

AUGUST 2004

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ATU

LOCAL 587

News Review



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VOL. XXVII, NO. 8

METRO/KING COUNTY MEMBERS ACCEPT PROPOSED CONTRACT OFFER

A CONTRACT RATIFICATION VOTE held Thursday, July 29th, resulted in % approval of the proposed contract extension.

The terms of the offer to extend the current contract called for revisions in contract language updating any applicable dates, eliminating expired language, and coming to mutual agreement on current Memoranda of Agreement that would be incorporated into the contract. The current COLA language remained intact. A separate agreement between King County and the Joint Labor Management Insurance Committee (the body that negotiates benefits for all County employees including Local 587 members) extended the current benefit package through December 2006. All of this was done and presented to the membership for a vote.

The remaining terms of the offer to extend include two items that will be negotiated, namely the sick leave language in Article 11, Section 2; and a proposed equity adjustment for Mechanics and Electronic Technicians. Officers will begin negotiations on these two issues shortly. If no agreement is reached on these two issues, the parties may proceed to arbitration, **on these two issues alone.**

In addition, subcommittees will meet with the aim of making non-economic or low-cost modifications to the contract. If no agreement is reached on these issues, **current contract language will remain.**

Please watch your bulletin boards and your News Review for updates on these two outstanding issues.

HARSH WORDS FOR TRANSIT SAFETY DIVISION

A Letter to the Editor...

Dear Mr. President:

I want to applaud you on your latest President's Report. I agree wholeheartedly with your deservedly harsh words for our Transit Safety Division. Your boldness in naming names and telling it like it is was greatly appreciated by those of us who attempt to work with this group.

I am Chairperson of the CSC [Component Supply Center] Safety Committee and I've attempted to work with several of the Transit Safety Officers with little success. When I've needed help on long unresolved safety issues, I've written to Terry Compton. His responses have largely been disappointing. We have had abysmal responses to green card issues: those responses are either late, lame, or nonexistent. We've had safety officers fail to show up for joint

safety meetings without the courtesy of a call. For months our group has tried to get some transmission clutch plates tested for asbestos content to no avail. (\$300 in testing that Vicki Smith Jones says their budget cannot handle). A few years back we spent a year trying to get their help fixing a broken steam room door which exposed much of our shop to very high decibels which are supposed to be restricted to the steam room. We had a serious water issue in the CSC parking lot which, well after heavy rains, would leave a river of ice over sections of the lot. In the first year of our complaints and numerous green cards, Transit Safety was impotent as usual in finding or forcing a solution. In the second year, we had two employees fall on the early morning ice. After two full years at least a portion of the problem was rectified.

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The Month at a Glance

Business of the Membership

At the July 2004 cycle of membership meetings the following business was conducted:

- Members at the Clallam meeting finalized the request for arbitration by Brother Harold Stanback that was tabled at the June meeting. Request for arbitration has been approved by the membership.

- Motion to direct our attorney to drop the back to base claim of the travel pay lawsuit and move forward with a settlement on the point to point claim was unanimously approved by the members. The following members were

July pot draw winners:

Paul Bachtelat the Charter meeting, Daniel Kramer at the morning meeting, Paul Hausmann at the JTA meeting. CTS pot draw winner was Linda Stern. Rolling CTS pot draw of \$25.00 was lost by Don Wilson. Next month's CTS rolling pot draw will be \$50.00.

The request to take Brother Edgar Monillas' grievance to arbitration was denied by the membership of this local. The officers of Local 587 wish Brother Monillas well and trust that he will be successful in future endeavors.

Executive Board Report

July 26th and 27th, 2004

All officers were present.

The following business was conducted:

- Motion by Paul Bachtel to authorize up to \$1,000 to the non-profit Port Angeles organization building a skate board park in the city of Port Angeles to support youth activities in order to alleviate security concerns regarding the Port Angeles transit center.

- Motion by Jeff Stambaugh to authorize up to \$10,000 to send ten CISM team members to the 2004 conference in Wenatchee this August, paying for registration, lodging, a travel allowance and per diem.

- Motion by Paul Neil to recommend taking Brother Gary Granquist's termination grievance to arbitration.

- Motion by Paul Bachtel to recommend taking Michael Gendron's grievance to arbitration.

The vacant Transit Operator Executive Board position left by Brother Rick Gleason's resignation was filled. The Executive Board appointed Sister Judy Young to the position. Congratulations, Judy! And a great many thank you's to the hard-working, dedicated individuals who came forth to request the opportunity to serve the membership in this position.

Tentative Agenda

Membership Meetings:

CHARTER MEETING
Thursday, August 5, 2004
8:00 p.m.
The Labor Temple, Hall #8
2800 1st Ave., Seattle, WA

MORNING MEETING
Friday, August 6, 2004
10:30 a.m.
The Labor Temple, Hall #6
2800 1st Ave., Seattle, WA

JEFFERSON TRANSIT
Monday, August 9, 2004
7:00 p.m.
Port Townsend Rec Center
Port Townsend, WA

CLALLAM TRANSIT
Tuesday, August 10, 2004
7:00 p.m.
Port Angeles Senior Center
328 E. 7th Street, Port Angeles

Among topics to be discussed: Metro/King County ratification and implementation information, grievance and arbitration update, Lake Union Streetcar project.

Brothers Gary Granquist, Michael Gendron and Brad Krull will be appearing before the membership to request their grievances be taken to arbitration.

Newly appointed Transit Operator Executive Board Officer Judy Young will be installed to office.

Unfinished Business: There is no unfinished business for August.

ATU LOCAL 587 WOMEN'S COMMITTEE MEETING

Saturday, August 14 — 12:30 p.m.
at the Local 587 Executive Board Room
2815 Second Avenue • Suite 230
All members welcome!

IN LOVING MEMORY...

Your lost friends are not dead, but gone before, advanced a stage or two upon that road which you must travel in the steps they trod.

—Aristophanes

Fred Shogren, retired member, passed away July 22, 2004. Brother Shogren joined Local 587 in December of 1941. He retired in the early 1970's, and had reached fifty year status as an ATU member. Brother Shogren was North Base Operator Linda Shogren's father, please extend your condolences to Linda if you see her around.

Bill Hewitt, III, retired Coordinator, passed away June 27th, 2004. Brother Hewitt joined Local 587 in January of 1973 as a busdriver. He was promoted to First-Line Supervision in May of 1974. Many remember Brother Bill from his years in the Control Center working Channels 3 and 4. For those who were with us during the memorial for Brother Mark McLaughlin, Brother Hewitt was the Coordinator who

did the closing radio transmission placing Operator 2106 out of service. Brother Hewitt retired in September of 1999, leaving behind many memories of what a fine Coordinator can be. He will be missed.

Eugene "Gene" Fischer, retired Transit Operator, passed away June 23, 2004, after a battle with cancer. Brother Fischer joined Local 587 in January of 1947 and retired in 1977. He had achieved fifty year member status. Brother Fischer leaves behind family, including now-retired Maintenance Chief Jan Fischer. He was 81 at the time of his passing.

Bill Church, retired 50 year member, passed away February 7, 2004. No further information available.

Please notify the union office of any member's passing so that this information may be shared with the rest of our union family.

ATU LOCAL 587

News Review

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WEINGARTEN RIGHTS STATEMENT

I request to have a union representative present on my behalf during this meeting because I believe it may lead to disciplinary action taken against me. If I am denied my right to have a union representative present, I will refuse to answer accusational questions and any I believe may lead to discipline.

Letters to the editor

Letters/contributions must include signatures, work ID number, addresses and telephone numbers that can be verified during office hours. Letters that cannot be validated will not be published. All articles/letters are subject to editing and should be limited to 350 words or less. Not all letters can be published due to space limitations. Cut off date is the 15th of each month.

Send letters to:

Jennie Gil, Editor
c/o ATU Local 587

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2815 Second Avenue, Suite 230
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Skydivers Wanted, No Experience Necessary

By Dee Wakenight

WHAT IS THE JUMP FOR JOY? When Denise Bennett's 4 year old son, Jacob, died of leukemia, she and Jacob's pediatrician wanted to do something special in memory of him so they "jumped" from an airplane and raised \$5000.00. When Denise heard about Sparrow Clubs and the many children with life threatening illnesses that were being assisted in so many ways, the money was donated to Sparrow Clubs.

Last year was the first time I participated in the "Jump for Joy" benefiting the Sparrow Clubs,

USA. Sparrow Clubs USA is "kids helping kids" by having the club adopt a local child in medical crisis as the focus of the club's community service. Sparrow offers matching funds for those raised by schools for students or siblings with terminal illness. When a school raises, for example, \$1000.00 they may apply for matching funds from Sparrow. Sparrow Clubs is a registered 501(C)(3) organization and all donations are tax deductible. For more information go to:

<http://www.sparrowclubs.org>

I found the experience so re-

warding that I have decided to jump again this year. I am also recruiting new jumpers for this year's event. This will be the 5th Annual "Jump for Joy", and will be held on Saturday, September 25, 2004. The goal this year is to have 20 jumpers. We will go to Harvey Field in Snohomish. It is a tandem jump, there will be someone who knows what they are doing strapped to your back.

Besides getting to jump out of an airplane that's over ten thousand feet in the air, there are other ways to be part of the ac-

tion. Everyone is encouraged to sponsor a jumper. The amount you contribute is up to you. Last year I had some sponsors who contributed a flat amount and others who went by the foot. I jumped from 13,000 feet. At 1 cent per foot the pledge was for \$130.00.

Any and all contributions gratefully accepted. For more info on this jump e-mail diane@lage.schulte.com

Skydivers wanted, no experience necessary. Together we can change the world.

On Purpose

By Executive Board Officer Dee Wakenight

RECENTLY, AS AN ELECTED MEMBER of the South Base Safety Committee I was able to attend a meeting of law enforcement agency representatives from all areas, including King County Officers. The focus of the meeting was on pedestrian safety. With the longer daylight hours and the children out of school we need to remain ever vigilant for those who are not paying attention. Yes, there is a responsibility that goes along with being a pedestrian, but there are also distractions such as cell phones, sunshine, personal entertainment devices, the list goes on and on.

No one ever **wants** to have a serious accident; after all it is called an "accident", not an "on purpose." Still, we are the professionals here and to be treated as such we must

behave accordingly. That being said, (remember I said something nice first), we as drivers need to remember the traffic laws may be applied equally to bus drivers as well as those who make us nuts.

Law enforcement representatives at this meeting told us in no uncertain terms that they were more than a little tired of Metro buses running lights, blocking intersections, aggressively changing lanes, cutting off other traffic, failing to signal turns and/or lane changes, and on and on.

Please, take the extra 5 seconds to do the right thing. If the light is going to turn red, don't run it. Stop, let traffic flow, then proceed safely. Think of it as a mini break, during rush hour most buses are late any way. Always think safety first, you don't want an "on purpose".

Harsh Words, continued from page 1

If I was to rate this division, it would be quite poor. If they were to have a truthful motto it would be "CYA and obfuscate our responsibility!" The agendas that are generated by our employees and taken to our committee are largely ignored. Yet Transit Safety expects us to carry out their agendas irregardless of our needs.

I hope that your outspoken

words will help bring about a long overdue change in how Transit Safety does business. Thank you again for your attention and leadership on this issue. Please contact me if I can help in any way in this pursuit to make Transit Safety accountable.

David Drew
CSC Safety Committee Chair

SEND IN YOUR OPINIONS

Letters/contributions must include signatures, work ID number, addresses and telephone numbers that can be verified during office hours. Letters that cannot be validated will not be published. All articles/letters are subject to editing and should be limited to 350 words or less. Not all letters can be published due to space limitations. Cut off date is the 15th of each month. Send letters to:

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NOTICE TO ALL READERS

Views and opinions expressed in News Review articles are those of the authors and not necessarily the official position of Local 587

ARBITRATION UPDATE

1. Kenny McCormick: Grieved failure to follow FLSA requirements for travel time for board/report/ATL operators. Grievance being held in abeyance while issue pursued in court.

2. Kelly Venable: Grieved disqualification from SIT recruitment process due to use of an earned benefit. Arbitration held May 5, 2004. Decision pending.

3. Janice Kennison: Grieved termination from Seattle Personal Transit due to violation of company no-smoking policy. Arbitration held January 7th, 2004. Arbitrator ruled in favor of SPT. Grievance final.

4. Vince Lee: Grieved improper

procedure for upgrade to temporary position. Arbitration originally scheduled for April 26, 2004 postponed indefinitely, Brother Lee has suffered an unrelated injury and is recuperating.

5. Ron Griffin: Grieved improper separation from the position of Equipment Service Worker. Schedule pending.

6. Roberson et.al.: Body shop and Upholstery shop personnel grieved work done out of classification. Arbitration scheduled December 1 and 2, 2004.

7. Bill Clifford: Grieved Part Time Operators assigned to do special work. Schedule pending.

UPCOMING AT LOCAL 587

AUGUST 12 — PART TIME PICK RESTRICTION FORMS DUE. **NO LATE FORMS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

AUGUST 14 — Women's Committee meeting, 1:00 p.m., at the Union Office.

AUGUST 16 - 20 — Part-time Operator preview, Central/Atlantic Base, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., upstairs in the quiet room.

AUGUST 17 - 22 — Full-time Operator preview, Central/Atlantic Base, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., upstairs classrooms.

AUGUST 21, 22, 28, 29 — Part-time Operator pick, Central/Atlantic Base, upstairs quiet room. Please consult a seniority list for your pick time and date.

AUGUST 23 thru SEPT 2 — Full-time Operator pick, Central/Atlantic Base, upstairs classroom. Please consult a seniority list for your pick time and date.

AUGUST 24 — Executive Board meeting.

AUGUST 26 — M/KC Facilities Maintenance pick. See your bulletin boards for additional information.

SEPT. 1 — Nominations open for Shop Stewards in Facilities Maintenance; Seattle Personal Transit and MV Transportation.

SEPT. 2 — Nominations open for Shop Stewards in Operations and Vehicle Maintenance.

AND THE MARINERS WIN AGAIN!!!

(...or, things you might still hear at this upcoming pick)

By Recording Secretary Jennie Gil

WARNING! THE FALLSHAKE-up is the longest of the year! Don't make it your worst by ignoring this information!!

WHEN?

Part-time pick will take place August 21, 22, 28 and 29, Full-time will happen August 23 through September 2. Part-time preview will be held August 16 through 20. Full-Time preview will be held August 17 through 22. Both rooms will be open around 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please see your Operations Bulletin boards for the exact times.

NOT JUST FOR OPERATORS

Vehicle Maintenance will pick September 7, 8 and 9. At the time of this writing, no lead pick has been scheduled. Specific pick information will be posted in the contractually mandated manner. Vehicle Maintenance Executive Board Officers ask that phone calls during pick be for emergency purposes only.

RESTRICTION FORMS (Part-Time Operators)

Restriction forms were sent out to the bases and South Training July 12th. The deadline for turning in restriction forms is August 12th. **Absolutely no restriction forms will be accepted past this date.** Restrictions amount to usurping the seniority of those ahead of you who did not have the need to restrict, so the Union takes these deadlines very seriously. Please see pick personnel or call me at the union office for an alternate strategy if you are caught in this bind. Also know that if you submitted a restriction form and we reach lockout, you will be required to honor that restriction.

Lockout is when there is the exact number of slots for either a.m. or p.m. as there are restriction forms. For example, if we have 100 a.m. slots available system-wide, and 100 restriction forms on file, we go into a.m. lockout. At that point unless you had a restriction form submitted for that shakeup, **you may not pick a.m. work, regardless of your seniority.** If something comes up after you submit your form that frees you from needing to be restricted, please con-

tact the pick coordinator or call me at the Union office and rescind your restriction form. You may rescind a form all the way up to that point where we go into lockout.

ABSENTEE FORMS REVISED

Is it top of the 9th and the M's are still ahead? What other reasons are there to not make it to pick? For that we have absentee pick forms. Some wise and cautious members fill out an absentee form even if they fully plan on being there, in the event that a flat tire or an alarm that did not go off curtails their plan. You will not be bound by your absentee pick form if you do show up, it merely provides backup service for you in the event The Fates (or Mariner traffic) conspire against you.

And on that note, there are early afternoon games scheduled at Safeco field for August 28th and 29th. All Part-Time Operators picking on those two days, **ALLOW ENOUGH TRAVEL TIME!** For Full-Time Operators, there are games that whole first week of pick, but they are all 7:05 games. Same holds for the Vehicle Maintenance pick. If you pick late in the day, be prepared for a minor delay.

Operators may turn in an absentee pick form to the window before 7 a.m. on your pick day. If you bring it to the pick room we can accept them all the way up until two minutes prior to your pick time. Please note the forms have been recently revised. Review the forms carefully before you submit them.

NO SHOW AND NO ABSENTEE FORM?

If you do not submit an absentee pick form, the union has a long-standing policy to make a no-show pick based on your last picked assignment. If you do not arrive by ten minutes prior to your scheduled pick time, your pick sheet is handed off to the union representative, who will look up your current assignment. The ten minute mark is used as it takes time to research an assignment. If your current assignment is open, it will be picked for you. If not, there are certain guidelines and restrictions used to pick for a no-show with no absentee pick form to guide us.

This is critical for Part-time Operators whose pay is based on

hours worked and the potential for increasing hours worked increases with seniority. The union representative will usually select work that reports on or after your current report time and quits on or before your current quit time. You will be placed at your current base as long as it is still open, and if not, at the base closest, if at all possible. Due to these guidelines and restrictions, often the tripper picked for you by the Union is substantially shorter than the tripper you could have picked yourself.

Occasionally there is no current pick information available and often there are no similar assignments left, especially further on down the seniority list. If there is time and an open phone line, the union rep may attempt to call you. But if we do not have your current address/phone number, and the assignment sheets do not list your current assignment, the union representative has little recourse other than to pick an assignment completely at random.

I CAN'T WORK THIS!

Once the union rep picks your assignment it might not be changed if you arrive late. If you arrive immediately after the union has picked for you, AND, if the people who picked below you are still in the room, the pick may be stopped and your piece offered to those who picked behind you if you are so very opposed to working it. If this should occur, the pick still goes on around you and those with lesser seniority who did arrive on time will continue to pick. If, however, even one person below you that has already picked has left the room, your pick **will not be altered for any reason.** A second recourse for those who did not arrive in time to pick and find their union-picked work heinous is to hang tight till the next move up.

VACATION PICK

Full-time Operators will be picking vacation for the first periods in 2005. Part-time Operators can pick vacation periods in Fall shakeup. Please bring your vacation dates with you. If you are Part-time and you pick a couple vacation periods with the intent to cancel one be-

cause you are unsure of your dates, it denies people below you a guaranteed slot they might have picked had you known your dates.

THE BOOK

Part-time Operators, the pick crew has requested you not bring your copies of The Book to dispose of with us. New Books will be provided, and we do not have the space to store old books that you are wanting to get rid of. Besides, you will need them all the way till the end of Summer shakeup.

DON'T CALL US...

Cell phone are now so prevalent, our children will not be able to imagine life without them. Consequently, more members are electing to phone the pick room at their designated pick time, which works fine if pick is running on schedule and the ONE phone line in the pick room is not busy. But pick can be delayed for any number of reasons. If a delay occurs or the phone line is busy, picking by phone can be a nightmare.

Your pick staff has also discovered an interesting feature of this particular phone line. Attempting a call when the line is busy does not get you a busy signal. Instead, you get a message that says "The number you have dialed is no longer in service." This, of course, causes no end of panic and confusion. And Metro has not seen fit to fix the problem.

PLEASE!! Don't try to pick by phone unless you absolutely have to. Come to the pick on time and in person, or submit an absentee pick form as mentioned above. We will not be responsible for the outcome if it is not favorable to you.

IMPORTANT!

The contract states in several sections: "Selections made by the UNION will not be subject to the grievance/arbitration procedure." Your union representatives are only human. In your absence they did the best they could given the circumstances they had to work with, and the union will not be held liable for any picks made for someone who could not or did not show up to do their own pick.

Hope to see you there.

ATTENTION PART TIME OPERATORS

...picking on the last weekend of pick (August 28 and 29): the Mariners are scheduled to lose... sorry... play... on both days, in 1:05 p.m. games.

PLEASE ALLOW ENOUGH TRAVEL TIME! We don't want to have to pick for you if we can avoid it!

Part-time Pick Orientation

New to Part-time pick? Learn what to expect at pick. Learn how to fill out restriction and absentee forms.

South Base Chief Shop Steward, Hal Poor will present an informal Part-time pick orientation.

*Sunday, August 8, 2004 1:00pm
South Base Operations classroom*