We had our first negotiations with Sunset Empire on November 5th in Astoria. We worked on hashing out some ground rules and exchanged our first language from ATU to Sunset Empire. Our next meeting will be in Portland at ATU office at 10 a.m. on December 17th. We got a new contract for the Bend Area Transit which members voted to ratify in early November. That was a hard-fought campaign and our folks got close to striking, so I’m really glad we were able to settle it in negotiation.

We also had our first contract negotiations with Sunset Empire on November 15th. We got the bus washer position back in house. For some strange reason, MTR Western thought they could just eliminate this position, even though they are getting money from the County for this position. They’ve learned.

I’m looking forward to the Retiree Christmas Party on the 11th, and the Santa Party on the 15th. Best part of the year to see faces from the past and smiling faces of the future. While we’re talking about the holidays, don’t forget — you still have a few days to participate in Labor’s Community Services Agency’s Presents from Partners Annual Toy Drive! Help children of out-of-work families celebrate the holidays by dropping off new, unwrapped toys or a cash donation to the Union Hall at 1801 NE Couch St., Portland.

LCSA helps hundreds of union families every year, including some of our ATU sisters and brothers. Let’s help them like they’ve helped us. Get those donations in by Monday, December 10th!

Happy holidays, sisters & brothers! Stay safe out there as weather turns nasty.

Greetings sisters and brothers!
Wishing you and your family happy holidays. I encourage each and every one of you to take this opportunity to connect with friends and family in the spirit of the holiday season. And while for some of us the holidays can bring undue stress, I encourage you to find ways to alleviate that in a healthy manner. If we all work on sharing our gratitude with one another, we’ll get the next year off to a great start! I want to thank all of the hard-working members of ATU 757.

CONTRACT UPDATES: First Transit/TriMet LIFT Regions 1 and 2 ratified their contracts, as did Paratransit Services/Cascades East Transit in Bend. Salem MV is in mediation, as is First Transit Region 3. CC Rider is open, as are Corvallis, the City of North Bonneville, and Sunset Empire Transit District in Astoria.

The management folks at TriMet are working hard to do away with our union jobs, and we’re not going to allow this to happen! I’ve joined the other officers of the Union to let TriMet know that there is no other group that works as hard as ATU 757 members. Contracting out our work is not cheaper in the long run. It hurts our membership, the community, and TriMet as a whole. We have a negotiation set up with TriMet for early December concerning our outside hires being brought in before internal applicants. Again, TriMet doesn’t get it. Take care of those who are already here, because they’re ready and willing to enter training programs to do the work that needs to be done. Recognize the seniority of those who are currently here. Stay tuned for more details.
Hello, brothers and sisters. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I hope all is well with you and your loved ones. As we enter the holiday season, tensions seem to be a little high, don't let the pressures of work, traffic, and shopping get to you. We never know when it's going to be someone close to us last trip around that big shiny star in the sky. So take a moment in overtime and spend some quality time with people you truly enjoy during the holiday season.

Brothers and sisters, management is out of touch with reality! I'm going to keep it real. Upper management doesn't have a clue on what's going on with the union workforce and if they didn't they wouldn't be making some of the ill-thought decisions that they have without consulting some of the employees that have been performing the work for years. Here is an incident for instance: changing the PM intervals in REM Maintenance. That was a big mistake. It may have put us at a 100% for a moment but now the chicken has come home to roost. Don't put that on us Union employees! We can also talk about deferred maintenance? Not yet, how about Wheel True? Management wanted that, now look at it. It's no doubt that some of the changes needed to be made with the expansion of the district but not to the extent that it seems like they are making. Even our friends at the Department that is nonunion and they can't seem to find trainers.

Greetings and salutations brothers and sisters at C-TRAN. I hope each and every one of you had a great Thanksgiving, and I hope you are all having an enjoyable holiday season so far.

I would like to thank everyone for their patience while the committees were working hard on uniforms. It has been a very frustrating endeavor for everyone involved. First and foremost, I would like to thank each person who served on the uniform committee which represented their respective bargaining groups. They put in a lot of time and fought very hard to get each of their respective groups the very best it wasn't perfect, but they got back a lot of what C-TRAN wanted to get rid of. There were, unfortunately, compromises that had to be made. An enormous amount of thought and discussion went into these decisions, and, they were not easy. The committee members had a tough job and they did it with caution, prudence, and tactful deliberation. I commend them on the great choices they made. I have heard many positive comments on the new uniform selections. C-TRAN also heard the members and we will be working together to get some heavier shirts. The drivers will have a choice between a lightweight, and heavier button down and polo shirts. The heavier shirts should be available by January 1st. Again, I thank everyone for your patience.

As some of you know, I have asked the Union leadership to let me run my own meetings. I believe you have stepped back, and I have given the Trainix to the Management that is nonunion and they don't seem to find trainers. It's amazing how management has double standards for us union employees. Especially when it's a situation between management and a union employee. Union employees are held to a higher standard than our management personnel, no doubt. Management has been allowed to antagonize you, talk down to you, curse at you, not listen to you and then they get to continue to assign you work like nothing ever happened. That is very problematic but HR doesn't seem to care about it, nor do they want to investigate it. Union employees are placed on administrated leave but not supervision. Disparate treatm at its best, MOW, why so many grievances? Well, this is a direct reflection of your management team. It would be nice to see some consistency within that department but no one in MOW management does anything the same. As Union employees continue to bring up pressing issues like lack of communication, flagging and safety concerns. I see these issues as dangerous and unsafe for anyone in the ROW (right of way). As for management not having any regards for the working wage agreement, past practice, and as they continue to disrespect your seniority rights, vacation sign-up and overtime call outs. Also the disparate treatment in this department is unbelievable so my fellow Brothers and Sisters you know what to do. We have to stand together as a solid force and remember documentation is key in filing a grievance. ATU STRONG.

Hello Brothers & Sisters – Why is the bid for work is taking so long? Well, that's a good and important question! Many of us, without even knowing it, may be part of the problem… Many of us are not filling out Bid Request Forms, and are leaving the issue in the hands of our already hard working Station Agents. Let's not forget our Garage ATU Reps, too! So, what did we do, behind the scenes for many of us, is research what you drove last quarter, last holiday, in order to get you work you will be happy with. Sometimes this works, and sometimes it doesn't. That process takes time, each time they have to do it. It's kind of like Stop Management, for us… The more time they have to take on each person, the further behind the bid gets… That's why the bid for work is taking so long…

For those of you who have gotten upset about the work you’ve gotten, and made a scene about it, and want the bid to resume after you get a second attempt to bid the work you want, you should ask yourself a few questions: Could I have given the Station Agents any more info than I did, that would've been helpful? If I did not do Bid Request Form, because I did not know which specific runs I wanted, could I have at least submitted a Bid Request Form that at least gave some helpful general info, like: “AM Straight”, “Night work, please”, “In after 7am, done by 6pm”. “I prefer Lines…”, or something similar. This helps your Station Agents immensely, and certainly more than no info at all… When they have to guess, and you get frustrated with them, remember, you have part in this, too.

We need to work together. We all are busy these days, but any additional effort we can make on our part, no matter how small, to make our brothers & sisters jobs easier; makes the entire day, week, month, year, all go easier for each other. If we lean on others to carry us, that certainly is not going to make things easier. Pull your weight. Do your part. Help one another.

Heads Up! Operators are getting called in on, and getting written up, for eating and drinking, while driving! Remember, we do not always know who is riding our bus, and sometimes it might be TriMet Managers, from other Departments than Transportation, who we’re not familiar with… If you are stopped, at a layover, or “killing time”, those are probably better times to eat and drink. You might not think it is a distraction, but I can assure you that our Riders do not always agree, and I know that our Safety and Training Dept., does not agree. Be safe. Make good choices.

Winter is upon us! Make sure you have all the gear you need, for the upcoming cold and wet months! Good shoes or boots, warm jackets, rain jackets, hats, umbrellas, fleece vests, and definitely, “Winter Walkers”, for the ice and snow! Managers may be checking to see that you have “Winter Walkers” with you. If you happen to have lost or broken your pair of “Winter Walkers” from last year, let your Station Agent or Manager know, and they will issue you a new pair. It’ll be a $25 charge, and can come out of your Uniform Allowance. Well worth the price! As we move into the winter season, where footing can be treacherous, please proceed with caution! Watch your step! Take care. Be safe. Happy holidays to you & your families!

Hello brothers and sisters! This month, I want to recap our accidents. Again, right-side clearance is still up there as the most preventable accident, and it's an easy one to correct and avoid. Look in your mirrors as you're turning or pulling into a stop. It's that simple.

The construction at Powell is going strong and the shift in parking areas is messed up, to say the least. The construction crew is micromanaging us in the morning on where to park. TriMet knows that they’re 40 spots short on weekdays and we can’t park at the Church after 5pm on weekdays, so it will be a scramble and waiting game for a spot at the Old Lift Lot. Please park between the blue lines, NOT the yellow lines. Starting in late December, the shuttle from Main St. Park and Ride by Mall 205 to Powell will start and there will be 24-hour security. The area will also be fenced off for us, or so we’re told, but time will tell if they’re being truthful or not.

There have been a lot of SIP meetings, and it’s usually one-sided, but if we had audio, we would clean up a lot of these. ATU and TriMet are working on the audio, which isn’t going to happen real soon but is coming in 2019. For Veterans Day about 20 members showed up to walk in the Portland Veterans Day Parade, handing out candy and representing the Union.
Greetings fellow brothers and sisters!

Since July, we have had a number of incidents involving unsecured wheelchairs. This IS a big deal. You can be terminated for an accident that involves an unsecured wheelchair that results in a passenger injury. Regardless of whether you have a chair or walker on board, always make sure both the passenger and their equipment is secured before putting the vehicle in drive. If you’re not sure your lift will deploy properly in a tight area, cycle the lift before you remove the securements. Never move the vehicle to adjust the lift location even by a few inches with an unsecured device on board.

We are in the holiday season. Traffic and impatient motorists will be peaking during the next few weeks. Please remain patient and do the best you can. Your schedule should never take precedence over safety. Send dispatch a “Running Late” message and make it their problem. In addition, please don’t play with your cell phone while stopped at a light or in traffic waiting. Leave it stowed while the vehicle is in gear. Management is cracking down on this.

By the time you receive this publication, I will be on vacation through Christmas. I will post who will fill in for me during my absence. I wish everyone a wonderful and safe holiday season!

Happy Holidays! Regions 1 and 2 have settled our CBAs and are on the way to 2019! The years are flying by too fast! We still have lots of work to do before we prepare for our next contract proposals. A more comprehensive training will be given for Shop Stewards so that our preparation is done efficiently and efficiently as well as bring us all together on how negotiations begin and the phases we go through to achieve a better end result in a shorter period of time.

Region 3 is still in Contract Negotiation we need to give them all of our support, it’s tough to be the last contract out. Hang in there Region 3, we are with you all the way! SOLIDARITY WINS!

Region 2 has had some issues with employees not attending or making up mandatory Safety Meetings so I guess I need to remind everyone that Safety Meetings are mandated by OSHA and are truly mandatory. If you have route conflicts you must plan ahead for a time to do the make-up meeting which is on DVD unless it’s a chaining clinic or rally. If a chaining clinic or rally you still need to make them up by the date posted. Don’t cause yourself unnecessary problems. Just do it and get it over with and move on.

If you trigger the Mobil Eye cameras to come on, please know whatever violation you have is going to be used against you. Be careful, follow the rules and always be safe. If you always work to rule you have a lot less to worry about and will have a great work experience!

In Solidarity,

Union brothers and sisters, hope everyone had a great holiday! Now we work less than two weeks and off again. Please don’t forget the Union Christmas party, I will post it on the Union board and it will also be on the Union website at www.atu757.org.

There really is a whole lot to report. We have taken care of some little things and resolved them. We are still working on the driver’s relief fund. We are also having a problem with some of the Alaskan buses I am looking into this and I will let you know what I find out.

Union and inclusion for every member in this

Region 3 is still in Contract Negotiation we need to give them all of our support, it’s tough to be the last contract out. Hang in there Region 3, we are with you all the way! SOLIDARITY WINS!

Region 2 has had some issues with employees not attending or making up mandatory Safety Meetings so I guess I need to remind everyone that Safety Meetings are mandated by OSHA and are truly mandatory. If you have route conflicts you must plan ahead for a time to do the make-up meeting which is on DVD unless it’s a chaining clinic or rally. If a chaining clinic or rally you still need to make them up by the date posted. Don’t cause yourself unnecessary problems. Just do it and get it over with and move on.

If you trigger the Mobil Eye cameras to come on, please know whatever violation you have is going to be used against you. Be careful, follow the rules and always be safe. If you always work to rule you have a lot less to worry about and will have a great work experience!

In Solidarity,

Region 3 is still in Contract Negotiation we need to give them all of our support, it’s tough to be the last contract out. Hang in there Region 3, we are with you all the way! SOLIDARITY WINS!

Region 2 has had some issues with employees not attending or making up mandatory Safety Meetings so I guess I need to remind everyone that Safety Meetings are mandated by OSHA and are truly mandatory. If you have route conflicts you must plan ahead for a time to do the make-up meeting which is on DVD unless it’s a chaining clinic or rally. If a chaining clinic or rally you still need to make them up by the date posted. Don’t cause yourself unnecessary problems. Just do it and get it over with and move on.

If you trigger the Mobil Eye cameras to come on, please know whatever violation you have is going to be used against you. Be careful, follow the rules and always be safe. If you always work to rule you have a lot less to worry about and will have a great work experience!

In Solidarity,
From Page 11

their scheduled bid day? I have heard many diverse opinions on how this should go. One thing to remember though, this is YOUR bid, and we will conduct it the way YOU want to. Part of being in a Union is to debate ideas, win them down, find what's best for the many and fight to make them reality. A Union should be a very democratic organization, where we all feel comfortable to propose ideas and keep an open mind to other member's ideas to find the solution. The monthly Union meetings allow these discussions to happen and give your Officers insights on how to proceed. I can have discussions with management, do research, develop an idea and implement, but if I do that in a vacuum, I won't have worked with him these last 9 years. I wish him the best in his retirement. I'm optimistic about the next chapter in LTD Maintenance history. It will be challenging, but we will write it together and that's what I'm grateful to have worked with him these last 9 years.

RECENTLY?

If you've changed your home address, please make sure you keep that information up to date with the union office. Call 503-232-9144 to update your information.


Names in bold print above are our 50-year retirees – thank you for your service, sisters & brothers!

Our regular Retired Member Chapter meeting is canceled, and you are instead invited to the Annual ATU 757 Retiree Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 11, at the Monarch Hotel, 12566 SE 93rd Ave., Clackamas. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m., and lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. Please call the Union Hall at 503-232-9144 to reserve your spot! Please note that this event is open ONLY to retired ATU members and their families.