**President’s Roundup**

**By Shirley Block**

Brothers & Sisters,

I want to give a big shout out to PPS, which got a new three-year contract. This was a big win for them. First time their Type 10 drivers have medical coverage.

Both Salem Cherrilots and Salem MV are extending their service on the streets. They say this is because of the need for more employees—both union and non-union—that makes it good for the community. Shows strong growth in the area. Our Labor-Management meeting with Salem is a consolidated, pleasant effort to homogenize both labor and management on the same page. Such a pleasure to work with them.

Still working on the Tillamook contract. Hoping to be able to report next month on a contract vote or ratification. I think we are close.

At Canby MV, we were asked to take a one-year extension with a wage increase. I think we can do a little better for our members, so we will be getting together again to meet with corporate.

Just wanted to give everyone a heads-up that First Student is no longer the company that holds the contract for school bus drivers in the City of Corvallis. The takeover was by Student Transportation of America. They are the new ones that we must pay close attention to. Believe me, we have a watchful eye on them.

At TriMet, a lot of you have asked what TriMet is doing about putting the bus shields in. Here is what I was told: TriMet will be equipping the whole fleet with shields over a five-year period. They are in year two. This fiscal year, they will be retrofitting 97 buses and purchasing 71 new buses (the new buses come with shields). Right now, roughly 23% of the fleet have shields. Over the next 3 ½ to 4 years—through a combination of retrofits and new bus purchases—they will get to 100%.

Glad to see they are spending some money to help the front-line employees. Now, if we can get some money into training.

It was brought to my attention a week or so ago that there are new operators on the road that are not getting their check rides. People, with check rides comes more training and educating of our operators about what to do, and what not to do. Also, it assists on SIPs.

No wonder there are so many mirrors contacting objects.

In the same meeting, I was told they were planning to hire another assistant manager and an attorney. Last time I checked, that costs money.

Where does SAFETY stand in line at TriMet? Obviously, it’s window dressing when you want to put all that money into managers that seem to keep disappearing through a revolving door at TriMet. Is there anyone watching TriMet other than ATU? We are taxpayers too. I cringe every time I think of the amount of money that goes up in flames when you hire an out-of-state manager or director, relocate them here to Oregon.

Here’s a “News Flash People”: Hang on to what you have or get a CONCRETE CONTRACT when you sign on to TriMet. Just saying, because they can’t fire me. Tell the truth and shame the devil. Brothers and sisters, please help your new operators. We are like a little family and want to see our family succeed.

We are working hard in our small table groups going over contract proposals that were submitted by our members. We will continue to get ready for the big table. Each time we meet, I will make sure an update goes out to the membership.

We the Union. We Are Community. We Are One.

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**Vice President’s Report**

**It’s been a busy summer**

**By Jonathan Hunt**

Dear Sisters & Brothers,

It’s been a busy summer. I attended the Washington AFL-CIO convention with our officers from C-TRAN. I have also re-engaged with our Latino Caucus International Representative, Jose Rosado. We are working on getting our local chapter of the Latino Caucus up and running again. If you’re interested in being part of this group, either as an officer or a member, please let me know. I’d like to thank Jill Carrillo for stepping up and assisting with getting the chapter re-vitalized.

I have some contract negotiations updates to share with you. We have started bargaining the First Student Mechanics’ contract, as well as the contract for our members in Tillamook. Our wage committee at Portland Public Schools did an outstanding job! I am happy to announce we have a signed contract with TriMet, which now includes providing health insurance for Type 10 drivers!

We had our first round of negotiations with our newly acquired group of Public Safety Officers and Fare Inspectors at Lane Transit District. Our Tri-Met union officers have been working hard preparing for contract negotiations. They have been working in small groups developing a contract proposal using the contract suggestions submitted by our TriMet members. We are on track for negotiations to start in early October.

I would like to congratulate Cathy Redwine on her retirement. Cathy served as an ATU liaison officer for many years and was an amazing representative for our members at First Transit, Region 2. While she has retired, she is still engaged in assisting our new officer, Kimberlee Podewitz. Please welcome Kim as the new liaison officer for First Transit, Region 2.

We had a great turnout at this years’ annual picnic. I’d like to thank all our volunteers who made the picnic successful!

We all need to remember to keep an eye out for the kiddos who are starting back to school soon!

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**Secretary Treasurer’s Report**

**Volunteers help make picnic a huge success**

**By Mary Longoria**

Sisters & Brothers,

This year’s ATU 757 picnic I thought went well. We decided to go back to the standard hamburger, hotdog, potato salad picnic. We got a lot of positive feedback. We served over 1,000 meals. There was a hotdog cart with food available for most of the day, too. It was a hot day, so the shaved ice booth was a favorite for kids and adults to cool off a bit. The cotton candy machine was spinning too, with people of all ages enjoying the sugary goodness.

Bingo as always is a big attraction. This year we had gift cards and a few purchased prizes for the winners, which people said they enjoyed. We also had the major prize raffles. There were a lot of happy faces going home with a prize.

Kids’ games were a hit — from the watermelon eating contest and balloon toss, to the kids’ raffle prize drawing. The kids also enjoyed Wonder Woman, Captain America, Larry Lotz the Clown, face painting, and caricature drawings. There didn’t seem to be a sad face in the group.

The music this year was a DJ who was none other than Executive Board Officer Kris Alexander from Powell Garage. We had several vendors handing out good stuff to our members, too.

All the volunteers really made the day! We had people that were able to take breaks, get some food and enjoy a little of their own picnic. Thank you sooooo much! Also a big thank you to the Executive Board Officers for gathering volunteers for this event.

Joe Ruffin, Executive Board Officer from Ruby Junction, runs the 50/50 raffle every year. This year someone walked away with almost $1,000. The other $965 was donated to Labor Community Service Agency. LCSA serves union members who have been out of work and need some help.

Last, but not least, thanks to our wonderful staff at the ATU office. Without them this would not have gone as smoothly as it did. They prepped for months, calling vendors, ordering ATU swag to hand out, talking to caterers, making flyers, sending out mailers, and many more things that go into a picnic that served over 1,000 people.

Thank you all for making this picnic a success.
Hello, Brothers & Sisters. I hope you and your families all had fun at our ATU 757 Annual Picnic! This is one of our few opportunities to get together, outside of our busy and demanding jobs, to relax and be reminded that we’re all in this together and that we all have families and friends we are trying to support. We all have hopes and dreams that may hinge on our work careers. I know we don’t always agree on everything, but if we can give-and-take with our brothers and sisters, temper that with some compassion and understanding for their perspectives then, hopefully, we can meet together in the middle and things will go better for all of us.

Speaking of unity and picnics, the Annual Labor Day Picnic for all Labor Unions and their families and friends was held on Monday, September 2.

Another form of unity is helping each other in the field. The more we work together, the more we can accomplish and the better we look! Please have some patience for that “Leader” bus ahead of you that’s running late. That driver may be new, or just a driver with a full load of riders. Rather than tailgate the bus, it’s better to lay back, get some separation, and serve the riders better. Also, remember to “Block!” for each other. Help each other out in tight passing situations by letting one of you go first! Helping each other makes it easier for all of us.

Speaking of new drivers, we obviously have a lot of them. Hopefully, the Training Dept. is reminding them that this is a new journey. ASE Apprentices, Union Trade relationship. What does that mean? It means that the Senior Drivers pass their experience, tips, and support to the new drivers. That also can be a tricky thing, as new drivers can be sensitive and senior drivers can be blunt and to-the-point. If each group can remember to try to be less sensitive and less blunt, we can help each other, build some unity and look better in the field! Unity!

Fall is upon us! More riders, more cars on the roads, more traffic, more scooters, more cyclists, more children and more construction projects trying to get completed before the heavier rains come. Everybody, be on your “A-Game!” With more people on the bus comes more interaction with riders. Many riders will be looking for places we don’t know about, in parts of town we don’t know about. It’s okay to pass these people on to other passengers, so you can stay focused on driving. You can speak up, or use the mic, and say something like, “Can some

one help this rider find where they’re going? I’m not sure where the place is and I’m going to stay focused on driving, to keep you all safe.” There will be no argument either person or other riders. They want you to be safe and not distracted, and the riders love to help out! Last thing about rider interaction: as we know, some Riders like to “mess with” the Drivers, especially if they can tell you’re newer. Be professional. Be diplomatic. Be patient. If a Rider is trying to be confrontational, unfortunately for our Sisters, charming or romantic, using the tools you’ve learned in training to diffuse and deter the situation. Don’t forget to use Dispatch: “Customer > Customer Conduct,” on your touch screen, while it’s going on. Ask for a Road Sup to meet you and talk to this Rider, at a Stop coming up. That can calm things quickly. Also, talk to your fellow Drivers, about how they deal with similar situations. Unity!

Another resource that can be very helpful for processing unpleasant or traumatic situations is the “CISM Care Team.” The CISM Hotline is: 503-962-2476 (CISM), and email is: CISM@TriMet.org. You may have seen the flyers up in the Bulkpens. This Committee is made up of both Union and Tri Met employees, to help you work out feelings, and develop tools, to heal, and help avoid similar situations in the future.

The main point being, don’t be afraid or feel shame, for asking for help. We all need it, at some point or another, during this demanding job!

Take Care. Be Safe Out There! Work Together, Brothers & Sisters! In Unity.

Hello, Brothers and Sisters. Things are going pretty good here at the Powell Shop, even with all the construction going on. I would like to give a shout out to the number one person in the helper seniority, Mike Ladich. Mike is retiring! The Powell day-shift people put on a great barbecue for him. We enjoyed family, friends, lots of food and stories of the good-old-days. Thank you for your service!

Although I was unable to attend the annual ATU picnic, I would also like to give a shout out to my two shop stewards — Daniel Houghton and Shawn Petersen — for volunteering on their day off to help with Bingo. I heard that the picnic went really well!

Your union officers are working on putting together the ATU’s proposal to TriMet for the upcoming contract negotiations. ATU 757 is putting on some Shop Steward training classes to help us all get more connected. If you’re not a Shop Steward now, but have been thinking about it, call the Union Office.

All the officers need and want more eyes and ears out in the workplace. If all of us pull together and stay united, we will succeed!

In solidarity.

Fall sign-up has not been the easiest one from beginning to now. The rumor for a while was everything on the diesel mechanic sign-up was going to be floor and no supervisor and there were more rumors on the light-rail mechanics sign-up. We were finally able to get a meeting together with tri-met and work a lot of the confusion and details out. We got the job description on the sign-up as well as who the superior is going to be. The helper/service worker, stores and facilities sign-up went fairly quick. Diesel mechanics don’t sign-up until August 28th. For years training has been an issue for all departments at TriMet. I don’t know why this keeps getting passed around and no one from TriMet wants to step up to the plate and sit down with the Union to discuss these issues. We have a ton of ideas that come directly from the employees who are actually doing the job.

In the coming weeks, the maintenance officers will be sitting down with TriMet to discuss union projects on the diesel side. The goal is not to have contractors come in to do our work. Over the last couple of years there a lot of rumors and bullshit that flies around so frequently that it becomes gospel to some members.

At this current moment the fourth bus shop off of Columbia Blvd will not have mechanics working there. We just had five diesel journeyman mechanics retire and one left the shop to go back to their former employer. The next group of apprentices won’t come off the program until the fall of 2020.

We recently had two people graduate from the facilities apprenticeship program, Renee Massey and Brandon Smith. Renee is also a state-certified journeyman diesel mechanic that went through TriMet diesel apprenticeship program. Renee was the first woman to graduate from the facilities maintenance apprenticeship program. Brandon Smith had his state LME license prior to coming into the program and he had to complete the TriMet side of the facilities...
maintenance apprenticeship program. Congratulations to Renee and Brandon.

Here at Center street we had four recent retirements in less than month and all of them had more than 30 years of service. Terry Wells had over forty years of service at TriMet. He was an assistant supervisor for many years. He was the go-to person in the bus purchase program. I remember Terry was an assistant in the body shop and up to his retirement day was the unit rebuild supervisor, as he had been for a number of years. Terry was very well respected and knew a lot. He was the most easiest going person around. For those of you who don’t know, Terry was also an umpire.

Terry Haliski had over 30 years of service and was a mechanic who made jobs look so easy. He was a master on whatever he worked on, whether he was working the floor, in the body shop or re-building transmissions. I remember meeting Terry when I was a swing-shift at Merlo many years ago. He was the one who introduced me to the computer game called Riven, which I still have that disk. At Merlo there were always magazines and it was Terry who donated a lot of them over the years. When Terry spoke, members listened; and he was always on point. Terry was very creative and is a man of many, many talents. Some of you might even have a leather hat or two that he made. I’m glad I was able to work on the same shift as Steve towards his later years at TriMet. We had some good times. Loco moco and po lei tea!

Dave Webb is another retiree who had 30-plus years of service. Dave was the electrical trainer in the diesel apprenticeship program. I remember meeting Dave when he was an assistant supervisor at Merlo garage when I was the swing-shift steamer. Dave was huge into handheld radios and is an avid sailor. When Dave got into the training department, he was in charge of the computer system and would fill in when one of the trainers was absent. He was soon tasked with teaching electrical when Mark Tellis got moved into the bus radio department. Dave has always been available when I had questions.

Dave Webb

Hello to all my UNION Brothers & Sisters from Tillamook.

First, let me apologize for TCTD not being in the last Labor Press, as it is my responsibility to be a writer and a leader for our members. Please keep in mind that when you read this, some things in my article may have already taken place.

Many here at TCTD are probably learning first-hand that YOU get out of your union what YOU are WILLING TO PAY INTO. Unions are a tool for the members to voice their concerns, whether it be job security, benefits, pay for equal work to name a few and have been a guiding force to give the Pacific Northwest living wages and better benefits for all.

We need to all give thanks and a lot of thought to those early workers who marched and fought so bravely—some even gave their lives—so that we and our co-workers both today and in the future can enjoy a much more relaxed lifestyle than they did. I am very thankful I was able to find a union job in 2004 and reap the benefits of higher wages and benefits after reaching top wage...and was able to buy a home and have great health insurance before retirement.

We ALL also need to remember that WE ARE ALL THE UNION, and I have learned first-hand that YOU get out of the union what YOU are WILLING TO PAY INTO THE UNION. Unions are a tool for the members to voice their concerns, whether it be job security, benefits, pay for equal work to name a few and have been a guiding force to give the Pacific Northwest living wages and better benefits for all.

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now and always have been service-based workforces. They carve out the path to the Wages and Benefits we all strive to attain and maintain both for our future and our children’s future. Remember, a strong union equals a strong force in the labor movement and the workplace!

Procrastination comes easy! PCE! It’s a good day when your feet hit the floor in the morning. Appreciate life and those around you! Don’t put off visiting cronies or doing things you have been meaning to do.

I hope you were able to attend the LABOR DAY picnic and celebrate what UNIONS have done for us all. Weekends, vacations, good wages, sick time and basically having your back whenever needed. I missed the Labor Day Picnic this year cuz I was in New England with family and friends. My old University of R.I. pals are so important to me. As for the members who opted out of dues because of the Janus ruling…what a shame. SOLIDARITY RULES!

When I left my casa in Nayaritis in September 6, 2019 I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know our new-hires this year. I am going to take the bus recently with new hires, who are true professional operators from First Transit that accepted the challenge to shuttle for TriMet in the trenches. You are all the first responders of transit and deserve recognition for your service.

The ParaTransit Conference continues to meet on a quarterly basis with Vice President Jonathan Hunt, under the direction of President Shirley Block. Our primary focus is our work conditions at all of the paratransit properties throughout the states of Oregon and Washington. The meals and rest periods are our primary focus. We have not yet conducted our survey. This survey will commence shortly.

As many of you read in the previous Labor Press, our ATU leadership met with Labor Commissioner Val Hoyle. Commissioner Hoyle has taken seriously the impact our schedules have made on the meal breaks and rest periods. On June 17, an audit was conducted by the Bureau of Labor and Industries at the main office for the TriMet Lift Program, located at 2800 NW Nela in Portland. I don’t have the results and findings of this audit yet. As reported by various operators, I noticed schedule improvements the week following the audit. However, the issues have commenced thereafter. Please, if you are having an issue with your meal and rest period, leave a copy of your Manifest cover sheet with your Shop Steward or Liaison Officer.

I am going forward to meeting and getting to know our new-hires this year. If you have any questions or would like to attend our monthly meetings, please come and see me.

Until next month…

... ATU 757 Officer Reports

From Page 15

ing for the weekend.

I really enjoy taking the bus recently with new hires, who are true professional pick-up artists. They’ve got their PR skates on! Have a FAB September and life! L2E! Live to enjoy! Salud!

First Student Portland
As reported by ANNA TOMPTE

Union Brothers and Sisters.

I hope everyone enjoyed a fun summer. It is time to go back to work and we are all gearing up for the new school year. All of us need to remember our training and when pulling our buses out of our stalls, stay safe and watch your mirrors. Also, when backing into our stalls, know your distance.

I’m not sure how all the members feel, but I am not happy with the layout of the yard. Personally, I think it’s an accident waiting to happen. The other problem I see is the way the route-sheets are written. Currently there is no room to correct the route to be submitted without submitting an extra sheet of paper.

I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know our new-hires this year. Our Charter Meeting for the Shop Steward and Future Leaders Meeting will take place at 5 p.m., Thursday, September 19, at Colwood Golf Course, 7313 NE Columbia Blvd., Portland. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN TIME AND LOCATION.

COIC/Bend
Central Oregon members meet 6:30 p.m. Satur-
day, September 21, at East Bend Library, 6200
Dean Swift Rd., Bend.

ROGUE VALLEY TRANSPORTATION
Southern Oregon members meet 7:30 p.m. Satur-
day, September 21, at Jackson Creek Pizza Com-
pany, 317 E Main St., Medford.

TILLAMOOK/TCD
Tillamook members meet 1 p.m. Sunday, September
22, at Rendezvous Bar and Grill, 214 Pacific Ave.

Corvallis
Members meet at 10am on Thursday, Sep-
tember 19, at the Oddfellows Barnum Lodge
#7, 223 SW 2nd St., Corvallis.

C-TRAN/C-VAN
Vancouver-area members meet at 6 p.m. Sun-
day, September 19, at the Laborers/Teamsters Hall,
2212 NE Andersen, Vancouver.

COLUMBIA AREA TRANSIT-HOOD RIVER
Members meet 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 24,
at the Columbia Area Transit Break Room, 224
Wasco Loop, Hood River.

PLEASE NOTE: Unless otherwise noted, all ATU mem-
bers are invited to attend any of these listed meetings.