



Local 1277

News

August, 2016

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Website: www.atu1277.com

Our 75th Anniversary: 1941-2016

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

GETTING THE JOB DONE!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ATU Local 1756; A SPECIAL SHOUT-OUT TO OUR SHOP STEWARD, MAURO VARELA

By Art Aguilar, President, Local 1277

Recently, I received a call from our International Union in Washington, D.C., asking if we at ATU Local 1277 had a member who was both bilingual and willing to work 24/7 to help do what two other unions couldn't do: **Organize a private sector yard!**

As you probably know, brothers and sisters, when a company—almost *any* company—finds out that a union is trying to organize their operation, it hires anti-working people goons known as union busters. Companies will spend whatever it takes to stop their workers from organizing for better wages and benefits, and safer working conditions.

Thinking about the International's request, I came to the conclusion that **Mauro Varela**, our Shop Steward at MTA Division 7, would be just the man for the job. I asked Brother Varela if he would be willing to assist ATU International Organizer Dan Sundquist in his organizing campaign, fully informing him about the commitment of time and effort if he accepted the challenge.

Not surprisingly, Mauro agreed to assist. After some intense training with Sundquist, he went out and brought his expertise and experience to the task for approximately three weeks. It was three time-consuming weeks of hard work, frank give-and-take with employees not used to the strength of a union, and management hostility.

The organizing target yard was Southland Transit, located in Baldwin Park. This yard services the San Gabriel Valley, and runs a number of lower-ridership MTA lines. A combination of employees, Operators, Dispatchers, and Supervisors, were interested in joining the ATU Family. All told, there were a total of approximately 96 potential new members for ATU Local 1756.

What Those 96 Employees Were Missing!

In talking with brother Varela, I learned in detail about his efforts. The big lesson I drew from his organizing work is this: ***We brothers and sisters of the Local 1277 family have it good compared to unorganized workers doing similar work that we do.*** Discussing his experience, Brother Varela made it crystal clear that the non-unionized workers at Southland Transit were truly getting the short end of the stick!

For example:

The workers at Southland were repeatedly denied the simple benefit of having two consecutive days off. The employees offered management a variety of schedules that would have allowed for consecutive days off, but they were shot down every time. Management

time and again made it mandatory for them to work on one of their days off. Management told them: Look, overtime pay isn't so bad, is it?

Guess again! At the Southland property, overtime wages were paid out as follows: Four hours at the standard overtime-pay rate, but another four hours called personal time off, or PTO.

When an employee would try to take time off, the company would do its "very best" to discourage him or her. If an employee *did* take the time off, Southland would then cut his or her work time over the following weeks, so that the employee couldn't ever get ahead.

Vacation/Floaters: None!

We Must Get More Involved in Organizing!

Brother Varela expressed to me his heartfelt belief that we, our Union, Local 1277, needs to get more involved in organizing non-unionized mass-transit employees! Keep organizing within our own properties and assisting other locals unions to do the same. If we can organize from within and also volunteer, get involved, and help those who can't or don't know how to help themselves, then we all, a strong, united working class, will prevail!

This isn't the first time we have helped other ATU local unions. And help we did: The vote at Southland to join ATU Local 1756 was a resounding **63 yes against 16 no**. I warmly congratulate our sister union, Local 1756, for adding nearly 100 new brothers and sisters to their family.

Never, ever forget, and make sure others know this: ATU Local 1277 is always here to help our sister local unions organize and get ahead.

I am very proud and pleased to especially thank Brother Mauro Varela's wife, Ana. While her husband was fighting the good fight and absent for long stretches of time, she became both mom and dad over those three weeks. She continued to raise their two beautiful children, Ben and Elvira (both under the age of 10). We applaud your dedication and commitment, and thank you on behalf of Local 1277 for "loaning" your husband, Mauro, to help organize and expand the labor movement!

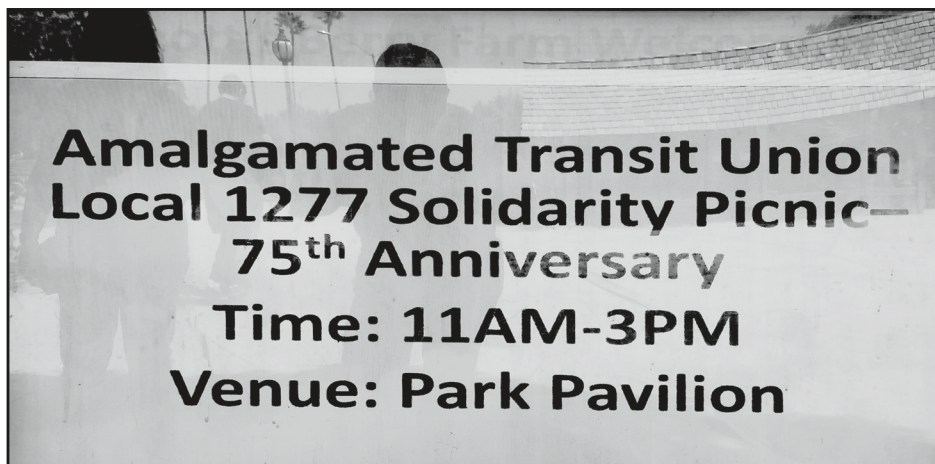
Si Se Puede! Especially with someone as special as Shop Steward and Local 1277 Brother Mauro Varela!

You have long known, brothers and sisters, that your Shop Stewards are always there for you whenever you need their experience, support and expertise. Now, you can see that they are also there to help unorganized mass-transit workers!

FUN IN THE SUN!

ATU LOCAL 1277'S "SOLIDARITY DAY" CELEBRATES OUR UNION, MEMBERS AND FAMILIES

By Adolfo Soto, Financial-Recording Secretary



Solidarity is the cornerstone—the lifeblood, really—of the union movement, and it has been so since the beginning of trade-unionism and down through the years, to today. We are only as strong as our solidarity, our *joint* commitment to, and fight for, the vital work-related, and social and economic and political issues that matter so much to us.

But sometimes, solidarity can take a lighter, more enjoyable, family-friendly turn.

I am pleased to report that is exactly what happened on Saturday, July 16, when ATU Local 1277 held a "Solidarity Picnic" at Knott's Berry Farm, in Orange County.

More than 600 Local 1277 brothers and sisters, and family members, gathered together to celebrate the 75th anniversary of our great Union. It was an event highlighted by an all-you-can eat buffet of typical "outdoor food", beverages, music, and games and

amusements for the kids, including a dance contest and prizes. There even was a sighting of Snoopy himself entertaining the youngsters.

After lunch, many members and families took advantage of the opportunity to visit the famous Knott's Berry Farm.

We all know what solidarity means when it comes to the broad union movement, but our picnic also showed that solidarity means coming together and sharing an experience *within* our Union. *Our Union is a family, strong, caring, united and supportive of each member and family, as well as our common progressive agenda.*

In celebrating the 75th anniversary of ATU Local 1277, we reaffirmed our solidarity: as a union, a close-knit family, a proud group of people who are united, during tough workplace and social/economic/political battles and, as we were on July 16, in fun and games, and fellowship.



The DJ sets up the music.



*Look at them go!
Young dancers really get into the spirit of the day.*

LOCAL 1277 LONG BEACH TRANSIT UNIT MEMBERS RATIFY ONE-YEAR CONTRACT EXTENSION

By Errol Frazier, Vice-President, Local 1277

Members of ATU Local 1277's Long Beach Transit (LBT) Unit overwhelmingly voted to ratify the proposed contract between our Union and the mass-transit agency. Over the course of two membership meetings, held on July 14, members freely and outspokenly debated the pros and cons of the proposed deal.

This was, I believe, a fine example of our Union democracy at work: Spirited discussion, give-and-take, an airing of all views by those who were there, and then a final, free vote.

LBT Unit members voted, by more than a 6-1 margin, in favor of extending the current contract with the agency for one year. In ratifying the new deal, our members accepted a 2% wage increase, along with *no takeaways*, ensuring that the current contract language remains in force. The unit members' vote demonstrated their confidence and comfort with the proposed contract extension.

Contract Highlights

Two clauses in the contract extension stand out:

An agreed-to starting date for the next round of contract negotiations: Local 1277 and Long Beach Transit set and *confirmed* a specific date in March for the next contract negotiations in order to show our members its intent and commitment to start contract bargaining in a timely manner.

A "parity provision", so to speak: Our LBT Unit members are assured by the agency that if it offers any other employees a wage increase over 2%, or new or revised benefits to *any* other bargaining unit, *the same increase and/or benefits will be given to every ATU-represented brother and sister.*

A November Ballot Issue

No, not the Presidential election. We'll have *plenty* to say about that in upcoming papers, brothers and sisters.

The topic under discussion at both ratification meetings was Los Angeles County Measure R-2. Measure R-2, which will appear on the November 8 general-election ballot, *would renew the original (passed in 2008) Measure R's ½-cent sales tax that has been used for funding mass transit throughout Los Angeles County.*

Further, Measure R-2 would ask for *another* ½-cent sales tax increase to expand and improve light-rail lines (like the newly opened and successful "subway to the sea"). Measure R-2 has wording that will *commit 25% of the new tax revenue to be exclusively used for operating funds—20% for bus and 5% for rail.* **Please note that it is operating funds that pay the wages for all ATU Local 1277 members, at two of our properties: MTA and Long Beach Transit.**

Two other benefits of passing Measure R-2: First, if approved, both revenue streams from the original Measure and the new Measure R-2 *will extend indefinitely into the future.* Second, it helps our sister ATU locals. Local 1704 has organized Metrolink supervisors, and Local 1756, which already represents operators, has now organized supervisors and dispatchers at Southland Transit, in the San Gabriel Valley (please see President Aguilar's article in this paper).

I cannot over-emphasize the importance of every Local 1277 brother, sister and family registering to vote in November, and getting out to the polls—along with your friends and neighbors—to vote FOR Los Angeles County Measure R-2!

A yes vote for R-2 is a yes vote for your paychecks!

FUN IN THE SUN CONTINUED!



Smiles, food and good friends. It doesn't get any better!



ATU Local 1277 President Art Aguilar personally ensures everyone's enjoyment.


AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY!

EDUCATION AND TRAINING: YOUR KEYS TO CAREER ADVANCEMENT AND PRIDE

Your Executive Board wishes to remind you that training and education are the stepping stones to better, more rewarding careers in your chosen field of work.

Continuing its history of teaching and service, Los Angeles'—and organized labor's—famed Trade Tech is again offering a series of excellent classes this fall, starting on August 29.

We urge every ATU Local 1277 brother and sister who wants to get ahead professionally, or who simply wants to broaden his or her knowledge and better understanding of the trade-union movement, to consider signing up for this valuable instruction.

<p>LABOR STUDIES CLASSES FALL 2016 Start August 29 and End December 17, 2016 (16 weeks) All Labor Studies classes are transferable to CSU.</p> <p>3-UNIT EVENING CLASSES 6:00 to 9:10PM Off campus classes in union halls, free parking</p> <p>MONDAYS</p> <p>LS 5 – Grievance and Arbitration Section 3254 How to identify, investigate, write and present grievances and handle arbitrations. Emphasis on participants' own contracts, grievance procedures and experiences. <i>Instructor: Tanya Akel, Teamsters Local 2010 Teamsters Local 630, 750 S. Stanford Ave., Los Angeles 90021</i></p> <p>TUESDAYS</p> <p>LS 7 – Labor and Political Action Section 3251 Politics is critical to labor's survival. Skills needed to tackle political issues affecting your members, including lobbying, electioneering, member mobilization, campaign laws, monitoring legislation and holding elected officials accountable. <i>Instructors: Chuck Adinolfi and Matt Hart, UFCW Local 324 UFCW Local 324, 8530 Stanton Ave., Buena Park 90622</i></p> <p>LS 21 – Working Class in Cinema* Section 3252 Examines film portrayals of the working class and labor unions. Students learn to evaluate popular culture dramatization of workers' rights struggles, and analyze how the movies have shaped public perception and values. *LS 21 meets GE requirements at Trade Tech, CSU, and UC. <i>Instructor: Steven Holguin, Holguin, Garfield, Martinez and Quinonez ILWU Local 13, 630 Centre St., San Pedro, CA 90731</i></p> <p>THURSDAYS</p> <p>LS 7 – Labor and Political Action Section 3255 See course description under Tuesdays, 3-unit evening classes <i>Instructor: Jim Walker, Labor Educator and Consultant Teamsters Local 1932, 433 N. Sierra Way, San Bernardino, CA 92410</i></p>	<p>3-UNIT ONLINE CLASSES *Conducted completely online</p> <p>LS 21 – Working Class in Cinema* Section 7860 See course description under Tuesdays 3-unit evening class. <i>Instructor: Ericka Wills, United Steelworkers District 12</i></p> <p>LS 20 – Workers' Rights** Section 7864 **LS 20 is a pre req to LS 24 Enforcing Workers' Rights Basic legal rights for workers, including: wage and hour laws, overtime, leaves, workplace privacy including e-mail and computers, accommodating disabilities, including pregnancy, and combating employment discrimination. <i>Instructor: Joshua Young, Gilbert and Sackman</i></p> <p>LS 4 – Labor in America* Section 7862 The role of unions in creating and maintaining the middle class standard of living for all workers. Labor's impact on issues such as wages, benefits and job security, and economic justice issues such as public education and social security. <i>Instructor: Ericka Wills, United Steelworkers District 12 *LS 4 and 21 meet GE requirements at Trade Tech, CSU, and UC</i></p> <p>3-UNIT DAY CLASS 3-UNIT DAY CLASS Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:30am to 10:00am Class Location: TBA</p> <p>LS 20 – Workers' Rights** Section 0431 **LS 20 is a pre req to LS 24 Enforcing Workers' Rights See course description under 3-Unit Online Classes. <i>Instructor: Jim Varga, IATSE International, West Coast Counsel</i></p> <p>3-UNIT DAY CLASS 3-UNIT DAY CLASS Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:10am to 11:35am Class Location: TBA</p> <p>LS 24 – Enforcing Workers' Rights Section 0432 Skills needed to investigate, prepare, and present cases enforcing workers' rights and to work in the State Labor Commissioner's office. <i>Instructor: Jim Varga, IATSE International, West Coast Counsel</i></p> <p>3-UNIT DAY CLASS 3-UNIT DAY CLASS Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:10am to 11:35am Class Location: TBA</p> <p>LS 4 – Labor in America* Section 0430 See course description under 3-Unit Online Classes. <i>Instructor: Lou Siegel, Labor Communications Specialist</i></p> <p>3-UNIT EVENING CLASS 3-UNIT EVENING CLASS Wednesdays, 6:00 to 9:10pm Class Location: TBA</p> <p>LS 4 – Labor in America* Section 3253 See course description under 3-Unit Online Classes <i>Instructor: Mindy Chen, AFT Local 1521 *LS 4 meets GE requirement at Trade Tech, CSU, and UC</i></p>	<p>1-UNIT WEEKEND CLASSES 8:30am to 5:00pm All classes at Trade Tech Aspen Hall Room 221 Free parking in the Olive Street parking structure (between Washington Bl. and 21st St.) for weekend Labor Studies classes during class hours Parking on Sundays in Oak Hall roof lot (enter on Flower St.)</p> <p>LS 136 – When the Paycheck Stops Section 0440 Learn how to counsel members when the paycheck stops due to strikes, layoff, or plant closure. Overviews services such as retraining, food banks, unemployment, and negotiating with landlords, mortgage companies, utility companies and other creditors. September 10 and 17 <i>Instructor: Armando Olivas, AFL-CIO Community Services</i></p> <p>LS 122 – Framing the Message for Labor Section 0441 Students examine the language of labor and progressive action and learn to sharpen the message to broaden public support, build power, and gain political results. September 24 and October 1 <i>Instructors: Caroline O'Connor, Screen Actors Guild Foundation and Mary Hodge, Political Campaign Consultant</i></p> <p>LS 127 – Workers' Compensation Section 0442 A basic understanding of Workers' Comp, covers types of injuries and disabilities – temporary and permanent benefits – medical care, rehabilitation and financial support, and procedures for filing a claim and appeals. October 15 and 22 <i>Instructors: Scott Ford and Cheryl Wallach, Ford and Wallach</i></p> <p>LS 126 – Issues in Labor Arbitration Section 0443 An overview of the two major issues in arbitration: discipline and discharge; covering just cause, absenteeism, insubordination, substance abuse, theft/dishonesty; and standards for interpreting language in contract interpretation cases. October 29 and 30 <i>Instructor: Lou Zigman, Arbitrator</i></p> <p>LS 118 – Employee Benefit Plans Section 0445 Explores employee health and retirement benefits: how they work and how they are funded; labor's role in bargaining and preserving benefits, and the issues and political forces driving the debate. December 10 and 17 <i>Instructors: Kathy Rallings, CTA and Sharon Hendricks, AFT Local 1521</i></p> <p>3-UNIT WEEKEND ONLY CLASS Saturdays and Sundays, 8:30am to 5:00pm Trade Tech, Aspen Hall Room 221 Free parking in the Olive Street parking structure (between Washington Bl. and 21st St.) for weekend Labor Studies classes during class hours Parking on Sundays in Oak Hall roof lot (enter on Flower St.)</p> <p>LS 11 – Labor in the Public Sector Section 0444 Public sector unions, workers and services are under attack. How to protect and defend your members, your union and collective bargaining now and for the future. November 5 & 6, November 19 & 20, and December 3 & 4, 2016 <i>Instructors: Jody Klipple, SEIU Local 721 and Jim Walker, Labor Educator and Consultant</i></p>	<p>Los Angeles Trade-Tech College</p> <p>The Labor Center (213) 763-7129 laborcenter@lattc.edu http://college.lattc.edu/laborcenter</p> <p>JOHN MCDOWELL, JR., DIRECTOR KATHLEEN YASUDA, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR VIVIAN DE LA TORRE, ASSISTANT OLGA GARCIA, ASSISTANT</p> <p>➡ Develop Union Leadership Skills ➡ Earn AA Degree or Certificate in Labor Studies ➡ Network with Other Union Activists and Leaders</p> <p>Enroll Early By mail, online at www.lattc.edu, or on site on the first day of the class</p> <p>Fees checks payable to LATTC \$46/unit; \$1 ASO fee/semester \$11 health fee/semester (exempted for Labor Studies classes held off campus)</p> <p>Max Mont Scholarships Scholarships are available for Labor Studies classes.</p> 
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Here are the upcoming Local 1277 membership meetings for August and September. Please make every attempt to attend the meeting for your unit. It's your Union, and we need your participation at our meetings!

Tuesday, August 2: L.A. Building Trades Council, 1626 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles.

Tuesday, September 6: **Morning Session:** 10:00 a.m. **Evening Session:** 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 3: 1074 E. La Cadena Drive, Riverside.

Wednesday, September 7: **Morning Session:** 10:00 a.m. **Afternoon Session:** 1:00 p.m. **Evening Session:** 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 4: Cathedral City Branch Library, 33520 Date Palm Drive, Cathedral City.

Thursday, September 8: **Morning Session:** 10:00 a.m. **Afternoon Session:** 4:00 p.m.

Machinists Hall, 319 W. Broadway, Long Beach.

Morning Session: 10:00 a.m. **Afternoon Session:** 3:00 p.m.