



## And so you asked

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

Josephine County AMR has sent a letter to our members stating they will no longer collect Union dues and they will not honor the grievance procedure. This is a sign that we are moving in the wrong direction. At our final bargaining session, they brought to the table that they are losing money in Josephine County. We have negotiated for many months, and now they come up with this. We have requested to see the books. They have provided part of what we are seeking and we are waiting for additional information. The bottom line is, why is AMR still there if they are losing money? Do they know something they are not telling us? I have assigned our auditor to review the books and will get back to you with what we find out. As I stated last month, we need to all stand together. This is the time to talk with our friends and families to support our brothers and sisters in Josephine County. Unlike the association

NEMSA, which pulled out of Portland when things got tough, the ATU is in it for the long haul.

We are awaiting the last, best and final offer from Portland Public Schools. From everything we have seen, we are not impressed, but we will take their offer back to the members because the members make the final call. If PPS would concentrate on our drivers' needs and what it would take to keep professional drivers working at PPS, rather than feeding misinformation and half-truths regarding our presence at bargaining, we would all benefit. Our drivers perform above and beyond the call of duty transporting our special needs kids to and from school. Let's not let them down. Please see your action team for more information.

Binding arbitration is on the horizon at Lane Transit District. We will be meeting with a me-

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## Secy-Treas Report

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

I am relieved to announce that hard work and long days have paid off. The LM2 reports are done and were filed two days early. Fortunately, the six-month audit report for International ATU was only two days late, despite a frustrating lack of information and the need to hunt down missing forms. Progress was agonizingly slow, but we got it done.

For anyone interested in viewing our Local's LM2 reports, please feel free to call my

office for online instructions.

Thank you to the supporter(s) from Center Street garage who sent flowers last month. You made my week!

Next month I will also be reporting on my time at the Financial Secretary training seminar in Washington, D.C. I look forward to putting into practice my newfound skills.

Don't forget: At November's charter meeting, we pull tickets for turkeys. There will be lots of winners. See you at the meeting!



## VP's Report

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

Well, let's start this month off with Canby negotiations. We met on a Saturday in Wilsonville with Wheels and their attorney. They made no attempt to compromise and so we will now take it to the members who, by the way, are used to the company lying.

At TriMet, the mediation process is going well and we were fortunate to get two operators back to work who were terminated a year ago. The attendance (SPA) program is supposed to reward operators that achieve 100 percent attendance. But did you know you could be eliminated for CSIs, accidents and write-ups for just about anything? Well that's enough to make me sick for at least two days.

At Portland Public Schools we are at an impasse on the contract negotiations, and have asked for their best and final offer to take to the members.

Laidlaw is now First Student, and we expect to have issues with the new employer.

At Wheels in Salem, one of the managers who came from Canby is up to his old tricks. He wants to punish drivers twice for every infraction. I will fight this. Managers like this don't grow on trees, they swing from them.

We are also trying to get in touch with retired groups in the other locals to see if there is any interest in getting together and meeting every two years.

Congratulations to all the newly retired members.

## Officer Reports



### TriMet Light Rail Maintenance

As reported by  
**MICHAEL CONNER**

In September, I attended the ATU International Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. At this meeting we voted on resolutions that will guide the International's Policies, and voted for the International Officers who will be our representatives on national issues over the next three years. We heard guest speakers who were there to motivate us on the labor movement in general, and politicians looking for our votes. I also attended the maintenance unit's meeting, where we discussed national and international issues involving maintenance. It is always interesting to talk to our brothers and sisters from the Canadian locals about issues. Whereas one of our biggest issues here in the states is health insurance, up North it is totally a non-issue. It would sure make negotiations a lot easier for us here if we only had to deal with wages like our friends up North!

On a more local front, FMLA, installing cameras on the trains for a design flaw in the

green line platforms, MOW apprentice issues, mandatory uniforms in the Fare Department, and many more issues have been keeping me busy. If you have questions on any of these, please give me a call or drop me an e-mail.

Hope all of you have a great holiday season. Work safe.



### C-TRAN/C-VAN

As reported by  
**ROY JENNINGS**

Well, here it is the first of November 2007. Wow, what a month it has been! If you read last month's *ATU Bulletin* article in the Labor Press, you can see that I submitted that article to the Union well before C-TRAN let us know about the delay to the 99th Street Park and Ride. I really believe that Scott Miller did an outstanding job while I was out of the state at our 55th ATU International convention.

If at any time you find yourself at work, working for the company after your end time, please fill out a Request for Additional

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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.

# November Meetings

## Charter

Charter members meet 7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 12, in the Machinists Building, 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland. Charter day members meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 13, at Schoppert Hall, 1801 NE Couch, Portland.

## Portland and Laidlaw School Bus Drivers

Portland School Bus members meet 6 p.m. Thursday Nov. 15, at Rigler School, 5401 NE Prescott, Portland.

## C-TRAN/C-VAN

Vancouver members meet 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18, at the Laborers Hall, 2232 NE Andresen, Vancouver, Washington.

## Salem Transit/WHEELS

Salem members meet 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 13, at the West Salem Branch Public Library 395 Glen Creek Road, Salem.

## Lane Transit

Eugene members meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 14, and Eugene day members meet 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 15, at the Woodworkers Local Lodge, 1124 South A St., Springfield.

## Corvallis Laidlaw City Transit/Schools

Corvallis members meet 7:45 p.m. Thursday Nov. 15, at Woodstock Pizza, 1045 NW Kings Blvd, Corvallis

## Rogue Valley Transportation

Medford members meet 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 15, at the Hampton Inn, 1122 Morrow Rd., Medford.

## Tillamook County Transportation District

Tillamook members meet 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18, 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.....JACK NEWBERRY  
 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).....WALT BOYNTON  
 Portland Public Schools .....RANDY SHAW  
 Laidlaw Education Services .....ANNA TOMPTE  
 C-TRAN.....ROY JENNINGS  
 Salem Area Mass Transit District.....KEN RICHINS

## Liaison Officers

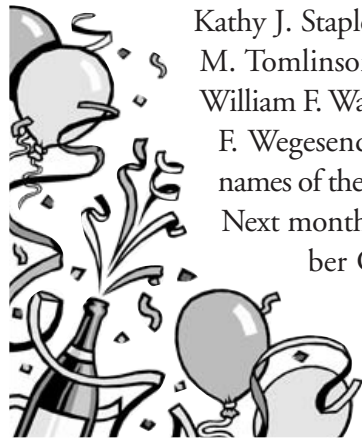
TriMet Merlo Extra Board .....STEVE ECKLES  
 TriMet Center Extra Board .....OPEN POSITION  
 TriMet Powell Extra Board.....KHRIS ALEXANDER  
 TriMet Ruby Junction .....DOUG "SPUD" HENDERSON  
 TriMet Ruby Junction Maintenance .....JOE RUFFIN III  
 TriMet Elmonica .....JASON CHOI  
 TriMet Elmonica Maintenance..... VACANT  
 SAT Maintenance.....DON ELZNIC  
 LTD Chairman.....DEB BITTERLICH  
 LTD Secretary .....TOM SHACKELFORD  
 LTD Maintenance.....LEE LASSE  
 LTD Extra Board .....CARL FADDIS  
 Rogue Valley Transportation District .....THOMAS HENNEY  
 Valley Transit.....NICK NOTARAS  
 AMR Southern Oregon-Josephine County ..... SEAN GARTLAN  
 Laidlaw Educ. Services (Portland School Bus) .....OPEN POSITION  
 Laidlaw Transit Services, Inc. (TriMet Lift) .....LES GREEN  
 Laidlaw (Corvallis City Transit) .....BOB McGUIRE  
 Laidlaw Education Services (Corvallis Schools).....CHRIS GROOMS  
 MV Transportation, Inc.....DENNIS TONG  
 C-TRAN.....SCOTT MILLER  
 C-VAN.....JIM COLLELL  
 WHEELS .....JOHN HARVEY  
 Tillamook Cnty. Trans. Dist. ....PATRICIA OSTRANDER-NICE

# Retirees' Corner

The following retirees will celebrate birthdays in November: Frank E. Anthony, Clarsie B. Apley, Carroll W. Bishop, Terry E. Brown, Janice S. Brown, Judy A. Coleman, Obedell Coxeff, Robert L. Daniell, Darwin L. Eisele, Alan Eisenberg, James W. Gaither, Lynn F. Gartrell, Dorothy E. Hansen, **Earl W. Heaton**, Fred E. Helm, Dennis L. Hiestand, Roscoe L. Hollis, Georgia C. Lamb, Harold O. Lambert, **Ralph E. Lapp**, Carol A. Larson, June E. Millhollin, Ola R. Mitchell, Mario Moll, Patrick J. Murnin, David H. Pittman,

Betty L. Price, **Donald C. Seeley**, Janie L. Sorlie, Obeary Spires, Kathy J. Staples, Jimmy A. Strong, Albert R. Szejter, Evelyn M. Tomlinson, Donald J. Tourville, Melvin O. Van Vorst, William F. Warren, Walter F. Warren, Avis I. Warren, William F. Wegesend Jr, William V. Wyse, Robert W. Zeller. The names of the 50-year members are in bold type.

Next month's regularly scheduled ATU 757 Retired Member Chapter meeting is Wednesday, December 5, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. at Westmoreland's Union Manor, 6404 SE 23rd Ave. Coffee and doughnuts will be served at 9 a.m.



# ATU Local 757 Officer Reports

(From Page 1)

Compensation (RAC) form. Don't let C-TRAN get you or anyone to work without pay! It's cut and dried: If you work, C-TRAN pays.

Fixed route operators: Please drive the routes. Don't let C-TRAN trap you into doing something that could make you lose your job. Everyone should be taking their breaks. If you need to take a break, call in your ten-forty-four (10-44) and take your break. It's C-TRAN's responsibility to get you back on schedule, not yours. Don't put your job in jeopardy!

Now that winter is coming, it will get dark earlier, so please watch out for the kids and the ice, and please drive carefully. Take the time and space you need. Again, don't put your livelihood on the line.



**Laidlaw PPS**  
As reported by  
ANNA TOMPTE

As everyone should know by now, we are no longer Laidlaw Education Services. We are now First Student. But please do not let it bum you out. Let's see what they have to offer.

I would like to welcome two new stewards to the yard. They are Eddie Mae Querner and Cherie Gould. Thank you, and welcome aboard!

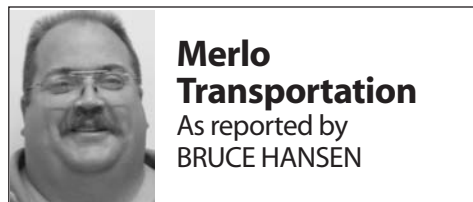
Hey guys, give the shop a break. They are human too. Once you write up your bus on the VIR, they are aware of the problem and will do their best to get it fixed. When you do write up your bus, please print the details of what is wrong clearly, so they can read it.

The rodeo team thanks everyone for their support in helping out with the penny drive. Please keep up the good work in supporting our team.

If any of you have issues or concerns about safety concerning other drivers, please try to talk to the driver first and let him or her know what you witnessed and try to resolve it before going to staff.

We would also like to recognize the men and women who left Laidlaw Education Services over the summer and wish them a fond farewell (unless they come back).

If any of you have concerns or comments, please contact one of your stewards or your union rep. If you don't know who that is, please look on the union board. Remember, Team Work!



**Merlo Transportation**  
As reported by  
BRUCE HANSEN

What we have going on now in the month of October is the USSC seats coming back to haunt us. As everyone knows, TriMet spent thousands of dollars to retrofit the 1700, 1800 and 1900 series buses with these seats, with little or no driver input. As a result many drivers have suffered injury and discomfort. We were able to stop the first campaign and now ask that they consider a second re-modification. When they completed the first re-modified version,

they came back with nearly the exact same seat configuration as before. Now they are installing them again, and drivers are still injured and suffering from discomfort. They appear to not give a damn about the drivers' comfort. We are again trying to stop this second seat campaign. We need everyone's help. If you are having problems or issues with these new seats on the old busses, then please contact me.

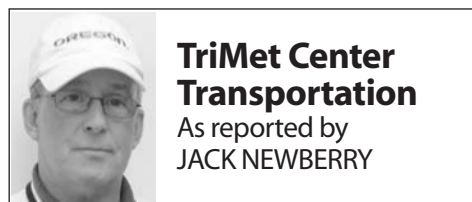
Maintenance refuses to do anything about clarifying medical certifications that are already on file. Drivers have been asked to go and on their own time get a medical certification that management now refuses to honor. We will continue to ask for medical certifications to show that our drivers are being injured by these seats.

So, let's say it's a weekday at 2 p.m., and you come in to address an issue with management and lo and behold, all of the offices are dark, and no one is there to address your issues. What signal is this sending to us as operators? TriMet managers should be held accountable the same way that drivers are while on shift. It would be nice to have some sort of weekly schedule posted so drivers know when to expect the managers to be in their offices, so we don't waste our day trying to track them down to discuss TriMet issues. As a reminder to managers, drivers are on the road almost 24 hours a day. Managers should be available to the drivers when needed. Drivers, wouldn't it be nice to have a straight 8-4 every day?

Contractual leave for domestic partners continues to be a problem. Drivers in the past have been granted contractual leave for domestic partners and now, because it is not in the contract, it is being discriminated against. Domestic partners that are registered with TriMet should have the same benefits as all others. This form of discrimination seems to be an uphill battle we continue to fight. With everyone's help, we can win this fight.

Help us increase attendance at each and every union meeting. I would like to fill the room with members from every property.

Be safe, and remember to always take your breaks!



**TriMet Center Transportation**  
As reported by  
JACK NEWBERRY

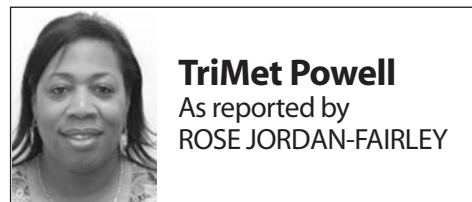
This month I'd like to talk about Section 17, Modified Return to Work, Paragraph 1 of the Working and Wage Agreement, Page 29. An employee who is released by their doctor and returns to work on a limited basis may be assigned by the District to available work provided:

- A. The work to which the employee is assigned shall be consistent with the term of the doctor's work release.
- B. The employee shall be paid not less than 100 percent of the rate of pay of the employee's classification.
- C. If the job meets the above requirements.
- D. Hours worked under such assignment will be considered as "productive hours" in the computation and eligibility for fringe benefit pay and accruals.
- E. Time worked on such assignment shall be considered as for any other time worked for

seniority purposes.

- F. Alternate work assignments – If the District has alternate work assignments greater than what the number of scheduled light-duty employees can accomplish, the District shall attempt to make such work available to employees who are off work due to off-job injuries on a case-by-case basis. In assigning such work, the District will determine the employee's suitability to perform such work based on the employee's submission of their physician's release to work document. The parties will meet to discuss the procedures by which this clause will be implemented.

Hopefully as union members, we all will refer to the WWA book as it relates to us in our workplace.



**TriMet Powell**  
As reported by  
ROSE JORDAN-FAIRLEY

Greetings, my ATU brothers and sisters. Thanks for continuing to support me in my Executive Board position at Powell Garage. I know that I missed last month's report, and I take full responsibility for that. I missed the timeline. Oops. I believe in keeping members well informed of upcoming and current events. I realize that a lot of individuals look forward to the officers' report.

The ATU continues to fight for each and every person who's been wrongfully terminated or suspended for unjust cause. Though our record is not perfect in that regard, we do have some success stories. I'm here to report that in recent months (October, to be exact), we were able to get several operators who were wrongfully terminated back to work through our mediation process. I know some of you are wondering about others who have been terminated as well, and nothing has been done as of this date. We all know that these things take time, so please keep in mind that we are working on them. Please continue to call me if you have any questions or concerns. My number is on the union board.



**TriMet Merlo Maintenance**  
As reported by  
JEFF HUNT

This month I have had one pre-filing, though it has yet to be heard. We have no Step 2s pending at this time. The pre-filing is regarding supervisory and garage managers doing store-room work. The Working and Wage agreement is clear that this is bargaining unit work.

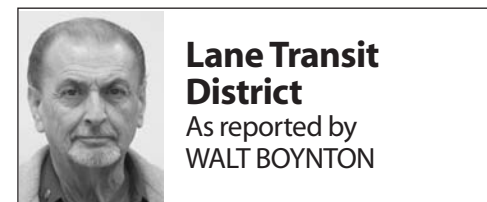
Congratulations to Ed Whitaker. He is the new chair of the Safety Committee. Ed is going to be a great asset for all of us.

Roger Sellon is home now and doing well. Roger retired Oct. 13, completing his 30 years as an ATU member. Roger was a good friend to all of us and will be missed.

Congratulations to Kent Effinger for passing

his LME test and becoming a plant maintenance mechanic.

The graveyard supervisor, Robert Brooks, will be moving to Center Street, and we will be getting a new Merlo supervisor on graveyard. Please come see me or your steward and let us know if you would like a new signup.



**Lane Transit District**  
As reported by  
WALT BOYNTON

September's International ATU convention in Las Vegas was quite an eye-opener for me, as I found out what a large and strong union we have. I and several other Executive Board officers from ATU 757 were selected as delegates. It was a chance to see simultaneously all of the International Officers re-elected to their positions and to meet them and talk to them personally. We were kept busy with meetings and speeches and activities. Having a chance to talk to the many delegates from all over the country and Canada and even Romania and share some of the similar challenges they experience was invaluable. Local 757 also received an award on organizing thanks to the efforts of our local president, Jon Hunt.

On the Local scene, we are now waiting for mediation, which is scheduled for Nov. 9 and 16. We are still open to meeting with the District at any time before the mediation process begins. I see the general manager of LTD received approval of his raise from the Board of Directors for his job performance. Does that tell you anything about what they really think about the job we do? We are the ones on the front lines dealing with irate customers, keeping the buses clean with a short staff, making sure the buses with all the new technology stay on the road, again understaffed, and the ones dealing with many impossible schedules, many times not receiving breaks, dealing with increased traffic and customer counts! But we are so appreciated for the work we do! Fine, then negotiate a fair contract with us, LTD and the Board of Directors. We are not asking for the moon! Show us you care where it counts — in our pocketbooks!

Welcome to new drivers Angel Gotay, Craig Morris, Scott Morton, Dianna Null, Heather Ocker, Janice VanCamp and Kay Wafford. By the time you read this, they will be on the road, on their own. Also welcome Tim Blackenship, hired as a much needed mechanic.

Keep the faith, stay strong, and most of all, stay united. Remember to come to the union meetings in November. Dates are posted on the union bulletin boards. These meetings are for you! Hope you all and your loved ones have a Happy Thanksgiving. We do have a lot to be thankful for!

In Solidarity!

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# ATU Local 757 Officer Reports

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

The ATU 55th Convention was held this September. I was privileged to attend as an alternate delegate and was assigned to work on the Safety and Security Committee. This seemed proper, as Sister Laura Berlin and I have been on TriMet's security review committee for several years as reps for the ATU membership.

Besides Homeland Security issues, our job is protecting our members physically and mentally while on the job. A speaker from Canada told us of an unprovoked attack on him which ended with him being shot. It was resolved to push nationwide and Canada to advocate for stiffer penalties for this type of criminal behavior.

Many of the presidential candidates sent regards or representatives to the convention, and Dennis Kucinich addressed the delegates and guests. Other guest speakers included the Mayor of Las Vegas and John Sweeney, president of the AFL-CIO.

The week culminated in an airline horror story, with many of us stuck in Las Vegas for over 20 hours while the airlines floundered. It started with an airplane struck by lightning and went downhill from there.

On the home front, a Step 2 hearing was held, with no movement on an overtime call out issue.

A grievance filed concerning the use of safety vests was heard at Step 2 and the reply is back. The agreement is workable but language in the settlement is not acceptable, so negotiations continue.

The Topoff 4 exercise took place Oct. 15 and 16 at Powell Garage and the 911 complex on our east side. This forced all paratransit traffic through our yard.

There have been some changes in the FMLA/OFLA laws recently, with most going into effect Jan. 1, 2008. Please check with your

property officer to ensure your rights under these two laws are observed.

That said, members need to be prepared to file BOLI (Bureau of Labor and Industry) complaints to force compliance with the law if reason does not prevail.



**Portland Public Schools**  
As reported by  
RANDY SHAW

Well, here it is November already. We sure have had our share of setbacks this school year. I have already filed more grievances than I think I filed all of last year. It seems the District doesn't want to follow seniority when giving out extra work, and we have supervisors doing union work. I just found out about some summer work, but it was too late to grieve.

You know, it's funny. I remember when we were short of drivers, and needed to raise wages to keep the drivers we had and attract new drivers. The driver supervisor ran both his department and Safety. Now, with new management, we hire more supervisors to try to run the drivers we have away by making them pay for medical, cut their benefits and not give them a livable wage. Do they really think that looks appealing in an industry already short of bus drivers nationwide? I know if I was looking for a job, and I had to have a Class B Commercial Drivers License with a school bus, air brake, and passenger endorsement, student management classes, a first aid card, plus the starting wage was less than anyone in the tri-county area, and I had to pay for my medical insurance and work 30 hours a week for a 172 day school year, I'd commit myself, because obviously I would be nuts to even contemplate working for Portland Public Schools. Management keeps asking me why morale is so bad around here, and I keep telling them, "Duh I don't know, I see nothing, I know nothing." They recognize the problem, but if they think about it too long they may have to fix it, and that could really screw up management world.

Pepper the Greed Fighting Possum from ATU is going to help us combat our problems with District.



**TriMet Salaried Employees**  
As reported by  
JIM FOWLER

Here it is November and I'm happy to report we settled the inspector overtime grievance for the June Starlight Parade. Four inspectors will each receive 10 hours of overtime. At this time I'm working on about 10 grievances from the various departments and four discipline issues that our members are facing, so there's no slow-down on the union vs. management front.

Inspectors, supervisors and management finally met to discuss what Wackenhut can and can't do on our property. Not much headway was made. The main thing still remains: If you see them doing our work, report it.

The inspectors are in the process of hiring two lead inspectors. I'm hoping they can get this rolling soon so that the inspectors can finally have a signup.

The new Customer Service signup was posted, and they made one of the Ticket Office shifts with only a half hour for lunch. For many years these shifts have all been one hour. We told the District we did not approve the signup as it was posted, but they arrogantly left it as is, leaving us no choice but to file a grievance.

There was controversy in the Road Department over the way shifts are filled for special events such as the last Green Line Cutover. It is our position that if the station agent has been given shift times and locations, they must fill the work like any other piece of work. Offer it to auxiliaries, then RDO, double, then piece it out. Some of you felt we should just offer the time of the shift and then select location by seniority at a roll call on the day of the event. This would not be consistent with how work is normally assigned.

Sadly, we say goodbye to Rail Supervisor

Leigh Spurlock. Leigh was killed in a tragic motorcycle accident while on vacation with his wife Donna in September. Leigh was with TriMet for 25 years as a driver, road supervisor, rail operator and rail supervisor. He was a dedicated husband and father, and a good friend to all who knew him. He is missed by all. In the wake of Leigh's death, many of you have had questions about survivor benefits. The simple answer is, if you are not currently retired, your spouse will receive one half of your pension at age 62, and the District will pay the Cobra premium for medical benefits for one year. This is the policy even if you have 30 years in or are old enough to receive full retirement benefits.



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

November is here and the holidays are upon us, which means a busy time for all of us, including the clients we pick up and deliver with the paratransit service.

Along those lines, our Laidlaw (First Transit) contract expires at the end of this month, so we must be prepared for a few months of uncertainty as to what will be in our new contract. But some good news has arrived, with First Transit agreeing to honor our union contract. Also, we have a known factor in who will be leading the contract negotiating team for First Transit. So if you have not sent in your ideas for the new contract, please do so as soon as possible.

Seasoned drivers: Please make the new drivers welcome, as we were once where they are today. Show them the ropes, as they have a lot to learn. Remember, this is the season of sharing and giving thanks for all we have.

Be forewarned – I will be calling on you to help for the next few months in order to get the contract we deserve, and I hope you will hear my call.

## Hunt

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diator in early November. Please see Walt and the rest of the team for information on upcoming rallies. We need everyone's support.

In Bend we have been bargaining our first contract for quite some time now. This has been an eye-opening experience. During negotiations you expect to disagree in some areas, but with hard work you get through them. This has not been the case with Paratransit Services. With them it is amateur hour. They are disagreeing with the most basic contractual language to purposefully stall out our negotiations. Well, I have a message for them. The fight hasn't even started. When you take on the ATU, you better come prepared. To our members in Bend, you are not alone. Not only do we come with all our membership's power, but our brothers and sisters in the AFL have pledged to

stand next to us in this battle.

Stewart Acuff, organizing director out of the AFL CIO gave a powerful speech at the AFL-CIO 55th Convention in Seaside this last month, and Bend, OR was the focus. Bill Groesz, one of our members from Bend, came to present the story of the Little Bus Company That Could. That is, with strong, union power. I would like to thank Bill for his participation, as well as Ira Holden for a great negotiating team.

At TriMet we say goodbye to Tim Garling and wish him well in Florida. We welcome Steve Banta as the new Executive Director. Sam and I have been working with Steve and hope to report good things in the future. Some of the topics that we have been discussing include restroom breaks (real ones,) three and four day workweeks, and where the mini-runners stand. We will keep you up to date.

In Tillamook your long and awaited contract

will be presented Oct. 29. Please check your union board for time and location.

Canby members have rejected the Employer's offer and we are heading back to the table to negotiate.

Wheels management is gearing up with more supervisors so remember, if you are called in, be sure to request Union representation.

We are in contract negotiations at NECN and insurance and wages as usual will be hot topics. It has, however, recently gotten a little hotter. Apparently the employer has changed insurance during the negotiations. We have given notice and are prepared to file an Unfair Labor Practice against them if they do not remedy the problem immediately.

C-TRAN one contract down and two to go. We are heading to mediation with our dispatchers and we have a couple of dates in the near future for Customer Service. Stay tuned.

Ken Richins in Salem has been keeping things running smoothly in Operations and Don has been keeping the shop running. If you have questions or concerns please contact them.

Our Laidlaw properties now have a new name, First Transit. We have already started getting letters and calls as they attempt to implement new policies and procedures. We have sent them letters demanding to bargain over these issues. Do not sign anything until the Union has okayed it.

RVTD Tom has been out sick. Please give him a call and wish him well. If you need any union assistance please contact Carrie.

While I would like to say it is all quiet on the home front in Valley Transit, it is not. It appears management has forgotten how far we have come and it appears as though we must relive the past. Please contact Nick if you are experiencing any problems.

At Portland Streetcar, hopefully you will be receiving some long needed extra help now that Evette is with us. If you need assistance, please contact your Executive Board Officer. And remember that you have local officers Eric Duey and Fred Wallace on the property who are ready and willing to assist you with your questions.