

History of ATU 757:

1996...

ATU issued a 10-day notice to strike at Rogue Valley Transportation District. Pepper the greed-fighting opossum helped bus operators leaflet transit stations after the District refused to return to the bargaining table until it had implemented its own contract. Transit Manager Mike Borwick threatened to replace any of the 25 operators who struck.

After four-plus of litigation and nearly nine months of negotiations, ATU 757 reached a first-time agreement for a four-year contract with Larson Transportation Services, formerly School Bus Services, Inc. Larson employed some 85 operators who provided transportation services for the elderly and disabled under contract with Tri-Met in Multnomah County.

ATU 757, for the third year in a row, sponsored Christmas programs for Albina Head Start Center schools in addition to contributing to its ongoing clothing fund for Head Start.

As the parties awaited the ruling by the three-member Oregon Employment Relations Board over charges filed by the Union against RVTB. Pepper, the greed-fighting opossum, marched in the Pear Blossom Parade sponsored by the Rogue Valley Pear Blossom Association, even though parade officers, including RVTB General Manager Mike Borwick, who was a parade judge, denied Pepper's application to march.

Emergency medical technicians and paramedics at American Medical Response voted to be represented by a newly formed independent union rather than ATU 757. The vote was 155 for the Northwest Paramedic Alliance and 114 for Local 757. Local 757 had 80-percent completed negotiations on a new contract with AMR the dissident group filed a representation petition.

On June 28, 1996, Local 757 turned 79 years old.

ATU International President Jim La Sala visited Portland and met with Local Union officers and Retired Member Chapter officers. President La Sala was in Portland to attend a meeting of the national AFL-CIO. President La Sala served on the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO.

The 29th annual Amalgamated Transit Union Black Caucus conference was held in Portland. Local 757 co-hosted the event. Keynote speakers included International President Jim La Sala, Oregon State Treasurer Jim Hill and Portland City Commissioner Earl Blumenauer, who was the Democratic nominee from Oregon's Third Congressional District.

The Rogue Valley Transportation District was dealt a blow when the Oregon Employment Relations Board ruled that RVTB had committed numerous labor law violations and ordered the District back to the table to bargain in good faith with ATU. The ERB ordered RVTB to rescind the contract it implemented on January 8, 1996 and return to the status quo that was in place on June 26, 1995.

The Local Union worked with the Salem Area Mass Transit District (Cherriots) to pass a transit tax levy, which was expected to provide funding for the next 10 years.

Cherriots General Manager R. G. Anderson-Wyckoff was credited with the levy's success.

School bus operators employed by Laidlaw Transit, Inc. under contract with the Tigard School District voted 3 to 1 for representation by the ATU.

Secretaries employed as office assistants at C-TRAN petitioned the Washington Employment Public Relations Commission (PERC) to elect ATU 757 as their collective bargaining representative.

Customer service and special services representatives petitioned PERC to join ATU 757.

A new five-year contract obtained at Cherriots in Salem produced over 18-percent wage increases and 100-percent employer-paid health and welfare premiums among significant improvements in other areas.

ATU members volunteered to paint the house of Harry, an 80-year-old Vancouver, Washington resident and bus rider who is legally blind. Harry qualified for a city program that provided free paint and paintbrushes. Vancouver Mayor Royce Pollard stopped by to check on the painters.

After 18 months of bitter negotiations, mediation and an employer-imposed contract, numerous unfair labor practice charges, a return to the status quo, a failed tax levy and 16 operators laid off, a new five-year agreement between ATU 757 and Rogue Valley Transportation District was approved. The contract covered the period July 1, 1995 through June 30, 2000. The new agreement provided a 15-percent increase, 100-percent employer-paid family health and welfare premiums, a new defined contributed pension plan and other changes.

School bus operators employed by the Portland Public Schools approved a new agreement, taking the top school bus operator rate from \$10.40 to \$12.16 an hour. The new agreement ran through June 30, 1997.

Santa Claus made his fourth annual to Schoppert Hall on December 14, 1996. More than 225 children had their pictures taken and received presents from Santa.