



"The News"

Volume 8, Issue 10

December 2008



Message from the President...

FOR US, BY US, AND ABOUT US
ATU Local 689 Newsletter

NOW WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO

We are proud and honored at this time to congratulate all of the members and unions that helped to move this country, state and county forward to a hopeful change. Some of the issue that I will mention in this article you probably have already heard. However it is always worth mentioning over and over again.

We would like to start with those members who didn't get the opportunity to vote for whatever reason. You should take care of this matter immediately.

We have just started what is considered a new movement in this country. Your opportunity to vote did not stop with the election of the president. We have a number of pressing issues that still affect Transit workers and union households. Let me just list some of the issue that you have heard during the presidential election that we must not let get push aside and forgotten.

- ◇ Health Care – HR 676 Single payer health care
- ◇ Employee Free Choice Act – Give employees the right to join a union
- ◇ Highway & Transit Funding – HR 3
- ◇ Transit Labor Protection – Section 13 (c) protecting transit workers rights

As you can see, these are just a few issues that face us as a union. We will be called upon in the future to exercise our vote on some, if not all of the above issues.

The history of this union and country is centered on every eligible citizen exercising his/her right to vote. I have heard positive and comments about the political system. The current election of President – elect Barack Obama has brought on some of those negative comments. We hope that we as a union will ignore the negativity which does not help move us forward and embrace the positivity of his election. His win and that of other political representatives will help move us forward to the hope of change this country voted for.

It maybe a little premature, we are offering this suggestion to every member. We must think on the scale of eight years, because we have so much to accomplish. Just keep in mind that change is hard for some to accept. I have mentioned it before and it is worth mentioning again. This union has now reached its' 92nd year of being in existence. If you take that many years into consideration, then we know for that a lot of changes have occurred since our inception.

Here are some of the changes that are firsts for this union and are worth mentioning.

- ◇ First African – American Bus Operator Local 689 – 1955
- ◇ First Female Bus Operator Local 689 – 1967
- ◇ First Local to have exact fare – 1969
- ◇ First African – American President Local 689 – 1983
- ◇ First Female Recording Secretary Local 689 – 1998
- ◇ First Female Financial Secretary Local 689 – 2004
- ◇ First Female President Local 689 – 2007

We have mentioned some our firsts in order to show the changes that have occurred over the years with our union. This information is for those that don't know and a reminder to others. We are sure that we will continue to change for the purpose of making us a stronger and better union. Some of our firsts were really just the beginning for us. We are sure they came with positive and negative response. Our union did not stop moving forward because of the negativity, but embrace the positivity of it's' changes. We must continue to work within that spirit of change for the better and not just change something for change sake.

We as a union have made great strides over the years of our existence to obtain our rights and benefits that some are still fighting to get. The fight is not over. Just like we must now fight for a contract with better wages and benefits. We must do our part whether it is through the political, grievance, arbitration process or at the union meeting. We must get involved and do our part. We must understand that our fight as union members is a never-ending battle. It is without saying that we are all in this together and it is going to take all of us to help us forward. I know that we haven't done this by ourselves so I have listed below a few organizations that our union works with.

www.dclabor.org www.mdforhealthcare.org www.democrats.org

Email: peoplepower@afcio.org maryland@progressivemaryland.org

We hope that you have been encourage from the current election win for change and that you will be inspired to get involved. We would also like to take this opportunity to wish a Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

IN SOLIDARITY

Roland H. Jeter, First Vice President

2008

Local 689's Calendar of Events!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Staff Meeting	2 Union Meeting 8pm	3 Union Meeting 10am	4	5 Special Board Meeting	6 Red Line Christmas Party
7	8 Pension Meeting	9	10	11	12 Bus Quarterly Meeting	13 Gospel Jubilee
14	15 Staff Meeting	16	17	18	19 Executive Board Meeting	20
21	22	23	24	25 Christmas 	26	27
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve			

ATU Scholarship Fund

The 2008-2009 ATU scholarships in remembrance of former International Secretary-Treasurer Oliver W. Green, who passed away in May of this year. Brother Green was elected International Vice President in 1975, and elected International Secretary-Treasurer at the 49th International Convention in Anaheim, CA in 1989. This year, the program will consist of scholarship each in the amount of \$5000.00. In addition, a \$2000.00 scholarship scholarships may be awarded to a vocational school applicant. So if you know anyone that may be interested, Please spread the word! The application needs to be post-marked by January 31, 2008. You can pick up an application at the Union Hall or online at www.atu.org.

Congratulations to Metro Retirees!

October 2008

- Thomas J. Dean Sr.
- Robert Harris Jr.
- Donald J. Lagon
- Gerhard F. Landers
- Rhonda M. Lofty
- Priscilla McCoy-Hilliard
- James W. Moore Jr.
- James Noone Jr.
- Ernest M. Perrigo
- Eugene S. Rector
- Charles D. Sommerville
- Anthony P. Souders
- Quincie J Wooten
- Leroy Worsley Jr.

OBITUARIES WITH SADNESS WE ANNOUNCE THE PASSING OF OUR FELLOW LOCAL 689 MEMBERS

October:

- Charles H. Lester
- Donald W. Armstrong
- Rawn Davis
- Daniel R. Garcia
- Charles A. Kuhfahl
- La Vaughn Wilkins
- Marvin W. Fox
- Henry J. McLaughlin
- Edward S. Sablan

MEDICATION ALERT



Local 689 members, please remember that if you are taking any Medication you are required to fill out a Prescription Reporting Form. The form must be given to your supervisor and faxed to the medical department, do not give this form to the depot clerk. The form must be filled out every 30 days and faxed to the medical department. For your protection, ask for a copy of the form and have it time stamped before you leave your location. If you are taken for a random or a 1075 let the technician know you are taking medication.

Walter B. Butler/Assistant Business Agent
For Local 689

• **Attend Your Union Meetings!**

- 1st Tuesday Evening of Each Month @ 8:00 p.m.
- The Following Wednesday Morning of Each Month @ 10:00 a.m.

The meetings are held at your Union Hall:

2701 Whitney Place
Forestville, MD 20747

Phone: 301-568-6899
Fax: 301-568-0692
Health and Welfare: 301-568-2294
E-mail: unionhall@atulocal689.org
Newsletter E-mail:
newsletter@atulocal689.org



LOCAL 689 ANNOUNCEMENTS



Look inside to read about:



“Grievance Updates”

**Settled Grievances for
November: 40**

**Arbitrated Grievances for
November: 3**

1st Annual Local 689

Christmas Party

Saturday, December 20, 2008

Dinner: 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Disco: 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

General Admissions: \$20.00

Proceeds benefit C.O.P.E. and the Community Service Agency.



President:

Jackie L. Jeter

First Vice President:

Roland Jeter

Second Vice President:

Larry Lockley Jr.

Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Esker Bilger

Recording Secretary

Anthony Garland

Executive Board Members:

James Alford

Shelia Quarles-Alston

Anthony Barnes

Earl Beatty

Herman Brown

Matthew Bryan

Walter Butler

Timothy Busby

Wilbert Cunningham

Nathan Hall

Gerry Garnett

Judy Holton

Cathleen Jackson

Raymond Jackson

James Madaras

Michael Myrick

John Nixon

David Robinson

Gerard Webb

Shop Stewards

Beverly Cooper

Jacob Ayers

Warren Chapman

Brenda Quarles-Cummings

William Dudley

Barbara Middleton

Derrick Gray

Calvin Barnes

Byron Barnes

Eddie Broidy

Donald Parish

William Cuff

Diane Boyd

Tracy Stokes