The President’s Report

by President, Paul J. Bachtel

Over Zealous Editing

Our Election Committee is charged with the responsibility of conducting a fair, honest, and open election free from sustainable election challenges. A significant part of its work is in reviewing articles submitted to the News Review and editing out any content that the committee considers electioneering. Electioneering is using union resources to influence membership voting.

Past election committees have approached this task by evaluating News Review submissions on the basis of whether the submission is consistent with past News Review content. Our current Election Committee has taken a much more aggressive approach editing out any content that the Committee believes could in any way affect the outcome of the election. This approach prevents your incumbent Officers from expressing opinion(s) on almost any Union issue.

So what’s the harm? None really, as any content blocked by the Election Committee can simply be published following the election.

So what’s the risk? If a challenge to an election is upheld, the cost to rerun the election will be in the tens of thousands of dollars.

While I don’t necessarily agree with the over zealous editing of our present Election Committee, I know its members have our best interests at heart and I thank them for their work on our behalf.

In solidarity,
Paul J. Bachtel
President Business/Representative
At the March cycle of membership meetings the following business was addressed:

The membership approved the request to pursue Carol Leak’s grievance to arbitration.

The membership approved the request to pursue Michael Maw’s grievance to arbitration.

Motion: By Andrew Jeromksy to have the membership to direct the Union to send the Wages and Conditions Subcommittee contract proposal to King County Metro. Motion carried

Motion: By Katherine Cartwright “We as Shop Stewards and potential Shop Stewards wish to move the following motion: starting with the April 2015 Saturday morning union meeting, before the union meeting, at 10 AM until 11 AM, each and every month going forward, at the Seattle Labor Temple. The monthly education and strategy discussion sanctioned by ATU 587 is suggested to be facilitated by one of the two ATU587 Vice Presidents and with members sharing knowledge of issues concerning members and help strategize on actions. All Shop Stewards and potential Shop Stewards are encouraged to attend. ATU 587 President is requested to provide to those requesting and agreeing to not conduct electioneering – courtesy details of Shop Stewards and potential Shop Stewards. The cut-off time for requests for the details will be by noon of the Monday before the Saturday meeting.” Motion carried

The following members were March pot draw winners: Patrick Brady, charter meeting, James Reese, morning meeting, Randy Lewis Saturday meeting, Karen Kautzman, JTA meeting, Karen Martin, Clallam County meeting and Michael Mooney, at the afternoon meeting. The Clallam County Rolling Pot of $150 was lost by Steve Mandeville. Next month it will be $175.

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All officers were present with the exception of Executive Board Officers Ray Mason who was out ill, Cherise Millhouse, Nat Chappelle and Rod Becker.

The following business was conducted:

Motion: By Dan Kenny to contribute $2000 now and $2000 during the holiday season to the Puget Sound Labor Agency.

Motion: By Judy Young to support “No Fare Hikes” Campaign by the Transit Riders Union.

Motion: By Tamieko Cook to recommend that membership approve the bylaw proposal of Article XII, Section 3, Election Committee.

Motion: By Lisa Nault to contribute $1000 to the Spokane Transit Authority Moving Forward.

Motion: By Verita Alexander to donate $500 to Aids Life Cycle (ALC) by sponsoring Brother Larry Flynn 4200 miles bicycle ride.

Motion: By Michael Moore to send the Recording Secretary to Savannah, GA to accept a National award on behalf of 587 for PACE from the National Public Employee Labor Relations Association and paying travel and lodging.

Motion: By Andrew Jeromksy to adopt the SAGE resolution and to print the resolution in the May 2015 News Review.

Motion: By Michael Moore to allocate up to $1000 for Pride Parade on June 28, 2015.
Unhealthy Incentives

By Dave Drew, North Base Mechanic #46023

I t is very disheartening for em-
ployees to have their company take actions that completely con-
tradict their rhetoric. Such is the case at North Base when it comes to
Metro/sunderming the philosophy of
King County’s Healthy Incentives
Program. The word hypocrisy comes
to mind.

For decades a large contingent
of self-motivated drivers, mechan-
icans, and equipment service workers
(more than fifty of them, who are
generally in the 40 to 70 year old
category), have focused on staying
fit by religiously putting to use the
NB exercise room. We mechanics
do this to stay limber and strong
enough so as to not injure ourselves
and not displace us all. There was
no discussion or any attempt to pro-
vide a temporary workout room, displac-
ing us all. There was no discussion
of any sort about how we would take
an exercise room in our worksite we chose to take
over when we were relying on that
room every day. In one ear we con-
stantly hear how King County is all
about supporting employee health.

In the other ear was a clear message
telling us that they actually could
care less. Our voiced concerns to
management after the closure met a
stone wall.

The only help we could find came
from the Healthy Incentives group.
They were able to provide a small
20’x10’ canopy structure placed
outside the VM lunchroom. They
also supplied cheap yoga mats and
brought back some of our old equip-
ment. It was nice to find at least one
KC entity willing to provide some
(rare) King County compassion. And
for once we had a location with both
decent ventilation (in the form of a
strong wind, once blowing the
poorly secured canopy away) and air
conditioning (perpetually efficient
in the depths of winter). Unfortu-
nately this very limited space, with
extremely sparse equipment, was
only used by a few die-hards. The
free-weights soon got rusty. When
it rained the mats would float on the
buildup of water. During the nearly
year and a half when this was all
we had, management never once
told us to leave that area cleared.
Weeds growing under the canopy
became completely unusable when
the HV AC contractor stored their
equipment in it. A totally unaware
and unresponsive management team
did nothing to correct that situation
for three whole months!

Over five months ago our beloved
workout room was finally cleared out. We hoped that we were at last
seeing the final chapter of this whole
pathetic story. In early November a
Superintendent gave me his word
that supporting employee health
is essential to cost savings. Who is
accountable when this many poor
decisions are made? Is this not a
demonstrating how King County
will react. Considering the plethora
of management within the county, will
there be no one in its ranks willing
to stand up for what is right? This
two-year-long debacle is not only
disappointing, but should be an
exhibition to read OUR paper.
Hopefully someone higher
up the KC managerial chain with
at least a modicum of conscience
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Continuing Education
for Shop Stewards and
Potential Shop Stewards

Submitted by Katherine Cartwright

Continuing education for Shop Stewards and potential
Shop Stewards will be held at the Labor Temple Hall
beginning Saturday, April 4th at 10:00 a.m., one hour
before the 11:00 a.m. union meetings. The cut off time
for requests for a courtesy detail is by noon of the
Monday before the Saturday meeting. It is suggested
that the meetings be facilitated by one of the two ATU
587 Vice Presidents. Come and have a doughnut and
talk about issues concerning our members and discuss
strategies on how we can best advocate and represent
our membership. Hope to see you there.
Mail Ballots Early! BE COUNTED!  

Primary Election ballot count April 21

Your Primary Election Ballot must be RECEIVED at the Election PO Box by April 21st to count (not just postmarked). The US Postal Service requires at least three (3) business days. Mail ballots EARLY!

If you do not receive a Primary Election Ballot, please contact the Local 587 Office at 3:00pm on Thursday, April 16, 2015, at (206) 448-8588 or by email julie@atu587.org to request a duplicate ballot.

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Mail Ballots Early! BE COUNTED!

Primary Election ballot count April 21

Local 587 - 2015 Primary Officer Election List of Candidates

Primary Election to be held April 21, 2015

The following is the list of candidates for the 2015 Officer Election. All candidates have been certified to be members in good standing with at least two years continuous membership.

President / Business Representative
Ray Campbell
Tore Lydersen
Kenny McCormick
Chuck Miller
David Allen Newton
Glen A. Travis

Vice-President / Assistant Business Representative
Nathanial Chappelle
Gregory Patterson
Hal Poor
Ben Reser
Karen Rispoli
Jose Rosado
Judy Young

Second Vice-President / Assistant Business Representative
Kermit C. Gipson, Jr.
Dan Kenny
Mike Whitehead

Financial Secretary / Treasurer
Harold Batson, Jr.
Patrick Brady
Chuck Lare
Paul B. Neil
Jan Stafford

Recording Secretary
Bruce Enfield
Darcell Hayes
Andrew Jeromsky
Lisa Nault
Cheryl Rowe
Darian Spence

Minority Affairs Officer
Alim Abdullah
Esther Hankerson
Michael W. Moore

Executive Board Officer
Vehicle Maintenance Position #1
Mike Burr
Douglas Frechin
Nathaniel Newton

Executive Board Officer
Vehicle Maintenance Position #2
Tamieko Cook
Tze Willand

Executive Board Officer
Vehicle Maintenance Position #3
Daniel Fisseha
Tyler Zimmerman

Executive Board Officer
Transit Operator Position #4
Loren Cook
Ken Dunn
Andrew Price

Executive Board Officer
Transit Operator Position #5
Anthony Bell
Ken Price
Jeremy Une

Executive Board Officer
Transit Operator Position #6
Linda Anderson
Randy Lewis
LaTonya Plummer-Creason

Executive Board Officer
Transit Operator Position #7
Berhanemeskel Gebreselasie
Mary Newton
Darrell Shay

Executive Board Officer
Transit Operator Position #8
Gloria Davidson
Richard Hansen
Lorri Kurth
Michael Timmons

Executive Board Officer
Vehicle Maintenance Position #1
Cory Rigtrup
Jett Sambaugh

Executive Board Officer
Vehicle Maintenance Position #2
Michael Maw
Mike Rochon

Executive Board Officer
Vehicle Maintenance Position #3
Patrick Murray

Executive Board Officer
Facilities Maintenance
Lisa Carter
Alfonso Ilsa

Executive Board Officer
Special Classifications
Eric Butler

Executive Board Officer
First-Line Supervisors
Kevin Banks

Executive Board Officer
Rail
Shannon Shay

Executive Board Officer
Clallam & Jefferson County
Karen Katzman
Ed Stanard

Executive Board Officer
SPT
Ninus Hopkins
John Ross

April 2015
Metro Employees Recreational Activities Association (MERAA)

141st Run for the Roses

Emerald Downs (View Room)
2300 Emerald Downs Drive, Auburn, WA

Saturday, May 2, 2015

$35.00 per person (limited availability)


All sales are final and non-refundable.

Event Schedule:

11:30am ................. Gates Open
1:00pm ..................... First Post
1:30pm ..................... Buffet Served (until 3:30pm)

Menu: Carved Striploin with Horseradish Cream and Henry Bain Sauces; Cajun Planked Salmon; Creole Chicken with Woodford Reserve Mustard Sauce; Chilled Shrimp with Cocktail Sauce; Yukon Mashed Potatoes; Andouille Sausage, Rice and Black-eyed Peas; Vegetable Medley; Spinach Salad with Strawberries and Grilled Chicken; Cobb Chop Salad; Southern Pasta Salad; Artichoke Spinach Dip with Crackers and Crostini; Cheese and Crudité Tray with Crackers and Breadsticks; Seasonal Fruit Tray; Rolls and Butter; Assorted Desserts (menu items subject to change)

Contest for Best Hat

Prizes: Win $50.00  Place $25.00  Show $15.00

Contact your MERAA Rep for Tickets

Visit us at www.MERAA.org
CANDIDATES’ NIGHT DEBATE!

SAVE THE DATE!
FRIDAY, MAY EIGHTH
8:00 P.M.
LABOR TEMPLE, HALL 1

The Election Committee is sponsoring the first ever Final Election Full-Time Officer Debate and Meet and Greet Night.

The Election Committee is now soliciting questions to ask the candidates. We need your help! Please submit the questions you would like the candidates to answer. E-mail your questions to: electioncommittee@atu587.org. Please put “DEBATE” in the subject line.

Look for further information in the coming weeks. We hope we will get a lot of question submissions and a large attendance for this first ever Final Election Full-Time Officer Debate and Meet and Greet Night.

KEEP YOUR ADDRESS CURRENT!!

(A request from our Local 8 Union office staff)

Throughout the year Local 587 mails letters to our membership. With each mailing sent, the union receives a small percentage of letters returned due to improper address.

Local 587 maintains a database that in part includes the names and addresses of our King County Metro members. The King County Metro section of the database is updated monthly from data provided by King County Metro.

If you are a King County Metro employee and your name and address is not current with King County Metro, you may not receive Union mailings. Please keep your name and address current with King County Metro.
Bylaw Proposals

Article VIII

In accordance with the Article XV, pertaining to bylaw proposals, the following proposal will be published in the March Newsletter Review, read into the records at the Executive Board Meeting and subsequent cycle of membership meetings and will be voted upon through the April cycle of Union meetings.

ARTICLE VIII

DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

Section 1. Dues, Computation and Deduction.

The dues for each member of the Local shall be based upon two times the average hourly wage for represented employees in effect on January 1 of each year at each bargaining unit. This average monthly wage shall be computed by adding the top hourly wage of the lowest and highest represented job classifications at each bargaining unit and then dividing the figure by two (2). Any increase in the dues based on this average hourly wage will be subject to the approval of the membership at the regular January Board meeting.

(a) The monthly dues shall not include any special assessments as outlined in Section 2.

(b) The first 50% of the monthly dues shall be taken out of the first paycheck of the month.

(c) The remaining 50% of the monthly dues shall be taken out of the second paycheck of the month.

(d) After the first year of employment, no increase in union dues shall be considered for any bargaining unit where the average hourly wage increased by less than 1% in the previous calendar year.

(e) Members hired for a part-time position shall only pay the ATU International per capita tax plus the initiation fee until the initiation fee is fully paid.

(f) It is agreed by all parties concerned that those laws provided for and governing this funeral benefit herein prescribed are subject to amendments and change from time to time as are all other rules of the Local and may be increased or abolished at any time by a referendum vote of the Local.

Section 2. Dues Reduction.

Members becoming incapacitated through sickness or injury, or on leave as the primary caretaker due to the sickness or injury of a member's spouse, adult child, parent, brother, sister, grandparent, or grandchild of a member or a non-blood relative living with the member or being provided for in the member's household, shall constitute the beneficiaries under these laws. In case of the death of the member falling short of 65 years of age, all benefits as provided by these laws, no assessment shall be levied for their deceased.

(g) It is agreed by all parties concerned that those laws provided for and governing this funeral benefit herein prescribed are subject to amendments and change from time to time as are all other rules of the Local and may be increased or abolished at any time by a referendum vote of the Local.

Section 4. Workers Compensation Attorney Fees.

An amount equal to the Workers' Compensation attorney fees paid by the Local in the previous year shall be added to the grievance arbitration assessment sum, equally divided by the active membership and paid at the time of the assessment. Litigation cases may be referred by attorney only if full-time officers or their designees and must have Executive Board approval for continued referral. Support of such cases will only be for the purpose of keeping claims open unless approved by the Executive Board.

Section 6. Subcontractor Agency Dues.

Monthly Union dues for those members whose primary employer is a private subcontractor providing Parisian transport services to public transit agencies shall be the minimum required dues as provided in Section 18.2 of the Constitution and General Laws of the Amalgamated Transit Union.

(e) After the initiation fee is paid, these members shall pay the ATU International minimum dues or the dues for their bargaining unit whichever is lower during their first year of membership.

(f) All increases in the ATU International per capita taxes after June 30, 2014 will be passed on directly to members.

Section 2. Part Time Dues Adjustment.

Any part-time employee who is hired as a reduced or part-time pay scale will have the deduction of these dues reduced accordingly. At the same rate as these pay reduction. This provision does not apply to first year reduced dues or to the international per capita.

Section 3. Special Assessments.

Special assessments may be levied only after first being read at the meetings of the Local. Notice of proposed assessments will be posted at all work site starting the assessment is for the amount and its sponsors. The notice shall also state that a vote will be taken at the next regular meeting of the Local. A two-thirds majority of the votes cast shall be required to pass the assessment if adopted at the regular meetings or by a simple majority of the votes cast if carried to a referendum of the Local.

Section 4. Maintenance and Distribution of Local Funeral Benefits.

Any funeral benefit shall be carried out under paragraph (a), such member must have been in good standing with the organization and must have all dues, fines and assessments paid at the time of death.

Section 5. Maintenance of the Local funeral fund shall be accomplished by allocating $50.00 per month for every active and/or retired member from the regular monthly Union dues as 50/50 split. The Local treasurer shall be printed in the union news or the local newspaper. The local funeral fund shall be allocated at 10% of the total funeral benefit (the total membership times the mean individual local funeral benefit).

Section 6. Payment of funeral benefits shall be as follows: in the event of the death of a member after the first year of continuous membership, $100. In the event of the death of a member after the second year of continuous membership, $200. In the event of the death of a member after the third year of continuous membership, $300; thereafter, $400.

February 17, 2015

To: All Members of Local 587

From: Recording Secretary Judy Young

Bylaw Proposal

ARTICLE XII

Section 3. Election Committee.

There shall be an Election Committee, consisting of three members plus an alternate, reporting to the Recording Secretary. Its duties shall include election security, production and distribution of ballots, voting instructions, voter’s pamphlet, and all general administration of the election.

Proposed Language

Section 3. Election Committee.

There shall be an Election Committee consisting of three (3) members plus one (1) alternate, elected by a majority vote of those present and voting at the meeting by secret ballot. The duties of the Election Committee shall include election security, vote tabulation, and production and distribution of the voter’s pamphlet.
Is Lean Such a Good Thing?

By Jeff Gravel

We are regularly pushing/pulling coaches in and out of the shop because the parts that we used to have on the shelf are no longer there.

Specialist classification (TIPS) was cut in half when Base Automation was implemented at all of the locations. Oh, and it is fair to add here that “LEAN” is responsible for at least two more six figure salary positions within King County, none of which are in 587.

With the “LEAN” program came the attempt at waste reductions. The “just in time parts” concept above has been implemented within Metro. How has this worked so far? Well I would like to thank whoever thought of using this concept while maintaining the current parts delivery schedule. I get to visit with my fellow employees from other bases now more than ever before. In the private sector, most businesses are open for one shift only and they have more than one delivery during that shift. Metro has maybe two deliveries for three shifts. The end result is we have mechanics chasing parts, we have equipment service people chasing parts and heck, even the Chiefs are getting into the action! The service trucks and base cars are being exercised quite regularly, thank you very much. We are regularly pushing/pulling coaches in and out of the shop because the parts that we used to have on the shelf are no longer there.

Here is the ironic part of the “just in time parts” program. When you see a government vehicle on the road (a bus, a car, a van etc) you will not see a license tab on the plate. They are exempt, those fees & taxes do not apply. The fuel that we put into those vehicles is dyed a specific color because it has no road tax, the vehicles are exempt. I believe that someone has failed to realize something very important with implementing “just in time parts” within Metro. I do not believe that we are charged a tax on our inventory. I believe that we are exempt. Hmmm. You would think that all locations would be well stocked with parts needed to repair our buses efficiently. We have very qualified Transit Parts Specialists at each base. One would think that we would give them the freedom to stock all of the parts that we need at that base.

One of the things which used to get the attention of upper management was a missed bus run. Weather the bus run was missed due to the lack of equipment or due to the lack of an operator...there was accountability for the missed bus run. Someone had to answer to our manager as to why we missed a single bus run. It is very disturbing that bus runs are now missed multiple times a day and at multiple bases, with seemingly no accountability. Our mission statement says it all. I wonder how many riders are waiting for a clean, safe bus that simply will not show today. Management seems to be more concerned with their reports, their spreadsheets, their graphs and quite frankly probably their resumes. This lack of concern with our primary purpose has an effect on us all. It is disheartening to see valuable time and resources being used on seemingly needless projects.

In solidarity,
Jeff Gravel

Contract Offer Update

By Wages and Conditions Subcommittee

The wages and conditions subcommittee reports that on Saturday, March 14th, the union president submitted the subcommittee’s contract proposal to King County labor negotiator David Levin. The executive board had voted to table the motion to send the contract offer, but at the March cycle of meetings the membership voted to send the offer to King County. The contract proposal included three COLAs, retroactive with a 2% floor, a return to three shake-ups per year, removal of the operations side TAs (except for the negotiated break language), return of the 7% cap on ATL assign- ments, and return of the blue line to ATL. (A blue line that is placed below the last ATL assignment of each day. The next day’s assignment process begins below that line, rotating work through the list.)

On Sunday March 15th, Mr. Levin indicated that Metro had rejected the committee’s contract offer. At the March 24th E-board meeting, the subcommittee will request that the board support the December 30, 2014 motion which includes “organize, and orchestrate member actions to elicit an acceptable third contract offer.”

The subcommittee will make every attempt to keep the membership posted on developments as they occur.

On the Rails...

By Chuck Miller, Executive Board Officer, Rail and Streetcar

By the time you read this in April, you may have seen a new streetcar travelling on the First Hill line along Broadway and Jackson Street. As I write this in mid-March, one streetcar is nearing completion at the First Hill Base on South Dearborn Street. The car came from the Czech Republic by ship, was delayed by the dispute between the IWWU and west coast port opera- tors, and is currently undergoing final assembly in preparation for service. Assembly continues on three more cars at the base, anticip- ating starting service in the fall.

Hiring and training is underway at Streetcar and Light Rail, with 19 new Operators and 6 new Supervi- sors needed at First Hill Streetcar and 16 new Operators and 5 new Supervi- sors at Light Rail for the extension to UW and Angle Lake. Light Rail to UW is scheduled to open in March, 2016, and the Angle Lake extension to South 200th Street should open in September, 2016. The new people at both lines are being brought on board this year.

There are many opportunities for change or advancement right now with bus service ramping up because of new money coming in, rail and streetcar service expanding, retirements and transfers. If you’re interested in moving up, making more money, or just a change in scenery, now is a good time to keep your ear to the ground.