



Local 1277 News

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President's report

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ATU International President Costa Visits Two Local 1277 Jobsites

By Art Aguilar - President, Local 1277



IP COSTA VISITS CHICAGO AND LOS ANGELES LOCALS FOR FIRSTHAND LOOK AT JOBS & SAFETY ISSUES

ATU International President John Costa joins Local 1277 President Art Aguilar and some of the members of Division 2 in an enjoyable, memorable get-together in January.

On January 9, ATU Local 1277's brothers and sisters at Red Line Rail Maintenance (see photo on page 2) and Division 2 Bus Maintenance welcomed an unexpected guest: None other than ATU International President **John Costa**, himself a former maintenance specialist in a sister local in New Jersey.

Brother Costa was on a cross-country tour of key ATU local unions, stopping first in Chicago before coming out to Los Angeles. The purpose of his visits was to see firsthand the jobsite safety regulations we work under, and to ensure that we retain all our unionized jobs while reaching out to bring more working men and women into our local unions.

Our members at the two jobsites enjoyed meeting President Costa and exchanging their common work experiences. He made a very strong impression on our brothers and sisters, who quickly realized that their new International President fully understood their work, cared deeply about safety on the job, and would take their concerns back with him to Washington, D.C.

As the photograph clearly shows, an enjoyable, fraternal time was had by everyone who was present!

Following his visit to our jobsites, President Costa stopped to see the brothers and sisters at our sister ATU Local, 1756, in Arcadia.

I warmly thank Brother Costa for taking the time to visit, mingle with, and listen to our hard-working members. Come see us again, Mr. President!

House Passes "Pro Act"

The Democratic-controlled House of Representatives recently passed the "Pro Act". It codifies the *fundamental right of all working men and women for union organization and representation, as well as the right to negotiate for better wages, working conditions and benefits.*

The "Pro Act" updates the basic National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) by bringing its essential provisions in sync with other existing workplace laws and regulations. For example, the new legislation provides employees at all private and public transit agencies with the same protections against job bias, and firing, and undue interrogation and surveillance—and with no fear of employer reprisals.

The "Pro Act" rightfully and finally reverses decades of specific anti-union legislation. It is welcome news, but—as always—this important piece of legislation now faces a very uncertain future in the Republican-controlled Senate. Once again, we can see the importance of which political party is in power, when it comes to workers' rights and union influence. The *Democrats* are with us, the *Republicans* much less so.

A Big Push in Florida To Protect Bus Operators

Following the tragic and completely senseless death of ATU Local 1593, Tampa, Brother Thomas Dunn last May at the hands of a crazed rider (see February's newspaper), the Florida group of ATU locals has led the fight for stronger legislation to protect our vulnerable Operators.

Representatives from the ATU testified at length and emotionally before the Florida House of Representatives and State Senate about the everyday risks our bus Operators take as they perform their vital service to the mass-transit dependent public in the Sunshine State. They detailed attacks over the years against Operators who were simply doing their job and providing a necessary service. They described the physical and psychological effects these wanton attacks have had on both Operators and the riding public.

I salute these outspoken members and hope their effort results in much-needed, stronger legislation to protect our Operators!



ATU International President John Costa (centered at back of train) and ATU Local 1277 President Art Aguilar (center, second row) join enthusiastic members of Red Line Rail Maintenance.

Thirteen Local 1277 Members Retire from Careers at MTA

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

Mario Flores, Service Attendant, Gold Line, 29 years, August 20, 2019; **Victoria Bright**, Mechanic A, Division 5, 29 years, August 26; **David Vargas**, Service Attendant, Division 10, 38 years, September 9; **Miguel Ramos**, Field Equipment Technician, Quality Assurance, 42 years, October 1; **Walter Snipes**, Mechanic A, CMF, 19 years, October 1; **Bruce Stewart**, Locksmith, Facility Maintenance, 11 years, October 12; **James Anderson**, Maintenance Specialist, Green /Line, 18 years, October 20; **Darlene Thompson**, Service Attendant, CMF, 32 years, December 16; **Guy Davis**, Electronic Communications Technician, Blue Line, 25 years, December 31; **Mark Hamasaki**, Mechanic A, CMF, 35 years, January 2, 2020; **Robert McCain**, Utility A, Division 15, 35 years, January 31; **Anh Diep**, Electronic Communications Technician, Revenue Collections, 16 years, February 1, and **Cheol Lee**, Mechanic A, Division 18, 23 years, February 1.

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

Twenty Five More Local 1277 Members Contribute to Vital ATU COPE Fund

Twenty Five members of our Union have generously contributed to the important ATU COPE Fund. As you know, our International Union amasses this war chest in order to support our political friends and causes, and fight the enemies of working people and families. We are proud to present Union pins and jackets to those members who have realized how vital the ATU COPE Fund is for expanding labor's influence in Congress and advancing our agenda.

Adolfo Perez; Diana Valadez; Armando Garcia; Alex Espinosa; Clifford Niels; Miguel Ferrell; Gary McDonald; Edwin Gomez Cuadra; Peter Novaselec; Eliazar Lozano; Eduardo Acosta Canchola; Sally Rodriguez; Jonathan Del Rosario; David J Vargas; Edwin Gonzalez; Philip Ellis; Guadalupe Melendrez; Yolanda J Johnson; Gerardo Gonzalez; Hilario Rendon; Moses Carranza; Oscar Tun; Tommy Ngo; Frank Giannini, and Erich Guidry.

To earn a jacket, one must contribute \$12.50/month, for a total of \$150.00/year. Congratulations to those members for their public-spirited and timely action. The ATU COPE Fund is very important. Please contribute whatever you can to it! Thank you.

Please be sure to vote for union-back

Calling all Veterans

By Mauro Varela - Treasurer, Local 1277

Brothers and sisters, I'm putting out the call to all ATU Local 1277 veterans! I know full well that you answered the call when your country needed you. *Now, more than ever, your Union needs you!*

I am forming a council of veterans to help and assist our Union on key issues: *We will work on supporting veterans' issues and various other community programs that affect those who have served and the people we now serve.* I know that you all can help me get it done!

We will meet once a month at the Union office from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., on the first Monday of the month, starting April 6. This effort will require hard work and great commitment, but I've never met a vet who was not up to the challenge!

I know I can count on all my Squids, Devil Dogs, Grunts and Airmen to answer the call. I hope to see you there! Our office is located at 1744 North Main Street, Los Angeles. If you have any questions about our important goals, please call me at 213/210-7353 or e-mail me at mvarela@atu1277.com Thank you!

ATU Training Focuses On Grievances and Paid Leave

By Jeff Shaffer - Financial-Recording Secretary

Recently, I was very pleased to attend a timely, informative training seminar offered by the ATU International President John Costa and our legislative arm in Sacramento, the California Conference Board, chaired by local 1277 President Art Aguilar. The two-day event was hosted by our sister Local 192, in Oakland.

During the first day's sessions, we learned the newest and most effective ways to prepare a grievance and guide our members through the sometimes lengthy and complicated process. We reviewed real cases involving our brothers and sisters in ATU local unions across the country and in Canada.

Veteran instructor/experienced grievance handler Joe Fahey, from our International, walked us step-by-step through the grievance process, beginning with the facts of the case, a member's actions and the reasons for them, through every step towards resolving the matter favorably. We discussed Steps I, II and III of the grievance process and what happens if the case isn't not resolved satisfactorily—the arbitration procedure.



Later that first day, I was given the welcome opportunity to do some advanced training concerning paid leave. As you know, this is a very important issue, one that has greatly assisted ATU members in all our local unions—a benefit, I might add, that union leadership fought long and hard to obtain.

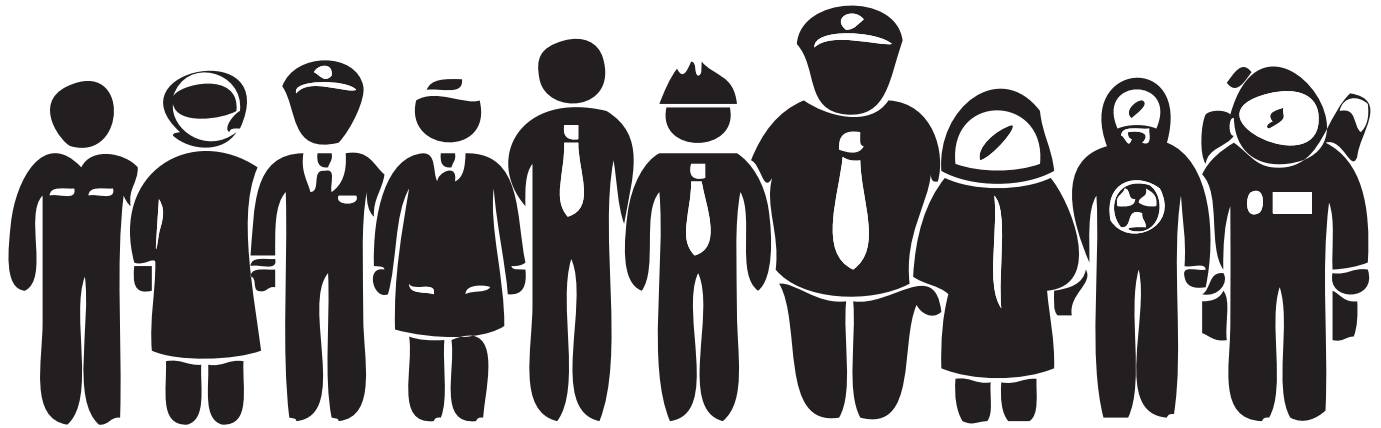
The focus of this particular training was the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and The California Family Rights Act (CFRA). Further, we studied the provisions of California Labor Code (CLC) Sections 230, 230.8, 233 and 246.5, all pertaining to paid-leave rights. Finally, we examined the provisions of California Senate Bill 579, also known as “Kin Care”.

CLC 230 deals with victims of domestic violence. CLC 230.8 is the Family-School Partnership Act. CLC 233 and 246.5, along with SB 579, make up “Kin Care”. Specifically, CLC 233 pertains to paid sick leave, 246.5 deals with how that is applied and who is covered, and SB 579 will expand the provisions of CLC 233, when it is adopted.

On the second day of the seminar, Instructor Dan Smith focused our attention on the training of new union officers. We discussed and shared experiences about how to successfully run a local union, and the importance of financial responsibility and accountability that comes with being an officer. I can tell you that this kind of hands-on learning will make the job of any incoming union officer easier, and him or her more productive at an earlier time.

On the whole, this was a solid educational experience, and I was glad to be part of it. I thank both our International and the Conference Board for making such an opportunity available to our local unions here in California and throughout the U.S. and Canada.

ked Candidates on Tuesday, March 3!



If You Want to Know the Value of a Union, Just Read this and be Thankful You are in One!

By Errol Frazier - Vice President, Local 1277

I think it is safe to say that those of you who read this short article would agree that 20 hours over a three-month period is not a lot of time. **But if you are “lucky enough” to work for the mega-sales Godzilla known as Amazon, those 20 hours are the maximum—let me repeat that, maximum—amount of time you are allowed to take off from your job during any three-month stretch of time!**

And, it gets even “better”: **If you use just, for example, one extra hour beyond that allotted 20 hours, you can pretty sure expect to be fired.** Think I’m making this up, or using a scare tactic? Think again. **That is just what happened to an Amazon worker out of Sacramento, who, last September, was fired for going one hour over her allotted time because she was caring for her hospitalized dying mother-in-law.**

Well, why didn’t her union come to her defense and fight the termination, you might ask. Oh, that’s right—**Amazon workers do not have a union that fights for their rights, dignity and futures!**

Amazon’s mega-delivery centers are the heart of their network, and the last stop before that package you ordered on-line gets to you. They are designed and constructed to allow the e-commerce giant to complete (and often beat) the likes of UPS, FedEx, and the U.S. Postal System. All of these mega-delivery complexes employ close to 500 people, **and they all are part-time workers. They all are limited to a maximum of 30 hours work per week.**

Why is that, you ask. Because with the overwhelming majority of Amazon’s work force limited to 30 hours per week, **Godzilla avoids having to offer health insurance.** Unlike other unionized warehouse workers in other industries across the country, **Amazon delivery-center employees—limited to 30 hours of work a week—are considered part-timers, and are not given any paid time off.**

This raises a couple of very important questions, brothers and sisters: First, do you think Amazon is treating its delivery-center employees fairly, or more like medieval serfs? And, second, **can you even imagine such soul-crushing, disrespectful treatment at the properties you work at, and are so ably represented by your Union?**

A maximum of 20 hours off every three-month period. Work schedules designed solely to **prevent** employees from getting the well-deserved rights and benefits that you enjoy. Do you think those Amazon employees would like union representation? **Aren’t you glad you have it?**

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

Tuesday, Mar 3:	Los Angeles area members:
Tuesday, Apr 7:	L.A. Building Trades Council, 1626 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles. Morning Session 10:00 a.m. Evening Session 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Mar 4:	Metrolink Unit members:
Wednesday, Apr 8:	Union Offices, 1744 North Main Street. Morning Session 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday, Mar 4:	Riverside area members:
Wednesday, Apr 8:	1074 E. La Cadena Dr., Riverside. Morning Session 10:00 a.m. Afternoon Session 3:00 p.m.
Thursday, Mar 5:	Palm Springs/SunLine members:
Thursday, Apr 9:	Rebirth Temple of Faith, 1243 Gene Autry Trail, Room 115, Palm Springs. Morning Session 10:00 a.m. Afternoon Session 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, Mar 5:	Long Beach:
Thursday, Apr 9:	Machinist Hall, 319 W. Broadway, Long Beach. Morning Session 10:00 a.m. Afternoon Session 3:00 p.m.