

AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION LOCAL 265



1590 La Pradera Drive • Campbell, California 95008-1533
(408) 874-0900 • Fax: (408) 874-0907

JULY 2011

VOLUME XXXI

NUMBER 17

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE WELCOME NEW OFFICERS

Arduous Tasks for New Leadership Team

Please join me in welcoming the new Officers of our Local's Executive Board. They are:

Dan Stoffe, Vice President

*Diana Hermone,
Recording and Financial Secretary*

Satnam Gill, Treasurer

*Pat Garcia,
Executive Board – Maintenance*

*Eugene (Scott) Owens,
Executive Board, Light Rail
Maintenance/WPS*

*Khrysthal Hammel, Executive
Board, Light Rail Operations*

*John Kambish,
Executive Board, Dispatcher*

*Michael Padget, Executive Board,
Information Services*

These Sisters and Brothers join existing Executive Board Officers in the following positions:

*Loretta Springer,
President and Business Agent*

*Mark Keys, Assistant Business
Agent – Maintenance*

*John Harris, Assistant
Business Agent – Operations*

*Cornell Moore, Executive Board
Officer, Maintenance*

*Angel Snell, Executive
Board Officer, Bus Operations*

*Charles Brown, Executive Board
Officer, Bus Operations*

The new Executive Board Term began on January 1, 2011 and expires at midnight on December 31, 2013. I also ask that you join me in thanking the exiting Executive Board Officers

for their contributions to this Local.

As all of you must be aware of, organized labor is under unprecedented attack. What we are now facing across the nation and even here in California is truly apocalyptic to working people. Recently, the city of Vallejo put into action a plan to rob public employee pensioners of their pensions in order to pay bills. There was a time not long ago that all believed there was a firewall protecting public employee pensioners -- pensions were a bargained right and un-touchable. That basic concept is under attack and will directly affect you. No one is safe, including our retirees and the widows of our retirees.

Pensions are not the singular target. The very right to collectively bargain is at stake. Bargaining rights include health coverage, working conditions, and discipline. Without the protec-

...continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

Bikes Onboard Coaches	2
Young Artist Receives Award	2
Retiree Medical Plans	4
The Heat is On	5
A Miracle for Gabby	6
Cancer Fundraiser	6
Jury Service	7
Change in Retiree Meetings ...	8
Committee Representatives ...	9
Scholarship Winner	10
In Loving Memory	11

POLITICAL COORDINATOR New ATU Staff Position Created

I am very pleased to announce the creation of the part-time ATU Local Staff Position of **Political Coordinator**. I have hired Al Triplett to fill that position. For those of you who do not know Brother Triplett, he was heavily involved with our Local prior to his retirement in 2006. Brother Triplett served as Shop Steward, Health and Safety Committee Representative, Executive Board Officer, Assistant Business Agent – Maintenance from 1993 – 2001; President and Business

Agent from 2002-2004; and again as Assistant Business Agent from 2005 until his retirement.

After retirement, Brother Triplett was hired by the Santa Clara Valley Water District in management positions. This exposed him to the mindset and political structure of high level management. After his retirement from the Water District as the Manager of Labor Relations, he was hired as

...continued on page 3

Bikes Onboard Coaches

The Operations Notice to all coach operators by Donald A. Smith, Jr., VTA's Chief Operating Officer, and dated May 18, 2011 has caused operators who do ride their bikes to and from the relief points distress. The Officer's of this Local were troubled since there are many relief locations that bike lockers are not only not available but inappropriate. After all, operator's are passengers to and from these relief locations.

I had an opportunity to speak to Mr. Smith regarding this notice during the closed session of the VTA board meeting on June 2, 2011. He did not appear to have an issue of the operators use of the bike rack for their bicycles. His concerns were the

Operator's ability to adjust the service towards the passenger needs by permitting two bicycles on the coach if the passenger load permits. It is very important that we do our best to help our passengers continued use of transit, especially on express routes where service is limited.

ATU advocates the members use of bicycles because of the positive health conditions the use of bicycles promotes. However as public service employees, we must remember the importance of schedule availability, long periods of time between sched-

ules and the ramifications of the decisions we make to the public we serve. In other words, let us all do our best to provide the best service available to all passengers including bicyclists to insure their return to our system. After all the more passengers on our system means more secure jobs for all ATU members.

I am happy to report this clarification received from Mr. Smith. Keep up the good work, everyone!

DIANA HERMONE

Recording and Financial Secretary



Young artist receives Congressional Award

Anna Kiesser, daughter of Robert Kiesser, Chaboya Bus Operator, received first place for her entry in the 2011 18th Congressional District Art Competition. Her entry titled "Home in the Valley" is a black-and-white pencil drawing of downtown Patterson, California's Historic Center Building. The drawing depicts the museum in the center of town, with the Diablo Mountain Range in the background. She is a freshman at Central Catholic High School in Modesto and the daughter of a twenty five year veteran of ATU Local 265. The drawing was entered in Congressman Dennis Cardoza's annual contest for Central Valley student artists. The im-

age has been sent to Washington, D.C. where it will be displayed in the passageway between the U.S. Capitol and the Cannon House Office Building for a year. Anna and her father, Robert, will fly to D.C. for the awards ceremony. The ceremony will honor young artists from around the nation and officially unveil their artwork at Capitol Hill. Rep. Cardoza (D-Merced) will present her artwork. GREAT WORK ANNA KIESSER!

Diana Hermone

Recording and Financial Secretary



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

continued from page 1...

tive cloak of unionism, imagine what life would be like for you. Better yet, imagine what life would be like for your children and grandchildren. They are the ones who will suffer if we fail.

In order to be as effective as we can

be, I have created a part-time Union Staff position of Political Coordinator. I have appointed Local 265 Past President and current retiree Al Triplett to that position. We are also re-vamping our Retiree's chapter and are continuing to strengthen and build coalitions within our communities.

Other articles in this edition of Route 265 go into further detail of

some of the points I have raised here. Your new Executive Board has an arduous task – we cannot do it alone. In the end, it's up to you. Only you can control your destiny. When we share a common goal and act collectively, we are unstoppable.

LORETTA A. SPRINGER

President and Business Agent

POLITICAL COORDINATOR

continued from page 1...

a consultant with a VTA Sister Union. We are very fortunate to have such a person, with the passion and deep knowledge of Unionism and extensive exposure to managerial perspective, join us during our hour of need.

Part of his responsibility is the growth of our Local's political structure. We have identified several members who have shown the ability and desire to grow politically in this Local. These individuals will be exposed to a variety of meetings and functions. The goal is to develop their political acumen and in time be part of the Local's Leadership. In addition to this on-going recruitment, Brother Triplett will be assisting in several short-term activities. One such activity is the current drive to collect everyone's e-mail addresses – this is being done by Executive Board Officers, Shop Stewards and Safety Committee Representatives. In order to keep members engaged, education is mandatory. If there is a Call-to-Action or an update on a current event, such as the current recall efforts of the six members of congress in Wisconsin, all of us need to know about

this. Most importantly, none of us are shielded from pension reform, even those of us lucky enough to be retired. The firewall is under attack and it is imperative that all of us monitor the attack.

Other drives include Voter Registration and contributions to COPE. COPE funds support politicians who defend working class values and who we turn to protect us from the political and legislative attacks on Labor.

This Local is also taking the leadership role in re-establishing the Bay Area Coordinating Council. The ATU International has authorized the Assistance of International Representatives Tony Withington and Claudia Hudson to assist us in this venture. Initially, the Bay Area Coordinating Council will include the ATU Locals in the Bay Area. Once that is established and functioning, it will hopefully include the other transit union locals in the Bay Area (UTU and TWU). Finally, the Council will include community groups that are mass transit supporters. The development of this coalition will give us additional political strength.

Brother Triplett will be attending all VTA Board Meetings, MTC Meet-

ings, and the appropriate AFL-CIO Labor Council Meetings. In addition to this full plate of work, Brother Triplett will be researching and contacting various community groups in order to create and/or strengthen our ties. These groups include the religious community, riders unions, senior citizen and cultural groups, and school outreach activities.

The Political Coordinator program is ambitious. Given the multiple responsibilities of this Local's Leadership, we must have a dedicated staff member to focus on this important front – all at no additional cost to you.

The goal of all of our efforts is that you vote informed and responsibly. When it comes to voting, we are all equal – we each get one vote. This is the only way we can defeat our attackers now and in the future. When you see Brother Triplett out and about, extend your hand in fellowship. He is a great example of someone who is “talking the talk” and “walking the walk” – one of our Retirees taking the lead in this most important endeavor.

LORETTA A. SPRINGER

President and Business Agent

A FRIENDLY REMINDER

If you are a Retiree and have not paid your Retiree Union Dues for the 2011-year, please do so now. If you pensioned prior to 01/01/93, Retiree Union Dues are \$2 per month (\$24 per year). If you pensioned after 12/31/92, Retiree Union Dues are \$4 per month (\$48 per year). It is highly recommended to pay at the beginning of the year, rather than the end of the year, as this will affect your “in-good-standing” status with the Local. Members “in-good-standing” status with the Local entitles you to the Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 265's Death Claim Benefit and the International's Fu-

neral Benefit. Remember that your Retiree Union Dues are not deducted from your Pension check and must be paid separately. We appreciate your understanding and effort to help maintain your Retiree Union Dues up to date.

Also, there are some Retirees that have not paid in some time. To avoid International Suspension, Retiree Union Dues must be paid as soon as possible. If you are not certain about your Retiree Union Dues, please call the Union Office at (408) 874-0900 and speak with either Irene or Katherine.

VTA RETIREE MEDICAL PLANS

Retirees Over 65 or Disabled on Medicare

In recent times, the Union Office has received numerous calls from Retirees (and future Retirees) regarding medical coverage should they move. Below is a list of the Service Plan requirements for the medical plans available to ATU:

Kaiser Senior Advantage HMO:

Must reside in Kaiser service area. Member must assign Medicare to Kaiser. Outside of Kaiser only emergency services are covered. Other services outside of Kaiser, if Medicare eligible, will be reimbursed directly from Medicare. Retiree is responsible for charges in excess of Medicare coverage.

Kaiser – Medicare Out-of-Area:

Must reside In Northern California, but live outside of a Kaiser service area and be willing to travel to a Kaiser facility. Outside of Kaiser, only emergency services are covered. If not using Kaiser services, Medicare eligible costs are reimbursed directly from Medicare. Retiree is responsible for charges in excess of Medicare coverage.

Valley Health Plan:

Retiree must reside in one of the following Counties: Santa Clara, San Francisco, San Mateo, Alameda, Stanislaus, Merced, San Benito, Monterey, and Santa Cruz. Must use VHP providers and facilities, except in an emergency when they cannot safely travel to a VHP provider. VHP coordinates benefits with Medicare but members do not assign Medicare to VHP.

United Health Care – Secure Horizons:

Must reside in a UHC-Secure Horizons service area. To receive plan benefits, member must select a net-

work primary Care Physician who coordinates all care. Members must assign Medicare to United Health Care.

United Health Care

– Senior Supplement:

May reside anywhere in the United States. Not eligible outside of U.S. Only Medicare eligible expenses are covered. Costs above the Medicare rate are covered by the Senior Supplement Plan. UHC coordinates benefits with Medicare but members do not assign Medicare to United Health Care.

The Medical Plan conditions went into effect January 1, 2011. “Service Area” for Kaiser – Senior Advantage HMO; Kaiser Medicare Out-of-Area; and United Health Care – Secure Horizons is defined by Zip Code. “Service Area” for Valley Health Plan is defined by County. Before moving be sure you know what you are eligible to receive in your new location. Please call VTA’s Cheryl DeGier at (408) 952-4260 for this information.

According to our CBA (Part A, Section 15.1) Out-of-Area Retirees may opt to receive a reimbursement of actual premiums paid (not to exceed the Kaiser Medicare Out-of-Area rate) upon proof of the purchase of an alternative medical plan.

The CBA also provides for Retirees who do not live in a covered area. Part A, Section 15.1 further provides for Retirees who cannot enroll in any plans offered because of documented geographic location. These Retirees shall receive the cash equivalent of the lowest cost medical plan for single

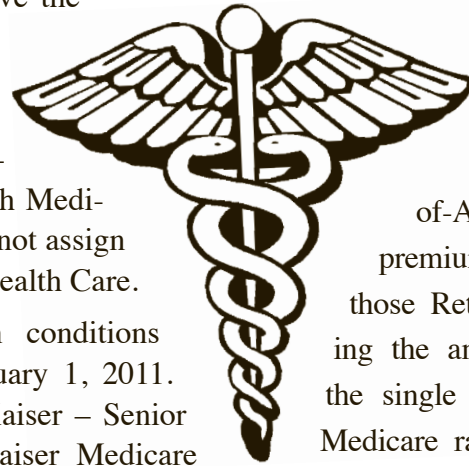
coverage. Keep in mind that the cash equivalent is added to your monthly Retirement check – and taxed accordingly.

Lastly, Members who retire after January 1, 2011 and do not elect Kaiser medical coverage, shall pay \$35 dollars towards their monthly premium and any amount in excess of the single Retiree Out-of-Area Kaiser Medicare premium rate. However,

those Retirees who are paying the amount in excess of the single retiree Out-of-Area Medicare rate shall not be required to pay the \$35 portion of the premium contribution. For 2011, the Kaiser premiums are higher than the other plans. Therefore, Retirees who retired on or after January 1, 2011 and selected a medical plan other than Kaiser Out-of-Area Medicare plan are only paying \$35 per month for their medical coverage. The Medical Plan premiums are generally adjusted every year, effective January 1st. If you retired after January 1, 2011 or are contemplating retirement in the near future, be sure to thoroughly read the medical insurance information VTA provides every November (that goes into effect January 1st). Depending on the shift of medical premium costs, you may want to consider changing medical plans.

LORETTA A. SPRINGER

President and Business Agent



THE HEAT IS ON!

Summer has arrived! Heat-related injuries and illnesses are not uncommon during these long, hot months. It is always wise to plan ahead for all possibilities. Make sure to bring plenty of water with you. Replenish your body fluids frequently. Don't wait to become thirsty. Protect your arms, neck, and face by using sun blocks while driving as the sun's rays expose you to skin cancer. Don't forget to use sun block on your nose and ears – these delicate areas are often overlooked.

The recently revised regulations and Heat Advisory authority is found in California Code of Regulations Title 8, Section 3395 – Cal-OSHA's own Heat Illness Prevention Standard. This Section applies to all outdoor places of employment at those times when the environmental risk factors are present.

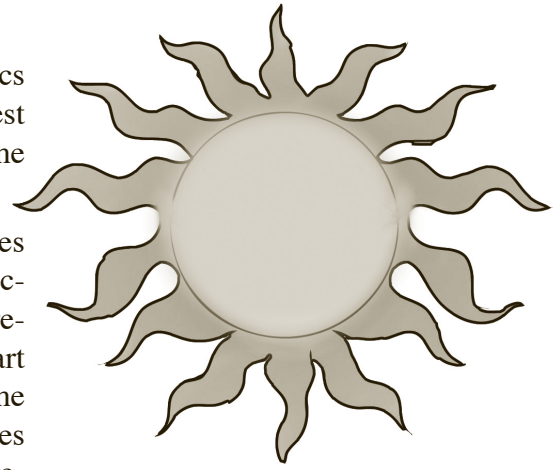
“Heat Illness” means a serious medical condition resulting from the body's inability to cope with a particular heat load, and includes heat cramps, heat exhaustion, heat syndrome and heat stroke. Environmental Risk Factors for heat illness means working conditions that create the possibility that heat illness could occur, including air temperature, relative humidity, radiant heat from the sun and other sources, conductive heat sources such as the ground, air movement, workload severity and duration, protective clothing and personal protective equipment worn by employees. “Personal risk factors for heat illness” means factors such as an individual's age, degree of acclimation, health, water consumption, alcohol consumption, caffeine consumption, and use of prescription medications that affect the body's water retention or other physiological responses to heat. The consumption of

alcohol and caffeine act as diuretics in the body. Cool water is the best beverage choice when working in the heat.

Heat Advisory regulation requires employers to provide water and access to shade. The regulations require VTA to provide for one quart of water per hour, per employee. The law requires VTA to allow employees to replenish as needed, and such frequency shall be encouraged. Regarding access to shade, if the temperature exceeds 85 degrees Fahrenheit, VTA shall have and maintain at least one area with shade while employees are present that are either open to the air or provided with ventilation or cooling. The shaded area must be sufficiently large to accommodate 25% of the workforce and be as close as possible to the area where the employees are working. The regulations clearly state that employees shall be allowed and encouraged to take a cool-down rest in the shade for a period of no less than five minutes at a time when they feel the need to do so to protect themselves from overheating. Such access to shade shall be allowed at all times.

If the temperature exceeds 95 degrees Fahrenheit, “High Heat” standards kick in. This requires VTA to actively monitor employees to check for productivity issues, symptoms of heat illness, and to encourage the drinking of water. The law requires Supervisor and employee training in these conditions.

The loss of heat balance is serious. Heat illness results when the body is out of heat balance. Heat balance means that the heat the body produces equals the heat it loses. When the body is out of heat balance it produces and retains more heat than it loses causing heat illness.



SOURCES OF BODY HEAT. Heat building up inside the body from moving muscles during physical work activities is the major source of heat build up in the body. About 75% of the stored energy the body uses to do physical work is converted into heat. Performing physical work activities when the factors for heat illness are present increases the internal heat the body produces.

The body loses and gains heat in various ways, including **evaporation** – the loss of heat through sweating. This is a major way the body loses heat. **Radiation** – the transfer of heat through space. The body loses or radiates to surrounding surfaces if the body is hotter than these surfaces. The body can gain heat from the surfaces if the surfaces are hotter than the body. **Convection** – The transfer of heat through a moving fluid like air. Air flowing past the body can cool the body if the air temperature is cooler than 95 degrees Fahrenheit. Conversely, the body can gain heat if the air temperature is hotter than 95 degrees. **Conduction** – The transfer of heat between surfaces that touch each other. The body can lose heat directly through the skin if the surface it touches is cooler than the skin. The body can gain conductive heat if the surface it touches is hot-

A Miracle for Gabby Plea for a Granddaughter

On Mother's Day 2011, little 5 year-old Gabby Vogel was a carefree, beautiful little girl. She began experiencing balance and vision problems. On Memorial Day 2011 Gabby was diagnosed with Intrapontine Glioma, a malignant, explosively aggressive pediatric brain tumor in her brain and brain stem. Gabby's grandfather, O&R Upholsterer JJ Vogel, #9276, is asking for our help. Time is of the essence.

Within our ATU family and friends, we hope that some one knows of a great pediatric neuro-oncologist, anywhere in the world. Finding such experts takes time, which Gabby doesn't have. Spread the word. Talk to your family. Have your family talk to their friends and

co-workers. The human experience is one of our common bonds. If someone knows of a child who's suffered a similar diagnosis, we need to contact their neuro-oncologist. Gabby's Uncle Chris has offered his e-mail address to facilitate the flow of information. Chris can be contacted at: chris.pilko@facebook.com Those of us who are in a position to donate, please contact JJ Vogel at O&R.

Please give this matter your immediate attention. Above all, please keep your thoughts positive for Gabby and her loving family – life is so fragile and precious.

LORETTA A. SPRINGER
President and Business Agent

CANCER FUNDRAISER AT CERONE

Make Plans to Attend on Thursday, June 30th!

Our Sisters and Brothers at Cerone Minor are putting on a Potluck Fundraiser on Thursday, June 30, 2011. The luncheon will begin at 12:00 p.m.

Two of our Cerone Sisters are currently undergoing Breast Cancer treatment. In addition to the devastation that goes along with cancer treatments, one of our Sister's husband has been laid off. The donations collected from the fundraiser will be sent to our Sisters in order to help allevi-

ate unnecessary stress while they fight for their lives.

Please plan on attending this wonderful event. If you want to bring a dish or if you have any questions, please contact Cerone Division Operator Maria Spirock at (510) 574-0708. For those of us lucky enough to be retired, please attend! You know the food and fellowship will be top-notch! Hope to see all of you there!

LORETTA A. SPRINGER
President and Business Agent

THE HEAT IS ON!

continued from page 5...

ter. **Inhalation/Exhalation** – the loss of heat from warming and wetting the air by breathing in and out. Accounts for approximately 10% of the body's heat loss. **Heat Storage** – some heat is lost through storage in the body. **Excretion** – excretion of urine and feces accounts for approximately 3% of body heat.

As a reminder for all Operators, we are reprinting Part A, Section 17.3 of the CBA and the following California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 13 excerpts for your consideration:

Part A, Section 17.3 of the CBA: "Unusual Conditions. An employee's

refusal in good faith to perform an assigned task because of an unusual condition which they believe threaten their life or the life of another person or puts the employee or another person in danger of serious physical injury shall not be just cause for discipline, provided that the employee's good faith belief is based on ascertainable, objective evidence supporting their conclusion that an unsafe condition of work exists, and provided further that the employee advises their supervisor of the conditions believed to be unusual as soon as possible and the basis for said belief."

CCR 1260: Ventilation. "All buses shall provide ventilation that is ade-

quate for passengers in any weather."

CCR 1214: Driver Condition. "A driver shall not drive when his/her ability to operate a vehicle is adversely affected by fatigue, illness or any other cause."

CCR 1230: Unlawful Operation. "No motor carrier shall knowingly require or permit the operation of any vehicle that is not in safe operating condition or not equipped and maintained as required by any law or this subchapter, or knowingly require or permit any driver to drive in violation of any law or this subchapter,"

LORETTA A. SPRINGER
President and Business Agent

JURY SERVICE Your Civic Duty

For the privilege of casting a vote, we are automatically entered into the eligibility pool for Jury Service. When you get your Jury Summons, please let your Division Superintendent know immediately. As a prospective Juror you will be on "Telephone Standby". Keep VTA informed of when your call-in times are, and let them know what your Jury instructions are for that day or the next day. Typically, the message you will receive while on Telephone

Standby is to call a certain telephone number after a certain time or between certain hours. If you are driving when it's your time to call in, you should proceed regular route to the nearest time point or end of the line, depending on the time limits of the telephone standby message.

We expect you to use your cell phones while on telephone standby status. Please be sure to follow VTA's Cell phone policy at all times.

VTA supervision keeps close track

on those employees subject to Jury Duty and are aware of their responsibility to not interfere with your Jury service. If you experience a delay caused by VTA in a required response associated with Jury Duty including telephone standby, be sure to inform the courts as well as to contact the Union Office.

LORETTA A. SPRINGER

President and Business Agent

ASSEMBLY BILL 650 Blue Ribbon Task Force on Public Transportation

As we go to press, the State Transportation & Housing Committee held a hearing on June 21, 2011 on Assembly Bill (AB) 650 – which establishes a Blue Ribbon Task Force on Public Transportation for the 21st Century.

Demand for transit services has increased as a result of rising fuel prices, growing traffic congestion and a desire to cut both the expense and environmental impact of commuting. In recent years the situation has worsened as funding sources that were once dedicated to maintaining and increasing transit service have eroded in terms of stability and reliability, putting drivers out of work and leaving bus and rail riders scrambling for alternative ways to get to jobs and school. On average, traffic congestion across the state increased by 11% last year and is likely to worsen as the economy improves and more people get behind the wheel to get to work.

The Task Force will draw upon expert research that lays out the current status of mass transit in the state, what the state needs to do to ensure that the multi-modal transit



systems meet demand, how much it would cost, and practical recommendations on how to pay for those systems. The Task Force will be comprised of twelve (12) members to be jointly appointed by the Senate Rules Committee and Assembly Speaker by January 12, 2012. The 12 members are representatives from the following fields: Business; Public Transit; Environmental; Organized Labor; Public Health or Air Quality Expert; Regional Transportation Agency; Transit Advocacy Groups; Education or Academic Representative with experience in Public Transportation; Finance Expert; California State Assembly Member; and a California State Senate Member.

There are various deadlines in AB 650 that ensure a timely and viable Task Force Report.

LORETTA A. SPRINGER

President and Business Agent

Change in Retirees' Meeting

Effective with the July 21, 2011 Retiree's Meeting, there is a change in location, date and time. Instead of Meeting on the third Wednesday of each month at the South Bay Labor Council, the Retirees' Meetings will be held at the Union Office (1590 La Pradera Drive in Campbell), on the third Thursday (following Membership Wednesday) of each month, at 1:30 p.m. This will give our Retirees direct access to Union Officers and keep them updated on important events and current news, especially in these dangerous times.

The dark forces are trying to convince the public that Retiree health

care and pensions are responsible for the Country's current economic woes. We need to inform and mobilize all members in order to fight these mis-directed assaults. We cannot sit idly by and hope for the best. We must be vigilant in defending our hard-earned rights.

The first step is to recommit to attending monthly Retiree Meetings. The second step is to educate ourselves concerning the real causes of the financial crisis so we may in turn factually and accurately educate our family and friends. No one will defend ourselves better than we can. We must commit to staying engaged

and in contact with one another and the Union Officers.

The July 21, 2011 meeting will be a kick-off meeting. We encourage all Retirees to attend. At the meeting, we will have a discussion concerning "next steps". We will be collectively coming up with an educational/action plan – your experience and opinions count!

I plan on attending the July 21st Retiree Meeting, as well as all other Retiree Meetings. I'm looking forward to seeing you then!

LORETTA A. SPRINGER
President and Business Agent

UNION FRIDAYS

By popular request, the Union has scheduled monthly meetings at each of the Divisions on Fridays. We want to hear from you! Do you have questions regarding Pension, work rules, or our new Political Program? Whatever concerns or ideas you have are open for discussion. One or more of the Full-Time Union Officers will be at the following Divisions on the following Fridays:

	CHABOYA	CERONE	NORTH	LIGHT RAIL
JULY	July 8	July 15	July 22	July 29
AUGUST	Aug. 5	Aug. 12	Aug. 19	Aug. 26
SEPT.	Sept. 2	Sept. 9	Sept. 16	Sept. 23
OCT.	Oct. 7	Oct. 14	Oct. 21	Oct. 28
NOV.	Nov. 4	Nov. 11	Nov. 18	Nov. 25
DEC.	Dec. 2	Dec. 9	Dec. 16	Dec. 23

The Union Officers are also available at every Membership Meeting. The Union Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.

Let's keep the communication flowing! I'm looking forward to seeing all of you on Fridays as well as at our Membership Meetings!

LORETTA A. SPRINGER
President and Business Agent

SHOP STEWARD/SAFETY COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

The following Sisters and Brothers have stepped up to the Union plate and are now serving as our Shop Stewards and Health and Safety Committee Representatives:

NORTH DIVISION:

Operations Shop Stewards

Noah Banks, #824
Greg Leftridge, #3402

Maintenance Shop Stewards

James Botelho, #5242
Nicholas Smith, #11101
Herlinda Benitez, #10070
(Fuel Island)

Safety Committee Representatives

Noah Banks, #824
– Operations
Billy Martin, #1313 –
Maintenance

CERONE DIVISION:

Operations Shop Stewards

Bruce Gaillard, #11880
Anthony Royall, #9729

Maintenance Shop Stewards

Steve Amaral, #8072
Craig Wardrip, #10408
Sonny Dhaliwal, #8047
(Fuel Island)

Safety Committee Representatives

Terry Russell, #3126
– Operations
Jeff Lerner, #1574
– Maintenance

OVERHAUL & REPAIR:

Shop Steward

Frank Dominguez, #5638

Safety Committee Representative:

Joe Gomes, #5181

RIVER OAKS:

Information Service Representative

Shop Steward

Charles Barber, #8101
Fare Inspector Shop Steward
Linda Sanchez, #5515
Safety Committee Representative
Gwen Ruiz, #12046

CHABOYA DIVISION:

Operations Shop Stewards

Sheillena Brunston, #3192
Ron Morin, #3185

Maintenance Shop Stewards

Jeff Poyer, #1621
Bahadur Deol, #5180
George Marshall, #12336
(Fuel Island)

Safety Committee Representatives

Shannon Arms, #8916
– Operations
Jeff Poyer, #1621
– Maintenance

LIGHT RAIL DIVISION:

Operations Shop Stewards

Randeep Sangha, #11762
Esayas Temesgen, #9806

Maintenance Shop Stewards

Judy Kaur, #8097
Aidan Ogamba, #1613
Derwin Blackmon, #8891
Ron Gitthens, #5035 WPS
Charlie Mojica, #7039 WPS

Transit Radio Dispatcher Shop Steward

LaVon Hamilton, #3485

Safety Committee Representatives

Robert Chavez, #3020
– Operations
Judy Kaur, #8097
– Maintenance



The positions of Fuel Island Shop Steward were created for a 3-year trial. We believe that, based on the Fuel Island's location and variety of responsibilities, it would serve our membership better if Fuel Island Shop Steward positions were created. At the end of the three-year trial, the Union Leadership will evaluate its effectiveness and either continue with the positions or eliminate them.

We appreciate every one of these individuals who have taken on the added responsibility of union representative. It is often a stress-filled, time-consuming task. We commend them for their "Commitment to the Cause" and

dedication to their Sisters and Brothers at their Divisions. The terms began in March 2011 and will expire in February 2014.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our exiting Shop Stewards and Safety Committee Representatives. I appreciate and am grateful for their efforts in protecting our membership and vigilance in pursuing safer working conditions.

LORETTA A. SPRINGER
President and Business Agent

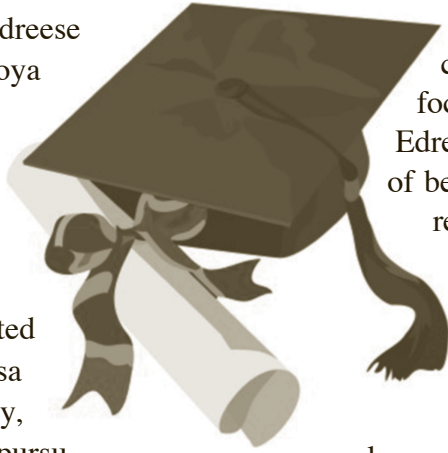
2011 MacDONALD SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Congratulations to Edreese Ayoubi

We are pleased to announce the winner of the 2011 Ralph MacDonald Scholarship Program: Mr. Edreese Ayoubi. Edreese is the son of Chaboya Division Bus Operator Mohammed Ayoubi, #2872 and his wife, Ruthshana.

Edreese graduated from Santa Teresa High School in May, and is planning on pursuing a degree in accounting from San Jose State University.

Edreese credits his experience in



weight-lifting for much of his academic success. To be successful in weight-lifting or in any endeavor, there must be commitment, tenacity, focus, and goals. When Edreese reached his goal of benching 405 pounds, he realized a sense of pride and accomplishment because that goal represented the culmination of countless hours of exhausting work.

In his leisure time, Edreese likes to lift weights and stay healthy through physical activity and healthy eating

habits. We are certain that as one of the original mentors in the ATU/VTA Joint Workforce Investment Apprenticeship Program, his father Mohammed Ayoubi is an excellent role-model and steady source of information and encouragement.

Congratulations, Edreese, on your great accomplishments. We wish you the best of luck as you pursue your degree in accounting and know that whatever your goal is, you have mastered the qualities to accomplish them and experienced the victory of hard-earned success.

LORETTA A. SPRINGER

President and Business Agent

FAMILY-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP ACT

Preparing for the 2011-2012 School Year

Before you know it, school will be back in session. With it comes Back to School Night, Open House, Parent-Teacher Conferences, Field Trips, extracurricular sporting events sponsored by the school, School Plays and other delightful functions we share with our children.

The Family-School Partnership Act is a California law that allows parents, grandparents, and guardians to take time off from work to participate in their children's school or child care activities (California Public or Private Schools). The law (Labor Code Section 230.8) first took effect in 1995. Its provisions were expanded in 1997 to add licensed child day care facilities to the kindergarten-through twelfth grade levels included in the original legislation.

In order to participate, you need to provide reasonable notice to your Division Supervisor or Superintendent. Under law, VTA cannot refuse your request. If you

believe that you have been discriminated against for taking time off for school events, please contact an attorney as well as the Department of Labor. The law provides for civil penalties and compensation for the parents.

You can use up to forty (40) cumulative hours per year, at a rate of eight (8) cumulative hours per month. This is per family, not per child. The law allows for the employer to require written proof of your participation in the school event. To cover the day, the employee has the choice of partial-day Vacation, Floating Holiday, or unpaid time off. This information was provided by the California Department of Education. We appreciate the efforts of the Department of Education and the Act's originator – Delaine Eastin – then State Superintendent of Public Education.

LORETTA A. SPRINGER

President and Business Agent

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS

The Officers and Staff of ATU Local 265
extend their most sincere condolences
to the friends and family of those who have passed.

ATU, Local 265 Deceased Members September 2010 - July 2011

John Escobar, #752
09/04/10

Clair "Chuck" Glaser, #302
01/23/11

Eddie Apostol, #377
10/03/10

Larry Jones, #2670
02/15/11

Norman Prunier, #623
10/18/10

Richard "Butch" Howard, #1004
03/03/11

Roy "Mick" Sterns, #893
10/28/10

Alex Rodriguez, #248
03/21/11

George Smith, #811
10/18/10

Ronald Samfeld, #373
04/18/11

Felix Hernandez, #11927
10/25/10

Ida Rodriguez, #8065
04/06/11

Darryl Weiner, #3506
12/01/10

Faafouina Leaeno, #477
05/05/11

Marilyn Garcia, #2742
01/17/11

John Porrovecchio, #2375
05/08/11

Steven Billing, #5712
01/20/11

Leo Cadotte, #1445
05/16/11

**AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION
LOCAL 265**

**1590 La Pradera Drive
Campbell, California 95008-1533
(408) 874-0900 - Fax: (408) 874-0907**

**Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
San Jose, CA
Permit No. 1090**

POSTMASTER
Address Service Requested

ATTENTION!

Keep up on Union news no matter where you are!
The newsletter can be accessed online at

www.atulocal265.org