

# Newsletter



January 2023 *Edited by William Dehnel Recording Secretary*

## **From the desk of the President/Business Agent**

I want to thank everyone for supporting me in becoming your new ATU 758 President. I am committed to working long and hard to enforce the existing contracts and improving the working conditions of our members.

Employee safety is our number one concern. Our brothers and sisters provide the highest levels of professionalism and service during some of the most difficult times and emergencies. I know that they will continue to serve our community in this capacity and I am honored to serve them.

As you can imagine it has been a slow and difficult transition. I have only worked with the new administration for about a month and I can honestly say that they are committed to this local. They have sacrificed their own time coming in to the office to work. This has allowed us to reduce loss time claims which I appreciate very much. The sacrifices of Union Offices often go unrecognized and on that note I would like to Thank the previous administration for all the time and effort that they put into keeping this local strong.

### **Being Union**

- Being in a Union means that we are supposed to be like a family. We are supposed to support and look out for each other.
- Being in a local means working together to improve the lot of our fellow working people.
- Being Union is not a get out of jail free card. You cannot do anything you want and expect there to be no repercussions. These kinds of behaviors cost our local lots of money each year.
- Together we can change. Together we can do the hard work that improves our lives and allows us to move forward.

### **Regarding the Executive Board, Officers, and Shop Stewards**

Your new executive board will be involved in all the decisions that affect the work groups that they represent. My goal is to provide all the officers, stewards, and executive board members with up to date information. This will allow you, the union member, to go to them for timely information. They are who you should go to for information and to express your questions and concerns.

**Do not listen to the Rumor Highway.  
It's usually a Northbound bus in a southbound lane.**

*From the desk of the Vice President Russ Lowe*

This month I took office for the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 758. I would like to offer my gratitude to the members who voted for me and assure those who did not that I respect your hesitancy and let you know that I am dedicated to representing all of our members professionally and properly. In addition, President Hoheusle and I are committed to making adjustments in the operation of this local in an effort to better serve our members. We value your input, your feedback, and even your criticism. We will take what we learn and move forward, forging new paths and working hard to represent the membership and advocate for fair treatment and compensation in the workplace.

The last few years have been trying times for many of our members and it shows on their faces and by the attitudes that we encounter. The homeless and psychologically challenged people that our front line members have to deal with on a regular basis strains the systems that we work within. Our members who directly serve the public have learned to be hyper-vigilant against the unexpected. Unfortunately, as a service provider to the public, the current ills of society are our burden. Additionally the restrictions imposed on our members lifestyle and freedoms by both the employer and the government can be oppressing. For now, I will caution our members that the camera systems are constantly watching and that can be a benefit or a burden depending on the situation. We are aware of the psychological cost to our members and will press management to make changes that mitigate the stress and compensate our members for their sacrifices. I would encourage you to watch out for each other and accept that the person working next to you as your Union brother or sister and understand that we are stronger when we stand as a team.

In solidarity,

Russ Lowe

Stronger Together!

## **WE ARE THE ATU**

The Amalgamated Transit Union – the largest labor union representing transit and allied workers in the U.S. and Canada – fights for the interests of its hard-working members and promotes mass transit. Founded in 1892, the ATU today is comprised of more than 200,000 members, including: metropolitan, interstate, and school bus drivers; paratransit, light rail, subway, streetcar, and ferry boat operators; mechanics and other maintenance workers; station agents, clerks, baggage handlers, municipal employees and others.

### **From the desk of the Financial Secretary/Treasurer**

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Andrew Boring and I am your newly elected Financial Secretary/Treasurer. I have worked as Transit Operator at Pierce Transit starting in 2007. I have also operated 2 small businesses over the last 10 years. I look forward to using my experience at Pierce Transit and as a small business owner to be a steward of the union finances. Those of you that I have not met in person I look forward to meeting you at an upcoming Union meeting.

### **From the desk of the Recording Secretary**

Hello my fellow union members. I would like to give you a brief introduction. My name is William Dehnel and I will be serving as your Recording Secretary for the 2023—2025 period. I am currently employed at Pierce Transit in the Service Supervisor classification and spent 6 years as a Transit Operator before my promotion. Previously I was employed as a Tool and Die technician at the composites plant of Milgard Windows and Doors, A Cable internet installer for Prince Telecom(serving Comcast, Charter, and Cox cable services), and Roll Line Operator at Field's Roofing and Asphalt amongst others.

### **This month in Union History**

January 27th, 1850 saw the birth of one Samuel Gompers(Gompertz) in Spitalfields, London, England. Mr. Gompers was an immigrant to America that was a Cigar maker and Founder of the American Federation of Labor(now the AFL-CIO). He was a key figure in the fight to legalize unions, create shorter working hours, and higher wages. He helped unions go from small independent locals to organized groups able to better defend the rights of the working person. As an early advocate for labor equality and freedom he was faced with prison time for his actions against unfair management practices.

“Gompers is noted for having shifted the primary goal of American unionism away from social issues and toward the “bread and butter” issues of wages, benefits, hours, and working conditions, all of which could be negotiated through [collective bargaining](#). Gompers’s AFL became the model of unionism in the United States, achieving economic goals through national trade unions that organized a network of locals and supported them.”

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Samuel-Gompers>



Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 758

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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**

The next E—board meeting is Thursday February 2nd at 3:30pm  
(ATU 758: 6923 Lakewood Dr. B-1, Lakewood, WA)

**Charter meetings**

Friday February 10th, 2023 at 6:30 PM at the IBEW hall  
(IBEW 76: 3049 S. 36th St. Tacoma, WA)

**Longview meetings**

Wednesday February 15th, 2023 at 7:15 PM Longview  
(Longview upstairs lunchroom: 254 Oregon Way, Longview WA)

**EMAIL ADDRESSES AND CONTACT NUMBERS**

**John Hoheusle**, President/Business Agent: 758president@atu758.org (253-533-0003)

**Russ Lowe**, Vice President/Asst. BA: 758vpresident@atu758.org (253-533-0476)

**Andrew Boring**, Financial Secretary/Treasurer: 758financialsec@atu758.org (253-222-9016)

**William Dehnel**, Recording Secretary: 758recordingsec@atu758.org (253-754-7584)

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