

Minutes of the Northwest Conference of the Amalgamated Transit Union

Annual Conference

Best Western Executive Inn

Seattle, WA

June 11-13, 2009

June 11, 2009

Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM by Conference President Isaac Tate.

Registered Delegate Counts at Conference Opening: 45

Total attendance with delegates and guests at opening: 66.

Moment of silence for 'lost' members

Lance Norton introduced John Rosen, attorney for Local 587.

John Rosen gave a speech regarding his history and experience with Labor Law and teaching same, involving Local 587 and the ATU. Lance presented John with a gift from the A.T.U.

Announcements: bus to mall at noon and free ride tickets available with Judy Young.

Introduction of guest IVP Don Hansen who spoke about history with John Rosen and Lance. Don thanks 587 for hosting the Conference. Farewell to Lance who's retiring and recognition of his great ATU service.

Intro of IVP Ron Heintzman, future International Executive VP on 8/1/09. He said he'll be the organizing director. He spoke about the Teamsters' expired 'no raid' agreement. The EFCA (Employees' Free Choice Act) will accentuate the activity of our membership being at risk to recruitment of other Unions. His advice is to go to the bargaining table without regard to the current economy – concessions that are made will be long lasting. He hopes we'll stay in touch when he's needed.

Intro of Canadian Director Robin West - thanked the NWC for his invitation. And thanks to the Canadian Locals for his recent reelection.

Break at 10:00AM, reconvened at 10:20AM

Daniel Revega Local 569 Edmonton, AB

Lance Norton Local 587 Seattle, WA

Meeting adjourned at 3:57PM

Friday, June 12, 2009

Meeting called to order at 9:09AM

(Local Reports, con't)

Isaac Tate Local 758 Pierce County, WA (to be
con't)

Lance introduced King County Metro Kevin Desmond, Transit General Manager. Kevin described the increase of service plans for the NW region, i.e. Sound Transit Light Rail; funding issues and ongoing audits to streamline service. Lance presented a gift of appreciation.

Lance introduced King County Metro Jim O'Rourke, Manager of Transit Operations. He discussed his history as a Union rep going into management; what is needed from both parties to have effective negotiations, especially trust, respect and open door communication. Lance presented a gift of appreciation.

(Local Reports, con't)

(con't) Isaac Tate Local 758 Pierce County, WA

Karen Newman Local 398 Boise, ID

Steve Nelson Local 1599 Tri-Cities, WA

Break at 10:09, reconvened 10:43AM

(Local Reports, con't)

Larry Halverson Local 381 Butte, MT

Jon Hunt (report to be forwarded) Local 757 Portland, OR

Karen Newman told the members about the Anne Feeney (working class folk artist) concerts to benefit the single payer health care cause.

- **Motion made by Bob Bean to have the 1/10 meeting to be held in Phoenix and hosted by Local 1433. Seconded by Karen Newman. Motion passed.**

Mike Mahar stated that his Local 583, would like to host our Conference in 2012 summer meeting since it will be their Local's 100 year anniversary. Isaac Tate said we'd accept his invitation.

Isaac introduced the proposed by-law change (copy att'd, "Change and Change II"). Isaac explained the difference (to be carried over to tomorrow).

Break for lunch at 11:40. Reconvened at 1:10PM

Lance introduced Cliff Freed of Frank, Freed, Subit & Thomas. Cliff talked about Duty of Fair Representation. do's: good faith, rational judgement, do the 'right' thing. Grieving don'ts: arbitrarily; discriminatory; bad faith and/or 'reckless disregard' for missing a time line. Top 8 tips: 1) listen to the grievant; 2) look at the contract ; 3) know the grievance and tie it to the contract provision or past practice ; 4) conduct the investigation as fully as necessary; 5) keep grievant advised of status; 6) file if any questions on the deadline – when in doubt, file; 7) if a rep has conflicts or potential conflicts with grievant, then step aside and turn over to another representative; 8) don't base your decisions on any of the 3 'don'ts'.

Cliff introduced arbitrator guests, members of the National Panel of Arbitrators: Michael Cavanaugh, Allen Krebs, Timothy Williams, and Michael Beck. The panel went through eight scenarios and explained what their points were and why. Lance presented gifts of appreciation to all.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55.

Saturday, June 13, 2009 meeting called to order at 9:08

(Local Reports, con't)

Kenneth Knox	Local 19	Colorado Springs
Mark Dawson	Local 1384	Kitsap County
Rusty Caldwell	Local 1765	Olympia, WA

Isaac announced Minneapolis, Local 1005 offered to host the 6/2011 Conference.

Lance introduced the Washington State Attorney General, Rob McKenna. He complimented the King County Transit system as the best. As AG, he promoted bus passes for the office employees and saw that they'd get passes at \$50/year for commuting use to/from Olympia. He complimented the ATU for the work as a Union in transit politics. Lance presented a gift of appreciation. He promised to always have an open door for the ATU.

The Audit committee reported their review that the books are in order. They recommend an increase of the bond per the International's recommendation and that the expenses for travel, officers' expenses, etc. Be broken down more detail. Kathleen Custer motioned, Karen Newman seconded that the audit committee report be accepted.

Lance introduced Yoram Bauman, P.H.D., standup comedian-economist. He made a presentation and slide show.

Break at 10:45AM, Reconvened at 11:07AM

Patty Ceis announced correspondence responses to invitations from Senator Patty Murray, IVP Michael Siano, and IFS Oscar Owens; said any contributions to the NWC would be welcome, and that our NWC is still in good financial shape with total assests now of \$51,555.94.

Karen Newman announced Anne Feeney's drive for healthcare and spoke of the U.S. healthcare need. Anne's concert schedule will be on the NWC website.

New Business:

By-law proposal discussed by Isaac Tate. 14 people voted to discuss Change I. Ike read the 2 separate by-law proposals. He then explained how the 2 by-law changes came about.

- ***Mike Mahar Calgary 583, made a motion that the Executive Board recommend Change 2, seconded by Cliff Strickler, Calgary 583.***
- ***Therese Harrild, Local 883, made a motion, seconded by Doug Johannes, to amend the motion made by Mike Mehar, Change 2, as discussed and read by Doug Johannes (copy att'd).***
- ***Motion to vote on by-law 2, as amended, by Mark Lawson, Minneapolis, Local 1005, second by Steve Nelson, Local 1599. Unanimous, motion passed.***
- ***Moved by Claude Doucette, Local 569, second by Dawn Moisenen, Local 883, to charge non-affiliate registration of \$75 to attend our Conference. Discussion. Unanimous, motion passed.***

The membership of this Conference agreed that it is intended that at Executive Board meetings that there will no registration costs, however a cost of \$40/guest will be charged.

Isaac said he'd be communicating with Neil Silver, chair of California Conference about hosting the 6/2010 Conference in conjunction with the California Conference in Sacramento, Local 256.

- ***Motion to adjourn by Jon Hunt, seconded by Mike Mahar at 11:50AM, Unanimous.***

Isaac Tate closed the meeting at 11.51.