

Newsletter

January 2025 - atu758.org



President's Report - John Hoheusle

The Power of Participation: Why Attending Union Meetings Matters

When we think about the strength of a union, we often focus on the power it wields through collective bargaining, the benefits it secures, or the protections it affords its members. However, at the heart of any strong union lies something much simpler and profoundly crucial: active participation from its members. Union meetings are the bedrock of this participation, serving as a vital forum for discussion, decision-making, and solidarity. Yet, many members overlook their importance. Here's why attending union meetings should be a priority for every union member.

****1. Voice Your Opinions:** Union meetings provide a platform for every member to voice their concerns, suggestions, and opinions. This is your opportunity to influence the direction and priorities of the union. Whether it's about working conditions, pay, or policies, your input is invaluable. Remember, a union's strength is in its collective voice, and every voice matters.

****2. Stay Informed:** These meetings are the primary source of information about ongoing negotiations, upcoming events, and changes that could impact you. By attending, you ensure that you are up-to-date with the latest developments and can make informed decisions about your work and your future.

****3. Foster Solidarity:** Union meetings are a chance to connect with your fellow members. Building relationships and fostering a sense of community is essential for a strong union. When members know each other and understand each other's struggles and victories, it creates a united front that is much harder to break.

****4. Shape the Future:** Decisions made at union meetings often have long-lasting impacts. By participating, you have a direct hand in shaping policies and strategies. This might include electing union leaders, approving contracts, or deciding on strike actions. Your participation can help ensure that these decisions reflect the collective will of the members.

****5. Empowerment:** Attending meetings is an act of empowerment. It demonstrates your commitment to the collective good and your role in the union. It's a reminder that the union is not an abstract entity; it's a living, breathing organization made up of individuals like you, working together for a common cause.

****6. Accountability:** Regular attendance at union meetings keeps union leaders accountable to their members. It ensures that they are transparent about their actions and decisions and that they remain focused on the priorities of the membership.

In conclusion, union meetings are far more than just a routine gathering; they are a cornerstone of union democracy and solidarity. They ensure that every member has a voice, stays informed, and actively shapes the future of the union. So, the next time a union meeting is scheduled, remember the power that lies in your participation. Attend, engage, and be a part of the collective strength that makes your union a formidable force.

Get Involved. Stay Informed. Be Empowered.

Happy 2025!

First of all, I am excited to be in this new position on the Executive Board.

I want to start by thanking Everyone for the hard work you are doing out there helping the Public and always remember safety is a big priority.

There are a couple of topics I would like to talk about on this newsletter, and would like for you to keep them in mind as you are navigating our city streets:

- 1. Speed - Please watch your speed, when driving your bus and when driving a relief car.
- 2. Red lights - Watch out for red lights, especially the ones with cameras.

Both these issues continue to be many of the Union representations I keep seeing. Always remember you never know who is next to you in their personal car's and ready to report anything they see.

One last thing that keeps me busy with member representations is attendance. Try to reserve a couple days off for when you need them as sick leave. I see many unexcused absences due to no available sick leave.

Drive safe,

Gerald Hardeman,
ATU Local 758
Vice President



As we strive to provide our ATU Local 758 members with outstanding recreational opportunities every year, I would like to take this time to say a heartfelt thank you to all those that came out in support of 2024 Holiday “*splash of red*” party. You all helped to make it an evening to be remembered.

Vicky Simpson,
ATU Local 758
Executive Board Member
Recreation Chairperson

***The Need for Safety Barriers in City Buses:
A Crucial Step for Driver Protection***

In the dynamic and often crowded environment of city buses, the safety of both passengers and drivers remains a top priority. While buses serve as a lifeline for daily commuters, providing efficient and affordable public transportation, one critical aspect of safety has come into sharper focus in recent years: the need for safety barriers between the driver and passengers.

One of the primary reasons for installing safety barriers is to protect bus drivers from potential harm. Bus drivers are often subjected to aggressive behavior, verbal altercations, and sometimes even physical threats from passengers. Whether it's due to frustration over delays, disputes over fare payments, or other issues, these confrontations can escalate quickly.

A well-designed safety barrier helps shield drivers from physical attacks while also providing a clear boundary that discourages aggressive behavior. By offering a secure, enclosed space for drivers to operate, barriers not only enhance their safety but also promote a calm and controlled atmosphere within the bus.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of protective barriers has become even more evident. Health and hygiene concerns have made it essential to implement measures that minimize direct contact between individuals in public spaces. Safety barriers offer an additional layer of protection by reducing the physical interaction between the driver and passengers, which is particularly important for maintaining public trust in public transportation systems.

The implementation of safety barriers on transit buses is no longer a luxury, but a necessity. By providing a physical separation between drivers and passengers, these barriers enhance safety, reduce distractions, and foster a more organized and respectful environment on public transit. As Pierce Transit strives to provide safer, more reliable transportation options, the installation of safety barriers should be viewed as an essential step in creating a secure and efficient urban transit system for everyone.

In the wake of the recent tragedy at King County Metro we will be requesting that our properties implement more robust and secure safety barriers when procuring new equipment to protect our operators. All we are asking for is the ability to come home after our shifts in the same condition that we left the house in the morning!

Andrew Boring
Financial Secretary Treasurer

Notice of ATU Local 758 Executive Board

**Gerald Hardeman has won the position of Vice President by white ballot
as a result of the January 2025 Member meetings.**

Congratulations Jerry Hardeman!



Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 758

4

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 6, at 3:30pm (EB only)

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

Charter Meetings

Thursday, February 13th at 6:30 PM & Friday, February 14th at 10 AM

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

Wednesday, February 19th 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

Gerald Hardeman, 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