



# Local 1277

# News

June, 2019

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## President's report

### 450 brothers and sisters to receive checks

## Local 1277 Wins Service Attendant to Senior Service Attendant Progression Settlement of \$1.2 Million!

I am very pleased to announce that some 450 brothers and sisters, who were in the Senior Service Attendant program, in ATU Local 1277's MTA Unit will be receiving special one-time checks on June 21! This is because the Authority had *underpaid* these members—**some of our Service Attendants who progressed to Senior Service Attendants (SSAs)**—were not paid correctly during their progression time, going all the way back to July 2006!

The total amount owed to our members, plus 7% interest, comes to **\$1.2 million dollars!** Depending on how much each brother or sister is due, the checks will range from as little as \$8.50 to as much as \$52,000.00. Now, some members may have already been partially paid for back pay that is owed, so that amount will be deducted. **Our Local has the list of names, and will reveal the amounts due only to those members who are owed money.** **The great news is that if you see your name on this list, you will be getting paid what is correctly owed to you in the payroll period of June 21.**

I must continue to note, however that, unfortunately, *too many of our members simply do not check their paychecks!* **Hopefully, this article and news will encourage you all to carefully review your paychecks!**

## How Local 1277 Got to the Truth

A while ago, back during the Summer of 2017, a Senior Service Attendant contacted me about his pay and said that the amount in his check was incorrect. I met with him and reviewed a year's worth of paychecks and discovered that several checks showed a certain rate of pay, *but MTA's calculations were off.* In one check, for example, this individual was paid *several different rates of pay, including shift differential, in one check.*



I also received *another* member's paycheck stubs and quickly saw that some of *his* checks had also been miscalculated. We filed a grievance and met with MTA's Labor Relations Department. Guess what: labor relations personnel would *not* admit to their errors! They claimed their pay calculations were correct. I insisted that they were wrong, and kept asking for an audit.

After several meetings—and a year later—MTA finally admitted that we were correct. However, the Authority took the position that the errors affected only a few members, and only a couple of thousand dollars were owed. During this time, MTA's Chief of Labor Relations left her job and an interim director took over. MTA's Human Resources Department also took the arrogant position that we at Local 1277 didn't know a) what we were talking about, and b) how to calculate paychecks!

Under pressure from Local 1277, MTA finally conducted an audit, commencing with April 2018 and working all the way back to July 2006—which is when we first started the progression program. We agreed to use an independent auditor since MTA Payroll, H.R. and Labor didn't agree with us on how the calculations should be done. *Remember, this had been an on-going series of errors going back almost 13 years!* As you can see, the independent auditor agreed with our calculations, *not* the Authority's.

Unfortunately even now, MTA still has an issue with its payroll system and ensuring that our SSAs are getting paid correctly. ***I cannot stress this enough, brothers and sisters: Please do the math for each line item you get paid for! Review your paychecks.***

*The list of members who are due money will be posted in early June. Please check both with your Shop Steward and on the Local 1277 bulletin board at your worksite.*

**Never forget that your Union is always there to guard and fight for your interests.**

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# **ATU President Larry Hanley (1956 – 2019)**

## **A Colossal Loss to Our Local Union, Our International and Organized Labor!**

*By Art Aguilar - President, Local 1277*



By now, you've all heard the deeply saddening news: Larry Hanley, our tough, vocal and determined President of the ATU International, passed away on Tuesday, May 7, at the age of 62.

I cannot express how much I wish I weren't writing these awful words. This is a very serious loss, to Local 1277 and all the other ATU locals across the United States and Canada, not to mention organized labor in general. He leaves a huge hole in the righteous and necessary struggle for progressive legislation and goals—all that Brother Hanley so ably championed.

He was a great union leader in the best sense of the word: fearless, devoted and tireless. His fights—before Congress, on the speaking stump, at union and other conventions—for social justice, economic equality, human rights, the union movement and better education and healthcare for everyone—were loud and legendary. His leadership in political and electoral matters—at the local, state and federal levels—were the stuff of legends, and a blueprint for how unions should “support our friends and fight our enemies” (The political battle cry of the National AFL-CIO).

## **A Life in Organized Labor**

Brother Hanley began driving a bus in 1978, at age 21, in Brooklyn, New York. He attended his first union (the Transport Workers Union) meeting shortly after—and never looked back. During the 18 months he was a member of the TWU, he led his local union's effort to get police protection on buses throughout New York City.

In November 1979, he transferred to Staten Island and became a member of ATU Local 726. By April 1980, he was involved in his first strike and walked picket lines every day and night for 11 days. In 1984, Brother Hanley was elected Secretary-Treasurer of Local 726. Shortly after his election, the workers at the Hormel meat company in Minnesota went out on strike. This job action caught the media's attention because of the strong anti-union climate created by the Reagan administration—and the innovative tactics of the strikers themselves.

Brother Hanley later noted, “It was a chilling experience to see the National Guard brought out by the governor of Minnesota to take the side of owners. I joined many thousands of union members from across America and I walked the line. It was a formative experience.”

Brother Hanley served as Secretary-Treasurer until January 1987, when he was elected local union President, the youngest in Local 726's history. He was re-elected five times, serving his brothers and sisters and the cause of mass transit, until 2002. He recalled, “I hit the ground running. No sooner had I become President, than our local union faced the threat of complete privatization of our express bus work. This crisis led us to devise a creative form of protest: carrying coffins into hearings, hiring stagecoaches to demonstrate the poor funding of mass transit, and taking the fight directly to our opponents.”

## **Political Fights and Wins for His Members**

In 1989, Brother Hanley took charge of the Staten Island operation of Democrat David Dinkins' successful campaign for mayor of New York City. Expanding on his political work, Brother Hanley was one of the founders of New York's Working Families Party. He later recalled, “We challenged the MTA in New York City through internal member organizing. We also made great strides in organizing the *riders* of our buses. We worked every day in the community to convince both our *members and the passengers that our interests were one and the same.*”

The result of his vibrant campaign: A **125%** increase in ridership and **500** more jobs in Local 726. The local's investments of \$160,000 in that effort has, to date, generated some **\$450 million** in ATU salaries and **\$1 billion** in capital spending on transit throughout the greater New York City area!

Brother Hanley remembered, "Around the same time, I organized a multi-union effort that successfully elected 515 labor union members and officers to the Staten Island Democratic Party—effectively putting labor in charge of the operation. We were named by *New York Magazine* as one of the 'politically important unions' in New York City, an honor we shared with other local unions that have tens of thousands more members."

## Service to Our International Union

In 2002, then ATU International President Jim La Sala asked Brother Hanley to join his staff as an International Representative. "Though it was difficult to leave my local," he recalled, I took the job. I immediately went to work bargaining contracts, often seven days a week, throughout the East Coast."

In February 2004, Brother Hanley was appointed an International Vice President and elected to that position at the Union convention later that year. He served ably and effectively as the IVP assigned to assist many local unions. He negotiated the national Greyhound contract for ATU Local 1700. This work resulted in Brother Hanley's working with ATU members in many states.

He served as an IVP until his elevation to International President on September 30, 2010. Brother Hanley was re-elected President at the 2013 and 2016 International Conventions. He served with distinction, effectiveness and compassion until his passing. Among his most lasting achievements, he strengthened and expanded our Union's democracy, denounced and fought corruptive influences on ATU local unions, and bolstered our progressive-policy positions.

*Brother Hanley literally and single-handedly changed the attitude of the ATU from defensive to offensive. He was a fighter! He had the sheer guts and vision to ask for—and get—an increase in the per capita tax (union dues). He then skillfully and forcefully used those new funds to create professional courses for training our members. Through this bold plan, the ATU has trained thousands of members and union officers in the supremely important fields of negotiation, grievances and arbitrations, financial record keeping, leadership, organizing, media relations, coalition building, and social and political campaigning.*

## Summing Up

I regard Brother Larry Hanley as one of the finest, most dedicated union leaders of our time. His achievements are massive and important. His understanding of working people's needs and goals was unsurpassed. His influence on the ATU is lasting.

Larry Hanley was the union leader's union leader. A giant among men and a fighter for the best values that are within us all. We will miss him beyond words. I will miss his counsel, leadership, and humor more than I can ever say.

We will especially miss the leadership of President Hanley during the months leading up to the tremendously important November 2020 Presidential election. Brother Hanley was a strong and consistent voice for political sanity and responsible candidates. He emphatically brought the ATU's—and all of organized labor's—needs and goals to the attention of the leading Presidential candidates in 2012 and 2016, and he would have certainly done so next year. *He made them listen to us!* We will miss his voice and passion, but we will carry on in the national political campaign as he would want us to do.

*Rest in Peace, President Larry Hanley.  
Yours was a life truly worth living!*





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## Jac Maintenance Specialist Posting

### All ATU Local 1277 MTA Unit Members

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) and the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) through Article 8, Section G of the Contract established the Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC) Rail Apprentice Program. The Committee is currently developing a list of potential Maintenance Specialist candidates for this program. ATU members interested in being considered for the Maintenance Specialist apprenticeship and meet the qualification standards must complete the Maintenance Specialist Application form.

#### **1. Educational and Academic**

a. Must have successfully completed 24 units of Electrical or Electronics training from an accredited trade school or college with a grade of "C" or better in each course. Education and work experience will be verified prior to selection. The applicant must provide a copy or copies of official transcripts (watermarked with official school signature and/or seal) with their application. See the attached application for further details.

#### **2. Employment Standing**

a. Must be an ATU member in good standing.  
b. Must meet LACMTA and ATU attendance policy guideline and must not be at the 2nd step.

#### **3. Driver's Licenses**

a. Must have a valid California Class "C" driver's license and a good driving record for at least one (1) year, as confirmed by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).  
b. Must be able to obtain a Class "A" driver's license permit and pass the required tests prior to graduation.

#### **4. Medical**

a. Must have a valid California Class "C" driver's license and a good driving record for at least one (1) year, as confirmed by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).  
b. Must be able to obtain a Class "A" driver's license permit and pass the required tests prior to graduation.

Please interoffice the 1) JAC MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST APPLICATION form and 2) **OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS** to Arturo Aguilar, ATU Local 1277 President, to the Union Office, 1744 N. Main Street, Los Angeles, California 90031, **by no later than 4:00 p.m., July 5, 2019.**

## Jackie Goldberg Wins L.A. Board of Education Seat



On Tuesday, May 14, Local 1277's candidate for an open seat on the City of Los Angeles Board of Education, Jackie Goldberg, won her election. Backed strongly by organized labor, and enthusiastically supported by ATU Local 1277, Sister Goldberg, a recognized authority on public education and a determined and long-time fighter for our children (our future!), won with more than 70% of the vote! Congratulations, Jackie. We know you will serve our children and their schools well.

**Here are the upcoming Local 1277 membership meetings for June. Please make every attempt to attend the meeting for your unit. It's your Union, and we need your participation at our meetings! July unit meetings are cancelled. All members will receive credit.**

<b>Tuesday, June 4:</b>	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.
<b>Wednesday, June 5:</b>	Metrolink Unit members: Union Offices, 1744 North Main Street. Morning Session 11:00 a.m.
<b>Wednesday, June 5:</b>	Riverside area members: 1074 E. La Cadena Dr., Riverside Morning Session 10:00 a.m. Afternoon Session 3:00 p.m.
<b>Thursday, June 6:</b>	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.
<b>Thursday, June 6:</b>	Long Beach: Machinist Hall, 319 W. Broadway, Long Beach Morning Session 10:00 a.m. Afternoon Session 3:00 p.m.