

Northwest Conference of the Amalgamated Transit Union Executive Board
Meeting
Phoenix, Arizona
January 20th & 21st 2012

Day 1

Welcome, Isaac O. Tate President of the Northwest Conference (moment of silence/reflection). Thank you to ATU Local 1433 from the NWC Officers and Executive Board for again hosting the E-Board meeting. Tate noted the absence of NWC FST Richard Johnson and stated an interim election would be held at some point during the next two (2) days to fill his position.

President Tate then introduced other guest to include; International Executive President Larry Hanley, Executive International Vice President Robert Baker, International VP's Yvette Salazar and Bob Hykaway in addition to International Representative Dennis Antonellis.

The Officers of host Local 1433 then provide a video presentation to the delegates in attendance.

International President Larry Hanley was introduced and began by discussing the upcoming 2012 elections, ATU International assistance with free websites and using social media. Further discussion concerned the Carnahan Bill as it is relevant to transit funding and the fact that there are presently 135 representatives signed on in support of the bill. He said that he is not sure if it is passing but they will keep working to make sure it happens. He said he wants to thank the locals who have reached out to the Republican members of congress. He made comments on the field mobilization groups and how ATU training has shifted from grievance and arbitration. He stated that the Occupy Movement has partnered with the ATU, and he encourages coalition building with the "Occupy people." He made comments about the over the road drivers and the amount of work and hours that they have to put in and are trying to get that under control. He said that they have partnered with the TWU to work together on a national campaign regarding bus driver assaults and restroom breaks. He said the International is trying to cut costs as best as possible in lieu of the strikes and corporations who are trying so hard to bust the unions. The International is working hard at their level and wants locals to contact the International office immediately if they think that they will be going out on strike. We owe it to our members to have an effective plan before we ever take them out on strike. He made comments about the Presidential election and how the Republicans are trying so hard to fight unions and even make it hard to even have Union meetings. One (1) year from today is the inauguration for a new President or Obama. He said that we need to get our members politically active. He said he will try to make the ATU as effective as we can. He said where the ATU can make a difference; they will really pour it on. He said to educate our members in regards to the gravity of the situation.

Questions from the floor: First was on what the International will do about the restroom break issue. Floor comment, she said she wants to see more communications between the International Office and the membership directly. Hanley said that is an excellent point, he said they need email addresses. He said he needs the locals to get the email addresses of the members, it is free communications. He stated the cost of a mailing to the membership is about \$150,000 per mailing. Further discussion from the floor about having email addresses from the members and how to get them. Paul Bachtel President Local 587-Seattle stated that they are going to rebuild their webpage. He said that he wants to be able to do polling via the website. He said that we need to set up websites with individual log-ins and that way you can get members email addresses. More discussion ensued between Pres. Hanley and Bachtel about websites.

Bob Bean President Local 1433 then introduced a special guest speaker, and friend of Labor that has been active in their fight against the anti-Union antics of Veolia and others.

Special Guest Speaker Rebekah Friend Executive Director of Arizona AFL-CIO: She started by intruding herself and the work that she does. She made several comments about Veolia. She stated that she has been talking with labor leaders in France (parent company) about Veolia and they are shocked. She made comments about recalling Russell Pierce. She said that we are going after Sheriff Arpaio due to his abuses of Union workers on picket lines. She made comments about how the sheriff gets a lot of attention about his viewpoints in regards to immigration, but not a lot of attention about his abuse of those in the labor movement. She said that there is a shift here and that is because of our workers involvement, and they (AFL-CIO) will be with ATU on the picket lines if that happens. She said that we now have some strong union/labor advocates on the city council and the entire executive council is very concerned about the bus driver's situation.

Meeting reconvened: President Hanley again took questions and comments. Comments thanking the International for the work on the restroom break issue. Hanley stated this is more of an issue about dignity at work. He said the restroom break issue is a huge issue. Question from the floor was if we can get OSHA involved. Hanley said that he thinks if it is in the private sector than he thinks yes. He said he wants locals to participate in the national strategy. NWC President Tate asked a question about the strikes and locals feeling the loss of strength by losing the ability to strike. Many Locals in the the NWC do not have the ability to strike rather we have binding arbitration. This in term lends itself to a different type of bargaining that still results in contract settlements. What is the reason for the strikes? Hanley stated it is different in different regions. He said that Veolia, First Transit and MV have hired a lobbyist to get legislation passed to make privatization easier. He said expect a lot of trouble from APTA, but they are trying to work through it. IVP Hykaway then commented about binding arbitration in Canada. Pres. Tate said we have to have the ability to deal with the agencies without the benefit or threat of a strike. Are those Employers of striking properties willing to look at anything other than the adversarial relationship or approach to bargaining? There were further comments from the floor about interest arbitration and "baseball arbitration" opposed to striking.

International Executive VP Bob Baker: Comments made about battleground states. He talked about how Ohio took away collective bargaining rights for workers in the middle of the night and

the defeat of the bill in Ohio. He said just in the ATU, they had people come in from all over the country to put 10 thousand "foot soldiers" out in the field and due to that, they defeated the legislation by a 2 to 1 margin. He said that is not the end as Michigan is also facing Right to Work legislation. He further stated "Right to Work" legislation is being introduced into more States and it will be heading west. He has been in the ATU for 39 years and he has never seen it this bad. He said in the upcoming election we will need every member from every local to get involved and if we don't, we will be hurting for some time. He said we cannot throw money at the issue; we have to meet with our member's one on one as they may not know how they are affected, He said we are not going to let them (Republicans) get control. He said International is going to be involved. He said these battles are great battles but the battle this year is going to be greater. The General Executive Board extended "COPE Plus" for a year. He said try and step up those COPE programs, and the International has a new communications Director. These are the fights that we have right now; no one thought two (2) years ago that we would have this fight and that their goal (Republicans) was to destroy the labor movement. VP Baker stated we need to forward letters to Congress regarding transit funding. He said Hanley has met with Obama on at least 4 or 5 different occasions. He said every International Rep. and every IVP will be out there with us to help in any way. He said we need to knock on more doors, pass out more literature and make ourselves more visible than we have ever done before.

Break

Meeting Reconvenes: IVP Bob Hykaway took the podium. He discussed the issues with Canada and the fights that they are having in Canada, ATU ASE certification database and training. He said members will be able to go online and review training manuals and download the programs that they need such as training for brakes.

IVP Yvette Salazar took the podium. She spoke on member mobilization, Cope and Cope plus. She said that locals should feel free to reach out for assistance.

International Representative Dennis Antonellis took the podium and made a few comments.

President Tate stated there appeared to be several new Delegates and guests and that we should do self-introductions.

President Isaac O Tate discussed the absence of NWC FST Richard Johnson and opened the floor to discussion. Paul Neil FST Local 587 the runner-up in the last election was discussed on the floor.

Move to open nominations and seconded. Paul Neil was nominated by Mike Mahar President ATU Local 583-Calgary. No other candidates; move to close nominations. A “white” ballot was cast for Paul Neil, and he is the new FST for the Northwest Conference. His term will run to

2013. FST Paul Neil will be a signer on the ATU NWC Bank of America account in addition to Vice President Doug Johannes. This will be in accordance with Article VI, sections 2 and 3.

Discussion Topics: Do we need to re-focus the direction of the NWC and/or the Western States Conference? Pres. Tate asked Neil Silver-Chairman of the California Conference Board (CCB) and Co-chair of the Western States Conference if there were any comments from the CCB. Chairman Silver brings greetings and states that California legislators will have a paycheck deception bill on the ballot in November. Silver states that legislators are saying it will pertain to everyone, but the reality is we know that it is an act of union busting and we need to fight that bill. The CCB will be having a meeting April 20th and 21st 2012 (he believes the dates are correct) and that will be the main discussion. Chairman Silver is also President/BA ATU Local 1277-Los Angeles further stated they have a lot of contracts and several going into interest arbitration. He has 4 open contracts now. Pres. Silver continued discussing issues with the contract negotiations with the delegates who were present.

President Tate stated that the Executive Officers want input from the delegates on the conference or do they feel the Conference is being run effectively as possible. The only comment from the floor was why he was asking. Pres. Tate stated that we have the ability to impact things and make changes within the labor movement. He said do we want to set up things like Local assistance funds or committees as an example. Discussion from the floor and the value of the Conference is to hear what is happening outside of our own locals. Pres. Tate states he wants this to be the best conference we can make of it. Pres. Silver stated that in CCB, they discuss nothing more than politics. Pres. Silver made some comments about the size of the NWC and maybe we should entertain ideas about moving into politics.

Comment from the floor: If we could set aside an “agenda part of our time” and select issues out of the locals to help come up with solutions instead of an unofficial capacity, then make it an official capacity. We are here as the Executive Board to be the brain trust of the Conference. Comment on the floor: Can a flier or newsletter come from the NWC?

Comment from the floor about technology and bringing more information on technology to these conferences. One suggestion for the June conference was to bring a Technician to the June conference to

discuss how to use the technology. Do we need to provide media training to the conference? Executive Intl. President Hanley said it has been the main focus at the International for the last year. President Hanley said our power is dwindling, because big money runs congress. He said we need to build and enlarge our coalition. He said the big problem is training and resources. COPE Plus is vital. We have limited resources in Washington. President Hanley said that we are forming national coalitions with non-profit corporations that are getting funding from foundations. He said we are forming them with funding from these foundations. He said if we can't motivate our local officers to get out and get involved in the community we cannot win. The International has a transit riders' organizational manual that will be coming out soon and we have to implement this type of campaign at locals and the key is to get the members involved. President Hanley said we need to broaden the fight and motivate the public to get involved as well. Negotiate, litigate and arbitrate as the ONLY system will not move us forward. We need it, but we must expand on it. Hanley said that another International President told him recently that we need to build a coalition of 50 million people. He said that there is a whole lot of questions going on in both country's about these types of coalitions. Pres. Silver commented to Hanley about this being a hard struggle, he said it won't be done in his life, but it will get done.

A question to President Hanley from the floor: will the locals who contribute to COPE be the only locals to get the training, Hanley responded by saying no. President Hanley made comments about the field mobilization, and how the IVP's are responsible to contact the International Office to give them details on locals and what they are facing. He said the COPE comment was more geared towards the fact that those members are involved and they know it because the officers went out and talked with the members. It allows them to know what locals have involved members. He said it is not about leaving people behind, it is meant to encourage people to step up. Question: When did the last training take place? President Hanley, they are ongoing continuously. President Hanley discussed the regional training, but there is also constant outreach.

Comment from the floor Sam Schwartz VP Local 757- Portland, doubling COPE is not likely. President Hanley said it is not doubling, it is increasing. President Hanley said that he is not saying that if locals don't contribute, they will not help, rather the International needs the resources and the best way to get them without dues fights is through COPE. Comment: VP Schwartz stated that small locals will have a hard time giving to COPE. President Hanley; COPE is a method, but don't think we are not helping.

President Paul Bachtel Local 587-Seattle comment on Teamsters. Pres. Bachtel discussed meeting with the teamsters and how they focus more on building and less on members. He said maybe we have not gone far enough. Question: Is organizing the way to go? President Hanley answered and said they have done some organizing over the last year. He said it has not diminished, but it's about the same. He said they are working with the AFL-CIO on organizing. He said the new thing in Paratransit is to eliminate it because of the high cost of providing the service. President Hanley spoke about laid off employees. He said that they are a huge resource. He said we should solicit laid off employees to be on committees, to form committees, go out and figure out how to utilize them. He offered an example, a laid off employee may be able to do oil changes etc. He said that they can work to help sustain and is an example of the creative thinking that they are engaged in. He said we should embrace them and not ignore them.

Comment from the floor about having too many people who think about themselves and not others. He said if we can't get our own people on board to help their own livelihood, how do we get the public involved? He said in his local he has people who only care about themselves. President Hanley said that there will be those who won't get it and wake up. He said we have to keep at them. He said they are trying to get members to have faith in each other. He said we are combatting a mentality that we are all in this alone. He said it is not a sprint, it is a marathon. President Hanley said that we will have high moments and low moments. Pres. Tate made a comment and said that what has always bothered him is

what Unions/labor movements are doing to get into the history books being a part of the educational curriculum. He said that has always been a big problem for him, and he sees that missing.

How do we get the Unionism back into the educational system? Hanley responded by offering a statement. And change society. He said for us it's our riders.

Guest James Girden President Local 1505-Winnipeg, spoke about being here and what is happening in Canada. He said that they have had ongoing problems fighting management who plan to do whatever they want. He said that they have several grievances going on did elect a labor friendly mayor, but are continuing to have issues. He said that they have also been fighting the restroom break issue and have some language to address it. Pres. Tate asked about the language that they have for restroom breaks. Pres. Girden discussed some of their strategy about the restroom breaks and that they have set up committees and are working on and with scheduling. He commented that they also cannot donate to campaigns out of their checks but they get around it by buying dinners at the fundraising events.

Comment from IVP Hykaway: he said that they fought to get a restroom in downtown. They (agency) wanted them to get their own outhouse and he said that they rented the ugliest ever. The agency upon seeing the outhouse was so appalled they (agency) installed one.

Lunch

Meeting reconvenes: Local Reports: Pres. Bachtel Local 587-Seattle, Pres. Don Mcknight Local 758-Tacoma, Pres. Tim Dompier Local 1015-Spokane, Pres. Stu Litwinowich Local 569-Edmonton, Pres. Robert Hatterly Local 1517- Idaho Falls, Pres. Mike Mahar Local 583-Calgary.

Paul Neil FST Local 587-Seattle was sworn in by International Executive VP Bob Baker as Financial Secretary-Treasurer of the Northwest Conference.

Doug Johannes Vice Pres. /Vice-chair NWC opened discussion on June conference training agenda: Topics discussed Social media, Coalition building, Diesel fumes and Biodiesel mold and fungus growth effects on Transit Operators in transit vehicles.

Break

Meeting reconvenes:

Jon Hunt Pres. Local 757-Portland brought to the attention of the body a letter sent to Local 757 in regards to an auditor from the ATU International who would be coming to ATU Local 757 on 1/24/12. This was in response to a letter from Local 757 FST Evette Ferrarr expressing serious concerns with Local 757's finances. He asked that International President Hanley return to the room to discuss the letters.

International Executive V.P. Bobby Baker said that President Hanley was unavailable due to being in teleconference negotiations. Pres. Hunt then left the room to contact IE Pres. Hanley

Local 757 VP Sam Schwartz was recognized and took the floor to discuss the issue.

Local 757 President Jon Hunt gave local report. (Intl. President Hanley returns). Report includes discussion with President Hanley concerning communications. President Hunt discussed his concerns about using social media to include members posting videos of membership meetings and posting Union financial statements on the web. Pres. Hunt then further stated due to loss of membership his local expenses have been reduced.

Intl. President Hanley responded to President Hunt's concerns. Discussion included lack of proper audits from Local 757.

Meeting Recess

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Day 2

Meeting reconvenes: Local Reports continue. Rita DiIenno retired Pres./BA Local 1384-Kitsap on behalf of President Greg Sanders Local 1384 (snowed in). Steve Oss President Local 883-Everett, Craig Dunlop Pres. Local-615 Saskatoon, Ron Dunn Pres. Local 382-Salt Lake City, Jeff Raske FST Local 1637-Las Vegas,

New Business: President Jon Hunt of Local 757 presented a copy of a letter to the delegates from former International President Ron Heintzman, to International Financial Secretary Oscar Owens concerning unused vacation time that was not paid or cashed out when President Heintzman left office.

President Hunt of Local 757 moved to pass a resolution calling on the ATU International to pay former IP Ron Heintzman for unused vacation time earned while he was an International Executive officer. Motion seconded by President Bachtel Local 587-Seattle.

Motion amended to make sending resolution to General Executive Board contingent on the three (3) Executive NWC Officers receiving documentation that former International Executive VP Randy Graham had received his vacation cash out.

Amended motion passed by unanimous consent.

Motion by Jon Hunt and seconded by Stu Litwinowich Local 569-Edmondton that if the same documentation is submitted regarding former Executive VP Graham's pay out, that it also be submitted on behalf of former Intl. Representative Mike Mahar and the same resolution be submitted on his behalf. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Paul Bachtel Local-587 and seconded by Bob Bean Local-1433 to send the three (3) Executive Officers of the NWC to attend the meeting of the California Conference Board April 20-22, 2012 paying travel and lodging. Passed 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

A summary by Jon Hunt on the status of the challenge to the ATU International election and the fact that he initiated the challenge but as of yet has not received any documentation regarding their findings, only a statement that the Department of Labor is not pursuing charges..

Meeting Adjournment