

## UTU LOCAL 161 - NEWSLETTER - August 16, 2006

### Save this date on your calendar:

The next Union Meeting will be September 12, 2006 - 6:00 pm  
Boeing Machinists' Hall - 9125 15<sup>th</sup> Place South, Seattle, WA 98108

#### Survey Results

We distributed a survey listing contract proposals made by the membership. 75 were returned where each member ranked the issues on a scale of 1-10. The top issue didn't take a rocket scientist to figure out. The wage rate was the #1 priority. At the August union meeting, we read through the list in priority order and will address the issues based on those results.

Surveys were hand-delivered to most drivers and the remainder were mailed out. Several were returned with wrong addresses. If you have moved, please provide your new address to Wayne Ingersoll ASAP. Thanks.

#### Shop Personnel Inquiries

Next week, letters will go out to each of the union shop employees to get their opinions and proposals for the upcoming negotiations. We will prioritize their concerns in the same manner as we did for the drivers.

#### Dave Brough's Resignation

It is with great sadness that we are losing our # 1 driver to MTR. Dave had over 25 years with our company and has taken people all over the United States and Canada. He had an excellent safety record that many can only dream of. He was a wealth of knowledge for all of us. If anyone needed the best routing or had to get a bus serviced somewhere in Reno, San Fran or Edmonton, he was the resource person to contact.

In his well-written letter of resignation, he expressed his concern over many of the issues that affect all of us: the apparent deterioration of GLS, old equipment, no FT General Mgr., the lack of quality work, a negative work environment, etc. It reached a point where he finally chose to move to a company that takes pride in its fleet and employees.

When the #1 driver of a company voluntarily resigns to go to the competition, that should be a tremendous wake-up call to management. We have an opportunity to address these important issues in the upcoming negotiations. Significant changes are needed or others may follow in Dave's footsteps.

I'm happy for him as he makes an exciting career change, however, I'm sad for GLS and the loss of an excellent driver. Dave, you did a great job for GLS!

#### Union / Management Meeting 8-11-06

For the first time in a long time, I requested a meeting of the Union/Mgmt. committee as outlined in Article 22 of the CBA. For many years, it was felt that such meetings were pointless and unproductive. I see it as a tool for improving communication and the rapport between the two parties. Our discussion was informative and productive. Union reps were Brian, Rodney and me. Company reps were Ben Atherly, Mollie Jones, Geoff Bonar and Theresa Segal from HAL. Topics covered included:

- GLS Future - Yes, charters are booked past Oct. 31, 2006. We were assured that business will continue as usual.
- Training on different vehicles, WC lifts, etc should always be with Safety Dept. trainers not shop employees or fellow drivers
- After Virox cleaning, coaches should airate until dry, before driver is forced to breath that stuff!
- Bus 42 braking/accelerating techniques need to be looked at.
- Training for UW needs to cover the routes in addition to the sensitivity training.
- Lack of full-time GM, Shop Mgr. - GLS is getting closer to finding the GM.
- Last minute charter cancellations playing havoc with seniority and drivers losing hours.
- Some shuttle schedules need revamping to allow for better breaks and shorter days. 12-14 hours of shuttling may be barely legal, but it isn't very safe, is it?
- Company concerns brought to the table:
  - Encourage people to work on the peak days to avoid farmouts
  - Pride in appearance - many drivers are not in the co. provided uniforms
  - Call dispatch if you will be late for a spot time AHEAD of time. Then, they can explain to the customer when he or she calls.
  - Last-minute call-offs - If you have to take a day off, let dispatch know as early as possible.
  - Do not have arguments in front of customers.

The meeting was a first step in increasing communication and sharing concerns. The goal is to improve the conditions around GLS for all.

### August 8<sup>th</sup> Union Meeting

Some of the topics that were discussed at our last union meeting were:

- Cell Phone usage - (see article to the right)
- Drivers told to stay in buses on Renton Boeing property- no access to food or restroom.
- Safety Dept. personnel filling out accident report for a driver. Hmm!
- Cash bags for AP not always available to drivers. We are required to sign out the bags and verify money and tickets. Yet, no one checks the bags back in. Discrepancies occur as a result. An improved system is needed.
- Bus parking at Jack-in-the-Box on S. 188<sup>th</sup> by Seatac is not allowed anymore. Some drivers have received written warnings saying the next time will result in a fine.
- Dispatching of Vancouver trips should be 1 hrs. for round trip, 8 hrs. for overnight.
- Back braces for luggage moves needed.
- Virox cleaning - aeration time
- UTU Picnic in Sept. - TBA
- Anyone interested in a bowling night? Possibly create a team for a local league. Let Rodney know if interested!

Next meeting will be Sep. 12<sup>th</sup> and you are all invited! You will receive more detailed information on the topics.

### New Shifts for SLU?

The union has proposed a new schedule for the South Lake Union shuttle. One or two relief shifts would begin in the mid to late afternoon and then continue straight into Night Ride service. This would give a few extra hours to two of the Night Ride shifts. The new schedule for SLU would also allow a bit more break time on a very hectic, traffic-filled environment. Facing all that congestion for long periods of time causes fatigue. We are also hoping to change Cornish A once the specifics are received from that school. More details later.

### Personal Cell Phone Usage

GLS has a policy regarding cell phone usage while driving. Basically, don't do it. It diverts your attention from the driving and greatly increases your chances for an accident.

The other issue is regarding the cost of using cell phones. Many of us feel drivers should be reimbursed for conducting company business on their own phone. Each call uses up minutes in an individual's plan.

For now, the company should contact us via 2-way radio and ask the driver to call back on a land line. It would be best to find a pay phone and call 1-800-551-5903 for the dispatch office.

If this is an important issue for you, please tell the dispatchers to remove your cell phone number from their list. Or, be sure not to answer calls that display "unknown caller." It is your choice!

### Holland America CEO visits GLS

Stein Kruse visited our shop on Monday, Aug. 7 to inspect our fleet. He was shown the variety of equipment used by GLS. David Beagle, VP of Transportation, made a point to show him some of our MC-9's. Hopefully, newer motorcoaches will be in our future. It would certainly make us a bit more competitive in the industry.

### Thought for the Day

In any relationship, whether personal or professional, if one responds to an angry individual with more anger, the situation will only get worse.

Conversely, the one who stays calm and unemotional will be the one who is in control.

Got an angry passenger? Stay calm, let them blow off steam, act like you sympathize (even if you don't) then try to solve the problem for them. Be in control!

### Comments, Feedback, Contributions of Your Stories

Please feel free to make any comments regarding this newsletter. Is it a good idea? Should we continue with it or is it a waste of time?

If anyone has some tidbits of information or some good ideas that would help others, write a note and drop it in locker # 9.

You can e-mail me at the union website:

pschneider@utulocal161.org

Thank you!

*Paul S.*