



# Local 1277

# News

February, 2019

1744 North Main Street • Los Angeles, CA 90031 • (323) 222-1277

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

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## President's report

### Late Run-off Election Results From Our Recent Balloting

In keeping with our time-honored and very positive tradition of union democracy within ATU Local 1277, I am pleased to announce the results of several run-off elections. The run-offs became necessary because a number of the races—for Executive Board Member-at-Large and delegates to the upcoming ATU International Convention—were undecided after the first round of voting.

#### Executive Board Member-at-Large

**John DiRito – 675**  
Sergio Perez – 353

#### Delegates to the ATU International Convention

##### Seat 3

**Mauro Varela – 627**  
Adam Barron – 358

##### Seat 6

**Victor Rodriguez – 639**  
Lester Duboise – 316

##### Seat 7

**Dean Boykin – 610**  
Eric Urena – 364

##### Seat 8

**Aaron Williams – 591**  
Sergio Barron – 371

##### Seat 9

**Monica Carney-Hayes – 629**  
Rick Anzures – 339

##### Seat 10

**Oscar Velasco – 622**  
Julian Torres – 331

I warmly congratulate the Local 1277 brothers (and sister) who stepped up to serve our Union and won their elections. And, once again, I commend our dedicated and hard-working Elections Committee for their efforts: Chair: *Noe Zendajes*; Members: *Gail Blaine*; *Clifford Neils*, and *April Williams*.

### Jackie Goldberg is a “good apple”!

### **We Proudly and Strongly Support UTLA's Teachers and Long-Time Union Champion Jackie Goldberg!**

An *army* of skilled, dedicated and valuable public school teachers had to go on strike here in Los Angeles because the School Board stubbornly refused to listen to, or try to deal with, the reasonable, long-overdue demands by the educators who instruct and guide our most priceless asset—our children.

*I am pleased to report that the UTLA settled with the Board—and won what it needed and deserved—just as we went to press.*

What did our teachers want?

- *Smaller classroom size*, so that they can focus on their students as *individuals*, not as a mass of bodies. *Class sizes will be reduced over the next four years.*

- *Higher pay*, which respects their importance in shaping young lives and allows them to live comfortably in the communities they serve. *Teachers will get a 6% pay hike.*

- *More support staff*, teaching assistants, librarians and others, who will ease their burden and broaden their students' educational experience. *New nurses, librarians and counselors will be hired over the next three years.*

*What exactly was wrong with those perfectly reasonable and common-sense proposals that drove the teachers to strike? I'll tell you: **Nothing! Nothing at all.** That's why UTLA members deserved our complete and vocal support!*

Now the job action is finally over! UTLA members have ratified the new deal. *Good:* Because for every school day that the teachers were out, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)—already underfunded—lost even *more* badly needed money. I warmly congratulate our brave, determined teachers!

On a much more positive note, I am very pleased to tell you that *Jackie Goldberg*, a strong, long-time, outspoken supporter of the union movement and all progressive causes, is running for seat #5 on the L.A. Board of Education in an election on Tuesday, March 5.

Few people more deserve our whole-hearted support than Sister Goldberg. Over the years, she has been a tireless, knowledgeable supporter of UTLA and public education in general. She thoroughly understands the needs and goals of UTLA educators and the crying need for more funding for better public schools and teachers. She will be a fighter and a breath of fresh air for all the right reasons on the Board.

I most strongly urge every ATU Local 1277 active and retired brother, sister and family in Los Angeles to be sure to vote for Jackie Goldberg for seat #5 on the L.A. Board of Education! And please tell your friends and neighbors to join you in supporting her on March 5.

*It's for our children! What else can possibly be more important?* Thank you!

# Thank You, Brothers and Sisters, For the Chance to Serve You

*By Mauro Varela - Treasurer, Local 1277*

I am grateful—really grateful—that you have seen fit to elect me to your Executive Board, the guiding hand of our Union. As Treasurer of ATU Local 1277, I pledge to use my hard work and experience on both the bus and rail jobsites on your behalf. *I now proudly work for you, every Local 1277 active brother and sister, retiree, and family!*

Maybe you already know this about me: I have been very active in our community. I think this is what a great Union like ours should be: An involved and productive “citizen” in the important political, economic and social issues that face all of us here in the greater Los Angeles area. I want to continue—and expand—Local 1277’s participation in our community.

Over the years, I have helped organize and lead marches in support of other local unions, economic and social equality, the rights of immigrants, and our common—and needed—goals of better healthcare, education and the safety and dignity of all working people. I look forward to bringing this background and point of view to the deliberations and decisions of our Board.

As Shop Steward at MTA’s Division 7 for four years, I have done my very best to help every brother and sister with any problems they had, either with management or in their day-to-day work. I will also bring that experience—*your* experience and needs—to the Board.

So, thank you again, brothers and sisters. I will serve you to the very best of my ability. My office is always open to you—to hear your concerns and ideas. Please take advantage of this. I work for *you*, and I will never forget that!

## A Step Up and a New Way To Help ATU Local 1277

*By John DiRito  
Executive Board Member-at-Large*

Being helpful. The way I see it, that’s what it is all about. So, let me thank you, brothers and sisters, for the new opportunity you’ve given me to help both you and our Union.

As Executive Board Member-at-Large, I see it as my duty—and honor—to help each and every ATU Local 1277 member in any way that I can. That was my goal as Shop Steward at Division 15 for four years, and that will be my goal as I serve on your Executive Board.

The backbone of our Union is *your* involvement and participation in our activities and elections. For a number of years, I chaired our Elections Committee, making sure that our elections for all offices—*your* votes—were run fairly and counted accurately. I am proud of that work to make our Union democracy a *real thing*, and I will bring that same dedication to the Board.

I want to hear anything you have to say: Your gripes, ideas and jobsite observations. Don’t hesitate to come to me at any time; my door is always open. Your Executive Board reflects you and, thanks to you, I am now part of it, and will always keep your goals in mind.

Thank you again. I will not let you down.

## Legislative roundup

### Labor and Jobsite Themed Bills From Last Year’s Session in Sacramento

*By Errol Frazier - Vice-President, Local 1277*

The ATU International Union, as well as Local 1277—both acting through our legislative arm in Sacramento, the California Conference Board—took strong positions on many bills that directly affected working people and families, and workplace issues. During the 2018 legislative session, the last one under the steady leadership of pro-union Governor Jerry Brown, we kept an eagle eye on legislation—opposing bad bills that would harm our (*your*) interests and supporting good ones which advanced our (*your*) agenda.

Here is a recap of some of the key bills signed into law (effective January 1, 2019) by Governor Brown.

#### SB 820 (Leyva) – Settlement agreements: confidentiality

**Summary:** SB 820 *bans* secret settlements (confidentiality provisions in settlement agreements) in cases of sexual harassment, sexual assault and sex discrimination. The bill also permits a claimant to request confidentiality if he/she chooses. **This is one of many bills that came out of the *Me Too* movement and unions, including ours, were instrumental in getting bills such as this one passed to protect women in the workplace.**

#### SB 866 (Committee on Budget) – Janus Protections

**Summary:** SB 866 added important protections for public-sector unions and their members after the terrible *Janus v. AFSCME* case. **Among many other things, the bill 1) clarifies the right to have dues deduction; 2) clarifies that the union and its members decide the process for withdrawal from the union; 3) adds public transit agencies to the list of employers that are required to provide union access to new hire orientations; and 4) adds public transit agencies to the list of employers prohibited from deterring or discouraging employees to remain or become union members.** This was a big win for the ATU and every other public employee union.

**SB 1343 (Mitchell)** – *Employers: sexual harassment training: requirements.*

**Summary:** SB 1343 *reduces the sexual harassment training requirement threshold from employers with 50 or more employees down to employers with five or more employees.* It also requires that the Department of Fair Employment and Housing to develop an on-line training course and make it available on the Department's website.

**AB 2548 (Friedman)** – *Commute Benefits Policies: Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority*

**Summary:** AB 2548 allows LACMTA to administer a commute benefit program that requires employers to provide a commuter benefit option to their employees. The bill was based on the successful commute benefit program administered in the Bay Area by the MTC and Bay Area Air Quality Management District. We supported this measure throughout the process.

**AB 3124 (Bloom)** – *Vehicles: length limitations: buses: bicycle transportation devices*

**Summary:** AB 3124 extends the length limitations for bike racks attached to articulated buses or articulated trolley coaches. We originally opposed this bill, and succeeded in getting amendments that require a route review committee to approve any bus routes before an articulated bus with these larger racks can be put in service. The route review committee will be composed of four persons, including a member of the union, a member from management, a traffic engineer, and a member of law enforcement.

**SB 1085 (Skinner)** – *Public employees: leaves of absence: exclusive bargaining representative service.*

**Summary:** Previously, current law provided "loss time" leave to school and community college employee organizations, allowing employees to perform union duties without loss of pay and benefits. SB 1085 extends "loss time" leave to other public-sector unions, including local government employees and transit employees. *This bill was signed into law with our support.*

**SB 1119 (Beall)** – *Low Carbon Transit Operations Program*

**Summary:** SB 1119 expands funding under the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) relative to the current requirement that 50% of funds are spent disadvantaged communities (DACs). SB 1119 further provides that the requirement to spend 50% of LCTOP funds to benefit DACs can be waived if a transit agency spends its funds on any of the following: 1) New or expanded transit service to DACs or low-income communities. 2) Transit fare subsidies such as discounted or free student transit passes. 3) Purchase of zero-emission transit buses. **This was is an important bill because previously under the law, new or expanded transit service into disadvantaged communities was not always deemed eligible for this particular funding source.** Hopefully, this will bring some additional dollars to operations.



**SB 1123 (Jackson)** – *Disability Compensation: paid family leave*

**Summary:** SB 1123 expands Paid Family Leave to cover families who have to take time off to attend to situations arising out of a family member's status as a covered active duty member of the US Armed Forces.

**SB 1236 (Monning)** – *Commercial driver's license: education.*

**Summary:** SB 1236 requires the DMV to adopt regulations mandating entry-level driver training requirements for commercial truck drivers. Under SB 1236, incoming commercial truck drivers need to satisfy a 15-hour behind-the-wheel training requirement, including at least 10 hours on a public road, before obtaining their CDL.

Once again, brothers and sisters, you can plainly see the importance of Local 1277's and the ATU's deep involvement in the electoral and political process. It really matters who we support and oppose in state, local and federal elections! These progressive and important bills listed above were written by Democratic state legislators and signed into law by a progressive, pro-working people Democratic governor. As we look ahead to major state and national elections in 2020, I ask you to keep this vital fact in mind.



*An excellent opportunity...*

## Education and Training: Your Keys To Career Advancement and Pride

*By Art Aguilar - President, Local 1277*


Once again, and for the most important of reasons, I am pleased to repeat myself and remind you that **education and training are the stepping stones to better, more rewarding—personally and financially—careers in your chosen field of work.**

Continuing its history of teaching and service, Los Angeles'—and organized labor's—famed Trade Tech is again offering a series of excellent classes this spring, starting *August 27* and running until *December 15*.

I *strongly* urge every ATU Local 1277 brother and sister who wants to get ahead professionally, or who simply wants to broaden his or her knowledge and better understanding of the trade-union movement, to consider signing up for this very valuable instruction.

Courses are generally divided between three-unit evening classes during the week and one-unit weekend classes.

***Brothers and sisters, this is an excellent professional and personal education opportunity. I warmly encourage you to do as I did, and take advantage of these quality courses and experienced teachers.***

<h3>LABOR STUDIES CLASSES</h3> <h4>SPRING 2019</h4> <p><b>Start February 4<sup>th</sup> and End June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 (16 weeks)</b></p> <p><b>All Labor Studies classes are transferable to CSU.</b></p>			
<h4>3-UNIT EVENING CLASSES</h4> <p><b>6:00 pm – 9:10 pm</b></p> <p>Off campus classes in union halls, free parking</p>	<h4>3-UNIT ONLINE CLASSES</h4> <p>Conducted completely online</p>		
<h4>MONDAYS</h4> <p><b>LS 5 – Grievance and Arbitration</b> Class 26162</p> <p>How to identify, investigate, write and present grievances, and handle arbitrations. Emphasis on participants' own contracts, grievance procedures and experiences.</p> <p>Instructors: Tanya Akel, Teamsters Local 2010 and Jody Kipple, SEIU Local 721 L.A. County Federation of Labor 2130 James Wood Blvd., Los Angeles 90006</p>	<p><b>LS 5 – Grievance and Arbitration</b> Class 21502</p> <p>See course description under 3-Unit Evening Classes, Mondays</p> <p>Instructor: <i>Erica Wills, United Steelworkers District 12</i></p> <p><b>LS 10 – Identify and Diversity in Labor</b> Class 26165</p> <p>Covers legal framework and strategies to combat discrimination and promote diversity as an asset for more effective workplaces and stronger unions. Learn to overcome workplace divisions by developing respect for differences based on: race, sex, ethnicity, disability, age, sexual orientation, etc.</p> <p>Instructor: <i>Erica Wills, United Steelworkers District 12</i></p>		
<h4>TUESDAYS</h4> <p><b>LS 13 – Union Leadership</b> Class 26164</p> <p>What does it take to lead a union? Topics include: internal organizing, mobilizing and educating members, forming coalitions, supervising staff, and interfacing with employers, media, etc.</p> <p>Instructor: <i>Matt Hart, UFW Local 324</i> UFW Local 324 8530 Stanton Ave., Buena Park 90622</p>	<p><b>LS 21 – Working Class in Cinema*</b> Class 10179</p> <p>Examines film portrayals of the working class and labor unions. Students learn to evaluate popular culture dramatization of workers' rights struggles, and analyze how the movies help shape public perception and values.</p> <p>*LS 21 meets GE requirements at Trade Tech, CSU, and UC.</p> <p>Instructor: <i>Erica Wills, United Steelworkers District 12</i></p>		
<h4>WEDNESDAYS</h4> <p><b>LS 5 – Grievance and Arbitration</b> Class 26163</p> <p>See course description under 3-Unit Evening Classes, Mondays</p> <p>Instructor: <i>Mike Eagleson, Arbitrator, Eagleson ADR</i> Teamsters Local 1932 433 N. Sierra Way, San Bernardino, CA 92410</p>	<p><b>LS 3 – Labor Relations Law</b> Class 10107</p> <p>A comprehensive overview of labor relations laws (primarily private sector), covering employee, employer and union rights and obligations, unfair labor practices, union representation elections and other National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) procedures.</p> <p>Instructor: <i>Josh Young, Gilbert and Sackman</i></p>		
<h3>3-UNIT CLASSES AT TRADE TECH</h3>			
<h4>3-UNIT DAY CLASS</h4> <p><b>Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:10am to 11:35am - Room is TBA</b></p> <p><b>LS 4 – Labor in America*</b> Class 10127</p> <p>The role of unions in creating and maintaining the middle class standard of living for all workers. Labor's impact on issues such as wages, benefits including health care and pensions and job security, and economic justice issues such as public education and social security.</p> <p>*LS 4 meets GE requirements at Trade Tech, CSU, and UC.</p> <p>Instructor: <i>Lou Siegel, Labor Communications Specialist</i></p>			
<h4>3-UNIT EVENING CLASSES</h4> <p><b>Wednesdays, 6:00pm to 9:10pm - Room is TBA</b></p> <p><b>LS 21 – Working Class in Cinema*</b> Class 27322</p> <p>See course description under 3-Unit Online Classes</p> <p>*LS 21 meets GE requirements at Trade Tech, CSU, and UC.</p> <p>Instructor: <i>Mindy Chen, Dolores Huerta Labor Institute</i></p> <p><b>Thursdays, 6:00pm to 9:10pm - Room is TBA</b></p> <p><b>LS 24 – Enforcing Workers' Rights</b> Class 14801</p> <p>Skills needed to investigate, prepare, and present cases filed by the State Labor Commissioner to enforce workers' rights. Prepares students to apply for jobs in the Department of Industrial Relations.</p> <p>Instructor: <i>Jocelyn Lopez, Department of Industrial Relations</i></p>			
<h4>3-UNIT WEEKEND ONLY CLASS</h4> <p><b>Saturdays and Sundays, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm</b></p> <p><b>Trade Tech, Magnolia Hall Room 309</b></p> <p>Free parking in the Olive Street parking structure (between Washington Blvd. and 21<sup>st</sup> St.) for weekend Labor Studies classes (only during class hours)</p> <p><b>LS 20 – Workers' Rights</b> Class 26268</p> <p>Basic legal rights for workers, including: wage and hour laws, overtime, leaves, workplace privacy including e-mail and computers, accommodating disabilities, including pregnancy, and combating employment discrimination.</p> <p>February 9 and 10, February 23 and 24, and March 9 and 10</p> <p>Instructors: <i>Bob Cantore, Joe Paler, and Josh Young, Gilbert and Sackman</i></p>			
<h4>1-UNIT WEEKEND CLASSES 8:30 am to 5:00 pm</h4> <p><b>All classes at Trade Tech Magnolia Hall Room 309</b></p> <p>Free parking in the Olive Street parking structure (between Washington Blvd. and 21<sup>st</sup> St.) for weekend Labor Studies classes (only during class hours)</p> <p><b>LS 125 – Labor Arbitration</b> Class 26167</p> <p>Survey of the arbitration process covering: selection and authority of arbitrators, preparation of cases, how arbitrators decide cases, settlement techniques, tips for effective use of arbitration, and review of typical cases.</p> <p>March 2 and 3</p> <p>Instructor: <i>Lou Zigman, Arbitrator</i></p> <p><b>LS 122 – Framing the Message for Labor</b> Class 26168</p> <p>Students examine the language of labor and progressive action and learn to sharpen the message to broaden public support, build power, and gain political results.</p> <p>March 16 and 23</p> <p>Instructor: <i>Caroline O'Connor, Screen Actors Guild Foundation</i></p> <p><b>LS 115 – Workplace Health and Safety</b> Class 10268</p> <p>How to identify and resolve workplace health and safety issues, and proactive strategies to improve workplace safety.</p> <p>April 6 and 13</p> <p>*April 20 is optional third day to earn health and safety certificate</p> <p>Instructors: <i>Debra Cernello and Hector Flores, UCLA LOSH</i></p> <p><b>LS 108 – Labor and Globalization</b> Class 26170</p> <p>Globalization affects everyone – your job, your union, our local economy. Explore how economic forces impact your future and labor strategies to protect workers and the middle class.</p> <p>April 27 and May 4</p> <p>Instructor: <i>Goetz Wolff, UCLA School of Public Affairs</i></p> <p><b>LS 118 – Employee Benefit Plans</b> Class 26171</p> <p>Explores employee health and retirement benefits: how they work and how they are funded, labor's role in bargaining and preserving benefits, and the issues and political forces seeking to cut these benefits.</p> <p>May 11 and 18</p> <p>Instructors: <i>Kathy Rallings, CA Teachers Association and Sharon Hendricks, AFT Local 1521</i></p> <p><b>LS 126 – Issues in Labor Arbitration</b> Class 26173</p> <p>An overview of the two major issues in arbitration: discipline and discharge, and contract interpretation cases. Includes just cause, absenteeism, insubordination, substance abuse, theft/dishonesty, and standards for interpreting contract.</p> <p>June 1 and 2</p> <p>Instructor: <i>Lou Zigman, Arbitrator</i></p>			
<h3>Los Angeles Trade-Tech College</h3>			
<h4>The Labor Center</h4> <p>(213) 763-7129 laborcenter@lattc.edu <a href="http://college.lattc.edu/laborcenter">http://college.lattc.edu/laborcenter</a></p>			
<p>KATHLEEN YASUDA DIRECTOR JOHN MCDOWELL, JR. FOUNDER VIVIEN DE LA TORRE ASSISTANT OLGA GARCIA ASSISTANT</p>			
<p>➡ Develop Union Leadership Skills ➡ Earn AA Degree or Certificate in Labor Studies ➡ Network with Other Union Activists and Leaders</p>			
<h4>Pre-Enroll</h4> <p>Online at <a href="http://college.lattc.edu/student/new-students/register-now/">http://college.lattc.edu/student/new-students/register-now/</a></p> <h4>Fees Checks Payable to LATTTC</h4> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>\$46/unit; \$1 ASO fee/semester</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$11 health fee/semester*</td> </tr> </table> <p>*exempted for Labor Studies Classes held off campus</p> <p>ASO Membership Fee: \$7.00 per semester** **optional, but must opt out by 2/4/19</p> <h4>Max Mont Scholarships</h4> <p>Scholarships are available for Labor Studies classes</p>		\$46/unit; \$1 ASO fee/semester	\$11 health fee/semester*
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\$11 health fee/semester*			
			

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND ENROLLMENT:

THE LABOR CENTER MARIPOSA HALL ROOM MA-05

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**<http://college.lattc.edu/laborcenter>**

**Here are the upcoming Local 1277 membership meetings for February and March. 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:  
**Tuesday, March 5:** 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:  
**Wednesday, March 6:** 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:  
**Thursday, March 7:** 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:  
**Thursday, March 7:** Machinist Hall, 319 W. Broadway, Long Beach Morning Session 10:00 a.m. Afternoon Session 3:00 p.m.