**President’s Roundup**  
By Shirley Block

**Brothers & Sisters.**

It is no secret that your jobs are hard. Every one of you — operations, maintenance, dispatch, scheduling, and everyone in between, puts their blood, sweat, and tears into getting the public where they need to go. But bus operators, now more than ever, are subjected to insurmountable public scrutiny. You always have cameras on you, not only on the bus from the employer, but from cell phones in your face from riders. You must worry about every look you make and every word you say, as employers pay more credence to customer complaints than the word of their own workers. And boy do those customer complaints come in.

One such customer complaint came in last June. Not only did a customer, or customers, call TriMet, but also the police, reporting that one of our drivers was weaving while operating her bus. That operator was pulled over, and though she was proven to NOT be under the influence of alcohol at the scene, she was taken into police custody and forced to spend the night in jail.

Vanessa Krinker’s name, age, occupation, and mugshot were plastered on multiple news websites, Facebook pages, and ran on the local news. Unfortunately, some of this unwanted press was perpetuated by her own Brothers and Sisters. And, even though Ms. Krinker has been 100% exonerated, all that unwanted press is still out there.

It is true that no one technically did anything “wrong” here. A customer thought someone might be intoxicated and called it in. The police pulled the bus over and completed an investigation. The employer placed the employee on paid administrative leave until the completion of that investigation.

The problem is that everyone involved failed to treat Ms. Krinker as a human, rather than just a public servant. No one took into consideration the repercussions that Ms. Krinker would face. The financial loss, the side glances from her peers, the anxiety, the night spent in jail, the humiliation of having a mugshot plastered all over the internet, and the unfounded assumptions that were made about Ms. Krinker’s character, morality, and dedication as an employee.

Along with Ms. Krinker, we have decided to let this issue rest, so that she can get on with her life. But before we can do that, we want to let her, and all of you, know that we support her 100% and that we are sorry that this happened.

In other news, by now everyone at TriMet should know we had our first negotiation session with TriMet on Thursday, October 10. All takeaways. It’s sad when TriMet’s negotiator leads by telling us: “my job is to save the company money.”

ATU’s TriMet negotiation team was back at the small table group on Thursday, October 31 (after this issue went to press). Funny, it was Halloween. What a perfect day for the tricks that will be coming from the other side!

The Powell Shuttle is being operated by an outside contractor. A few months ago, I spoke to several retirees who said they were interested in driving the vans to shuttle TriMet operators from the other side!

Halloween. What a perfect day for the tricks that will be coming from the other side!

**Vice President’s Report**

**Here’s what’s happening around ATU**

By Jonathan Hunt

**Dear Sisters & Brothers,**

I’d like to start by giving you an update on one of our members who was wrongfully arrested and spent a night in jail for a DUI. All charges have been dropped and all tests have come back negative. Please be careful out there. This could happen to anyone of us.

The Oregon AFL-CIO recently concluded their convention and Graham Trainor was elected President and Kristi O’Neill was elected Secretary-Treasurer. I’d like to thank past-president Tom Chamberlain and past-secretary-treasurer Barbara Byrd for their leadership and assistance in the labor movement.

ATU’s 59th Annual International Convention took place the last week of September. I was honored to sit as secretary of the first-ever Maintenance Committee, passing resolutions on protecting and educating our members. I’d like to congratulate John Costa for his election as International President; Javier Perez for his election as International Vice President; Oscar Owens for his election as International Financial Secretary; and congratulations to all International Vice Presidents who were re-elected.

Our ATU 757 maintenance officers toured our sister union in Seattle, Washington — ATU Local 587 (see photo above). We looked at their high-voltage system and it is very impressive.

It’s too bad that TriMet doesn’t believe in its workforce. In the first round of negotiations they proposed the elimination of our apprenticeship program. This is absolutely unacceptable and our membership will rise up and collectively work together to fight TRI-MET on their senseless proposals. That would take this organization backwards over 40 years.

Our folks at C-TRAN’s IT Department have chosen to become ATU 757 bargaining unit members. We are in the process of getting them moved into a current contract. We look forward to working with them and C-TRAN to reach a productive resolution. Please join me in welcoming them to Local 57.

This is the time for all of our Union members to stand up against injustice and fight in solidarity for living wages, health care for our members, retirement plans, and fair treatment in the workplace.

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**Secretary Treasurer’s Report**

**Preventive health care Part 2**

By Mary Longoria

**Sisters & Brothers,**

I would like to continue the discussion on preventive healthcare. I have talked to a lot of members who think their Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) exam is all they need for regular health care screenings, but it isn’t.

A yearly physical exam through your primary care physician is different than an exam for your CDL. Blood tests are a significant difference between a CDL exam and a physical exam. Lab-atory tests help detect irregularities in your body that might indicate a larger problem. They can de-tect everything from diabetes to certain types of cancer.

Your primary care physician will let you know when other exams should be scheduled, like colonoscopies, mammograms, pelvic exams, prostate-specific antigen (PSA) tests, and many other exams that are needed to keep you going for years to come.

It takes time to build trust with a physician, so the earlier you start a relationship with one the better. You may not be able to stay with your current physician your whole life, but your medical history will stay with you.

Transportation is a tough industry. Every job has its own stresses. Take care of yourself. Start today for a better tomorrow.
Hello, Brothers & Sisters,

It was good to connect with fellow bus operators at the ATU 757 table during Winter Bid. Our theme was “Self-Care and Prevention.” Items at our table included Health Care Open Enrollment reminders, making your bi-annual covered dental and medical appointments, safety in the winter months, healthy diets, getting your flu shots, exercise and more. We also worked with fellow bus operators who had questions and issues about a variety of things. These included discipline, retirement, our upcoming contract negotiations, and interest in learning more about our Union. Take time to educate yourselves! I know most of you are aware that TriMet and ATU 757 have begun contract negotiations. In case you didn’t know, Laird Cusack is TriMet’s new Labor Relations Director and has replaced Randy Steedman as TriMet’s lead negotiator. Each side submitted their proposals for the new contract, known as the Collective Bargaining Agreement or “CBA.” Please, begin educating yourselves on the proposals. You can find the union representative about how negotiations are progressing, and you can also view the proposals at the ATU 757 website: https://www.atu757.org

TriMet’s proposals were full of complete takeaways and our brothers and sisters in maintenance were particularly hard-hit. TriMet wants to suddenly abolish the Apprenticeship Program, which would have a huge impact on unions who work for the maintenance. These employees were promised an opportunity to move from the entry level Position of Service Worker and sign up to move into learning how to be a Diesel Mechanic (through the Apprentice to Journeyman union process). TriMet wants to discontinue this program, leaving more than 100 workers who signed up for this program just hanging, and wondering what happened to what was promised to them.

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prove our communication on these topics, please let me know. Healthcare has always and will always be a vital part of our package. We must remember the sacrifices that those who walked the picket line made in order to protect and preserve this important benefit.

In other news, the union has filed a grievance against LTD for the contracting out of bargaining unit work. The EmGo service is definitely within our scope of work, transporting able-bodied people throughout the region. If one asks for a ride by standing at a stop or hitting a button on an app. ATU members are the face of transit to the community and we will continue to fight to ensure it stays that way.

I know our new Public Safety brothers and sisters have been short-handed due to the wrongful termination of our shop steward. We are continuing to fight for our brother in hopes of getting his job back. Please keep him in your thoughts.

In the month of November, the District will be surveying operators and other employees about Transit Tomorrow. Please take the time to be honest and open with your opinions and how you think the proposed route changes will impact not only your work but your riders as well. We are continuing to gather information on the District’s proposals and will continue to dialogue with them as to the impacts on our members.

Lastly, never hesitate to reach out if you feel that there is something I need to know. I and our team of officers are always here to assist our members.

Hello, ATU members. It is great to be back to work after five months off due to medical issues.

Since I’ve been back, I’ve been talking with TCTD employees about how our contract is going. There are many questions so let’s get right to the meat of things. First off, many do not know that there is a federal law that states that public unions cannot strike. So, then the next question is where is our leverage? Our leverage is in numbers & standing up for what is fair and right for us.

Now that brings me to something that has bothered me for several years & someone asked me why I do not put it in print. So, here we go. Remember that once words leave our lips it is too late to take them back. With that, I was in a negotiation/grievance session with our current leadership and current General Manager at the ATU in Portland, Oregon. In order to settle the grievance, the GM said: “I don’t care as long as I have a warm body in the seat,” thank you very much! I truly believe that two of the meetings set up for contract negotiations between the ATU & TCTD. We have met several times. Remember that two of the meetings set up

where cancelled by the District and today we still do not have a current contract in place. One must ask themselves why? Now think about that. If you were the acting general manager, what would you like to accomplish for the Board of Directors that you are serving?

I know of employees who are struggling today just to pay their bills. Do you? I do know that the cost of living has gone up and continues to go up. Now with that in mind, is it okay with you that the District offers you LESS than $1.00 an hour? Let me make that clearer, much less. We need to send a clear message to TCTD that this is not okay.

What is our leverage? Fill the board meeting with members and with community supporters to stand up for a fair living wage for transit workers, decent benefits, and wages keep up with the cost of living. We do not want things that take away from that.

Let’s stand together in unity & get this contract done. Putting it off and putting it off is not fair and does not help the worker. Thank you for your time and have a great day.
The following retirees are celebrating November birthdays:

IN MEMORIAM: Jeffery C. Larsen, Fred L. Harris, Peter W. Howard, James E. Pollock.

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 9:00 a.m. The following months meeting is the Retirees’ Christmas Luncheon, which will be held on Wednesday, December 4th at the Monarch Restaurant in Clackamass. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. Meal served at 11:30 a.m.