



Newsletter

January 2026 - atu758.org

President's Report

Wishing Everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

Dear Members,

Wishing you and your families a joyful and healthy New Year. As we step into 2026, we're reminded of the strength of our community, the compassion we share, and the unity that binds us together.

We are incredibly grateful for the hard work, professionalism, and dedication each of you brings to your job. Whether you're operating buses, maintaining equipment, or supporting transit operations in countless ways, your efforts keep our system moving and our communities connected. Your work is essential, and it never goes unnoticed.

Looking Ahead: The Next Three Years

As we enter the next three years, it's clearer than ever that we must stand together in unity and strength. Too many of our members continue to face unfair treatment, excessive discipline, and workplace policies that fail to respect the realities of the jobs we do. These challenges are not isolated, they are systemic, and they demand a collective, unified response.

In the months ahead, our union will call on all of you to stand in solidarity as we push back against unjust practices and hold management accountable for ensuring a respectful, safe, and fair workplace. We cannot and will not accept a culture of heavy-handed discipline or disregard for our members' well-being. Real change comes only when we raise our voices together.

When that time comes, **your participation, unity, and strength will make all the difference.**

As we close out the year, please take care of yourselves and one another. Enjoy this season, stay safe both on and off the job, and remember: your union stands with you today, tomorrow, and through every challenge ahead.

In solidarity,

**John Hoheusle,
ATU 758 President**

Vice President's Report, Gerald Hardeman

Safe Speeds Save Lives: A Reminder for All Bus Operators

Every day, bus operators carry one of the most important responsibilities in public service: the safety of our riders, pedestrians, and ourselves. One of the most critical factors in that responsibility is **driving at safe and appropriate speeds.**

Speed is not just about posted limits, it's about conditions. Traffic congestion, weather, road design, construction zones, school areas, and passenger movement inside the bus all require us to adjust our speed accordingly. A speed that may feel acceptable in one situation can quickly become unsafe in another.

Driving too fast, even slightly, reduces reaction time and increases stopping distance. On a bus, that risk is magnified. Sudden stops can cause injuries to standing passengers, seniors, and people with disabilities. Pedestrians and cyclists depend on us to anticipate their movements and operate defensively at all times.

Vice President's Report continues ...

It's also important to be realistic about today's work environment. **Transit managers are increasingly heavy-handed with discipline and will not hesitate to seek suspensions or termination for speed-related incidents**, regardless of intent. Many operators who believed they were doing the right thing have still faced severe consequences. Protecting yourself means protecting your record.

Safe driving speeds help safeguard:

- **Your passengers**
- **Your professional reputation**
- **Your job and livelihood**

Remember:

- Slow down in high-risk areas such as intersections, bus stops, school zones, and downtown corridors
- Adjust speed for conditions, not just posted limits
- Smooth, controlled driving prevents injuries and complaints
- Getting there safely always matters more than getting there fast

Our riders trust us with their lives every day. Let's continue to earn that trust while also protecting ourselves in an environment where mistakes, real or perceived, can carry serious consequences.

Safe driving isn't just policy. It's professionalism, protection, and pride in the work we do.

Thanks, Gerald Hardeman

Standing Together: Why Union Membership Matters More Than Ever

Our union exists for one simple reason: when we stand together, we are stronger. Every wage increase, benefit improvement, safety protection, and workplace right we enjoy today was won because workers chose solidarity over standing alone. Union membership is not just a line on a paycheck deduction—it is a collective commitment to protect one another and to build a better workplace for everyone.

Today, that solidarity is being tested.

We are aware that there are individuals actively working with outside organizations—such as the Freedom Foundation—whose stated goal is to encourage union members to leave the union. These efforts are not about strengthening our workplace or empowering workers collectively. They are designed to weaken our union by reducing membership, resources, and our ability to advocate effectively on behalf of all employees.

It's important to be clear about what leaving the union really means. When members opt out, they still benefit from the wages, benefits, and protections the union negotiates, but they no longer contribute to the collective effort that makes those gains possible. Over time, fewer members means less bargaining power, fewer resources to enforce contracts, and a weaker voice at the table when decisions are made about our jobs.

Union strength is not abstract—it shows up in real, tangible ways:

- Stronger contracts** with better pay, benefits, and job security
- Representation and protection** when workplace issues arise
- A collective voice** in decisions that affect our work and our futures
- Accountability** for management through an enforceable contract

Organizations that promote leaving the union often frame it as “personal choice” or “freedom.” But real freedom at work comes from having a strong, unified voice—one that ensures fairness, dignity, and respect for everyone, not just a select few.

Fin Sec's Report continues on next page...

Fin Sec's Report continues....

Our union is member-led. That means it is only as strong as the participation and commitment of its members. If you have concerns, questions, or ideas for improvement, the solution is not to walk away—it is to get involved. Attend meetings, talk with your stewards, ask questions, and help shape the direction of your union. Change and progress come from engagement, not disengagement.

Now more than ever, unity matters. When outside groups try to divide us, our response should be clear and confident: ***we believe in collective action, we believe in standing together, and we believe that our union is strongest when we all participate.***

Solidarity isn't just a word—it's our power.

Andrew Boring, ATU Local 758 Financial Secretary/Treasurer



Dear Members,

On behalf of **ATU Local 758**, we extend our sincere appreciation to **William Dehnel** for serving as Recording Secretary for the 2023-2025 Executive Board Term. William, your dedication, hard work, and commitment to keeping our local organized, informed, and accountable have made a real difference. The time and effort you put into this role helped strengthen our union, and **ATU 758 is grateful for all of your hard work and service to the membership.**

We are also proud to welcome **Christi Robinson** as our new Recording Secretary. Christi, thank you for stepping up to serve the membership and take on this important responsibility. We look forward to working together as we continue to protect our contract, defend our members, and move ATU 758 forward in unity and strength.

Please join us in thanking William for their service and welcoming Christi into their new role.

In Solidarity,

John Hoheusle, President, ATU Local 758

*******January 22, 2026 Election Results*******

<u>Operator Position #1</u>	<u>#Votes</u>	<u>Operations Position #3</u>	<u>#Votes</u>
<u>Rebecca McNeil</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>Adam Mickelson</u>	<u>51</u>
<u>Jessica Sherbinow</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>Cornelius Owens</u>	<u>75</u>
		<u>Ronnie Strong</u>	<u>39</u>

Run-off election between Adam Mickelson and Cornelius Owens is scheduled for Monday, February 9th, 2026 6am to 6pm at Pierce Transit Bus Lot.



Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 758

4

6923 Lakewood DR W B1 Tacoma, WA 98467-3221

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 5, at 3:30pm (EB only)

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

Charter Meetings

Thursday, February 12th at 6:30 PM & Friday, February 13th at 10 AM

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

Wednesday, February 18th at 7:15 PM in Longview,

(upstairs lunchroom: 254 Oregon Way, Longview WA)

Happy New Year!

EMAIL ADDRESSES AND CONTACT NUMBERS

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