems. Tickets will be available soon. Please join with us to watch a great Ems ball game and watch your executive board officer throw out the first pitch. Dick Ellis has graciously agreed to teach me how to throw a baseball! Tickets are inexpensive and include admission to the game, food and drink. We have a section reserved, and folks from other labor unions in the area will attend as well. This will be a good time for us to all thank them for their support of us throughout the last year.

Congratulations to Rick Thompson on your promotion to supervisor. We will miss you as a bargaining unit member. We know you will not forget where you came from!

TriMet Light Rail Transportation

As reported by
MICHAEL T. OLIVER



The lovely brick building at Hawthorne Farms, too long empty, will finally get a tenant shortly. Dot com giant Yahoo has signed a long-term lease on the building and will be moving in with approximately 150 employees. A long-deserted area will now become busy, and we must make the correct adjustments.

The light rail operator involved in

the fire truck accident lost the decision at Step 2, and we go on to Step 3 on the road to arbitration. The support for him has been overwhelming, and hopefully at this level we shall achieve justice.

On Tuesday, May 10, at around 1100 hours, an operator of the 59 bus stopped on Walker Road to help an elderly lady who was sitting on the curb even though a light rain was falling. Everything was a-okay, but the fact that he stopped deserves kudos and thanks for making all of us look good.

Union elections are a year away, but we can begin to question our candidates now. Come to the meetings and find out what is going on. It is your Union and you pay for it, but if you ignore the meetings you have no input. Participate or perish.

This is Hell Week for light rail. The Starlight Parade and the Rose Parade are as bad as it gets. Go slow, be careful and do not expect anyone but fellow operators to understand the stress that an extra 100,000 people make. Send e-mail to oliverm@trimet.org.

Portland Public Schools

As reported by
SMOKEY STOVER



Because I received information that was not quite right, I am stating that I can make a mistake once in a while. The latest information was that managers'

salaries were frozen for three years, but they then got a 3.5 percent raise, then a few years later got a step, plus 3.5 percent this last year. The day before Jon Hunt went to negotiate with the DCU/District, they offered a 1.5 percent wage increase to the drivers, so you know why I get upset. ATU is going to change that before long.

Please do not back up on school grounds; there is a state law that says you shouldn't unless you have a person direct you.

TriMet Salaried Employees

As reported by
SHIRLEY BLOCK



After spending six days at the Union/TriMet leadership seminar, I would like to inform all ATU members of a different way management and the Union

(Turn to Page 19)

ATU Officer Reports

(From Page 2)

have agreed on as to how to handle grievances. One thing for sure that everyone agrees on is that they would like to see fewer grievances filed. We would like to see the executive board officer and the front line manager/supervisor try first to work things out in a pre-filing conference. If we can't reach an agreement, then the next step is to file a grievance. The bottom line is to open communication among all parties involved. We want to settle as many issues as possible in a timely manner with the key word being timely. "The longer we let a problem go the bigger it becomes," is what Fred Hanson stated in all of our seminars. He also stated he wanted to get all of us going in the same direction. At that point I thought it was a good time to ask him the question: "I have several grievances at Step 3 waiting for arbitration. Can I call a meeting back to pre-filing and try again to work these out with my managers?" His reply was, "Yes."

We all know the new process is going to be rough at the start, but I am hoping to see it get better as we educate all of our members how to follow this new process. I am also looking for fair treatment from our management team to do right by our members. Bear in mind what I've been saying for the past months: It's going to be a long, rough summer. We as Union brothers/sisters need to think as a team. Together Each Achieves More = TEAM.

C-TRAN/C-VAN

As reported by
ROY JENNINGS



I would like to thank all the members that went to this year's rodeo. I would also like to wish each and every member who is participating later this month in our golf tournament a great and enjoyable time.

During this month's C-TRAN board meeting the board of directors will hopefully decide to take the initiative back out to the citizens of Clark County. If at all possible, please attend this very important board meeting. Also, this month both run cut committees (fixed route and paratransit) will be working on their September run cuts. No one on either committee is looking forward to working on these run cuts. As a reminder to all members, these run cuts are what the upcoming layoffs will be based on. I can promise each of you at fixed route and paratransit that your run cut committee will not quit until they are satisfied that they have saved all that can be saved. To that end, the layoff notices

for Sept. 25, 2005 will be given out on or about the June 25.

Our next Union meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on June 26. I hope to see everyone there!

Salem Area Transit

As reported by
GARY SPORE



No report given.

AMR Northwest

As reported by
JAMIE WILLIAMS



Advice to live by: If you have a complaint about something, it needs to come with a solution or idea to resolve it. Instead of fighting the way things are and will probably be, use your energy to make your world a better place. It is an amazing concept.

Proven record: Many times have I wanted to throw up my hands--and not to motion a touchdown. The reason I don't is simple: My work and dedication as a Union leader to our EMS workforce will not die. Many improvements have been made during my time, and hopefully there will be more to come.

Step into the supervisor's office: You must help yourself. If you are asked to come into a meeting with management, it is your sole responsibility to inquire if the meeting could lead to discipline. If the supervisor tells you "yes, it could," then tell them you want a Union rep present. Management will allow you time to get your liaison and/or myself there to represent you during the interview. If management tells you "no" or that the discipline is being issued, then a Union rep is not then allowed to attend. To clarify: "No, there will not be any discipline (including administrative remarks)", or "Management already has the discipline written and it is ready to present," then a Union rep will not be allowed nor does the interview have to be delayed.

Right to representation: Employees have Weingarten Rights only during investigatory interviews. An investigatory interview occurs when a supervisor questions an employee to obtain information that could be used as a basis for discipline or asks an employee to defend his or her conduct. If an employee has a reasonable belief that dis-

cipline or other adverse consequences may result from what he or she says, the employee has a right to request Union representation. State clearly the following: "If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated, or affect my personal working condition, I respectfully request that my Union representative, officer or steward be present at the meeting. Without representation, I choose not to answer any questions."

Investigatory interviews usually relate to subject such as: absenteeism, accidents, damage to company property, drinking, drugs, falsification of records, fighting, insubordination, lateness, poor attitude, sabotage, theft and violation of safety rules and/or work performance.

Interview or discussion goes south: You can ask for a Union rep in the middle of a meeting, but you risk management stating they have enough information and the meeting is over. In that case contact Union rep as soon as possible.

TriMet Light Rail Maintenance

As reported by
MICHAEL CONNER



With the signing of the contract we are working through the stack of grievances and hopefully will resolve some of them without the expense of arbitration. Union officers and management attended a leadership seminar to try to reach a better understanding of what each of us does. It included ideas on less confrontational approaches on how to resolve issues. Being the open-minded guy I am, I'm always ready to try a new approach, but some of the management is a bit more rigid than I am and may not be ready for change. I hope that management takes seriously some of the tools offered to help us resolve our issues. We'll see how it goes!

Rogue Valley Transportation District

As reported by
TOM HENNEY



Our attendance was a lot better at our May meeting. Keep up the good work. The door prize for April went to Roger, the one for May went to Steve.

If you cannot make it to the meeting, make sure to touch base with Carrie

or me about any concerns you have at any time.

We are still working on resolving the medical reimbursement problem. I will keep on top of it.

Remember the Union-sponsored picnic on June 25 at Emigrant Lake. Hope to see everyone there.

TriMet Lift

As reported by
LES GREEN

No report given.

TriMet Center Maintenance

As reported by
CHAD MATHER



The early sign-up we requested has been canceled. TriMet did not live up to the agreement that there would be no changes. Congratulations to the new mechanics: Kerry, Lance, Duane, Jason and Ray. You are going to be welcome additions.

(Turn to Page 20)

ATU Local 757 Officers

AL ZULLO.....President-Business Representative
JON HUNTVice President-Assistant Business Representative
TOM WALLACE.....Financial Secretary-Treasurer/Recording Secretary

Executive Board Officers

TriMet Center Maintenance.....CHAD MATHER
TriMet Center Transportation.....ALAN EISENBERG
TriMet Powell MaintenanceDAVID KAY
TriMet Powell TransportationSAM SCHWARZ
TriMet Merlo Maintenance.....KEVIN KINOSHITA
TriMet Merlo TransportationGREG MCGREW
TriMet LRT MaintenanceMIKE CONNER
TriMet LRT Transportation.....MICHAEL T. OLIVER
TriMet Monthly Rated Employees.....SHIRLEY BLOCK
Lane Transit District (LTD).....CAROL ALLRED
Portland Public SchoolsSMOKEY STOVER
Laidlaw Education ServicesKATHY MITCHELL
C-TRAN.....ROY JENNINGS
Salem Area Mass Transit District.....GARY SPORE
AMR Northwest.....JAMIE WILLIAMS

Liaison Officers

TriMet Merlo Extra BoardTERRY McMURRY
TriMet Center Extra BoardDAVE MATTHEWS
TriMet Powell Extra Board.....BRUCE DUNCAN
TriMet Ruby Junction Extra Board.....OPEN POSITION
TriMet Elmonica Extra BoardJASON CHOI
TriMet Elmonica Maintenance.....SHAYNE JENKERSON
SAT Maintenance.....DON ELZNIC
LTD Chairman.....WALT BOYNTON
LTD SecretaryCARLA AGUILAR
LTD Maintenance.....LEE LASSE
LTD Extra BoardDEB BITTERLICH
Rogue Valley Transportation DistrictTHOMAS HENNEY
Valley Transit.....NICK NOTARAS
AMR Southern Oregon-Josephine County (Acting)SEAN GARTLAN
Laidlaw Educ. Services (Portland School Bus)RAYMOND GIBSON
Laidlaw Transit Services, Inc. (TriMet Lift)LES GREEN
Laidlaw Transit, Inc. (Corvallis City Transit)BOB MCGUIRE
Laidlaw Transit, Inc. (Corvallis Schools)JOHN MUIR
MV Transportation, Inc.....TODD WATSON
C-TRAN.....JOHN SANNES
AMR Northwest-Clackamas County.....STEVE POLZEL
AMR Northwest-Clark County.....JASON KRAVITZ
AMR Northwest-Cowlitz CountyDEREK KYNASTON
AMR Northwest-Multnomah County.....LANNIE HASZARD
AMR Northwest-Communications Division.....CHRIS LUCAS
AMR Northwest-Special Services DivisionSTEVE POLZEL
C-VAN.....LARRY "BUD" WOLTER
WHEELS.....JOHN HARVEY
Tillamook County Transportation District.....PAT OSTRANDER

June Meetings

Charter

Charter members meet 7:30 p.m. Monday, June 20, in the Machinists Building, 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland. Charter day members meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 21, at Schoppert Hall, 1801 NE Couch, Portland.

Salem Transit/WHEELS

Salem members meet 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 21, at the Red Lion Hotel, 3301 Market St. NE, Salem.

Lane Transit

Eugene members meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 22, and Eugene day members meet 10 a.m. Thursday, June 23, at the Woodworkers Local Lodge, 1116 South A St., Springfield.

Corvallis Laidlaw City Transit/Schools

Corvallis members meet 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 23, at the Salbasgeon Suites, 1730 NW Ninth St., Corvallis.

Rogue Valley Transportation

Medford members meet 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 23, at the Hampton Inn, 1122 Morrow Rd., Medford.

Portland and Laidlaw School Bus Drivers

Portland school bus members are recessed for the summer. The end-of-school-year party will be on June 14. Watch for a new meeting place beginning in September.

C-TRAN/C-VAN

Vancouver members meet 7 p.m. Sunday, June 26, at the Laborers Hall, 2212 NE Andresen, Vancouver, Wash.

AMR Northwest

AMR Northwest members meet 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. Monday, June 6, Milwaukie Market Place Starbucks, 10826 SE Oak St., Milwaukie, and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Bruno's Pizza, 1108 Washington, Longview; Washington County members meet 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. Monday, June 13; 18000 NW Evergreen Parkway, Beaverton; Clark County members meet 6 to 9 a.m. Monday, at Starbucks, 7720 NE Hwy 99E, Hazel Dell; and Multnomah/Clackamas members meet 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, June 27, at Izzy's, 1307 NE 102nd, Gateway District. July 4th, no meetings. Note time change through October, night meeting is 7 p.m.

Tillamook County Transportation Dist.

Tillamook members meet 1:00 p.m. Sunday, June 26, at the Odd Fellows Hall, next door to the Bay City Fire Hall in Bay City.

Valley Transit

See your liaison officer.

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

Zullo: And so you asked

(From Page 1)

considering investing in hidden cameras and sound equipment so we can catch these folks in our own "sting" operation. One thing is certain. Whatever the cause, their actions are not the honorable way to do business!

TriMet

We're coming close to an agreement on guaranteed, uninterrupted break times. We think we have it in writing. We need to sit down with the

transportation officers to make sure they all agree with it, and we'll go from there.

Rogue Valley Transportation District

We are still working on the taxes that are being deducted from your medical reimbursements. At this point in time, I have not been able to get a direct answer from those who should know. Of course, the company's attorneys say, "Yeah, management can do it," but we're checking

into it more deeply with our own people.

Lane Transit District

It looks like we'll have our picnic there, which is good. The membership voted at the last meeting to go ahead with the picnic, so we will be moving to put it together.

WHEELS

I'll bet you're tired of carrying 40-pound sacks of whatever. John Harvey has told us that he's trying to get

limits on the weight of packages you have to carry and the number of grocery bags you have to handle. Hopefully, such limits will make it easier for you to cope with these loads that accompany your passengers.

Mailbox

A member wrote us expressing concerns over rumors he had been hearing. Because the member had the courtesy to sign the letter, I will answer them.

ATU Officer Reports

(From Page 19)

TriMet Center Transportation

As reported by
ALAN EISENBERG



Well, here we are; summer sign-up was fun, right? Hey, it only gets better, right? Laugh Out Loud (LOL)! Remember to drink water and stay hydrated; take a bathroom break when you need to. An air-conditioned bus can dry you out. Be sure to use a high number of sunblock and apply it a few times during your run. You don't want skin cancer; take it from me.

ATU 757 and TriMet had a number of educational seminars together in which both sides learned about interest-based problem solving. To learn more about this speak to me and let's see if we can solve your problem before it becomes a grievance. If not, then we will use the grievance procedure.

Once again, thank you to all my brothers and sisters for your kind generosity.

Be alert, stay sharp and stay alive.

TriMet Merlo Maintenance

As reported by
KEVIN KINOSHITA



The store-room longevity pay issue is finally done; everyone should have received their payoff check. I would like to thank everyone for being patient on this issue. It was frustrating when management was showing different paperwork than what we had.

There was a union trade show at the convention center this year. Many prizes were given away, such as cars, motorcycles and gift bags. It was great to see our members at the show. There were a lot of different locals there showing their skills and expertise in their fields.

So far, we have settled a couple of grievances and problems at the pre-step level. We have a couple of new jobs that will be on the upcoming sign-up from their settlements. Grievances takes time. We always try to settle your grievance at the pre-step level. This doesn't always happen. Please be patient.

As a reminder, for any paperwork you turn into TriMet--FMLA, license, doctor's note, for example--always make copies for yourself. It's easier and less frustrating when TriMet says they never received a copy or they can't find your paperwork.

As a Union member you are entitled to Union representation at any time discipline is involved--time loss, verbal warning, written warning--or if you feel you're going to be disciplined, contact your officer before the meeting happens. Don't meet with management by yourself.

Lastly, the allergy season has come upon us, although the weather is still gloomy. See your doctor before the pollen gets worse so your medication can be effective.

WHEELS

As reported by
JOHN HARVEY



No report given.



"Now this one sets a whole new standard for micro-management."

Retirees' Corner

The following retirees will celebrate birthdays in June: Claude E. Anderson, Gerald A. Annas, Clifford P. Archer, James V. Baldino, Idaus Bowles, **Leland E. Brown**, Robert W. Brunelle, Carl T. Caywood, Flora V. Cooke, Robert J. Corbin, **Lloyd F. Couture**, James E. Dawes, Edward M. Desantis, Joseph W. Dobbles, Fred L. Elkins, Raymond L. Funk, Gordon D. Garrett, Grace L. Hill, Fred Hollingsworth, Curtis A. Irwin, Vincent A. Jones, Willie J. Kelly, Helen M. Kelso, **Robert J. Moudy**, Robin D. Nelson, George R. Nelson, **Victor P. Neufeldt**, Michael S. O'Brien, Margaret A. Parsons, Donald R. Pullen, Sylvia B. Rau, Angel M. Reyes, Herbert D.

Richard, Joseph N. Riker, Sandra L. Rutz, Kenneth E. Santmyer, Joseph E. Schweitz, Zella M. Serniotti, John W. Shaber, Homer W. Staley, Earl B. Steinebach, Walter T. Storms, James W. Tindall, Jack R. VanOrman, **Glenn Wark**, Melvin K. Wilcox, Herbert W. Wilde, **Howard L. Wilson** and Ronald L. Yount.

The names of the 50-year members are shown in bold type. Next month's regularly scheduled ATU 757 Retired Member Chapter meeting is Wednesday, July 6, 2005, at 9:30 a.m. at Westmoreland's Union Manor, 6404 SE 23rd Ave. Coffee and doughnuts will be served at 9 a.m.

