



Newsletter

October 2026 - atu758.org

President's Report

OUR RIDERS ARE COUNTING ON US, AND OUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT

ATU 758,

We are at an important moment for public transit and our community. The upcoming tax vote will have a direct impact on the future of transit service and our ability to provide the reliable transportation our community depends on.

But funding is only part of the equation.

WE HAVE TO BE THERE TO PROVIDE THE SERVICE

Our passengers depend on us every single day. They depend on that bus showing up so they can:

Get to work and keep their jobs

Get to school

Get to doctor and medical appointments

Pick up their children

Get groceries and necessities

Maintain their independence

When a run is missed, someone pays the price. A passenger may lose wages because they cannot get to work. A student may miss class. A patient may miss a medical appointment. A parent may be left without a way to get home. These are not just "missed runs" on a report. These are people's lives.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Local 758 understands that employees get sick, emergencies happen, and our members have contractual and legally protected leave rights. Those rights must be respected.

But we also have to be honest with ourselves: when employees who are able to work do not show up, it puts additional pressure on everyone else and contributes to service being left uncovered.

Our operators and maintenance employees are already working hard to keep the system moving. We cannot continue putting additional burdens on the members who consistently show up and do their jobs.

When one person misses work without a legitimate reason, another member may have to work overtime, a run may go uncovered, or a passenger may be left standing at a bus stop.

That is not fair to our members, and it is not fair to our passengers.

SAFETY FIRST, FALL WEATHER IS HERE

As we move into fall and winter, safety has to remain our number-one priority. We all know what happens when the weather changes in the Pacific Northwest: rain, wet pavement, reduced visibility, slick roads, leaves covering the roadway, darkness during more of our operating hours, and eventually the possibility of frost and ice.

This is not the time to take chances behind the wheel. **SLOW DOWN.**

Running behind schedule is frustrating. Missing a time point is frustrating. Having passengers waiting is frustrating. None of it is worth an accident.

Do not allow the pressure to maintain a schedule to cause you to drive faster than conditions safely allow. A schedule can be adjusted. A bus can be delayed. An accident can change someone's life forever.

INCREASE YOUR FOLLOWING DISTANCE

Wet roads require additional stopping distance. Give yourself the room you need to react to:

- Sudden stops
- Pedestrians
- Vehicles cutting in front of you
- Bicycles and motorcycles
- Poor visibility
- Slick pavement
- Unexpected roadway conditions

Following too closely leaves you with fewer options when something goes wrong.

DON'T LET THE SCHEDULE OVERRIDE SAFETY

Our members should never feel pressured to compromise safety because a bus is running late. You are the professional behind the wheel.

Use your training, judgment, and experience. Adjust your driving to the conditions around you. If weather or roadway conditions require you to slow down, slow down.

Getting a passenger to their destination safely is more important than arriving at a particular time on the schedule.

LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER

Fall is also a good reminder that safety does not stop when we leave the driver's seat.

Watch your footing around buses, in the bus lot, in the yard, and around facilities. Wet leaves, rain, mud, standing water, and slippery surfaces can create hazards for operators, maintenance employees, and everyone else working around the system.

Take the extra second. Look where you are stepping. Don't rush. Our goal is simple:

Everyone goes home safely at the end of the day.

Pres's report continues on next page...

THE TAX VOTE IS ABOUT MORE THAN A TAX

The upcoming vote is about the future of public transportation in our community.

If we want a transit system that can provide dependable service, we need the resources and workforce to make that happen.

Our community cannot afford to lose service.

Our passengers cannot afford to lose service.

And our members cannot afford to ignore what is happening to the agency.

Public support for transit matters. Reliable funding matters. Staffing matters. Attendance matters. Safety matters.

All of these things are connected.

LET'S SHOW OUR COMMUNITY WHY TRANSIT MATTERS

Local 758 members are proud to provide an essential public service. Every time you start a bus, repair a vehicle, maintain a facility, answer a passenger's question, or help keep the system running, you are making a difference.

But we need everyone to do their part.

If you are scheduled to work and you are able to work, be there.

Take care of your attendance. Know your leave balances. Use your contractual and protected leave appropriately. Communicate with the agency when issues arise.

And when you are at work, take pride in what you do.

OUR MESSAGE IS SIMPLE

Our passengers are counting on us.

Our coworkers are counting on us.

Our community is counting on us.

And every member deserves to go home safely at the end of their shift.

Let's stand together as Local 758 members and make sure our community understands what is at stake.

WE NEED RELIABLE FUNDING.

WE NEED RELIABLE SERVICE.

WE NEED A RELIABLE WORKFORCE.

WE NEED TO PUT SAFETY FIRST.

In Solidarity, John Hoheusle

Join us at the Annual
Retiree Holiday Luncheon

Saturday, December 12, 2026 12 Noon- 3PM
La Quinta
1425 E. 27th St. Tacoma, WA 98421

Cost \$30 (includes tax & tip)

Everyone is welcome!

*Please RSVP to:
Lynne Proctor 253.304.4182*



ATU Local 758 Holiday Party

Get ready to celebrate the season at the ATU Local 758 Holiday Party! Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 12, 2026, from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Clover Park Technical College Rotunda, located at 4500 Steilacoom Blvd., Lakewood, WA.

Enjoy an evening filled with delicious catered food, lively music, and exciting prizes. If you plan to indulge in some BYOB beverages, please ensure you have a designated driver to get you home safely.

This festive event is exclusively for those 21 and older. Dress to impress in your best holiday-themed attire featuring green, white, or silver. For more information, reach out to the Union Office at 253.474.3123. We look forward to celebrating with you!



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, November 5th at 3:30pm (**EB only**)
(ATU Local 758: 6923 Lakewood Dr. B-1, Tacoma, WA)

Charter Meetings

Thursday, November 12th at 6:30pm & Friday, November 13th at 10am
(ATU Local 758: 6923 Lakewood Dr. B-1, Tacoma, WA)

Wednesday, November 18th at 7:15pm 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, Acting Recording Secretary: 758recordingsec@atu758.org (253)474-3123

Pattie Clark, Office/Web Admin: unionoffice@atu758.org (253)474-3123