PRESIDENT'S ROUNDUP
By Shirley Block

Brothers & Sisters,

C-TRAN and Valley Transit Policy Changes for the Good!

Happy to hear that C-Tran has modified its rules on riding the bus to specifically include hate crimes in its list of prohibited activities. For more information, please go to this web site: https://www.columbian.com/news/2019/nov/14/c-tran-adds-hate-crimes-to-conduct-rules/

We all need to get on board with C-Tran. There are too many operator assaults in the workplace.

Mark Brotherton and Randal Son, Valley Transit officers, are working with their General Manager Angie Peters to create their first Light Duty Policy. Good job to you both. Walla Walla has much more than sweet onions. They have a great transit system with remarkable employees.

TRIMET Management Revolving Door

Has anyone noticed the revolving door of both management and union folks leaving TriMet? Well, I can tell you the Union side is paying close attention to the way the company is wasting taxpayers’ dollars. Be advised, we are some of the taxpayers.

Some are leaving on their own and some are being terminated. It’s very expensive to bring employees in, train them, and out the door they go. This culture tells me someone in charge doesn’t have a clue to what is going on. Instead of the right people at the table you have a new group of heavy rail managers trying to re-invent the wheel.

TRIMET: Safety First?

Let me first talk about the Operator Safety Notice that was put out by TriMet for Halloween safety. Sure, your employer can tell you not to paint your face for Halloween. But at a time when they have just dropped the worst contract proposal in TriMet history and it is not going well. Our apprenticeship programs are under attack. TriMet wants to remove them from the contract completely. This is unacceptable and your negotiating team is working on solutions to this problem that TriMet created.

I would like to thank everyone who joined us for the Veterans’ Day Parade! ATU mourns the loss of International Financial Secretary Oscar Owens. Shirley and I attended his funeral in Oakland California. ATU International will be honoring Oscar at ATU Headquarters in Maryland on January 18, 2020. I am honored to be attending.

We are currently in negotiations with TriMet, and it is not going well. Our apprenticeship programs are under attack. TriMet wants to remove them from the contract completely. This is unacceptable and your negotiating team is working on solutions to this problem that TriMet created. We need to value the women and men that make our transit system run.

We would like to hear from those who were promised an apprenticeship pathway when being hired at TriMet. We are going to hold TriMet accountable. We would also like to hear from those of you who have gone through an Apprenticeship Program at TriMet and what it’s meant to you and your families. Please contact the ATU Local 757 office at 503-232-9144 to share your story.

I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving. I want to remind everyone that on Saturday, December 14, Santa and Mrs. Claus will be landing in Portland at the Oregon AFL-CIO building on 32nd and Powell. Please join us for photos with Santa. Children will also receive an unwrapped present. Please keep an eye out for the postings!

As we finish out this year, I want to wish each of you a Merry Christmas and very Happy New Year.

Secretary Treasurer’s Report

United Health Care concerns

By Mary Longoria

Sisters & Brothers,

I’ve had a few telephone calls regarding TriMet’s Retiree United Health Care (UHC) and the lack of doctors that are available, especially in the Vancouver, Washington area. I spoke with our benefits person and they reached out to United Health Care. They said that depending on how you search the UHC website you will have different results. If you need help finding a provider, please call the Union Office and we will get you in contact with our benefits coordinator, she will be able to step you through the website.

I hope everyone has scheduled their doctors’ appointments before the end of the year. For people over 50 you get several new tests that you need on your health schedule to keep yourself healthy.

I also want to remind retirees that the 2020 Medicare Part B Premiums may be changing. If your Part B premiums change, you must provide updated premium rates to the TriMet Benefits Department. Valid proof of premiums includes letters mailed to you by the Social Security Administration titled one of the following:

• Your New Benefit Amount
• Important Information
• Information About Current Social Security Benefits

I want to wish everyone Happy Holidays! Be safe while celebrating!

If at all possible, check politics at the door! Just my opinion for Happier Holidays.

Vice President’s Report

Fighting for Apprentices at TriMet

By Jonathan Hunt

Dear Sisters & Brothers,

I would like to thank everyone who joined us for the Veterans’ Day Parade! ATU mourns the loss of International Financial Secretary Oscar Owens. Shirley and I attended his funeral in Oakland California. ATU International will be honoring Oscar at ATU Headquarters in Maryland on January 18, 2020. I am honored to be attending.

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Santa Claus is Visiting the Union!

Santa Claus will be handing out presents to all of our ATU 757 children and grandchildren, 16 and under. Please join us for a cup of hot cocoa and cookies!

Saturday, December 14th
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Oregon AFL-CIO Building
3645 SE 32nd Ave.
Portland, Oregon
Hello Brothers & Sisters,

As we move into winter and the Holiday Season, please remember it’s all the more important to relax and enjoy and take care of yourselves. It pays dividends. The EAP can be very helpful to take advantage of our EAP, an anonymous and confidential place to talk to professionals about stress, grief, and relaxation!

Another way to take care of ourselves is to take advantage of our EAP, an anonymous counseling place to talk to professionals about demands and stress at work, about issues going on at home with family or neighbors, or anything that’s causing stress, grief, depression, and is making your job even tougher. I have used this program more than once, and it’s been helpful in dealing with issues, talking them out, finding solutions and resolve. The EAP info is at the manager’s counter.

Another area to keep an eye on is time-loss. This can be a tricky area, and people who have not managed their time-loss have found themselves in trouble. Some have even lost their jobs as time-loss mounted, and they did not know how to deal with it. Talk to any one of our managers immediately, and work with them to find ways to productively solve your FMLA issues. Don’t just let it slide. Also, let either your Union Rep, Extra Board Liaison, or one of the Stewards know what’s going on. We can’t help you if we don’t know, or find out too late.

Wrapping up with education, here are some important links that will provide more info and understanding about who we are as a Union workforce, what’s going on these days in relation to many companies, and how much stronger we are, together: https://www.atu757.org/

Above web address is for ATU 757 web site, Drop-Down Menus on Home Page: “TriMet Contract Update, 10.20.21” (both sides of Contract Proposals) and “Training” (helpful and informative videos on a variety of important topics. Although some say they are for Stewards, in reality, we are all Stewards of and for ATU 757), and “Events,” for upcoming Charter Meetings. Good time to check in with our Elected Officers. The best one for most Bus Ops are the Tuesday, 10 a.m. at ATU Office, NE Couch & 18th. The next meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 10.

https://www.atu757.org/store/books

Above web area is for helpful and informative books and general info on unions, and ways to fight for the things that matter most for us: Safe Working Conditions, Good Pay & Benefits, identifies those who are fighting against us for those things, and why.

https://healthcare.oregon.gov/shiba/Pages/index.aspx

Above web site is mainly for folks that have retired, or are planning on doing so, and also for anyone who wants to know what’s coming down the line, and how to plan ahead. Lots of good info!

Educate yourselves! A strong workforce is a knowledgeable one!

Stay healthy: Vitamins, Diet, Rest, Exercise! Be Safe Out There!!

Work together, help each other. Brothers & Sisters!

Hello Brothers & Sisters,

This month we had another negotiations meeting with TriMet. Nothing has been talked about concerning wages and healthcare. Apparently, TriMet is saving that for last.

I want to put it out there that if we follow the rules to the “t,” it will eventually get TriMet’s attention and they will come to the table to settle a decent contract. But we can’t do that if members spend, sign in early, and are not taking breaks. Let’s work to the rule!

I want to remind members that if you feel you were harmed, it’s up to you to file a grievance. It is not up to your Union Officer. We have a very narrow window to file disciplinary issues, and thirty (30) days for non-discipline-related contract violations.

Speaking of noncontract-related violations, if you feel you were harmed in a job promotion with TriMet, you can file a Human Resources complaint with TriMet. There’s nothing the Union can do. TriMet is in charge of the hiring process for internal positions, so if you feel someone got inside info or help to get a position, file a complaint. I want to put it out there — request slips for sign-ups is getting worse each time. Please take the time to properly fill them out and put as much info on the slip as possible. It helps keep sign-up on time, otherwise we don’t get our breaks or lunches. We can’t hit restroom delay; we have to keep pushing through being late.

Lastly, December 14th is our ATU-757 Santa Party, which is being held at the AFL-CIO building on 32nd and Powell. So, bring the kids by and get a picture with Santa and get a gift and some food and drinks.

Until next time, stay safe and take your breaks!
Greetings and salutations Brothers and Sisters.

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving holiday. I would like to take this time and thank all the folks who volunteer their time and resources to serve as your Union officers. These folks selflessly serve the membership every day and work very hard for every one of the members. I can attest that without them my job would be much more difficult. I greatly appreciate all the hard work done by every one of the ATU officers at C-Tran. As you see them, please take a couple of seconds and thank them for all their hard work.

Unfortunately, I-976 has passed. Parts of the initiative are slated to take effect December 5, 2020. The ATU Labor Council of Washington State has signed onto a lawsuit against the initiative, believing many parts are unconstitutional. C-Tran currently retrying to receive much of its funding through sales tax, and for the foreseeable future there should not be any service impacts, or reduction in service that would affect our members.

First Student Portland
As reported by ANNA TOMPTE

Fellow Union Brothers and Sisters,

The Holidays are approaching fast and I hope everything goes well for all of you.

If any one of you have questions pertaining to unemployment, please contact Mark or a steward and ask them for help.

The union is sponsoring a Santa Claus at the AFL-CIO building where presents will be given to our members children and grandchildren 16 and under.

Please join us on Saturday December 14th from 10 am until 2 pm. 3645 S.E. 32nd Ave Please attend your union meeting on December 12th. It is the last meeting of the year. The meeting will be held at the Colwood Golf Course; 7313 N.E. Columbia Blvd; Portland OR 97218, from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas!

Tillamook County Transportation District
As reported by RICK DIETZ

Hello Brothers & Sisters.

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving with family.

First, I would like to start off with welcoming our newest member, Rick Rogers, who came aboard. We need to work together and bring our membership numbers back up.

Under the Janus ruling we are to give fair representation to all employees — dues paying members or not. It is very hard for me to touch base with each non-member. I need help from you, our ATU members, with this issue. Your officers need help maintaining our Union’s strength to continue striving for a fair work environment.

We are still in negotiations with management. We finally met again on November 11, and things went well. We spent all day on Article 13: Health & Welfare Benefits. Management came to the table with one offer, which was not acceptable. Management’s proposal would have been taking away from the HRA $5 that are used by many of us.

By the time you are reading this, we should have our enrollment packages. There has been another meeting since then, to go over other articles.

Now, let’s touch on Article 10, Section 2: Rest Periods. It has come to my attention that a memo from management was put out when I was out on sick leave about Rest Period pay. I did not get one in my box. There currently is an ongoing grievance over this issue. It would be helpful if anyone still has this memo to help with this ongoing problem.

Thank you!

I would like to wish everyone a Happy & Safe Christmas with family and a Happy New Year.

And here comes winter! Less daylight, less warmth, but more life to live. So many friends and places to visit as time whisks by. So just do it!

I missed the last Retiree Meeting ‘cuz I did not want to pass a cold on to me Union members. Not good to be remembered at the meeting as the brother who spread his germs about the members.

I was able to attend Dan Weber’s 34-year retirement party at Center Street. Thanks to Street Car operator Fred Wallace, who informed me about it. I got to catch up with my old bus driver buddy, 1982 classmate Rex Fisher, along with a few other cronies from days past. Every day is Saturday for Dan now.

Procrastination comes easy! Don’t forget to do what you can on your retirement time. Relax and enjoy is number one on the list. Jump in helping with causes... political or whatever.

Hope Turkey Day was a special time spent for each of you, spent with good family and acquaintances.

Hasta Pronto! Until I see you. Slainte! L2E!
Block receives ‘Maggie Award’

Each year at its annual conference, the Oregon chapter of the Labor and Employment Relations Association (LERA) recognizes outstanding labor relations practitioners, academics, and neutrals, whose accomplishments and approach to labor relations are widely admired by all constituent groups. Known as the “Maggie Awards,” the individuals honored have demonstrated extensive experience in, and commitment to, the collective bargaining process, integrity, and involvement in the labor relations community. We are excited to share this year’s recipient of the Maggie Award for Labor was our very own ATU Local 757 President Shirley Block. Others recognized were Tom Chamberlin, past president of the Oregon AFL-CIO, with a Lifetime Achievement Award, and Nancy Hungerford, attorney with the Hungerford law firm, with the Management Award. Block is pictured above center with ATU 757 Labor Relations Coordinator Krista Cordova (left), Outside Counsel Whitney Stark (second from left), and her husband, ATU 757 Retiree Eberhard Block (right). Photo by Phil Lesch

Retirees’ Corner

The following retirees are celebrating December birthdays:


IN MEMORIAM:

James Pinckard; Gary Ryckman and George Schmidt.

Retired Members’ Chapter meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 8th, at 9:30 a.m. at Westmoreland Union Manor, 6404 SE 23rd Ave. Coffee and doughnuts will be served at 9 a.m.

DECEMBER MEETINGS

PLEASE NOTE: Unless otherwise noted, all ATU members are invited to attend any of these listed 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 p.m., Monday, December 9th, at the Salvation Army, Rose Center for Seniors, 211 NE 18th Ave, Portland.

CHARTER

Charter members meet at 6 p.m. Monday, Monday, December 9th, at the Salvation Army Rose Center for Seniors, 211 NE 18th Ave, Portland. The Charter day meeting is 10 a.m. Tuesday, December 19th, at ATU 757 Schoppert Hall, 1801 NE Couch St., Portland.

COIC/Bend

Central Oregon members meet 6:30 p.m. Saturday, December 14th, at East Bend Library, 62080 Dean Swift Rd., Bend.

COLUMBIA AREA TRANSIT-HOOD RIVER

Members meet 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 24th, at the Columbia Area Transit Break Room, 224 Wasco Loop, Hood River.

CORVALLIS

Corvallis members meet at 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 12th, at Woodstock’s Pizza Parlor, 1045 NW Kings Blvd., Corvallis.

C-TRAN/C-VAN

Vancouver-area members meet at 6 p.m. Sunday, December 15th, at the Laborers/Teamsters Hall, 2212 NE Andresen, Vancouver.

LANE TRANSIT

Eugene members meet 7 p.m. on Wednesday, December 11th, at the Woodworkers Local Lodge, 1124 South A St., Springfield.

PPS/FIRST STUDENT PORTLAND

Members meet 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 12th, at Colwood Golf Course, 7313 NE Columbia Blvd., Portland. PLEASE NOTE NEW START TIME.

ROGUE VALLEY TRANSPORTATION

Southern Oregon members meet 7:30 p.m. Saturday, December 14th, at Jackson Creek Pizza Company, 317 E Main St. Medford.

SALEM TRANSIT/MV

Salem members meet 7 p.m. on Tuesday, December 10th, at the Salem Senior Center, 2615 Portland Road NE, Salem. NOTE NEW LOCATION.

TILLAMOOK/TCTD

Tillamook members meet at 10 a.m. Sunday, December 15th, at the Rendezvous Bar & Grill, 214 Pacific Ave, Tillamook, OR. PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME AND LOCATION.

VALLEY TRANSIT

Walla Walla members meet 10:30 a.m. Saturday, December 14th, at WSDOT Maintenance Building, 1210 G Street, Walla Walla.