**President’s Roundup**

By Shirley Block

Brothers and Sisters,

I want to thank all our members during this challenging time. Our members are on the front lines, keeping our essential workers moving, and behind the scenes, keeping our vehicles clean and running. We see you stepping up and doing your jobs to the best of your abilities. We are so proud to represent you!

I want to give a special Thank You to the folks who are taking voluntary unpaid time off so that members needing work can have it. I hate that anyone has to do that, but it warms my heart to see such SOLIDARITY. I see our members willing to change their schedule or do jobs outside of their own duties to help. Remember that you are not doing this for the employer, but for your Brothers and Sisters. Thank you!

ALMOST all of our properties are working with us in this chaotic situation. Many employers have sent home more vulnerable members with pay. And while some layoffs seem inevitable, employers are working with us to avoid them. That is, except TriMet. TriMet is refusing to declare an emergency, go fare free, or send home vulnerable members with pay. We are sorry to say that our largest employer was the least prepared for this pandemic and doesn’t seem to be trying to catch up. We are still talking to them every day trying to find creative solutions to keep you safe and avoid any loss of pay.

What can you do? Please follow all CDC guidelines to the best of your ability. If you see something that you feel is unsafe, unclean, or exposed to COVID-19, call dispatch immediately. Feel free to bring your own cleaning supplies from home, but please don’t spray anything on electronics (such as HopPass). And stay in touch with us! Please call your officer if you have any questions. Our office staff is also working regular office hours and available by phone. We want to know what is going on at your property and welcome your ideas in these unprecedented circumstances!

Again, I thank you for allowing me to be in the position to represent you. I am humbled by the hard work and solidarity I am witnessing. Union Strong

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**Rally Against TriMet**

By Mary Longoria

About 100 members and supporters of ATU Local 757 rallied at rush hour March 9 at Portland’s Pioneer Courthouse Square to protest TriMet positions in collective bargaining. Among other things, the transit agency is proposing to eliminate its longstanding apprenticeship programs for light rail and bus mechanics.

Local 757 is also challenging a scheme to privatize bus service for the benefit of big companies like Amazon and FedEx. TriMet received state funds to expand transit service, and passed those funds to Multnomah County, which subcontracted with a private company called ecoShuttle to provide free weekend bus service from Gresham Transit Center to the Amazon and FedEx facilities in Troutdale. The shuttle follows the route of TriMet Bus #81, driven by nonunion drivers who are paid as little as $15 an hour.

The rally date marked 150 days since bargaining began on a new contract, and it’s the point at which either side could declare impasse and set a clock ticking toward mediation and binding arbitration. TriMet is saying it doesn’t have to negotiate over the apprenticeship program, but Local 757 is disputing that before the Oregon Employment Relations Board. A decision may come by mid-April.

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**Secretary Treasurer’s Report**

**A challenging time for everyone**

By By Mary Longoria

Sisters and Brothers,

How do I even start this article? This is a challenging time for everyone. I want to send my heartfelt condolences to anyone that has had a loved one, friend, or anyone that has become ill by this virus.

You are on the front line of this virus and it is irritating that it seems some employers just don’t think this statement is true. Obviously, not in an emergency room but certainly your passengers may be on the way to the emergency room.

Many employers have worked with ATU officers to safeguard their employees with the closing of front seats, boarding through the back door when possible, and allowing people in the high-risk category to stay home but still receive their pay. Hopefully, everyone will be able to stay at work or find other work that needs to be done with the same employer.

ATU is working with employers to keep as many people working as possible. If you are off work because of COVID-19, please do not worry about dues payments, we will be working with members that have difficulty paying.

We need to all pitch in and do our part to help each other, be grateful for what we have and, if you can share with someone in need, please do.

Thank you all for what you do and stay safe!

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**MEETING NOTICES**

All meetings are canceled until further notice due to Gov. Kate Brown’s ‘Stay at Home’ order.
Hello, Brothers and Sisters,

It has been a challenging month for our industry and our Country as a whole. We have seen tremendous change in a very short time. Currently, the Union and LTD are meeting on a regular basis to discuss operating procedures and leave options. LTD has used its authority under Article 16.5 in our Contract to call an emergency. We met on day one to discuss what that looks like. We assessed the ongoing needs of the District which were 1) Finding ways to continue to serve the community 2) Ensuring our fleet and facilities are as sanitary as possible and 3) Balance the first two while also allowing folks to have time to care for themselves or others throughout this crisis. The first two were settled rather quickly. We reduced our service to free up resources that would help us achieve keeping our fleet and facilities as sanitary as possible.

Dealing with how folks take leave has been a moving target. On Tuesday, March 17th ATU sent LTD a draft MOU to ensure our members would be protected. This provided the basis for discussions over the next week. Federal legislation was passed that expanded leave options for our members as well. I am currently working with LTD HR on how we go about implementing those new options. The modified working conditions may persist for some time and if so, we can develop a structure to allow the work to be bid by seniority.

Those are some of the behind the scenes activities but I also want to talk about what I have been seeing from our members. Our Equipment Detail Techs and General Service Workers are doing an incredible job. Little attention usually goes paid to them, but their functions are critical us achieving success. I had the privilege of being able to wipe down buses on the platforms, side-by-side with LTD’s administrative employees. LTD works best when we understand that we are a family, with everyone pitching in to ensure the best outcomes, fighting for our shared family legacy. It is what makes us unique in our industry and we should be proud to have that spirit. It allows us to best serve our community in good times and challenging times. If we can stand shoulder to shoulder during tough challenges with our counterparts in LTD Admin, conversations that need to happen when we sit across the table from each other in bargaining won’t be so difficult. While out at the stations, I heard heartwarming conversations between operators, expressing concerns about riders they haven’t seen since this pandemic began. That is something that gets missed as this world discusses autonomous vehicles. Our operators are the eyes and ears of the community. They pick up on the struggles of their riders, individually do what they can to assist, finding outside resources to fill in needs, it’s truly amazing work. Humans are social beings, we need each other, and it’s undeniable. Our Customer Service group continues to inform the public about ongoing revisions to LTD’s service, they are even pitching in on bus sanitizing. Our Mechanics are tackling large projects so when this crisis is over, our fleet can be safe and reliable. Our Materials Management team is looking into every resource available to get needed parts for our mechanics and supplies for our District to help meet our current challenge.

I’ll leave with this, look out for yourself in these times so you may continue to look out for each other and our community. We are all brothers and sisters, a family. Our connections are deep and our future is shared.

Hello, Brothers and Sisters,

We all have lots of stuff going on in this time of our lives with the COVID-19 outbreak. We all need to stay safe, work smart, and don’t put yourself at risk. I’d like to thank everyone that is working on keeping the buses and shops clean to help keep us and the public safe! THANK YOU!

I don’t have any new grievances currently.

For the people that don’t work at Powell, the new fuel house is almost done. The first stage of the new shop has walls up, it’s starting to look like progress, and I can’t wait to start working in there. We have some new supervisors at the shops.

Remember, if you get called into a meeting or with HR and you think it might lead to discipline, express that you would like union representation with you.

Stay safe and remember solidarity rules!

Together we will be union strong!

Thank you everyone for being patient and calm during this alarming time with the COVID-19. While we are in uncharted times, the top three officers are in contact with TRI-MET daily. There is a conference call every day with TRI-MET to go over what’s happening and what’s transpiring. We want all members to be able to go home safe to their families.

Since last month we’ve been having what’s known as “Tool Box Talks.” One mechanic from each shop meets with all the garage managers, Ed Bennett, and your union officers to discuss issues that are happening on the floor. No contractual issues will be discussed at this meeting. The meeting is scheduled for two hours. Topics that have come up are tools that are needed, the diesel force issue, procedures, MIL/Check Engine lights, lack of information from shift to shift and from shop to shop, and more updated classes from vendors.

The helper/service worker sign-up took quite a bit longer than expected, we are looking for improvements and suggestions so this doesn’t happen in the future. If you’re not at the sign-up when your time and name is called, the union officer will sign you to a job as closest to what you have currently.

The next class of diesel apprentices will be graduating next month, because of the corona virus the training department has come up with a way to keep this class on schedule. They are breaking up the class into two groups and will be at different garages so the class will be able to keep their distance. For the last group of apprentices, your classes are on hold for right now. All meetings with management are also on hold for the time being.

The machines that are supposed to disinfect the buses with hydrogen peroxide have been ordered and should be arriving soon. Hopefully this will help us now as well into the future, at this point the COVID-19 issues are changing every day. Service workers are disinfecting the buses at night, as well as in the mid-morning when the buses are coming back. The mid-morning service workers are focused on wiping down the operator’s area.

It’s unfortunate we had a heinous incident. A passenger had spit on an operator and said, “I’ve got the corona virus,” total ignorance and uncalled for. Since this has happened, we have a protocol to isolate the bus and to quarantine so no one goes on it.

Congratulations to Tom Orth on his recent retirement on March 19th. Tom has been on the rail side for a brief period and worked the floor as well as on the inspection bay. Then in his later years he worked in unit rebuild rebuilding operator seats. If you needed a sugar rush Tom was the man with the candy drawer. He was also one of very few members who rode his bike to work. Tom enjoy your time and maybe the barber’s chair will show up. Have fun!

Hello, my Bend Family!

I just want to say it has been my honor and privilege to be your liaison and fellow driver.

As most of you know, I will be moving away in April.

You guys are family and I honestly can’t tell you how much I love and appreciate you. Your personal as well as professional support have meant everything to me.

I hope everyone is doing good and surviving the COVID-19 virus. The ridership has dropped at TriMet because of all the closures and people staying home. This is a very serious virus but as I’m writing this, TriMet hasn’t done much except provide sanitizer. Keep your coworkers in mind when grabbing gloves and sanitizers as they also need them to do their jobs.

I will say, no one has been confirmed to have the virus at work (crossing fingers).

I actually have driven my bus a lot since they put off all the meetings and committees for three weeks.

As for sign-up, no decision has been made yet as of writing this article (3-16-2020) of what to do. I will keep it short this time since hardly any meetings took place and this virus took top priority!
Union Brothers and Sisters,

As we are all aware, First Student gave work to members for three days and told them that they could apply for unemployment insurance for the other two days [I was against this - the bus cleaning] whether they knew who could collect or if they had open claims and how much they would receive. The work was cleaning buses inside and out as far as I know but some of the members should not have been there for health reasons. Some were told if they didn’t show up the company could hold up their unemployment, that to me was a scare tactic and it worked, and it needs to stop. At this point we are unsure when we will return to work, so please understand that the company is only worried about their profits and not your health. After all this, we really need to request cleaning supplies regularly and don’t take no for an answer. We need to stand together as one! I hope everyone is staying put and is well.

In Solidarity.

Happy Rails Friends!

In the last few weeks, so much has changed as to how normal everyday business is happening, and it is continuing to change almost every day. There are daily conversations between ATU and TriMet to make sure everyone is on the same page. The absolute best way to get information is to go to www.ATU757.org or the ATU757 Facebook page.

The other resource I would direct you to would be the TriMet internal COVID-19 page. As far as sanitizing and keeping the cabs clean, it is a daily effort that needs to be worked on by all. Keep your cab wiped down with sanitizer. Keep hand sanitizer close by. I know there are some great efforts to make sure we have access to all the necessary cleaning products we need.

For things that are specific to rail, I have been trying to get some issues in a bigger conversation. First, suspending line training. I know it is integral to keep the flow of training and to make sure operators are well trained. That is also one of the largest areas for exposure with someone else.

The second is getting the areas near the cab blocked off. Specifically, the upper decks in a low floor, and the first two doors in the T-1 vehicles.

Hopefully, by the time this has gone to print, some of these things will have been changed.

The first construction project of the season has been put on hold (Gresham phase 2). The next project that is supposed to happen is out at PDX between the Mt. Hood station and the end of the line. This is still being planned to my knowledge.

Keep your eyes on the bulletin boards to make sure you are aware of all the upcoming sign-ups and potential changes to the dates.

Thanks for all your support and keeping yourself safe. In solidarity.

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Thanks for all your support and keeping yourself safe. In solidarity.

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By Jonathan Hunt

Greetings Sisters and Brothers.

We are all going through unprecedented changes to our daily lives.

I want to thank all of our workers who get up every day and face their fears and the changes that are unfolding. Our sisters and brothers who work the front line are first responders. This is a time for all of them to be recognized for going above and on the call of duty on a daily basis. This is an inspiration to all of us.

We need to continue to push for legislation to protect our folks in the transit industry as other first responders.

I want to recognize that we have over 25 separate collective-bargaining agreements, some of them similar, and some of them unique. We need to continue to push for legislation to protect our folks in the transit industry as other first responders.

The Oregon AFL-CIO has endorsed Shemia Fagan in the May 19 Democratic primary for secretary of state. The action was taken March 6 at the labor federation’s Committee on Political Education (COPE) board meeting. It takes a two-thirds majority to endorse a candidate.

Fagan, a state senator representing District 24, is among three Democrats running for the post now held by Republican Bev Clarno. The others are state Sen. Mark Hass of Beaverton, and Jamie McLeod-Skinner, a former congressional candidate who hails from Terrebonne.

State Sen. Kim Thatcher (Dist. 13), is the only Republican to file for the position.

Clarno, was appointed to the seat March 31, 2019, to finish the term of Republican Dennis Richardson, who died in office. Democratic Gov. Kate Brown made the appointment under the stipulation that Clarno would not run for re-election.

In statewide races, the Oregon AFL-CIO endorsed the re-election of Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, and Treasurer Tobias Read.

They also are backing the “Yes for a Healthy Future” ballot measure.

The state labor federation also endorsed Deb Patterson, Senate District 10; Kate Lieber, Senate District 14; Kathleen Taylor, incumbent, Senate District 21; Chris Gorsek, Senate District 25; Paul Evans, incumbent, House District 20; Winsveyn Campos, House District 28; Christina Stephenson, House District 33; Dacia Grayber, House District 35; Laurie Wimmer, House District 36; Rachel Prusk, incumbent, House District 37; Kanh Pham, House District 46; and Ricki Ruiz, House District 50.

In addition to these endorsements, several House officials from both parties received a conditional endorsement that will be finalized once a completed candidate questionnaire is received.

Oregon AFL-CIO President Graham Trainor said COPE did not endorse or support any lawmaker who voted against Oregon’s public workers law who hails from Terrebonne. In District 2, longtime incumbent Republican Greg Walden isn’t seeking re-election.

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