

Feb / Mar 2007

The 1005 Line

The People Who Know Where They Are Going

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



Local 1005
Minneapolis and St. Paul MN

St. Paul Conference Brings Communities Together

LABOR AND SUSTAINABILITY: CREATING A CLIMATE FOR GOOD UNION JOBS



**The bad news: Global warming threatens the planet
The good news: We are all part of the solution!**

The Ford plant in St. Paul is closing in 2008, representing a loss of 2,000 union jobs. But on January 19-20th, unionists, environmentalists and others met in a spirit of optimism, resoluteness and possibility, convinced that by working together, we can solve global economic and environmental challenges. Two hundred conference participants met in a beautiful, state-of-the-art training center financed by Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MNSCU), run by the United Auto Workers, and located on the site of the Ford plant.

Friday's evening program featured Jack Rasmus, author of [The War at Home: The Corporate Offensive from Reagan to Bush](#). Other speakers included Bill Onasch, a retired bus driver from ATU Local 1287 in Kansas City, active in the Labor Party and the anti-war movement, and Charles Griffith and Claudette Juska from the Auto Project of the Ecology Centre in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Saturday's ten workshops covered a wide range of topics including sustainable agriculture, wind power, technology conversion for "Green Operation" and "Achieving Justice for

Continued on page 5

**LOCAL 1005
OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT/BUSINESS
AGENT**

**MICHELLE
SOMMERS**

VICE-PRESIDENT

JERRY EWALD

**RECORDING
SECRETARY/ASST.
BUSINESS AGENT**

SCOTT TOLLIN

**FINANCIAL
SECRETARY/TREASURER**

**CHUCK
GUDKNECHT**

Calendar

EDUCATION

COMMITTEE - 2:30 PM

FEB 20 RUTER

MAR 20 EASTMETRO

**EXECUTIVE BOARD
& UNION MEETING**

FEB 27 - MPLS.

MAR 27 - ST. PAUL

10:00 AM / 7:30 PM

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612-379-2914**

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WEBSITE:

WWW.ATU1005.COM

**OFFICER'S
CORNER**

Scott Tollin

Recording Secretary /

Asst. Bus. Agent



This Column has changed to give opportunity to all the Officers to voice and inform the membership about ongoing labor concerns.

Getting the Big Picture

Most Bus Operators know this term. I guess I want to take a few words here to talk about a national crisis that directly affects all of us. That crisis being health insurance. Sure, you may say "What crisis; I have insurance". The problem is that 45 million Americans do not have insurance now and that number continues to climb. More and more union members around the country are threatened with loss of other benefits or their current health benefits.

As long as we remain paralyzed politically and do not pursue major changes in this broken system, we will continue to lose out in wage increases designed to mirror rising costs. As we negotiate contracts, health insurance benefits continue to become an obstacle in negotiating a fair agreement.

What can be done? We, as individuals, can make this a priority issue to educate ourselves so that we can better communicate our positions to legislators representing us. The other day as I became involved in a demonstration for Twin Cities Janitors and their union, SEIU. I noticed an ATU member from South Garage joining in. Every time we as individuals get involved we can make the difference.

Getting back to the point, I believe in getting ahead of the game and try to deal with the issues, rather than waiting and reacting. I am just trying to remind all of us that this is an issue that we need to prioritize in our lives. At the very least, we have the opportunity to speak to our governmental representatives. Quite possibly we may need to look at a complete new way of funding health care in this country so that all Americans can enjoy this benefit.

President's Report

A Summary from the Union Meeting

12/26/06 Meeting

Metro Transit is going to petition the Bureau of Mediation Services (BMS) for the payroll positions that went over to Met Council. Michelle stated that we may carry through to the courts if we lose. There is some case law in which BMS rulings have been overturned. We will do everything we can to keep those payroll jobs in ATU. Last month we made two demands on management for a management error. One was rehiring an employee with back pay and that demand has been met. This had been a case that the manager had indicated that he was going to return the operator to his position and the company reneged on the deal. The other issue is that the payroll positions are not filled. So they have met our two demands at this point. The Met Council will petition the BMS, probably, this week. They are asking that the senior positions be non-rep and the rest AFSCME. We will ask Elaine Markula, former Financial Secretary/ Treasurer, who is present today to aid us with her knowledge historically of what has occurred.

We have not started scheduling any meetings with Management yet except in vital areas where it could affect us for years, such as bus specifications. We have continued to boycott committee meetings. We are going to continue to meet with the STS committee. There is an indication that they will restart the AWAIR Committees with or without us because of OSHA mandates. I think we need to be involved. We do have a battle cut out with the BMS, but we need to fight this elimination of our positions because it won't stop there. It could be any other Department next.

With the start of the legislature on January 3rd, I will be over there testifying for stop gap funding needed for the next 5 years. Jerry Ewald will be in a supporting role. Occasionally all four Officers may be pressed into duty at the Capitol. Hopefully, along with Transit for Liveable Communities (TLC), we will get some badly needed funding.

The Executive Board is indicating that there are some security issues that we may need to take some action on. Apparently the Company or the Police are having drivers make a citizens arrest when there is an incident. We feel this has too many consequences for the operator who is put in the middle.

Curt Botner from LRT was appointed to the Education Committee. Mike Harris to the St. Paul Trades...Carl Rice and Catrina Patterson to the Mpls. CLU.

We did meet with the company on the bus specifications but we have not had any meetings about policy and procedures. A new committee has been formed to help deal with the Met Council's deceptive actions, STSC.

A friendly reminder - PLEASE don't drink and drive. Make sure

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Education Committee

**SCOTT TOLLIN
ADVISOR**

**CHAIR
MEMBERS ROTATE**

**SOUTH
LIZ GOLDBERG
VICE CHAIR**

**HEYWOOD OFFICE
OPEN**

**NICOLLET
THERESA COLLINS
DOROTHY MAKI
MELANIE BENSON
STEPHEN BABCOCK
LAYOUT**

**OVERHAUL BASE
TOM CAMPBELL**

**RUTER
OPEN**

**EAST METRO
WENDY HENDRICKSON**

**HEYWOOD GARAGE
LANCE WALLACE
JOHN VAN HOFWEGEN**

**LRT
OPEN**

**EDITORIAL BOARD
KEN DOLNEY
DAN ABRAMOWICZ
CHUCK FEUCHT**

AT THE GARAGE SOUTH

Contact Liz Goldberg
Driver # 1630 Renovation Date
April is the targeted date for
chaos and general dust raising
during the ground breaking for
the new South Garage which
will include: A large meeting
room, new operators room,
Wellness room, showers, T.V.
room, quiet room, kitchen, pick
room, drug testing room and
new ATM offices.

"Bath, Bed and Beyond" has
reported a number of South
Operators inquiring about a
Universal Clicker to fast for-
ward....

"Driver Assaults"

The recent increase of assaults
against bus operators while in
service has prompted the theme
of "Driver Assaults" and will be
addressed at the next Transit
Safety and Security Committee
Forum held at South Garage
Thursday, February 22, 2007
from 10am-1pm.

Dispatch Pick

The recent dispatch pick has
resulted in a slight adjustment
in South staff;
Frank Collins- Work-fill, 9-5
Larry Pederson- Mark-up, 5-1
Ed Pedersen- Owl, 11-7
Sharon Basso- Relief mark-up
William Meyer- Closing, 3-11
Robin Gerdesmeirer-
sampler/floater

AT THE GARAGE Ruter

Contact Dan Abramowicz #6225
dan6225@comcast.net
Howard Heilser bought sub-
way sandwiches for the crew
for their outstanding Service
Call Mileage. The mileage
goals were restructured.

President's Report Continued

you look at your paycheck for accuracy. Hastus is not performing well.
We are still waiting for the Mike Gilbert Arbitration answer.

December 26th Union Meeting Results:

1. Vote on the 2007 Budget. Passed
2. Vote on the TIC Recognition Program - Passed. In the TIC
Recognition program they can accrue up to 64 hours. It is based on
monthly achievements.

1/23/07 Meeting

We are still meeting about the Maintenance Recognition
Program. There are a few outstanding issues that have to be resolved.
The company is revising their Maintenance Handbook which is all
encompassing. (Bus/Rail/Bldg. Maintenance) They are trying to go
ahead and make changes without us which is a violation of the contract.

We are having discussions about fueling and bus cleaning proce-
dures. The company is trying to impose a 45 bus standard.

There are still issues in Payroll. We have asked the International
ATU for their help and experience. Some members of Council 5
(AFSCME) were unaware of the problem and will discuss it at there next
Board meeting. Janitors belong to SEIU at the 312 bldg. We participated
in disrupting the Business Owner's meeting being held in Golden Valley
showing support. The police came and we were forced to leave.

Management is putting out a bogus form for employee to report
their prescription drug use. We did not agree to this policy. It threatens
disciplinary action. We have been told you do not have to fill out the
form if you feel your prescription will not affect your job performance.
We are continuing to meet with management on this policy.

Sept 2008 is the Republican Convention. Our contract expires
July 31. We will make every effort to bargain in good faith to have a
contract in place. We want a contract before the convention.

We are trying to get "Career Ladders" and the "Step" programs
back on the road. We have appointed a Picnic Committee; Gary Bier,
Ken Dolney, Dan Abramowicz, Mike Rossini, and Jerry Ewald. I have
appointed Melanie Benson to the Education Committee. The MSRS
Retirement fund is the most fully funded state retirement program at
93%.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION, GENERAL LAWS
AND LOCAL BY- LAWS, NOMINATIONS WILL BE RECEIVED
FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITION AT THE REGULAR MEETINGS
IN MINNEAPOLIS ON FEBRUARY 27, 2007.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER – NICOLLET MAINTENANCE

Check website for qualifications: www.atu1005.com

St. Paul Conference Continued

Indigenous Peoples and Communities of Color".

ATU 1005 President Michelle Sommers spoke on "The Need to Expand Clean Mass Transit", commending Local 1005 members for taking pride in their work. She addressed issues like MVST, pending legislation and light rail, suggesting that it would be a good idea to build hybrid buses at the Ford plant. A New Flyer plant manufacturing articulated buses was recently constructed in St. Cloud, Minnesota, and employs union workers.

Patience Caso, organizer for Transit for Livable Communities (TLC) gave an overview of the presentation her organization uses in its outreach and urged support for its 2007 Legislative agenda that calls for:

1. Protecting the current transit service.
2. Secure, dedicated funding for transit, bicycling and walking.
3. Keeping MVST funds flexible.
4. Extending the Minnesota Transit Tax-credit to non-profit employers.

President Sommers made an excellent point in the discussion that followed the panel, noting that there was some past antagonism between bus drivers and bicyclists over road use, but with bike racks now on the buses, and on light rail cars, we all cooperate more. "Sometimes we've got to put away our own preconceived ideas," she observed.

This conference went a long way toward dispelling the idea that labor unions and environmentalists are at cross-purposes. In fact, we all share one planet that is being seriously endangered by global warming. To put it another way, what good are all those hybrid buses in New York City if the ice caps melt and Manhattan is under water?

For a sobering, edge-of-your-seat, eye-opening look at global warming, see "An Inconvenient Truth" featuring Al Gore's slide show, now available on DVD in stores everywhere. It was recently nominated for an Academy Award as "Best Documentary".



Recording Secretary / Asst. Bus. Agent: Scott Tollin, Education Committee member; Melanie Benson and President; Michelle Sommers at the Conference held at the Ford plant.

AT THE GARAGE Nicollet

Contact

Theresa Collins #1378 or
Stephen Babcock (Stores)

In training for the Las Vegas Marathon, Pat Kelehan lost twenty pounds and led the Nicollet "Red Team" to victory in the "Route H" Weight Loss Challenge. (Red Team: Shaunte Johnson, Carrie Boekhoff, Edward Soltam, Jon Uzpen, John Novak, Lonnie Madison, Beradatte Martinez, Mike Humpreys, Doug Hall, Bertha Green, Dave Dittbenzer, Kathy Jones, Delroy Schafer, Frank Lorentz, Patrick Kelehan, Larry Hansen, Ivory Johnson, Sam Achman)

Asked how he did in the actual marathon on December 10th, Kelehan replied; "I didn't win.....AGAIN!"

I want to thank everyone who purchased raffle tickets for this year's holiday raffle. The lucky winners are:

Laurie O'Connell # 63106

Tim Robinson # 1617

Darell Hanson # 9289

Louie Lofton, dispatch

Mickey Young Shop-EM

Rebecca Henry # 66268,

Winners of the pens

Mike Ludke # 2092, Table

Theresa Collins # 1378, Lamp

A big thank you to Dusty Jerzak # 939 for the donation of his handcrafted items.

Managers for Nicollet Transportation are: Donathan Brown, Barb Keener, John Cook

Jim Windingstad # 868 has retired with 30 years of service. Good Luck.

Thanks to the Transportation Nicollet Club and the Maintenance Nicollet Club for the terrific Christmas dinners.

Tapestry

Lizbeth Goldberg

Nowhere is it more evident of the rich tapestry of diversity than within the membership of our ATU Local 1005.

Our union, with more than two thousand plus transit workers consisting of bus and train operators, mechanics and clerical workers bound together under the umbrella of Metro Transit with one goal, to deliver safe, effective quality transit service.

Our world is our workplace and the world at large is a direct indication of the importance of acceptance and understanding each other and our differences, and even more importantly our common ground similarities.

This series intends to introduce to you the unique members of our union who make up this amazing kaleidoscopic tapestry of diversity.

Art Shelton

You'll find him in the driver's room usually surrounded by a number of drivers passionately discussing some social or transit issue. When Art speaks they listen. Confident and poised, the burley operator with manicured nails is impeccably dressed and sports a U.S. flag on both shirt and sweater and with a picture of his beloved two-year-old Cocker spaniel "Baby Doll" hanging around his neck- "This is my baby right here".



"I'm a nice guy- happy-go-lucky!" Art responded when asked to describe himself. "I like Minnesota, hunting, fishing and camping, you can't beat it." He was raised by his father and grew up in St. Paul in a tough neighborhood and "You had to be tough to survive. I worked for Yellow Freight, and one day I ran into a guy in charge of personnel for MTC. He told me to come on in and apply for a job, I did. I thought it was a nice job, a good job. That was 27 years ago. But, in the 80's things changed. The gangs came into the picture and you could see the change in the general attitude. That influence affected drivers as well as the city itself", Art explained. "It's an honorable job, you're serving people. I like what I do. You meet a lot of interesting people and I'm a people person."

Arts interests include fishing, hunting pheasant and quail and motorcycles. "I used to have a Harley, I sold it. Now I have a Corvette. It's faster!"

Art also enjoys his involvement in various community projects. Food drives, clothing drives and events through the Maranatha Community Church. "I help out the kids at basketball games at the St. Paul Oxford play ground. I believe in giving back."

Art has two daughters, three grandsons and one great-grand daughter.

Art Shelton is a true success story. Through his strength of spirit he was able to dispel the pressures of his early negative environment and through a solid and loyal work ethic has earned the respect of his community and his co-workers. As a result, has built a comfortable, secure and enjoyable life for himself, his family and- "Baby Doll".

Art Shelton South Operator # 1347

Aidarus Mohamed

“A good friend and co-worker at Center Line Bus where I worked driving school bus told me to apply at Metro Transit. He said it was a very nice job. I took his advice and I applied for a driving position and today (01/24/07) I have one year and 15 days of full time seniority with Metro Transit. It has good benefits. The medical benefits are 100% wonderful and I like the job. Although I am happy driving a bus, I am intrigued by light rail and I think it would be cool to be the very first light rail operator from Somalia!”



“ I first began driving out of the Nicollet Garage on the 21 route, it was good and I liked it. I had to get used to the scheduling because was too close (tight). When I drove school bus you didn’t have to worry about the schedule, you had plenty of time. I had to learn not to get stressed out because of the schedule.

When new drivers ask me for advice I tell them, “Don’t worry about the schedule, don’t get stressed, drive safe and use good customer service”. Aidarus is from Somalia and has been in the U.S. for six years. His parents, two brothers and four sisters fled their homeland in war torn Somalia during its civil war. They went to Kenya and lived in a refuge camp where life was much better for them. Eventually, Aidarus’s sister immigrated to the U.S. and urged her family to follow her, which they did after much consideration.

“Somalia was very unsafe, very dangerous, guns and weapons everywhere. I feel that the opportunities here are very good and some day I would like to go to school part time and eventually get into the medical line to be maybe a lab technician”.

Aidarus’s interests are soccer and music. “I like soccer very much and I play occasionally. I also enjoy singing. I like all music and I especially like to practice American songs as well as traditional Somali music. Traditional Somali songs talk about life, love, war, country and religion. American singers like Madonna and Michael Jackson are very popular back home, everyone knows them and likes them.”

Aidarus Mohamed, at twenty-seven has seen his homeland torn apart by violence and war and has had to start over in a country where he had to learn the language and customs and begin over. His assimilation has been amazing. Intelligent, personable, hard working and charming. Aidarus is a wonderful and amazing success story.

Aidarus Mohamed South Operator #66006

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!

AT THE GARAGE Heywood

Contact

Lance Wallace Dr. # 64434

"I came here in 1990 on a bus after losing my job in Baltimore, and now there's a billboard with my picture on it across from the bus station."

Robyne Robinson

Organized and promoted each year by Heywood's Chuck Robinson, this years annual "Heywood Black History Celebration 2007" which features guest speaker Robyne Robinson, is not just THE event of the year but yet another significant ascending milestone in Chuck's personal commitment to diversity and its issues.

Chuck Robinson - Heywood's man behind the curtain with his vision to entertain, wine and dine you all at the same time.

Congratulations to Heywoods new Relief Dispatchers:
Sharon Robinson #9637 and
Tashi Gangzey #97

AT THE OFFICE Heywood

Looking for someone to let us know what is going on

Meet the Executive Officers

Michelle Sommers - President



Hello, I was born in Northfield MN and raised in South Minneapolis. My mom works for Minneapolis Public Schools and my dad is a letter carrier in South Mpls. I am the youngest of three girls, my oldest sister is a first grade teacher in Northfield and my middle sister sells medical supplies.

I was working as a baker with no future in sight when I started looking for a job with good pay and benefits. A friend told me to apply at transit.

I started at Metro Transit in 1993 as a part-time driver. I went full-time as a driver in 1994. When I had my first week of vacation, I didn't know what to do. I had never had a paid vacation before. Other employees started showing me the other benefits of being a union member and got me involved. The first time I ran for a Board Member position, I lost. I ran again a year later and

won. I started representing Ruter garage drivers, dispatchers and trainers in 1997.

This is the start of my 11th year on the executive board for the union. The union positions I have held, and the position I hold today, have all been a great learning experience and a great way of getting to know the members. I never thought I would be involved so much with a job.

The union has done a lot for me, from getting me that week of vacation, paid sick leave and other benefits to training me on union issues and giving me the chance to meet my husband, the best thing to ever happen to me, Dan. My life would be very different if not for the union. When I started here it was just a job, it has become a way of life.

Scott Tollin - Recording Secretary / Asst. Bus. Agent



I started at the old Northside Garage in 1973 when we still had dirt bays and a couple standard transmission coaches. I was 21 and a hot shot with all the answers. I was starting my family and needed to support them. I had applied with a couple of companies. MTC called first so this is where I came. The pay was good at \$5.00 per hour but some of the conditions were difficult. I felt the union was the place to go to try to affect change. A couple of the older Board Members were just putting in time. Most of the guys at the time were old streetcar drivers and had fought their battles. I had previously been a member of the Teamsters.

I saw real potential in 1005 since the MEMBERS made the final decisions based on the leaderships recommendations. I also saw far more autonomy for

ATU Locals than I did within the Teamsters from their respective International Offices.

I became involved when MJR (Formerly Shingle Creek) was built and ran for Board Member. I became the Board Member there for 10 years. At the end of the 1995 strike, I took a break from involvement in union affairs. I liked driving a bus and on a lark decided to test for rail with no real thought of going over. When I was offered #3 position in seniority, I accepted. I liked my time at rail immensely.

I appreciate the opportunity to become involved once again, this time in a supportive role to the next generation of union activists. I think Michelle is an excellent choice to be at the top in this organization and there certainly are plenty of battles ahead. We consistently need to recruit new members to become more involved in 1005 to keep us vital, strong, and current.

I would just like to make one more comment to the effect that we should not forget the people in the past who helped to build this union into the organization that it is today. There have been a great number of people I have argued with, befriended, and been influenced by. Wish I could name all of them but space is short. Perhaps in future issues.

Jerry Ewald - Vice President

I was born and grew up in St. Paul, I am married and have three daughters and five grandkids. Just before starting at what was then called MTC (Metropolitan Transit Commission), I was working at American Bakeries (Taystee Bread) with a friend of mine named Bob Benson (South Garage Coordinator). At the time I had a few relatives working at MTC, so I decided to apply also. I talked Bob into coming and applying with me and it turned out to be a good move for both of us since the bakery is no longer there.

I started working at MTC (Metro Transit Commission) as a bus driver on March 22, 1976. I drove for 22 1/2 years out of Snelling Garage and then was a Dispatcher for 4 1/2 years at Heywood, South & East Metro. I enjoyed my driving years but was ready for a change when I became a Dispatcher. I remember thinking when I started at MTC that I have another 35 or so years to go to retirement. It seemed like an eternity, but looking back the years have gone by so quickly. I have had the pleasure of getting to know and work with many great people over the past 31 years at Metro Transit.

I started attending Union meetings almost from day one. I knew I wanted to have a voice in my Union, and by voting on different issues, I would have a say in my work place. I thank the members for the opportunity they have given me to be a delegate to the ATU International Convention, State AFL-CIO Convention as well as serving seven years as Sentinel before being elected the Financial Secretary-Treasurer and finally to the position of Vice President. I have considered it a great honor to represent the members. After being in a fulltime Union position for four years now, I have even more respect for those Officers and Executive Board members that served before me. The contributions and sacrifices that they have made for our Union are enormous.

We, as a Union, face many challenges ahead, as do all middle class working people. If there is one thing I would like to say to the members, that I feel is most important, it is that we need to stand together as one strong united body more now than ever before. **P.S. Don't forget to check out the web page once in a while for updates.**



Chuck Gudknecht - Financial Secretary/ Treasurer

Brothers and Sisters, my name is Chuck Gudknecht and I am honored to be your Financial Secretary-Treasurer. Thank you for the opportunity to let me tell you a little about myself.

I was born and raised in Faribault, Minnesota and graduated from Faribault Senior High School in 1966. In 1970 I graduated from Mankato State with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a major in Accounting. Shortly thereafter I started working for Midland National Bank in downtown Minneapolis as an Accountant, and in September 1971 I started teaching Accounting at the Minnesota School of Business, also in downtown Minneapolis.



In August 1976 I landed a job as an Economic Crimes Investigator for the Minnesota Attorney General's Office - Criminal Division. During my tenure with the State, I also worked on Anti-trust investigations, Medicaid Fraud investigations, and Health Care Provider Fraud investigations all of which were "white collar crime" related. In January 2001 I went to work for Northwest Airlines. That position lasted until shortly after 9/11/2001, at which time I was laid off along with thousands of other Northwest Airline employees. I mention this only because after being laid off, Northwest Airlines allowed furloughed employees to retain their travel benefit for approximately 2 years. My wife and kids and I took advantage of this benefit and traveled by air somewhere at every opportunity. In March 2002 I was hired by Metro Transit and began classroom instruction to become an Operator. In June 2002 I was "Turned-In" as a part-time Weekend and Holiday Operator and drove out of Heywood. In January 2004 I became a full-time Metro Transit Operator driving out of East-Metro. In November 2005 I ran for and was elected to the position of Financial Secretary-Treasurer of the ATU Local 1005, and began my term on January 1,

AT THE GARAGE OHB

Contact:
Tom Campbell
Bob Schaller

Overhaul Base-Body Shop
Mechanic Dave Schmoeckel
retired Feburary 2007.
After 37 years of dependable
work, his calm demeanor will be
missed by all.

Dave's expertise welding and
brazing have never failed to
impress everyone. His skillful
precision have saved a multitude
of restored parts from tow bars
to extremely thin Air
Conditioning condensers.

Daves exceptional cooperation
over these 37 years have demon-
strated to all of us, what a true
Union Brother can be. Thanks
Dave for exceeding the need
here at work and best of luck in
your retirement.

The Twinkle Bus was a huge hit
in the Minneapolis Hollidazle
Parade, the next mission for the
acclaimed bus is Feburary 3rd,
in the St Paul Torchlight
Parade.

AT THE GARAGE East Metro

Wendy Hendrickson
Driver # 6903

Congratulations to Ken Parent,
Dr. #2578, hired date of Mar.
1972 has retired as of Feb 9th.

Ken Ward Dr. # 1223, hired
Nov, 1979 has retirement party
Feb 16th.

Virak Hing, Dr. 64281 has
transferred to Light Rail as a
Operator, which we give LRT
it's own in-house Barber.

We have finished our "Right to
know classes.

CRYPTO by PAT KELEHAN

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

A Z B X U Y A C E A C W Y C F V T

H A V K Y Z B C O Y X G M X B

M S Y H Z A F X K H X E S V H

W Y H P M X D. N S Z O C E' M S Y

Q G H M K Y M V O X E H R Y

V O X E H?

(Answer on page 15)

Check: www.atu1005.com For Scholarship
Information and Forms - April 12th Deadline

A Committee has been Appointed to Organize the Second Annual ATU 1005 Union Picnic!

We need volunteers!!

*If you can give a little time or a lot of time, even all day,
contact us. We need burger flippers, prize givers, food
preparers, people to run games, activities, pick up
equipment, return equipment. Get in on the ground
floor, what would you like to see. If you have ideas let
the committee know!*

Contact one of the following Executive Board Picnic Committee
members to find out where you are needed or give your ideas:

Gary Bier, Heywood office
Ken Dolney, East Metro Dispatcher
Dan Abramowicz, Ruter Operator
Mike Rossini, Nicollet Dispatcher and
Jerry Ewald, Vice President

Transit Humor

Theresa Collins of Nicollet Garage shared this story: I am a female driver with an "Army" hair cut. A large group of children got on my bus. Two small children were talking; "You ask." "No, you ask!" One finally said, "Are you a boy or a girl?" I said, "I am a girl," with a big laugh!

Years ago, a Heywood driver, Eli's, long retired now, told a story about a young female passenger who was always running a little late. One day, she came flying out of her house at the last minute and flagged him down. When she boarded the bus, he asked, "Didn't you forget something?" She looked down and was horrified to realize she had forgotten to put on her dress! He said, "Go ahead, I'll wait." Years later, this same young woman boarded Elis' bus with her daughter, age five. She wasn't ready for him to tell the little girl about the day her mommy got on the bus with her slip showing

Twenty Five years ago when I was a driver, I just finished picking up passengers at a stop, the light was green for me, when I noticed a middle age woman waving, trying to get across traffic and on to my bus. The cars would not let her cross, almost knocking her down several times. I waited. Finally the light turned for her to cross. She gets across the street, climbs up my bus steps and says, "What time does the bus going the other way come?"

We would like to make this a regular column. There are a lot of funny stories out there in every department. If you have a funny, true and tasteful story please submit it to Scott Tollin for publication. (Stollin@atu1005.com) or Melanie Benson, Dr # 854 at Nicollet Garage.

Retirees Corner

By Dorothy Maki will return next issue



The "Nicollet Gang" is in the Christmas spirit!

Nicollet Maintenance Christmas Party. Mary Green is getting help preparing food from Sam Achman of Building Maintenance



AT THE GARAGE LRT

Contact Bob Boyle or
Mark Ammend

The second of our three newest LRV 126 approaching the Saint Paul rail yards and we anticipate having it in our shop soon. LRV 125 has gone thru dynamic testing and should be ready to go in service soon.

It is starting to look like Metro Transit will be doing the maintenance on the new Northstar line at the soon to be built facility up in Big Lake.

The Met Council has moved into full planning for the Central corridor, and is having public meetings to come up with a southwest line to the Eden Prairie area. They also have opted to start bus service on the proposed commuter rail "Rush Line" up to Hinckley from Saint Paul.

We are planning to upgrade the present Hiawatha line to three car trains and hope this will be accomplished by time the Central corridor opens. The ATU has played a large part in making the present rail operation a huge success, and paving the way for all of this future expansion.

We would like to wish Tom Wermager, aka Tom 1, a happy retirement after 34 years. At Toms retirement we spared no expense and brought in our very own rock band, Jerry Fredine and the ballast, with Jerry Fredine, Thomas Kotila, John Swenson and Jory Ackerman.

Welcome to the new supervisor Scott Stone. Scott was a relief dispatcher from East Metro. The annual right to know classes went well and I am sure everyone

2007 Transportation Choices 2020 Initiative *Will Move Us Forward.*

Transportation Choices 2020 is the key to creating a transportation system of which Minnesota can be proud. Right now, our transportation system isn't working. The Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area is ranked as the fifth worst for congestion growth of similarly-sized U.S. cities. Within the Metro area and its 3 billion and growing residents our transportation system has not kept up with its transportation needs and is grossly inadequate. Traffic volume is growing faster than the projects needed to accommodate the needs of our transportation hungry public. With expectations for an increase in population to 4 million in the next 20 years we must be aggressive and act now! We need to invest in a transportation system that will serve all Minnesotans, both today and in the future. Otherwise, we're stuck with transportation that, quite literally, can't move us forward.

The Transportation Choices 2020 initiative will move us forward. It provides funding to dramatically expand the availability of transit, bicycling, and walking facilities in Minnesota. Specifically, it will:

Double bus service by 2020

Create better transit facilities and new park & ride capacity

Construct eight dedicated bus and rail transitways by 2020

Provide revenue to local governments for transit, bicycle, and pedestrian projects.

It uses a regional, half-cent sales tax to implement the Metropolitan Council's transit plan by 2020 rather than 2030, and Transportation Amendment revenues to substantially expand transit in greater Minnesota. The transportation needs of our region are increasingly disconnected from our state policies. We shouldn't have to wait decades for results. It's time to move us forward by investing in a transportation system that will bring Minnesota into the 21st century.

Transit Partners

Transit Partners is a diverse alliance of organizations who have joined together to support the Transportation Choices 2020 initiative. It is calling for a new direction in transportation policy – one that takes the patchwork of existing transportation policies and seamlessly creates a system that serves all Minnesotans.

Endorsing Organizations

Members: Alliance for Metropolitan Stability, Amalgamated Transit Union, Fresh Energy, ISIAAH, League of Women Voters, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, Minnesota Public Transit Association, Senior Federation, Sierra Club, Transit for Livable Communities

Endorsements: Alliance for Metropolitan Stability, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005, AFL-CIO Minnesota, American Institute of Architects Minnesota, American Heart Association, Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota, Fresh Energy, Friends of the Parks and Trails of Ramsey County, ISIAAH, Jewish Community Action, Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing, Midtown Greenway Coalition, Minnesota Center for Independent Living, Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (and its member organizations), Minnesota Public Health Association, Minnesota Public Transit Association, Minnesota Senior Federation, , National Federation of the Blind of Minnesota, Service Employees International Union Local, Sierra Club Northstar Chapter, Thousand Friends of Minnesota, Transit for Livable Communities, United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 789, University United.

For more information, please contact Dave Van Hattum at 651-767-0298 or DaveVH@tlcminnesota.org

Job Tips - Theresa Collins

Use your bike rack mirror. As the bicyclist is removing their bike check your mirror to make sure they have closed the rack, if not honk your horn to let them know they have not closed the rack.

When passing by a parked vehicle with someone in the car, honk your horn to let them know you are passing. If they do not see you they may hear you.

Remember we pick up PEOPLE in wheelchairs, not wheelchairs.

Continuing the Legacy of Equality, Success and Justice in 2007

Robyne Robinson will be the speaker this year at Heywood's Annual Black History Pot-luck Celebration Feb 16,2007 at the Heywood drivers Room 11:00am-2:30pm



First of all, this local industry giant has too many awards, credits, and activities, to mention in this short article to do her justice. This article will try and skim the highlights but you will have to come and meet this wonderful, dynamic, successful person.

Robyne has the distinction of being the first African American to anchor a local prime time newscast, and the first black woman appointed senior anchor at a Twin Cities news organization. Regarded as one of the Twin Cities' top broadcasters, Robyne recieved the 2005 Upper Midwest Emmy for Best Anchor. Her work on live team coverage also has won her the prestigious Edward R. Murrow Award from the Radio and Television News Directors Association.

Robyne's numerous honors also include awards from the Associated Press and the Minnesota Broadcasters' Association; She's won the St. Paul Companies' Pan African Council Legacy Award; the Media Allies Award by the Minnesota Council of Non Profits; and Humanitarian of the Year by Minneapolis Community and Technical College.

Robyne's received the Minneapolis NAACP Television Industry Award for Outstanding Contributions to Broadcasting, and the Mass Media Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews. She was named a Hubert H. Humphrey Public Policy Fellow at the University of Minnesota and has been lauded by the Lupus Foundation of Minnesota for her involvement in creating awareness about the disease she's lived with for over 20 years. In her eight years at Fox 9, Robyne received numerous awards for "The Buzz", an arts and entertainment segment, interviewed everyone from Julie Andrews to Prince, and won critical reviews from local and national arts critics. She's been voted Best Celebrity by Skyway News, and Best Local Female Anchor on Television five years in a row by readers of the Minnesota Women's Press. Broadcast news colleagues named Robyne Best Female Anchor in Mpls St. Paul Magazine and named Best TV Newscaster by writers at City Pages newspaper.

Robyne serves on many boards and non-profit organizations: for the disabled (in particular Lupus), artists, disadvantaged youth, the Walker Art Center, local festivals, Sister Kenny Art Show. Always promoting diversity and betterment.

She has been an appointee to the Governor's Task Force on Juvenile Violence and a delegate to the Second World Conference on Race and Economic Inequality in Adelaide, Australia.

She has helped further the careers of many local artists writing columns and articles published in several national publications. She has also extended her creativity into the jewelry creation business.

Welcome Address: Brian Lamb

Emcee: James Cushenberry

Entertainment: Keith Nance Jazz Quartet

Artist: Charles Caldwell Collections

Come join us and enjoy the celebration!

If there are any questions please contact Chuck Robinson at Ext. 7343

Retirements

Congratulations to

Employees who Retired in November

Maki, Bradley R - Operator #8608
Edwards, John L - Operator # 9270

There were no Retirements in December

Congratulations to employees celebrating

Anniversaries

February

5 YEARS

2/9/2002, Vang, Tou Y, Bus Op. FT, 2484
2/9/2002, Sheehan, Lorna A, Bus Op. FT, 2488
2/11/2002, Osadchuk, Barbara A, Bus Op. FT, 2499
2/11/2002, Craven Sr., Michael W, Bus Op. FT, 2492
2/11/2002, Jackson, Judith L, Bus Op. FT, 2498
2/11/2002, Koch, John C, Lead Elect., 5620
2/11/2002, Zoren, James J, Bus Op. PT, 9697
2/11/2002, Yang, Her, Bus Op. FT, 2357
2/11/2002, Copher, Henry E, Bus Op. FT, 2497
2/11/2002, Greer, Donald G, Bus Op. FT, 3800
2/25/2002, Powell, Michael F, Bus Op. PT, 9444
2/25/2002, Windham, Maurice, Bus Op. FT, 3804
2/25/2002, Riddle, Harold W, Bus Op. FT, 3805

10 YEARS

2/10/1997, Bowman, Ernest, Bus Op. FT, 9709
2/10/1997, Dixon, Linda M, Bus Op. FT, 9710
2/24/1997, Halverson, Cris T, TIC Rep, 3574

30 YEARS

2/3/1977, Smith, Terry N, Mechanic, 5437
2/7/1977, Haga, Daniel R, Bus Op. FT, 2591

March

5 YEARS

3/9/2002, McGill, Ralph A, Bus Op. FT, 3812
3/9/2002, Blomgren, Jo Ann L, Bus Op. FT, 3811
3/9/2002, Gudknecht, Charles H, Bus Op. FT, 3809
3/18/2002, Smith, Marsha M, Cleaner III, 39001
3/18/2002, Dittbenner, David A, Mechanic, 39000

10 YEARS

3/1/1997, Lundgren, Brian M, Bus Op. PT, 9715
3/1/1997, Bebo, Merrill A, Bus Op. FT, 9718
3/1/1997, Raveling, Theodore T, Train Op., 9725
3/31/1997, Anderson, Jon, Train Op., 9736

15 YEARS

3/14/1992, Merrill, Howard R, Bus Op. PT, 9226
3/14/1992, Bell, Demetairs, Bus Op. FT, 9225
3/16/1992, Swadner, John A, Bus Op. FT, 9232
3/16/1992, Mackey, Stephen F, Train Op., 9237
3/16/1992, Christenson, Mary Beth, Money Counter, 3458
3/16/1992, Anderson, Marvin L, Bus Op. FT, 9235

20 YEARS

3/23/1987, Nelson, Craig W, Rev. Equip. Maint., 888
3/23/1987, Fleming, Ron E, Bus Op. FT, 851
3/30/1987, Dixon, Russell, Bus Op. FT, 918
3/30/1987, Dornfeld, Daniel W, Bus Op. FT, 909

30 YEARS

3/7/1977, Miller, Sheila M, Bus Stop Coordinator, 112
3/28/1977, Nelson, Donald J, Skilled Helper, 5277

35 YEARS

3/20/1972, Parent, Kenneth D, Bus Op. FT, 2578

For retirement parties and deaths of members, please look on the ATU1005.com website.



Jacqueline D. Williams, Dr. # 66180

East Metro takes the oath of a union member before the January 23, 2007 meeting

Transit Safety and Security Committee

Did not meet December and January. The next forum will be held at South Garage, Thursday, February 22 from 10-12

2006. Although the job can sometimes be hectic and very busy, I enjoy the work. I know that I work for the membership and I take my fiduciary responsibilities seriously. My focus is that what I do benefits all of the members of the ATU Local 1005.

On a personal note, I am married and we have 3 healthy and active girls ages 14, 12, and 9. As you can imagine, much of my time outside of work is devoted to the family. I still play ball in the spring and summer with a team that I have been associated with for more than 20 years. I enjoy working in my yard and gardens, and when time permits I like getting together with friends. Finally, my wife and kids and I live in St. Paul in a house for which I paid \$1.00 in 1976.

December Requests for Arbitration

- 1. FTH Operator - Discharged for excessive absenteeism and overall record. Failed to go to arbitration.
- 2. South Operator - Accident Chargeability - Failed.
- 3. FTH Operator - Discharge for Gross Misconduct (Theft), Falsification of documents & Overall record - Failed. .
- 4. South Mechanic - Termination for Falsifying information - Passed, it will go to arbitration. Involved an accident at work, company surveillance, and being under doctors orders.

January Requests for Arbitration

- 1. Nicollet Farebox Technician was given a final record of warning for sleeping on the job. The discipline was not progressive and was wrongly categorized as a dischargeable offense of employee theft of resources. Passed.
- 2. There are **two** Payroll Arbitrations involving different aspects of getting our payroll jobs back to ATU positions. A petition has been filed for clarification of bargaining work unit. We are waiting for a date. Passed. Please see WWW.atu1005.com for a complete update

Minimum Wage

The U.S. House overwhelmingly passed a bill to raise the minimum wage from \$5.15 an hour—where it’s been stuck for almost 10 years—to \$7.25. The vote was 315-116 in favor of the raise. The House delivered on its promise to raise the minimum wage. But Big Business is likely to target a similar bill in the Senate for special-interest provisions. Business interests want tax breaks in exchange for a minimum wage increase—on top of more than \$300 billion in business tax breaks already passed since the last minimum wage increase.

Talk about unfair—companies have been sucking in billions of dollars in tax cuts over the past 10 years, while the purchasing power of the minimum wage has shrunk to its lowest level in 50 years.



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
No Letters were submitted

CORRECTION: Jonathan & Wendy Hendrickson were married on December 2nd, 2006

Answer To CRYPTO:
MY FOREMAN MADE A BIG SMILEY FACE OUT OF THE
SYMBOLS ON HIS DESKTOP.
WHY CANT HE JUST LET ICONS BE ICONS?

The 1005 Line

Transit / Suburban / Rural

Transit can relieve road congestion.

Congestion is often cited as our region's number one livability issue—it costs the region over \$1 billion every year in wasted time and fuel. Transit is our best chance of solving our traffic problems. It gives people an alternative to sitting in traffic, and it gets cars off the road. Ridership on Metro Transit is the highest in 22 years, with around 200,000 rides given every day. Each of those rides means one less car on the road, bringing all of us to our destinations more quickly and conveniently.

Transit creates new jobs and new places to live.

Everyone needs a job and a place to live, and more people want those jobs and homes to be easily accessible. Living near transit lines is increasingly attractive to Twin Cities residents—more than 5,400 housing units were built along the Hiawatha Line between 2000 and 2005. Many people who live along transit lines can simply hop on the bus or train and reach their jobs.

Transit saves money.

Most Twin Cities families spend more on driving than on health care, education, or food. An average household spends 20 percent of their household expenditures on transportation. The majority of transportation spending in MN – 98 percent – is for the purchase, operation, and maintenance of cars. Filling up a tank of gas can cost between \$40 and \$60. The price of a bus or rail ticket? \$3 round-trip. It doesn't take a mathematician to figure out that transit saves money. Investing in transit just makes sense.

Transit makes our communities cleaner, healthier, and better places to live.

Our lives depend on the air we breathe. Unfortunately, air quality in the Twin Cities is predicted to grow worse. For the first time in 25 years, the Twin Cities are experiencing a growing number of air quality alerts. Cars and trucks account for nearly 60 percent of all air pollution. Transit provides a cleaner way to get around. It uses half the energy and half the emissions of cars. It helps create a healthier environment for our children, both today and in the future. We can all breathe easier when we invest in transit.

Transit takes care of all Minnesotans, including those who can't drive.

Half of all Minnesotans can't drive. Some are too young. Some are too old or too sick. Some don't want to purchase a car and some simply can't afford one. Many Minnesotans would like to take transit, but the choice simply isn't available on a wide scale, especially in rural areas. Transit gives everyone an opportunity to get around safely, affordably, and conveniently. Investing in transit helps everyone—and we mean everyone—move forward.

Transit creates vibrant communities.

Bus stops and train stations are natural gathering places—they're the places where people wait, socialize, run errands, and enjoy refreshments on their way to and from work, school, or other places. Transit builds communities, communities filled with businesses, homes, schools, and people. Simply, we need transit to connect us with our destinations and with each other. **Source:** Transit for Livable Communities -TLC

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.

