

Newsletter

June 2025 - atu758.org



President's Report - John Hoheusle

ATU Local 758

Fellow Members,

The alarming rise in assaults on transit operators is unacceptable—and it has to stop. Each of us who steps onto a coach, shuttle, or light rail vehicle deserves the right to finish our shift in the same condition we started it: safe and unharmed. Yet, too often, we are being asked to shoulder the risk of physical attacks, verbal abuse, and intimidation, while simply doing our jobs.

Transit operators are not punching bags. We are essential workers who provide a vital public service, and we demand the respect and protection that comes with that role.

🚒 Recent Incidents Underscore the Danger

Just in the past few weeks, members of our union have reported being spit on, punched, threatened, and verbally harassed. These incidents are not isolated—they are becoming more frequent, more violent, and more dangerous. Enough is enough!

📢 What We're Demanding

ATU Local758 is calling on management and local authorities to take immediate and meaningful steps, including:

- **Permanent operator barriers** and secure driver compartments
- **Increased presence of transit police and security personnel**
- **Strict enforcement and prosecution of assaults** under state and federal laws
- **De-escalation and self-defense training**—provided regularly and on paid time

A streamlined reporting system for assaults, with full union representation during any investigation

We're also pushing for legislation at the state and federal level that treats assaults on transit workers with the seriousness they deserve.

🗣️ We Need Every Voice

This fight will not be won in silence. If you've experienced an assault or witnessed one, report it immediately. Then report it to the union. Our power lies in documentation, in numbers, and in solidarity.

If you're frustrated, angry, or scared—you're not alone. But change doesn't happen unless we stand together and speak up. We will continue to raise our voices until meaningful protections are in place for every operator, every shift, every day.

Stay safe. Stay united. We've got your back.

In Solidarity,

John Hoheusle

President, ATU Local 758

Thank you!

I want to thank Everyone for the Hard work! We all need to be appreciated and work together keeping watch for each other's back. Remember, we are all in the same boat. This job is not an easy job! Keep up staying alert and watch-out for those red lights, and your speed.

Accident Safety Appeals Board (ASAB)

If you are involved in an accident and it is ruled preventable you have the right to go to the ASAB and appeal your case and try to get it reversed.

You will get a letter in the mail, telling you how the Board ruled it.

The board is made up of 3 Union members and 2 Mangers, a Union Representative will be available to meet with you before the meeting to advice on any related questions you might have.

Take care,

Gerald Hardeman,
Vice President
ATU Local 758

ATU Partners with FHE Health to Provide Confidential Mental Health and Substance Abuse Support

We are proud to announce a new partnership between the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) and **FHE Health**, a leading provider of behavioral health services, to offer a **dedicated Employee Assistance Program (EAP)** that focuses on **mental health and substance abuse treatment**.

This program was created with one goal in mind: **to give ATU members and their families the support they need, when they need it most—without fear, stigma, or risk to their careers.**

100% Confidential – Your Privacy Comes First

Unlike employer-sponsored EAPs, which may share usage data or other information with employers, the **ATU-FHE Health EAP is completely confidential**. No information shared with FHE Health will be disclosed to your employer or the union. You can seek help freely and privately, knowing your personal struggles stay personal.

Comprehensive, Personalized Support

Whether you're dealing with stress, anxiety, depression, trauma, or substance use issues, this program connects you with experienced professionals who understand the unique challenges ATU members face. Services include:

- Individual counseling and therapy
- Substance abuse treatment (inpatient and outpatient)
- Mental health and wellness support
- 24/7 access to crisis intervention
- Family and relationship counseling

(Report continues on next page)

(Fin Sec FHE Health report continues)

Why This Matters

As transit workers, you show up every day to serve your communities—often under pressure, in high-stress environments, and with long, irregular hours. We recognize that taking care of others starts with taking care of yourself. This new EAP makes it easier to reach out for help, without worrying about your job or reputation.

Your mental health matters. Your privacy matters. And your union has your back.

How to Access the Program

ATU members can contact FHE Health directly, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at:

(866) 276-1610

There's no cost to reach out, and your information stays between you and the professionals helping you.

More information on our website; atu758.org

In Memory of Walter Waisath

Union Leader, Transit Advocate, Devoted Husband

Passed Away: June 3, 2025

It is with deep respect and profound sadness that we mark the passing of Walter Waisath, former union president and lifelong champion of working people, who died on June 3, 2025.

Walt was not only a strong and principled union leader—he was a steadfast friend to the labor movement and a tireless advocate for public transit. His legacy is one of unwavering dedication to fairness, dignity, and opportunity for every transit worker.

As president of the union, Walt played a pivotal role in preserving Sound Transit work and retaining union jobs at Pierce Transit during times of uncertainty and change. His efforts safeguarded livelihoods and strengthened the foundation of transit service in the region.

For Walt, the fight for workers' rights wasn't just a job—it was personal. Both he and his beloved wife Linda were transit operators, sharing a deep love for the community they served. In a moment that beautifully captured their shared values, they rode the bus together to their wedding in downtown Tacoma—a testament to their belief in transit, togetherness, and the importance of everyday people.

Walt led with integrity, conviction, and a deep sense of humanity. He believed that strong unions build strong communities, and he worked every day to make that belief a reality.

He will be remembered not only for what he accomplished, but for how he did it—with humor, humility, and heart. Walter Waisath leaves behind a legacy that will continue to guide and inspire, and he will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of working alongside him.

Our hearts are with Linda and the entire Waisath family.

Rest in power, Walt.

Andrew Boring, Financial Secretary Treasurer
ATU Local 758

Elections for Local 758

2025 is an election year for our Local. Starting in September we will begin the process of electing officers to serve from January 1st, 2026 through December 31st, 2028. This important process is how we as body choose our leaders.

The Nominations will occur at the First meeting of the Local during the month of September.

September 11th, 2025 at 6:30pm

Nomination Criteria

In order to be nominated to a position in the local you must meet the following criteria.

- 1) Be a member of the local in good standing
- 2) Must be a member for 2 years as of September 10th, 2025
- 3) You may self-nominate or be nominated by any member in good standing or at the nomination meeting in September.
- 4) You may submit an absent member nomination and acceptance letter to the office of this Local by close of business(4:00pm) on Thursday, September 4th, 2025

Nomination Letters

Nomination letters may be mailed or hand delivered to the local by the date listed above. They must include the Specific position that you are running for and your full legal name. All letters must be addressed to the Recording Secretary of the Union, William Dehnel. Letters that do not meet these criteria will not be accepted for nomination per the rules laid out by the International ATU and this locals specific By-Laws. Email nomination and acceptance letters will not be accepted.

For questions or assistance contact

William Dehnel

Recording Secretary ATU 758

Phone or Text: (253)754-4584

Email: 758recordingsec@atu758.org

ATU 758

6923 Lakewood Dr W, B-1

Lakewood WA 98467

Office: (253)474-3123

Elections for Local 758

The following positions are going to be open for nomination.

ATU Local 758 Officers

- President
- Vice President
- Financial Secretary
- Recording Secretary

Executive Board Officers

Pierce Transit

- Operations Position 1
- Operations Position 2
- Operations Position 3
- Maintenance Position 1
- Maintenance Position 2
- Facilities Maintenance
- Administration Services & CSR Marketing
- CSR Fixed Route
- CSR Shuttle
- Service Supervisors

Longview – River Cities Transit

- Fixed Route
- Paratransit

Sound Transit

- Rail Operators
- Mechanics

ATU Local 758's Annual Summer Picnic

Saturday July 12, 2025 12-5pm

Tacoma Sportsman Club, 16409 Canyon Rd E, Puyallup WA

Camp-out Friday, July 11, 2025

**Bring lawn chairs and come ready to
have fun!**

ATU Local 758 Annual Golf Tournament

**Shotgun Start
Saturday, August 9, 2025**

Eagle's Pride Golf Course

Teams of 4

atu758.org



ATU LOCAL 758
Annual Ron Thornton Memorial Golf Tournament
August 9, 2025 – 9am sharp!
Eagle's Pride Golf Course 1529 Mounts Rd SW, DuPont, WA

FULL NAME	ENTRY FEE (\$100)	Union Office received on:

TEAM TOTAL:

Registrant Information: (This is a pre-paid Event! All registrations and payments must be received by 7/31/2025)

VERY IMPORTANT

Team of 4-\$100.00 per person or Single-\$100.00

-All Fees are Non-Refundable

-Incomplete entry forms will not be accepted.

-Sign-ups are now until July 31, 2025.

-All team entries are subject to space availability

MAIL or DROP OFF- COMPLETED FORMS WITH PAYMENT TO UNION OFFICE:

ATU Local 758
 6923 LAKEWOOD DR W, B-1
 TACOMA, WA 98467

-Cash/Checks only

Please ensure that the dress code is followed to ensure a pleasant visit at Eagle's Pride Golf Course.



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, July 3rd, at 3:30pm (EB only)

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

Charter Meetings

Thursday, July 10th at 6:30 PM & Friday, July 11th at 10 AM

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

Wednesday, July 16th at 7:15 PM in Longview,

(upstairs lunchroom: 254 Oregon Way, Longview WA)

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**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