



Local 1342 Newsletter

Volume 20

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From the President's Desk By: Jeff Richardson

I hope all is well with you and your family during the pandemic. We are experiencing something that we have never experienced in our lifetime.

For the last few months we haven't put out a newsletter due to the fact that we weren't able to have Executive Board meetings. The Ironworkers Hall and Banquet Facility has strict rules that they must follow allowing them to keep their license and could not deviate from the Governor's orders. During the shutdown, all grievances went through first and second steps. When the Board convenes again and we are able to have membership meetings, the grievances will be voted on whether to go to arbitration or mini-arbitration.

When COVID-19

first started, as President of the union, I worked day and night trying to make sure our members had everything they needed. Just to give you history of emails with the company...

March 16, 2020 – I sent a letter to Karen Novo requesting to develop safety procedures.

March 17, 2020 – email to Lou Giardina requesting hazard pay.

March 18, 2020 – had a notice posted to block off seats directly behind operators. Chris Antholzner requested the notice be removed because the company doesn't agree.

March 20, 2020 – I had a conference call with Tom George, Lou Giardina, Amy Hughes, Steve Scime and Wayne Gradl to discuss blocking off the front seats, maximum capacity, extra

cleaners.

March 20, 2020 – email to the company regarding paid sick leave.

March 27, 2020 – another email to the company blocking off front seats, maximum capacity and extra cleaners.

March 31, 2020 – email to the company about an emergency sign up.

April 8, 2020 – agreement to use Metrolink operators as cleaners.

April 8, 2020 – recovery day given to Metro active employees.

April 9, 2020 – request information on standard operating procedures, positive test results, potential exposure, health and safety reports.

April 13, 2020 – email reminder about moving

(Continued on page 2)

Union Newspaper

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(Continued from page 1) President's Desk

chains and bus capacity.

April 14, 2020- email requesting a new Metrolink sign up due to confusion with the sign up.

April 15, 2020 – request for additional gloves.

April 16, 2020 – email to company to move the chains to create more separation from the driver.

April 16, 2020 – posting “passengers must wear face coverings”

April 17, 2020 – posting “employees required to wear face masks:

April 17, 2020 – discussion with the company that operators should only be picking up essential passengers.

April 17, 2020 – employees are now considered essential workers and can get the COVID-19 test.

April 20, 2020 – email about the 220-day workday requirement, FMLA.

April 21, 2020 – April Baskin sent the letter with concerns about passenger safety.

April 22, 2020 – sent over a MOU for the company to sign regarding hazard pay for membership. The company refused.

April 22, 2020 – email the company again about essential ridership. Only a 15-person capacity on buses and 2-person maximum capacity on Paratransit.

April 22, 2020 – Metro decided to stop providing

gloves as it gives a false sense of security, so the union purchased 12,000 pairs of gloves from New York plus another 8,000 here in Buffalo.

April 28, 2020 – NFT Metro agrees to the 15 passengers on the bus and 2 passengers on Paratransit.

The emails continue, too many to list as well as phone calls continuing on a daily basis. We will continue to make sure that all our members have their personal protection equipment. I submitted a Freedom of Information request detailing how much money came into the NFTA Metro and how much have they spent. I have the breakdown at the office.

Brothers and Sisters, I am on a conference call every week with our International President and over 500 ATU Presidents across the US and Canada. We give updates on what's going on within our Locals. Many of our ATU Brothers and Sisters have lost their lives due to COVID-19 including union Presidents and Board Members that were personal friends. Thousands of ATU members across the country currently have or have had COVID-19. One of the hardest things that President's have to do is to speak to the family members of a deceased member. I am extremely happy that we were

proactive instead of reactive which I believe saved lives at our Local. Over 30,000 Amalgamated Transit Union workers are laid off across the US and Canada with more following this week. Many of you may not know that the Paratransit Division, Coin Room and Fare Collection at the Rail would have been laid off, but the union and company worked together and were able to keep everyone working by moving them in other departments. Everyone kept a paycheck.

In case you missed it, I've included a Buffalo News Article about the company looking for \$50 Million from Washington for COVID-19 relief.

We know that our contract expired July 31, 2020. We've met with the company on four occasions so far trying to negotiate a contract that is fair for the hard-working men and women of this union. As soon as we get a proposal that is fair, we will bring it back to the membership for a vote.

I want to thank the Executive Board and Stewards for all the hard work you're doing. Keep up the great work. The most important people in the Union are the workers, so thank you for being faithful to your job as an essential frontline worker and first responder.

Every department

(Continued on page 3) Presidents Desk



A Message From Ron Giza Financial Secretary/Treasurer



I hope everybody had a good Thanksgiving during these trying times.

On the financial end of our Union I am happy to say that we got a clean bill of health on my first audit. The audit ranges from 7/1/2019 thru 6/30/2020 so the first six months was Charlie Sikora's and the second half was mine. Congratulations to Charlie on his last six months of his part on the audit. I know firsthand how stressful that audit time can be. We have moved money from our CD account to a money market account to give us better interest rates and accessibility but also being federally secure. Every day it seems I

am learning something new. I look forward to keep trying to improve this office and make for a stronger UNION for us all.

I want to give credit to what success I have had during my almost first year to Jeff Richardson and Sue Dudziak (Office Administrator). I believe we work so well TOGETHER. It's a great TEAM Effort. Thanks to my Executive Board for all their cooperation during my rookie year. Let us keep our ATU Sisters and Brothers in our thoughts from Coach USA and Grand Island Transits who have been mostly laid off since this pandemic began.

This month I am entering into my 37th year with NFTA/ATU. During this season of giving thanks I reflect on my family, friends and you the membership for giving me this opportunity to serve you. My thoughts are with you and your families during these difficult times.

**"TOGETHER WE FIGHT -
TOGETHER WE WIN"**

Merry Christmas to All
Stay Safe

"If I were a worker in a factory, the first thing I would do is join a UNION".

President Franklin D. Roosevelt

(Continued from page 2) President's Desk

within our Union, thank you Operators, Mechanics, Paratransit, Office Clerks, Store-room Clerks, Rail... Garage...Shops, Rail Operators, Rail Mechanics, Porters, Cash Office, Customer Service, Special Services, 1404 Workers, Main Store Room, Payroll, Coin Room, B&B, Helpers, Helpers with Tools, Transit Ambassadors

at the Rail, Traffic Checkers, Secretary at the Cold Spring Station (upstairs), Secretary-General at the Rail on the Mechanical side, Customer Service, Special Services, ATU member at OCC, and all of our great retirees. Also our office staff, Ron and Sue.

If you are not getting the mass text messages I periodically send out, please

call the office to be added to the list or to make sure we have a correct phone number for you.

Don't forget to watch me on Facebook Live Thursday nights.

**"TOGETHER WE
FIGHT – TOGETHER WE
WIN"**

NFTA seeks \$50 million in Covid-19 relief to avoid 'devastating position'



The NFTA says it needs \$50 million from Washington to keep its buses and trains running and its airports functioning amid a pandemic that has drastically reduced its revenues.

Derek Gee

[Robert J. McCarthy](#)

The Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority is crafting a proposed \$216.7 million budget to keep its buses, trains and two airports running – just like it does every year.

But with steep reductions in revenues stemming from Covid-19, the agency administering public transit in Erie and Niagara counties now looks to Washington for \$50 million in help. Like organizations in so many other aspects of life in a pandemic age, the NFTA says Washington must come up with some form of assistance, or the ensuing reductions in service and personnel will be drastic.

“Like all transit systems and airports across the nation, without additional federal Covid relief funds, we will find ourselves in a devastating position,” NFTA Executive Director Kimberley A. Minkel said Thursday following a budget presentation to the board of commissioners.

Budget officials noted about \$17.5 million will be needed to maintain current service levels at just the airports and the downtown bus terminal.

Airport parking operator lays off 90 due to Covid-19 dropoff

In a filing today with the state Department of Labor, SP+ said the furloughs instituted at the beginning of the pandemic in March have now become permanent.

"Additional funding is desperately needed to help see us through this pandemic. To balance this budget, we need \$50 million in federal assistance," Minkel added. "Without this assistance, it will have a significant impact on our airports, Metro operations and the many people who desperately rely on the services we provide. Additionally, it would have an enormous economic impact on our region."

Indeed, commissioners heard another recitation of grim statistics at its annual budget review session. Revenues are down 57% at Buffalo Niagara International Airport (where passengers have declined to 87% of normal); 71% at Niagara Falls International. And fares paid to ride Metro Bus and Rail are totaling only about 12% of total revenue, less than half their usual level.

(Continued on page 5) Buffalo News Article

(Continued from page 4) Buffalo News Article

Minkel also told her board members that that the American Public Transit Association – the agency trade group – says Congress will need to provide \$32 billion to the nation's systems in the next few months. (APTA also announced Thursday that a survey it sponsored found 77% of Americans favor emergency transit funding.)

Minkel also noted the downstate Metropolitan Transportation Authority announced thousands of layoffs this week, though she has not specified the extent of layoffs or service reductions that loom locally for the NFTA should the emergency funds not materialize.

Mandating mask use on Metro Bus and Rail: 'It's a challenge'

Since the pandemic's onset in March, the NFTA has not only encouraged mask use, but initiated a vigorous sanitizing program.

The executive director said the authority has initiated a number of steps to control costs, including a hiring freeze, and will not rely on airport revenues to balance the books of Metro Bus and Rail. She envisions an annual savings of \$16 million by next year.

The final budget, with amendments, will be voted on in March, in conjunction with adoption of a state budget expected to feature a multibillion-dollar deficit.

"This budget has been put together with a lot of variables and uncertainties," Minkel said, adding that even more questions loom over revenues from the county sales tax, county mortgage taxes and state transit assistance.

It is expected that the authority will now work with the local congressional delegation to relay its needs to Washington.

Buffalo News—November 19, 2020



"WNY Labor Today is a proud supporter of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1342. Tom Campbell has attended our rally's and includes stories of our struggles in this newspaper." *Jeff Richardson*

WNYLaborToday.com Editor-Publisher Tom Campbell says: "Our new App 'will allow a variety of Public and Private Union Organizations, as well as their Leadership and Membership, to access more than (120) Labor News Stories that WNYLaborToday.com publishes each month - right from their phone."

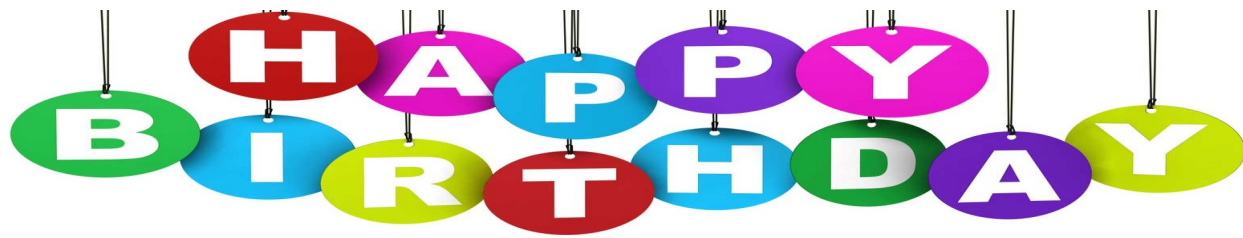
"Now, Unionists 'can easily get the Labor News they need, right on their phones.' 'With so much going on across the Labor Movement and with the Mainstream Media failing to offer consistent and positive Labor News coverage, WNYLaborToday.com's new App will help fill that void.' 'We are both proud and excited to offer this new feature,'" Campbell adds.

December Metro Anniversaries

Agnello, Gary	2	Hernandez, Misael	16	Rinard, Rodney	15
Allinger, Robert	2	Holmes, Janine	14	Rivera, Jose	3
Andrzejewski, Richard	6	Humphrey, Courtney	4	Rivera, Mark	6
Balash, Anthony	3	Johnson, Anita	21	Rizzo, Thomas	4
Bones, Deborah	3	Johnson, Reginald	14	Salunek, John	11
Bonnas, Christopher	2	Kline, Kevin	33	Santana, Jonny	2
Brown, Clifton	19	Kraft, Jonathan	23	Santana-Garcia, Yaniz	6
Brown, Jaylen	2	LaBoy, Destiny	2	Schwertfager, Andrew	2
Carson, Konji	4	Lewis, Rico	17	Sciandra, Carl	2
Clontz, Robert	3	Malvestuto, Karen	6	Staszczyk, Nancy	14
Coleman, Antonia	6	McCreary, Raeshawn	2	Stoczynski, Craig	7
Coleman, Chalise	6	Oleksy, Leonard	14	Stone, Jeremy	3
Cornelius, James	24	Otis, William	4	Szathmary, Daniel	1
Cotton Nesbitt, Classic	14	Overton, Raymond	14	Taylor Jr, Gregory	1
Counts, Steven	5	Overton, Renando	3	Thomas, Shamel	3
Daniels, Glenn	20	Owczarczak, Ruth	12	Thompson, Walter	3
Davis, Barbara	1	Owens, Aleesia	2	Tronolone, Stephen	11
Dichiara, Vincent	3	Parker, Derrick	3	Tucker, Lisa	14
Dobbs, Jason	2	Perez, Miguel	4	Vassallo, Thomas	12
Edmond, Shaquille	2	Perkins Jr, Hugh	14	Warren, Jason	6
Edwards, Michael	3	Phillips, Derrick	3	Weatherspoon, Chadd	13
Evertz, Geoffery	2	Pilgram, Loukiska	1	Wielbon, Jerry	25
Ford, Marcus	3	Porter, Levelzo	3	Williams, Karmaine	1
Garner Jr, Charles	7	Pritchard, Thomas	11	Williams, Serena	6
Gidney, Donnie	11	Qneis, Tawfiq	2	Witkowski, Jason	19
Gilliam, Jamal	4	Riehle, Brian	15	Wrobel, Michael	6
Harrison, Troy	2				

Members We Lost in 2020

01/07/20	Dennis Sixt	07/29/20	Judy Weston
02/05/20	Raymond Stroh	08/26/20	Morris Livingston
02/20/20	Gary Jones	09/09/20	James Conmy
02/21/20	Steven Scherer	09/23/20	H. Edward Moll
03/20/20	Harry Howald	10/23/20	James Palladini
06/07/20	Dennis Fitzery	10/28/20	Anthony Scheeda
06/14/20	Robert Siegel	11/01/20	Jack Hanna
07/10/20	Henrietta Brylinski	11/19/20	James May
07/28/20	Mark Moody	12/07/20	Pamela Wiggins



DECEMBER

Alexander, Erica
Arcara, John
Barnes, Dalvenia
Barry, Abdel
Baylor, Stephania
Bergeron, Brenda
Bolt, Steven
Byno, Tyshica
Cason, Michael
Ciesla, Michael
Clontz, Robert
Cole, Reginald
Colter, Quinton
Conmy, Kevin
Cramer, Christopher
Dubose, Cynthia
Dunning, Kyle
Edmond, Shaquille
Evancho, John
Fincher, Ja'Quan
Flood, Markeita

Fonseca, Noel
Gonzalez, Nayelis
Hargrove, LaDonna
Hawke, Frederick
Hodge, Karen
Hoffman, Joseph
Horey, David
Howard, Charles
Johnson, Robert
Jones, Lashonda
Jones, Samuel
Judge, Angela
Kapsiak, Matthew
Keigley, Richard
Kilgore, Michael
Kline, Kevin
Korman, Andrew
Labeledz, Emily
Lewis, Washington
Little, Mario
Lowtheri, Edward

Lucas, Dalton
Marcinkowski, Kevin
Masters, Anthony
McDonald, Alice
Meadows, Noel
Mentel, Joseph
Mills, Jason
Mitchell, Roosevelt
Mobilia, Christopher
Mooney, Frank
Moore, Deborah
Ocasio Jr, Ismael
Ortwein Jr, Richard
Pendelton, J.C.
Phillips, Aron
Port, Vicky Lynne
Price, Lanitia
Quick, Darlene
Richardson, Jeffrey
Rivera, Jose
Robinson, Lemar

Rollerson, Shaunita
Rutherford, Lamont
Santana, Jonny
Scrivano, Joseph
Seay, Kevin
Szymanski, Joseph
Thomas, Qiturah
Toledo, George
Tronolone, Stephen
Turner, Darlene
Velazquez, Nancy
Warren, Jason
Weatherspoon, Chadd
Weaver, Christine
Wheeler, Jeffery
Williams Jr, Johnny
Williams, Deborah
Yanicki, Melissa

A Message From ATU Local 1342's Vice President By: Kevin Kline

I would like to thank all of our members for the great job you are doing during this health crisis.

As you know, we cannot have Executive Board meetings or Membership meetings. Our Executive Board is working hard on

everyone's behalf.

Contract negotiations are ongoing. Nothing new to report at this time.

VERY IMPORTANT...

Please wear a face covering when working. We received many complaints from the

company and members about employees not wearing them on the property. The company is starting to send people home for not wearing masks, so please wear your mask.

Merry Christmas!!

2020 Metro Retirements

February 2020 Retirements

William Brown Jr.	Cold Spring Station
Dean Huffnagle	Frontier Station
Gregory Jones	Cold Spring Garage
Raymond Krause	Shops
John Martino	Babcock Station
Patrick O'Connell	Frontier Garage
Barbara O'Connor	Shops
Patricia Olds	Metrolink
Salvatore Peragine	Rail Maintenance
Joseph Scrivano	Frontier Garage
Karl Tiede	Frontier Garage
Barbara Wynn	Frontier Station

March 2020 Retirements

James Balistieri	Frontier Station
Charles Mathewson	Frontier Station
Lamont Shelton	Babcock Garage
Richard Skea	Babcock Garage

April 2020 Retirements

Joseph Carr	Frontier Station
Frank Cooper	Metrolink
Carletha Cornelius	Cold Spring Station
Jerome Williams	Rail Station

May 2020 Retirements

Rhonda Britt	Cold Spring Station
Graham Brush	Frontier Station
Timothy Denny	Frontier Station
Michael Edmond Jr.	Frontier Station
Terrence Hourihan	Frontier Garage
William Houston III	Frontier Station
Galen Pellish	Frontier Garage
Daniel Rogers	Babcock Garage
Terry Rohrback	Frontier Station
Joseph Sundquist	Babcock Station
Jack Tower	Babcock Station

June 2020 Retirements

James Brady	Frontier Station
Michael Cahill	Babcock Garage
Douglas Heil	Frontier Station
Michael Kelly	Frontier Station
Vincent Montanari	Shops
Mark Moody	Cold Spring Station
Mark Parker	Shops

June 2020 continued...

Connell Sharp	Cold Spring Station
Anthony Skoczylas	Frontier Station
Clifford Washington	Cold Spring Station
Robert Waters	Metrolink

July 2020 Retirements

Thomas Bentley	Shops
Christopher Brailsford	Metrolink
Timothy Brown	Babcock Station
Christopher Carrisquillo	Shops
Delano Doyle	Frontier Station
Andrew Inglut	Babcock Station
Vincent Leone	Babcock Station
Michael Markelonis	Frontier Garage
Joseph McCabe	Frontier Station
Donald Perison	Rail Maintenance
Joseph Peters	Rail Maintenance
Isiah Reid	Rail Station
Ronald Smith	Rail Maintenance
Ronald Wilczak	Frontier Garage
Susie Williams	Metrolink

August 2020 Retirements

Muhammad Ali	Rail Station
Daniel Kozub	Babcock Station
Michael Kurtzworth	Frontier Station
Tawana Simmons	Cold Spring Station

September 2020 Retirements

Ronald Vincent	Babcock Station
Milton Zeigler	Frontier Station

October 2020 Retirements

Gyrone McCoy	Babcock Station
Angela Whatley	Babcock Station

December 2020 Retirements

Janice Mathews	Babcock Station
Timothy O'Neill	Babcock Garage
Tracy Robinson	Cold Spring Station