



ATU 1342 Newsletter

Charter Union Meeting

April 12th

ATU Union Hall
196 Orchard Park Rd.
West Seneca NY

10:00 AM and

7:30 PM

Agenda

Regular order of
Business



From the President's Desk

My First 100 Days in Office

By: Jeff Richardson

In January, I took office as your President/Business Agent. After the transition period, one of my first major decisions was to part ways with our previous attorney's and to hire the Law Firm of Blitman & King LLP, which have offices in Rochester and Syracuse. This Law Firm is strictly a labor firm with over 21 attorneys. Our new lead attorney is Jules Smith. Myself, along with Jules Smith have saved our union membership money by settling grievances without spending thousands of dollars

in arbitration costs.

In February, I had the privilege of attending the President's training in Silver Springs Maryland. This training covered various topics including contract negotiations, organizing, running meetings and dealing with company issues.

On March 14, 2017, I was in Albany NY with Vice President Ron Giza and Executive Board member Kevin Okie, meeting with the New York State Confer-

ence Board, lobbying for more funding.

We had 3 meetings with Senator Patrick Gallivan, Assemblyman Mike Kearns and Assemblywoman Monica Wallace. I believe the meetings went well, but I was not satisfied, so I went back to Albany on March 21st and again on March 28th and met with Assemblyman Robin Schimminger, Assemblywoman Crystal People Stokes, Assembly Sean Ryan, Senator Chris Jacobs and Senator Tim Kennedy. I will

Union Newspaper

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not stop fighting until these individuals who write checks to the NFTA help us obtain more funding.

I need each of you to reach out to your elected officials because Uber is trying to establish a relationship with the NFTA which could possibly reduce union jobs in Western New York. Uber has done damage to the New York City MTA system which is experiencing major losses. We cannot allow Uber to impact our transit system in a negative way.

Bargaining Update

Spring has arrived in WNY, and yet we're still looking for a way to reach an agreement with NFTA on terms for a new contract for Metro workers. Since the beginning of

the year with your new Local 1342 administration, the union has offered a variety of approaches to bringing home a deal that is fair to our members. NFTA's responses have shown a willingness to consider our proposed alternatives, but they have so far not been willing to put up enough money to make a deal work.

Local 1342 members have demonstrated their support for the bargaining team's efforts in many ways over the past year. Our cause has gathered increased support from our passengers, community and faith groups, and elected officials. We all want to know what the problem is. What do we need to do to make it clearer to the NFTA that it is past the time for them to step up to the plate and

start treating their employees fairly?

We need to get this contract finalized so we can get on with all the other important work that needs our attention. Spring is the time for renewal. Let's all commit now to a renewal of our struggle to defend our union and our way of life. Rise up and demand a fair contract now!

As always, I will continue to come on the properties to answer any questions you may have. I will also make sure I get out to continue to address the concerns of our retirees.

Deceased Members

Robert Hague

3/22/17

Jesse Palumbo

3/27/17

**A Message From
Charlie Sikora
Financial Secretary/Treasurer**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We have been having some issues lately on employees and retirees not changing their beneficiaries. When something changes in your life (death, marriage, divorce, or a new addition in your family) it is up to you to change this-it won't happen automatically. This was part of your original paperwork when you were hired and for some that was years ago, so it's not something you would normally think about after a change in your life. Please

call the union hall if you wish to update any of your beneficiaries. Also, remember that if you have private life insurance, investments, etc. That will have to be done at those institutions, it's not a one card covers all thing.

We have been randomly selected along with other unions by The Department of Labor to be audited for fiscal year June 30, 2015 to July 1, 2016. Most unions can expect one of these about every ten years. Our last one was in 2008. We actually got lucky because the DOL does quite an extensive au-

dit and this one is not costing us anything, this audit is going on now as I write this. I will report back with their finding when completed.

This office will be starting an assessment per our by-laws for legal expenses incurred for the past thirteen months either in May or June. The details of the amount and what week this will start will be posted at all locations once I compile that information.

Retired in April 2017

Al Brach

James "The Shooter" Hickey

Dennis Krukowski

Russell Stewart

I would like to talk to you about our standard of living and the quality of life that our company has refused to maintain for us and our families. When I was interviewed, offered a position, and based on the terms of the opportunity, I accepted. However, let's look at a few things:

Standard Of Living: This is the level of wealth, comfort, material goods and necessities available. The standard of living includes factors such as income, economic and political stability, political and religious freedom, environmental quality, climate, and safety. The standard of living is closely related to following.

Quality Of Life: This is a highly subjective measure of happiness that is an important component of many financial decisions. The factors of this quality vary person to person but a few components we can all agree upon, consisting of, financial security, job satisfaction, family life, personal time, health, and safety. Our financial decisions often involve sacrifices where our quality of life is decreased in order to save money. All things held equal, sacrifices decrease when our disposable income is increased. A classic example is where you live in proximity to work. Often times housing expenses decrease the farther you live from work. However, this comes with a longer commute decreasing your personal time. Often times housing expenses increase the closer you live to work. However, this comes with a shorter commute increasing your personal time.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI): This measures the average change in price of a fixed market basket of goods and services bought by consumers for day-to-day living. The **All Items CPI** for the U.S. is the broadest, most comprehensive index, and is often quoted as the source for the **rate of inflation**. The chart below shows the **All Items CPI** month over month from August of 2009 thru January 2017.

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual CPI
2009								-1.5	-1.3	-0.2	1.8	2.7	0.3
2010	2.6	2.1	2.3	2.2	2.0	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.5	1.6
2011	1.6	2.1	2.7	3.2	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.8	3.9	3.5	3.4	3.0	3.2
2012	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.3	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.7	2.0	2.2	1.8	1.7	2.1
2013	1.6	2.0	1.5	1.1	1.4	1.8	2.0	1.5	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.5	1.5
2014	1.6	1.1	1.5	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.3	0.8	1.6
2015	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	-0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.1
2016	1.4	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.8	1.1	1.5	1.6	1.7	2.1	1.3
2017	2.5												2.5
Total CPI:												14.2	

Why is all of this so important to us? Since the last contract, each of our incomes has been surpassed in **CPI** by 14.2%! Meaning the cost of living has increased while our income remained constant, in turn decreasing our **Quality of Life**. For example, a driver's pay rate of \$21.59 per hour would be increased to \$24.66 per hour, \$6,376.82 annually, if the company wants us to have the same standard of living. Now they are going say, *"But your health care has increased, don't forget that handshake when you were hired."*

I hope we can all stand up together and get involved with our union. It's going to take all of us to stand up and be heard, stand up to increase our **Quality of Life**! Please get involved because we are so powerful if we stand together, and believe me, we can move mountains! We are only strong in numbers.

Thank you so much,
Dwayne A. Port