

# ATU Local 758 News

Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 758

April 2010

atu758.org

Deborah Brown, Rec. Sec./Editor

## President's Report— Isaac O. Tate

### Legislative Update

In the last newsletter I reported that there were two bills in the State Legislature that involved Public Transportation.

The first bill HB 2855, which related to the implementation of a vehicle excise tax, died in the last days of the session; however it is my understanding that it was attached to another bill as an amendment and that particular bill is due to be acted upon during the present extended session.

The second bill ESHB 2896, related to a Union position on Public Transit Benefit Area Authority Corporations (Pierce Transit) Board of Commissioners "**passed**". This is a bill that the Washington State ATU Legislative Council to which we belong, and I am a delegate to, has been fighting to make this happen the last two Legislative sessions. In this instance, the third time was a charm. The Transit Board has already expressed an interest in when the Labor position will be filled, and is eager to have Labor's input. The Governor is tentatively scheduled to sign the bill into law on April 1, 2010.

In Washington, DC there are several transit funding measures in the works. HR 2847- The Jobs for Main Street Act, 2010 which would appropriate \$8.4 billion for public transportation. The International as well as I and other elected Officers of ATU Locals are seeking to increase the 10% for operating assistance provided in the House bill. **Senator Carnahan** from Missouri, where there have been mass layoffs of transit employees/members, introduced HR 2746 a bill that would dictate that up to 50% of federal funds (stimulus money for capital projects) be available for "operating assistance". Presently there are 105 House Congressmen and Congresswomen that have signed on to the bill. On Tuesday March 16, 2010, Senator Sherrod Brown (Ohio) after a rally by ATU representatives, (us), introduced the bill to the Senate. While visiting the Capital we also visited the Offices of Senators Patty Murray, Jay Inslee, Brian Baird, and Jim McDermott.

While I wasn't able to meet Patty Murray personally (you usually meet their aides who are pretty sharp) I was able to block her path on the way to the restroom on the plane flight back to Washington. I actually waited her out, thought she'd never go. She had a pained expression on her face, so she either had to go really bad or was hoping no one would recognize her. I quickly stated, "operating assistance HR 2746 introduced by Senator Sherrod Brown coming to you soon (Senate), already signed by 100 House members, as the chair of the Senate transportation committee we need your support".

*President's Report continued....*

She replied you have it. I then let her pass. I felt kind of bad because by then, everyone else on the plane that had been in DC lobbying recognized her, and she was being bombarded with questions and comments as she stood in line. I guess a Congressperson's job is never done.

### **There is Only One of You**

For those of you who have been Operators for a while, may remember what I am about to write.. I'm addressing you taking care of yourselves when you're out performing your duties. The Operator's job while not particularly physically exhausting, is one of the most mentally taxing jobs you will ever perform. Whether you realize it or not on a good day you begin with a subconscious mindset of "I hope I get through it without an accident. This is **stress**, this is how you start everyday. You proceed on your route. Approaching a stop to board passengers, you mentally try to size them up; do they look "alright". Perhaps another Operator has been assaulted in the same area, are one of these individuals the assailant? It's in the back of your mind, another **stressor**. The traffic is heavy the schedule is tight. You're moving along pretty good when you notice the vehicle in the left lane same direction as you, is slower than the rest of the traffic. As you get closer to the vehicle he speeds up changes lanes moves in front of you and slows again. What can you do? Nothing; you have no control over the other vehicle, another **stressor**. You approach the next stop and the bus was clearly visible three blocks away. Everyone is still sitting in the shelter when you pull up, finishing whatever they're drinking, finishing their cigarette; baby is still in the stroller, finally board the bus, don't have the fare ready, one person's short fare but has a \$4.00 latte in their hand you're running later and later. Mentally it's pissing you off, it's another **stressor**. Then the same people want to know if you're going to make connections at the Transit center. Now you're muttering to yourself because you cannot say what you feel, you hold it inside; another **stressor**. You arrive at the Transit center, your paddle shows five (5) minutes recovery time, you only have two (2) minutes. You really need to use the restroom and need a few minutes for a mental break, but you don't think you have enough time. **Wrong**. Get up out of that seat and go use the restroom. Stretch, and or scream if it was a particularly bad trip. Drink something to keep yourself hydrated, eat a light snack. If you see another Operator have a few words with them, and talk about the trip from "h\_\_\_" you just had, its good to vent it is a proven **stress** reliever. The other Operator may very well have had the same experience earlier that day or at some other time, and you may end up laughing about it. **Stress** can lead to heart attacks and other maladies.

The five (5) minutes is built into your run to provide a rest period or **intermittent break**. We as a Union negotiated percentages of straight runs in lieu of a "lunch break or meal period" we **did not** bargain away intermittent breaks which are exactly what those recovery times are. If you are doing Seattle Express work, don't refrain from using the restroom when you have to. I've heard Operators say they were in the seat for 2 ½ to 3 hours straight. Why? You could possibly be damaging your internal organs.

Remember, you have a right to use the restroom and are privy to intermittent breaks. With this new "gazillion" dollar "Trax" system there shouldn't be an issue with keeping the system running smoothly if you need to use the restroom. Please let me know if you are counseled or disciplined for using the restroom or a request is denied to use the restroom.

**IT'S YOUR HEALTH-----IT'S YOUR LIFE.**

## Recording Secretary—Deborah E. Brown

Wow where did time go as it is Tax time once again. Remember to have your returns or extension to Uncle Sam by April 15.

March was a very hard month for me as we lost two very special people. Our Condolences to the families and friends of Operator **Cindee Doss** and Service Supervisor **Mike Senn**. I don't remember a time in all my years at Pierce Transit that we have had such a loss in a very short time frame. We should be reminded to tell those we love and care about how much they mean to us while we have the chance. Let's not let petty, insignificant things get in the way of our family relationships & friendships.

To all Operators **DO A COMPLETE PRE TRIP AND POST TRIP** every time you take a vehicle off the base and return one to base. Operators are still being charged with accidents because damage was not reported in a timely fashion. **Those of you that are damaging vehicles and not reporting the damage shame on you!!** Why would you let your co workers take the blame for something they didn't do?? The consequences are far less severe (more often than not) if you report an accident when it happens, than if you are caught later for not reporting an accident appropriately.

The ATU Local 758 Women's Caucus Saturday walks have been great. To date we have circled Wapato Lake in Tacoma, observed beautiful trees, squirrels and people in Puyallup and trekked up small hills in Federal Way. We walk for approximately one hour every Saturday. Different parks and trails keep this venture interesting as we explore new areas of the Puget Sound. Some of the places we're planning on going to are the PT Defiance Park, University Place walking trail/path, Steilacoom, Spanaway Park and wherever else we find out about. If you have location suggestions please let me know. Hope you come walk with us. Contact me if you're interested in joining us.

Next ATU-758 WOMEN'S CAUCUS MEETING

June 7, 2010 — 6PM

Union Office 6923 Lakewood Dr W Suite B-1

Deborah E Brown 253-297-7161

### Retiree Fundraiser

The retirees are going to staff the truck stop in federal way again on the following dates.

- **Volunteers are needed. Starting Wednesday-May 5th @ 12noon-ending Saturday May 8th @ 12noon**
- Location is the Truck Stop Weigh Station/ Rest Area just before exit 142 NB I-5
- **All shifts are 6hrs 12 noon-6pm, 6pm-12 am, 12am-6am, 6am-12noon.**

Volunteers serve hot coffee, hot chocolate or tea and cookies to travelers who stop for rest. 2 people per shift is desired (helps to have someone there to talk to).

**If you can volunteer to work one or more shift please contact Tom Knust at (253)566-9105**

*Our Retirees paved the way for us let's thank them by helping any way we can!!*

## Community Service

### **2nd Annual ATU LOCAL 758 SCHOLORSHIP for 2010 is now available!**

This year we will offer scholarships totaling up to \$2000. Applicants, who have parents and/or guardians that are ATU-758 members in good standing, are eligible to apply for this current year's scholarship. Students graduating from high school this year and who are going on to a college/university, trade or technical school in the fall of 2010 are eligible to apply. Applicants qualifications will be verified by current ATU-758 Community Service Committee members.

The completed application, with letters of recommendations and an essay must be post marked and mailed to this office by June 15, 2010. Applications can be picked up at the union office. Point of contacts are; Lamarr Bond, Don McKnight, Trina Skirko, Sue Woodward, and Dwight DeSilva.

## Upcoming Events

**April 14th – Cascade Regional Blood Drive 5:00 – 8:30 PM., IBEW 76 Foyer**  
**Reception for the Winners of the Jerry Beckendorf Scholarship Awards 6:00 – 7:00 p.m., IBEW 76 Foyer**

**April 29<sup>th</sup> - U.C.A.N. (Union Counselor Activist Network) training: 5:30 p.m.,**  
**IBEW 76 Executive Board Room**

**May 6<sup>th</sup> – U.C.A.N. (Union Counselor Activist Network) training: 5:30 pm, IBEW 76 Executive Board Room**

**August 1st – Solidarity Day XXX, Cheney Stadium, Tacoma**

## **Lamarr Bond, Executive Board Officer, Position I**

As many of you are aware, Greg King is off on extended leave from work due to illness. After working 40 hours a week, Syl Pelesasa is taking her own time to make beaded bracelets and necklaces to help our Brother Greg. Donations for these beautifully handcrafted items start at \$10. If you would like to donate beads or your time and talent to make some pieces please contact Syl.

Syl keeps only enough of the proceeds to replenish the supplies needed to make the jewelry. You may see samples and purchase items through Syl Pelesasa or Dajari Makena. Special orders are also available.

Thanks in advance for your caring and generosity.

**For more information contact at Syl 253-720-8562.**

Thank You Syl for using your talents to bless this Local and our Members.

Thank You Dajari for taking time to help sell these fine pieces of jewelry. Deborah

# 16th Annual ATU 758 16th Golf Tournament

Prizes



## Saturday, July 31, 2010

Madrona Links Golf Course  
3604 22nd Avenue NW  
Gig Harbor, WA 98335 253.851.5193  
Check - in: 7:00 am  
Shotgun Start: 7:30 am

### Included with your entry fee:

- Green Fees
- Golf /Cart
- Buffet Lunch /with beverage
- Practice Balls
- Tee prizes
- Scratch tickets
- 4 Hole in one prizes
- Long Drive (Mens/Womens)
- KP
- Putt-off contest

**Start planning your  
teams,  
space is limited!**

### **For information please contact:**

Jerry Hardeman 53.405.7086  
Tyrone Ross 253.861.0425  
Lane Chase 253.297.9110

**WEINGARTEN RIGHTS**

If this decision could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated, I respectfully request that my Union Representative, Officer or Steward be present at this meeting. Without representation present, I choose not to answer any questions.



**Amalgamated Transit Union, Local #758**  
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**UNION MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTICE**

**Thursday, April 8, 2010, at 7:30PM**  
4500 Steilacoom Blvd, CPTC Building 3 Rotunda

**Friday, April 9, 2010, at 10:00AM**  
6923 Lakewood DR. W B-1

**Tuesday, April 13, 2010, at 7:30 PM**  
Longshoreman's Hall, 627 14TH AVE (Longview)

**Executive Board**  
**Thursday, April 1, 2010 at 3:30PM** (Union Office)

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**EMAIL ADDRESSES AND CONTACT NUMBERS**

- |                                         |                        |              |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Isaac Tate</b> President B.A:        | president@atu758.org   | 253-640-9111 |
| <b>Lane Chase V.</b> President A.B.A:   | v.president@atu758.org | 253-297-9110 |
| <b>Don McKnight</b> Financial Sec/Trea: | finsec@atu758.org      | 253-970-2912 |
| <b>Deborah E. Brown</b> Recording Sec:  | recsec@atu758.org      | 253-297-7161 |
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