



Newsletter

July 2026 - atu758.org

President's Report

Summer Safety: Protecting Our Members During Construction Season

As we move through another busy summer, construction projects are happening throughout our service area. Road closures, detours, lane shifts, flaggers, and heavy equipment have become part of our daily work environment. While schedules and production demands continue, nothing is more important than making sure every member goes home safely at the end of their shift.

Our members face these challenges every day. Operators are navigating changing traffic patterns while safely transporting passengers. Maintenance employees are working in hot shops, on the bus lot, and around moving vehicles while performing the work that keeps our fleet on the road. Every department faces increased risks during the summer months.

Safety Must Always Come Before Speed - Construction zones require patience and extra attention. Slow down, expect the unexpected, and never let pressure to stay on schedule influence safe decision-making. A few extra minutes is always better than an injury, collision, or preventable incident.

Remember:

- Watch for workers, pedestrians, cyclists, and flaggers.
- Expect traffic patterns to change from one day to the next.
- Leave yourself extra stopping distance.
- Report unsafe work zones or traffic conditions to management and your union so they can be addressed.

No member should ever feel pressured to take unnecessary risks because of time or production expectations.

Working Safely in the Heat- Summer heat creates additional hazards, especially for our maintenance members working in the shop, bus lot, and outside service areas.

Heat-related illnesses can happen quickly. Watch for signs of heat exhaustion, including:

- Dizziness or lightheadedness
- Heavy sweating or suddenly stopping sweating
- Muscle cramps
- Headaches
- Nausea
- Fatigue or confusion

Pres's report continues on next page...

Protect yourself by:

- Drinking water throughout the day before you become thirsty.
- Taking your scheduled breaks whenever possible.
- Using shaded or cooler areas to recover when available.
- Looking out for your coworkers and speaking up if someone appears to be struggling.
- Wearing appropriate clothing and using cooling methods when available.
- Looking out for one another has always been one of the strongest traditions of our union.
- Every Member Has the Right to a Safe Workplace

Our contract and workplace safety laws exist for a reason. If you believe a task or work area presents an unsafe condition, report it immediately. Safety concerns should never be ignored, and every member has the right to raise those concerns without fear of retaliation.

Safety isn't just a policy; it's a commitment we make to each other.

As construction continues and temperatures climb, let's stay focused, watch each other's backs, and make smart decisions every day. The job will always be there tomorrow. Our goal is to make sure every one of us is too.

Reliable attendance is an important part of serving the public and supporting your coworkers. Every time someone is unexpectedly absent, it places additional stress on fellow employees who may have to work overtime, change assignments, or take on extra responsibilities. We all play a role in keeping our workplace running smoothly.

At the same time, life happens. Illness, family emergencies, and other unexpected events can affect anyone. That is why it is so important to understand the different types of leave available to you and to use them appropriately.

We encourage every member to regularly review their leave balances. Don't wait until you need time off to find out how many sick leave, vacation, personal, or other leave hours you have available to you. Knowing your balances allows you to plan ahead and helps prevent unnecessary attendance issues.

It is equally important to understand the protected leave options that may be available. Depending on your situation, you may qualify for protected leave under state or federal law or under provisions of our collective bargaining agreement. Protected leave can provide important job protections when you or an eligible family member experience a serious health condition or another qualifying event.

If you believe you may qualify for protected leave, don't assume or wait until it's too late. Contact Human Resources to begin the process and reach out to your union representative if you have questions about your rights or need assistance navigating the process. The earlier you ask questions, the more options you may have.

Remember:

- Review your leave balances regularly
- Use leave responsibly and plan ahead whenever possible
- Learn what protected leave options are available to you
- Contact your Union if you need help understanding your rights or believe your leave is being handled incorrectly

If you have questions about your available leave, need help understanding your options, or are unsure whether you qualify for protected leave, don't hesitate to reach out.

In Solidarity, John Hoheusle

From the Vice President's Desk

As our union's main Shop Steward, I'd like to share a few recommendations to help everyone continue their employment with Pierce Transit.

As a group, we need to slow down, come to complete stops at stop signs and red lights, and follow all traffic laws. We don't need to give management reasons to discipline us. They don't care who you are or how many years of service you have, they will hold everyone accountable.

Please stay off your phones while driving and while sitting in the driver's seat. There are people who will report what they see or call it in. It's simply not worth risking your job.

Let's look out for one another, work safely, and avoid giving management unnecessary opportunities for disciplinary action.

Please remember: If anything happens on your bus or around your bus, call it in immediately. The most important thing is your safety and the safety of everyone around you.

These are simple but important practices if you want to continue your employment. Protect yourself by following the rules, staying alert, and documenting incidents when they happen. Taking these steps can help prevent unnecessary disciplinary issues and keep everyone safe.

Gerald Hardeman (Jery)

Contract Negotiations Underway Across Our Properties

As we move through 2026, our union is actively engaged in important contract negotiations that will shape wages, benefits, and working conditions for members across multiple properties.

We are currently negotiating new agreements at Sound Transit and Paratransit Services in Longview. In addition, negotiations at Pierce Transit are expected to open later this year. These bargaining sessions are critical opportunities to secure contracts that reflect the value, professionalism, and dedication our members bring to the job every day.

One of the most common questions members ask during negotiations is: "What can we expect for wages?" While every contract is unique and negotiations depend on many factors, our bargaining teams rely on several key economic indicators when advocating for fair wage increases.

Among the most important tools used during negotiations is the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which measures inflation and changes in the cost of goods and services over time. CPI data helps demonstrate how rising prices affect working families and why wages must keep pace with inflation in order to protect purchasing power.

We also examine comparable contracts at similar transit and transportation companies throughout the region and beyond. Looking at wage settlements and benefit improvements achieved by workers performing similar jobs helps establish industry standards and strengthens our position at the bargaining table.

Another major consideration is the cost of living in the communities where our members live and work. Housing costs, fuel prices, groceries, healthcare, and other everyday expenses continue to rise across Washington State. Our goal is to negotiate contracts that recognize these economic realities and ensure members can maintain a strong standard of living.

Strong contracts are never guaranteed, they are won through preparation, solidarity, and member involvement. As negotiations continue, we encourage all members to stay informed, participate when opportunities arise, and support their bargaining teams. Together, we can continue building contracts that respect the essential work our members perform every day.

Andrew Boring, Financial Secretary Treasurer

Save the date!

ATU Local 758's Annual

PICNIC

Saturday, July 18, 2026, 12 to 5pm

Spanaway Park 15588 Bressmann Blvd S

Spanaway, WA



Join us for good food, great music, and exciting prize drawings! Tickets just a \$1 each or 6 for \$5.



Bring your folding chairs and come ready to relax and enjoy a great time!!



Be prepared to hit the field! We are planning a softball game if we can round up enough players! Bring your equipment!

253.474.3123



Get your teams together!

**ATU Local 758's Annual
Golf Tournament**



at

**Eagle's Pride Golf Course
1529 Mounts Rd SW, DuPont, WA**

Saturday, August 8, 2026

9am Shotgun Start

All are invited to play!

Teams of 4 – \$100.00 per person

For Information: atu758.org or Gerald Hardeman 253-533-0476

**This is a pre-paid event!
All registrations and payment are due by 7/31/2026!**



Amalgamated Transit Union Local 758
6923 Lakewood Dr W, B-1, Tacoma WA 98467

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 this meeting. Without Union representation present, I choose not to respond to any questions or statements."

UNION MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTICE

Executive Board meeting – Thursday, August 6th at 3:30pm (**EB only**)
(ATU Local 758: 6923 Lakewood Dr. B-1, Tacoma, WA)

Charter Meetings

Thursday, August 13th at 6:30pm & Friday, August 14th at 10am
(ATU Local 758: 6923 Lakewood Dr. B-1, Tacoma, WA)

Wednesday, August 19th at 7:15pm in Longview,
(upstairs lunchroom: 254 Oregon Way, Longview WA)

EMAIL ADDRESSES AND CONTACT NUMBERS

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