



# Local 1277

# News

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## President's report

### Local 1277 Long Beach Transit Unit Members Ratify New Three Year Contract

By Art Aguilar - President, Local 1277

On December 12, ATU Local 1277's Long Beach Transit (LBT) Unit members ratified a three-year contract with the agency. It will run until *June 30, 2020*. Here are some highlights of the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

#### Article 47, Sections 2 and 50-A – Wage Increases

Effective July 1, 2017 – 3%

**Effective July 1, 2018 – 3%**

Effective July 1, 2019 – 3%

**Effective July 1, 2020 – 3.5%**

#### Article 8, Section 2 – Grievance Procedure (new wording in boldface)

Step 1: The employee or union shall **submit, in writing, a grievance**, with the employee's **Executive Director/Vice President** or his/her designated representative. The Department Superintendent, or his/her designated representative, shall give his/her answer to the employee no later than five days after **receipt of the grievance**.

Step 2: If the answer of the **Executive Director/Vice President**, or his/her designated representative in Step 1 is unsatisfactory, the grievance shall be presented, in writing, and contain a statement of the pertinent facts and the provisions of the Agreement allegedly violated, and the remedy allegedly sought, to the **Executive Director/Vice President, Employee/Labor Relations**, or his/her designated representative within *ten* days after the answer to Step 1.

#### Article 17 – Pension Agreement

New language – Pension rate changes, if any, will be implemented in the first pay period in December, or whenever required by law.

#### Article 30, Section 2 – Health, Dental, Vision and Life Insurance

Effective *July 1, 2017*, The Company will pay 90% of the premium cost for each employee's own medical coverage, plus 85% of the cost of dependent coverage.

The company-provided health plan will include a *\$20.00* co-payment for a doctor/urgent-care visit, and a *\$20.00* co-payment for brand-name prescriptions and *\$10.00* for generic prescriptions. **Effective *October 1, 2018*, the Company-provided health plan will provide a *\$35.00* co-payment for brand-name prescriptions.**

#### Article 35 – Leave of Absence (Sick Leave)

All employees, upon retirement, shall have 100% of their unused sick leave converted to a cash account within a ledger maintained by the Company. These monies are to be used to pay monthly premiums for health-insurance plans of the employee's choosing for employee, spouse and eligible dependents **or for other verifiable medical expenses incurred by employee, spouse or eligible dependent.**

#### Article 38, Section 7 – Motor Coach Operations & Operators Bidding

For all bids, the first day of bidding shall start at **6:00 a.m.**, at which time operators in top seniority shall bid choice of runs and days off, and so on down the seniority list. The bid shall stop at **7:00 p.m.** each day.

#### Article 49, Section 3 – Maintenance Department Bidding

New Language: Maintenance Department employees may bid *two* consecutive days off, and shifts in their respective job classification by seniority. The actual bidding shall start *seven* days after the posting of shifts, **and shall be conducted over two days for the *January* bid only.**

#### Article 49, Section 8-D – Maintenance Department Tool Allowance

2017 - \$425.00

**2018 - \$450.00**

2019 - \$475.00

**2020 - \$500.00**

These are *some* of the highlights of the new CBA with Long Beach Transit. As always, please read your new contract carefully.

# Individuals Uniting Collectively

## **Union Power Advances Social Power and Progress**

By Doug Kurowski, Executive Board Member-at-Large

Brothers and sisters, you remember the tremendous—even historic—words that are the bedrock and clarion call of organized labor: **In union, there is strength!**

And, now, in this truly awful, destructive and down-right embarrassing era of the out-of-control Trump gang's grip on our government, those ringing words hold more truth than ever: **In union, there is strength!**

Most people, when they think about unions—if they ever do—believe that unions exist only to get whatever they can for their members, even at the expense of other non-union workers, management and society at large.

*Nothing—nothing—brothers and sisters, could be further from the truth!*

## **Unions and the “Big Picture”**

Of course, unions were created, and exist, to advance the economic, social and political agenda of their members. That's just common sense; the bosses have always had the upper hand, so who would look out for the employees who make businesses thrive? *Unions*. Why else would working people want them and the services they offer? Why else would working men and women pay dues, if not to support the union that represents them in grievances, fights for their rights and benefits, and is their voice in the halls of political power?

That said, what too many average people in this country don't understand—and certainly the bosses and the ruling gang in Washington ignore—is ***that unions and the union movement has been the engine for social and economic progress in this country for well over 125 years!***

That's right. *Unions*. Including *your* Union, ATU Local 1277, and the ATU International. Just as individuals on their own simply can't equal the strength and drive of masses of people coming together for a common cause, so individual unions by themselves can't accomplish what millions of working people, banded together in hundreds of local unions, can achieve *together*.

The union movement across this country, and down through the years, has led the fight for safer working conditions, an end to child labor and the creation of paid vacations. Hell, unions invented the *weekend*! Unions pioneered pensions, brought healthcare to countless workers and families, and forced the bosses to respect the productivity and dignity of working men and women. Unions gave working people *power*! Unions made our voices *heard*!

*And they did all this fighting in the streets, at worksites, in the courts and political arena—for the benefit of all working people, not just their members! You've heard the expression, “A rising tide lifts all boats”? Unions—banding together, fighting together, multiplying individuals' hopes and demands by the tens of millions, were that rising tide! We made it happen—collectively! We improved society, expanded education, healthcare, voting rights, social and economic equality throughout our great country.*

Brothers and sisters, you are the heirs—and the current members—of a truly historic, positive movement that helped transform and better this country and society. *You should be proud!*

## **The Union Movement Today**

Today, we in the union movement, we who are the working backbone of our country, are under fire from all directions. The U.S. Supreme Court—with a new arch-conservative justice appointed by Trump—seems on the verge of gutting public-employee unions and their strong political and social power. The *Janus vs. AFSCME* case (please see President Aguilar's article in the October paper) lays out in no uncertain terms how the court may well cripple the political and social voice of millions of working people. *This case may, in effect, make anti-union right-to-work laws the rule across the country!*

Does this matter to you and your families? *Damn right, it does.* By starving out the progressive economic and social engine that is the union movement, corporate America and its political stooges will silence the voice of working people and families and tilt the already-unfair economic playing field even more dangerously against us.

Your union, the union movement as a whole, is one of the last barriers against the total domination of big business and the political right wing. Unions are the last, best hope for continuing progress in the social, economic and political matters that are so important to us. *Silence the unions and working people become mute. And the unholy cabal of the bad guys wins it all!*

Your union, along with other unions across the country, are fighting back as best as they can. We support the right candidates and oppose the bad ones. We fight for legislation that helps working people and families and oppose destructive, job-killing bills. Unions inform their members—*you*—so that you can tell your friends and neighbors what's *really* going on, what the real stakes and threats are here.

Your Executive Board does its very best to learn about the issues, how to fight the bad guys, and how to get you involved. Just a couple of weeks ago, President Aguilar, Vice President Frazier and I attended at ATU training seminar on how to fight the spread of evil right-to-work efforts. More than 50 union officers, Shop Stewards and members, from 17 ATU locals, attended the sessions and took away valuable and timely information on how to combat this disease.

**But, brothers and sisters, it comes down to you! You must inform yourselves about the key economic, social and political issues that affect every aspect of your lives, jobs and future. Follow and understand the big news stories. Discuss them at home, at work, and educate your children, friends and neighbors. Know what's going on! Come to your unit meetings and ask questions of your Executive Board.**

**And never, NEVER, forget: Together, we can achieve, we can make progress, we can fight the bad guys. IN UNION, THERE IS STRENGTH! Always and forever.**

## Sacramento report

### **2017 Legislation that Affects Local 1277 Members And All California Working People and Families**

*By Errol Frazier - Vice President, Local 1277*

As we head into the New Year, brothers and sisters, I want to call your attention to a number of bills that will go into effect during 2018. The world we live and work in is changing in many ways, and these pieces of labor-themed legislation reflect that.

*I am pleased to report that all of the bills listed below have been signed into law by Democratic Governor Jerry Brown!*

**AB (Assembly Bill) 168 (Eggman)** – Bans employers from asking about a prospective employee's salary history.

**AB 398 (Garcia)** – Extends the California greenhouse gas emission law. This is very important to mass transit because private businesses purchase emissions credits and that money goes to several significant programs, including grants for public transit.

**AB 673 (Chu)** – Requires public-transit districts to consult with and consider the recommendations of their unions with respect to safety issues when procuring new equipment. Note: This was an ATU-sponsored bill.

**AB 468 (Santiago)** – Extends the authority to issue prohibition orders to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). This allows a transit authority like MTA to issue "stay away" orders to riders with a pattern of violating public-transit rules and those who violate regulations on transit property. ***This is an important safety measure for all public-transit workers.***

**SB (Senate Bill) 1 (Beall)** – Provides \$52 billion in dedicated transportation funding over the next 10 years. This includes approximately \$300 million per year for public transit, including funding for operations. This important legislation nearly doubles the amount of money that comes from the state for public transit!

**SB 2 (Atkins)** – Creates a permanent funding source for affordable housing. This is very significant because too many working people are forced to live too far from their place of employment because there is simply not enough affordable housing in urban centers like Los Angeles and San Francisco and surrounding areas where most people work. Hopefully, this will help dedicated teachers, municipal and transit employees, and public-safety personnel to live closer to their places of work and cut down commuting time and polluting traffic congestion.

**SB 17 (Hernandez)** – Aims to address the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs. This legislation requires drug manufacturers to provide prior notice to purchasers such as union health-benefit trusts and plans (like ours) before a significant price increase.

*This bill also requires drug companies to provide specific information justifying the price increase.* This provision will help purchasers plan for increases and take action to cut down these hikes. Since this information will be made available to the public, the bill will hopefully shame some of the big price-gouging drug companies into thinking twice before they seek to rip off their customers.

**SB 63 (Jackson)** – Allows new mothers and fathers working for smaller businesses to receive 12 weeks of job-protected parental leave. Companies with 50 or more employees already are required to provide 12 weeks of leave. SB 63 requires employers with between 20 – 49 employees to offer similar parental leave.

These are sound, progressive, common sense pieces of legislation, designed to help working people and families, and the general public. *Once again, we are reminded exactly who our legislative and executive political friends are: Pro-working family legislators who crafted these bills and a sympathetic governor who signed them into law.*

**This is why your Union, along with organized labor throughout California, actively participates in the electoral/political process and urges you to do so, too!**

### **Fifteen Local 1277 Members Retire from Careers at MTA**

*Fifteen Local 1277 members have retired from MTA after long and productive careers. They all were hardworking employees and loyal members of our Union.*

**Antonio R. Moreno**, Facilities Systems Technician, Rail Comm., 17 years, August 30, 2017; **Kenneth Cheng**, Maintenance Specialist, Blue Line, 17 years, August 31; **Robert Z. Ramos**, Mechanic A, Division 3, 36 years, September 1; **Michael Cervantes**, Senior Service Attendant, Blue Line, 27 years, September 1; **Glenn Gatewood**, Facilities Systems Technician, Facility Maintenance, 27 years, September 1; **Weerasooriya Higgoda**, Mechanic A, Division 9, 13 years, September 1; **Doan Thi**, Maintenance Specialist, Red Line, 18 years, September 1; **Thomas Padilla**, Welder, RRC-A (CMF), 26 years, September 8; **Edward Cardiel**, Mechanic A, Division 13, 36 years, September 15; **Joe Quintero**, Senior Service Attendant, Blue Line, 28 years, September 16; **Henry Garcia**, Senior Service Attendant, Division 1, 12 years, September 22; **Roy Kawahara**, Warranty Equipment Mechanic, Quality Assurance, 35 years, September 25; **Diana Hardge**, Senior Service Attendant, Division 3, 31 years, October 1; **Stephen Patterson**, Mechanic A, Division 15, 26 years, October 3, and **Fernando Raymundo**, Mechanic A, Division 3, October 11.

***Local 1277's Executive Board and members wish these brothers and sisters long, enjoyable and healthy retirements. They will be missed!***



# 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.

*Aleksander Aftanas, January 5, 2017, retired*

*Fidel Hernandez, January 11, retired*

*Edward Blackshire, January 12, retired*

*Gary Phillips, January 15, retired*

*John Erickson, January 16, retired*

*Horace Bashor, January 29, retired*

*Jonathan Fussell, February 3, retired*

*George Blackburn, February 7, retired*

*Tony Barron, March 1, retired*

*Martin Walker, April 5, retired*

*Ernie Reyes, April 18, retired*

*John Jordan, April 25, retired*

*Kerman Childers, April 27, retired*

*Arthur Rankin, May 4, retired*

*Thomas Taira, June 7, retired*

*Samuel Lopez, June 7, retired*

*Cameron Bean, June 11, active*

*Abel Tamez, August 6, retired*

*Jimmy Weaver, August 18, retired*

*Claude Hall, September 18, retired*

*Omar Nomura, October 11, active*

*Robert Ford, October 29, retired*

*Bruce Mayes, November 4, retired*

*Anastacio Guzman, November 8, retired*



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

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

<b>Tuesday, Jan 2:</b>	Los Angeles area members:
<b>Tuesday, Feb 6:</b>	L.A. Building Trades Council, 1626 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles. Morning Session 10:00 a.m. Evening Session 5:00 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, Jan 3:</b>	Riverside area members:
<b>Wednesday, Feb 7:</b>	1074 E. La Cadena Dr., Riverside. Morning Session 10:00 a.m. Afternoon Session 2:00 p.m. Evening Session 6:00 p.m.
<b>Thursday, Jan 4:</b>	Palm Springs/SunLine members:
<b>Thursday, Feb 8:</b>	Cathedral City Branch Library, 33520 Date Palm Drive, Cathedral City. Morning Session 10:00 a.m. Afternoon Session 4:00 p.m.
<b>Thursday, Jan 4:</b>	Long Beach:
<b>Thursday, Feb 8:</b>	Machinist Hall, 319 W. Broadway, Long Beach. Morning Session 10:00 a.m. Afternoon Session 3:00 p.m.