

Solidarity Road

ATU Local 1700
Summer 2016

Cleveland Terminal Workers Hammer Out Contracts

After lengthy negotiations, ATU members in the Cleveland bus terminal are looking forward to improved working conditions and modest wage increases.

Food services staff in Cleveland – with the help of a federal mediator – set the pattern in early August with their first contract. A separate agreement covering ticket agents, baggage handlers, maintenance crews and others in the terminal quickly followed.

The Ohio agreements went into effect Sept. 1, and will raise wages by 6 percent over the next three years. Full-time staff received a \$250 signing bonus and part-timers received \$150. The two

contracts also strengthen union rights for more than 30 employees.

At press time, ATU Local 1700 members in the Buffalo terminal had been unable to reach a similar settlement.

Greyhound has fiercely resisted union rights and benefits for its lowest paid and least appreciated workers. After earlier agreements in Los Angeles, Sacramento and Atlanta, the company recently converted dozens of terminals to “independent agents” without advance notice. Local 1700 has filed several legal challenges to that action.

Terminal workers also received good news in a recent agreement with Greyhound that the company will honor city



Cleveland terminal steward Donald Green and station attendant Brandie Poindexter.

and state laws that require employers to provide more sick days than a contract might. Bolt Bus drivers will also benefit from the new policy.

We're With Hillary Clinton!

Labor lines up for Clinton in fight for future of America

ATU International and other labor unions that backed Bernie Sanders during Democratic primary voting have followed Sanders' lead and endorsed Hillary Clinton for the White House.

“When unions are strong, families are strong and America is strong,” Clinton has said.

Local 1700 members are positioned to play an important role in Pennsylvania, Ohio and other “battleground” states where neither candidate holds a decisive lead in the Nov. 8 election.

“Florida will certainly be a frontline

state,” said Region 2 V.P. Dwayne Franklin, “and one thing is certain: America cannot afford a Trump presidency.”

“Labor remains critical to fulfilling America’s basic bargain: If you work hard and do your part, you should be able to get ahead and stay ahead.”

Invest in Good Jobs, Fix Our Highways

Hillary Clinton has promised to make smart, targeted, and coordinated investments during her first 100 days in office that will increase capacity, improve road quality, and reduce congestion — solutions that will meet the transportation needs of Americans.

More than half our roads are at least 45 years old, and nearly one in four bridges requires significant repair.



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Whole Lotta Shakin' for Tampa Steward

Roberto De San Jorge fled Cuba in 1971, but not on a leaky raft. De San Jorge flew into Miami on what was then called a "Freedom Flight." One of the 14-year-old's first memories was being interviewed on Spanish-language Channel 23.

"I turned 15 six days later, which means that if I had stayed a week longer in Cuba I would have had to serve in the military. At that time I probably would have been sent to fight in Africa in Angola."

De San Jorge started at Greyhound in 1987, after driving city buses for eight years and two years behind the wheel of a Greyline Tours bus. He went on strike in 1990 and didn't return to Greyhound for five years.



Roberto De San Jorge

He became a union steward 20 years ago, when his predecessor transferred to Jacksonville in 1996. "I've had quite a bit of training over the years, beginning with two weeks at the Meany Center. I can pretty much take a case through arbitration."

Region 2 Vice President Dwayne Franklin said labor relations are pretty smooth in Tampa, where about 20 drivers are based. "That says a lot about Roberto's ability to resolve problems with the company."

That isn't all De San Jorge is known for. "People used to call me Elvis everywhere I would go," he said with a laugh. "I don't sing, but I can make my voice sound a little like his and I used to wear long sideburns."

Healthy Hounds Take Charge of Their Care

Herman Green went in for his annual physical exam last October and – much to his surprise – the doctors found a previously undiagnosed medical condition.

Green began to see a specialist and in December the doctors decided to remove the left side of his thyroid. During the operation they discovered

that the right side of the gland would need to come out in April.

"There were no symptoms," Green said. "If I hadn't gone in for that exam, I wouldn't have known how serious the condition was."

Green will take thyroid medication the rest of his life, but the Region 3 V.P. has largely recovered from the surgeries and his doctors are optimistic.

The Healthy Hound program aims for that kind of positive outcome by involving Greyhound employees more in their own care. Many union members, however,

aren't participating in activities – and are paying a high price for it!

President Jimmie McCoy believes many union members mistakenly believe the company has access to data from their medical exams. "None of this gets back to Greyhound. They will know nothing about your condition unless you tell them."

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A new Healthy Hound website went online earlier this year, and features a video by McCoy, along with insurance forms and contacts.

The site also explains how members can avoid a \$240 surcharge on annual premiums by performing at least one healthy activity by Sept. 30. See more at <http://www.healthyhounds.info>

"It's all about preserving your health," McCoy said. "We plan to hold the line on medical costs in the next contract, and working with Healthy Hound is going to be a big part of those savings."



ATU 1700 E-Board pays homage to heroic strikers.

Honor Their Sacrifice on Labor Day and Everyday

The names of hundreds of union members who died fighting for labor rights are inscribed on bricks in the National Workers Memorial. Among them are two bus drivers killed in strikes against Greyhound: Ray Phillips and Bob Waterhouse.

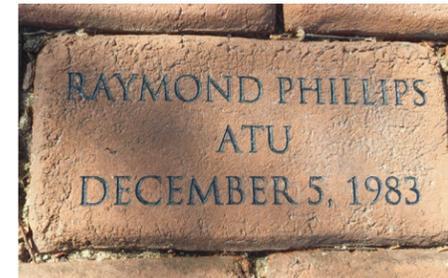
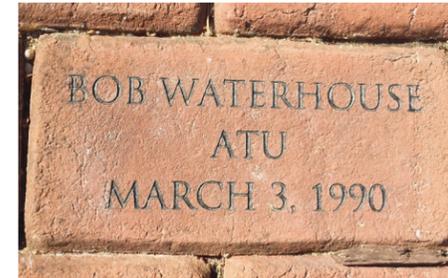
During the Local 1700 Executive Board's recent meeting at ATU International headquarters, the Tommy Douglas Center,

the officers visited the memorial.

"I was with Ray Phillips the night he was killed on the picket line," recalled President Jimmie McCoy. "Ray was a proud union member. When I was a young driver he took me under his wing."

McCoy said Waterhouse was known as a courageous fighter who believed in the union.

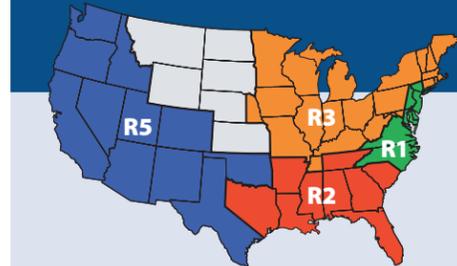
"They both put their lives on the line



to defend our contract and employee rights. I try to remember them and their sacrifice everyday," he said.

Since ATU took over the AFL-CIO's former headquarters, International President Larry Hanley has launched a series of innovative training programs for local union leaders. The Local 1700 E-Board will all go through the Silver Spring, Maryland campus before negotiations begin for the next contract.

ATU 1700 National Roundup



Detroit Driver Restored with Backpay

When driver Russell Williams was fired for questioning his paycheck, his Detroit supervisor said he threatened her. That story fell apart during arbitration, however, and the hearing officer ordered Greyhound to restore Williams to his job with more than a year of backpay.

Pilot Program to Give Extraboard Drivers Days Off

Greyhound and ATU Local 1700 are

about to test an innovative approach to a long-standing problem that Extraboard drivers face: No dedicated days off work.

The company and union considered different proposals in the past, but wanted to meet with Extraboard drivers for their input before finalizing a plan.

Under the plan, some drivers would be on for five days, followed by one day off. Others would be on for seven days, then off for one. Both schedules would rotate through the weekly calendar so everyone gets a weekend off at some point in the cycle.

"Days off won't be assigned," President Jimmie McCoy said. "Drivers will follow the standard bidding process, and they will be able to plan time-off in advance."

The experiment is tentatively set to begin in October in a city where Extraboard drivers work a lot of short runs and can get home quickly for their time off. The pilot program will be assessed monthly.

Arbitrator Rules for Louisville Mechanic

Louisville mechanic Eric Johnson was let go for taking passengers into a break room, even though the company had told him not to. Johnson told the hearing officer he took passengers to find boxes for belongings in plastic bags that would not be allowed on buses. The arbitrator restored Johnson but declined to award backpay.

Get Ready Now for Next Year's Contract Talks

By President Jimmie McCoy

They say an old dog can't learn new tricks, and Greyhound never fails to prove the point. For 101 years, the company has taken just about every opportunity to show drivers, mechanics and other employees how little they respect us.

Reworked runs are the newest example. Greyhound never worried about down time before, but drivers will begin getting paid from sign-in to sign-off in October, so the company brought in efficiency experts to eliminate "spread time."

Contract negotiations are one of the times when ATU Local 1700 members can stand tall. We took major steps forward under the current contract, which will expire in March 2018. Now it's time to look forward.

This is the time for union members to talk about the issues we care about most. Where do we draw the line at the bargaining table? How far are you willing to go to back up your demands?

Greyhound prefers to take us on one at a time. The company hates collective bargaining because it's our chance to pull together and improve our jobs and wellbeing.

No one can solve problems alone. It takes solidarity to make change.

Tomorrow's fight is just around the corner. You can get ready by building union solidarity around the workplace issues we face today.



Timeline Set for Local 1700 Officers Election

Every three years, ATU Local 1700 members elect three national officers – the president, Executive Vice President and Financial Secretary-Treasurer – as well as four regional vice presidents. This Executive Board has traditionally named a national Mechanics Representative.

This year's election committee is chaired by Boston driver Jim Torrissi, with Chicago mechanic Jake McInnis and Los Angeles ticket agent Mauritta Wallis. The entire election will be supervised by the U.S. Department of Labor. The DOL's Office of Labor Management Standards set the following timeline. See key dates below and also in the Notice of Nominations & Election Notice.

- Sept. 19Mailing of the Notice of Nominations & Election Notice**
- Oct. 8.....Deadline for the receipt of written nominations**
- Oct. 11..... Nomination meeting in Norcross, GA**
- Oct. 13.....Acceptance forms mailed to candidates**
- Oct. 25 Deadline for receipt of acceptance forms**
- Nov. 7 Ballot packages mailed**
- Dec. 1 Deadline for the receipt of voted ballots and ballot tally**
- Dec. 12..... Deadline for the receipt of post-election protests**
- Jan. 1 New officers take positions**

Do We Have Your Current Address?

Greyhound doesn't always give the union new addresses for members. If you have moved, please give your new contact info to Financial Secretary-Treasurer Sammie Howard at (770) 662-0091, or by fax at (770) 662-0099.