



# Local 1277

# News

December, 2017

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Website: [www.atu1277.com](http://www.atu1277.com)



## President's report

### *Lives and Careers are at Stake*

#### **Think Before You Drink!**

By Art Aguilar - President, Local 1277

During the holiday season—and throughout the year—you and your families probably attend many parties and other social get-togethers. Enjoy the festivities and the company! Have a great time, *but remember*: There may be consequences—*serious, life-changing consequences*—if you celebrate too much.

Or, to put it as bluntly as possible: *If you drink too much and lose control, you may well be risking everything of value—your career, your families' well-being and security, and even your lives!*

See the title of this article? *Think before you drink! It is worded that way because—to be as honest and concerned as I can be—most people don't do a lot of thinking after they've been drinking and, besides, it's likely that it will be too late to help, anyway.*

California, along with many other states and cities, always needs new revenue sources. Therefore, among other reasons, state and local law enforcement set up an increasing number of sobriety check points along many streets and highways. You *know* what inevitably comes next: more and more drivers are being tested—and *arrested*—for driving under the influence. More and more drivers are involved in fatal and non-fatal crashes.

#### **Please do not become a statistic**

Due to the nature of our work, most ATU Local 1277 members are rightly and honorably considered “safety-sensitive employees”. *Your work directly affects public safety.* With this in mind, never forget: **Your driver's license is a privilege, not a right.** Your license is, however, clearly a *professional necessity* for our Coach Operators and for our members in many other classifications.

**Please do not drive anywhere, or come to work under the influence!**

You may be randomly tested at work, or you may well be pulled over at a sobriety check point. At your worksite, a number of factors come into play:

- Under the influence, you are hampering both your judgment and reaction time to a possible emergency.

- This, in turn, may cost a co-worker, a union brother or sister, injury or even his or her life.

- While driving to and from work—or to and from a holiday celebration—you may be involved in a serious or even fatal collision, one which may drastically affect loved ones.

Is this a risk worth taking? *Of course not!* Enjoy your parties and travel to and from work, but always—always—**think before you drink!**

#### **Consequences of Drinking and Driving**

Before you make the terrible mistake of drinking and driving, think of the consequence.

**If you are convicted of Driving Under the Influence (DUI) of alcohol or drugs—while driving a commercial vehicle (testing at 0.04% or higher), or a personal vehicle—you will, for a first offense, lose your Class “A” license for one year.**

**If this is your second conviction within 10 years—while driving a commercial or non-commercial vehicle—your driving license will be revoked for life.**

*Once again, I remind you in the strongest-possible way: **Your California Driver's License is a privilege, not a right!***

**Think before you drink!** At any time, the risk you are taking at work or on the road will affect you and your family forever. You cannot undo the past. The loss of a loved one, co-worker or a completely blameless person on the road who has not been drinking or even driving will haunt you for the rest of your life.

**don't drink & drive**

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## If You Need It, Help is Available

If you fear you may have an alcohol or substance-abuse problem, help is available. **Do not wait until you are involved in a life-changing accident before seeking assistance!** Through your Union, the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is available for you to use. Do not hesitate to take advantage of this excellent resource. If you have any questions about EAP, or wonder if it can help you, talk to your Shop Steward or a Union officer. Life is too short to fool around with drinking and driving!

A final reminder: A number of Local 1277 brothers and sisters—too many, actually—have been terminated for alcohol or drug abuse. **Never forget this: Management at all of our properties is not fooling around or making idle threats. You can lose your job, your career, your future and that of your family's! Please get help if you need it. Only you can save your job and everything that flows from it.**

## On a Happier Note

As we head into another joyous and, hopefully, safe and healthy holiday season, my family and I join your Executive Board and their families in wishing every Local 1277 active and retired member, and your families and friends, the very best in holiday cheer and enjoyment.

But even as we prepare to celebrate the season, we must never forget the economically challenged people and families who live among us throughout Southern California (and, of late, Northern California, Houston, Florida and the Caribbean Islands). Too many people live in shelters or, worse, on the streets. Too many children will miss the joy of opening presents and, far worse, will be hungry and cold during this holiday season.

**Please try to help those who are much less fortunate than we who have homes, food, careers, healthcare, savings and pensions. There are many ways you can do this; please pick a way and do so.**

Enjoy the holidays! *Be safe and responsible. We don't want any Local 1277 brother, sister or family member to end up as a holiday-season statistic!* You know what I mean.

**Happy holidays and the very best to you, both on the job and at home throughout 2018!**

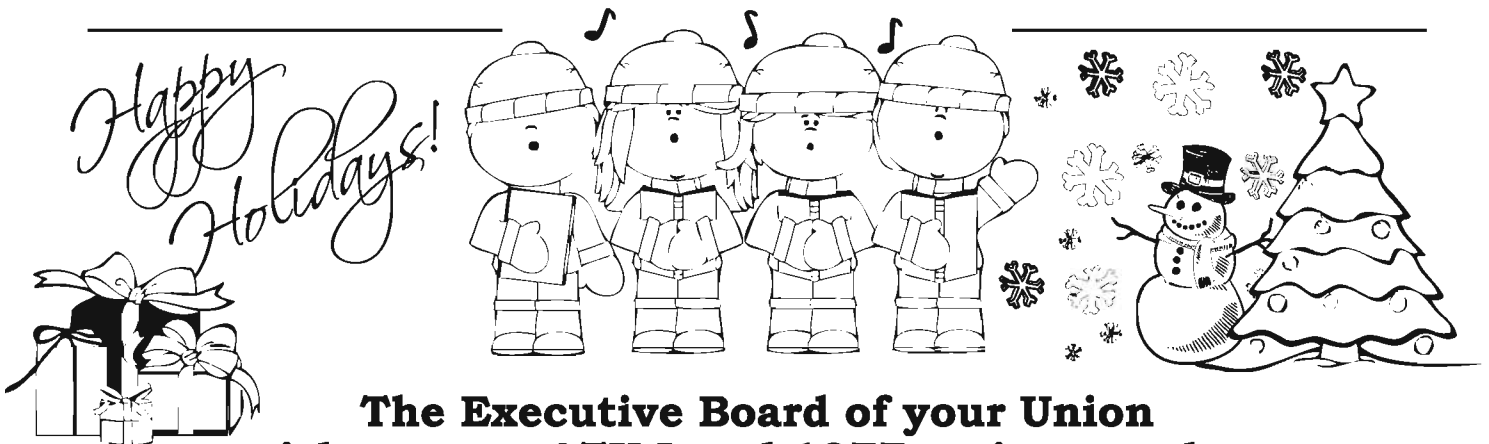
## A Personal Honor and One for our Union

I am proud—and humbled—to report that I have been elected Chair of the ATU's California Conference Board (CCB). This is both a wonderful personal recognition and great responsibility, as well as an honor for our Union—having the chairmanship of the CCB back within our family.

As you may know, the Conference Board is the ATU's legislative-action arm in Sacramento. The CCB helps craft legislation that *benefits* our members and their families, and it keeps a sharp eye on bills that may be *harmful* to our interests and agenda. The Conference Board works closely *with* our political allies and other similarly interested groups to enact sound and progressive legislation. It strongly *opposes* legislators and special-interest groups that fight organized labor and working people and families.

In addition, the CCB, along with the Los Angeles County and California State Federations of Labor, closely monitor the legislative and voting records of state officeholders and prospective candidates. Their reports help our Union determine who to support and who to oppose on Election Day.

In the past, former Local 1277 Presidents, Brothers Neil Silver and James Lindsay, ably chaired the California Conference Board. I look forward to building on their achievements, and working long and hard on the issues that are important to everyone in the California ATU family.



**The Executive Board of your Union wishes every ATU Local 1277 active member, retiree and family a happy, healthy and safe holiday season.**



**Top row (left to right):** Laura Lopez and Danny; Board Member-at-Large Doug Kurowski; Tish Shaffer, and Local 1277 Treasurer Jeff Shaffer.

**Middle row (left to right):** Martha Gonzalez; Ana Varela; Mauro Varela and Elvira; Local 1277 President Art Aguilar and son Larry; Juan Ray; Paul Dudley, and Chamirr Dudley.

**Bottom row (left to right):** Maurice Strong; Eugene Berwager; Corlette Boykin; Dean Boykin; Carlos Lehor, and Local 1277 Financial-Recording Secretary Adolfo Soto.

**Front:** Isaura Renteria and Benjamin Varela.

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## *YES to Housing!* **Local 1277 Volunteers Help Homeless Vets**

*By Adolfo Soto, Financial-Recording Secretary*

On Saturday, November 18, dozens of ATU Local 1277 members, families and friends united in an effort to help Los Angeles-area homeless veterans get off the streets and into homes. These public-spirited brothers and sisters—along with some **10,000** walkers—raised around **\$1,000,000** during a 5K walk/run. A really small distance, when you think about it, for helping those men and women who so ably and patriotically served our country.

And, to make things even better, the money we raised triggered a matching grant from the Hilton Foundation! We *really* helped our goal of getting homeless vets off the streets!

This upbeat exercise in community activism and caring began at Grand Park, right near Los Angeles City Hall, wound through downtown streets, and ended back several hours later at the park. An enjoyable time was had by all. Los Angeles City and County political and civic leaders welcomed the walk participants and praised their commitment to helping the region's homeless vets.

## **Local 1277 Members “Pitch In” and Walk**

I warmly thank our dedicated and committed members and Union officers who walked on Saturday:

**Art Aguilar, Larry Aguilar, Cristina Soto, Melissa Soto, Debbie Soto, Doug Kurowski, Ziggy Kurowski, Errol Frazier, Tish Shaffer, Jeff Shaffer, Dean Anderson, Bernie Guzman, Phuc Do, Eutiquiano Pineda, Wenes Chung,**

**Guillermo Saucedo, Kai Shaihor, Armando Torres, Dyana Elorriaga, Juanita Guzman, Juan Rey, Chamirr Dudley, Malana Graham, Markeshia Kaai, Harmyni Dudley, Paula Dudley, Vincent Edwards, Linda Edwards, Dean Boykin, Corlette Boykin, Gustavo Sanchez, Pattie Sanchez, Wayne Luu, Wayne Luu (wife), Dennis Gibo, Lani Gibo, Paige Gibo, Mauro Varela, Ana Varela, Benajamin Varela, Martha Gomez, Laura Lopez, Wendy Tapia, Eugene Berwager, Carlos Lehor, and Maurice Strong.**

And a very special *thank you* to Brother Mauro Varela who, once again, coordinated and led Local 1277's participation in this important and inspiring exercise in good citizenship!

*Throughout Los Angeles County, on any given night, between **40,000 and 50,000** men, women and even children (including our veterans) live without the safety, comfort and dignity of a roof over their heads! The scourge of homelessness is an on-going tragedy in towns and cities in our region, and it is made even worse now with winter's chill. And the demonstrated lack of concern for the plight of poor, homeless and working people shown by the millionaire gang in Washington, D.C. certainly isn't helping to find solutions to this heartache.*

So it is up to us, brothers and sisters, up to us and caring, concerned organizations like unions and community-activist groups like the United Way. For the *United Way*, and other civic-minded organizations, resolving—or even easing—the homeless crisis is a continuing and top priority. For more information on how you can help, please go to [www.homewalkla.org](http://www.homewalkla.org)

Let's all do what we can to help get our veterans, and others, off the streets and into homes. My family and I wish every Local 1277 member and family a joyous, safe and healthy holiday season.

## ATU 1277 Voluntary Benefits

Due to the number of claims and the increasing average age, a Voluntary Life plan redesign was required to reverse this trend and stabilize the premiums going forward. The new plan design includes three different age bands, <35, 35-49, and 50+. Those under 50 received a rate reduction and those over 50 received a rate increase. As a result, your payroll deduction was changed effective November 1, 2017.

Rate Per Member Per Month								
Renewal - Nov. 2017		Age	Member Benefit	Spouse Benefit	New Monthly Premium	Current Monthly Premium	Monthly Increase/ Decrease	Per Pay Period Increase/ Decrease
	<b>Active</b>							
	Plan A	<35	50,000	25,000	\$9.17	\$15.00	-\$5.83	-\$2.92
	Plan B	<35	100,000	25,000	\$13.16	\$24.40	-\$11.24	-\$5.62
	Plan C	<35	150,000	25,000	\$16.90	\$33.26	-\$16.36	-\$8.18
	Plan A	35-49	50,000	25,000	\$12.60	\$15.00	-\$2.40	-\$1.20
	Plan B	35-49	100,000	25,000	\$19.80	\$24.40	-\$4.60	-\$2.30
	Plan C	35-49	150,000	25,000	\$26.65	\$33.26	-\$6.61	-\$3.31
	Plan A	50 +	50,000	25,000	\$19.35	\$15.00	\$4.35	\$2.18
	Plan B	50 +	100,000	25,000	\$32.69	\$24.40	\$8.29	\$4.15
	Plan C	50 +	150,000	25,000	\$45.10	\$33.26	\$11.84	\$5.92

At our next enrollment which will take place in February/March 2018, we will be enrolling the existing worksite benefits that are available to Union members. These benefits include voluntary Accident, Critical Illness, Hospital Indemnity and Whole Life plans. We are also introducing a new voluntary Short-Term Disability plan which will be replacing the previous Individual Short-Term Disability plan. Also all Active Members without coverage will be offered Guaranteed issue up to \$100,000 for the Voluntary Life Plan.



**Here are the upcoming Local 1277 membership meetings for December and January. Please make every attempt to attend the meeting for your unit. It's your Union, and we need your participation at our meetings!**

**Tuesday, Dec 5:** Los Angeles area members:

**Tuesday, Jan 2:** L.A. Building Trades Council, 1626 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles. Morning Session 10:00 a.m. Evening Session 5:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, Dec 6:** Riverside area members:

**Wednesday, Jan 3:** 1074 E. La Cadena Dr., Riverside Morning Session 10:00 a.m. Afternoon Session 2:00 p.m. Evening Session 6:00 p.m.

**Thursday, Dec 7:** Palm Springs/SunLine members:

**Thursday, Jan 4:** Cathedral City Branch Library, 33520 Date Palm Drive, Cathedral City Morning Session 10:00 a.m. Afternoon Session 4:00 p.m.

**Thursday, Dec 7:** Long Beach:

**Thursday, Jan 4:** Machinist Hall, 319 W. Broadway, Long Beach Morning Session 10:00 a.m. Afternoon Session 3:00 p.m.