

# The 998 EXPRESS



December (2014) & January (2015) ATU Local 998 (1st Quarter Issue)



**WARNING !!!**

**“Right To Work”  
State is Coming Our way.**

# RTW

*RTW is an attack on the middle class. These anti-worker “Right To Work” laws just force all working families to work harder for lower pay and less benefits, whether they’re in a union or not. The average worker makes about \$5,000.00 less and pensions are lower and less secure in “Right To Work” states. If we don’t stop these attacks, the middle class will continue to shrink.*

See inside article pages 7 & 8



*Merry Christmas  
and...*



## Inside This Issue:

- President’s Report:
- Vice-President’s Report
- Recording Secretary’s Report
- RTW (Right to Work Message Guidance)
- Legislative Director’s Report



Page 3  
Page 4  
Page 5  
Pages 7 & 8  
Page 9

## 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.  
(cover page—Val Cheese)

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 Board or 998 members. However, all articles will be scrutinized for ethical and moral standards.

#### 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 Taylor

**ATU LOCAL 998 Retirees' Chapter Meeting:  
(Smoke-Free Building)  
Wednesday January 7, 2015  
(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 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Milw., WI

**Thursday, December 11, 2014  
and  
Thursday, January 8, 2015**

### ATU Local 998 Women's Caucus

Thursday, December 11, 2014 and Thursday  
January 8, 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 Express Newsletter, which is pub-  
lished quarterly: (March, June, October  
& December).**

**Look for other upcoming issues on our  
website at: atu998.org**

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

### IN MEMORIAM 2013—2014

Kenneth J. Sommers (86) October 21st  
Ralph Stachowiak (88) (October 29th  
Jack Schilling (79) November 2nd  
Steve Somodi (99) November 15th  
Terrence Mullins (63) November 27th

**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**



## **Get Involved With Your Union** **By James Macon, President**

Happy Holidays! As we approach a new year, I encourage the members of ATU Local 998 to get involved with your Union. Take the time to learn more about your union through attending the monthly union meetings in your work area. Through attending monthly union meetings, you can help make a difference in building a stronger and more informative union. You can offer suggestions, share your concerns, ask questions volunteer, etc. Right now, we need members to be proactive in working together as a union. There are negative forces that want to take away the strength of having a union that protects its workers' rights, wages, working hours, benefits, workplace health and safety, etc. Retirees have fought tirelessly through the years for the workers' rights we have today, and we want to maintain those rights for our families and generations to come. "It's not over until the fat lady sings..." I encourage you to become aware about political moves that are in gear to destroy the power of unions today. Please don't take this lightly. Right To Work laws are already in place in some states. Get involved and work together for the fight we have ahead.

Before closing, there is an article titled: "Right to Work Message Guidance" (in this edition) that expounds on what is really about to happen to workers today through RTW... Keep your eyes opened. Do not be deceived in believing workers (union or non-union) will be better off as a "Right To Work" state.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



**Happy Holidays First Transit**  
**by Sherri Rainey, Chief Steward**

We are entering into winter, so come to work dressed warm!! Get enough sleep so you can be alert and get the big picture.

My union family, please come to work. I understand that people have to take care of business such as doctor appointments, children and grand-children issues, etc., but not **every** month. You wanted a job; they supplied you with a job; **now come to work and be on time**. Calling off four times a month and late two times a month puts you out of compliance. Don't get terminated over attendance!!

Contracts are around the corner. I will be putting out leaflets on what you are asking for in our contract.

***The Children's Christmas party will be on Saturday, December 13th from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., at ATU Local 998 Union Hall, 734 North 26th Street.***

Your monthly union meeting is **still** the second Thursday of the each month.

My contact information is on the Union Bulletin Board or you may check with the dispatcher for my phone number. Please use it when necessary.

Have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**January**  
**ATU Local 998 Dinner**  
Drivers, Families, Retirees  
and Friends meet every  
2nd Tuesday of the month.  
Our next get-together is:

**Tuesday, January 13, 2014 at**  
**(6:00 PM)**

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



**ATU  
Local  
998**



**Rick Bassler  
Vice President**

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

The Union was told by the executives of M.T.S. that the county stated that they experienced 82% on-time performance. Now, their mission is achieve 90%. To achieve this, they decided to stop employees on the route BEFORE they arrived at the timepoint, to tell them they are running early. They are also disciplining employees with no specifics on the disciplines as to timepoints, for leaving less than two minutes from the timepoints. When we found out about this, James Macon (president) and I met with Sandy Kellner, Chartheisha Carson-Clark and Ti-mara Minefee-Tribble. We shared our concerns about stopping operators BEFORE they arrive at timepoints. This is embarrassing for them, especially knowing they were not in violation of anything. After a discussion, along with the understanding of Ms. Carson-Clark and Ms. Minefee-Tribble, they both agreed to notify the operators via TCH, in the event they are running early.

The Union also filed grievances on all the disciplines that were issued during this time for violations of Rule #30. All grievances were upheld and the disciplines were removed. If you are running early, do not arrive at your timepoints more than two minutes early, and do not leave more than a minute early. Always notify the dispatcher if you are five minutes late.

**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 if you want MTS to contact your health care provider to cure any deficiencies on your certification and waive your rights under the law.

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**           **yes**           **no**

**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:** For the few last months grievance settlements included three first steps, 11 second steps and 14 third steps. Included in the settlements were 15 discharges. Four members were discharged for attendance. Three members were reinstated with a suspension and a last chance agreement. The fourth member was reinstated with a suspension and a final warning. There were three members discharged during their probation. All three members were reinstated with extended probation and a last chance agreement. There were three members discharged for dishonesty. Two of the members were reinstated with a suspension and a last chance agreement. The other member resigned with benefits. There were two members discharged for improper conduct. One member was reinstated with a suspension. The other member was reinstated with a suspension and a last chance agreement. One member was discharged for accidents. They were reinstated with a suspension and a last chance agreement. One member was discharged for misses and reinstated with a suspension. Finally, one member who was discharged for a cell phone violation was reinstated with a suspension and final warning per agreement.

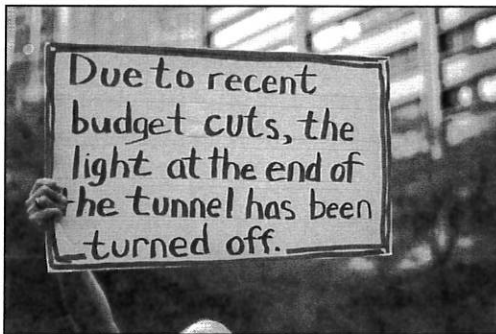


**THE STATE OF THE UNION**  
by John Groh  
Financial Secretary-Treasurer

First, I want to thank everyone for the trust that was placed in me to be the Financial Secretary-Treasurer of your Local 998.

Second, I just want to say AHHHH!!!

Third, and catching my breath, I will tell you that eight months ago when you elected me the idea of paying bills and catching up was unbelievable; the sign would have read...

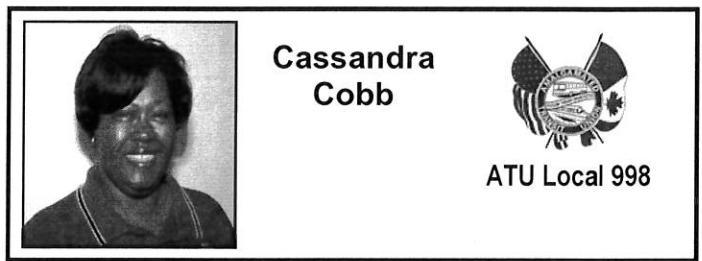


And the sign now would read, "The light at the end of the tunnel is only a candle," but I see it getting brighter and brighter every month. We are paying bills. Every month we capture more lost ground and are slowly getting closer to having our bills current. That is all that I have to say about your money. To learn more, PLEASE COME TO THE MONTHLY UNION MEETINGS AND BRING SOMEONE WITH YOU.

On a personal note, I am not making any NEW YEAR's resolutions that will make me feel bad, if I break them. I am only going to make resolutions that are reasonable. — (I know I am never going to have a six-pack). Therefore, I will make four or five, resolutions to be achieved this year. I won't tell you what they are, but rest assured that one of them is for ATU Local 998!

HAPPY whatever you celebrate for the HOLIDAYS! I just hope you surround yourselves with the people who you love and who love you in return! For those of you working Christmas Day... CaChing!

I Hope 2015 realizes all your dreams,



**RECORDING SECRETARY'S REPORT**  
By Cassandra Cobb

Hello Sisters and Brothers of ATU 998. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Happy Holidays.

Thank you for a wonderful year (2014). PLEASE don't forget ATU Local (\*\*s 2015 Contract Negotiations. Plan to attend and support our Local.

2015 is the year for ATU Local 998 Elections for all seats of the Executive Board and the Women's Caucus. The next Women's Caucus meeting will be Thursday December 11, 2015 at 5:00 PM.

Remember to drive safe, you are the first person seen by the riding public, when they board the bus, so smile.

In the next article, I will talk about the discrimination on Pregnant Women in the workplace and about our Pensions. Remember the Retirees worked hard at opening doors for us Active Workers and we must uphold the legacy the retirees left us

***Children's Christmas Party***  
***ATU 998 Union Hall 734 N. 26th St.***  
***Saturday Dec 13***  
***11am-2pm***



## Fiebrantz Happenings

By Herb Forbes, Chief Steward

Hello Brothers and Sisters of ATU Local 998. It has certainly been a while since my last article. Quite a bit has occurred since then. To begin with, I recently was present when our Local's president spoke with our new company head. He informed Mr. Macon about the changeover of state held employees that will take place in January 2015. He stated that it will be a smooth transition, without any changes anytime soon.

This is good news brothers and sisters. This tells me that any changes will be those mutually agreed upon during negotiations. I personally, am more concerned with the protection of Act 13-C's protection at this time, remaining in tact. As for our new company head, he seems pretty straight forward. However, our adversary Governor Walker is expected to launch an attack on us by the year 2016. You can count on it.

After speaking with a few county employees, no one had anything negative to say about working for the county. In fact, it seems as though the benefits are nearly identical, including their retirement setup. Therefore, that is great news.

Finally, I would like to thank the two hard-working stewards (Sharon Lewis and Cherida Smith) at Fond du Lac Station for their great work in representing the members there. I would also like to extend thanks to Chief Steward Richard Olson and my Assistant Steward Daniel Prichard for their tireless effort in representing the members in their work area as well. To President James Macon, keep doing what you are doing. No one can deny that you are not doing your absolute best for the members of ATU Local 998. Thank you for your tireless effort.

**Last but not least**, I want to thank Vice-President Rick Bassler for his long years of service and knowledge in serving our members in areas such as contracts, grievances and his expert knowledge of Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), which has been an asset to the members of our local.

Thank You Rick.

I will continue to do my best for my members at Fiebrantz Station. Our management head has stated that the ultimate goal desired between management and union as far as she is concerned, is to correct bad habits, as opposed to terminating those individuals who incur infractions. However, I say to my constituents, "Minimize your visits to the boss's office. He or she will only be pushed so far against the wall."

## Garage Report

By Michael Bautch, Chief Steward

I hope this article has reached you before the Annual Garage Pick, which is scheduled on December 10th at Fleet Maintenance Building. Everyone should attend the pick. You never know what is going to happen. In the last couple of years, the last spot ended up to be a Crew 7, which is a Monday through Friday position, and all holidays off for the whole year. Again, this year, there are six open "A" positions and one "C" position. So just like what happened last year at the pick, the last position at each garage on second and third shifts will not be available to pick. Example: If there are eight positions on a shift after the seventh position is picked, the eighth position is not available until MCTS hires someone, then an "A" position will be posted. If you bid on one of those six positions, you will be able to keep your vacations, and the lateral that you do to get, the new position will not count. Therefore, you can lateral again in the same year.

I will have new pension books with me at the pick, so just ask for one if you want an update/new version. I hope to see you at the pick.

Remember, if you get disciplined and you think it was unjust, call me or write a grievance and send it through the Company's mail at KK Garage. I received a lot of disciplines in the last several months. If you are making mistakes, TAKE YOUR TIME!! BE SAFE AND WATCH WHAT YOU ARE DOING. Some supervisors seem to love to write you up and you know why that is. They seem to think that they are going to get a first shift garage manager job. Good luck with that. (L.O.L)

Happy Holidays and remember to think smart and work safely. BE CAREFUL NOT TO DRINK AND DRIVE. THAT GOES FOR EVERYONE, NOT JUST THE GARAGES!!!

Before closing, there are Contract Suggestion forms around the Union Board. Take time to fill one out and return it to me at KK Garage. I need your suggestions.



Wisconsin State AFL-CIO  
6333 W. Bluemound Road  
Milwaukee, WI 53213  
Phone: 414-771-0700  
Fax: 414-771-1715  
wisafcio.org

Phil Neuenfeldt  
President

Stephanie Bloomingdale  
Secretary-Treasurer



### Right to Work Message Guidance

- **Right To Work is not what it seems.** It's confusing, complicated and controversial. It's wrong for workers and wrong for the middle class.
- **RTW is another power grab by CEO's and corporations.** RTW is just another attempt by CEOs and multinational corporations to eliminate unions and stack the deck even more in their favor, all at the expense of the middle class. It's a power grab by the same people who ship our jobs overseas and offshore their profits to avoid paying taxes, shifting the burden to the rest of us - the same people who oppose increasing the minimum wage and want to privatize Social Security.
- **The middle class makes our country great, but it's struggling.** America is powered by our middle class – by the auto workers, nurses, construction workers, and teachers who help shape our future, keep us safe and drive our economy. But too many of us are struggling, worrying about retirement, wondering if our jobs are secure, wishing we had more time for the things that matter.
- **RTW is an attack on the middle class.** These anti-worker "Right To Work" laws just force all working families to work harder for lower pay and less benefits, whether they're in a union or not. The average worker makes about \$5,000 less and pensions are lower and less secure in Right to Work states. If we don't stop these attacks, the middle class will continue to shrink.
- **RTW is bad for jobs.** Six of the 10 states with the highest unemployment have Right to Work laws in place. So-called Right-To-Work means fewer Wisconsin jobs, not more. The truth is, workers do worse in Right to Work states on a number of different measures including wages, workplace deaths and pensions.
- **They're trying to trick us. They want us to believe that RTW is for our benefit. But it's really for theirs.** CEO's and corporate special interests are intentionally trying to mislead us. They care more about making big bonuses and profits for their share holder than taking care of the workers who made them wealthy. The truth is Right to Work benefits the people at the top

while hurting the rest of us. Don't be fooled -- when powerful corporate special interests win, it's the middle class that loses.

- **RTW backers talk about "freedom", but try to deny workers freedoms every chance they get.** Moving more workers into part-time positions isn't about freedom. Offshoring profits and shipping jobs to countries with subpar working conditions isn't about freedom. Trying to erode worker health and safety laws so that our workplaces become more dangerous and our air quality is like China's isn't freedom, either.
- **The middle class deserves real freedom, not laws like these.** Freedom is about being able to balance life with work, to attend a parent-teacher conference, help a loved one get to a medical appointment or just being able to have the flexibility to unplug and be with the people you love outside of work without getting in trouble or feeling like you're falling behind at work. This is what we need to work toward, not laws like these.
- **People are ALREADY free to work wherever they want, and to join a union or not. That's the law.** You already have the freedom and right to work wherever you want, and no one has to join a union to get a job -- that's the law. Freedom means having a voice in the workplace, being able to speak out and having your opinions heard and acted upon. And it's up to workers whether they want to come together to hold those on the top accountable and make their voices heard on important issues like safer workplace laws.
- **RTW will put our everyday heroes in danger.** Right to Work is wrong because it attempts to limit collective bargaining rights, it negatively affects our everyday heroes like firefighters, nurses and whistleblowers and their right to collectively bargain for needed emergency equipment, patient staffing ratios in hospitals and class sizes and school safety.
- **RTW will make our workplaces less safe.** It is wrong because it could eliminate protections for whistleblowers that protect food safety, speak out against toxic chemicals polluting our air and water and expose waste, fraud and abuse of taxpayer dollars. Unions also enforce construction safety standards that have reduced workplace injuries and deaths. In fact, the **rate of workplace deaths is higher in Right to Work states.**
- **RTW will silence the voices of those who speak out for workplace safety.** We need these professional voices in this debate and we should do what we can to protect the millions of Americans who join together to push for the things that keep us all safe.

###



## **ATU LOCAL 998 MEMBERS AND RETIREES, WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

**By Tom Stawicki, Legislative Director**

I would like to start by wishing all of you a very safe and blessed holiday season from my family to yours. With any luck, many of the questions that have gone unanswered this past year, will be resolved in the coming weeks.

First, the stops at Southridge should be moved by the start of the next pick (mid-January 2015). As reported earlier, the routes 64 and 76 will be moving about 300 feet south of Macy's on the South side of the mall. Routes 14 and 55 will be moved closer to the North entrance of Sears on the North end. New Bus pads and shelters will be added, along with more secure pedestrian walkways. The cost will be split between the County and Southridge. This may not be the solution that our union wanted, but it is much better than the current stops. It also leaves the door open to future talks on the possibility of getting the stops moved back to Sears.

Second, Milwaukee Transport Service should be a County run department by the start of the New Year. There is a verbal agreement between MCTS, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin DOT, and the Federal Department of Transportation, to transform MTS into a quasi-governmental- led department. I must stress that we will not be County employees, and we probably will not see any major changes in our operations. When the deal is finalized, I will get a posting out to the properties outlining the specifics.

Third, the Executive Board will be meeting with the Executive Director of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission on December 9<sup>th</sup>. SEWRPC was established in 1960 to provide information and planning services to local units of governments, and to assist in the implementation of such services that are vital to this region. In part, this includes public transportation in the seven counties that SEWRPC oversees. This is a very important group, and we welcome the opportunity to meet with them.

Next, I don't need to tell you what kind of a beating we took in the November elections. Next year, the Surface Transportation Bill will be debated. This bill provides needed funds to Public

Transportation. With a political shift in Washington DC, this may be a hard sell, and Public Transportation across the country could take a hard hit. We will be keeping in touch with all of our elected officials to ensure they know our stance on this issue. We will also be keeping an eye on the Transportation Fund Amendment that passed in November. This amendment ensures that all transportation funds collected be used strictly for transportation purposes. For now, public transportation is still in the transportation fund, but there is talk that after 2015, public transportation, along with the State Patrol, will be moved out of the fund.

Finally, I hope some of you make a New Year's resolution to start attending our monthly meetings. Set aside a couple of hours a month to see what is going on with our union and the company. This is also a contract year, so your input at the meetings could be beneficial to all.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



*Mark your calendar for the get-together event with us.  
(Photo by Mike Kelly)*

**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  
(Every Second Saturday of the Month)**

**Saturday, December 13, 2014 @ 12:00 Noon  
and  
Saturday, January 10, 2015 @ 12:00 Noon**

**(If you are interested in attending,  
please contact  
Bob Gleesing at (414) 329-0906.**

## I Tried My Best

By Bob Wolter (A Retired Bus Operator's Opinion)

The uninformed voters have not heeded the obvious warnings and red flags and have again elected those who would destroy us! Republicans have an agenda that would seriously affect our middle class way of life. The Republicans have tried on numerous occasions, to repeal "Obama Care" and its subsidies for the poor. They absolutely don't care, especially after voting themselves a new healthcare plan with no deductibles and no copays.

They also are collecting huge amounts of "campaign contributions", which they voted that they may keep for themselves after leaving office. They voted unlimited campaign contributions. In 2010, the Citizens United Case came before the mostly GOP appointed Supreme Court, The Court gave the outside groups carte blanche to contribute as much as they wanted to political candidates campaigns.

Scott Walker never mentioned his Public Employee's Union busting Act 10 during his first campaign and he never mentioned his total Union Busting plan of making Wisconsin a "right to work state" in his latest campaign. Does Walker take his "marching orders" from the Koch Brothers? If he does, know that the Republican controlled State Congress is now taking steps to enact "Right To Work" legislation as you are reading this. I thank the uninformed voters for again electing Scott Walker and giving him a Republican Controlled State Congress. I am a "voice crying out in the wilderness."

Walker has recently violated an 1840 treaty made with the U.S. Government that was given to the Bad River Chippewa. This was done in exchange for a \$700,000 Campaign contribution.

**On your Watch List. The State has a law that promises to make up for lost revenue to the Tribes (from violating the promise of spacing out casinos).** The Potawatomie's pricy new hotel was meant to serve the many Illinois residents attracted to their casino. The proposed Seminole- Hard Rock Casino "in Kenosha will cut things off at the pass." Violating this compact will cost the state taxpayers Millions.. Does Scott Walker really care?

**Coming:** Your health insurance co- pays will rise and eventually your health insurance itself will totally disappear. This will happen as companies would rather keep these health insurance premiums for themselves. Rich people would have these corrupt politicians destroy "Obama Care" and drastically change our Social Security. The poor and middle class could suffer terribly at the hands of the Rich and

their agenda. I have tried my best to warn you! I have done what I could. Will the governor and congress you voted for continue to selfishly plunder? Will they ever enact the Constitutional Amendment **now needed** to overturn the now well protected Supreme Court Citizens United Decision? You go figure it out!

***Article disclosure- I am Bad River Chippewa and the land I intended to leave to my daughters is now having its groundwater destroyed with lead and arsenic. Scott Walker now has \$700,000 more in HIS campaign fund!***

## **BUS STOPS**

by Pete Frorath (Retired Bus Operator)

The first of three meetings of the Milwaukee County Transit System, MCTS, and bus stop committee included a sight-impaired passenger. He gave insight into the challenges of riding public transportation and appreciates the American Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. MCTS has to meet city, state, and federal regulations when it comes to "simple things" like planning, placing, and moving bus stops. For example, the ADA guidelines prefer paved bus stops, not on hills, and on the near side of intersections. The area should be large enough that when the bus ramp is deployed, there is enough space for a wheelchair to turn left or right on the sidewalk. MCTS tries to have bus stops about 660-1000 feet apart unless there are no cross streets or the route is a flyer or a metro link.

New Goldline Express Route is going to have a layover point at UWM just north of Hartford Ave on Maryland. It would be shared with the present Route 30 by expanding the layover area two bus lengths to the north. The Redline layover point would remain the same under the committee's recommendation.

New Goldline Route traveling south on Farwell at Ogden would share a bus stop with the present Route 30. Then the Goldline would NOT turn right onto Ogden like the present Route 30. The Goldline would merge back left into southbound traffic on Prospect Ave. This Prospect Ave routing is like at former branch of the Route 30 when the reporter was driving.

Route Greenline northbound at Howell and Layton. The present stop is on a small island and is too small for student when a nearby school lets out. Moving the bus stop far side (north of Layton) would destroy the diagonal pattern of near side stops in opposing directions. A far side stop would also be between gas station driveways and is not recommended. Moving the bus stop even farther north is too far from the corner. It looks like Howell Ave south of Layton is going to be renovated. The suggestion was to recommend that the wide right turn lane cutoff from northbound Howell to eastbound Layton could be narrowed to one lane. That way the island could be enlarged for more passengers.

*(Continued from page 10)*

Route 15 traveling southeast at 2817 S. KK. The city would like the bus stop moved about 100 feet southeast. A "bumpout" is planned at the present bus stop for pedestrians crossing KK at this non-intersection location. The committee concluded that moving this bus stop was doable.

Route 15 traveling northwest at 2826 S. KK. This bus stop was basically across KK from the bus stop discussed above. The committee agreed that this bus stop could be moved 50 feet north. Buses would still have forward moving space to pull out from the curb before auto parking began on this side of KK.

Routes 15, 52 traveling southeast at KK and Russell. Request was to move the bus stop from this corner for more parking. This bus stop has been visited in the past. Moving it back from the corner would also take up spaces for no net parking gain. Moving the bus stop far side would be at a War Memorial where Bayview High School students would have to cross both Logan and Russell streets. Also, there is no sidewalk behind the memorial. And the students are unlikely to go the short distance out of their way to cross at the Logan and KK traffic signal. The Alderman was going to contact the memorial committee about moving the bus to the front of the memorial and having a sidewalk put in behind the memorial. A stop sign at Logan and Russell for students would be very near the traffic signal at Logan and KK and would be a problem.

Routes 15, 52, RS 1 traveling southeast at KK and Potter. Request was the move the bus stop back northwest about 100 feet. To do this, the bus still needs 25 feet in front of the bus stop for the bus to pull out from the curb. If this was done, then the back end of the stopped bus would be in the "T intersection" of KK and Williams. By state law, a bus stop cannot be in any part of a "T-intersection." Thus, this change could not be recommended.

Route 53 westbound at Lincoln and KK. Since there is a far side stop at Howell, could this stop at Lincoln and KK be eliminated to provide more street parking? If this stop at Lincoln and KK was removed, transferring passengers from a northbound 15 or 52 would not only have to cross Lincoln, but also KK to get to the Howell Ave bus stop for the westbound Route 53. This double street crossing would not be good for sight-impaired passengers. After much discussion, the committee recommended moving the westbound Route 53 bus stop at KK 5 feet closer to the corner and upgrading the stop with an ADA pad.

Route 57 eastbound at 6<sup>th</sup> Street. There is a new multipurpose building being constructed on the southwest corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Walnut. There was some thought of moving the bus stop far side. But since some bus passengers are likely to use some services in this new building, it was decided after construction of the building is complete, to recommend having the eastbound stop returned to the near side corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Walnut.

Route 64 northbound at Wells and Hawley. The idea presented to MCTS was to move this near side stop to far side and down the block closer to the entrance of the Vision Forward building. Unfortunately, this stop would be on a steep

and thus unsuitable as an ADA stop and also dangerous for the many sight-impaired passengers who would use this stop.

Route 67 northbound and southbound on 92<sup>nd</sup> Street at Chester Street. There was a request for a bus stop in each direction. Chester Street is just north of I-94 and runs parallel to I-94. Just south of I-94 over the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street bridge is Adler Street that also runs parallel to I-94. At Adler Street there are presently north and southbound bus stops. One block to the north of Chester Street is Dixon Street. There are north and southbound bus stops here also. At this time the committee decided not to recommend installing bus stops at Chester Street because of the low passenger on-off counts and the short distances to Adler and Dixon Streets. The decision came with footnotes. The southbound stop at Adler Street is partially on the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street bridge over I-94. It is now preferred policy not to have bus stops on bridges where possible. Thus after this bridge is reconstructed in the near future, it is possible that the stop will be moved far side or back to Chester Street to get the bus stop off of the bridge.

Having a new northbound stop at Chester Street with the present bridge would put part of the bus stop on the bridge. (Yes, planning, placing, and moving bus stops can get complicated).

Route 80 traveling east on Villard at 20<sup>th</sup> Street. The request was to move the bus stop far side into an area where an interurban railway once was many decades ago. During the discussion with the requestee, it was learned that the people congregating at the bus stop corner were mostly yellow school bus riders and not MCTS riders. Rather than move our bus stop, it was suggested to contact Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) about the behavior of their students. It was also pointed out that the school buses are not really supposed to use MCTS bus stops. Co-mingling waiting bus passengers can be confusing for the MCTS and school bus drivers.

Route 80 and Blueline westbound on Villard at 64<sup>th</sup> Street. A duplex (house) on this corner faces 64<sup>th</sup> Street. But the bedrooms on the south side of the house are about 10 feet from the bus stop. The request was to move the bus stop back (east) about 100 feet from the corner. There was no paved ADA pad at this proposed location. Requestee for moving this stop said that he would work with the Alderperson to have an ADA pad installed. Since this stop would then be back away from the corner, it was feared that snow shoveling at the bus stop would not be a priority. This issue was seemingly resolved by the homeowner volunteering to also take care of that issue. This further back stop would give the Blueline buses a longer swing out room for the tight right turn onto 64<sup>th</sup> Street. This stop change was conditionally recommended by the committee.



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



Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Milwaukee, WI  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 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!**



**Wednesday, January 7, 2015**  
*\*\*\*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.

**\*We hope to see you there.**

**A SMOKE-FREE BUILDING**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

***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, December 17, 2014 (1:00 P.M.)**

**@ Brisco County Wood Grill**  
**N96w16865 Cumberland Ct**  
**Menomonee Falls, WI 53051**

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