

The 998 EXPRESS



September—October 2014

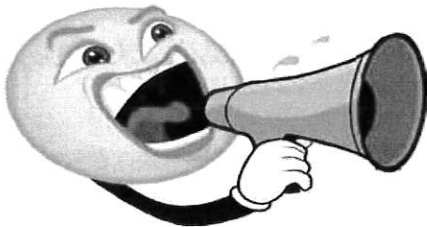
ATU Local 998

Issues: 9 & 10

VOTE!

November 4th

YOUR VOTE WILL HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!



NOVEMBER 2014 ELECTIONS!!!
ATU Local 998/AFL-CIO Endorsements
(Page 8)

Inside This Issue:

- President's Report Page 3
- Vice-President's Report..... Page 4 & 5
- Recording Secretary's Report..... Page 6 & 7
- November 2014 Elections (See Endorsements)..... Page 8
- ATU Local 998 Active Members and Retirees, HELP!!! Page 9
- Legislative Directors Report Page 15

The 998 Express

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 998

734 N. 26th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53233

Phone: 414-342-4300 Fax: 414-342-1998



Representing Transit Workers
in Southeastern Wisconsin

Officers:

James Macon— President

Rick Bassler --- Vice President

John Groh — Financial Secretary –Treasurer

Cassandra Cobb -- Recording Secretary

Chief Steward/Executive Board:

Herb Forbes — FBZ Station (Appointed)

Sharon Lewis — FDL Station

Richard Olson — KK Station

Michael Bautch — Garages

Sam Day — Hillside (Shops)

Sherri Bowens — First Transit (Appointed)

Larry Loney — Kenosha Area Transit (Appointed)

Scott Navis — Shoreline Metro (Formerly Sheboygan Transit)

Paul Alonso — Waukesha Metro

Legislative Director — Thomas Stawicki (Appointed)

Sergeant at Arms—Bob Gleesing (Appointed)

Newsletter Staff:

Editors: Valencia Cheese, Cassandra Cobb,

Nick Rudelich & Tom Tarnowski



Layout and print: Union Copy Centers, Inc.

The 998 Express is the official publication of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 998. Its purpose is to be informative, promote the cause of unionism, and provide a voice and a communication tool for the members of the organization and other interested parties. The editor and/or staff will review all submissions for publication. See deadline information on this page. Articles submitted for publication do not necessarily reflect opinions of the Executive

ATU Local 998 Retirees' Chapter Executive Board

Bob Gleesing—Chairperson

Bill Becker 1st —Chair & FST

Bob Wolter—2nd Chair

Peter Frorath — Recording Secretary

Charles Otto— Asst. Rec. Secy. & Treas.

Marty Zemen —Sentinel

Tom Brown

James Lewis

James Loomis

Dave Lewis

Louis Sparks

ATU LOCAL 998 Retirees' Chapter Meeting
(Smoke-Free Building)
Wednesday, October 8, 2014
(See back page for details).

2014 ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATU LOCAL 998

Milwaukee Union Meetings
Including: First Transit

Morning Meeting – 10:00 a.m. &
Evening Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

* The Meetings will be held at:

ATU Local 998 Union Hall
734 North 26th Street, Milw., WI

Thursday, October 9, 2014

The current officers encourage all members to attend the union meeting and get involved.

ATU Local 998 Women's Caucus

Thursday, October 9, 2014 @ 5:00 P.M.

@ ATU Local 998 Union Hall
734 N. 26th St., Milwaukee, WI

*(Dates and times are subject to change)

All members are welcome.

Cassandra Cobb — Chairperson
Cassandra Cobb— Recording Secretary
and Treasurer
Rosie Ferguson – Appointed Women's
Caucus Advisor

We welcome submissions to the 998 Newsletter, which is published monthly.

Note: Next month's (November), newsletter will not be mailed. It will be available on our Website at: atu998.org

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact Val @414-342-4300

IN MEMORIAM 2013—2014

Thomas Alva Ewert, Sr. (80) — July 18th
Victor Fisher (64) —August 16th
Robert Dowden (57) — August 22nd
George V. Donald (61) — September 12th
Phillip Steffes (79) — September 18th

Condolences from
ATU Local 998

Please take a moment of silence
in memory of the departed
members of ATU Local 998.
Thank you.



James Macon President



James Macon, President

I am aware of the controversy of how some of our members are displeased with options needed in the financial planning of our Local. Unfortunately, our Local has been in a financial crisis prior to the take-over of the new officers (2013). There have been prior meetings, regarding this issue, but no one has come-up with a workable solution that would benefit everyone, without thinking about themselves "only." Therefore, the Executive Board will meet on October 7, 2014, to follow-up on the Local's financial planning that has been long over-due. A subsequent effort will be made on October 9th during the Milwaukee membership meetings, allowing discussion on this matter (including the outlying areas membership meeting dates). During the November 13th membership meetings (Milwaukee) — (including outlying areas membership meeting dates), a vote will be taken by "secret ballot" on the "Financial Planning" of our Local. In finalizing this effort, there will be a "SPECIAL VOTE" on Saturday, November 22, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 Noon, allowing the opportunity for members who were not able to attend the meetings, to vote on the Financial Planning of our Local. Members, we must put aside our differences and work together, if we expect positive changes to be made for our Local.

We have five contracts coming up. We must keep focused on what we expect to achieve during contract negotiations. I cannot do this alone without your support. Get involved with your Union through working "together." This is what a union is all about.

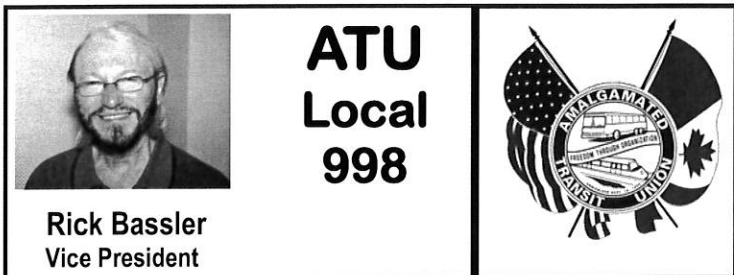
Other unions have lost their negotiation rights as a result of Act 10. It is my understanding that members of our Local voted for politicians who support Act 10. Yes, you have the right to vote for the candidate of your choice, and I assume

you make a conscience decision prior to your choice of candidate. Yet, we live and learn and we don't have all the answers. But, we have collective bargaining rights, and we still have members who continue to complain, even to the point of wanting to withdraw from the union. Well, if this is your decision, do not complain about anything, because the union gives you the right to complain, including benefits, such as working conditions that we are consistently working on, and a decent wage. "Without a union, what will you have?"

In closing, members, as a reminder, I strongly advise you not to go into the supervisor's office without union representation. Take advantage of your Weingarten Rights! If you say anything in the absence of a union representative, it will be held against you.

WARNING: MEMBERS, STOP USING YOUR CELL PHONE FOR ANY REASON WHILE DRIVING! AVOID DISHONESTY! Do not ignore this warning, or you will find yourself jobless.





**Vice President's Report
by Rick Bassler**

President Barack Obama made a surprise visit to Laborfest this year. The Unions were notified less than a week before the event. Precautions were instituted by the Secret Service to ensure the safety of the President. We were told that people would be able to get into Summerfest, but they would have to show a ticket to see the President to get through security, but that did not happen. Therefore, James Macon and I went to the main gate to ensure our members had tickets to see the President. His speech was inspiring and he said over and over again, if he was in a different occupation that he would want to join a union to protect him. A number of our members were able to shake his hand and that was great.

However, for the first time in almost 20 years, we were without Waukesha buses in our Labor Day Parade. The new Transit Director, Brian Engelking (Waukesha), told me that he was not going to give us buses because that is a liability. I questioned him again and his response was, "I said no." Well, the "king" lives on, I guess. I am sure the hard-working people of Waukesha who come to Laborfest to march in the parade, who drove their cars and parked at Summerfest, appreciate the comments by the "king." Let's not forget the representation Waukesha gets as leading, hard-working union members through the parade. Mr. Engelking (the king) also told me that he did not know the buses transport people from the grounds to the parade, so they could participate. The elderly and disabled individuals, who are not able to march, would ride with pride on the Waukesha buses through the parade. —But like the "king" says, "All these people are a liability."

I want to thank all the Waukesha people who came to participate and to see the President. Let's not forget the "king" shunned the President of the United States, but we made it work. We had three Milwaukee

County Transit buses, thanks to M.T.S. Director Dan Boehm. Thank you to First Transit Regional Director Morgen McClelland for the use of a bus that helped us with the disabled bus riders. Both directors acknowledged that people of Milwaukee County are not liabilities. Maybe Mr. Engelking should look in the mirror when he talks about people being liabilities.

I would like to thank all the Laborfest volunteers who worked their butts off to help make this a success. President James Macon, Financial Secretary –Treasurer John Groh, Chief Stewards Michael Bautch, Richard Olson Paul Alonso (Waukesha), Danny Gaines, Herb Forbes, Hattie Patterson (retiree), Roberto Goodrich and Charles Strauss (Waukesha), who usually drives the Waukesha buses, Lonnie Raining from First Transit, Joan Austin, and John W. Graham, Jr. (our administrative assistant's sister and brother) and my friend Eddie Zemlac.

Thank you to the following operators who drove the buses: First Transit Executive Board member and Chief Steward Sherri Bowens, Robert Ambrose-Steckbauer, Tim Boone and Mike Brown. Mike was a last-minute replacement after arriving back from Atlanta that morning.

I would also like to thank Stan Kass (Skylark Vending) for the sodas and water donations. Thank you to Milwaukee County Transit System and First Transit for the use of their buses.

Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

Anyone applying for FMLA must call the designated number for FMLA (414-937-3232), the day you go sick. This is in compliance with Statue 825:303c, "Complying with employer policy" which states, "When the need for leave is not foreseeable, an employee must comply with the employer's usual and customary notice and procedural requirements for requesting leave, absent usual circumstance.

If your doctor or nurse faxes in your FMLA forms to MCTS, you should check with the company to make sure that they received the fax. The FMLA regulations state: Employees who request that their healthcare provider submit the certification directly to their employer and check with their employer to ensure that the certification has been received and follow-up with their healthcare provider if it has not. Such employee follow-up would be evidence of the employee's diligent good faith efforts to provide timely certification.

On the back of the Milwaukee Transport Services Family and Medical Application For Leave Form, there is a section that requires the applicant to sign and then check yes or no if you want MTS to contact your health care provider to cure any deficiencies on your certification and waive your rights under the law.

We are encouraging all members to check NO in that box. We have recently had three cases denied because employees checked yes, and miscommunication has been made between the employee, nurse and the provider. If you check NO, MTS has to place in writing what the deficiencies are and give it to the employee, who has 7 days to fill them out and get them back to MTS. This leaves the responsibility on the employee to get it done, not the nurse. The section is listed below. Again, check **no** and don't waive your rights under the law.

In the event my certification is incomplete or insufficient, I authorize MTS to contact my health care provider directly to cure such deficiencies and I waive my right to cure any deficiencies on my certification.

Employee signature: _____

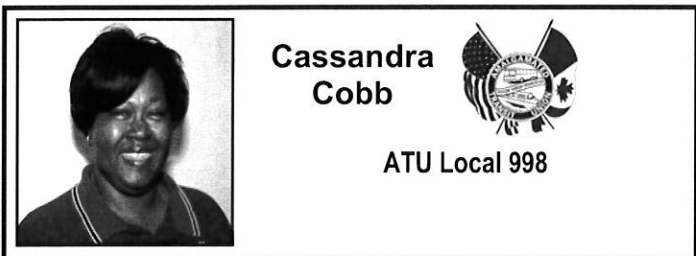
Date _____

Work-Related Injury:

When you incur a work-related injury, make sure your doctor states this in his or her reports to the Company. If the company sends you to an IME (Independent Medical Examiner), the report sent back to the Claims Department will most likely state that it is a prior existing injury and not work-related. At that point, you have the right to appeal the ruling. You can find your own attorney or use our union's attorneys Krystal Kennedy or Dan Schosinski. They can be reached at (414) 271-8650. Our attorneys charge a percentage only if you win the case. Our attorneys charge you a lesser percentage than other law firms do. If you call our attorneys, tell them that you are from ATU Local 998, and that we referred you to call.

If you are on the sick list, or filed for Worker's Compensation, first and foremost, apply for FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act). You have the right under ADA to request an accommodation within your restrictions. If the Company states they cannot accommodate you, file for unemployment (414-438-7700).

Grievance Settlements in the past two months include 7 first steps, 8 second steps and 8 third steps. Included in the settlements were 7 discharges. Four members were discharged for failure to qualify. Three members were reinstated with a suspension and a last chance agreement. The fourth member resigned with benefits. One member who was discharged for attendance was reinstated with a suspension and final warning. One member who was discharged for dishonesty resigned with benefits. Finally one member who was discharged for cell phone use was not pursued after the third step.



RECORDING SECRETARY'S REPORT by Cassandra Cobb

Supporting your Union, Supports your Job, which Supports your Family But What about Our Milwaukee Transport Services Pension?

Hello Sisters and Brothers of ATU Local 998. I hope everyone had a "Safe and Happy Labor Day". All of the children have returned to school now, so watch out for the short and tall pedestrians. I'd also like to take this time to say, "Happy Upcoming Holidays".

I'd like to make a shout out to all the ATU Local 998 Retirees. "HELLO and HOW ARE YOU? It is always wonderful to hear the voices of Gloria Dobbs, Barbara Spielvogel, Elizabeth Nimmick, Bob (Linda) Eckert, Nick Rudelich, Hattie Patterson, Kemp (FDL Retiree), Essie Johnson, Bob (Debbie) Gleesing, Peter Frorath, Rosie Ferguson, Lloyd Perkins, Sr., Iola Murphy, Velma Henderson, Wally Unglaub, May Crawl and so many others that I have not mentioned here. Also, it is always wonderful to see many of you when I am out there driving next to you or when you board the bus I'm driving. Let's get wrapped into these upcoming 2015 Contracts with ATU Local 998. Prepare to set dates aside to join in on the contract meetings.

ATU Local 998, there is a heavy need for our retirees to come back and participate in the union meetings (before the snow and ice comes, during and afterwards). We need your help to talk to the new people who are on the grounds now. They need to know just how important it is to vote, to pay union dues, pay into the pension, save money (i.e., IRA's – Roth and/or Traditional) and how to continue to fight for what we

have such as health insurance, dental insurance, cost of living, contractual language and to move forward.

Raise your voice and believe in a fair economy that works for everybody, not just the 1%. Get involved with ATU Local 998 and stay informed. Update or take the Voter Registration class and vote. ***Vote, but be educated on who you're voting for.***

Please be on the alert for passengers from time to time boarding the bus with batteries, or gasoline in milk jugs or other containers. Do not board anyone with visible Batteries (exception is wheelchairs and scooters) and Gas Cans. Once you find that a passenger is aboard, with containers smelling of Gas ***"STOP THE BUS!"*** after that, you should know what to do.

If you notice a passenger wanting to board the bus with a leaking catheter bag, call the dispatcher ASAP. Urine is a body fluid and I hope you are wearing gloves to protect yourself, which also protects your family. Call the dispatcher also, if you have a potential passenger with any blood on him/her.

Milwaukee Transport Services/ATU Local 998 members don't forget to fill out your application for Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA). If you are sick, or going to have surgery soon, call your department/station Supervisor and let them know, then call the company (414) 937-3232. Even if you are going to use FMLA for a serious injury, illness for yourself, spouse, your child, your stepchild, foster child, or a child in your legal custody. When the company is closed, or you do not get an answer, leave a message on the voice mail and follow up ASAP during business hours.

Once you have the FMLA forms get them to your doctor ASAP and stay in touch with your doctor's office to make sure your forms are being filled out in a timely manner. You have fifteen (15) consecutive days to get your FMLA forms back to the company. If this is not possible you may have to call the nurse (Debbie) at the company and talk with her about getting an extension. See or speak with Vice President Rick Bassler, the writer of this article, or fax (414) 342-1998 him your FMLA forms so he, or myself can review them for corrections before taking them to the company.

Continued from page 6

First Transit/ATU Local 998 members, when you are in need of Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), make sure to call and request FMLA. Please remember to stay timely in getting your form(s) filled out with your physician. **Please do not forget your 10 codes, do your bus pre-trips, no friction over the airway, make sure each wheelchair is strapped in securely. When you get notification that you have a discipline meeting, don't hesitate to contact your Steward (Sherri Bowens) or the union office 414-342-4300).**

Monthly Milwaukee Chapter Membership Meetings are every second Thursday of the month at 10:00 A.M. & 6:30 P.M. unless otherwise specified. When you're down five (5) minutes or more call the dispatcher to report your down time. The drivers are the first person the riding public/passengers clients see. Please keep the drivers area clean.

The ATU International Women's Caucus recognizes one Women's Caucus per local and ATU Local 998 Women's Caucus has By Laws in place with the International. The ATU Local 998 Women's Caucus meetings are every second Thursday of each month (unless otherwise specified) at 5:00 p.m.

Did you know that 3,000 Wisconsin pensioners were rehired in 2013? New data shows that one in three public retirees returned to work for a public employer while drawing a pension from the Wisconsin Retirement System last year. MTS wants to rehire pensioners too I'm told.

Are you keeping track of your pension? You should keep track of your pension while you are working, if you leave an employer before retirement age, cost of living adjustments, when you retire **and if your pension plan is terminated.**

Do you know how to correct the information on your pension record? Call your past employer that you retired from (i.e. Milwaukee Transport Services, Inc. 414-344-4550) also, check to make sure your monthly pension calculations are correct. As soon as I get an exact/last word on what's going to happen to our pension at MTS, I will let you know. In the meantime, check on your calculations.

Remember to close the shield on your bus; use your seatbelt; stay off the cell phones and other portable devices, while driving and be kind to yourself and others. Enjoy the best life possible.

**V
O
T
E**

**November 4th
Election Day!**

**NOVEMBER 2014 ELECTIONS
ATU 998/AFL-CIO ENDORSEMENTS**

MARY BURKE

GOVERNOR

JOHN LEHMAN

LT. GOVERNOR

SUSAN HAPP

ATTY.GENERAL

GWEN MOORE

US REP. DIST.4

DAVID BOWEN

**STATE ASSEMBLY
DIST.10**

JOHN WEISHAN JR.

**STATE ASSEMBLY
DIST.15**

ANGELA WALKER

**MILWAUKEE CO.
SHERIFF**

MARTIN WEDDLE

**MILWAUKEE CO.
BOARD DIST. 10**

TERRY VAN AKKEREN

**STATE ASSEMBLY
DIST.9**

MARTHA LANING

**STATE SENATOR
DIST.9**

PHIL SWANHORST

**STATE SENATOR
DIST 23**

CHRIS ROCKWOOD

**US CONGRESS
DIST. 5**

MARK HARRIS

**US CONGRESS
DIST.6**

Fiebrantz Station

By Daniel Prichard, Assistant Steward

To begin I would like to introduce myself. I'm Daniel Prichard Assistant Steward at Fiebrantz Station. I'll spare you the long version for now. Alright, with that out of the way, let me speak about what is to come and that's Winter. Seeing as winter is coming, please allow yourselves ample time to get in to work for your sign-up time. Misses will be taken even more seriously than in the past, especially with the new Transportation supervisors at MTS. Our next issue, I would like to touch on is in regard to the excessive amount of board errors that we have been experiencing at Fiebrantz Station. Chief Steward Herb Forbes and I have been on top of this issue and we are personally checking the board on a daily basis. We do understand there is an extremely unusual amount of work being split, nevertheless, the board mistakes are becoming to frequent. Conversations and meetings are taking place regarding further steps that can be taken to resolve these issues. On another note, Mr. Forbes and I are readily available for any questions, concerns and issues. DO NOT hesitate to contact us.

ATU LOCAL 998 MEMBERS AND RETIREES, WE NEED YOUR HELP! By Tom Stawicki, Legislative Director

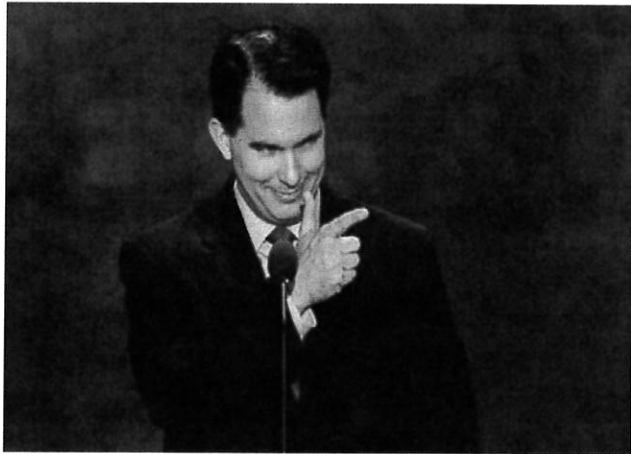
At this time we are currently seeking volunteers to help get Milwaukee area residents from their homes to early voting locations. Vans will be provided by ATU and SEIU, but we need your help to drive the vans. Early voting hours are weekdays, 8:00 am to 7:00 pm, Monday October 20, thru Friday October 31, so we will have plenty of shifts to staff. Discussions are also under way to possibly receive assistance from other unions, including SEIU and the Teamsters!

At almost every union meeting, our members ask us what the union is doing to protect our jobs, or why weren't you guys out at political events. Well, it doesn't get any more political than this. We have an opportunity to change the face of Wisconsin politics, not to mention the local and national races as well. There are thousands of voters in the Milwaukee area who share our views on public transportation. All they need is transportation to the early polling locations. This union cannot stress enough, the importance of every vote counting. This past August, there were a few races being decided by less than fifty votes, so EVERY SINGLE VOTE IS IMPORTANT!

So, if you have some free time and would really like to make a difference this November, volunteer by either calling the union office at 414-342-4300, or signing up at the next union meetings, 10:00am and 6:30pm on October 9th. Any time you can volunteer will be greatly appreciated. It's time to step up people!!!!!!



If he doesn't vote for you...then don't vote for him.



Courtesy Daily Kos

by Bob Wolter (A retiree's opinion)

Politicians promise you the moon for your vote. After they get your vote and get in office what happens then? It just makes sense to look at their voting record. Have they voted for you, or have they voted for themselves and their campaign contributors?

"If you're not voting for me, then I won't vote for you!"

Are you as confused as I am with the daily TV Ads? The Mary Burke ad shows Wisconsin at the bottom of Midwest Job growth, while Scott Walker and the Koch Brothers subsequent ad shows Wisconsin at the top. — Obviously someone is lying!

Meanwhile, the middle class (you and me brother) is being squeezed out of existence. What is happening? In one of the ads, showing little children confused as to why their Governor put them at the very bottom of the educational spending list, keep asking "Why" The ad states that Walker spent the money on "his friends" — Well not exactly! — Not really his friends; they are just campaign contributors looking for special favors. Most little people can't give huge contributions to Walker's campaign. — That's why! Is this voting for you?

Rich people have now taken control of your government through the Republicans and their "Tea Party." In exchange for huge campaign contributions (that politicians voted they can KEEP when leaving office). These same politicians are introducing legislation favorable to their wealthy donors. Is this voting for you?

The Affordable Health Care Act has now been the law of the land for several years. It is a great mechanism for the poor to be able to purchase Health Care Insurance, some of it government subsidized. The poor need good health care lest they die. Do rich care? Why is it then that their Republicans continue to attempt to destroy it at every opportunity? Is this voting for you?

The Affordable Health Care Act has now been the law of the land for several years. It is a great mechanism for the poor to be able to purchase Health Care Insurance, some of it government subsidized. The poor need good health care lest they die. Do rich care? Why is it then that their Republicans continue to attempt to destroy it at every opportunity? Is this voting for you?

Recently, 600 poor souls lost their jobs at the Cargill meat packing plant. Anyone knows that working at a packing plant is a dirty, smelly, messy job. However, 600 families could be supported by those dirty, smelly, messy jobs. What will these families do now?

Where was our "jobs governor" when this employment tragedy was underway? Wasn't he a few miles north at the State Fair. Where was our "Jobs Governor" last year when the Golden Guernsey Dairy closure put all those people out of work?

What about his campaign promise of 250,000 new jobs by the end of his first term of office? When interviewed on a local Sunday morning talk show, he said that you could hold him to that promise!

Didn't his ACT 10 destroy a number of family-supporting Union Jobs? Did Walker ever mention his desire to destroy your Unions prior to his election? Is this voting for you?

In one campaign ad, Wisconsin is listed as dead last in Mid-West jobs! According to a Walker/Koch Brothers campaign ad, Wisconsin was number 1 in new Midwest jobs. Obviously someone is LYING!

Last year, Governor Scott Walker sent back the federal aid meant to boost our state's health care program, Badger Care. As a result, 63,000 low-income Wisconsinites lost their health insurance coverage this winter. And 38,000 remain uninsured and face a gap in coverage because of Walker's action. Is this voting for you? _____

Continued on page 11

Continued from page 10

As you read this, know that we are being sued by Talgo American for breach of contract-\$110,000,000. Walker had the Federal money but he sent it back. Did our "Jobs Governor's" action cost poor Milwaukee Inner City Employee residents to lose 265 family-supporting jobs? Who is going to pay this huge settlement? Walker? Is this voting for you?

Recently, Walker received the considerable sum of \$570,000,000 worth of Federal Money to be used for job creation. What happened to all of this money? Walker turned it over to his already wealthy campaign contributors. Please remember Walker gets

to keep all of the campaign money when he leaves office, something like an emergency bank account. So what happened to all the folks who lost their jobs? Who cares? Is this voting for you?

Daily Kos reported: "Time and again, Governor Walker has turned his back on what's best for Wisconsin in order to pursue his own radical agenda. Time and again, Wisconsin families have suffered the consequences.

As rendered in the court documents, an email between senior staff members described Mr. Walker's taking a personal interest in how the work of conservative committees was orchestrated, saying that Mr. Walker wanted all contributions to go to the Club for Growth. Those who donated to Wisconsin Club for Growth included Gogebic Taconite LLC, which had proposed opening a 4½-mile long iron mine in northern Wisconsin. The company gave \$700,000 to Club for Growth in 2011 and 2012. Walker signed their legislation last year streamlining state mining requirements and paving the way for the project. Walker's action violated an 1840 treaty with the Bad River Tribe, in which the Reservation's water quality was guaranteed by the government. The toxic runoff from this mining activity will poison the Indian's ground water. The Indians peaceful protest was broken up by armed mining company guards.

Who cares about some Indians and their treaty? Scott Walker is really the true American and deserves this money in his campaign fund, which he can keep! Is this voting for you?

On the state level, Scott Walker has a viable gubernatorial candidate, Democrat Mary Burke. **Will she vote for you? Please be sure to vote. Your inaction could cause Walker to get in office again!**

Please do your very best to eliminate your debt. The current Headwinds are against you and your family.

Recently, 600 poor souls lost their jobs at the Cargill meat packing plant. Anyone knows that working at a packing plant is a dirty, smelly, messy job. However, 600 families could be supported by those dirty, smelly, messy jobs. What will these families do now?

Where was our "jobs governor" when this employment tragedy was underway? Wasn't he a few miles north at the State Fair. Where was our "Jobs Governor" last year when the Golden Guernsey Dairy closure put all those people out of work?

What about his campaign promise of 250,000 new jobs by the end of his first term of office? When interviewed on a local Sunday morning talk show, he said that you could hold him to that promise!

Didn't his ACT 10 destroy a number of family-supporting Union Jobs? Did Walker ever mention his desire to destroy your Unions prior to his election? Is this voting for you?

In one campaign ad, Wisconsin is listed as dead last in Mid-West jobs! According to a Walker/Koch Brothers campaign ad, Wisconsin was number 1 in new Midwest jobs. Obviously someone is LYING!

Last year, Governor Scott Walker sent back the federal aid meant to boost our state's health care program, Badger Care. As a result, 63,000 low-income Wisconsinites lost their health insurance coverage this winter. And 38,000 remain uninsured and face a gap in coverage because of Walker's action. Is this voting for you? _____

As you read this, know that we are being sued by Talgo American for breach of contract-\$110,000,000. Walker had the Federal money but he sent it back. Did our "Jobs Governor's" action cost poor Milwaukee Inner City Employee residents to lose 265 family-supporting jobs? Who is going to pay this huge settlement? Walker? Is this voting for you?

Recently, Walker received the considerable sum of \$570,000,000 worth of Federal Money to be used for job creation. What happened to all of this money? Walker turned it over to his already wealthy campaign contributors. Please remember Walker gets to keep all of the campaign money when he leaves office, something like an emergency bank account. So what happened to all the folks who lost their jobs? Who cares? Is this voting for you?

Daily Kos reported: "Time and again, Governor Walker has turned his back on what's best for Wisconsin in order to pursue his own radical agenda. Time and again, Wisconsin families have suffered the consequences.

As rendered in the court documents, an email between senior staff members described Mr. Walker's taking a personal interest in how the work of conservative committees was orchestrated, saying that Mr. Walker wanted all contributions to go to the Club for Growth. Those who donated to Wisconsin Club for Growth included Gogebic Taconite LLC, which had proposed opening a 4½-mile long iron mine in northern Wisconsin. The company gave \$700,000 to Club

for Growth in 2011 and 2012. Walker signed their legislation last year streamlining state mining requirements and paving the way for the project. Walker's action violated an 1840 treaty with the Bad River Tribe, in which the Reservation's water quality was guaranteed by the government. The toxic runoff from this mining activity will poison the Indian's ground water. The Indians peaceful protest was broken up by armed mining company guards.

Who cares about some Indians and their treaty? Scott Walker is really the true American and deserves this money in his campaign fund, which he can keep! Is this voting for you?

On the state level, Scott Walker has a viable gubernatorial candidate, Democrat Mary Burke. **Will she vote for you? Please be sure to vote. Your inaction could cause Walker to get in office again!**

Please do your very best to eliminate your debt. The current Headwinds are against you and your family.

Happy Halloween

Garages
by Michael Bautch

Hello everyone! I hope you had a great summer. The Annual Garage Pick is coming up soon. At the time of this writing, I have not received any of the changes in work schedules or the Holiday-Off Schedule. There will be extra job posting openings at the pick. Watch for the crew that has the days and holidays you want off for next year. Remember, if there is no 998 Express newsletter before next year, sign your name on the overtime (O.T.) list. You can always say, "No," if you do not want to work overtime.

The Union had talks with M.C.T.S. about extra training or refresher courses on the #5100 and up series buses. Some of the items we asked for include: #407 Freon Refresher and updates, more computer diagnosing on the Check Engine lights, fare-box training, etc.

Until next time, enjoy the up-coming holidays and be safe.

SHOPS REPORT
by Sam Day, Chief Steward

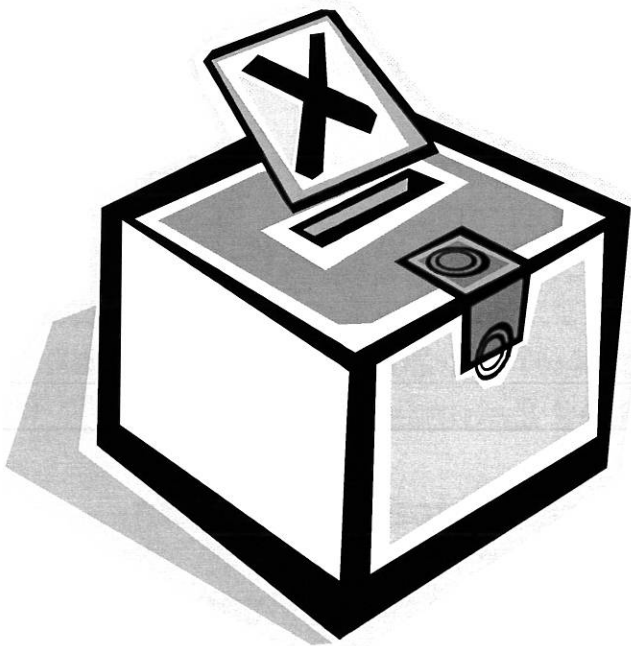
Hello ATU Local 998 members. Currently, there is a lot of talk going on at the Shops. We have members going to management complaining about our fellow union members. If you have a problem, talk with me. The definition of union is: "an organization of workers joined to protect their common interests and improve their working conditions." The members who complain to management about other members, are the problem. Come to work; do your job and go home. This is not high school or an adult daycare. Grow up and stop the nonsense. We are adults; start acting like it. If you have a problem with someone, talk face-to-face with that person, and stop talking behind their back. You may also contact me. We need to get along and work together. You don't have to like the person, just try to get along with your fellow co-workers. United, we are strong; divided, we fall.

Contracts are coming up soon and we must be on one accord before it begins. If you have any questions or concerns that you would like to discuss with me, please let me know.

Fond du Lac Station
by Sharon Lewis (Chief Steward)

Hello Sisters and Brothers of ATU Local 998. As we all know, these are crucial financial times for our membership and our Local. This is truly the time to stand in solidarity. Also, at the next membership meeting, there is going to be vote on Overtime for Full-time Clerks and AA's. Please attend either the 10:00 a.m. meeting or the 6:30 p.m. meeting and VOTE!!! LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!!! This is a very important issue!!! Please take it serious.

On a personal note, the Union stewards, president, and vice president work endlessly to bring work to each station, which seems to be unappreciated. There have been constant misses, habitual absences; yet, all we hear are complaints about not having enough work. CLEAN UP YOU ACT!!! There is plenty 0work for everybody, as long as we all do our part. Remember, what was given can be taken away. GET IT TOGETHER!!!



FIRST TRANSIT

by Sherri Bowens, Chief Steward

Hello First Transit Family. First, let me welcome new members to our union family. Welcome aboard and feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. My number is located on our union board located in the Break Room at the northwest corner.

Members, I encourage you to attend your union monthly union meetings. The dates are located on our union board. Dues are deducted from your pay check. Come and learn about how your dues are spent at the meetings.

Elections are coming up and everyone needs to vote. Our union endorses candidates who are pro-transit, pro-jobs and pro-better life!!! Tune in people; if you don't vote, then don't complain.

Stay off your cell phone. Even if you are in parked-gear with the bus running. Sitting behind the wheel is considered operating your bus while on the cell phone. Get out of your seat when the bus is empty and use your cell phone. When you're done, shut it off and stow it away before you sit in the driver's seat.

Refresh yourself on your First Transit Hand Book on the rules and read your union book. They go hand-in-hand.

Everyone have a sweet Sweetest Day and a thankful Thanksgiving. Be safe through your travels.



October ATU Local 998 Dinner

Drivers, Families, Retirees and Friends
meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Our next get-together is:

**Tuesday, October 7, 2014 (6:00 P.M.)
at**

Pitch's BBQ Ribs

(1 block north of Brady St. & Humboldt Ave.)

1801 N. Humboldt Ave., Milwaukee, WI
53202

Phone: (414) 272-9313

If you would like to attend, please contact
John Buckson @ (414) 852-8845



Bob Gleesing's Invite

to all retired

ATU Local 998 Union Members:

Come join us for an afternoon lunch at:

Oak Creek Diner

6874 South 13th Street, Oak Creek, WI

**Saturday, October 11, 2014 @ 12:00 Noon
(Every Second Saturday of the Month)**

**(If you are interested in attending,
please contact**

Bob Gleesing, (414) 329-0906.



LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Tom Stawicki

Well, the summer of 2014 is in the books. The kids are back in school, the leaves are changing colors, and the Fall Pick is well under way. By now, most of you realize that the times on most runs are pretty messed up. I can't tell you if Management figured the roll-out of the M CARD would be saving time this early in the process (roll-out late September), but it isn't. Tom Winter, Director of Scheduling, is aware of problems this pick, but he indicated any adjustments will not occur until the Winter Pick in mid-January. In the meantime, file the TR-62s and take your overtime. The TR-62s are the first step in a process that will show any run-time problems, and should be filed by both regular and extra-board drivers. It is also a piece of evidence that can show scheduling that it is a run-time problem and not a driver problem. Remember, if you are running 5 or more minutes late, especially on your relief trip, you MUST call the dispatcher. Without TR-62s and dispatch notification, how can this Union prove to management that there are run-time problems? Remember, TR62s, dispatch notification, and file for any OT. This can only help us moving forward. MCTS is one step closer to becoming a quasi-governmental division of Milwaukee County. In a letter to the Transportation, Public Works and Transit Committee dated September 8, 2014, Milwaukee County Corporation Counsel Paul Bargren indicated that an opinion letter from experts in Wisconsin organization law, has been drafted, and should be available to the County Board in time for its September 25th meeting. This letter was requested by the Federal Transportation Administration, and is key to the FTA granting Milwaukee County the ability to transform MCTS from an independent non-profit corporate entity into a quasi-governmental entity. The FTA needed an opinion from the State that showed the change would not conflict with any State Statutes. When approved by the FTA and the Milwaukee County Board, the next step would probably be the restructuring of the Board of Directors of MTS to make them part of Milwaukee County Department of Transportation. Most likely, Brian Dranzik, Director of MCDOT, would also become Director of MTS. This all should play out in the next few months, and as always, this Union will keep you informed of any Management changes. I do want to stress to you that any change in Management will not affect our current contracts with MTS (Local 998 and Local 35). Corporation Counsel stated in his September letter, that "Employees of the quasi-governmental entity would still be eligible for FULL UNION AND BARGAINING RIGHTS under both federal and state provisions". We would still be exempt from Gov.

Walker's Act 10 ruling, and we would still be protected by the FTA's 13(c) regulation. Corporation Counsel goes on to say that "as a practical matter, there will be little if any change in operations noticed by the public or the Board, at least in the short term". The biggest change will probably be the union having to negotiate the next labor contract with the County, even though many of the faces will be the same. Remember, our existing labor contract expires March 31, 2015. It is the contract between MTS and the County that is under an extension thru this year. Let me also stress that "WE WILL NOT BECOME COUNTY EMPLOYEES". Most of us will remain employees of MTS, and the only changes will be at the management level. I hope that if approved, the developments will bring our stress levels down. Time will tell.

The stops at Southridge were also discussed and there is a possibility that ALL stops will be moved to the South end of the mall, 300 feet south of Macy's. Bus routes would have to be altered, and a walkway would have to be added before it is implemented, so this won't happen overnight. This is just the latest proposal and still would need approval of the County Board. This union's position is that it is still too far for our disabled and elderly riders, not to mention passengers with strollers. Foul weather will only make that 300 ft. feel a lot longer. Tuesday November 4th is Election Day. You can find a list of ATU-998 endorsed candidates elsewhere in this publication. I will also get postings out to the locations as Election Day nears, along with a list of Wisconsin AFL-CIO endorsed candidates. Also on the ballot will be a non-binding referendum regarding an amendment to the State Constitution prohibiting the borrowing of funds from the State Transportation Fund. Because Public Transportation gets a large percentage of its funding from this fund, it would seem to be an easy answer. However, some of our state and local elected officials, who have been kind to Public Transportation in the past, oppose this measure. Some reason that why should the Transportation Fund be any different than other funds, while others still view the fund as a piggy bank that can be borrowed against when their budgets run in the red. While it is no lie that the majority of the Transportation fund will go to state road work, and that the road builders are some of Scott Walkers biggest contributors, without dedicated funding, Public Transportation needs as much money as possible to avoid service cuts and to increase services. This Union is staying neutral on the subject and advising its members to vote for whoever they feel puts food on their table. Just remember, VOTE ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4th! Until next time, remember to rip up bus tickets and dump them at the stations, follow the rules, and play nice with each other. We are professionals. AND WE ARE ORGANIZED LABOR. WE ARE ATU998

ATU Local 998
734 North 26th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233



Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Milwaukee, WI
Permit 4140

*Milwaukee County Transit System *Waukesha Metro Transit *Kenosha Transit *Shoreline Metro, (Formerly known as Sheboygan Transit)
and *First Transit (Formerly known as Laidlaw)

ATU Local 998
Retirees' Chapter Meeting



**SMOKE
FREE
BUILDING!**



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Wednesday, October 8, 2014

*****Prior to the 2nd Thursday of the month
before our Regular Membership Meeting*****

***Retirees' Executive Board Meeting:
10:00 A.M.—10:30 A.M.**

**Retirees' Membership Meeting:
10:30 A.M.—11:30 A.M.**

**Retirees' Social Gathering:
begins @ 11:30 A.M.**

A SMOKE-FREE BUILDING

***Rosie Ferguson & Velma Henderson's
Retirees' Group***

**MCTS—ATU Local 998 Retirees meet every third (3rd) Wednesday of the month,
just to keep in touch with each other and share conversations of fun and laugh-
ter, while enjoying a good meal. **Our next get-together is:****

Wednesday, October 15, 2014 (1:00 P.M.)

Applebee's

6750 W. State Street, Milwaukee, WI 53213

**If you are interested in this monthly event, please contact:
Rosie Ferguson @ (414) 698-4653 or Velma Henderson @ (414) 463-6330.**