



# Local 1277

# News

January, 2019

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

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## Our Union Democracy

### **Local 1277 Members Elect Officers, Shop Stewards and Convention Delegates**

*By Art Aguilar - President, Local 1277*

Once again, the members of ATU Local 1277—active and retired—participated in our long-standing Union democracy, electing Executive Board members and Shop Stewards to new three-years terms, and also choosing delegates to the ATU International Convention.

Most election results were certified on Friday, December 7, 2018. Here are the final tallies (except for Run-offs) as certified by Local 1277's hard-working, dedicated Election Committee:

President/Business Agent: **Art Aguilar** (white ballot)

Vice President/Assistant Business Agent: **Errol Frazier**  
(white ballot)

Financial-Recording Secretary/Assistant Business Agent:

**Jeff Shaffer** (white ballot)

Treasurer: **Mauro Varela** – 620

Adam Barron – 526

Board Member-at-Large: Sergio Perez – 401 **(Run-off)**

John DiRito – 398 **(Run-off)**

Marilyn Archie – 224

Dean Boykin – 153

#### MTA – Shop Stewards

Division 3301 – **Benjamin Clemente** – 38

Lester Duboise – 15

Chris Licea – 13

Division 3302 – **Jose Palomino** (Inc.) – white ballot

Division 3303 – **Leo Garcia** (Inc.) – white ballot

Division 3304 – *Special Election in January 2019*

Division 3305 – **Mike Ashford** (Inc.) – white ballot

Division 3307 – **Aaron Williams** (Inc.) – white ballot

Division 3308 – **Samuel Bruce** – 24

Marilyn Archie – 20

Division 3309 – **Barry Richter** (Inc.) – 33

Sergio Perez – 26

Division 3310 – *Special Election in January 2019*

Division 3315 – **John DiRito** (Inc.) – white ballot

Division 3318 – **Dean Boykin** (Inc.) – white ballot

W.E.M. – *Special Election in January 2019*

RRC “A” – *Special Election in January 2019*

RRC “B” – **Julian Torres** – 28

Bernetta Bunch (Inc.) – 21

Rail Comm. Electronic Insp. – **Rick Johnson** – 34

Ruben Ramirez (Inc.) – 14

Facility Maintenance “A” – **Bruno Angel** (Inc.) – white ballot

Facility Maintenance “B” – **Rick Anzures** (Inc.) – 28

Zachery Garcia – 3

Traction Power Inspector – **Bill Robles** (Inc.) – white ballot

Signal Inspector – **Eric Urena** – 16

Forrest Belmont (Inc.) – 11

Track Inspector – **Scott Meyer** (Inc.) – white ballot

Blue Line Maintenance – *Special Election in January 2019*

Red Line Maintenance – **Rafaele Mastrangelo** – 36

Juan Rey (Inc.) – 25

Green Line Maintenance – **Edgar Johnson** (Inc.) – white ballot

Gold Line Maintenance – **Oscar Salinas** (Inc.) – white ballot

ECT – **Ray Amerson** (Inc.) – white ballot

ITS – **Kevin Owens II** (Inc.) – white ballot

Stops & Zones – **Leopoldo Gomez** (Inc.) – white ballot

Monrovia – **Marcos Martinez** (Inc.) – white ballot

Expo Line – **Zachery Rakisits** – (Inc.) – white ballot

#### Riverside Transit

Operations Position #1 – **Orletta Gutierrez** (Inc.) – white ballot

Operations Position #2 – **Josephine Garcia** (Inc.) – white ballot

Maintenance – **Christopher Vore** (Inc.) – white ballot

#### SunLine Transit

Operations – *Special Election in January 2019*

Maintenance – **Esteban Huizer** (Inc.) – white ballot

Para Transit – *Special Election in January 2019*

#### Long Beach Transit

Operations #1 – **Charles Barba** (Inc.) – white ballot

Operations #2 – **Gaynell Cooper** (Inc.) – white ballot

Operations #3 – *Special Election in January 2019*

Operations #4 – *Special Election in January 2019*

Maintenance #1 – **James McGiffert** (Inc.) – white ballot

Maintenance #2 – **Marie O’Campo** – 23

David Lawrence (Inc.) – 14

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**Delegates to the ATU International Convention**

Seat #1 – **Art Aguilar** – white ballot

Seat #2 – **Jeff Shaffer** – white ballot

Seat #3 – **Mauro Varela** – 469 **(Run-off)**

Adam Barron – 434 **(Run-off)**

Mark Garcia – 280

Seat #4 – **Errol Frazier** – white ballot

Seat #5 – **John DiRito** – 607

Daniel Perez – 407

Seat #6 – Marilyn Archie – 339 *(Withdrew from Run-off)*

Victor Rodriguez – 212 **(Run-off)**

Lester Duboise – 202 **(Run-off)**

Leslie Davidson – 183

Jose Palomino – 156

Seat #7 – Dean Boykin – 337 **(Run-off)**

Eric Urena – 286 **(Run-off)**

Orletta Gutierrez – 264

Gaynell Cooper – 207

Seat #8 – Sergio Barron – 292 **(Run-off)**

Aaron Williams – 277 **(Run-off)**

Josephine Garcia – 261

Ray Amerson – 158

Charley Barba – 122

Seat #9 – Monica Carney-Hayes – 363 **(Run-off)**

Rick Anzures – 223 **(Run-off)**

Peter Alegria – 201

Brittany Carr – 193

Randy Larsen – 130

Seat #10 – Oscar Velasco – 317 **(Run-off)**

Julian Torres – 301 **(Run-off)**

Marvin Cabot – 245

Chris Vore – 188

*I would like thank the hard-working, diligent, professional members of Local 1277's Election Committee for their fine work in upholding our Union's important democratic-election process: Chairman Noe Zendejas; Members, Gail Blane, April Williams and Clifford Niels. You did excellent, important work! I warmly commend your involvement, and I commend the "Union Spirit" which motivated a good number of our brothers and sisters to run for office!*

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## *An Appreciation from President Art Aguilar*

Brothers and sisters of ATU Local 1277, active and retired, *thank you*. Thank you so much for supporting me for another three years to serve *your* needs and goals, and our great Union. I accept this treasured honor with humbleness and a determination to fight day and night for even *better* contracts and benefits, the maintenance and *expansion* of our Union's political and social influence, and the *progressive* agenda of organized labor as a whole.

Over the past three years, your experienced and dedicated Local 1277 negotiating team has secured good contracts at all our properties. There has been "labor peace", something we all want. Your wages have increased. Your jobsites have become safer. Your benefits packages—including the all-important healthcare coverage—have been strengthened. Your Union has made—and continues to do so—a positive and lasting difference in your lifestyles and those of your families.

Like any good team—say, our Los Angeles Dodgers!—our successes, Local 1277's successes, have come about because, in your wisdom, you gave me an excellent Executive Board to guide our Union in all its activities. And even though two excellent and experienced officers have retired, two more remain with me on your Board, and I am confident that the two in-coming members will serve your interests with enthusiasm and determination. Thank you, brothers and sisters, for your vote of confidence!

In the political process and in our community, Local 1277 continues to be a leader. We endorsed a number of winning candidates at all political levels in 2018, and worked hard to get them elected. *We helped flip the U.S. House of Representatives to the pro-union, pro-working Democratic Party.* Through our California Conference Board, which I chair, we continue to be a "player" in state politics in Sacramento. We will *continue* to be active in politics over the next three years, supporting pro-working family candidates and opposing those will wish us ill.



I am particularly proud of our effort to help sponsor HR 6016 (Napolitano), which *rightly and finally* strengthens penalties against those mindless, vicious people who lash out at mass-transit coach operators over what they (invariably wrongly) consider to be offenses. Our coach operators need and *deserve* all the protection they can have against assaults while performing their important services!

In the community, we have spearheaded efforts and peaceful demonstrations for universal healthcare, better education, upgraded infrastructure and expanded mass transit, income equality, and human rights and dignity. We have helped make a *positive difference* in the community, in the halls of power, and among our brothers and sisters in the union movement.

I eagerly look forward to increasing our efforts and participation. I accept the challenge of delivering strong contracts which reflect your needs and goals, and make your professional careers, families and retirement all that much better. *I am here to serve you and our Union.* My door is *always* open to any ATU Local 1277 brother, sister and retiree. I am proud of what we have accomplished over the years, and I look forward to achieving even more.

*Thank you again, brothers and sisters, for giving me another chance to serve you! I will not abuse your confidence!*

## ***Thank You for your Confidence and Support!***

*By Errol Frazier - Vice President, Local 1277*

Once again, I most humbly thank *you*—the brothers and sisters of ATU Local 1277—for the great honor and privilege you have given me: The opportunity to serve you and our Union for another three years as your Vice President. I fully realize how important your confidence in me is, and I wouldn't trade that for anything.

I can report to you that *your* Union has achieved a lot over the past three years, including good contracts and increased benefits, improved safety on the job, at all our properties, and a growing reputation as a political and social force within both Southern California and the ranks of organized labor. We are a strong and determined voice for the rights and *dignity* of working people and families and, frankly, *I wouldn't have it any other way!*

Our Union—and union, for that matter, is only as strong as its leadership, and I am proud to say that in this crucial area Local 1277 comes up winners. Your Executive Board—even with two in-coming members to replace the excellent Brothers Adolfo Soto and Doug Kurowski—has a wealth of experience in negotiations, grievance hearings and arbitrations. That's how we have gotten good contracts, represented you when necessary, and dealt with management at all our properties.

Your Shop Stewards—the backbone of our Union—are knowledgeable, experienced and single-mindedly dedicated to serving your best interests and those of your families. I used to be a Shop Steward and now I work closely with all of them, at all our properties, and I can tell you that they are an excellent team—and resource—for you. It is a pleasure to work with them and help them in any way I can.

I look forward to more success—in negotiating new contracts, representing you on the Executive Board, with management, and in the political arena. Simply put, it is an honor for me to do so, and I pledge my untiring efforts and experience to that wonderful goal. Your Union is your “second family”, and I am so proud to be part of it.

As always—*always*—I am available to talk to, help, and advise *any* ATU Local 1277 brother or sister. I don't even consider that a job—it is a *pleasure*. In the years to come, please take me up on my offer—talk to me, ask for my help in any way possible, for any problem. I will be honored to lend an ear and hand in any way I can.

***Thank you again, my brothers and sisters for the wonderful honor to again serve as your Vice President. I will reward your confidence and, together, we will make our Union even stronger and more responsive to your needs!***

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## ***Thank You for Allowing Me to Help Make our Union Stronger and Even More Responsive to Your Goals***

*By Jeff Shaffer - Financial-Recording Secretary*

Thank you, brothers and sisters, for electing me ATU Local 1277 Financial-Recording Secretary for the next three years. I do not for a moment take this promotion and honor lightly, and I pledge to work long and hard for *your* best interests and those of our Union.

During the past three years, I have seen your Executive Board deal with a great amount of issues: Contract negotiations; grievance and arbitration procedures; workplace safety and health issues, and our Union's role both in the political process and in our community of the greater Los Angeles region.

I have learned a lot from Brothers Art Aguilar, Errol Frazier, Adolfo Soto and Doug Kurowski. It's been like a seminar in union-management issues, the role of unions in public and political life, and the future of the union movement in general. What an experience it has been!

I want to salute retiring Board members, Financial-Recording Secretary Soto and Board Member-at-Large Kurowski for their decades of service on the Board and in the workplace, as strong representatives for *your* needs and goals. I am grateful for the chance to expand on their work and achievements, and I again thank you all for giving me the opportunity to do so.

I will continue to always be available and open to the questions, problems and ideas of any Local 1277 member, from *any* of our properties. You can count on me to help you in *any* way I can. It is nothing less than an honor for me to do this.

I look forward to taking on the new challenges and responsibilities of being your Financial-Recording Secretary. I look forward to helping strengthen our Union in any way that I can. Thank you again, brothers and sisters, for giving me this great honor!



# Remembering those who have passed

## *In Memoriam*

During the past year, a number of ATU Local 1277 brothers and sisters passed away. We mourn their passing. The Executive Board and all of our active members and retirees offer our condolences to their families and friends. We remember these members now and forever. They will be missed.



Loc Nguyen 11-2-17 Active  
Scott Hoffman 12-1-17 Retired  
Daniel Ramirez 12-26-17 Retired  
Rudy Silva 2-5-18 Retired  
George Nerio 2-11-18 Retired  
Philip Vestal 2-12-18 Retired  
Emiliano Diaz 2-21-18 Retired  
James Garcia 2-23-18 Active  
Donald Cochran 3-12-18 Active  
Jimmie Hubbard 3-20-18 Retired  
Robert Cowans 3-21-18 Retired  
Donald Cox 4-13-18 Retired  
Orlando DeLaFuente 5-21-18 Retired  
Emmitt McGee Jr. 6-3-18 Retired  
Fard Wilkerson 6-15-18 Active  
Paul Tassone 7-13-18 Retired  
William Day 8-2-18 Retired  
Donald Pillow 10-6-18 Retired  
John Currie 10-19-18 Retired  
James Gatewood 11-7-18 Retired  
Joe DeLaCerde 11-21-18 Retired  
Carlos Holguin 11-23-18 Retired



## *Rest in Peace, brothers...*

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

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

**Wednesday, Feb 6:** Riverside area members:  
1074 E. La Cadena Dr., Riverside Morning Session 10:00 a.m. Afternoon Session 3:00 p.m.

**Thursday, Feb 7:** Palm Springs/SunLine members:  
Cathedral City Branch Library, 33520 Date Palm Drive, Cathedral City Morning Session 10:00 a.m. Afternoon Session 4:00 p.m.

**Thursday, Feb 7:** Long Beach:  
Machinist Hall, 319 W. Broadway, Long Beach Morning Session 10:00 a.m. Afternoon Session 3:00 p.m.

**NO JANUARY MEETINGS. ALL MEMBERS RECEIVE CREDIT.**