

# The 61st International Convention

of the  
ATU

20  
25







# From the desk of the President/Business Agent

*Pennie McCoach*

## "Funding; Scholarship; Convention and Safety"

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters of Local 308,

Since our last newsletter, there have been a lot of changes, but one thing hasn't changed—we're still here, still pushing, and still committed to progress.

### Legislative Update

On May 31, Senate Bill 1938 passed the Senate in the early hours of the morning. Unfortunately, it did not make it to the House in time before the session ended. While this was a setback, it will not stop me from fighting for the funding our workers deserve. I will continue this fight during the October Veto Session in Springfield, advocating loudly for substantial transit funding, a designated police force, and meaningful reforms.

### Festival & Scholarship Celebration



We held our annual family cookout and scholarship outing, and based on your feedback, it was a tremendous success.

Everyone had a great time, and we proudly recognized eight outstanding scholars: Shaylynn Cain, Joshua Rivera, Gavin Donald, Noe Miranda, Majin Gibson, Alexander Mercado, Olivia Bailey, and Lailah Davis. Our local was able to assist these students with a combined total of \$9,500 for their continuous education. Congratulations to each of you, your achievements remind us that Education is Power.

### ATU International Convention

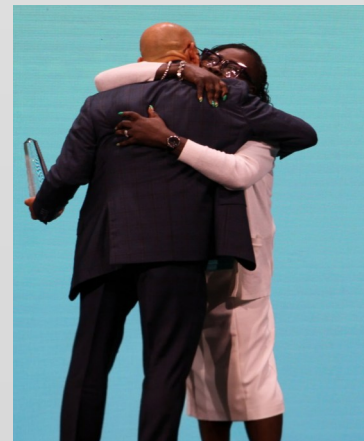
I had the honor of representing Local 308 at the 61st ATU International Convention. I served on the Laws Committee, where I had the opportunity to help shape changes to the International Constitution and present them to the full delegation. Local 308 was also awarded the 2024–2025 International President Political Activist Award—a proud moment for all of us. The convention was filled with powerful speakers and meaningful connections with unions across the U.S. and Canada. Together, we are stronger. When one wins, we all win.

### Safety

I want to speak directly about the issue of safety. We've seen unacceptable assaults against our members in the field. One assault is one too many. I am deeply disturbed by these incidents and want you to know I will not tolerate this, nor will I stand by in silence. I am committed to fighting for protection and real solutions—but I need your help. We must stand together in Solidarity.

In unity and strength,

**Pennie McCoach, President/Business Agent**





CLEVELAND ATKINS  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

## "Our Voice Our Power and Solidarity"

### Report from the 61st. International Convention

I had the opportunity to attend the ATU 61st. International Convention in New York City, August 2025. I was able to serve on a committee and part of an advisory board for the convention. Being on the International Secretary-Treasurer Report Committee gave me the experience of explaining and approving the auditor report for the International.

It was a wonderful experience to see leadership elections; Marcellus Barnes being re-elected to first International Vice-President along with others. And, Both Presidents of Chicago, Illinois, ATU Local 308 Pennie McCoach, along with

ATU Local 241 Keith Hill were nominated and elected as Delegates to the AFL-CIO.

President John Costa emphasize and spoke on solidarity and perseverance which gave highlight to the theme "Our Voice, Our Power and Solidarity". Terry Melvin was very motivated with his words. "This is not a political party, how we as workers are going to survive. We need to organize". Other leaders presented solidarity, diversity and equality as well.

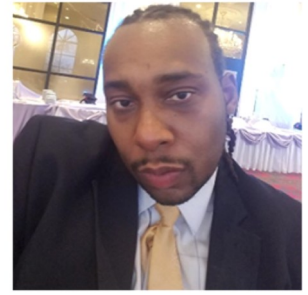
*Below pictured from left to right are the past and current Financial Secretary-Treasurer of ATU Local 308 at the Convention.*

Marilyn-Perkins-Hooker  
Kim Mitchell  
Deborah Lane  
and  
Cleveland Atkins.



## **"WE ARE IN GOOD HANDS"**

MARK WEEMS  
1ST. VICE-PRESIDENT



I have been an elected official of Local 308 since 2004. I have gone through difficulties, highs and lows, tragedies, and triumphs. Through it all I am proud that our union has been a major part of my growth as an individual. I would like to officially inform my ATU 308 family that 2026 will be my last year as an officer. There are many people that have been with me and that have been instrumental in my journey, I plan to celebrate and thank them at a proper time.

I have vowed to pour into our young officials and mentor them for the past four years. This has become essential to transfer the knowledge and information I have obtained in the last 21 years. I am proud of the next generation of Local 308 leaders. They are hardworking, dedicated individuals that are eager to learn.

President McCoach has led this administration with a steady yet firm hand. She has not blinked in the face of adversity and individuals attacking her since her very first Board meeting as President. Under her leadership Local 308 has received the largest contractual raise in recent memory, she has spearheaded the movement downstate to save transportation from the fiscal cliff. With her direction and the demanding work of Secretary Treasurer Cleveland Atkins our general fund is approaching one million dollars. We have not had that much in the general fund for over 13 years. Our Second Vice President James Battle is one of the hardest working individuals. He has been a sponge that asks many questions and is an adaptive learner. I am proud to be a co-chairperson with Mr. Battle over the grievance department. His hard work has helped keep assessments of the membership away. He has completely taken over discharges, step II meetings with labor relations where he argues cases against CTA lawyers.

We have several young officers that have started showing leadership and skills to elevate and become strong future leaders. Cassie Collins and Jawauna Hurdle are two individuals I am excited for their future.

I will close by saying our union is safe with these individuals and the future is bright.



JAMES BATTLE  
2ND. VICE-PRESIDENT

As the 2nd Vice President of ATU Local 308, I want to take a moment to sincerely thank each of you for your unwavering support and solidarity. Together, we have faced challenges that tested our patience, strength, and unity-but we never wavered. Through dedication and determination, we have overcome obstacles that once seemed insurmountable, proving again that when we stand together, there is nothing we cannot achieve.

Your Trust, resilience, and commitment to our shared vision continue to inspire me every day. Let us carry this momentum

## **"A Moment of Thanks"**

forward, always remembering that our greatest strength lies not only in our unity, but also in our well-being.

Never forget, health is wealth. Let us take care of ourselves and one another as we continue building a stronger, healthier future.

In solidarity,  
James Battle  
2nd Vice President  
Local 308



# "Convention Delegates Report"



From the Desk of the  
Assistant  
Secretary-Treasurer

**CASSIE COLLINS**  
Email: [ast@atu308.org](mailto:ast@atu308.org)

Fellow Union Members,

At this year's Convention, I was able to sit on the rules committee. This committee set the tone for

conventions as far as what can and can not be done. To have a 308 members voice at the table was nice to be apart of history. As we move into the new season, I'm excited to share some of the great things happening in our union. It's been a busy few months, and I want to thank each of you for all your support.

**Financial Health Update** — I'm pleased to report that our union's finances remain strong. We have successfully increased our membership, which strengthens our bargaining power. It's vital that we keep this momentum going, as every new member adds to our collective voice and enables resources, we all could benefit from. Remember, membership dues help with our ability to serve you effectively.

**Increased COPE Contributions** — Thanks to your dedication, we've also increased our Committee on Political Education (COPE) contributions. This is crucial for supporting policies and candidates that advocate for workers' rights and public transit funding. Together, we are making a difference beyond our local.

**Get Involved** — If you're interested in getting more involved, please reach out to me directly. Your involvement helps us build a stronger, more connected union and it makes a difference! Whether it's attending meetings, joining committees and caucuses or even volunteering, it all matters.

**Member Engagement and Growth** — The heart of our union is the commitment and dedication of our members. We recognize that each one of you plays a crucial role in the success of our local union. If you know anyone who is not yet a member, please encourage them to join us. Being part of our union means more than just collective bargaining; it's a support network also that's available to you when needed. Take full advantage of it all. Together, we can create a stronger and more united transit workforce that advocates for our rights and the well-being of our members. I encourage you to stay engaged, participate in events, and reach out with any questions or ideas you may have.

**Tabitha West**

Hello to my Sisters and Brothers of ATU Local 308

I am so grateful for being able to attend the ATU 61st. International Convention in New York City as a delegate for the first of many. I found it to be very informative, and realized that not only in Illinois but all around the United States and Canada are the unwarranted attacks happening. If we all come together in solidarity, we'll find out that it's not just a strategy but a way we can all live and thrive, it's a collaborative effort.

I love how President Costa involves himself with all the unions (United States and Canada), he walked the picket lines with Washington, D.C., he calls Florida locals to discuss their fight back against Governor DeSantis' Union-Busting and losing check-off, just to name a few.

We had very powerful speakers, Clayola Brown, who served as President of the A. Philip Randolph Institute in Washington, D.C., Elise Bryant, who was elected as President of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), and in the words of our ATU International President John Costa, if you want to get shit done, get a women, and that's exactly what Chicago, Illinois did by electing the second black woman President and Business Agent, Pennie McCoach to our union, and she was also elected seventh Delegate to the AFL-CIO.

In closing Our Voice—Our Power

**Tabitha West**  
Chief Clerk









# "Convention Delegates Report"

New York City, August 2025

Michael Overstreet

Kim Mitchell

At the recent ATU International Convention, Locals from across the United States and Canada came together to address the challenges facing our members and our industry. What took place was not just a series of meetings, but a powerful demonstration of solidarity, strategy, and vision for the future of our union.

One of the most striking lessons came from Florida. There, state lawmakers tried to destroy Locals by eliminating their right to collect dues. With the International's support, Florida Locals fought back—and they won. Their experience is a reminder that such attacks could happen anywhere, and why it is essential for Local 308 and all Locals to remain connected and prepared.

Convention delegates also took a strong stand on safety. Across North America, assaults on transit workers have risen more than 200% in the past decade. Operators have been stabbed, shot, and beaten while simply doing their jobs. The ATU declared clearly: Not one more. The union is pushing for stronger protective barriers, tougher laws, and accountability for agencies that do not safeguard workers.

Beyond safety, the convention also addressed dignity and equity for all members. Resolutions were passed to combat racism, support immigrant workers, end harassment, and strengthen protections for women and LGBTQ+ members. One theme echoed by many speakers was the essential role of women in leadership, summed up in the phrase: "If you want to get things done, get you a woman on your team."

Finally, delegates looked toward the future of our union. ATU is expanding mentorship and apprenticeship programs to ensure that new operators and mechanics are supported, trained, and ready to step into leadership roles. This investment in the next generation is critical to the survival and strength of our movement.

For Local 308, the message is clear: if we are not present at conventions, our voice is not part of these decisions. By taking part, we help shape the protections, programs, and strategies that directly affect our members here in Chicago.

The 61st International Convention was a reminder of what happens when ATU stands together. We fight, we win, and we build power. Local 308 returns from New York with renewed solidarity and commitment to continue that fight here at home.

Michael Overstreet  
Executive Board Member

Stomp- Stomp- Clap,  
Stomp- Stomp- Clap,  
Stomp- Stomp- Clap,  
Stomp- Stomp- Clap,

WE ARE, WE ARE UNION  
WE ARE, WE ARE UNION  
WE ARE, WE ARE UNION  
WE ARE, WE ARE UNION

These were the opening words of speaker Elise A. Bryant, President of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW). From August 18-22, 2025, I was a delegate for the 61<sup>st</sup> Amalgamated Transit Unions International convention. This convention was filled with speakers from different unions and union friendly organizations from around the world. Although this wasn't my first, (or my 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> for that matter) convention, it will be my last as a delegate.

But something was different for me this time. I paid more attention to the number of women involved in the labor movement. There were VERY powerful speeches, Clayola Brown, President of the A Phillip Randolph Institute, spoke on how she would rather be seen than viewed. Women in labor are being seen, and these aren't just woman from the United States either. Sheela Sanja Naikwade, a woman from India, is the State Women's Secretary of the Maharashtra State Transport Kamga Sanghtana (MSTKS) which is a recognized union in India. In a majority male dominated organization, Sheela with the help of other women in the organization help get women placed in every level of leadership.

To bring this closer to home, 308's 1<sup>st</sup> woman President Ethel Carter and our current president Pennie McCoach were both in attendance of the convention. Pennie, who was on a couple of committees spoke very eloquently while speaking about Tim Drea the Illinois President of the AFL-CIO.

Women are no longer being seen and not heard in the labor movement they are being SEEN AND HEARD!

Kim Mitchell  
Rail Instructor II



# "Convention Delegates Report"

ATU 61st International Convention 2025 - NYC  
**Aqua Fisher**  
**OUR VOICE! OUR POWER!**

The convention started off on Monday, August 18th with welcoming words from President John Costa, International Executive Vice President Yvette Trujillo, and International Secretary Treasurer Kenneth Kirk. President Costa gave encouraging words reminding us that if the table is not moved in our favor during negotiations, we will be forced to meet them in the streets. I learned there have been 13 strikes in the last 3 years since the last convention in 2022, 72% of Americans support unions, we had 3,368 new members join across the ATU, and that 90% of those new members are people under 30 years old.

Throughout the week, we had extremely powerful & dynamic speakers such as the President of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, Elise Bryant, who's chant of "WE ARE, WE ARE UNION!!" got everyone excited. We also had another powerful and inspiring speaker, Terry Melvin. Mr. Melvin is the President of the Black Trade Unions, and he had the entire room uplifted with his preacher style delivery saying "If not you, then who? And if not now then when?!"

We heard from the President of Local 1577, Joey Acevedo of West Palm Beach, FL who gave us an unfortunate news on how in Florida, they not only lost union jobs due to a strike, but they had to do dues check off due to the Trump Administration taking away waivers and they were trying to take away the right to bargain. Fortunately, they were able to successfully get it back, but not all union jobs. We were reminded that at any time it could happen to us, so we must stand strong together in the face of adversity.

One of the most personal highlights for me was having a meeting with Jamaine Gibson, the Director of Apprenticeships and Workforce Development for the ATU, about setting up a mentorship program here in Chicago with our members of Local 308. I also spoke with Leisa Barleston and President Sharon Broderick, from Local 610, our only Local in Charleston, SC who said they were advocating for a train system there.

The 60th International Convention was nothing short of amazing. As a delegate for ATU Local 308 attending this convention, I am even more committed, prouder, and more inspired to get more involved galvanizing our members. It is crucial for us as Union members to understand that we are a powerful force to be reckoned with when we come together and move as a unit. OUR VOICE, OUR POWER!!

In the words of Elise Bryant WE ARE,  
WE ARE UNION!!!

Greetings ATU 308 Membership!  
**Kenneth Franklin**

It is with great pleasure that I report back to you after performing my elected delegate duties to the 2025 ATU International Convention in New York!

Every three years ATU International has a Convention to facilitate its elections, review constitutional changes, resolutions, financial reports and educate the ATU membership. This is done in a location that can accommodate thousands.

Every ATU Local, through a facilitated vote or by virtue of your office sends delegates to represent their local at the conventions based on the size of their membership. The ATU has approximately 200,000 members between the US and Canada and produces over 600 delegates at the ATU Convention. The convention meetings are held Monday through Friday and last six to eight hours and sometimes longer if you are appointed to serve on a special committee. During the meetings on changes and adoptions are voted on by all the delegates in attendance.

Speeches are given by various guests including elected members from other unions, activists, labor friends and all forms of life.

This year, all speakers conveyed the urgent important message that Unions/Labor must turn up the heat on our labor enemies and the politicians that want to break us and take away our jobs and benefits!! We must do this through engagement, activism, voting and even striking through our membership!

Fiery and unapologetic speeches were offered by President Terry L. Melvin (Coalition of Black Trade Unions), Liz Shuler, President of the AFL-CIO (American Federation of Labor), Sheela Sanjay Naikwade, State Women's Organizing, Secretary, Maharashtra, St from India and many more!

ATU Local 113 (Canada) gave a 1 1/2-hour presentation on how they organized their local to get a 98% support vote from over 12,000 members. They were ready to put their transportation labor into gridlock to get a fair and good contract. Can you imagine if we did that here in Chicago? Detailed Convention activities, pictures, videos and more information can be obtained on the ATU website.

Thank you for selecting me as a Delegate to represent ATU Local 308 and I hope in the future that you will get the opportunity and experience to attend a convention even as a guest for education and motivation.

Yours Truly  
Kenneth Franklin









www.atu308.org

**Pennie McCoach, President/Business Agent**  
**AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION LOCAL 308**

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Cleveland Atkins, Secretary Treasurer  
Cassie Collins, Asst. Secretary-Treasurer  
Mark Weems, 1st. Vice President  
James Battle, 2nd. Vice President

### **Update on the Retirement Plan and RHCT**

As trustees for Local 308, we have worked tirelessly to ensure that your retirement is secure, and your retiree healthcare is protected. We're happy to report that there will be no increase in the contributions you pay to the Retirement Plan or to the Retiree Health Care Trust next year. Although work remains to be done, we've made some significant progress to find creative ways to reduce costs for all members, active and retired.

- Effective Jan. 1, 2022, when we succeeded in getting the law changed, our active members' contributions remained at 1%, lowered from the previous 3% level. This has put on average **\$1800/yr.** back into active members' pockets each year.
- We have worked tirelessly to keep retiree health care premiums as low as possible. Local 308 led a strong effort to reduce the 2026 rates, but regrettably, the other trustees would not agree to Local 308's proposal to reduce premiums. So, for the second year in a row, 2026 premium rates will remain the same.
- The current rates are significantly lower than they have been in the past; many rates are up to 50% lower than they were in 2018. Here are some examples of how rates have come down:
  - The current non-Medicare PPO plan rate for retirees with 25-29 years of service is \$62 per month lower than it was in 2023, saving you **\$744** every year.
  - The current non-Medicare HMO plan rate for retirees with 30-34 years of service is \$22 per month lower than it was in 2023, saving you **\$264** every year.
  - The Medicare PPO plan for retirees with 25-29 years of service is \$44/month, down from the \$52 rate paid in 2023.
  - The Medicare PPO plan for retirees with 30-34 years of service is \$18/month, down from the \$21 you paid in 2023.
- HMO, non-Medicare and Medicare rates have all gone down similarly.

As pleased as we are to be able to provide you with this positive report on the Retirement Plan and the Retiree Health Care Trust, we are not satisfied—more work needs to be done. We are committed to ensuring that the contribution rates for active employees and the premiums for retirees remain as low as possible, and that your pensions and retiree healthcare are protected.

Pennie McCoach  
President/Business Agent  
Trustee

Mark Weems  
First Vice President  
Trustee

*In*  
*Loving*  
*Memory*



**ATU - Local 308**

*Always*  
*IN OUR*  
*Hearts*

Jose Acuna  
Emmanuel Adjieteh  
Juana Alcantara  
Matilda Ashley  
Robert Austin  
Alex Bailey  
Robert Bak  
Lillian M. Bass  
Derrick Bennett  
Steve Blanton  
Nicola Boccuzzi  
Michelle Bradley  
John Brock  
Kenneth J. Brown  
Billie J. Buckingham  
Julio Buelvas  
Zerrick Burton  
Thomas J. Castro  
Nathaniel Clay  
Andre Clegg  
Victor Collado  
George Conditt  
George Countee  
Luz Cruz  
Dewanda Dagen  
George Davenport  
Rafael Davila  
Carrie Davis  
Jessie Davis  
Noahman Davis  
Clarence Dotton  
David M. Elliott  
Johnnie M. Greer  
Jerry Feggin  
Lawrence Few

Luis Figueroa  
Corrie Fowler  
Nick Gallo  
Tomica Goodwin  
David Grabski  
William D. Harris  
Thomas H. Hawkins  
Tyrone Haymore  
Earnest G. Hays  
Jose Hernandez  
Philip Huggins  
Khalfani Imani  
Richard Jackson  
Terrell Jackson  
Talma Jarrett  
Anne Johnson  
Kimberley Johnson  
Bobbie Jordan  
George C. Lindsay  
Geraldine Lomax  
Rickey J. Louis  
James Marble  
June E. Martin  
Richard L. Mc Neil  
Hugo A. Mejia  
Diana Mells  
Robert Mendoza  
Aaron Milton  
Jenniece Mitchell  
Alfred Moore  
Curtis Morris  
Mark J. Myers  
Dominic A. Nicosia  
Agnes P. Noone  
Thomas G. Overton

Ceola Palmer  
Duane Perkins  
Herbert Pickens  
Jaune Rambo  
Robert Redd  
Thomas J. Reed  
Patricia Rhoden  
Dorothy B. Rhymes  
Dearester Ricks-Perdue  
Annette Sampson  
Thomas Shera  
Sabastian Silvio  
Walter Smiskol  
Angel Soto  
Robert L.J Sundin  
Eugene U. Taylor  
Bonell Taylor  
Erin Temple  
William Thomas  
Augusta Thompson  
Bonita Thompson  
Edward Tokarczyk  
Frank Towns Jr.  
Willie Tucker  
Rocco Tudisco  
Antonio V. Villalobos Jr.  
Calvin Walls  
Vanessa Wilborn  
Earl R. Wiley  
Deborah Williams  
Wc Wofford  
Ann Wright





## **The Grievance and Arbitration Procedures of Your Contract Know Your Rights!**



Filing a grievance and taking it to arbitration are important tools that the Union can use to challenge unjust discipline and to enforce the contract. An informed membership is absolutely key for the Union to use those tools most effectively. That's why it's so important that all members of Local 308 familiarize themselves with the grievance and arbitration procedures included in Articles 16 and 17 of the collective bargaining agreement. Members can access the agreement and read Articles 16 and 17 by going to the Union's website—[atu308.org](http://atu308.org). Just click the "Important documents" tab in the Membership section and you'll be linked to the current contract as well as older agreements.

### **Here's some important things to know about grievance/arbitration:**

**What is a grievance?** A grievance is a claim that CTA violated collective bargaining agreement, either by disciplining an employee without "sufficient cause" or by taking an action that violates a specific term of the contract. Issues or problems that you may have with CTA that don't involve discipline or a violation of the contract are not grievances, they are complaints. If you aren't sure whether a problem you're having is a grievance or is a complaint, contact the Union office for assistance and your Union officers will advise you.

**When does the grievance have to be filed?** Grievances must be submitted within 30 days of the occurrence of knowledge of the occurrence giving rise to the grievance. Time limits are "of the essence". If it's filed beyond 30 days, it will be denied as untimely. It is crucial to get your grievance filed on time!

What should be included in the grievance? It should include only the basic facts, such as: "CTA wrongfully disciplined me on [date]". It is also very important to include the remedy you want, such as "I want the discipline removed from my record, and I want to be made whole". It may be tempting to spell out every fact that seems pertinent and/or to identify every argument you want to make, but including those details in the grievance just gives CTA a preview of the Union's arguments. The best approach in writing grievance is to keep it "short and sweet".

**What happens after I file my grievance?** The grievance procedure has steps:

- ◆ Step 1: CTA must respond within 30 days of receipt of the grievance. Usually, the Step 1 Answer comes from the employee's work location and includes CTA's justifications for the actions protested by the grievances.
- ◆ Step 2: If grievance is not resolved at Step 1, the grievance proceeds to Step 2. At Step 2, the Union Vice Presidents meet with CTA Employee Relations to try to resolve the grievance. If not resolved or answered within 30 days, the next step is arbitration.

**What is arbitration?** Article 17, the arbitration procedure of the contract, gives an arbitrator, who is a neutral decision maker, the power to resolve the grievance. But an arbitrator only has the power to enforce the contract—an arbitrator cannot award a remedy outside the contract, or change what the contract says, or address matters that don't involve the interpretation or application of the contract. Once an arbitrator issues his decision, that decision is final—there is no appeal process.

**Remember, grievance/arbitration procedures are useful tools, but they only work if you use them! Anytime you think that your rights are being violated, contact your Union officers immediately—don't sleep on your rights !**

*Anita Tanay, General Counsel*



[www.atu308.org](http://www.atu308.org)

**Pennie McCoach, President/Business Agent**  
**AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION LOCAL 308**

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# WE WON!

**Cleveland Atkins, Secretary Treasurer**  
**Cassie Collins, Asst. Secretary-Treasurer**  
**Mark Weems, 1st. Vice President**  
**James Battle, 2nd. Vice President**

Brothers and Sisters:

At 4 a.m. this morning, the General Assembly passed legislation that will prevent the catastrophic layoffs that were going to happen next year unless decisive action was taken. Each and every one of you can be assured that your job is safe, and that you can be confident that you can provide for yourself and your loved ones. This was a hard-won victory; it was a real fight to get adequate funding for transit, and not just a stop-gap measure. I also want you to know that, in addition to this crucial funding, the legislation includes some very significant steps towards improving safety and securing more full-time jobs for Local 308 members.

- The legislation provides for the creation of a Law Enforcement Task force to reduce crime on public transit systems and to work on the implementation of a sworn law enforcement crime prevention program to protect employees and riders.
- The regional transit authority (now called NITA) is required to work with Local 308 and Local 241 along with law enforcement, CTA and riders on improving safety.
- CTA is required by the legislation to create Transit Ambassador positions, no less than 80% of which will be full-time positions, and to bargain with Local 308 over the terms and conditions of their employment. Current CSAs will be given priority to be hired into Transit Ambassador positions.

Shortly after I took office, I met with the leadership of the Illinois Federation of Labor to sound the alarm bells regarding the impending fiscal cliff that threatened your livelihood. As a result of that meeting, a coalition of labor unions was organized to work on legislation to stop the financial disaster that was in the offing. That effort came to fruition this morning when the legislation was passed.

I am proud to have been a member of a coalition of labor unions and transit advocates whose tireless work over the last year and a half have secured \$1.5 billion in transit funding, but even more so, I am proud to be a member of ATU Local 308. Local 308 members have showed up and showed out throughout this process. Our members have leafleted, talked to passengers, emailed and called legislators, and lobbied in Springfield to ensure everyone understood just how crucial this legislation was. This shows that when we join together and work in a united fashion, we are a mighty force.

In solidarity,  
  
Pennie McCoach  
President/Business Agent





Attorney Gregory J. Saunder

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING CTA EMPLOYEES AND THE ILLINOIS WORKERS COMPENSATION ACT

### PREFACE

This summary is designed to be a resource to advise and educate CTA employees to some of the rights and benefits to which they are entitled in the event they sustain a work-related injury. While this summary is not a substitute for the advice of a competent attorney, it is intended to give CTA employees a brief explanation of some legal issues as well as to illustrate potential pitfalls that can arise which may allow the CTA to contest claims and deny benefits. Please note that all information contained in this summary is valid as of the date of its printing. Please contact us in the event you sustain an injury at work so that we may advise you on how to protect your rights based on the most current Illinois law.

### COMPENSABLE CLAIMS

Not all injuries which occur within the work place are “compensable”. **Compensable** refers to a type of injury which entitles an injured worker to payment of benefits under the Workers’ Compensation Act. In order for an injury to be **compensable**, it must arise from a risk causally related to the workers’ employment. In most instances, this means that the injury must be the result of a specific exertional activity (e.g. lifting, pushing, pulling) or a sudden unexpected event caused by an occupational hazard (e.g. slip on liquid or trip). Injuries which occur as a result of nothing more than everyday movements of the body could be determined to be non-compensable and will be **denied** by the CTA.

#### *Example I*

*Mechanic drops a work order on the floor and feels pain in back bending over to pick it up. This claim is likely to be held non-compensable and denied by the CTA*

*Mechanic feels pain in back lifting tool box off the ground. This claim is likely to be held to be compensable and accepted by the CTA*

#### *Example II*

*Motorman feels sharp pain in knee while walking through rail car. This claim could be determined to be non-compensable and denied by the CTA*

*Motorman slips on liquid spilled by passenger walking through rail car and feels sharp pain in the knee. This claim is likely to be held compensable and accepted by the CTA*

### PSYCHOLOGICAL CLAIMS

Unfortunately, many CTA employees are injured when they are assaulted physically, visually, or verbally by passengers or other members of the public on platforms or in the stations. Often this results in psychological injury with or without physical injuries. The law regarding these types of claims is extremely complex and the CTA often denies these cases. We have 40 years of expertise in handling these matters. Please contact us immediately if you are assaulted to discuss the facts of your incident.

### MEDICAL TREATMENT

A CTA employee who has been injured on the job select any two physicians of their own choosing (including any other physician either of the two refer the employee to) and the CTA must pay 100% of the medical bills. The employees’ choices do not include doctors or clinics that they are sent by the CTA



## **LOST TIME BENEFITS**

When an injured worker is disabled from work, they are entitled to receive tax free weekly benefits equal to 2/3 of their average weekly salary. The amount of the weekly check is based on the average of the 52 week period prior to the accident. The benefits are to commence on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of the lost time and if the worker is off for a total of 14 days or more, the CTA must pay the 3-day waiting period. Often times, CTA employees experience significant delay in receiving their benefits. Contact us immediately to discuss your situation.

## **STATEMENTS AND VIDEO**

Please be aware that any written or recorded statements you provide, the CTA or your doctors can be used by CTA against you to contest your claim. Also, almost ALL accidents which happen in the rail car, the platform or the station are video taped and this video can be used to deny your claim. Accordingly, you should immediately and accurately report all injuries.

## **ABOUT THE FIRM**

Attorney Gregory J. Saunders has 40 years of experience in handling claims for CTA employees. He personally has handled hundreds of cases resulting from any conceivable type of accident.

Mr. Saunders is a proud Union member of Laborers International Union of America Local 773.

Saunders & Kenney does not advertise in the media. The vast majority of cases that come to the firm are referred by former satisfied clients or union officials who are familiar with the high quality of aggressive representation Mr. Saunders provides. Mr. Saunders handles each CTA case personally and thus gives his clients the benefit of his expertise and experience.

Mr. Saunders provides all his clients with his personal cell phone number and prides himself on the fact that all his clients can reach him whenever they need to.

**Attorney Gregory J. Saunders**

**40<sup>th</sup> Year of Proudly Representing Local 308 Members in Matters Concerning:**

**Workers' Compensation**

**Automobile & personal Injury**

**Social Security Disability**

**Saunders & Kenney**

**111 West Washington Street, Suite 1001  
Chicago, IL 60602**

**Mr. Saunders' 24/7 Direct Number 312-961-5220**

**Office 312-236-3735**

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**Mr. Saunders' Email [Gsaunders@scklaw.com](mailto:Gsaunders@scklaw.com)**

**Firm Website [www.scklaw.com](http://www.scklaw.com)**



## NEW Voluntary Benefits Available!

Your Union Leadership has partnered with BBS Benefit Solutions to provide personal benefit education to ATU 308 Members. Speak with a Benefit Counselor onsite or over the phone!

**NEW**

**LECMPA Wage Loss Protection T180** As a worker employed in the transportation industry, you live with the prospect of events that can affect your income. Even when you're doing everything right, things can go wrong. LECMPA offers several ways for you to replace your wages when you are disciplined and without pay. Our policy options allow you to insure up to your average daily wage, with benefits ranging from \$30 to \$180 in increments of \$3. Our Transit 180 Policy covers you for up to six months' worth of lost wages.

**Short Term Disability Insurance** replaces part of your monthly income if you can't work because of a covered on or off- the-job injury, illness, or childbirth. This plan also covers if you are diagnosed with a mental illness and cannot work. How long you can receive benefits will depend on your plan and how long you're disabled.

**Universal Life Insurance** provides a benefit for Members. This products offers a flexible premium, builds cash value, and features level death benefits throughout the life of the product.

**Critical HealthEvents** can pay money directly to you if you're diagnosed with a covered serious health condition. You can use the lump-sum payment to help with co-pays and deductibles — or any of your other expenses. Your children are automatically covered and your spouse can also get coverage. A benefit for qualified health screening tests is also included.

**Accident Insurance** can pay money directly to you if you get hurt and need medical attention. The amount is based on your injury and treatment. It covers things like ER treatment, fractures, stitches and more and you can use the money however you choose. Includes a benefit for qualified health screening tests.

**Hospital Indemnity Insurance** pays a benefit when you're admitted to the hospital for a covered injury or illness. It can help with the out-of-pocket expenses medical insurance may not cover, such as co-pays and deductibles. You decide how to spend the money. Coverage is also available for your spouse and children. This coverage is a supplement to health insurance.

**Speak with a Benefit Counselor to learn more about your voluntary benefit options.**

**BBS**  
Benefit Solutions

**Questions? Call or Text a BBS Benefit Counselor to learn more!**

**866-902-2561**





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**See us at your Terminal Soon or ask your  
ATU Terminal Steward**

**PROUD ATU 241 & 308 PARTNER SINCE 2017  
CURRENTLY PROTECTING OVER 6500 ATU MEMBERS**

# ATU LOCAL 308

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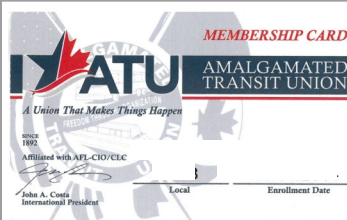
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## ATU LOCAL 308 MEMBERSHIP CARD TO ACCESS THE FOLLOWING MEMBER BENEFITS

# Union Member Benefits

Use this handy list to access many of the benefits of Union Membership. For information on all of the benefits and services please visit [www.UnionPlus.org](http://www.UnionPlus.org). Benefits offered to union members only. Not all Unions participate in all benefits.

Program	Information
Auto/Home Buying ..... Hardship Help / etc.	<a href="http://www.unionplus.org/benefits">www.unionplus.org/benefits</a>
Bachelor's degree .....	<a href="http://www.unionplus.org/education">www.unionplus.org/education</a>
Car and Truck Rental	
Alamo .....	1-800-468-5266 use ID# 7015700
Avis .....	1-800-698-5685 use Discount #8723700
Budget .....	1-800-455-2848 use Discount #V816100
Hertz .....	1-800-654-2200 use Discount #205666
National .....	1-800-227-7368 use ID# 5029562
Budget Truck Rental.....	1-800-561-1157 use Discount #56000127763
AT&T Wireless .....	<a href="http://www.UnionPlus.org/ATT">www.UnionPlus.org/ATT</a> use FAN# 00113662
ConsumerReports.org .....	<a href="http://www.UnionPlus.org/ComsumerReports">www.UnionPlus.org/ComsumerReports</a>
Credit Card .....	1-800-622-2580 (customer service) 1-800-651-5108 (secured card applications)
Credit Counseling .....	1-877-833-1745
Credit Score .....	<a href="http://www.UnionPlus.org/CreditScore">www.UnionPlus.org/CreditScore</a>
Entertainment Discounts .....	1-800-565-3712 use ID# 744387769
Flower Program .....	1-888-667-7779 <a href="http://www.UnionPlus.org/Flowers">www.UnionPlus.org/Flowers</a>
Health Savings .....	1-877-570-4845
Legal Services .....	1-888-993-8886
Life Insurance .....	1-800-393-0864
Mortgage .....	1-866-510-7818 <a href="http://www.unionplus.org/mortgage">www.unionplus.org/mortgage</a>
Moving Discounts .....	1-800-234-1159
Pet Insurance .....	1-866-473-7387
Pet Savings .....	1-888-789-7387 use discount code UP2003
Real Estate Rewards .....	<a href="http://www.Unionplus.org/Real Estate">www.Unionplus.org/Real Estate</a>
Powell's Bookstore .....	<a href="http://www.UnionPlus.org/Books">www.UnionPlus.org/Books</a>
Save My Home Hotline .....	1-866-490-5361
Scholarship .....	<a href="http://www.UnionPlus.org/Scholarships">www.UnionPlus.org/Scholarships</a>
Travel Center .....	<a href="http://www.InionPlus.org/Travel">www.InionPlus.org/Travel</a>
Union Made Checks .....	1-888-864-6625
Union Secure Insurance .....	1-800-393-0864

These Union Plus benefits are brought to you by:

### Union Privilege

1125 15th Street, NW Suite 300, Washington DC 20005

[Info@unionprivilege.org](mailto:Info@unionprivilege.org)

## UnionPlus.org

1-800-472-2005

# DATES TO REMEMBER

## UNION MEETINGS



**Saturday, November 15, 2025 — 10:00 am (Rescheduled)**

\* **Tuesday, December 9, 2025 — 6:30 pm**

***SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2025—HOLIDAY PARTY—7:00 pm***

***Visions—11901 S. Loomis Street—Chicago, IL.***



- **Saturday, January 10, 2026 10:00 am**

**Friday, January 17, 2026**

**Basketball and Volleyball League will begin at the Pullman Community Center**

**If interested contact: James Battle — 312-339-3268**

- ♦ **Tuesday, February 10, 2026 6:30 pm**

- ♦ **Saturday, March 14, 2026 10:00 am**

**Saturday, March 28, 2026—UNION STEWARD TRAINING—TIME: 9:00 AM**

- ♦ **Tuesday, April 14, 2026 6:30 pm**

- ♦ **Saturday, May 9, 2026 10:00 am**

- ♦ **Tuesday, June 9, 2026 6:30 pm**

- ♦ **Saturday, July 11, 2026 10:00 am**

- ♦ **Tuesday, August 11, 2026 6:30 pm**

**AUGUST SUMMER COOKOUT—EVENT TBA**

- ♦ **Saturday, September 12, 2026 10:00 am**

- ♦ **Tuesday, October 13, 2026 —6:30 pm— Nomination Night**

- ♦ **Union Election, Tuesday, November 17, 2026**

**Union Meetings are held at 11204 S. Western Avenue**