

2021 ATU Officer Election
Nomination Meeting, May 10, 2021
Summary and Notes

President Shirley Block called the meeting to order and a moment of silence was observed for ATU Member and TriMet Operator Bre White.

The attendees heard the following opening statements:

GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Hello everyone and welcome to the 2021 ATU Officer Election Nomination Meeting! Thank you all for attending and for your interest in serving our union. Please be aware, this meeting is being recorded.

My name is Michael Hartig. I am a TriMet Bus Operator and Chair of the 2021 Election Committee. With us tonight are the other members of the committee. We have Tiffany Pitre and Al Davis, also from TriMet. Tiffany will be joining me in making some opening remarks tonight. Representing southwest Washington, we have Halimah Hatchett of C-Tran. And representing our down state properties is Mike Funderburk of Lane Transit District. Our committee advisor is retired member and former committee chair, John Jamison. We have been lucky to have John's experience and wisdom to guide us.

Joining us to facilitate this meeting is Labor Relations Coordinator, Krista Cordova. She is not a member of the Election Committee, but we appreciate her technical assistance tonight.

Mary Longoria, in her role as the current Recording Secretary, is here to keep the official record of nominations.

We would like to take a moment to thank the ATU 757 administrative staff for their invaluable assistance throughout this election process. Thank you to Melissa, Sherri, and Marijana. And most of all the committee would like to express its profound gratitude to staff member Danielle. Danielle has worked so hard and has been an indispensable help to us and is just lovely to work with. Thank you so much, Danielle!

READING OF THE PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF ATU INTERNATIONAL

In a moment, we will explain how this evening will proceed. But first, to remind us all why we are here and of the core values that should motivate all the candidates, I would like to open with a reading of the Preamble to the ATU International Constitution. "We, the Amalgamated Transit Union, this day and date assembled in Convention, in order to secure and defend our rights, advance our interests as workers, create an authority whose seal shall constitute a certificate of character, intelligence and skill, build up an organization where all the working members of our craft can participate in the discussion of those practical problems upon the solution of which depends our welfare and prosperity, to encourage the principle and practice of conciliation and arbitration in the settlement of all differences between Labor and capital, establish order and

harmony, promote the general cause of humanity and brotherly love, and secure the blessings of friendship, equality and truth, do ordain and establish this Constitution and these laws for the government of said International Union.” Thank you.

BYLAWS AND RULES OF ORDER

The proceedings of this meeting are dictated by ATU 757 Bylaws and Rules of Order. We will now review the relevant bylaws so everyone understands how this meeting will work. This will be familiar to our more experienced union officers, so we appreciate your patience, but this is important information that everyone needs to know, especially for those of us for whom this is our first time participating in an officer election.

Following Section 13 of the bylaws, we will open each office for nomination, starting with the three at-large offices of President, Vice President, and Financial Secretary-Treasurer, and then proceed through the list of offices in alphabetical order. When each office is open for nomination, the Chair of the Election Committee will read the names of the members who have submitted a written nomination prior to this meeting and the Recording Secretary will record those names. After all the pre-submitted nominations for this office have been recorded, these names will be displayed on the screen for all attendees to view.

Then we will open the floor to live nominations for this office. A reasonable amount of time will be given for nominations to be made. Make your intention to nominate known by using the Zoom “raise hand” function, the “reactions” function, the chat function, or by physically waving your hand at the camera. If you’re phoning into the meeting, press *9 on your keypad. Please wait to be acknowledged by the host and for your microphone to be unmuted. Once you have the floor, please be succinct. This is not the proper forum for campaigning; simply state your nomination. The person you are nominating will be asked to make a verbal acceptance of the nomination. If this is a self-nomination, please state your acceptance with your nomination. Once all live nominations for an office have been received, the updated alphabetical list of nominees will be displayed on the screen.

If only one candidate is nominated for any office, the Recording Secretary will cast a unanimous ballot for the candidate. The President will then declare him or her duly elected, pending verification of their good standing, and the name will also appear upon the ballot.

Following Section 12 of the bylaws, if no one is nominated for an office, after the election is held, the President who is elected during this election may appoint a qualified member to serve in that office, subject to ratification by the Executive Board that was also elected during this election.

FOLLOWING THE MEETING

After the meeting tonight, the good standing of all nominees will be verified, and a summary of this meeting along with the official list of nominees will be posted to the ATU 757 website.

Tomorrow, packets with employers rules for campaigning and other information will be mailed to all the candidates. However, rules for campaigning for all employer properties should be available at atu757.org by the close of this meeting.

BALLOTS

The election will be conducted by mail. Ballots should be in the mail to members by the end of this month. The ballot count is scheduled for June 16 at the Monarch Hotel in Clackamas, OR. Observers will be allowed to witness the collection of ballots from the Portland Main Post Office as well as the ballot tally.

GUIDELINES FOR CAMPAIGNING

Finally, some general guidelines about campaigning. Be sure to abide by your employer rules and all applicable laws. In general, this means that when you are campaigning, you must be off duty from both your employer and the union, and off of the property of your employer and the union, except at times and in places specifically allowed by your employer. Also, you may not use any union or employer resources of any kind to campaign, including things like copy machines, your work email, or for current officers, your column in the *Northwest Labor Press*. And of course please keep your fellow workers safe by following all appropriate COVID-19 safety protocols.

The committee anticipates a competitive campaign. However, we remind all candidates of the core values of our union that were recited earlier, namely friendship, equality and truth. The word solidarity gets used a lot around our union. It means that we have shared interests, that there is more that ties us together than what divides us, and that we depend on each other. So recall the old saying that the person you're running against is your opponent, not your enemy. And remember that after the election you'll probably still see them around work or at union functions, so try to be respectful of each other while you make a positive case for your own candidacy and agenda. Thank you.

OPENING OF OFFICES FOR NOMINATION

Each office was open to nominations as described above and nominations and acceptances were recorded. The official list of nominees will be publicized as soon as the good standing of all candidates can be verified.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

At the conclusion of the meeting, some attendees requested clarification of a number of issues. The information provided during this portion of the meeting is covered in the packets that all candidates will receive in the mail but it is provided here as well for the access of those unable to attend the nomination meeting.

FEDERAL LAW

What law governs the conduct of local union officer elections, including how and when candidates may campaign? Answer: The Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959, As Amended (LMRDA). Specifically, section 401(g), prohibits the use of union and

employer funds to promote the candidacy of any person in a union officer election. This prohibition applies to facilities, equipment, supplies, and cash, as well as to campaigning on time paid for by either a union or employer and to the use of a union newsletter for campaign purposes. For current salaried union officers, this means they must take time off of work from the union to campaign.

VIOLATIONS AND CHALLENGES

All candidates are implored to follow all rules and laws. If a violation is reported, it is investigated by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Labor-Management Standards. If a determination is made that a violation occurred that affected the outcome of the election, the election would need to be rerun at great expense to the union -- a waste of your money. A notice will soon be shared with the membership regarding how to document and report a potential violation.

FIRST TRANSIT STILL CLOSED

Warren Hoeft informed the candidates that First Transit is still closed so in person campaigning there will be impossible. In general, the pandemic has complicated efforts to campaign in person but other avenues are available for candidates to communicate their message to the members.

RETIRED MEMBERS CHAPTER

Candidates for the top three at-large offices will receive an invitation to meet with the Executive Board of the Retired Member Chapter. Meetings will be held via Zoom on May 20 and facilitated by John Jamison. Candidates will need to RSVP to reserve a 30 minute time slot. Following these meetings, the board will issue endorsements for each of these offices. The Retired Member Chapter has not been meeting regularly in person since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, candidates may campaign for these members' votes just as they would for any other group of voters, i.e., virtually or by direct mail. Additionally, candidates have a right to inspect a list of members. This right to inspect is limited to once within 30 days before the election and does not include the right to copy the list. Arrangements should be made with union administrative staff.

CANDIDATE PACKETS

As much as the committee would like to distribute these via email, we are required to ensure that all candidates receive the information the same way and the membership email list is not as robust as we would like it to be. As stated earlier, employer rules and information about print services will be available on the website.

PRINT AND MAIL SERVICES

All candidates will receive a brochure of print and mail services from Morel Ink and this information will also be posted on the union website. Morel Ink has the complete mailing list for the membership and campaign literature may be directly mailed to various groups of voting members based on location or status. All services are paid for by the candidate. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Morel Ink asks that you call ahead to make an appointment and do not walk in for services.