



And so you asked...

Enough said

By Al Zullo
President-Business Representative



We have been busy with Lane Transit District in Eugene and Laidlaw in Corvallis. Both properties are on the verge of a strike. We will be back to the bargaining table in Eugene on February 25 and, hopefully, there will be some resolution.

A citizens' committee was formed to investigate LTD's proposals and the Union's proposals. At the end of that investigation the committee will make recommendations to help the parties come to an agreement on the contract.

In Corvallis, unless the company changes its position, we will be facing a strike. Jon has made an excellent report to bring you up to date as to where we are at our other properties, so I will end my report here.

Vice President's Report

By Jon Hunt



I would like to thank the brothers and sisters of ATU, friends and families and our fellow unionists and citizens of Lane Transit District for a great turnout

at our rally on Saturday, January 29 at the Eugene Library. The rally was followed by a solidarity march around Eugene Station. On Sunday — before, during and after mediation—we had citizens of Lane County there at the Hilton giving support to our drivers, mechanics and guest service representatives.

Special thanks to Miguel, manager of Manola's Thai Cuisine, who brought food to the Union negotiating team as well as to our supporters free of charge to our negotiation session. Now, that's community support. To all our brothers and sisters at Lane Transit, we commend you for staying strong through these tough times. To those in need of special assistance, please check out Stone Soup. You can find the names and numbers at ltdrollback.com. Your wage committee has worked above and beyond their call of duty, and I want to thank each of them and their families for their support.

Our brothers and sisters at Corvallis are in a similar battle. Laidlaw, the employer, once again is talking only about wages and nothing else.

In February, Laidlaw representatives for the first gave us a proposal on health insurance but only if we agreed to their substandard wages. We did not accept this condition, and to top everything off management went out the next day and told Union members that the Union turned down Laidlaw's offer for health insurance. Those of you who were there last time know that Laidlaw is up to their old tactics. Stay strong, and don't spread rumors. If you need information, see Bob Maguire, John Muir or Chris Grooms. Thank you.

AMR: We still have grievances on the Krono system. Sean Gartlan and Sid Humphries of Josephine County are studying a monthly meeting for our members there. I (Turn to Page 16)

ATU Local 757 Officer Reports

TriMet Powell
As reported by
SAM SCHWARZ



The Spring sign-up is complete. Merlo garage lost over 700 hours and 18 runs.

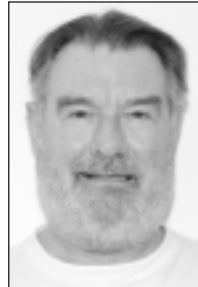
This is a great hardship for the drivers who make their home in that area. We use

our seniority to sign runs, as well as the garage they come out of. You would think the run cutting would have been done in the same manner. The scheduling department has chopped up most of the high seniority runs in what they call an effort to save money. It is apparent that when the District needs money they get it from the operators by hook or crook. It's time we get our due, like guaranteed breaks, a break in middle of our shift to eat and a clean bathroom—not an outhouse. No other

group of employees have to put up with working conditions like these! The run cuts will continue; there are more on the way for the summer.

Congratulations to the recent retirees and a special thanks to Bill Rice.

TriMet Light Rail Transportation
As reported by
MICHAEL T. OLIVER



Spring sign-up is completed, and as usual we have some happy campers and some not so happy. Some pointers: If you plan on signing regular relief,

make sure that you are prepared for crappy work if you sign Mon/Tue or Thu/Fri for regular days off (RDOs). As a rule, work on Tue/Wed/Thu is less desirable than the other days be-

cause that is when low seniority folks have their RDOs. Vacation relief can present good work if you can get one of the top spots; the farther down the line you go the less desirable the work is. The extra board can benefit you if you can be flexible. Using the request book and utilizing trades can also make your life somewhat easier. The bottom line is, if you do not educate yourself as to how sign-up works you will not get the best shifts available to you.

Because of the financial situation that exists in our state, some belt tightening is in order. Come April we will be going into annual recertification. All operators, supervisors and controllers will go through recertification, and we will be helped by the dozen light rail operators (LROs) who are still on the bus side. They will come to rail temporarily sometime in April and stay for the Rose Festival. Sorry to say that after that they will return to bus for the foreseeable future. We will lose some operators, but that will be done by attrition. The number is as yet un-

known, but as you all know we have plenty of work so the numbers should not be large.

Sam West has relinquished his position on the extra board at Ruby for regular relief. We would like to thank Sam for a job well done and wish him well on his new assignment. We hope to be announcing some minor changes in light rail Union positions in the next month, so stay tuned for who will be doing what to whom.

I filed a grievance in January that asks that the random testing of employees after their shift is over be stopped. Some changes have been made to the DOT rules and regulations, and my understanding of the new rules is that the individual must be notified that a check is going to be made and that the individual must finish the test before the end of their shift.

Stay tuned for any new developments.

Portland Public Schools
As reported by
SMOKEY STOVER



Watch out for the new working rules. They have not yet been bargained with the Union.

The school district's negotiator has apparently not planned to complete the contract this year. The next negotiation day is March 3rd. So for every month we do not have a contract, your medical is being paid in full. As soon as we get the school district's offer, we will let you know. Your Union vice president Jon Hunt was at the last meeting and will be at the next one.

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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.

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)

TriMet Salaried Employees

As reported by SHIRLEY BLOCK



I have come to the conclusion that working at TriMet and also as one of the executive board officers is like watching a movie. Let's title it, "Are We There Yet?" You keep repeating over and over what you need to accomplish the task at hand, and you keep getting the same line of bull. You know, it's like spinning your wheels and not moving at all. I never have to take the trip to Disneyland; I work in Walt Disney World. Trying to be persuasive and keeping a genuine dialogue going when you don't feel confident with some of the managers is a hard pill to swallow. I recognize that at some times and in some places management can be right, but on all of the outstanding grievances on the table they are wrong, and I don't have a problem sharing that with them.

Al Zullo and I sat down and talked with Michael Ford on 2/7/05, and we gave him another chance to have his people go over the outstanding grievances. He made a request of us not to move them to Step 3 with his word that he would take care of them (excluding snow and ice). Now, let's see what his word is worth. I'm telling you, Michael, timing is everything. Effective communication is the key here. We are all watching you.

I would like to say to every Union employee that they have the right to Union representation when called into a meeting that may lead into discipline; it's called your Weingarten rights. All you have to do is make this statement to the employer if discipline is possible: "If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated, I respectfully request that my Union representative, officer or steward be present at the meeting. Until then, I will remain present in this meeting until excused from attendance, but will not participate in the discussion." If I can't be reached, always call the Union office.

On a good note, we have survived the winter and the cold season should be behind us, so let's work on getting our attendance in order to earn some extra money toward retirement. To our retired brother David Stauffer we are not mad at you but we are jealous, for we know you are at the best years of life. Enjoy, enjoy.

Laidlaw Corvallis

As reported by JOHN MUIR/BOB MCGUIRE

No report given.

TriMet Lift

As reported by LES GREEN

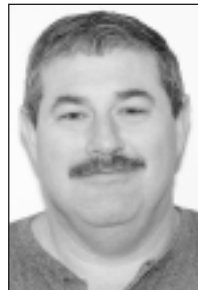
I guess it is time to report on the state of the current contract talks that, at this time, have been postponed until early March. There is some good news in that a new bid is about to take place as soon as times are added to the bid schedules. This bid should be in the next two weeks, so check your mail boxes.

Also, if you have any questions about the insurance open enrollment, see Renee or give me a call so we can discuss the options available.

I know to many of you this contract is either new or just a lot of uncertainty, so before you discuss your questions with management, please feel free to give me a call so we do not have rumors running rampant in the office. Remember, in our office the walls have ears! I want to assure all of you that as soon as I have anything positive to report you will be the first to know. Again, I know uncertainty is hard to live with, but together we will get through this.

C-TRAN/C-VAN

As reported by ROY JENNINGS



No more mandatory meetings! The arbitrator's decision is in, and you won! All discipline is to be removed and any lost wages will be paid. Anyone who was disciplined because of the mandatory state-of-the-agency meeting back in February of 2003 should check his or her personnel files to make sure all discipline was removed! (Don't forget your yearly evaluations.) As for the on-the-job-injury (OJI) arbitration, C-TRAN settled before the arbitration took place. In the settlement C-TRAN agreed that anyone off for any medical reason (OJI and non-OJI) would not have his or her seniority or benefits changed for one year. "Great job" to everyone who was involved with these two arbitrations.

In January, a letter was sent to C-TRAN requesting arbitration of a grievance filed for not promoting a paratransit driver to full time. As this new arbitration unfolds I will keep everyone informed. In addition, a grievance was filed on February 7th because management short changed the fixed route operators 67 vacation weeks on their 2005 vacation bid.

Can anyone tell me why it is that after C-TRAN's executive director/CEO informed everyone on live TV that management would take a pay freeze for 2005, they went ahead and gave pay raises? Could there be a problem with this?

A manager at C-TRAN has told me more than once that I need to be more flexible because of C-TRAN's current situation. To this I say, "I am flexible as long as it doesn't violate any Union contracts or past practices; otherwise, I am flexible!"

You know, sometimes C-TRAN's management talks the good talk. But when you sit back and watch them try to walk the walk, they fall off the beaten path!

AMR Northwest

As reported by JAMIE WILLIAMS



Worth repeating: AMR has given the Union and some employees heads up about a new employee handbook and policies manual. The new policies will create many questions and concerns. The Union has reviewed the policies. The concerns that we had were all agreed upon by management as not pertaining to the bargaining unit members. I have provided an in-depth report on which policies those are. If you have not yet received a copy, please call or e-mail me, and I will provide you a copy. Under the contract's management rights provision, AMR management has the right to continue, change, establish or eliminate policies and procedures. If the employer changes, eliminates or adds to any provisions of its current policies and procedures, it will notify the Union at least seven (7) days in advance of the effective date, by mailing the provisions to the Union.

Payroll issues: Lately, it appears that there has been a higher incident of mistakes on paychecks. The majority of mistakes are incorrect recording of trades and Korono's errors that can be simply checked two weeks before you are paid. Pay records for the week just worked are available from your supervisor for review. When a payroll issue is AMR's mistake, keep calling your supervisor or director until the issue is resolved. If in doubt of the rates of pay you are currently receiving on your paycheck, make an appointment with your supervisor to review your information.

Paid time off (PTO): You should be able to request time off without denial for not enough time on the books. AMR cannot deny time off until you have a complete audit done on your balance and accruals are determined to be correct. Most of the PTO balances are correct. If you have the wrong accruals on your pay stub, contact your supervisor or director until the issues are resolved.

Tardiness clarification: At AMR you are considered late if you are not

dressed in uniform and ready to perform your duties at the very minute your shift starts. People often believe that they have eight minutes to be at work after their start time to be considered late. The eight-minute leeway is allowed for clocking in purposes and payroll issues. Under the current discipline matrix tardiness begins when there are two consecutive occurrences.

Contract preparation meetings: For the next few months at the Cowlitz and the fourth Monday 6 p.m. meeting I will be gathering ideas and inquiries for the future contract negotiations. If you can't make a meeting, please e-mail your ideas to jamie757atu@msn.com.

TriMet Center Maintenance

As reported by CHAD MATHER



FMLA is still a hot issue. People are being denied left and right. It seems that TriMet does not understand that if you are gone for more than three consecutive days and you see a doctor and are required to take a regimen of treatments (prescriptions, follow-up visits), FMLA should apply.

OFLA is the next issue. Until the grievances are resolved, you need to use your OFLA leave before your contractual leave days. If you use your contractual leave days, make sure to designate your spouse. This way they cannot force OFLA leave.

TriMet Center Transportation

As reported by ALAN EISENBERG



Well, they've been at it again! At Center we have more runs and drivers. We got back 13 days in the leave day book, which is what we had to start with. Amazing how that happens, eh? The new sign-up has gone well. What? You're a.m. piece has no break at over three hours in the seat? There is no recovery time? Geez, how did we get here? Someone needs to answer—who? Reminds me of Sgt. "I know nothing" Schultz.

Please, I beg of you—come to the meetings and make your voice heard! We are tired of this—(fill in the blank), and we're not going to take it anymore!

The Union is composed of us, you and me. So, if you're upset with the

current climate, come to the meetings and let our leadership know! It's time to make things happen for us!

My deepest sympathies to operator S. Hartley on the recent loss of his daughter.

Grievances have been filed, so now let's see what becomes of them. As the sun is out and about longer now, don't forget to put on sun block!

TriMet Merlo Maintenance

As reported by KEVIN KINOSHITA

This year's snow and ice day was a very mild one compared to last year's fiasco, even though we had problems this year. The biggest problem this time was that some departments thought they were in an "emergency" situation. Only TriMet's general manager can declare an emergency after consulting with the ATU. This is a new provision in our collective bargaining agreement.

If you want overtime in the future, make sure that your supervisor has your current phone number and address. The phone number for the ATU's office is 503-232-9144. TriMet has sent over the final copy of our collective bargaining agreement having included the corrections. It is being looked over very carefully, and then it will be sent to the printers.

This past month was a very busy one with more pre-step conferences, snow and ice procedures not being followed, management not following our collective bargaining agreement with pre-step procedures and overtime issues, and we are still waiting for other outstanding grievances to be heard.

Once again, I was recently approached by management and told if I was seen talking on my cell phone for Union business that the Union was going to be charged for it. I think they forgot about the letter that Fred Hansen wrote about conducting Union business. I guess if they want to speak personally while I'm on the phone with our International president, president, vice president, secretary/treasurer or our legal counsel, I will gladly hand them the phone.

On FMLA or any other paperwork that you need to give TriMet always make copies for yourself before you turn them in. If you are having problems with your medical, dental, prescription or vision benefits, call Cynthia Kodachi at 503-962-4993.

A "747" hurrah goes out to our legendary senior parts person, Earl Lowery. Earl just received his 30-year anniversary pin from TriMet. It was great to see Greg Haley and Jeff Draper come out and personally congratulate Earl on his 30 years of service. Earl started off as a driver, transferred over to maintenance where he became a mechanic and then went into the

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ATU Officer Reports

(From Page 2)

storeroom. If he's not eating peanuts, then he is probably on his way to Costco for some hotdogs. Congratulations, Earl!

We had two raffles this month with great success. The first raffle was for Tom and Elaine Robbins. The raffle prize was a beautiful 32" television and a DVD player. The winner was Hazel Lavallee, a Merlo operator. Congratulations, Hazel. The second raffle was for the Vondross family. There was also a nacho benefit put on by Walt Saling with proceeds to the Vondross family. Various companies donated prizes: ATU shirts and jackets, maintenance shirts, Snap-on Tools, Mac Tools, hats from Gerlock Towing and Napa parts, Rod and Custom show tickets, car washes and Voith transmission clock. Mike Pucik's sister donated a couple of shirts. Last were various gift certificates. Merlo garage won a bunch of prizes; I would like to thank Del Spunaugle, Jerry Sound, ATU Vice President Jon Hunt and Mike Pucik for all their hard work and for getting a lot of the donations. Huge thanks go out to Merlo transportation for participating with such short notice. Words can't express thanks for the generosity that all of you at Merlo garage have; because of you, Merlo garage collected almost \$400 in a couple of days.

Lastly, our full-time officers have been busy in the last two years with contract negotiations in both Oregon and Washington. During that time, we added a contract with the Tillamook County Transportation District. The amount of time that these officers put in is amazing. It's not an 8 to 5 job; a lot of times they are working on their way into the office, on their way home from the office, on weekends, the majority of times away from their family, missing special occasions, working around the clock preparing for arbitrations, negotiations, battling with upper management, giving advice to the membership, seven days a week, so you and I can have better working conditions and benefits, then turning around and doing it again the very next day. I would like to say thank you very much for representing us day in and day out.

WHEELS

As reported by
JOHN HARVEY



Hello to everyone. At this time, we have requested a Step 2 hearing with Jay Lynch for a termination for too many speeding tickets. Be aware of your speed at all times.

I have had some complaints from

drivers stating that they were treated disrespectfully by a member of our Union. If you think this is happening to you, please let me know. I hope to see everyone at the next Union meeting.

Laidlaw Portland Public Schools

As reported by
KATHY MITCHELL



Drivers, you are required to do a daily pre-trip inspection. Laidlaw requires you to do it in ten minutes. I say, take as long as necessary for the safety of your passengers that you transport daily. I questioned Arthur about the ten-minute pre-trip, but he didn't want to get into that because he knows that according to your CDL regulations it would take longer to do a complete pre-trip.

Arthur also mentioned drivers who are transporting wheelchair students need to remove the floor ties for safety reasons and store in the bag when not in use. Drivers, you cannot be disciplined for failing to do this if you haven't been properly trained to remove the ties from the floor of the bus. No training no discipline.

Drivers and mechanics, please conduct yourself in a professional manner when you are on company property and company time. What you do when you end your work shift and off the property is your own business as to how you conduct your life.

Cover drivers, you can't pick and choose which route you want to cover unless you have permission from a doctor stating what limitations you have. There shouldn't be any arguments when dispatch hands you a route to cover. Field standby (FS) drivers are the last ones to be sent out to cover a route. They are our standby drivers in case of an emergency, breakdown or overload. Dispatch should utilize all cover drivers before using the FS drivers.

TriMet Merlo Transportation

As reported by
GREG MCGREW



This month, there is a veritable potpourri of things to discuss, so let's get to it. High on the agenda is the spring sign-up, which should be underway as you read this. Sam, Alan and I have filed some grievances over what happened

and what is likely to happen again at the summer sign-up. We will continue to crusade against the denigration of our seniority and to question management's faulty rationale for removing work from Merlo. In a paddle-by-paddle comparison I dispelled the myth that the movement of the work was to save money on deadhead time. This is a patent falsehood. The real truth of the matter is the money TriMet will save by reducing the frequency of runs and by combining runs. The spring sign-up produced some interesting combinations that management will want to continue to capitalize on. For example, a 12 pulling into Gresham TC will pull out as a 20 or perhaps a 4.

Any number of bogus combinations are allegedly "feasible." Check your paddles carefully at the next sign-up to see how they are going to take advantage of you!

Out Merlo way we can expect some significant route changes around Washington Square. The 43, 76 and 78 will be moved around, and the 56 will have a new way to get into the transit center without having to make that suicide left at Perimeter Road. At this moment in time, these changes will be official on June 5. Expect some helpful visual aids on this.

The highly touted lapel microphones, which are supposed to enhance our ability to "communicate" our ADA role more effectively, are experiencing some technical difficulties. The February launch has been indefinitely postponed until perhaps March. Don't hold your breath, because basically the problem is making them work effectively across our diverse fleet of buses.

Meanwhile, expect the battalion of quality assurance riders to be out in force writing more customer complaints. The company may be broke, but there is plenty of money to fund this nonsense. According to some survey allegedly taken by the government, our stop calling compliance is no better than 50 percent, and this is just not good enough to prevent Uncle Sam from slapping us with a big lawsuit and/or fine. Now, I have not seen the breakout of this survey, and I am skeptical of the methodology of most surveys as they are often self-serving exercises that produce doubtful information. When someone says, "according to the survey," remember the old adage that figures lie and liars figure.

As for the good and bad news Hazel Lavallee won the TV and DVD combination drawing for Tom Robbins. Congratulations to her and to all of you who participated with your hard-earned dollars for such a worthy cause. The Robbins family is very grateful to all of you.

There is real hope that a contract booklet is in our near future. Union and TriMet management met a couple of weeks ago and hammered out the

last details.

Finally, we've been told to expect another 400-plus hours-of-service reductions at Merlo for the summer sign-up. We will vigorously oppose any further cuts and will keep you posted on our progress with this issue.

MV Transportation

As reported by
TODD WATSON

We have just put into service 15 new sedan cars for our paratransit services. These vehicles will be used for ambulatory pick-ups only. Tri-Met expects to cut down on their cab pick-ups and will give our operators a break from driving buses. In the process, these will give our customers a more personalized service. So far, the only concern I have is that operators have to physically collect fares and put them in a money pouch, which will be turned in at the end of their specific route. We are trying to work with TriMet maintenance to see if it is feasible to put some kind of a fare or lock box inside the vehicle, as we don't want any of our operators to be approached by someone demanding money. I hope in the near future we can work something out that satisfies both parties. In the meantime, just do your best and be aware of your surroundings.

TriMet Light Rail Maintenance

As reported by
MICHAEL CONNER



No report given.

TriMet Powell Maintenance

As reported by
DAVE KAY



No report given.

Rogue Valley Transportation District

As reported by
CARRIE CLIFFORD-RISLEY

No report given.

Lane Transit District

As reported by
CAROL ALLRED



No report given.

Salem Area Transit

As reported by
GARY SPORE



No report given.

To the Members of ATU 757:

What is it going to take to get you started to get involved in your Union? I went to the January membership meeting, and there were more ex-Board officers present than there were members.

Then, you hear people say that the Union isn't doing anything or that they don't like what the Union is doing. What they seem to have forgotten is that they are the Union. If you don't show up for meetings or you believe that changes need to be made, let the officers know what is on your mind — they are the people who can change things. So, if there is a communication problem, it must be on the part of the membership.

Speaking of communication, we need people to let us know when members are preparing to retire so we can inform them of the benefits of staying an active and enrolled member of our Retired Member Chapter.

You can contact any of the retired Board officers through the Local Union office. Thank you.

Respectfully and fraternally yours,
Wilfred (Bill) Wimmer, President, ATU Retired Member Chapter

March Meetings

Charter

Charter members meet 7:30 p.m. Monday, Mar. 21, in the Machinists Building, 645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland. Charter day members meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, Mar. 22, at Schoppert Hall, 1801 NE Couch, Portland.

Salem Transit/WHEELS

Salem members meet 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Mar. 22, at the Red Lion Hotel, 3301 Market St. NE, Salem

Lane Transit

Eugene members meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Mar. 23, and Eugene day members meet 10 a.m. Thursday, Mar. 24, at the Woodworkers Local Lodge, 1116 South A St., Springfield.

Corvallis Laidlaw City Transit/Schools

Corvallis members meet 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Mar. 24, at the Salbasteon Suites, 1730 NW Ninth St., Corvallis.

Rogue Valley Transportation

Medford members meet 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Mar. 24, at the Hampton Inn, 1122 Morrow Rd., Medford.

Portland and Laidlaw School Bus Drivers

Portland school bus members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Mar. 24, Whitaker Lakeside School Cafetorium, 5135 NE Columbia Blvd., Portland.

C-TRAN/C-VAN

Vancouver members meet 7 p.m. Sunday, Mar. 27, at the Laborers Hall, 2212 NE Andresen, Vancouver, Wash.

AMR Northwest

AMR Northwest members meet 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. Monday, Mar. 7, Milwaukie Market Place Starbucks, 10826 SE Oak St., Milwaukie, and 6 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, Mar. 14, at Tanasbourne/Haggens, 18000 NW Evergreen Pkwy; Clark County members meet 6 to 9 a.m. Monday, Mar. 28; Multnomah/Clackamas members meet 7 p.m. Monday, Mar. 28, at Izzy's, 1307 NE 102nd, Gateway District.

Tillamook County Transportation District

Tillamook members meet 1 p.m. Sunday, Mar. 27, 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.

Vice president's report

(From Page 1)

hope to attend. Jamie Williams is keeping tabs in Portland. Remember to allow time for a callback from Jamie because of the nature of his job—he can't always get back to you right away. Please feel free to call our office toll free at 1-800-797-4373 if you need immediate attention.

Northeast Coalition: We would like to welcome Dashun Montgomery as our new liaison officer. Dashun attended his first bargaining session last month. We are waiting for a proposal back from John Canda, director of the coalition.

Cherriots: Gary Spore has been keeping tabs on Salem and is working on a couple of grievances there. Gary, along with shop steward Bob Lehman, are scheduled for some upcoming LERC classes.

C-TRAN: Roy Jennings, along with our legal team, has held one grievance off from going to arbitration; however, we have a few in line to take its place.

MV Transportation: We have received a notice by way of our liaison Todd Watson from TriMet to MV urging all employees to take their lunch breaks. I would like to remind you that you are entitled to two ten-minute breaks and a half-hour lunch. If you need to use the restroom and you have a decode passenger, ask for a supervisor to assist. The bottom line is, "when you gotta go, you gotta go."

Obie Media: Obie has a new name, and it is Lamar Advertising Company. They have agreed to honor the contract between ATU and Obie.

Valley Transit: Nick Notaras is doing a good job. We have heard no complaints there. We are still working with management on a VEBA plan. Stay tuned.

Laidlaw Lift, Beaverton: We are back to the table in early March. We have told Laidlaw that they need to come back with an offer like the agreement that was made with MV Transportation. Our members at Laidlaw do the same jobs for less, but no longer. Les Green has been working with Kevin Kinoshita on the grievance process, and Les sits on the negotiating team. Thank you for your help.

WHEELS: The contract is printed and you should have a copy by now. If not, please contact John Harvey and ask for a copy.

Laidlaw Portland: Kathy Mitchell and I have been having trouble scheduling grievances. Mr. Stew Hedges, I guess it's time to go over your head. As you know, Coral Semle is gone. We will see if her replacement will work with us and not against us.

Portland Public Schools: We are currently in contract negotia-

tions. Smokey Stover, Annette McLaughlin and I have been at the table with the DCU for some time now. We will be meeting soon on Appendix F, the drivers' section of the contract. Once we have something to offer you, we will have a meeting to go over your options.

Tillamook County Transportation District: Your printed contact should be out soon. "Way to go" for Pat Ostrander and Marlene Taylor for all of your hard work.

Portland Streetcar: We are in the process of getting cable TV out to you. We have the okay on that and now we are going after a computer terminal so you can access TriNet. We are working with the management on superintendent reliefs and our concerns with the trainer in the maintenance department.

RVTD: Carrie Risley-Clifford and Tom Henney did a great job with our Take-A-Break campaign. We received good coverage in the local paper. Keep up the good work.

TriMet: Thank you for all of your support to the Robbins family. We raised over \$1,900 that went to them in their time of need. Operator Hazel Lavallee won the TV and a DVD player. "Way to go."

Well, I know you have heard it before, but I think we are getting close to getting the contract finalized. There are a few small details that need ironing out, and we hope to have good news by next month. Keep your fingers crossed.

We will be meeting next month with a mediator to help work out some of our outstanding grievances and to work out a way to handle our pre-grievance hearings in the future. Until these issues are resolved, you should ask for Union representation at any time you suspect you might receive discipline.

I am looking for volunteers to look at ways to help our members in need. We have more and more members in need of help these days. If you have an idea or would like to help, you can e-mail me at vpresident@atu757.org or you can call me at 503-232-9144.

You should have received surveys in the mail recently on child care. Thank you for filling them out and sending them in. We are experimenting on ways we can help you offset your day care and elder care expenses. We have negotiated for some time a fund that TriMet pays into each year. With your help we will find the best ways to fit your needs. As a father of three I, too, know how overwhelming day care situations can be.

I will leave you with this. Take-A-Break. If you need to use the restroom, please do so. When you have to go, you have to go.

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

Retired Member Chapter Officers

President.....BILL WIMMER
Vice President.....LEE BROWN
Financial Secretary/Recording Secretary.....JOE LeBARRON

Retirees' Corner

The following retirees will celebrate birthdays in March: Kenneth E. Alexander, Don H. Allen, Green Asberry, Tommie L. Boyd, Helen M. Castro, Jerry C. Chase, Homer E. Cornwell, Marilyn I. Cote, Edward A. Dahl, Delbert O. Desper, Theodore E. Dietz, **Eugene G. Faas, Johanna E. Fuller**, Harold M. Guy, James H. Hall, Phyllis Johnstone, Ira L. Leeson, Glen M. Lyons, Phillip A. Maggs, Artha E. Malone, Kenneth T. Mc Candless, Darrel A. Mc Chesney, Jon A. Mc Williams, Larry L. Morgan, Ralph I. Neibauer, Larry L. Teters, Warren W. Webber, Stephen J. Widmer, Thela E. Wight and Debra A. Williams.

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, April 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.

