President’s Roundup
By Shirley Block

Brothers & Sisters,

I am reaching out this month to ask all our members to PLEASE start using your health plan for preventative care, full physicals, and the dental plan for routine cleanings and care. This is something we fight for during negotiations in all contracts. I know there is a privacy concern when talking with someone from the Benefit’s Department, but going directly to your own personal doctor is safe.

ATTENTION to all ATU members who work at TriMet — if you have questions, please call the office for directions.

Corvallis City Transit voted their contract down because the medical coverage offered wasn’t what they wanted. I can’t stress to all members: When you get your TA contract, please take time to read it over and, if you don’t understand what you are reading, ask questions. Don’t sit back and depend on someone else to do it for you. People read things differently.

It was reported to me that the dash lights on the interior of the 4000 series buses are so bright that they cause night blindness. If this is true, please write those buses up so they can be darkened.

TriMet has hired 11 Fare Inspectors with the understanding that the last two in seniority order will be given the training opportunity, just in case someone in higher seniority order drops out. The truth of the matter is they need three time this amount.

If you have department managers/directors in a tug-of-war with each other. It’s time for us to go to the big table on October 10th and I, for one, will not tolerate the waste of my time and resources. If TriMet comes to the table with BS we are ready to ROCK-N-ROLL. Not a threat, just a fact.

We have been lucky over the past few years with mild winters, but I think our luck is about to run out. If you think you need some additional training for driving in inclement weather, please ask your managers. A lot of you are new and have probably never driven a bus in ice or snow. Now if they won’t give you the training, then shame on them if their new buses get dinged up because they want to save money. Remember, you should ask for this training before the long term instead of the short term.

One thing I didn’t know before I started asking some questions about utilization of these benefits is that dental plaque may contribute to heart disease. That got my attention!

Did you know that most insurances’ yearly checkups are 100% covered? Dental coverage also usually covers 100% for teeth cleanings per year, and dental X-rays. Early detection and treatment for your health and welfare should be number one on your “to-do” list.

I was surprised to find out that, like me, many members do not utilize their preventative health and dental care.

When I checked how long it had been since I had been for some routine screenings, I about fell off my chair; it had been over four years.

I can make excuses, which obviously I have, since I make my own appointments. But I think we really need to stop and think about our health in the long term instead of the short term.

Did you know that most insurance’ yearly checkups are 100% covered? Dental coverage also usually covers 100% for teeth cleanings per year, and dental X-rays.

Secretary Treasurer’s Report

Utilize your preventive care insurance

By Mary Longoria
Sisters & Brothers.

I want to take some time to talk about preventive dental and health care. We all get busy and our work/life schedules seem to interfere with seeing the doctor or dentist for preventative services.

I made it a priority to get my appointments completed by the end of this calendar year. Have you scheduled your exams this year?

Let’s take our health seriously and start utilizing some of the preventive care that is so important to a long life. It’s up to us to take the first step and include our health appointments in our busy schedules. In solidarity.

Visiting Valley Transit in Walla Walla, Washington

ATU Local 757 President Shirley Block (second from left), ATU 757 Vice President Jon Hunt (right), ATU Liaison Officer Mark Brotherton (second from right) and Eb Block (left), are pictured in front of new electric bus at Valley Transit in Walla Walla, Washington. ATU met with the t lockransit agency’s new general manager Angie Peters in August. Peters began her new position July 29. She succeeds longtime general manager Dick Fonden, who retired April 5. She has been with Community Connection in La Grande since 2017. ATU 757 represents 40 members at Valley Transit.

ATTENTION to all ATU members who work at TriMet — Open Enrollment is right around the corner. If you have questions, please call the office for directions.

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Salem MV had to have a rebit on their routes because they are adding new Saturday service. Soon there will be Sunday with the extension of Cherriot’s.

NEWS FLASH FOR ALL. TRANSPORTATION LOCATION DRIVERS ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY. TREAT THEM WELL. BETTER CONTRACTS.

Did you know that most insurances’ yearly checkups are 100% covered? Dental coverage also usually covers 100% for teeth cleanings per year, and dental X-rays.
Hello, Brothers & Sisters.

A quick reminder that the new cameras and microphones are going live on Oct. 1! You know that TriMet has pushed hard to get this system operational, so they will most definitely enforce any perceived violations. There are two aspects to this new camera/microphone system: 1) It could help us out when some of the riders are being less than truthful. Supposedly, TriMet will throw those complaints out, and, 2) TriMet’s review of the footage could potentially cause us some problems. So, some friendly advice regarding these new measures: Tighten up and lay off on any commentary you know might get you into trouble, step your game up and don’t waste time enforcing fares. What has been happening is that as riders try to slip by the fare box without paying, bus operators are trying to stop them. This is on camera, and now it will also be on mic. Since TriMet slipped up, and the story made the news that riders can “ride at their own risk,” we really have to constantly remind ourselves that we are “informers, not enforcers.” Is your money you’re losing? No, it’s TriMet’s. Does TriMet have our backs in the field? TriMet can deal with fare evasion problems. Your money is on your check and that check is not affected for those of you who had a chance to see the situation go. Until TriMet develops a system that some pay, and some do not. Some of these folks that don’t/can’t pay are just down on their luck, and some are habitual scammers. What we can do is hit the situation hard. Until TriMet develops another new policy, it’s the new normal. It’s on them. It’s a problem above our pay grade.

Lastly, cold and flu season is upon us! Make sure you get your flu shot so you stay healthy. Please note the Flu Shot Clinic info (days/times) should be posted in all Bus Garage Report areas soon. Also, Kaiser and Blue Cross usually offer Flu Shot Clinics in October. As bus operators, we drive “Mobile Biology Labs.” People are sneezing and coughing constantly, many without any attempt to cover their mouths. For some reason that only TriMet knows, the placards that said: “In Respect to Your Fellow Riders, Please Cover Your Mouth When Coughing or Sneezing,” were all removed from our buses. These signs showed a picture of a person coughing into their forearm/elbow, in order to remind people that to cough into your hand, then touch a common surface, is also a way to transmit germs. Who do you get to drive the buses if we’re all getting sick from the riders? I also suggest getting some anti-bacterial wipes to clean your work station before you leave the yard. Sometimes, in spite of our best efforts, bus operators get sick. Do your best to stay healthy; Vitamins, diet, rest, exercise! Take care of yourselves. Stay healthy. Be safe out there!

Hello, Brothers and Sisters.

This month at Powell we had two grievances resolved in the member’s favor! Also, a reminder that the implementation of audio and video has arrived, so focus on driving safely and doing your job to get that paycheck every other Wednesday and you won’t need to worry about this new policy. Now, on to Monthly Garage Safety Day. Garage Safety Day is now going to be held on the first Thursday of the month with members from our garage safety team. Stop by and see them to learn what is new. They will have information on safety concerns and work-related safety issues. Also, please let them know if you have safety concerns.

Winter sign-up starts October 7th, so watch for the posting at the garages for run-picks.

I had the pleasure of attending my first ever ATU International Convention with other ATU 757 officers, and I will say it was very informative and educational. The last time I served as a Union Rep was seven years ago. I passed on all conventions, but I’m glad I didn’t this time. I am glad that I had the opportunity to represent our members and meet other ATU officers from around the United States.

Our first date for official negotiations with TriMet is October 10th, so watch for postings for future dates and ask your officer for updates.

Final note... there were issues with how TriMet did the code enforcement job-posting. ATU is talking with TriMet about this and hoping to resolve the issues. Also, the road supervisor “certification” posting is taking jobs from our training department, which is also an issue we’re looking into.

Until next month, be safe! Always check and scan your mirrors to avoid collisions with fixed objects!

Hello, Brothers and Sisters.

You may have seen a lot of me at the garage lately. I have been in meetings and then more meetings with management. SIPs are being used to nitpick at operators for anything that can be used against you. I know of one manager who, just because someone complained, tries very hard to prove that the Operator is always wrong.

A reminder to everyone that if you get a “See Me” note, it is your right to have me there! You are entitled to union representation! When you receive a “See Me” note, call your Operations Assistant and let them know that you would like to set up a meeting for it. For the sake of the few nice managers, set it up as soon as you decide. Seek me out for more details.

I have had to file more grievances than should exist! TriMet refuses to admit they are wrong. They keep dancing around SOPs to make them stick. The mental gymnastics needed is astounding! Imagine what it would be like if they put that kind of effort into making our work environment better?

Remember to wave to other operators. We are a family. Wave because you may need help and that person whom you have seen every day makes it just a little bit better. Only those who work here know what it is like, and through this hardship we are strong.

I have told a few folks that as the going gets worse, there are things we can do to act in solidarity. Seek me out to know what you can do to stand against the oppressive actions Labor Relations has been taking as a matter of policy. No matter how small the act, if each of us do these things, we can move mountains.

We have taken your contract suggestions and have begun to put them to paper. The next negotiation session is scheduled to take place in early October. Until then, I will do my best to keep you informed. Seek me out if you have questions. It takes a bit of time for me to get back to you, forgive me, as I have to balance family time with work responsibilities.

Greetings and Salutations, brothers and sisters.

I hope everyone had a great summer and for those of you who had a chance to get out to the annual ATU 757 picnic, I hope you had a great time.

Well, summer is over, and we are now into the fall. The new service change is well under way, and there have been some hiccups to start off with, but it appears to be smoothing out now. As with any major service change, if you are having issues or concerns, make sure to write up an SIR and submit it to dispatch.

Some of the projects we have been working on have finally come to fruition. For quite some time now, ATU leadership has been working on creating and fostering a better working relationship between supervisors and operators. Remember, we are, after all, brothers and sisters. C-Tran has come to agree with the Union on this, and the supervisor group will no longer be responsible for issuing discipline. Discipline will now be handled by management. C-Tran has also asked to have two supervisor positions turned into assistant managers. In return for those positions, C-Tran agreed to give the bargaining unit another greatly needed Field Supervisor position. We are working together to create another analyst position for a net loss of zero.

I know many of you will be happy to know, we have started a conversation with C-Tran regarding supervisor succession, we are also working with C-Tran to revise the distracted driving policy, and the accident policy. Stay tuned, more to follow.

As many of you are aware, Tim Eye man is back and coming after the car tabs again with I-976. The initiative will be on the ballot for the November 5, 2019, general election here in Washington State. What will it do? It will lower all vehicle tabs to $30, eliminate a 0.3% tax on vehicle purchases, lower other vehicle fees (snowmobiles, ATVs and such) and it will remove authority for TBDs (Transit Benefit Authorities) to impose vehicle fees. It won’t have quite the impact I-695 had on our agency, but if it passes it may impact some current services we provide and will stifle future growth for C-Tran. Tell your friends and family to vote NO on I-976.

As I sat here writing this, I learned of the passing of one of our brothers, CVan operator Jeff Larsen. Jeff was a wonderful gentleman, he was a lot of fun, he was always upbeat, he always had a smile and made everyone around him smile and laugh. Jeff will be greatly missed. Rest in peace my brother.

In Solidarity, ever forward, Jimmy

Jim
Hello to everyone from the Tillamook County Transportation District Property. I would like to give a BIG thank you to Clayton Norrbom, Kathy and Steve Schwabe, Gwen Russell, Michael Thompson, and also to Allen Newcomb, Sylvie Balance, Tommie Huffman, Lawrence Quintal and Debbie Graham for putting together another great Employee Labor Day picnic. Only two broken horseshoes in the horseshoe pits. It was great to see and visit with everyone in attendance. We even had members from Lincoln City and Salem who made the trip to enjoy the day. I am looking forward to visiting with everyone who is able to attend on our next Labor Day picnic.

Our contract negotiations are still ongoing. The District currently has our counter-proposal. There have been a few TAs at this time and I’m looking forward to more soon. When that happens, I am sure we will meet again over wages as well as other issues. There are some things the District would like to take away and we are not okay with that.

As I mentioned in the last issue, my wife Cyndie and I will be making a trip to Lincoln City to connect with members down that way. That went very well, as it was not a scheduled Charter Meeting. We did take a vote to have a scheduled charter meeting change both in Lincoln City and at the Tillamook meetings. The outcome of that vote was 100% unanimous to have our charter meeting held quarterly at the 60s Café in Lincoln City starting in November. Also, any members unable to attend either meeting and would like a copy of meeting minutes, please get me a current e-mail so we can all be informed about what is happening. As your Union Liaison Officer, I would like to do a better job at keeping our members informed on what is happening here at TCTD. I am open for input at any time. Let’s stick together and be the best that we can be. It is your Union!

By the time you are reading this, the doctors should have signed my medical release so that I can start driving again. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the shop or on the road!

I hope everyone has had a great summer! The days are noticeably shorter already, so be on the lookout for pedestrians, bikes, motorcycles and anyone or anything that blends in with their surroundings that could be an accident waiting to happen. Keep yourself and your passengers safe and remember: “If It’s Not Safe, Don’t Do It!”

Just a reminder, Kim Powdewitz is the new Region 2 Liaison Officer, and is in training. With that being said, you will still be seeing me in the office while I’m training Kim.

For everyone that has a FMLA filed, please be aware that you MUST work 1,250 hours per year to have your FMLA extended or renewed. It’s great to call in using FMLA for chronic issues that qualify and not lose attendance points, but you need to work 1,250 hours per year or your FMLA status won’t be renewable. Then you will be using your Attendance Points for all future call-ins. If you’re calling in every month the designated number of days your doctor has allowed or more, you need to be seriously thinking about filing for Social Security Disability Benefits for your chronic illness. FMLA is not a game to play with your livelihood. Use your FMLA days wisely. Develop a plan with your doctor to control your chronic issues so you can comfortably come to work and be productive while earning a living for you and your family.

I applaud all that have lowered their Mobile Eye scores! Well done, and keep up the good work! Paying attention to what you are being told during your counseling sessions is very important. Put yourself in First Transit’s place and think about the counseling…if you owned First Transit and you were giving everyone the ability to learn from the feedback from Mobile Eye and, as the boss, you were not seeing any improvement, how would you feel? I would feel that no one cared very much about their jobs and or safety on the job and wouldn’t be very happy with anyone NOT showing IMPROVEMENT! Stop and think about this. It’s a serious matter. Anyone that has a Mobile Eye Score can improve. So, please take Mobile Eye Counseling seriously and become a safer driver, work to rule as you were trained, and everyone including YOU will be happier!!

Request for ALL….read the entire Region 2 Contract and the Bid Packet Rules, which are a part of our Contract. As you complete this request, please make a list of anything in this Contract or Bid Packet Rules that you have questions about so we can meet and discuss as a group. It’s extremely important for all of us to understand our Contract, so let’s get started and see where this will take us as we head towards preparing for our next contract negotiations. The more all we know, the stronger we will be! We are all the ATU 757 Union and we all need to remember this!

As always, solidarity wins! Rock ’n roll and be safe out there!

Greetings, fellow brothers and sisters.

If management has requested to see you for one of their camera events, you may request Union representation at any time. It seems that management is just flat lazy about investigating any triggering event. We are apparently guilty until proven innocent. The camera should only trigger to record if you brake hard, accelerate hard, turn hard or hit a substantial bump. If you don’t do any of these things in the video that you are asked to review—even for coaching purposes—challenge the supervisor to explain what occurred to trigger the camera. If management cannot explain what would have triggered the camera to record, demand a copy of the coaching paperwork, write “No Triggering Event” on it and place a copy of it in my box.

I anticipate we will begin vacation bidding for 2020 in early November. As we get closer to that date, look for that bid packet in your boxes. Everyone gets their vacation front-loaded on January 1st, except new hires, who will receive their vacation on their first anniversary date.

Just a quick shout out to retirees who gathered at Edgefield in Troutdale on Sunday September 8th. Wes, Grant, Cara, the Danforths all the way from Lafayette, not Louisiana. Even retired Santa from Merlo was on hand. And a handful more. It was nice to catch up on old and new events. Grant will post the next gathering on Facebook, which will occur in October and hopefully monthly thereafter.

The summer zoomed by and it will be Halloween before we know it. I miss the good old days when operators were allowed to costume-up in the spirit of the day. I can almost see why management frowned on it for safety and security reasons. I was line-training on Halloween and was dressed as Terrible Tim from Monty Python’s “THE HOLY GRAIL” movie; hence my aka name. Traffic was thick and we were getting considerably late, so at a safe stop we switched spots. I looked like a disheveled passenger who’d decided he wanted to drive! Only one passenger questioned my credibility to drive whom I showed my credentials and satisfied her concerns. Good times!

Live to enjoy! Walk, bus, ride your bike for exercise, fresh air and for better health. Volunteer! ‘Tis good for you and your community! It also keeps you from getting bored. Live to enjoy! Salud!

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 Mass Transit District • MV Canby • MV Salem • Rogue Valley Transportation District • Bend Extended Area Transit • Cascades East Transit • Tillamook County Transportation District • Valley Transit Association • First Transit Regions 1, 2 and 3 • City of North Bonneville • Portland Public Schools • First Student Portland • First Student Corvallis • MTR Corvallis • Lamar Advertising Company • Columbia Area Transit • Hood River • ATU Retired Member Chapter • Sunset Empire Transportation District, Astoria • CC Rider
**Retirees’ Corner**

The following retirees are celebrating October birthdays:


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

IN MEMORIAM: Casey Kennedy, Richard E Clemens, John J. Doupe, David Lafady, Daryl Meisch, Cliffor L. Murray, Larry Brant

Retired Members’ Chapter Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 6th at 9:30 a.m. at Westmoreland Union Manor, 6404 SE 23rd Ave. Coffee and doughnuts will be served at 9 a.m.

**OCTOBER MEETINGS**

**SHOP STEWARDS AND FUTURE LEADERS**

Are you an ATU-757 shop steward? A rank-and-file member who’s looking to get more active in the union? Join leadership and staff every month before our Charter Meeting for the Shop Steward and Future Leaders Meeting to help us drive ATU’s organizing in 2019 and beyond! The Shop Stewards and Future Leaders Meeting will take place at 5:00pm, Monday, October 14th, at the Salvation Army, Rose Center for Seniors, 211 NE 18th Ave, Portland.

**CHARTER**

Charter members meet at 6 p.m. Monday, Monday, October 14th, at the Salvation Army Rose Center for Seniors, 211 NE 18th Ave, Portland. The Charter day meeting is 10 a.m. Tuesday, October 15th, at ATU 757 Schoppert Hall, 1801 NE Couch St., Portland.

**SALEM TRANSIT/MV**

Salem members meet 7 p.m. on Tuesday, October 15th, at the Broadway Commons, 1300 Broadway Street NE, Salem.

**VALLEY TRANSIT**

Walla Walla members meet 10:30 a.m. Saturday, October 19th, at WSDOT Maintenance Building, 1210 G Street, Walla Walla.

**LANE TRANSIT**

Eugene members meet 7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 16th, at the Woodworkers Local Lodge, 1124 South A St., Springfield.

**PPS/FIRST STUDENT PORTLAND**

Members meet 10 a.m. on Thursday, October 17th, at Colwood Golf Course, 7313 NE Columbia Blvd., Portland.

**COIC/Bend**

Central Oregon members meet 6:30 p.m. Saturday, October 19th, at East Bend Library, 62080 Dean Swift Rd., Bend.

**ROGUE VALLEY TRANSPORTATION**

Southern Oregon members meet 7:00 p.m. Saturday, October 19th, at Jackson Creek Pizza Company, 317 E Main St, Medford.

**TILLAMOOK/CTCD**

Tillamook members meet 1 p.m. Sunday, October 20th, at Rendezvous Bar and Grill, 214 Pacific Ave.

**COLUMBIA AREA TRANSIT-HOOD RIVER**

Members meet 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 29th, at the Columbia Area Transit Break Room, 224 Wasco Loop, Hood River.

**CORVALLIS**

Corvallis members meet at 10 am on Saturday, October 19th, at Woodstock’s Pizza Parlor, 1045 NW Kings Blvd., Corvallis. PLEASE NOTE: New day and location.

**C-TRAN/C-VAN**

Vancouver-area members meet at 6 p.m. Sunday, October 20th, at the Laborers/Teamsters Hall, 2212 NE Andresen, Vancouver.

**COLUMBIA AREA TRANSIT-HOOD RIVER**

Members meet 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 29th, at the Columbia Area Transit Break Room, 224 Wasco Loop, Hood River.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Unless otherwise noted, all ATU members are invited to attend any of these listed meetings.