

Newsletter

October 2025 - atu758.org



President's Report - John Hoheusle

Thank you- First and foremost, I want to thank you for the trust you have placed in me to serve another term as your representative. It is an honor to stand with such dedicated transit professionals, and I remain committed to ensuring that our safety, well-being, and fair treatment are always the top priorities

I also want to recognize and thank all the candidates who stepped forward to run for office and represent your co-workers. It takes real courage and dedication to put your name on the ballot. Whether elected or not, your willingness to serve strengthens our union and reflects the spirit of solidarity that makes us who we are.

Winter Driving Safety- As colder weather approaches, it's important to prepare for the challenges winter can bring. Snow, ice, and reduced visibility increase risks on the road. Please keep these safety practices in mind:

- Drive cautiously and reduce speed on slippery roads
- Allow extra stopping distance and keep headlights on for visibility
- Conduct thorough pre-trip inspections, focusing on tires, wipers, and defrosters

Your safety and the safety of your passengers depends on preparation, awareness, and vigilance.

Cell Phone Usage While Driving- Distracted driving remains a serious hazard. Using a cell phone while operating a transit vehicle puts everyone at risk. Let's commit to staying fully focused on the road, no call, text, or notification is worth a life. By setting the highest safety standards, we protect each other and the public we serve.

Upcoming Wellness Opportunities- The wellness program is designed to support your health and help create balance. By completing the qualifying events, members will earn two (2) additional wellness days off, on top of the regular program benefits. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity for rest, recovery, and quality time with family.

Time Off and Leave Reminders- Please make sure you have available leave on the books when planning time off. Whether for vacation, wellness days, or personal matters. Having sufficient leave balances helps ensure your requests can be approved and prevents scheduling conflicts. Proper planning helps protect your time and keeps service running smoothly for everyone.

In closing, Thank you again for your trust and support. Together we will continue to strengthen our Union by prioritizing safety, health and professionalism every day.

In solidarity,

John Hoheusle, ATU 758 President

Preventing Assaults Starts with Smart Choices Behind the Wheel

Andrew Boring, ATU 758 Financial Secretary/Treasurer

Every operator deserves to go home safely at the end of the day. Unfortunately, operator assaults continue to be a concern—and many of these incidents are preventable with consistent use of available tools and adherence to safety protocols.

Barricade Use Is Critical-

One of the most effective tools for reducing operator assaults is the driver's safety barricade. Yet alarmingly, **almost half of the operators assaulted so far this year were not using the barricade at the time of the incident.** This protective shield is there for your safety—**please use it every time you are behind the wheel.** Whether you're on a short route or a full shift, the barricade must be fully deployed and latched to provide the maximum level of protection.

Fare Disputes: Don't Engage-

A significant portion of recent assaults stem from fare disputes. Let's be clear: **Pierce Transit policy prohibits operators from enforcing fare payment.** Your role is to inform, not enforce. If a passenger refuses to pay, **do not argue or attempt to block their entry.** Engaging in a fare dispute can escalate quickly—and it is simply not worth the risk.

Words Matter: Don't Escalate-

We've also seen an unfortunate trend where verbal exchanges between operators and passengers escalate into physical altercations. **Raising your voice, using sarcasm, profanity or expressing frustration can turn a tense moment into an assault situation.** Stay calm. Be professional. Walk away from confrontation by calling for support and focusing on safety over pride.

Close the Door—Immediately-

Another preventable scenario involves passengers who are asked to leave the bus. Once a disruptive passenger steps off the coach, **you must immediately close the door.** Too many assaults have occurred because the door remained open, and the individual re-entered to attack the operator. If you've asked someone to leave and they comply, **shut the door and move the coach** when it's safe to do so.

Your Safety Is Our Priority-

We're committed to doing everything we can to protect you, but your decisions in the moment matter most. Use your barricade. Avoid fare disputes. De-escalate verbally. And always close the door promptly when a passenger exits under conflict.

Let's work together to make every shift safer—for you, your passengers, and your fellow operators.

Stay alert. Stay protected. Stay professional.

From Your Vice President's desk- Jerry Hardeman

I want to start by thanking everyone for allowing me the honor of serving as your Union Vice President for another three years. We have a long road ahead of us, and it will take all of us working together to meet the challenges before us.

It's important that we continue to show up to work—and show up on time. Let's remember to slow our speeds, pay close attention to red lights, and stay cautious in everything we do. Every decision we make has an impact, and by prioritizing safety and responsibility, we protect not just ourselves but also one another.

The weather is changing, and the roads are becoming wet and slippery. Please pay close attention to your driving, slow down when necessary, and give yourself plenty of space to help avoid accidents.

On a brighter note, the holiday party is just around the corner! Get ready to break out your dancing shoes and join us for a fun night of good food, celebration and good company.

Withdrawal from the Recording Secretary Position - William Dehnel

First, I want to reassure everyone that I will continue to remain actively involved in supporting ATU Local 758. I currently hold several other roles within our union and broader labor community, including:

- **Vice President**, Amalgamated Transit Union Legislative Council of Washington
- **Shop Steward**, ATU Local 758
- **Recording Secretary**, ATU 758 Pride Caucus
- **Chair**, ATU 758 COPE Committee

In addition, I have previously served as a delegate to both the **Pierce County Central Labor Council** and the **Washington State Labor Council**.

I will continue serving our Local in these capacities for as long as it pleases the membership, the Executive Board, and the President of ATU 758.

My decision to withdraw from the Recording Secretary position is primarily for personal reasons, which I will not go into detail about here. I will simply say that it has been an honor and a privilege to serve in this role over the past three years.

As the saying goes, *"Many hands make light work."* Our Local is a democratic organization that thrives when members step up and get involved. Every person who contributes their time and energy strengthens our Local and helps secure its future. Welcoming new officers and leaders ensures that our union remains strong and resilient through whatever challenges may come.

I have full confidence that **Christi** will be an outstanding Recording Secretary, and I look forward to seeing her make the position her own.

Pierce County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO



2025 General Election Endorsements

City of Tacoma

Mayor: Anders Ibsen

Council-at-Large Position #6

Latasha Palmer

State Senate

26th LD : Deb Krishnadasan

District #4:

Silong Chhun

Pierce County Council

District 5: Bryan Yambe

District #5:

Joe Bushnell

Zev Rose Cook (dual endorsement)

Port of Tacoma

District 1: John McCarthy

District 2: Dick Marzano

District 4: Cyrus Donato

Puyallup School

District No. 3

Director - Position No. 1: Melissa Bedford

Director - Position No. 4: David Berg

City of Gig Harbor

Council Position 3: Emily Stone

Tacoma School District No. 10

Director - Position No. 1: Lisa Keating

City of Puyallup

Council - District No. 1

Position No. 2: Jeff Bennett

Bethel School District No. 403

Director - District No. 3:

Roseanna Camacho

Council - District No. 2

Position No. 2: Heather Schiller

Parks Tacoma

Position #1: Alisa Lee

Council - District No. 3

Position No. 2: Lindsay Smolko

Position #2: Malachi Cabera

Town of Steilacoom

Mayor: Elizabeth Grasher

Position #3: Pete Reyes

Bronwyn Clarke (dual endorsement)



6923 Lakewood Drive West, B-1 Tacoma, Washington 98467-3221 (253)474-3123 atu758.org

October 15, 2025 Election Results

General Election

William Dehnel

Withdrew

***Christi Robinson**

Recording Secretary -Jan, 1 2026 to Dec 31, 2029

Operator Position #1

Rebecca McNeil

70

***Jessica Sherbinow**

82 E-Board Position #1 -Jan, 1 2026 to Dec 31, 2029

Operations Position #3

Adam Mickelson

52

Cornelius Owens

59

Ronnie Strong

34

Run-off election November 19, 2025 between Adam Mickelson and Cornelius Owens

Service Supervisors

***Mark Davilla**

36 E-Board Service Supervisor -Jan, 1 2026 to Dec 31, 2029

Vicky Simpson

14

Thank you!

A big thank you to everyone who ran in this election.

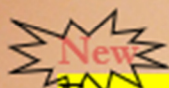
We understand how challenging it can be to put yourself out there, but you did it to help your fellow coworkers, and that means a lot.

Thank you as well to everyone who came out to vote!

Your participation makes our Union stronger!

Thank You

ATU Local 758, Tacoma, Washington 2025 Annual Holiday Partee'



Emerald Queen Casino Ballroom & Conference Center
5700 Pacific Highway E, Fife, WA 98424

If you desire, offering blocked hotel casino rooms (reserve early, limited!)

Saturday, December 20, 2025
6:00pm - Midnight (doors open 5:00pm)

ACTIVE ATU MEMBERS ONLY

Table Seating: Open

Menu<Buffet> Hors D'oeuvres, beverages - fresh brewed coffee, assorted teas & soda, and water. Varsity of holiday desserts. Buffet opens at 6:30pm - until all gone.

On-site Bar (Well drinks) for purchase - no cash

Entertainment: Live Band/DJ/Dancing (let's enjoy ourselves and have fun.

Photo Ops

Holiday Raffle Drawings

Event Point of contact: Vicky Simpson, ATU Recreation Committee Chairwomen, Cell #253-549-6308

Attire: Festive holiday Black & Gold



*Join Us for our Annual
Retiree Holiday Luncheon
Saturday, December 13th, 2025*

12 pm – 3 pm

La Quinta 1425 E. 27th St

Tacoma, WA

\$30 (includes tax & tip)

RSVP to

Lynne Proctor 253-304-4182

All are welcome!



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

Executive Board meeting -Thursday, November 6, at 3:30pm (EB only)

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

Charter Meetings

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

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

Wednesday, November 19th at 7:15 PM in Longview,

(upstairs lunchroom: 254 Oregon Way, Longview WA)

Happy Thanksgiving!



EMAIL ADDRESSES AND CONTACT NUMBERS

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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