

Newsletter



February 2024

President's Report - John Hoheusle

I hope this newsletter finds you doing well. As we navigate through the challenges of the evolving business landscape, we want to keep you informed about the ongoing discussions regarding our contracts. Over the past few months, representatives from Pierce Transit and ATU Local 758 have engaged in constructive dialogues to address various aspects of our labor contract.

These negotiations are crucial in ensuring a fair and balanced agreement that aligns with the interests of both our valued employees and the company. As negotiations continue, we remain optimistic about reaching an agreement that benefits all parties involved. We understand the importance of transparency in the process, and we will keep you updated on any significant developments.

We would like to welcome all our new Union members who joined ATU Local 758 in 2023! We are thrilled to have you join our Union, a community of workers dedicated to creating a fair and supportive workplace. Your decision to become part of our Union reflects your commitment to advocating for your rights to fair treatment and improved working conditions.

As new members, you bring fresh perspectives, energy, and ideas that will strengthen our collective voice. Together we can work towards creating positive change and ensuring that our concerns are heard and addressed. Whether you are a seasoned advocate or new to the world of Unions, your participation is invaluable.

We encourage you to engage with your fellow Union members, attend Union meetings, and actively participate in discussions. By standing united, we can negotiate better wages, benefits, and working conditions for everyone. Our Union is only as strong as it's members. With your involvement, we can achieve great things.

And lastly, I would like to remind all our Operators of the importance of prioritizing your safety and not put yourselves or others at risk over relatively minor issues like bus fare or running late.

Please All, take care of yourselves out there.

John

ATU 758 Vice President - Russ Lowe

In the last year I have been amazed at the number of safety violations that have been happening with our members. There have been some pretty blatant lapses in judgement. I will not get into details here but I am not revealing anything management does not already know. In most cases, management, already has video or pictures of damages, etc. I want to remind our members at all of the properties we represent to please slow down, follow safety rules, and do the job correctly (even if it is not timely). This Local has been representing a number of your co-workers for accidents and excessive speed but have not had to represent a single person for running behind schedule or running late.

We understand the challenges of the job and know it is easy to get frustrated and stressed. Many of you are front line workers and have to deal with a variety of illegal activity and bad behavior from the public on a daily basis, with the expectation that you remain professional in the face of adversity. It is a big ask.

At our Pierce Transit property, we have heard a lot of talk from management lately about increasing work life balance and trying to improve the working environment for the employees. Unfortunately, much of it seems to be misplaced ambition targeting areas of convenience instead of need. I feel their energy could be better spent providing security in the system, providing clean and safe facilities for our members, and reliable vehicles to operate. All of our members deserve these things each and every day they come to work. There should be no exceptions!

And to those of you who are working hard each and every day, keeping a low profile and providing transportation services for your communities: We see you and we appreciate you!



FHEHealth

**Job
Protection**

When **union members** are struggling...

FHE Health is There

With over 15 years of assisting union members and their families when they are struggling with behavioral health or addiction issues we understand your next choice is vital.

Stress and anxiety in the workplace is real and it is our goal to offer you confidential assistance 24 hours a day seven days a week.

We work in conjunction with your Union to protect your job and your LIFE! If you find yourself in a pattern of progressive discipline at work, you may have underlying behavioral health issues and there are federal laws that may be able to protect you.

We assist union members with:

- Drug, alcohol, sex & gambling addictions
- Depression & other behavioral health issues
- Stress & anxiety disorders

Call for 24/7 CONFIDENTIAL Assistance

(866) 768-7021

ATU Scholarship Competition for the 2024-2025 Academic Year in Memory of International President Emeritus James La Sala

We hope the recipients of this year's scholarships named in his honor, will use them in part to study union and community organizing, and grow to fight injustices everywhere.

This year, the program will consist of five scholarships each in the amount of \$8,000.00. In addition, a \$2,000.00, scholarship may be awarded to a technical or vocational school applicant. **The application is online at atu.communityforce.com.**

Questions about the application process please contact Kayla Warner, Executive Assistant to the International Secretary-Treasurer at kwarn@atu.org or 301-431-7100 ext. 232.

JERRY BECKENDORF - COMMUNITY SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP

The Pierce County Labor Community Services Agency has been awarding the Jerry Beckendorf Community Service Scholarship to graduating high school students in Pierce County since 2003. This scholarship recognizes Brother Beckendorf's 15 years of community service at United Way and his continuing commitment to serve the labor community and citizens in Pierce County.

The intention of this scholarship is to recognize and reward graduating seniors who are dedicated to giving back to their community through community service.

The scholarship committee seeks to recognize students who look beyond themselves to address issues faced by our society (i.e., poverty, food insecurity, homelessness).

Applicants will be judged in four areas: Amount and Diversity of Community Service, Demonstration of Leadership, Impact of Service, and Commitment to Service.

* For the purposes of this scholarship, 75 percent or more of volunteer hours must include community service performed outside of the student's affiliated religious or school organizations.

Applications must be submitted no later than March 22, 2024.

**More information for both of these scholarships can be found on our website:
atu758.org under the Assistance tab.**



Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 758

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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

Executive Board meeting -Thursday, February 1, at 3:30pm (EB only)

(ATU Local 758: 6923 Lakewood Dr. B-1, Lakewood, WA)

Charter Meetings

Thursday, February 8th at 6:30 PM & Friday, February 9th at 10 AM

(ATU Local 758: 6923 Lakewood Dr. B-1, Lakewood, WA)

Wednesday, February 14th at 7:15 PM in 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)754-4584

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