

# The 1005 Line

*The People Who Know Where They Are Going*

Oct / Nov 2006

The news and information publication of ATU Local 1005 prepared and distributed by the Education Committee



Local 1005  
Minneapolis and St. Paul MN



Twenty-five years ago, the legislature decided that all revenue from the existing motor vehicle sales tax should be used for transportation, but every year all or some of the money gets diverted for other purposes. By voting YES on this amendment, you can increase funding for transportation by \$300 million each year – a significant investment in roads and transit.

Minnesotans want a balanced transportation system that can support our quality of life and economic viability now and into the future. The Transportation Amendment is an important step toward achieving that goal.

Currently, only 54 percent of the existing motor vehicle sales tax revenue is being spent on transportation and there is no dedicated revenue source for public transit. If the Transportation Amendment is approved by voters, 100 percent of the revenue will go to highways and public transit. More than \$300 million per year in additional revenue will be available for Minnesota's roads, bridges and transit, without raising taxes. The phase-in of the revenue will occur over five years, beginning in 2007 with the full 100 percent dedication in place by 2012.

With this plan, Minnesotans have the opportunity to help create a safer and more efficient transportation system.

But, the Amendment does NOT:

Raise taxes. The motor vehicle sales tax is an existing tax – this will simply put all revenue generated by a transportation related tax directly to transportation purposes.

Solve all of Minnesota's transportation funding problems because there is no quick fix for needed investments.

Eliminate the Legislature's ability to direct transportation

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**LOCAL 1005  
OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT/BUSINESS  
AGENT**

**MICHELLE  
SOMMERS**

**VICE-PRESIDENT**

**JERRY EWALD**

**RECORDING  
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**SCOTT TOLLIN**

**FINANCIAL  
SECRETARY/TREASURER**

**CHUCK  
GUDKNECHT**

**Calendar**

**EDUCATION**

**COMMITTEE - 2:30 PM**

**OCT 17 UNION HALL**

**NOV 21 SOUTH GAR.**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD  
& UNION MEETING**

**OCT 24 - MPLS.**

**NOV 28 - ST. PAUL**

**10:00 AM / 7:30 PM**

**UNION OFFICE PHONE  
612-379-2914**

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**OFFICE@ATU1005.COM**

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**WWW.ATU1005.COM**

**THE  
PRESIDENT'S  
CORNER**

Michelle Sommers



**Register! Vote! Volunteer!**

As we come up on one month until elections, I hope all our members are registered and ready to vote. We need all eligible voters to turn out and vote "YES" for the transportation amendment.

*We also need everyone to think about labor friendly candidates when voting on who will represent Minnesota for the next two to six years.*

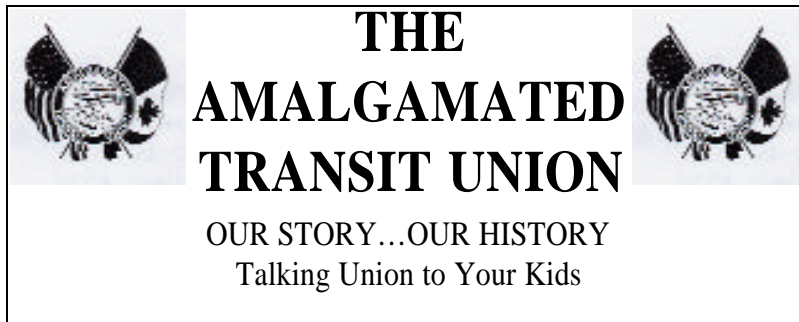
We have been working very hard on the transportation amendment and I would like to thank everyone that has helped and everyone that is signed up to help in the next month. Working together we can help get this passed.

**Please Don't Drink and Drive**

The state of Minnesota is now following the federal DWI/DUI laws. If you get a DWI/DUI in your own vehicle and you are convicted, **you will lose your CDL for one year.** The federal laws were supposed to go into effect last year, but the state did not do it. Minnesota was told they would lose around 20 million in highway funds if they did not get in compliance.

The state is now going back to August 1, 2005 and suspending CDL's from previous convictions; if you are in that group and receive a letter from the State, let the union and management know as soon as possible. We are working together with employees on previous convictions.

We have been meeting with the company to discuss future issues with the new law. At this point there has been no agreement on how to deal with it. The best I can tell you is, **please do not drink and drive at any time.** Always have a sober driver or call a cab if you plan to go out. The cost of a cab is a lot cheaper than the cost of losing your job or paying a lawyer to fight a charge.



Talking union to kids is good both for the union movement and the family. It lays the groundwork for creating the next generation of activists and others supportive of working family priorities. It also generates common family values and experiences that bond family members together.

"Peoples work lives are not something separate from their home lives", says Amanda Vesey, a council representative with the AFSCME Council 18 in Albuquerque, N.M. "When members integrate their families into actions that we have, it teaches children that this is about working families."

Recent data collected by the University of Minnesota Labor Education Service suggests children who are aware of their parent's activism are far more likely to feel positive about unions. "They benefit from the knowledge they pick up concerning what a union means", says Howard Kling, labor educator and director of telecommunications at the education service. "I think they'll carry it for the rest of their lives."

Educators say that the best way to talk to the kids about unions is by relating to concrete experiences they are having now. You have to touch them where they can feel it. Talking to kids about sweatshop made Nikes their friends wear, for example, hits home. Certainly notions of stability, working together and justice are concepts kids can relate to. It is important they know adults are working for the same things, just on a different level. But be cautious against lecturing kids. They react to too much to preaching, discussions work better.

Here are some ways to interest children in union values:

Asked them: "What's your job?" Typical answers include, go to school and do what my teacher tells me to do. From there relate it into a union setting. If you do good work, you're supposed to get good grades. But if you did "A" work and got all F's, would that be fair? What could you do about it? Make the point that working adults form unions, because unions work to make sure their members, and all other workers, are treated fairly.

Tell your kids that many years ago, many Americans didn't go to school when they were children because they had to work. In some countries, children still have to work. Ask your children, what work instead of

### Education Committee

**SCOTT TOLLIN  
ADVISOR**

**CHAIR  
MEMBERS ROTATE**

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**EDITORIAL BOARD  
KEN DOLNEY**



## Government 101

Liz Goldberg

### *Minnesota Gubernatorial Campaign 2006 Candidate Campaign Focus*

Taxes, affordable health care, crime, state budget health, transportation and environmental issues have been the major focus in the 2006 campaign by gubernatorial candidates this election. No coincidence- this focus is triggered by the concerns of Minnesotans towards issues that directly relate to our overall quality of life- of which Minnesota has long held high scores. Morgan Quitno Press in its annual publication featuring state comparisons in categories involving- agriculture, transportation, health, government finance, crime and social welfare, awarded Minnesota "Most Livable State" Second in the nation for 2006". (First-New Hampshire and Iowa 3rd).

#### **Facts:**

**Crime** - In 2005 Minnesota was ranked 13th lowest in violent crime with 270 crimes per 100,000 Population. (Morgan Auitno Press). Minnesota has experienced an increase in crime but rates hold steady and a slight decline from 2000 to 2005- State ranking remains unchanged.

**Health care insurance and Minnesotans without** - 2004 showed 7.4 % of Minnesotans lacking health insurance, up from 1999 with 5.4%. (Minnesota Dept of Health)

**Health Plan Spending**- total cost increases 48.6%, enrollee 13.1% for 2005. (Minnesota Department of Health)

**Private Health Insurance Premiums** - 2006 with 4.5% increases. (Minnesota Dept of Health)

**Total state and local taxes per \$1000 of income** - 2004 ranking 16th highest \$112.71, 2000 8th highest with \$123.58. (Minnesota Taxpayers Association) State income tax cuts in 2000 along with stationary state income and sales taxes pushed Minnesota out of the top ten in taxes. But, fees, charges, fines, property assessments rise. (Critics say that the burden of government has been shifted to the middle and lower income classes from those at the very top).

**Minnesota Principal Arteries with Good Ride Quality Index** - 67% were considered good in 2006, 81% in 2000 (MDOT). Recent Census Bureau studies showed longer commute times because of congestion and residential sprawl in the Metropolitan area.

**Twin Cities Metropolitan area Good air quality days** - In 2005-218 days and 1997 with 331 days. (MN Pollution Control Agency)

#### **The Candidates And Campaign Focus**

**Attorney General Mike Hatch - DFL:** Health care costs and tuition have been his top targets. "Corporate income is capturing the largest share of productivity growth in 50 years and worker compensation is at its lowest share in 40. We're developing a great inequality". Part of the reason for growing inequality is the gap in educational attainment. "We need two out of three not one out of three high school graduates going on to higher education. We're not preparing the next generation for the quality of life we've enjoyed." He believes that there are long term things a governor can do to improve the future. Minnesota is one of the few states losing jobs in the bioscience field while other states are spending money in the biotech and medical technology. "The culture of this state right back to old man Mayo (founder of the Mayo Clinic) has been to support science." "Operation Northern Tiger" an economic development program devised by Hatch, with seven major initiatives which includes- cutting public college tuition, investing to provide broadband and fiber-optic access throughout the state and a variety of changes to expand health insurance coverage and reduce health care costs. Cracking down on tax evaders and ending tax breaks for some corporations foreign operations would fund these "investments". He also supported and attended rallies of ATU 1005 while we were on strike. He is a strong transit supporter!

Continued on Page 6

## Transit Safety and Security Committee 2006 Summary

### Members:

Jim Chisholm,  
Management Advisor, TCC  
David Rogers, Chair, Rail  
Jerry Larsen, Heywood  
Mary Vasterling, South  
Theresa Collins, Nicollet  
Dennis Engebretson, East Metro  
James Van Hofwegen, Ruter

### July

#### Others in Attendance

Brenda Himrich, Manager, Rail & Bus Safety  
A. J. Olson, Acting Lieutenant, MTPD  
Bob Gibbons,  
Tony Elia, Customer Advocate  
Chad Loeffler, TCC Supervisor  
Lee Bennet, Asst. Manager, Street Ops  
John Humphrey, Rail Transportation Manager

For complete details please see the Safety and Security Board located in every garage.

**LRT:** John Humphrey. Target Corp. has ordered 10 wrapped rail cars for a one-month ad campaign. With multiple designs, matching on two-car trains will be challenging.

Questions/comments: Jim: Senior management (Brian Lamb, Julie Johanson, Jack Nelson and Bruce Howard) continues to evaluate wrap bus criteria. The revenue is significant and changes will not be made lightly.

Dave: A committee at LRT is seeking input for managing the extra board. The rail board is too small for AM /PM boards and it rotates too quickly. One sugges-

tion is to extend fatigue from 8 to 10 hours, a work rule that would have to be worked out with the union. Dennis: Would like to consult with operators at home garage and email consensus. Dave clarified he's looking for input from those on the committee familiar with extra board procedures.

**TCC:** Chad Loeffler. TCC is making every effort to get and keep Route 5 on schedule with an extra bus available midday 9-3.

Questions/comments: Jim: Sept. Pick will add 2-4 minutes running time throughout the day and an additional PM bus weekdays. Artics on Saturday are slower to accelerate. Theresa: How about adding more arrive / leave holds at major transfer locations. Bus may be late to arrive, but more often on time leaving. Sheila explained arrive / leave is used to facilitate transfers at transit centers and downtown. Where multiple routes use the same bus stop to hold when on time, buses would interfere with each other and with general traffic. Jim said the real fix is adequate running time for average conditions.

Van: Suggests more info to S-98 operators, especially on bus changes mid-route. S-98 operator could set sign, begin farebox login with run & trip number, so online driver can change seats, set mirrors and go. Jerry reports that when FTH dispatch has run number, they'll print the paddle. Jim will email TCC to encourage maximum info.

Van: Why aren't S-98s dispersed, instead of centralized at FTH? Jim said to protect PM rush - clos-

## AT THE GARAGE SOUTH

Contact Liz Goldberg

South's Annual- 2006 Great  
Chili Cook-Off

It's that time of year again- when temperatures outside dip down but inside heat up at South Garage. Pinto verses chili beans, what's tastier -Texas style or "MY STYLE" - Chili talk fills the air in anticipation for one of South's most popular events- "The Great Chili Cook-Off", Friday, November 3rd.

Contestants will extract from their vaults their prized chili recipes, cook up and deliver a pot to the garage before 9:30 am and Judges will decide 1,2 and 3rd place winners.

And just who are these judges that our contestants would like to take to breakfast sometime soon? You of course! Two dollars gets you a taste of each numbered pot - you judge and vote.

This year's special challenge is to- "BEAT BUTCH!!!" Mr. Personality -Butch Schiro, Operator# 1071 currently holds first place title for the 2005 Chili Cook-Off

"Just as long as I beat Barb again- I don't care" (Barb Keener ATM was 2nd and Robin Gerdesmeier 3rd.)

Congratulation to Randy Finch, #0128 for placing first at South garage in the Rodeo competition!

Continued on Page 12

## AT THE GARAGE Heywood

Contact  
Lance Wallace Dr. # 64434

Jack Berner Places First Out of fifty-eight for his 7th Rodeo win! You are amazing Jack! Congratulations to Duane Lundgren #289 for third place, To everyone who participated- You are all Winners!

### Heywood Facelift

This summer Heywood received a new front walkway, retaining wall and classy new bus shelter, and is currently undergoing a resurfacing of its parking lot. Inside the drivers room from the Route H Award, a new flat screen TV and Refrigerator!

A Personal Message from Russ Dixon# 918

“Remember- if you have an issue involving Another driver, come to the Union first! That's what our Union is there for- YOU! Be responsible, respect yourselves and each other.”

United we Stand but Divided we Fall!

## AT THE GARAGE LRT

Contact  
Bob Boyle Or  
Mark Ammend

At The Rail; August saw us giving over a million rides for the month, the Twins short lived post season was 36,000 rides to the two midday games.

One of our three new LRVs has finally gotten to Plattsburgh New York for final assembly.

The Rail rodeo is being held on October 14th, winners names next time.

### Government 101 Continued

#### Government Consultant Peter Hutchinson, Independent Party:

"Bragging rights" all about state ranking don't matter to most folks. Citizens care about how they are doing compared to yesterday, not compared to California". There are "four main things" that "gnaw away at confidence." Paramount is the cost of health care, which is robbing middle-income folks of any income gains. Tuition increases are unacceptable. Deteriorating pavement and longer waits in traffic jams are real world headaches, declining water quality and insufficient development of alternative energy sources. To fund his four initiatives Hutchinson's plan would change private and public health care systems saving \$1.1 billion in current state and local government expenditures for health care. The savings would be used to expand early childhood programs and all day-every-day kindergarten, needed based tuition aid, and finding for preserving wetlands and cleaning up "impaired" lakes and streams. Hutchinson would push for a 10-cent gas tax increase and the sales tax on vehicles would be used to fund an extra \$7 billion over seven years in transportation system building. "If we get health care costs under control and double the number of kids who get college degrees and get our roads and transit in shape, and clean up our water, our economy will be on fire" he says.

Gov. Tim Pawlenty, Republican Party: In 2002 while running for governor, Pawlenty frequently told audiences that there were "warning lights on the dashboard" signaling a decline in Minnesota's quality of life. As an incumbent, he now assures Minnesotans that he's put their vehicle in fine shape, despite having taken us through "the worst financial crisis in state history". "There is enough data on enough topics so that any interest group can support any argument it wants. But any notion that Minnesota is not the state that it was is just wrong" the Pawlenty office has prepared a "Minnesota Leads" list of 35 measures on which the state excels.

Pawlenty lists his accomplishments with pushing through tougher graduation standards, instituting merit pay for teachers, holding state employee health care cost to no-growth, and launching the biggest transportation spending programs in history. "It's not fair to take 20 years of backlog (in highway projects) and expect us to catch up in 36 months. Concerning his second term Pawlenty says, "I'm very concerned about academic performance among disadvantaged populations and students of color. I'm very concerned about the affordability of health care. And I want to help us reinvent the high school with a stronger emphasis on science, technology, engineering and math".

Sources: *Star Tribune What's The State Of Our State -September 25, 2006.*  
*Minnesota Department of Highways/ Minnesota Department of Health/ Morgan Quitno Press*

***“Remember we want to be negotiating our next contract with labor friendly candidates. When voting, consider who will represent Minnesota for the next two to six years.”***

**Talking Union to Our Kids Continued**

going to school would mean to their lives today and into the future. Tell them unions helped change the laws to prohibit child labor.

Remind them that when they get sick and you take them to the doctor, explain how your union negotiates with your employer for such benefits as health insurance. Say that some kids whose parents don't have a union can't get the health care they need.

By exposing children to union ideas and activities, you can help shape attitudes and behavior that get carried into adulthood. Many of today's workers say such childhood events still strongly influence, who they are. The example you set through your union activism may influence your children's life choices, including their occupation. Eagerness to know the world through their parent's eyes is what makes children receptive to union values. It is vitally important to educate the next generation. So they'll have understanding of what it means to have her spec and dignity at work and to hold employers accountable.

Source: [www.aflcio.org/articles/talk\\_union\\_to\\_kids/links.htm](http://www.aflcio.org/articles/talk_union_to_kids/links.htm)

**AT THE GARAGE**  
**East Metro**  
 Looking for someone to let us know what is going on

Due to the increase in operators at East Metro, we have a shortage of operator lockers. If you donot use your locker and would like to give it up see Dave Schwintek or Dispatch.

Watch for Fall Pot Luck coming soon.

Remember -- Leaves are slippery !!

Congratulation to Marshall Freeman for 3rd place Metro-Transit and 1st place at East Metro for the Rodeo

**The Mn. AFL-CIO Statistics**

Unions picked up over 10,000 new members in Minnesota. This year addition will bring us to a grand total of around 77,000 with the goal of 100,000 by the end of the year. The Mn. Nurses Assoc. signed up the largest group in the US this year with the Henn. County Nurses and others.

ATU 1005 was recognized at the State AFL-CIO Convention last month along with several others for our organizing efforts and Michelle addressed the delegates.

**AT THE OFFICE**  
**Heywood**  
 Looking for someone to let us know what is going on

**CRYPTO by PAT KELEHAN**

Each letter stands for another. If you think X=O, for example, it would equal O throughout the puzzle. Clue: O=A

O Z A Y B C X Y Y D Q F O G K K Q L O N K Q G K

E D X Y A F B M, D Y O I K Y O P "N O M Z K F A S"

B U A D G K A B Y O A L Y A Y K F O G K B U

B C E F K R A X B I K E F B E.

(Answer on page 19)

## Meet the Executive Board Members

### Bob Boyle - Maintenance Board Member For LRT

I was born at the old Saint Mary's hospital in Minneapolis, Mn. on July 23rd, 1954. I am the oldest of six siblings. My only sister Lynn is a part time driver at South garage. Our step father was a 30 year Teamster truck driver, so we grew up with a union work ethic.

I had a part-time job at the Minneapolis main post office when I turned 16. After 12th grade at DeLaSalle high school I joined the Navy where I became an Engineman. After getting out of the Navy I worked for a few months at Cass Screw Machine Products before hiring on at MTC on June 28th of 1976.

I spent most of my bus maintenance career at Nicollet; however I was on the opening crew for South garage and have worked at all but MJR over the years. In 2002 I decided that the new rail operation looked like a chance to do and learn something new. I applied, tested and was accepted as one of the original 12 Electromechanical Technicians.

While I have always had an interest in the union and firmly believed in the concept; due to my 20 years of being a Boy Scout leader with first my stepsons and then my own son with meetings on Tuesday nights. I very infrequently attended union meetings. When the decision was made to add two new board members from rail, and my son earned his Eagle rank as he turned 18, I ran for and was elected Rail Maintenance Board Member. The new rail division was started with a lot of outside management that were not very familiar with the ATU contract; so it was a tough two years of getting things settled in.

I am proud of what rail has brought to the community, and think that it is a great addition to Metro Transit. I hope that we can capitalize on its popularity and that it can help get us some dedicated funding for the future.



### Mark Lawson - Transportation Board Member for South

I was born in and grew up in the Twin Cities. After high school, I went to college in North Carolina, and graduated with a degree in Sacred Music. I realized I would not have a career in music, so I moved back home, joined a church, and became fully involved with the music ministry. To pay the bills, I got a job at Laidlaw driving bus. I saw several co-workers get hired at Metro Transit for the better pay and benefits, so I too came over in 1999.

I became involved in the Union about a year after I started. I started going to meetings, and someone told me to make sure I go to at least six a year so I could be eligible to do things in the union. That was the majority of my involvement until Dan Abramowitz left South. I was eligible, and ran for the open Board Member position, and won! So, I've been the transportation board member representing South for over a year and a half. It has been rewarding to help members deal with problems and maintain their careers here at Metro Transit.



The thing I would like to say to the members is this, "You have a voice. I know many of you, like me, are from the 'conservative' side of the political spectrum. The Union may appear to be inhospitable to you, but this is not necessarily the case. Be involved, make your voice heard, and the whole union is made stronger, and the advancement of our common goals is achieved!"

## Gary Bier - Office Board Member



The Minneapolis area has been home for me most of my life, although I met and married a St. Paul gal and she enticed me to the St. Paul area for a few years. We have a son and daughter, and I am a proud grandpa with 3 grandchildren to keep me forever young. I love sports, and did some coaching for Courage Center in the adapted athletics program for several years. These days, however, I am an avid fan of the Vikings, and Twins, and also root for my nephew who is a linebacker for the Kansas State football team.

I started with Metro Transit November of 1979 as an order taker for Metro Mobility, went to a dispatcher for (Metro Mobility), then moved to the TIC department. These experiences gave me some different view of, and insight into the transit industry.

Through the years of employment, the union has always been there and I have seen it grow and work with and for the employees during that time. I am in my first full term as executive board member for Office-Clerical employees. In the short time as a representative of the local, it has shown me the need for everyone to reach out in some way and support their union. Our strength comes from member involvement, strength comes in numbers!.

My goal is to always be available and easy to reach for my fellow union members.

## Mark Ammend - Transportation Board Member for LRT



I was born in the Metro area in 1970. My parents, two sisters, a brother and myself moved to the small town of Onamia, which is just south of Mille Lacs Lake.

My parents had a pig farm that later turned into a hobby farm when they pursued careers in law enforcement.

I graduated from high school in 1988. Not knowing what I wanted to do, I went to Anoka Technical College for electronics. I drove school bus part-time and went to school for two years. I enjoy taking broken things apart, seeing what made them work, and then making them work again. The classes I enrolled in where more geared toward computers and circuit boards. I hated it!

I started working at Metro Transit as a part-time driver in January of '92 at the Heywood garage. I went full-time in July '93 at Nicollet garage. I missed Heywood and went back the next system pick. I enjoyed working nights on the #16 and #10 lines until I took a train operator position in December of '03. I have many great memories of the rail startup, for six months we were over here putting miles on the track, learning how the trains operate.

I have been involved with the union as an E-Board representative for rail operators, trainers and dispatchers since June of '04. It has been a great learning experience for me and I look forward to many more years. The more I learn, the more I realize how much more I need to learn to evolve into a great representative for the people at rail.

I also belong to the peer support program. Others and I completed training in June. It is a great resource available to our operators. I encourage fellow employees to use us, we are here to listen.

Rail and union activities seem to be my whole life. When I am not operating the train, I am involved with the union, peer support or being a rail relief instructor. I enjoy working on my cars and my lawn. My sister also works at Metro Transit in the Police Dept.. Hey Lori-Lori! Stay safe everyone!

## AT THE GARAGE Nicollet

Contact  
Theresa Collins #1378 or  
Stephen Babcock (Stores)

Nicollet Garage recycles! Please help the environment and recycle all paper, plastic, glass, cans in the appropriate recycling bins.

The Nicollet Club will be accepting donations year round for our annual garage sale, held the first Saturday of October. Please bring in your items any time and we will price and store them for any future sale.

Bruce Dickinson "the sign man" will be retiring we will miss you and your humor. Enjoy!

Check out the safety & security board. If you have an issue you want addressed at our monthly meeting fill out a form or talk to Theresa Collins # 1378.

Thanks to Route H and the Nicollet Club our fitness room has new equipment and accessories. Please enjoy and use responsibly.

Nicollet has a great maintenance team. They do and will repair buses. Write up a bad order slip and avoid unnecessary service calls.

## AT THE GARAGE OHB

Contact:  
Tom Campbell  
Bob Schaller

The new artics have many problems to be worked out, including heated mirrors.

## 48th Minnesota AFL-CIO Constitutional Convention August 6th-9th, 2006 St. Paul, Minnesota

### Delegate Report - By Mike Rossini, Nicollet Garage

Representatives of ATU 1005  
Michelle Sommers, President  
Jerry Ewald, Vice President  
Scott Tollin, Assistant Business Agent  
Charles Gudknecht, Financial Secretary-Treasurer  
Delegates: Tom Campbell, Lisa Callahan, Mike Rossini  
Alternates: Rick Steffels, Marlin Jensen

Workshops attended  
*Engaging Members, Erik Peterson*  
*A system - and a philosophy - for building a member communication and mobilization network.*

Mr. Peterson presented a system for expanding membership and activating current membership by building relationships through -

- Discussing questions about issues, values, and interests
- Organizing resources
- Getting commitments
- Mobilizing

*The Conservative Economic Assault on Workers, Barb Kucera*  
*Learn to use a new Power Point program to educate members about the threat to their standard of living - and what they can do about it.*

Ms Kucera described the urgent need for members to get involved in politics and for us to utilize our ability to participate in organizing.

Examples of Resolutions that were presented by committees:  
Resolution #4: *Fully fund restructuring of teacher retirement funds* - urging the Legislature to fully fund any restructuring of teacher retirement funds that it may mandate.

Resolution #11: *Single Payer Health Care* - supporting a single-payer, national health care plan for all Americans.

Resolution #18: *Minnesota's Transportation Amendment* - strongly supporting the passage of the proposed amendment to the Minnesota Constitution dedicating all of the motor vehicle sales tax revenue to transportation improvements with at least 40 percent of the revenue for public transit assistance and not more than 60 percent of the revenue for highway purposes throughout the state.

I would like to thank the membership for sponsoring my attendance at this convention. I appreciated this opportunity to participate.

Thank you

## **AFL-CIO Convention**

### **ATU 1005 Delegate, Tom Campbell**

The highlights of the first day included workshops. "Getting Past the Wedge Issues", was the first workshop that discussed methods to develop an on going strategy for talking with members about difficult issues and building support for our union.

The second workshop was, "The Conservative Assault on Workers". This presentation showed us how to use a power point program to educate members about the threat to their standard of living and what they can do to about it.

The afternoon was filled with speeches from labor leaders, Attorney Harry Sieben and former Minnesota AFL-CIO president David Roe. They all talked about the value of supporting labor endorsed candidates. ATU 1005 remembers the strike in 95 with Republican Governor Carlson and in 2004 where Republican Governor Palenty put us out on strike. The first day ended with many members going out on a "Door Knock", promoting labor endorsed candidates.

Day two began with recognition of new union membership drives; the first union to report to the convention was our own ATU 1005, by President Sommers. The Minnesota Nurses Assoc, AFSCME, and the CWA all gave reports on organizing with over 10,000 new union members in Minnesota.

Endorsed candidates and Legislative leaders spoke. Amy Klobuchar, Mike Hatch, Judy Dutcher, Steve Kelly, Rebecca Otto, Mark Richie and State Senator Dean Johnson. They all showed that union endorsed candidates believe in government that is open, accountable and empowers people.

Committee reports were presented and resolutions were voted on. One very important resolution, that was passed, was to support the state Constitutional amendment to dedicate MVEST dollars to Transit and transportation. This amendment on the November ballot and will provide funding for roads and transit.

The last day of the convention included information on "Work Day Minnesota", this is the first national daily labor news service. Funding for this service comes from unions, workers organizations, and friends of labor. The web address is [www.workdayminnesota.org](http://www.workdayminnesota.org)

One other valuable web site was [www.knowyourpension.org](http://www.knowyourpension.org). This is sponsored by the AFL-CIO. Please check these web sites out. We concluded the convention with Community Service Awards and the election of officers of the Minnesota AFL-CIO. Ray Waldron was re-elected President and Steve Hunter was re-elected Secretary-Treasurer.

The AFL-CIO sponsored a retiree's resource directory called Pro-Vid-Sor. It includes information on government, financial home services, housing help and much more. To receive this booklet call 1-800-333-2433. I wish to thank the membership for sending me.

### **AT THE GARAGE**

### **Ruter**

Contact Dan Abramowicz #6225  
[dan6225@comcast.net](mailto:dan6225@comcast.net)

**Harold Riddle Operator #3805-MJR's Metro Transit Roadeo top scorer will receive a Certificate and "Our Hearty Congratulations." Well-done Harold!!**

#### **Umbrella over the New Flat Screen TV**

Luckily the roof is now under repair, however in the mean time an umbrella protects the new flat screen TV recently Purchased from the Route H fund. Also purchased was a DVD/VCR player, storage cabinets and three leather recliners for the drivers room.

Use extra caution in the bays while selected areas are roped off due to repair work.

#### **Fifteen New Flyers Arriving from St. Cloud**

Completed delivery scheduled for November-The new 3200 series is equipped with sensor technology Incorporating a number of failsafe features preventing the Bus from engaging with a deployed ramp/lift.

#### **In the Bays on Pull-Out**

If there is any problem in the bays during Pull-out- contact Dispatch immediately.

### **ATU 1005.COM**

Contact Jerry Ewald

Get the latest info from the union website. Meeting agendas, grievances coming before the membership, Officer's email addresses.

Get connected. Union strength through member involvement!

**Page 12 DSSC Minutes Continued**

er to DT.

**Street Operations:** Lee Bennett. Operators are familiar with detours from ATIS; soon detours (messages) will be generated in Hastus with a direct connection to paddles; they won't be so pretty and familiar and will be more concise. Due to space constraints, both on the MDT and on printed paddles, detour movements will be written left to right, rather than in a column as done now. When asked, only Mary & Theresa replied that Nicollet and South are printing paddles, with 'messages'. Larger garages may not have printer capability during peak pullout times.

Questions/comments: Theresa: The bus stop sign on westbound Lake St farside Hiawatha still has not been relocated.

Sheila: Heard the BCTC public restrooms will be open limited hours. Lee confirmed.

**Safety:** Brenda: Distributed Accident by Garage' statistics. South is still over goal; Safety is analyzing data. There's been a general reduction of customers closed in doors. Scooter tie-downs: Oregon uses a single-strap tie-down across scooter floorboard. Gillig and the Maintenance Dept. will fabricate one to use on a trial basis.

Questions/comments: Dennis: Remembers signing off on using all straps - up to four. Tony: There are so many varieties of scooters & wheelchairs. Scooter pedestal steering column is especially fragile.

Theresa: Suggests a regular reminder in Takeout to have fare ready when boarding or on pay-leave bus. Mary: The unprepared customers always board first and

hold up the line. Dave: Heard a customer complaint re: lack of stanchions or hand straps at Artichoke. Theresa: Requested portapotty for Northend Terminal - tired of snotty looks when walking thru Jaguar dealer. Sheila mentioned drivers should use service entrance off 1st Ave. N., but will submit request.

Dennis: An East Metro operator suggested additional flashing lights (like supervisor vehicles) on bus to use while on shoulder lanes. Brenda said there are restrictions on types of vehicle lights. Expense also prohibitive. Use flashers, toot horn gently and frequently.

Jim: Phil sent his regrets, will attend next month. He's developing "accident reduction area" like top-10 incidents.

Brenda: High incidence of bus/bus and bus/fixed objects at Heywood Garage. Mary: The new lights at South really help visibility.

**Police:** Lieutenant A. J. Olson. Distributed incident statistics reports. A couple relatively minor assaults resulted in arrests: fare dispute; customer brandished putty knife; 10th & Main DT St. Paul - temporary layover - several 'Not in Service' buses staged for event. Customer demanded to board; threatening behavior, on scene Transit officer intervened and arrested. Safe Zone statistics: April thru early June, 468 incidents/arrests. A citizen was tagged for loitering, smoking, drinking. Tagging officer recognized same citizen on video robbing a Credit Union; earlier tag provided name and address to facilitate arrest. An LRT customer was robbed by two youths at the Franklin Station and recognized one as a former student!

Questions/comments:

Mary: Suggested Safe Zone stats be forwarded to Nick Coleman following his Star Tribune column on Police Dept. effectiveness.

Theresa: Bikes are an increasing hazard on the Nicollet Mall; A. J. has reminded officers to monitor.

Van: Cars in 2nd Ave. S. bus lane on regular basis. Dennis: Cars frequently park in St. Paul bus stop at Comcast (pay bill?). Also, bus stop sign on EB Selby a block prior to Western is too high.

Jim: The trespass list is still not being delivered to TSSC members for posting. A. J. will email to members directly, but reminds all the list is not to be copied or distributed; it's to be posted at the garage only! Dave: What's the plan for the first day of school, especially at Franklin & Lake St. LRT Stations? Dennis: Route 21 operators having similar problems. A. J. - Lieutenant will meet with charter school principals before school starts this fall.

Theresa: Suggests interior placard stating that loud and obnoxious behavior will not be tolerated. Also asked status of flyer / hand-out to go with student cards. Bob will followup.

Jim: Agreed placard could be helpful tool. There have been fewer calls re: and walkie-talkie chirps following the cell phone etiquette placard. Dennis: Concerned that behavior placard could be empty threat without backup.

Bob: Will talk to Bruce Howard about placard. Van: More strategic placement of policy and rule placards would be more effective. Bob: Reported the MAD DADS will be riding the 5 line on July 17 and 24. Sheila mentioned that John Suttles had inquired about

MAD DADS adopting the Brooklyn Center Transit Center. Bob confirmed that Kelci Stones administers the Adopt-a-Shelter program. Depending on their intent, Facilities may need to be consulted. Theresa: What about the Guardian Angels? Bob is concerned about conflicting agencies and agendas. Not sure of the Angels status in the Twin Cities.

**Other:** Jim announced that Sheila's temporary assignment to take minutes has ended; Chad will take notes in future. There won't be a meeting in September due to State Fair. Jim suggested rescheduling the August meeting later in month - too many schedule conflicts, so the TSSC meeting will be held as usual on the 1st Thursday. The next Forum to be held at East Metro Garage in early to mid August; garage management prefers Tuesday or Thursday. The Forum won't be videotaped; too many concerns have not been addressed. Mary said the TSSC election at South is postponed until July 7, 2006.

**August**  
**Others in Attendance**

Mike Conlon, Director Rail & Bus Safety  
Officer Art Hart, MTPD  
Bob Gibbons, Director Customer Service & PR  
Lee Bennett, Asst. Manager, Street Ops  
Tony Elia, Customer Advocate  
Michael Guse, Rail Manager  
Chad Loeffler, TCC Supervisor  
Georgia Stinson, Asst Director Bus Trans.  
Chuck Wurzinger, Acting Manager of Maint Admin.  
Scott Tollin, Asst B.A., Atu 1005  
Rob Milleson, Asst Director of Maint.  
Rick Rydmark, Heywood Safety  
Bill Porter, Deputy Chief

**TCC:** Chad Loeffler. TCC is preparing for State Fair. New sites this year - Southdale every-day of the Fair, Maple Grove TS weekends/labor day only, Crescent Ridge weekends/labor day only. Noble PR will switch to weekends/labor day only due to capacity issues. No service at Ridgedale, replaced by Crescent Ridge. Rt. 960 will travel on the Nicollet Mall versus Hennepin Av.

Questions/comments: Jerry: What is the priority for taking BO Fbx buses out of service? Chad: TCC attempts to keep buses in home garage territory, use techs to service bus on the road and use call ops to change buses out. No bus changes will be made during the rush hours. Keeping service on the road and on schedule is a high priority. Jerry: Ridership is not being counted, does management know about this. Theresa: Suggestion to write ridership on slip of paper and enter when Fbx fixed or on new bus. Second suggestion to take something and cover up the farebox writing out of order on it to ease problems with customers. Van: That is extra work that is not required, ops are not getting paid for, and sometimes hard to do. Agreement by all. Jim/Chad: TCC will continue to attempt to use call ops mid-day when techs not avail.

**Maintenance:** Chuck Wurzinger and Rob Milleson: Maint currently working on new bus specs. Metro Transit is preparing to purchase new 40ft low floor buses in 2007 through 2011. Bus specs include new LED lights for front and rear doors, heated mirrors similar to new Artics arriving this summer, new windshield cameras, front signal positions, new lockable storage cabinets on the left

front wheel housing, signage for hybrid electrical components, 50 decibel limit on 4-way flashers. Cost breakdown of parts and labor provided for new fans. Retrofitting 500 buses may cost approximately \$108,000, estimated at about \$215.90 per bus.

Questions/comments: Mary: Will there be anymore room for tall drivers? Chuck: Maint attempts to get as much room as possible using a 95/5 percentile, meaning that 95% of all drivers will fit in area. Attempting to get as much room for operators will always be an issue. South Garage had attempted to move driver's seats but that led to other problems. Scott: Do seats still go back as far as they used to? Chuck: Yes, but it is also a function of incline. Rob: Correcting seats causes other problems. Van: Can copy of future specs be made available at the next meeting? Chuck: Attempt will be made to. Dennis: When looking out the front door there are 3 blind spots, can anything be done? Chuck: Not really, the area is a major structure of the bus and electrical components go thru area. Manufacturer's are trying to make things as open as possible. Rick: Ops should open door if they need to see better. Van: Are we going to rehab mirrors on current buses with larger ones? Chuck: Unable to recall. Theresa: Extensions will cause more breaks. Van: Is there a liaison between maintenance and manufacturers in regards to wheelchair tie downs? Chuck: This is a national issue; how to get wheelchair manufacturers to realize that their product (chairs) have to fit on buses and be able to be strapped in. Mike: ADA states we have to transport scooters, but manufacturers don't have to make

## Page 14

them any certain size. Brenda has been meeting with manufacturers on issue.

Georgia: Issue has been around for many years. Manufacturers do not have to comply, or make their scooters fit buses. There is a weight restriction however - anything over 600lbs does not have to be transported. Metro Transit has told one customer that we cannot give them rides due to weight issues. The future doesn't look promising either.

Dennis: Customer with foreign made machine has good spots to secure chair/scooter. Theresa: Europeans are ahead of the game with Transit. Chuck: Maintenance and safety have been trying to get better straps for securing chairs, but it also has to be maintained, cleaned, and comply with State Patrol checks. Jim: Brenda did present powerpoint presentation at last meeting. Theresa: Can foam be placed on steering column or farebox? She had knocked knee on steering column and other drivers have reported similar problems.

Chuck: Unknown. Rough thought - steering column more likely than Farebox. Chuck: New Artics are coming with 2nd fan. Over the Statefair will attempt to get a couple in other buses to see if the cost estimate is accurate. Rob: Fund availability is still trying to be determined, but Maint will attempt to secure funding. Van: Who decides where fan will go? There needs to be a driver over there to assist. Re-emphasizes need for funding. Artics need 3 fans.

Chuck: Agrees artics are worse than 40-ft buses although some artics already have 2 fans. Maintenance will consult operators on fan position. TSSC:

Nominates Van and Theresa to meet with Maintenance and check on fan placement. Jim:

Maintenance has been doing great job responding to concerns of TSSC. Jerry: Do fans have to be mounted from below, what about above? Chuck: There will be room, and it is easier to mount from below.

**Street Operations:** Lee Bennett: Bus Stop WB Lake nearside Hiawatha will be BTR Friday 8/4 @ 10AM. Access Mpls. is beginning, trying to plan for what traffic will be like in 2030. Some ideas being explored include: Contra flow lane on 8th St, double bus lanes on Marquette and 2Av S, most express routes on Marquette/2Av S, local routes on Nicollet Mall, Hennepin Av & 1Av N becoming two-way streets, extending 4th St Contra flow to 1Av N. Unknown timeline for implementation. Metro Transit has also requested that the 4th St Ramp into Dwtm Mpls be put back to original design for shoulder lane - request was denied at this time.

**LRT** will be extended on 5th St to new Twins stadium and Northstar commuter rail connection by 2010. Ice water is being handed out by street supervisors. Street operations budget is paying for water. Ice to cool water originally provided by supervisors but now company is supplying. Jerry/Michelle/Rob went around to garage shops over weekend to provide water.

Trainer Marilyn Hood concerned about number of text messages (particularly during rush hours). Concern is that drivers are then reading messages while on the road, operators are being annoyed, and cry wolf syndrome.

Questions/comments: Mary: Can radio system have priority text messages? Answer = Not an option at this time.

Theresa: Doesn't appear to be a safety issue as ops can view at a red light. Jerry: Newer operators may have the most difficulty as there are so many other things to be concerned with. Dennis: There is a temptation to look at messages right away versus waiting for light. Jim: TCC will use drivers speaker if message is a extreme priority.

Theresa: Agrees with difficulty for new drivers but that it is part of the job. Mike: If operators are on a ride along and observe something wrong with op viewing text messages, new instruction should be done. Van/Rick: Can message/thoughts be conveyed in an alternate manner. David: TSSC does not currently have problem with text messages. Mary: When a tape was pulled for a recent accident, there was no tape there. Who maintains checking tapes, installing, checking BO VCRs? Lee: Radio shop is in charge of Maintenance of video recorders. Street supervisors and police always insert new tape when tape is pulled. If VCR is BO, TCC will write up for Electronic Repair by Radio shop. Georgia: Radio shop checks VCRs every 30 days, cleans and replaces tapes. Lee: The DVR recorders are more labor intensive to pull the tape, not good for frequent events. Georgia: Unknown what new buses will have as technology continues to change.

**Safety:** Rick/Mike: Literature about heat stress passed out. Safety still working on Passenger Falls bulletin/flyers. TSSC will be mentioned on it. More info on

scooters will come in October. Statistics on accidents at garages passed. Van: Can statistics be put into 1005 publication? Answer: Not enough space. Mike: March snowstorm hurt overall statistics, garages just now catching up to goals after significant accidents with snowstorm.

Questions/comments: David: What if a passenger is passed out from the heat? Can operators take training? Mike: Call in and get Police/EMS. Georgia: Agency will not train all operators.

**LRT:** Michael Guse: Twins series the last weekend in July was very successful for Rail. All 24 LRVs used, no operator violations. LRVs 125, 126, 127 in production and will be on the property in 2007. Original contractor for Warehouse Interlocking has been dismissed, new contractor hired to complete job.

Questions/comments: David: What is status of door issue; doors being locked while out of cab.

Michael: Bombardier is retrofitting LRVs to keep doors open while operator is out of cab. One train has been completed and the rest will continue to be done.

Scott: Who has right of way on 34th Ave S? Art: Train always has right of way over emergency vehicles. Michael: All Emergency services in the area have been made aware that train has right of way. In the recent LRT accident on 34th Ave all systems worked as intended, no malfunctions. Mike Conlon: The systems act differently in Bloomington and Minneapolis. Either way the emergency vehicles will not get priority. Art: Emergency vehicles don't necessarily have to wait for green light to proceed but has to check for cross traffic.

Mike Conlon: There is a LRT vehicle seminar each year for emergency responders to educate and inform.

**Police:** Officer Art Hart: MTPD had three operator assaults. 1) Suspect stood over operator but

did not strike, 2) female swatted back at operator, 3) Female exiting bus slapped operator. All three suspects are in Jail.

Questions/comments: David: Can operators get CPR training through PD? Art: Recommends doing it on own through local programs. Mary: South operator wants to know if police can check with operators near Block E when buses pass through. Art: Police can't check each bus, but operators should motion to officers if they need help. Do something out of the ordinary to get officers attention.

**Other:** East Metro to host TSSC Forum in September to coincide with 5 year Anniversary of East Metro Garage.

Respectfully submitted, Chad Loeffler, Recording Secretary

***For complete details please see the Safety and Security Board located in every garage. If you have a safety or security suggestion/issue please contact your DSSC member.***

**VOTE YES continued from page 1**

funding to different region's of the state.

**Attorney General Mike Hatch, "I support Minnesota's Transportation Amendment - it is a common sense plan to use existing transportation taxes for transportation."**

**Governor Tim Pawlenty, " We have made a lot of progress in the past three-and-a-half years, but now we need to make sure all of our current transportation taxes are being used to improve roads and transit. Minnesotans should vote yes on Minnesota's Transportation Amendment this fall."**

If you're concerned about traveling on unsafe roads, if you're worried about moving products throughout the state, if you're frustrated with the amount of time you spend on your daily commute, if you're not sure that our road and public transit systems are adequate to deal with future demands, VOTE YES!

Whatever the reason, this is the chance for Minnesota citizens to see their transportation taxes go to the right place - roads and transit. VOTE YES!! If a voter leaves this question blank on the ballot, that is considered a "no" vote. A "no" vote tells state leaders that the public does not think improved transportation is important.

**We will need volunteers for the phone banks - if you can help call the union office at 612-379-2914.**

## Job Tips

Theresa Collins

1. When you have a bad order trim unit, take a white wypall and open it up, write out of order on it and tape it over the farebox. This is easier for you and your passengers. Remember to count all your passengers and notify control.
2. I always carry a black marker and tape in my drivers bag it comes in handy for bad order fareboxes and overhead signs.
3. Carry a transit map system in your work bag, if you can't answer a passengers question you can have them look at your map while they ride my bus, however, I will need it back.
4. When there are new Take-outs in the drivers room put a pack in the bus. This is important customer service.
5. We know the schedules aren't perfect, but leave your terminal on time and you will have more of a chance to be on schedule, and you will have less stress.
6. **VOTE!. Vote YES on the transportation ammendment. Vote! Like your job depends upon it! It does! Also vote for canidates that advocate transit!**

## PET PEEVES

Theresa Collins

I thought it would be fun to have a column about bus driver's and their pet peeves. We all have them, some more than other's. Here are some of mine!

Passengers who snap their gum.

Passengers who listen to their headphones and we can still hear their head banging music.

Passengers who cuss and swear on the bus.

Drivers that take an entire package of the white wypall's onto the bus.

Drivers that throw their newspapers, schedules, trash and sunflower seeds all over the drivers area.

Jaywalkers on the Nicollet Mall.

When we wait for a passenger running for the bus and they don't say THANK-YOU.

Bus stops spaced less than two blocks apart.

Passengers who are the first to get on the bus and hold up the line to dig for the fare.

Cell phones.

Baby strollers.

Loud obnoxious teenagers.

Right hand turns in front of buses.

Customers who throw trash on the ground before boarding the bus. There is usually a trash can a foot from them.

Passengers that smell like they should be given a bar of soap rather than a transfer.

Getting a dirty bus for an AM Pull-Out.

Passengers who blow their cigarette smoke into your face as they board the bus.

If you have enjoyed Pet Peeves and would like to see more or if you have some of your own ideas let me know.  
Theresa Collins # 1378 Nicollet

## 2nd Annual ATU 1005 Charity Bike Run 2006



The week started with much anticipation with the thoughts of the ride committee, as to what to expect, the turn out, and how everything would work out.

On August 19, 2006 the day was here. And what a day it was. The weather for the ride started out unsettled, grey skies, and uncertain. It turned out to be a great bike riding day. As the day rolled on, so did 46 motorcycles. The weather became better and better, blue skies, and sunny.

Showing up to start the run at the East Metro Garage were 46 motorcycles, some with their significant others as passengers, making it well over 60 people. The run went South to Prescott, North through Forest Lake, and ended in East Bethell. While traveling to Prescott the ATU 1005 ride members were able to stop, and show support to striking Local 120.



A total donation of \$940 went to the Charity of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Minneapolis. From the brow sweatened ride committee, it was well organized, and a great success according to the many that rode. It turned out to be a safe and fun ride, with no major problems or setbacks. Safety being the number 1 goal of the ride committee. Including a most excellent motorcycle ride, there were numerous door prizes awarded, including shirts and caps donated by the ATU 1005, and 3 poker hand winners.

A DVD is available for purchase of the bike run. Contact a member of the Ride Committee. Also available is a group picture for .50 cents. Contact Kevyn Snavelly, 763-560-9025, or [KJWinginit@comcast.net](mailto:KJWinginit@comcast.net).



What a day!!!! We will try to make this happen again next year. Look for details at your facilities by July 2007.

Thanks for your support to all who attended. Also thanks to the Ride Committee: Kevyn and JoAnn Snavelly, Russ Hoosline, Debbie Serrine, Jerry and Debra Larsen, Jerry Ewald, Rick Steffels, and Lave.

Jerry Larsen

## Minneapolis Central Labor Union Council, AFL-CIO List of Endorsed Candidates, 2006



**Governor  
Mike Hatch (D)**



**Secretary  
of State  
Mark  
Ritchie (D)**



**Lt. Governor  
Judy Dutcher**



**Attorney  
General  
Lori Swanson**



**State  
Auditor  
Rebecca  
Otto (D)**

### Metro Area

<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Office Sought</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Endorsed</u>
Wendy	Wilde	3rd Congressional District	Minnetonka	Pending
Keith	Ellison	5th CD	Minneapolis	Yes
Patty	Wetterling	6th CD	Yes	
Robert	Johnson	Anoka Co. Attorney	Anoka	Yes
Jim	Kordiak	Anoka Co. Commissioner	Columbia Heights	Yes
Dick	Lang	Anoka County Commissioner	Anoka	Yes
Richard	Swanson	Anoka County Commissioner	Blaine	Yes
Bruce	Andersohn	Anoka County Sheriff	Burns Township	Yes
Tim	Willson	Brooklyn Center Mayor	Brooklyn Center	Yes
Randy	Maluchnik	Carver County Commissioner	Chaska	Yes
Bruce	Sanders	Coon Rapids City Council	Coon Rapids	Yes
Joseph	Selton	Crystal City Council	Crystal	Yes
Farrell	Tuohy	Ham Lake City Council	Ham Lake	Yes
Paul	Meunier	Ham Lake Mayor	Ham Lake	Yes
Andy	Luger	Henn. Co. Attorney	Minneapolis	Yes
Peter	McLaughlin	Henn. Co. Commissioner	Minneapolis	Yes
Mike	Opat	Henn. Co. Commissioner	Minneapolis	Yes
Mark	Stenglein	Henn. Co. Commissioner	Minneapolis	Yes
David	Detert	House District 18B	Litchfield	Yes
Millie	Vetsch	House District 19A	Monticello	Yes
Grace	Baltich	House District 32A	Hanover	Yes
Steve	Smith	House District 33A	Minitrista	Pending

Doug	Zila	House District 35A	Prior Lake	Yes
Ann	Lenczewski	House District 40B	Bloomington	Pending
Maria	Ruud	House District 42A	Minnetonka	Yes
John	Benson	House District 43B	Minnetonka	Pending
Steve	Simon	House District 44A	St. Louis Park	Yes
Sandra	Peterson	House District 45A	New Hope	Yes
Lyndon	Carlson	House District 45B	Crystal	Yes
Mike	Nelson	House District 46A	Brooklyn Park	Yes
Debra	Hilstrom	House District 46B	Brooklyn Center	Yes
Denise	Dittrich	House District 47A	Pending	
Melissa	Hortman	House District 47B	Brooklyn Park	Yes
Dan	Tveite	House District 48A	Elk River	Yes
Jim	Abeler	House District 48B	Anoka	Yes
Kathy	Tingelstad	House District 49B	Andover	Yes
Carolyn	Laine	House District 50A	Columbia Heights	Yes
Scott	Kranz	House District 51A	Blaine	Yes
Tom	Tillberry	House District 51B	Fridley	Pending
Joe	Mullery	House District 58A	Minneapolis	Yes
Willie	Dominguez	House District 58B	Minneapolis	Pending
Diane	Loeffler	House District 59A	Minneapolis	Yes
Phyllis	Kahn	House District 59B	Minneapolis	Yes
Margaret	Anderson-Kelliher	House District 60A	Minneapolis	Yes
Frank	Hornstein	House District 60B	Minneapolis	Yes
Karen	Clark	House District 61A	Minneapolis	Yes
Jim	Davnie	House District 62A	Minneapolis	Yes
Jean	Wagenius	House District 62B	Minneapolis	Yes
Paul	Thissen	House District 63A	Minneapolis	Yes
Linda	Slocum	House District 63B	Richfield	Yes
Pam	Costain	Mpls School Board	Minneapolis	Yes
Tom	Madden	Mpls School Board	Minneapolis	Yes
Christopher	Stewart	Mpls School Board	Minneapolis	Yes
T.	Williams	Mpls School Board	Minneapolis	Yes
Debbie	Goettel	Richfield Mayor	Richfield	Yes
Todd	Ketchel	Senate District 19	Otsego	Yes
John	Olson	Senate District 32	Maple Grove	Yes
Laura	Helmer	Senate District 34	Chanhausen	Yes
John	Doll	Senate District 40	Burnsville	Yes
Andrew	Borene	Senate District 41	Edina	Yes
Carol	Bomben	Senate District 42	Eden Prairie	Pending
Terri	Bonoff	Senate District 43	Minnetonka	Pending
Ann	Rest	Senate District 45	New Hope	Yes
Leo	Foley	Senate District 47	Coon Rapids	Yes
Mike	Starr	Senate District 48	Oak Grove	Yes
Jerry	Newton	Senate District 49	Coon Rapids	Yes
Don	Betzold	Senate District 51	Fridley	Yes
Linda	Higgins	Senate District 58	Minneapolis	Yes
Larry	Pogemiller	Senate District 59	Minneapolis	Yes
Scott	Dibble	Senate District 60	Minneapolis	Yes
Linda	Berglin	Senate District 61	Minneapolis	Pending
Patricia	Torres-Ray	Senate District 62	Minneapolis	Yes
Dan	Larson	Senate District 63	Bloomington	Yes

# Hennepin County Amnesty Program - Going, Going, Gone?

Stephen Babcock

You may have known about a program that allowed you to received amnesty for traffic violations under certain conditions. One, the offense was written by someone other than a State Trooper or a Sheriff. (They will never let you plea bargain.) Two, you had to meet with a court referee to present you side. This use to be the city attorney where the offense occurred. And third, you had no prior offensives on record for last three years. If you met these conditions, you were offered a plea agreement. (which you should accept) If you did not receive another offense for one year, (they check your record with the state) they do not report the ticket to the state. Being administered by the town or city in which the offense took place in, they would keep the agreement in a paper file cabinet. If everything went right, it would be thrown out at the end of the year, no record that it ever took place exists.

I want to stress that when the cities and towns administered the program, your offense was totally gone after the one year period, no residual record, nothing. But now that Hennepin County saw the money the cities were raking in at little cost, it has taken over this task. It is true at the end of a year they check your record and if it is clean they do not report it to the state. But they have changed procedures, they keep it in their computer records for five years. By not purging, they in effect extend the no ticket on record requirement to 5 years. They also now say that you are only eligible to be in the program once. I do not know if other counties have this amnesty program but it was a significant change that you should be aware of. Also in the future, it may not be available to CDL holders, please read below.

## CDL Disqualifications Update

Individual that are holding CDL (Commercial Driver's License) should be aware of some changes that could result in suspension and employment termination.

Presently CDL holders can have their license suspended if they are convicted of certain offensives or traffic violations whether it occurred while driving in a commercial vehicle (CMV) or your own personal vehicle. Remember, **Metro Transit will fire operators for suspensions over 30 days.**

This article will not go into CMV's violations that were address in the past issue - Oct/Nov 2005. All CMV violations suspensions exceeded 60 days, what **you must realize is how your behavior in your personal car will affect your employment!**

If you are convicted of any of the following traffic violations in your personal vehicle, you receive a one year suspension. A second conviction will result in a lifetime suspension (with a possible rein-

statement after 10 years)  
DWI (.08 in your personal car)  
Refusing to take a alcohol test  
Leaving the scene of an accident  
Using a vehicle to commit a felony

If you are convicted of two of the following traffic violations within three years in your personal vehicle, you receive a sixty day suspension. A third conviction within three years will result in a 120 day suspension.

Speeding Excessively (defined as going 15 miles over the speed limit.)  
Driving Recklessly  
Making improper or erratic lane changes  
Following too closely  
Violating a state or local law relating to motor traffic control other than parking offenses arising in connection with a fatal accident.

Using a vehicle in the commission of a felony involving a controlled substance will result in a lifetime

ban on first conviction.

The Federal regulations are only a minimum requirement and states have the authority to implement additional disqualification penalties for CDL holder. The problem, presently to the benefit of CDL Holder, the State of Minnesota has not fully implemented the federal standards yet. It will probably be just a matter of time before they are in compliance.

In addition , states are now prohibited from masking, deferring imposition of judgment that would prevent a CDL holders conviction for any of the disqualifying offensives from appearing on the driver's record. Will the Hennepin County Amnesty Program go away? Maybe. The ATU International is working with other transportation unions to modify the "no-masking" rule.

**Important Side notes:** Now

states are getting into the act. If you receive a ticket in another state, they will notify the State of Minnesota about your violation. There is a federal clearing house which all out of state tickets go through.

METRO Transit has been notified by the State of Minnesota that they are reviewing DUI's convictions back to July 1, 2005 to increase the suspension time to one year, otherwise the state could lose \$20 million in Federal funding. The only course is to re-plea bargain or go to trial.

*If you plan on drinking -  
Don't Drive,  
If you plan to drive -  
Don't Drink!*

**Source:** Know Your Rights, In Transit, March / April 2006.

## 2006 Roadeo Winners

1st Place - Jack Berner, #8927, Heywood, goes on to international competition next May in Nashville, Tenn..

2nd Place - Darell Hanson, #9289, Nicollet, and  
3rd Place - Duane Lundgren 289 Heywood go on to the State Roadeo competition next July in Willmar.

Rookie of the Year goes to Jean O'Neill 2116 Nicollet

Congratulations to all 58 participants who participated!

One winner from each facility will receive a certificate and recognition for placing first in their facility. Check your Garage Columns.

## The Five Line Blues

Liz Goldberg

five.  
a rather innocent number  
To the un-metro-ized eye.  
It looks rather small  
but the five line will lie.  
The crowds are renown  
from end to end of town  
From Chicago to Portland on  
down  
Through the heart of the city  
It's really a pity  
This should be a movie called  
"Drowned"

Standing loads are the common  
Young and old hob-hob-nobbin  
And just when you thought  
You gained time in the war  
You open the door-  
And 10,000 more  
fill your bus  
till its bursting and thobbin

Five minutes down  
And your out of down town  
you think your schedule  
might bring you  
some consolation-

A detour of sorts  
Matter of factly aborts  
your premature sense of elation

"Move back please  
Lets make some room"  
They're going to consume  
this whole bus in just-  
a matter of seconds

Ten minutes down  
when on boards some clown  
who's obviously looking for an  
Oscar.  
No fare- just blarney  
An he ain't no Art Carney  
it was then- I just plain lost er-  
"Sir if you please-  
just take a seat and- geeze  
could you put your canary  
someplace else?  
My lap is reserved  
for the steering wheel"  
of all the nerve!  
-and the rest is at best  
much the same.

I hear the University  
Is going to be  
Offering a course that's consisting  
Of Philosophy and life- it's mean-  
ing and source  
And the Five Route will be class-  
room training  
And if you survive the end of  
your drive  
You'll graduate  
With a Masters In Maintaining

...So the years quickly pass  
To you the pick comes at last  
And you ponder your options at  
hand  
Ah you find something sweet  
Good hours.. quite a feat  
With a snab just a dab of the  
fiver!  
And you pick it because  
Your memory does  
Forget what it was - you had  
promised...

## Retirements

### Congratulations to

#### Employees who Retired in July

Tarnowski, Jerome J, 2728, Op. FT., East Metro Gar.  
Hayden, Catherine M, 2806, Op. FT., East Metro Gar.  
Gilson, Dennis W, 2922, Op. FT., East Metro Gar.  
Ransom, Marquitta, 3188, Payroll., Hey. Office  
Klein, Andrew J, 40, Op. FT., Nicollet Gar  
Launderville, Walter L, 5389, Sen. Mech., Non-Rev.,  
OHB  
Math, Elroy E, 550, Op. FT., Martin J Ruter Gar.  
Sturdevant, Mortimer B, 56, Train Op., Rail Facility

#### Employees who Retired in August

Mason, Carl L, 1217, Op. FT., East Metro Gar.  
Merkel, James H, 557, Op. FT., Martin J Ruter Gar.

### Congratulations to employees celebrating

#### Anniversaries

#### October

#### 5 YEARS

10/6/2001, Besikoff, Jeffrey, Bus Op. FT, #2401  
10/6/2001, Dawkins, Mark, Bus Op. FT., #2403  
10/6/2001, Lowe, Tyrone, Bus Op. FT., #2402  
10/8/2001, Harris, Pamela, Bus Op. FT., #2411  
10/8/2001, Mohamed, Hussein, Bus Op. FT., #2406  
10/8/2001, Palm, David, Bus Op. FT, #2410  
10/8/2001, Vang, Xeng, Bus Op. FT., #2409  
10/27/2001, Khang, Nha Vang, Janitor, #2415  
10/27/2001, Lu, Ming, Bus Op. PT. , #2414  
10/27/2001, Rubesch, John, Bus Op. FT, #2418  
10/29/2001, Anorve, Antonio, Bus Op. FT, 2427  
10/29/2001, Hawksley, Candace, Bus Op. PT. #2429  
10/29/2001, Johnson, William, Bus Op. FT, #2422  
10/29/2001, Kong, Xue, Mech., #5613  
10/29/2001, Mazur, Aleksander, Bus Op. PT. #2425  
10/29/2001, Schuldt, David, Sen. Mech., #5611  
10/29/2001, Snyder, Gerald, Bus Op. PT. Day, #2423  
10/29/2001, Thongpatsang, Tsering, Mech., #5610

#### 10 YEARS

10/28/1996, Neuenfeldt, William, Stockkeeper,  
#8631

#### 15 YEARS

10/21/1991, Powers, Bryson, Bus Op. FT., #9178  
10/21/1991, Schellenberg, Michael, Bus Op. FT.,  
#9174  
10/28/1991, Harris, Johnnie, Bus Op. FT., #9184  
10/28/1991, Strombeck, Gregory, Bus Op. FT., #9183

#### 25 YEARS

10/5/1981, Schwintek, Leo, Bus Op. FT., #751  
10/19/1981, Dilling, Keith, Instr., #801

#### 30 YEARS

10/4/1976, Boehner, Donald, Bus Op. FT., #691  
10/11/1976, Benson, Melanie, Bus Op. FT., #854  
10/11/1976, Evans, Lorene, Bus Op. FT., #838  
10/11/1976, Johnson, Dale, Garage Coordinator, #835  
10/11/1976, Markson, Lawrence, Bus Op. FT., #840  
10/11/1976, Talvitie, Dennis, Bus Op. FT., #858  
10/18/1976, Windingstad, James, Bus Op. FT., #868  
10/25/1976, Devine, David, Mech., #3725

### November

#### 5 YEARS

11/5/2001, Her, Long, Bus Op. FT, #2432  
11/5/2001, Herda, Timothy, Bus Op. PT. , #2434  
11/5/2001, Mackey, Andrea, Bus Op. PT. Day, #2435  
11/5/2001, Mirtica, Robin, Bus Op. FT, #2433  
11/5/2001, Smith, Thomas, Bus Op. PT. Day, #2431  
11/26/2001, Achman, Raymond, Cleaner III, #5615  
11/26/2001, Bratberg, Eric, Bus Op. PT. Day, #2437  
11/26/2001, Dye, Calvin, Bus Op. PT. Day, #2436  
11/26/2001, Finn, Margaret, Bus Op. PT. Day, #2439  
11/26/2001, Negawo, Tsegaa, Bus Op. FT, #2440  
11/26/2001, Robinson, James, Bus Op. FT, #2438  
11/26/2001, Rodriguez, Joan, Bus Op. FT, #2441

#### 10 YEARS

11/11/1996, Ware, Daryl, TIC. Rep, #3564

#### 15 YEARS

11/23/1991, Fufa, Tesfaye, Bus Op. FT., #9187  
11/23/1991, Kelley, Michael, Bus Op. FT., 9185  
11/25/1991, Bell, Bobby, Bus Op. FT., 9188  
11/25/1991, Schwintek, Robert, Bus Op. FT., 9190

#### 30 YEARS

11/1/1976, Kluge, Jerry, Mech., #5425  
11/1/1976, Meyer, Michael, Mech., #5426  
11/1/1976, Vargason, John, Skilled Helper, #5427  
11/15/1976, Schwintek, David, Garage Coord. #2766  
11/17/1976, Prachar, Donald, Mech., #3621  
11/29/1976, Keil, Mary, Instructor, #913  
11/29/1976, Olson, Arlene, Bus Op. FT, #920

#### 35 YEARS

11/29/1971, Odegard, Kimble, Mark-Up Dispat., #2697

*For retirement parties and deaths of  
members, please look on the  
[ATU1005.com](http://ATU1005.com) website.*



## Letters To The Editor

Submissions for Letters to the Editor are subject to approval of the Editorial Board and space considerations. Letters to the Editor are solely the opinion of the author and do not represent endorsement by ATU Local 1005 or the Education Committee. If you have an editorial to submit, please contact a committee member or our advisor Scott Tollin at: [stollin@atu1005.com](mailto:stollin@atu1005.com)

## Where's Payroll?

By the time you read this, payroll will have moved to St. Paul and we will no longer be Metro Transit employees. We will be Met Council employees. We had no say in this. It was forced on us. We have people in this department with 35 years of service, 30 years, and 28 years and a few less than 10 years. It wasn't bad enough that Hastus took our work from us and gave it to the ATM's and the Dispatchers. This is just one more slap in the face.

We called the "Union Leadership" and asked if we could use our bumping rights as per the contract. They asked for legal advice and were told by legal their interpretation of the contract did not allow us to use our bumping rights because this is not considered a layoff. We would have to transfer to the Met Council and then we could grieve it. The Union also went to the Bureau of Mediation Services, B.M.S, because this was an issue a few years back and the Union Leadership took on that fight and won. The B.M.S. said that ruling is no longer in effect. At what point does the B.M.S. have the right to negate a ruling?

The union leadership accepted a settlement on 8-21-2006 that we go to the Met Council as ATU payroll employees. We will follow the ATU contract but we will be Met Council employees. The matter of the appropriate bargaining unit for the affected employees will be taken to the BMS for a unit clarification.

If the BMS rules that the affected positions are no longer within the ATU unit, the Employer and ATU agree to expedite arbitration on the matter of layoff and bumping rights.

If the BMS rules that the affected positions are to remain within the ATU, the Union will withdraw its second grievance regarding layoff and bumping rights.

If the BMS rules we are in the AFSCME bargaining unit, it means some of our benefits change, which includes the loss of some of our hard earned sick leave.

This situation is unfortunate for the payroll department to know we have devoted a good share of our lives to Metro Transit and they can just up and move us and make us Met Council employees, while there are employees in the Finance Department that have less seniority.

As a Union employee I have always believed the Union would be there for me if ever needed. I am disappointed that the Unions have no power to protect hard working, long term employees. Be careful, you may be next!!!!

Kellie Miller

**Answer To CRYPTO: ALTHOUGH HIS NAME ESCAPES ME RIGHT NOW, I HAVE HAD "PAWLENTY" OF TIME TO HATCH THE NAME OF OUR NEXT GOVERNOR.**

# The 1005 Line



## **Bruce Dickinson**

Bruce Dickinson is retiring after Thanksgiving with 42 years of service on Metro Transit Properties. Bruce started as the sign man for J. Murry, a small local sign company back in 1965 at the Nicollet garage under the Old Twin Cities Lines. He worked at the old Northside and South garages before returning to Nicollet. While not a Metro Transit employee, his service has been appreciated. When asked what he is going to do with his time he responded "Going to live a whole new life - a million things to do." "and a lot of traveling" Thank You and good luck on your endeavors!

***Come and meet the Education Committee. We will be having our next meeting on Nov. 17th at 2:30 pm at the South Garage.***

## **Minnesota Statues - Election Voting**

Minnesota law Statue 204C.04 Employees; time off to vote. Subdivision 1. Right to be absent. Every employee who is eligible to vote in an election has the right to be absent from work for the purpose of voting during the morning of the day of that election, without penalty or deduction from salary or wages because of the absence. An employer or other person may not directly or indirectly refuse, abridge, or interfere with this right or any other election right of an employee. Subd. 2. Elections covered. For purposes of this section, "election" means a regularly scheduled state primary or general election, an election to fill a vacancy in the office of United States senator or United States representative, or an election to fill a vacancy in the office of state senator or state representative. Subd. 3. Penalty. A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor, and the county attorney shall prosecute the violation.

Of course as good employees and citizens we do not want abuse this right. Every effort should be made to notify METRO Transit of your intentions prior to election day and time absent should be kept to the lowest possible amount. This is an option we should only have to take if for some reason we cannot vote before or after work. We have an obligation to provide transit to the community. An alternative would be to fill out an Absentee Ballot.

### **DRUG TESTING RIGHTS**

If you do not use the specific wording when you request results from a positive drug test, the agency has no obligation to comply. All they are required to do is give you a paper stating the results are positive. Every employee has the legal right to request, in writing to the Medical Review Officer (MRO), copies of: the Litigation Package\* of the initial test (this will tell you how your test turned up positive); the Confirmative (breaks results down into specific levels); the Threshold Levels (baseline of all tests).

\*The Litigation Package can be nearly 100 pages of technical data, which cannot be analyzed or understood by a layperson, including union officers. Professional interpretation is available at the member's expense, starting at about \$50. minimum.

### **WEINGARTEN RIGHTS STATEMENT**

If disciplinary action is suspected, read this statement to your foreman: I request to have a union representative present on my behalf during this meeting because I believe it may lead to disciplinary action taken against me. If I am denied my right to have a union representative present, I will refuse to answer accusational questions and any I believe may lead to discipline.

