



6923 Lakewood Drive West B-1 Tacoma, Washington 98467-3221 (253)474-3123 - Fax (253)475-4059

December 30, 2021

## **Message to the Membership**

**Isaac O. Tate - President/Business Agent**

**As we approach the end of the year 2021**, we all have been and continue to be in the grasp of the COVID pandemic. The workplace has changed, working conditions have changed, and many of us are stressed, angry, frustrated and still living under mask mandates and ever changing COVID policies and directives. What was normal is no longer normal. Decisions have to be made in regards to being around different members of our own and extended families for holidays. As soon as we think things are taking a turn for the better there is a new COVID variant.

I am so tired of wearing a mask as I am sure you are too. I have many different ones but after I take a brisk walk from my vehicle to a building upon entering I want to take the mask off, but I can't. I want to breathe without it, but at what cost. When there are positive cases in the workplace which of late have skyrocketed as documented by the PT Virus Situation Report, I hope as a member when or if you \*test positive you are truthful in regards to whom you may have come into contact with during the course of your workday or time at the worksite. The reality is entire families have died of COVID due to contact with someone outside the home. Regardless of your opinion(s) or belief(s) in regards to COVID, it does exist. Let's keep each other safe.

**\*If it is a matter of finances or unpaid leave in a situation like this, contact the Union Office. If you have exhausted your leave, not sure of the availability of paid leave per the Sick Leave or COVID Leave Policy or paid leave that is available to you outside the agency, please ASK. It is important that we take care of both ourselves and others.**

## **A Message to the Operators**

Although not entirely, COVID is being blamed for the shortage of Operators and modified run times and service hours. Reportedly, many riders are ticked off with the frequency of service or when they miss or don't make a connection with a bus and having to wait from 30 minutes up to an hour for the next, but that is not the Operator's fault. As professionals we should not jeopardize either ourselves or passengers by committing traffic violations and infractions to enable someone that should have caught an earlier bus. There are a lot of things on our minds due to this wacky world but the operation of the coach in a safe manner is our priority. Close the barrier, adjust the air in the seating area, and concentrate on the operation of the coach. Look ahead when approaching intersections and get the "big picture". Is the light a "stale green", take notice of the stop locations (near or far-side). Scan the intersection(s) ahead for photo infraction cameras, changes in speed zones/limits, stop fully before making that right turn on red. We get paid by the minute/hour. Before the first infraction you'll leave the base as a "Hero" in the morning, but commit a traffic infraction and become a "Zero" by the end of your day.

**On behalf of your ATU Local 758 Officers, we wish you the members good health and a very Safe and Happy New Year in 2022!**