

## President's/BA Report— Isaac O. Tate

### Around Pierce Transit

It's been a busy month (and a lot of hurry up and wait), as your ATU leadership attempts to continue to address multiple issues we've brought to the attention of Pierce Transit (the agency) and issues we've brought to your attention via the newsletter. At the Pierce Transit property, we still await a response in regards to the "unexcused absence" policy that affects members across all classifications, and have been in ongoing discussions regarding the Operator Shake-ups.

Also, regarding Transit Operators, the Union submitted changes to PT management specifically in regards to "fare collection" in the Operator's Manual on May 23, 2022, however we have not as of yet contrary to statements made by PT upper management, received anything in regards to a/the revised manual.

It's particularly frustrating when an Operator is guided by the verbiage in the Operator's Manual that is directly in conflict with what is supposed to be the "agency philosophy", but and however the agency does nothing about it. It would seem that there would be some urgency to keep our members, their employees out of harm's way, but I guess not. The last memo in my possession regarding this "change in philosophy" is a **January 1, 2022** memo penned by Assistant Manager Scott Gaines, and of course on "**disciplinary notices**". It's a good thing there have not been any new hire trainee Operators since **January 1, 2022** (actually there has been quite a few), and supposedly everyone presently in an Operator position received (?) a copy of this "change in philosophy". According to PT management this change in philosophy was placed in Operators mail slots (you know the places where when checking your box, it may be empty, the notice taken out of your box and stuck in someone else's or thrown away by someone else, there's a whole lot of reasons why one may not have received a/the memo). Bottom line, it's not anywhere that an Assistant Manager can say the Operator received it. However, every Operator has an Operator Manual (Bible) but no one wants to change it to "mirror the philosophy". Also believe me there is more than fare collection that needs addressing in the Operator Manual, but in regards to fare collection we're talking about the possibility of bodily harm.

There are many and I understand believe me, that feel in their position as an Operator they are disrespected by members of the public and the agency plays a part in this disrespect by dancing around the fare issue. Every Operator that has come through the doors of this agency as an Operator trainee through their career as full-time Operators has been told an Operator's job is to collect fare, and the agency dancing around the issue coupled with loss of the last bit of respect that the public had for the Operator is gone. Understand that individual(s) sitting behind a desk in no way shape or form understands or even wants to understand or acknowledge the danger their inactions are putting you in. As I wrote back in the **April newsletter**, that's not their job. As an Operator and unless you have had many years of passenger interactions, I would suggest the following.

**The bottom line and I understand it is hard to accept, is to greet the passenger. If they pay they pay, if not let it go. It's not worth interacting with the same individual on "3" different occasions before the agency responds because the fact of the matter is you shouldn't be getting upset as an Operator of a 30' – 60' coach while transporting passengers. Your work environment necessitates your full concentration and professionalism, as well as your peace of mind.**

The Operator Manual contains many more directives to us the Operators when performing our duties and interacting with customers. Unfortunately, those resources have vanished or are unavailable to the Operator(s) because of a suggestion or idea from someone not knowledgeable or having not performed the Operator's job. Additionally, the Union also feels some directives that may not have created conflict in the past, have now become so.

### **RiverCities Lift**

Contract negotiations continue with Paratransit Services – Bremerton for our paratransit Operators/ Dispatchers in the Longview/Kelso area. Although we have sent them our last, best and final offer, they feel additional meeting(s) will be conducive to an amendable outcome so to that end we've scheduled a session in Longview, WA. on September 1<sup>st</sup>. However, along with our Executive Board Officer Tony Harris we are highly doubtful that an amendable outcome will be produced as our position is/was to proceed to mediation. However, to avoid the stigma of bad faith bargaining, we'll give them another session.

### **RiverCities Transit**

Our Executive Officer Shawnda Hurley has reported that RiverCities Transit has added new service extending to Castle Rock wherein they will make connections with Twin Transit from Centralia WA. The introduction of this service will give riders (if they choose) access between Vancouver, WA. and on adjoining transit systems to Vancouver, B.C.

### **Golf Tournament**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Ronald Thornton Memorial Golf Tournament was a hit again this year. It was held at Eagles Pride Golf Course in Dupont. The tournament was named after Ron Thornton a former President/Business Agent and Vice-President ABA who passed due to lung cancer in January of 2019. We had fourteen (14) teams both women's and men's and in addition to our Local 758 teams were the ATU Local 1433 team from Arizona and also two (2) teams from ATU Local 587 – Seattle. It was good to see both our retired and active members participate. Overall, it was a good day of golf. Kudos to Local 758 Office Administrator Pattie Clark who had a big hand in obtaining the course, as her spouse is the General Manager and we were able to get the course at a late date, and helping to create signage needed for the course. Financial Secretary Treasurer-Recording Secretary Vonda Marshall who managed fees and monetary prizes, Executive Board Officer/Shop Steward Gerald Hardeman for taking the lead in organizing the event, volunteer retiree Larry Marks for his generous contributions and donations which included a \$275.00 golf bag plus other gifts in addition to helping to create course signage. Volunteers Cornelius "Corn" Owens, retiree Sheryl Culver, Camille Thornton and friend Les who monitored the money holes. Also, thanks to our sponsors Quality Stitching (Union apparel), Bright Now Dental (monetary), American Income Life (monetary) and Eagles Pride (golf rounds and lessons). Kudos to all that participated to make the tournament a success. And finally, while our Local 758 teams didn't place in first or second, my team did place last .... and received a prize of "free golf lessons". However, we were thinking if we get better, we'll never win anything. Thanks to everyone that came out this year and hopefully next year the participation level will be up to the level it was this year.

**Be Safe, Stay Safe.**

# **ATU LOCAL 758**

## **UNION MEETING**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2022**

**6:30PM**

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

**NOMINATION OF OFFICERS**

**IBEW (UNION HALL)**

(International Brotherhood Electrical Workers Hall)

**3049 S 36th St, Tacoma, WA**

**6:30PM**

**(Masks are optional)**

---

**Who May Run For Office**  
**Eligibility for Local Union Office**

As provided in the Amalgamated Transit Union Constitution and General Laws, as amended 2019, Section 14.2 any member must have been a member in continuous good standing of the labor union the 2 years next preceding the day of the nomination meeting where the labor union has been in existence for that period or longer.

A member wishing to seek an Office of ATU Local 758 must bring any outstanding dues current prior to the nomination meeting

Any member in good standing is able to run for office of ATU Local 758 pursuant to LMRDA Act of 1959 as Amended Title 5 Section 504, ATU Local 758 By Laws and the ATU Constitution and General Laws as amended 2019.

Term of Office: will be January 1, 2023 thru December 31, 2026.

**NOMINATIONS**

Nominations for the following Offices and corresponding delegates:

**President/Business Agent** – Delegate to the Northwest Conference Board, Pierce County Central Labor Council, ATU Legislative Conference, and ATU International Convention.

**Vice President/Asst Business Agent** – Delegate to the Northwest Conference Board and ATU International Convention.

**Financial Secretary/ Treasurer** – Delegate to the Northwest Conference Board and ATU International Convention.

**Recording Secretary**-Chair of Election Committee

**Executive Board Officers:**

**Three Transit Operators:**

Transit Operator Position 1

Transit Operator Position 2

Transit Operator Position 3

\*\*Relief Transit-Operator Representative (Appointed)

**Three Mechanic Positions:**

A. Mechanic Position 1

B. Mechanic Position 2

C. Facilities Maintenance

**Admin Services Includes Marketing Services Representatives/Accounting/Payroll and Travel Trainer**

1 Position

**Customer Service Representative (Fixed Route)**

1 Position

**Customer Service Representative (Paratransit/Shuttle)**

1 Position

**Service Delivery/Communication Controllers/ Instructors**

1 Position

**Longview RiverCities Transit**

1 Position

**Longview RiverCities Lift (Paratransit)**

1 Position

**Sound Transit Light Rail Representative**

1 Position

Nominations/Acceptance Letters may be made in writing and must be received by Recording Secretary Vonda Marshall at the ATU Local 758 Union Office-6923 Lakewood Drive West Suite B-1, Tacoma, WA 98467-3221 no later than September 12, 2022 by 5:00pm. This letter may be a combination of nomination and acceptance.

The nomination meeting will be held **September 12, 2022** at the Charter Meeting of ATU Local 758 at:

**IBEW (Union Hall)  
3049 S. 36<sup>th</sup> St.  
Tacoma WA  
Time: 6:30 pm**

**Candidate eligibility/non eligibility notification letters and/or Campaign Rules will be distributed to all nominees September 12-16, 2022.**

### Elections

Elections will be held on the follow times and locations:

**Longview River Cities Transit/River Cities Lift**  
254 Oregon Way Longview, WA 98632-7080  
Operator Break/Lunch Room  
Monday-October 17, 2022 6am-10:00am

**IBEW (Union Hall)**  
3049 S. 36<sup>th</sup> St  
Tacoma WA  
Monday- October 17, 2022 6am-8pm

**ALL** Voters must have legal state or employer picture identification before casting a ballot

**ALL** Voters must be members in good standing of ATU Local 758 at the time of the election

There are **no** absentee ballots

There are **no** write- ins

The ballots will be counted by the Election Committee after the closing of the polls on October 17, 2022.

Results will be posted the morning of October 18, 2022.

If a **run-off election is necessary**, similar voting hours will be used and the voting will occur at Longview, and IBEW (Union Hall) **Monday November 7, 2022** (see addresses, times may vary).

If a voting member is protesting/challenging the election process or results he/she must file in writing to the incumbent Recording Secretary, stating the specific reason of the protest/challenge, within 10 days of the counting of the ballots. The Recording Secretary must submit the protest/challenge for a decision to the Executive Board subject to the final ruling by the membership –Amalgamated Transit Union Constitution and General Laws 14.8 as amended 2019.



Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 758

6

6923 Lakewood DR W B1 Tacoma, WA 98467-3221

(253)474-3123 atu758.org

*Weingarten rights*

*This statement could save your job! "If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated I respectfully request that my shop steward be present at the meeting. Without Union representation present, I choose not to respond to any questions or statements."*

**UNION MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTICE**

Local 758 Union meetings will be held based on availability of IBEW Hall.

**EMAIL ADDRESSES AND CONTACT NUMBERS**

**Isaac Tate, President B.A:** pres758@atu758.org (253)329-1655

**Terry Leazer V. Pres A.B.A:** vpres758@atu758.org (253) 686-1435

**Vonda Marshall, Fin-Sec/Trea:** 758finsec@atu758.org (253)474-3123

**Vonda Marshall, Rec. Sec.:** recsec758@atu758.org (253)376-8854

**Pattie Clark, Office/Web Admin:** unionoffice@atu758.org (253)474-3123