




Local Motion

December 2006

Union election activity in Oregon and SW Washington, according to the National Labor Relations Board and the Oregon Employment Relations Board

Elections held

Company	Date	Union	Location	Results:		
				Union	No Union	
Camas Valley School District	12/13	OSEA	Camas Valley	4	0	
General Distributors (decertification)	12/15	Teamsters Local 162	Oregon City	43	12	

Elections requested

Company	Union	Location	# of employees
Weber Distribution	Teamsters Local 81	Wilsonville	2
Bay Cities Ambulance (decertification)	International Association of EMTs & Paramedics	Coos Bay	35
Paratransit Service Inc.	Amalgamated Transit Union Division 757	Bend	34

Labor groups rally around bus drivers trying to join ATU #757

BEND — Four Central Oregon labor groups are rallying behind three-dozen bus drivers who will vote Jan. 29 whether to unionize with Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757.

The drivers are employed by Paratransit Services, a non-profit company based in Bremerton, Wash.

On Jan. 10, the Central Oregon Labor Council, the Central Oregon Building Trades Council, the Oregon School Employees Association, and Central Oregon Jobs with Justice issued a statement of "solidarity" with the transit employees.

Labor Council Secretary-Treasurer Jerry Fletcher, who is also president of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 280, attended an organizing meeting of drivers. All four organizations stress that a level playing field during the union campaign can best be achieved through card-check recognition or, short of that, employer neutrality.

Since 2003, the City of Bend has contracted with Paratransit Services to provide door-to-door transportation for people with disabilities. Last year the city added bus service along six fixed routes to the contract.

Seeking better wages and increased job security, several drivers contacted Portland-headquartered Local 757 in November to talk about unionizing. Wages for the Bend drivers currently top out at \$12.25, while union bus drivers in nearby locales earn several dol-

lars an hour more. Local 757 represents drivers at transit districts up and down Western Oregon, but none thus far in Central Oregon. ATU locals in Seattle and Tacoma represent other units of Paratransit Services.

Shortly after the union filed for an election, the company sent employees a four-page letter outlining its opposition and urging drivers to "vote against the union and suggest you encourage others to do the same."

In mid-January, management held a series of mandatory-attendance anti-union meetings from which pro-union workers were excluded. Workers are reportedly being told that they may lose their jobs if they vote the union in. They might get the low wages of one ATU contract in Alaska, but pay the higher dues of a local in Seattle.

ATU International Rep Ron Heintzman, a former Local 757 president, hopes workers will resist the scare talk. Heintzman recently bargained a contract with Paratransit in Port Angeles, Wash., and said the company does bargain fairly when employees stand firm.

And it's a good time to unionize, Heintzman said — Bend bus service is likely to double in the next few years, and will undergo lots of changes. Having a union will make sure workers' interests are represented as it grows.

"They (drivers) want the same right to bargain that police, fire and others in the City have," Heintzman said.

SEIU campaign to organize bus drivers stalls

A union campaign among school bus drivers at Gresham-Barlow School District failed to win a majority in a Jan. 5 vote. With 103 drivers eligible to unionize, the vote was 44 for and 49 against joining Service Employees International Union Local 503.

The drivers are employed by First Student, a multinational corporation which has the contract to provide bus service to the 12,000-student school district.

Starting wages among drivers in Gresham are \$11 an hour, and some drivers wanted comparable pay of unionized school bus drivers at nearby school districts.

For SEIU, the narrow loss was a setback in its "Driving Up Standards" campaign to unionize First Student, the second-largest private bus company in the United States. In the campaign, SEIU is allied with the the Teamsters and Great Britain's Transport and General Workers Union. First Student is owned by UK-based First-Group.

Local SEIU organizers believed First Student would stay neutral, as promised after a stockholder protest at the company's 2006 annual meeting in Aberdeen, Scotland. But in the final days before the local election, First Student management came out strongly against the union, a union spokesperson said.

The same thing happened in 2003, when another local union, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757, tried to unionize the same group of drivers. Local 757 staff attorney Susan Stoner said First Student managers created an atmosphere of threat and intimidation, conducted surveillance when union organizers came to talk to workers, and stirred up conflict among the workers and then used that to predict endless turmoil if the union were to win. ATU lost 73 to 33.

SEIU has union campaigns among First Student workers at the Tigard School District, as well as in Jacksonville, Fla., and Minneapolis, Minn.

Meanwhile, the Teamsters have won union elections among First Student workers in Anchorage, Alaska, and Baltimore, Md. There are about 22,000 First Student drivers in the United States.



Danner
Quarry 8''

Safety toe or reg.
Gortex/Vibram. Black

Try a pair on, you'll like them.

Tough boots for the Northwest.

AL'S SHOES

5811 SE 82nd, Portland 503-771-2130
Mon-Fri 10-7:30 Sat 10-5:30 Sun 12-6

FREE BARGAIN COUNTER

Free ads to subscribers

DEADLINE: Friday prior to publication

Published 1st and 3rd Fridays

Send to:

NW Labor Press, PO Box 13150,
Portland, OR 97213

- 15 words or less
- Include address label from front page and telephone number
- Sorry, we cannot accept ads over the telephone
- No commercial or business ads
- 1 ad per issue
- Type or print legibly

Classified ads MUST include area code on all phone numbers or they will not be published

Automotive

1955 PRESIDENT SPEEDSTER Studebaker, \$15,000. 541 673-7792
4 STUDED TIRES, 31x10.50 R15 LT, 90% tread on cast aluminum wheels, 6 hole Dodge Dakota/Durango, \$500. 503 668-7172
1986 FORD RANGER body parts, rebuilt 4 speed and o/drive, std trans, 2.3 eng, \$200. 503 630-4177
TRADE MY 1975 CJ5 Jeep project for your ? 503 623-8873
'74 EL CAMINO 350-350, daily driver, no DEQ, primer, PS, PW, tilt, PDL air, \$1,500. 503 621-3090 (Doug)

Sporting Goods

10' ALASKAN CAMPER, it raises, it lowers, sink, stove, frig, 12v or 110, it is real nice, \$1,800. 360 256-9810
2004 HARLEY-DAVIDSON Fatboy, too much chrome and parts to list, 9,850 miles, \$15,800 OBO. 503 697-6913
CRABBING FLOATS, hand-made Styrofoam w/handle, red/white, yellow/white, \$5 & \$7 each. 503 253-9909
PRO-FORM TAILWIND II dual action exercise bike w/electronic ergometer, \$45 OBO. 503 281-0181 or 503 753-1714
THOMPSON CONTENDER, Super 14 .41 mag and .223 brl. w/aim-point scope, \$450. 503 657-5662

Wanted

OLD WOODWORKING tools, planes, levels, chisels, folding rulers, handsaws, spoke shaves, slicks, adzes, tool chests. 503 659-0009
CASH FOR costume jewelry, art pottery and older toys. 503 653-1506
SAMSUNG V205 cell phone from T-Mobile. 503 786-5972 or 503 810-2243
CONDUIT 3/4", 500 ft, used ok; 1" gray plastic pipe, 200'. 503 678-2608

For the Home

SOFA, FLORAL pattern, ex cond, 8 ft., \$400. 503 286-1912
FREE ELECTRIC dryer, ex cond. 503 644-5049

Miscellaneous

LARGE BRICK-LINED double door wood-stove, good for shop, \$350 OBO. 503 637-6246
OPTIMUS CENTER channel speaker, never used, \$50; Newmark 12VDC 20 amp converter, \$25. 361 779-0982
ANTIQUÉ COKE machine, Vendo self-service, Model W, 110 bottle capacity, works, ex cond, \$800. 360 835-9491
NEWLY REMODELED 1994 C&M living quarters 3 horse trailer, must see to appreciate, \$26,500. 541 420-6631



FIRST PACIFIC MORTGAGE

- Discounts for Members and Family
- Competitive Rates and Pricing
- Loans to fit YOUR needs
- Free Consultation
- Ask about our Safety-Net Loan

Wade McCarthy

Tel: 503 643 6635
www.wademccarthy.com



Kramers/metro

mailing service

3201 N.W. YEON
PORTLAND, OREGON 97210
(503) 274-1638 FAX (503) 227-1245

THE ONLY UNION MAILER

IN OREGON

Visit our Web site at www.kramersmailing.com

MEMBERS OF TEAMSTERS LOCAL 223

— Eric Brending, Owner —