



And so you asked

By Jon Hunt • ATU Local 757 President

I attended the 20th anniversary conference of the ATU Latino Caucus in September. The mission statement of the Latino Caucus is to advance the principles and goals of the Constitution and General Laws of the ATU by addressing the needs and rights of all members, as well as to strengthen the ATU's resolve to focus on fighting discrimination of any kind. That said, the Latino Caucus is open to any member in good standing with the ATU.

This conference afforded us the opportunity to build relationships, network, and benefit from other ATU members' experiences. Shop Steward Sergio Garcia was nominated and elected as the Northwest Representative to the ATU International Latino Caucus Executive Board. His first responsibility is to form a committee for the Northwest. If you are interested in being a part of this, please contact Sergio Garcia by phone at (971) 227-

5431 or e-mail him at sir_garcia@msn.com.

The International held a First Group (First Student, First Transit, First Student Canada, and Greyhound) Seminar in Washington, DC, to address all the issues ATU locals are having with First Student and First Transit divisions nationally. In preparation for the seminar, we were required to fill out extensive surveys regarding our history with these divisions and compile contracts, grievances, unfair labor practices, and handbooks. We compared grievances and ULPs against the company for their attempts to unilaterally impose new working conditions without bargaining by issuing changes in the form of new handbooks and memos. We compared notes and shared information about how this is happening in different branches and locations.

Another issue of interest concerns those

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VP's Report

By Sam Schwarz • ATU Local 757 Vice President

I was pleased to see so many of my union brothers and sisters at the annual picnic at Blue Lake Park. The weather was perfect, the food was great, and many members who had never won a prize did win this time. A great time was had by all. By the way, the grand prize was \$4,000 in travel.

We have several new grievances and terminations from four properties, all in the Portland area. Layoffs from Lamar Advertising have generated several grievances, and our union brothers and sisters there are weathering the storm, but patience is wearing thin.

At TriMet, management is going the extra mile to create hostile situations for almost

every group. Micromanaging is the key. It seems some managers are trying to prove their worth by creating situations that don't really exist.

We may lose our rider advocate group if TriMet decides not to pick them up again.

We have had many retirements, and Donia Garcia, a 30-year member and the number one mini-run operator at TriMet, passed away and will be missed by all. Donia always had a smile and a great attitude and never had a complaint. I will always remember her.

Congratulations to all of the newly retired members, and big thanks to Bill Wimmer, the president of the retirees chapter, for attending as many retirements as he is able.

ATU Officer Reports



MV Transportation

As reported by
KATHLEEN BROWN

Hello everyone! So far President Jonathan Hunt, Vice President Samuel Schwarz and I have conducted four sessions of negotiations with MV Transportation. We have met with them at the bargaining table, working vigilantly to produce a contract that will be in the best interests of all of us in an economy that is now rebounding from a recession.

I would like to ask the members once again to keep an eye on the ATU Bulletin Board for another gathering of the membership, as we are getting closer to the time when we will need to have an open caucus to discuss what has been negotiated and prepare to vote on the contract. Your participation is important to our success as a bargaining unit. Any additional input you have to submit, please get it to Cynthia "Cindy" Russell or me as soon as possible, as we are working towards a timely presentation of the new template of our contract.

We are still noticing that there are quite a few route trims and closures, and I hope that all of you by now understand how our compensatory work program is utilized. Remember to ask for the form and submit the hours lost. Dispatch is no longer issuing the paperwork with the yellow copy, so please have Window Dispatch make a copy with a dated stamp so that you can prove that you submitted the paperwork in case there is a mix-up. Please notify us immediately if no work is offered so that we can attempt to resolve the issue in a timely matter.

School is in session throughout the Metropolitan District, and we all know that we need to be safe out there — with school zones and neighborhoods, children everywhere, teenage drivers, and stepped-up radar enforcement. No busy schedule is more important than the safety of the public and your personal safety or the loss of your livelihood. Remember, "Safety first, service second, schedule last." If you are in a hurry, you may be the last one to arrive. Stay safe! Until next time.



TriMet Merlo Transportation

As reported by
JEFF ACKERSON

Hello, Merlo operators. August has been a busy month. One grievance has been filed regarding the ongoing BDS issue.

Cool mornings lie ahead, which means you will be using your bus heaters. If the air in your bus has any unusual odors, please contact dispatch. Exhaust may be leaking into your bus. This is an ongoing issue with our older buses.

Contract excitement is filling the air. A point that I would like to make refers to schedules. We all complain about the breaks on our runs. Are you aware that, in our current contract, there is only one reference to schedules? Article 2, Section F of the Working & Wage Agreement reads: "All district schedules will have built into them a recovery or layover time of five minutes within each one hour of running time. Because of traffic conditions, mechanical failures and other related reasons, a five minute recovery time cannot be guaranteed. All operators will endeavor to maintain their schedules at all times." In negotiating our next contract, we need to clarify fair and reasonable break times for all drivers. My belief is that the language in the current contract is not sufficiently addressing this issue.

Congratulations to Gerry Wroblusky on his retirement!



TriMet Powell Maintenance

As reported by
DAVID KAY

We have had three new grievances filed recently and one under investigation. The pre-filing meeting for two night worker issues (night differential pay and paid lunches) has been held. The District has asked for and

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Amalgamated Transit Union - Division 757

Representing working men and women in Oregon and Washington at:

TriMet • Lane Transit District • C-TRAN/C-VAN • Salem Area Transit • WHEELS • Rogue Valley Transportation District • Bend Area Transit • Canby Area Transit • Tillamook County Transportation District • Valley Transit Association • First Transit (TriMet Lift, Portland) • City of North Bonneville • Portland Public Schools • American Medical Response Northwest (Josephine County) • First Student (Portland Public Schools, Corvallis School District, Corvallis City Transit) • MV Transportation, Inc. • Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, Inc. • Lamar Advertising Company • 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.

ATU Local 757 Officer Reports

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received a two-week extension on the reply to be able to hold a discovery meeting on the issues before replying.

I would like to urge all TriMet members to keep track of any shortage on your checks pertaining to nonpayment of night differential or being docked because you have been stiffed out of your paid lunch for the near future. Please be prepared to forward this information to me or to the union hall.

The third issue is a working-out-of-classification grievance which has been denied and will be moving forward. If the District holds to an earlier agreement, the maintenance officers will be meeting with them to offer suggestions/changes to our upcoming sign-up. This meeting is supposed to occur in late September, with the sign-up occurring in early November, and an effective date late that same month.

An upcoming contract work group is scheduled for mid to late October. If you would like to participate, be watching your union bulletin board. An earlier meeting was well attended and productive.

Garage manager Mike Grove has decided to retire. We are in a holding pattern at this time, waiting to find out who will replace him here at Powell. Have a great retirement, Mike!

At this time, the rumor mill is in full swing on what is in the contract. Some items are "out there" and others are "WAY out there." Please remember that nothing has been agreed to, let alone discussed with the District. All contract issues you hear at this time are rumors and should be treated as such — with skepticism and a grain of salt. In solidarity!



TriMet Light Rail Maintenance
As reported by
JOE RUFFIN

Hello, Brothers and Sisters. This has been a very busy summer for a lot of us and hopefully an excellent one for the people who had time for rest and relaxation. I've been out for most of the summer recuperating from two surgeries, yet I still took care of a lot of union issues during that time. Therefore a lot of you have seen me around the shops chatting with people from time to time.

There have been four grievances filed, and I have six pending pre-filing meetings scheduled. I have got to say, "good work," to the grievant on gathering information to help support your case. Another issue I would like to address is the mis-wording of the reassignment of the new journeypeople to their new work locations. That was not a signup; the general signup will take place sometime in November.

I attended the rail training standards committee meeting in Boston, Mass. We got a lot of work accomplished at this meeting. We cleared up the grandfathering language for existing journeypeople, and the committee also finished the first section to the training procedures. So far, this test will be on a voluntary

basis for technicians who want their names in a national database. This would allow other rail properties and new startup operations to recognize you as a journeylevel technician and hire you without putting you through an apprenticeship program. The committee work will also be available for other rail properties that have very little as far as training material and are currently struggling to improve their technician training programs.

Remember, you are the union, and the work we do represents all of us, so we must put that same pride into our work.



Lane Transit District
As reported by
BRIAN PASQUALI

This fall couldn't have gotten here faster. As much as warm weather is nice, I think this summer was a little more than drivers could deal with as far as heat, as many of you that were stuck driving 100 series buses on 100-plus degree days found out. Between the heat and tough economic times, it made for some interesting customer encounters all throughout the summer.

We all handle these situations a little differently, but through talking with many of you day to day in how you're handling these situations, I have become somewhat concerned by what I have heard. When dealing with problem riders, there are often incremental steps in an effort to achieve compliance on most issues. One of the steps some of you have mentioned you use in these everyday interactions apparently involves getting out of your chair to get the message to the unruly rider that you are serious. I can't stress enough how soooo NOT worth it getting out of the chair for troublemakers really is. When one incorporates this step in dealing with a problem passenger, the law of averages swings unfavorably, thus compromising what little control one has over the situation to begin with. We all know that from time to time, a verbal request from operator to passenger, to cease and desist unruly behavior is not enough. But it is what the operator chooses to do next that ultimately can affect everyone in profound ways. If, upon meeting that additional resistance, your next move is to call OPPS, you would not be wrong. Or to respectfully ask once more for the behavior to stop. Or even if you're at the end of your rope and you explain to the passenger that they will have to leave the bus and not move the bus until that person leaves. All of these options are far better than unbuckling that seat belt and moving towards the subject. Once you have committed to this endeavor you are approaching what the Smith System teaches us in driving: "The point of no return." Once out of your chair, you have actually lost more control of the situation than you have gained and have left your own personal safety to chance. Those of you who have done this, routinely leaving your seat, and have had success achieving compliance, will eventually lose in the law of averages. Because it only

takes one. One person who's a little touched. One tweaker who has just taken meth or PCP. One guy whose mommy didn't love him. Just one that perceives the step you just took into the aisle as a declaration of war. I know most of you do already, but those that don't, I ask for your safety to stay in the chair when dealing with these types of scenarios.

Two new grievances are in Step 2 currently and we are looking into proceeding to Step 3. In one of these cases the District chose to issue a discipline to an employee shortly after they were involved in an on-the-job injury. The District's argument has been that the employee was not disciplined for getting injured, but for not following a supervisor's instructions. The problem with that argument is that there was never any instruction at all prior to the employee getting injured, and it will be very hard for the District to separate the discipline and the injury. In addition, this is the first time the District has issued any discipline involving an injury. We may need everyone's help on this one if the District does not take the discipline away. Remember, an injury to one is an injury to all.



First Student Portland
As reported by
ANNA TOMPTE

Well, school's been in for a little over a month now, and the changes are coming. First, in terms of shoe heel requirements, now we are not allowed to wear anything higher than three quarters of an inch. I don't know if any of you are aware of the extra checks we are getting, but now our bonuses are being taxed as well as paychecks, The zonar and gps just to name a few. The GPS can actually be used against you if you go off route for any reason, so just remember that you will be questioned. Also, if you forget to do any part of your pre-trip, because they will know if you forgot.

Some of the drivers have been coming to me about route changes or cut up routes. I realize that routes are subject to change, but not the way they are doing it. I'm looking into it. Just remember that if anyone has any questions please come and see either me or Ray Gibson. We are here to answer your questions and discuss any concerns you might have.



TriMet Merlo Maintenance
As reported by
JEFF HUNT

This month I have had one pre-filing. It was about the way callouts are done in Facilities Maintenance. It came down to a new supervisor not knowing how callouts work. Instead of listening to the mechanics, he chose to do it his way, which was not the correct way. This issue will be settled to pay four hours

of overtime to the harmed mechanics.

I would like to expand on the problems that come up with new supervisors in maintenance. Just recently a mechanic asked about the bidding process for the Labor Day signup and was given the wrong information about how to bid. It was a unique situation that would have been an easy answer if the supervisor had bothered to call me or talked to one of the stewards on that shift. By not doing that, he has made one wrong answer into a big problem, with some missing out on eight hours of overtime pay. I'm convinced that this can be fixed. My point in all this is that it's worth the time and effort involved to double check with your union officer when you have questions about the signups, to ensure you get the right answer and not just someone's opinion.

This year's picnic was a big hit. We had a good turnout and accommodating weather as well. Putting on an event of that size and scope is a lot of fun, but it's hard work and simply would not be possible without all of the great volunteers we had this year. If I tried to list everyone's names I'd run out of room, but I do want to extend a special thank you to Kim Ruffin. She ran the snow cone and cotton candy machines all day long with a smile. Please let your officers and stewards know about the things you liked and those you didn't about the picnic, and how to make it better next year.



TriMet Light Rail Transportation
As reported by
MICHAEL T. OLIVER

And so Red turns to Green and everyone's hard work pays off as the opening of the Green Line is a resounding success and now the work begins. The "pinch points" at Old Town EB, Gateway E & WB and RQ/IRQ need some practice, and we will get better at it. These delays have to disappear, and with everyone's cooperation, they will. Congrats to everyone, but it is not finished yet.

Changes at PSC: At the September E-Board meeting it was decided that the new union position there will be decided by an election to be held as soon as the preliminaries are decided. Look for the upcoming announcements, and good luck to the candidates. Also at PSC, the winter signup will be held on Oct. 18. Prepare your request slips early. At Rail, we have the sinter signup, an early vacation (2010) signup and the Thanksgiving signup season around the corner.

Lots of "wildlife" to be seen on the rails: coyotes all over the place, birds of every description, and a few weeks ago, late at night at Elmo, I saw a badger over on the hill at the Westgate. Wonders will never cease.

Keep Sunday, Oct. 18 open. This is the TriMet contract meeting at Norse Hall. I would hope that we get a good turnout from

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PSC and TriMet Rail. Both rookies and veterans need to show up to voice their opinions. The contract suggestion forms are available at all properties. Please make use of them. Norse Hall is located just a few blocks from the union hall, at NE 11th and Couch. Free gold nuggets to those who show. Keep me informed at mtgbo2002@msn.com. Thank you.



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

The C-TRAN Board of Directors held their monthly meeting and heard from the public as to C-TRAN's proposed reduction. The following routes were mentioned by the public: 2, 3, 4, 9, 37 and the Camas Connector.

The Board then asked C-TRAN for information concerning these routes. One of the requests dealt with the amount of sales tax revenue C-TRAN receives from the different areas, and whether the percentage of cuts for each area is the same. All in all, the Board asked some very hard questions, and C-TRAN will be working real hard in the coming weeks to answer all of the Board's questions.

As most of you know, the Union and Management have been meeting to discuss cutting

costs at C-TRAN. Yes, C-TRAN is looking at our benefits as a way to cut costs. So let me be clear about this: As of the writing of this article, nothing has been temporarily agreed to, and if or when we do or can come to a temporary agreement with management, that temporary agreement has to then go before you, the membership, for your approval.

Unless it's changed again, the C-TRAN Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for October 13, and I would advise everyone who can attend to do so.

On October 25, we have scheduled two meetings at the union hall here in Vancouver. The first one, which starts at 5:45, is not a union meeting. The second one is our regular union meeting and will start at 7 p.m. If possible you should attend all three meetings that are listed in this article.



TriMet Powell Transportation
As reported by
KHRIS ALEXANDER

As of this article, I still haven't gotten an apology from the manager who disrupted my bus route for a Facebook posting about the passing of a fellow operator.

Moving on, I hope everyone who came to this year's picnic had fun and won something. I am working with the union to do a survey about our picnic and what our members liked or disliked and what changes you would like to see.

Also, we will have another contract meeting Sunday, Oct. 18 at Norse Hall, 111 NE 11th Ave. from 8 a.m. to noon. Hope to see you there. We need to be united as one, especially during negotiations.

One final note: if you're having schedule issues, make a copy of the yellow card and put it in my union box in station agents office. If you need to contact me, call or text 503-890-4870, or e-mail trimet6213@comcast.net or www.facebook.com/khrisalexander. Be safe and remember, safety before schedules!



First Transit TriMet Lift
As reported by
LES GREEN

It has been a busy two months at First Transit Lift. With new drivers, plus the loss of at least 800 hours of work due to routes being closed and cut in half, all of our drivers have had to adapt to lower paychecks. They survey you have helped me collect is being tallied up, and the results will be forwarded to the proper people, so maybe we will get an honest answer as to where the rides have gone.

That said, I hope all of you got a better route in our new bid, so in the next four months all of us can begin to catch up. I have been informed that our division is getting some extra hours of work, so maybe the drought will soon be over.

Now for the important part, as we now have over 120 drivers, and I am only one per-

son. I am asking all First Transit drivers to remember to consult your shop stewards. Ken and Rusty are here to help and will relay any questions or complaints to me. Of course, I remain available to everyone, but I am only one person.

As of this writing, we have two drivers off on administrative leave, plus at least two Step 3s, plus all other problems that must be handled.

I will do my best with everything that needs to be done, but I can use your help. My wife keeps informing me that I am not 35 anymore. I have three full time jobs as driver, liaison officer and, as my wife reminds me, husband, and I can only juggle so much.

With that, be safe out there. Take your lunch and other breaks and do not let Dispatch con you to come in an hour over your end time to cut into your personal life. Hope to have more to report next month.



Secretary-Treasurer's Report

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

Wow, what a summer. It might seem odd to be writing about the union picnic that happened more than a month ago, but I cannot miss this opportunity to thank those individuals who volunteered. Thank you, thank you, thank you. We literally could not do it without you guys. And of course, thank you to our members who were able to attend. I know it was a busy weekend here in Portland and Southwest Washington, Rose Festival Air show, LPGA golf tournament, etc., with lots of things to choose from, which makes your choice even more appreciated.

Our annual picnic is funded through a union-negotiated TriMet recreation fund, which allows the opportunity to celebrate our membership with food, fun and prizes. In many ways, the yearly picnic demonstrates the importance of our local solidarity. If you were unable to attend this year, please know

that you were missed and we look forward to seeing you next year. We appreciate any feedback and/or suggestions for next year's bash.

TriMet members who are considering retirement: Please remember that the months of Sept. 1 through Jan. 31 give you the most bang for your buck. Please feel free to give me a call or a visit if you want clarification. My door is always open to you.

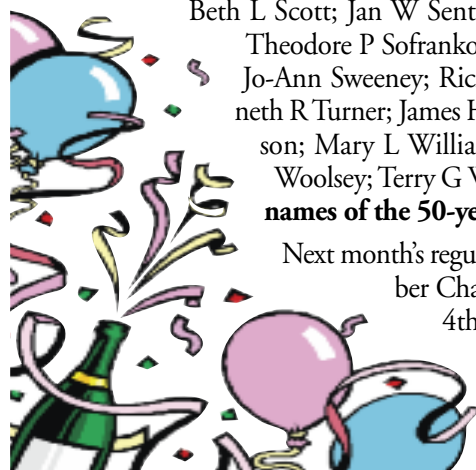
With our youngest a senior in high school and our oldest son entering college this month, I want to make sure everyone with senior-aged students is aware of their family's scholarship opportunities. Believe it or not, now is the time to start the application process for college next year. ATU International offers a handful of scholarships each year to help members and their families with college tuition expenses. You should see details posted soon on your property's union board.

Retirees' Corner

The following retirees will celebrate birthdays in October: Jobie J Adams; Pamela D Ahders; Homer B Atwood; Barbara J Bonds; Keith T Boos; Boni Boyd-Cook; Gloria J Brown; Paul E Burgett; Linda M Butler; Jack M Callahan; Gerald J Carl; Virginia M Carlyle; Kenneth A Chase; Curley Clark; Joseph J Coleman Jr; Bellvena A Cope; Vester J Crist; Byron L Estes; Benjamin E Fain Jr; Frank L Farrell; John E Frainey; Robert L George; Jerome D Gerard; Gary E Gilgan; Roy L Goodenough; Francis D Halpin; Merle D Hanson; John Jamison Jr; Gary E Jensen; William Keinath; Martha C Kerchum; Joseph J Le Barron; Michael A Lesh; Gary D Mc Clanahan; Darrell E Mc Innis; Laverne W Moore; James D Nelson; Jerrold L Patterson; **Robert H Payment**; George R Paynter; David R Puderbaugh; Wayne M Reynolds; Sybil M Rickett; Bernardo B Saldares; David H Schafer Sr;

Beth L Scott; Jan W Senten; Robert M Smith; Bettye L Smith; Theodore P Sofranko; Kenneth E Spotts; Douglas J Stanley; Jo-Ann Sweeney; Richard B Swope; Harold A Taylor; Kenneth R Turner; James H Unruh; Jay W Volheye; Douglas Watson; Mary L Williams; S Denise Wood-Tyron; Lawrence Woolsey; Terry G Wu; Ralph D Yoder; Chris E Yost. **The names of the 50-year members are in bold type.**

Next month's regularly scheduled ATU 757 Retired Member Chapter meeting is Wednesday, November 4th, 2009, at 9:30 a.m. at Westmoreland's Union Manor, 6404 SE 23rd Ave. Coffee and doughnuts will be served at 9 a.m.



October Meetings

Charter

Charter members meet 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 12, at the Salvation Army, Rose Center for Seniors, 211 NE 18th Ave, Portland (18th & Sandy Blvd, adjacent to the ATU office.) Charter day members meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13, at Schoppert Hall, 1801 NE Couch, Portland.

Salem Transit/WHEELS

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

Lane Transit

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

Corvallis First Student City Transit/Schools

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

Rogue Valley Transportation

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

Portland and First Student School Bus Drivers

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

C-TRAN/C-VAN

Vancouver members meet 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18, at the Laborers Hall, 2121 NE Andresen, Vancouver, WA.

Tillamook County Transportation District

Tillamook members meet 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18, at 212 Main Street, next door to Beach Pancake House in Tillamook.

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.

AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION NIGHT



Enjoy Opening Night Festivities!

The Portland Trail Blazers are teaming up with the Amalgamated Transit Union to help support Labor Community Services. Invite your family and friends to an evening of exciting basketball. It's opening night, so come support the Trail Blazers and your Labor Community when the Trail Blazers take the court against the Houston Rockets! A portion of every ticket purchased goes back to support LCS.

Portland Trail Blazers vs. Houston Rockets

Tuesday, October 27th @ 7PM



Purple 300 Level Seats # of Tickets _____ @ \$27 = \$ _____
 Red 300 Level Seats # of Tickets _____ @ \$20 = \$ _____
 Processing Fee + 5.00
Total = \$ _____



Pricing Subject to Change

Name: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 E-Mail: _____
 Select Method of Payment: Check Enclosed Visa/MC/Disc/AMEX Cash
 Name on Card: _____
 Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____
 Signature: _____ Date: _____

Tickets held for this group will be released on: **October 5th**
 Call for availability after release date

Fax completed form to 503.736.2192

Make checks payable to:

Portland Trail Blazers, One Center Court, Suite 200, Portland, OR 97227

For more information about Amalgamated Transit Union Night, please contact:

Blake Wehling 503.963.3964 blake.wehling@trailblazers.com

Orders received more than 30 days prior to the game date will be mailed to the above address.

Orders are filled on a first-come first-served bases and are subject to availability. No refunds or exchanges.

President's report

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who have had workers discharged on the basis of criminal background checks. We brought all company notices regarding the policy and all grievances, correspondences and arbitration decisions resulting from these. The International's legal department is evaluating whether not just

contracts but laws were broken by the company's policy.

As with the Latino Caucus, the First Group Seminar serves as an opportunity for ATU members who might not otherwise ever meet one another to network with those who are also dealing with the same issues and to learn from the experiences of others.

riences of others.

Two days in August and two more days in September were spent in negotiating the new ATU 757 – MV Transportation contract, as well as working on several outstanding grievances. We're not there yet, but a substantial amount of the work has been completed. Vice President

Sam Schwarz in particular deserves our thanks.

TriMet members, remember that October 18 from 8 a.m. to noon we will be meeting at Norse Hall, 111 NE 11th Ave, Portland, for our second contract focus group. I look forward to seeing you there.