



# ATU 1342

## Campaign Newsletter

Issue #2

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Nov. 2016

### Campaign Update from Shaun Szjanar

#### **Next Union Meeting**

**Nov. 9th  
10:00 AM &**

**7:30 PM**

American Legion  
Post at 533 Am-  
herst St.

Visit face-  
book.com/  
atul342

Text "atul342"  
to 33733

I would like to start off by thanking every ATU brother, sister and family member for remaining united during this campaign. The contract committee and international know how frustrating this situation is and we continue to fight tirelessly to come to a resolution. We will not settle for a contract just to end this journey, we will continue to negotiate and explore every option available until a fair and equitable agreement is reached for all of us.

When this campaign began in June we heard many rumors and excuses as to why negotiations had stalled. First it was because of our president, and then the negotiating committee was at fault and now we have brought in the international who is also running into obstacles. Through all of this there is one common denominator and it is that the NFTA will not negotiate a fair contract for its hard working drivers, mechanics, and clerks that move WNY.

When we get frustrated about this situation it is imperative to not take those frustrations out on each other but to focus them on the real problem, the NFTA.

In the past month we have continued gathering support by working hand and hand with the WNY Labor Federation and other unions throughout WNY as well as community groups and political allies. We meet with these groups on a constant basis and will continue these relationships even after a contract is agreed upon.

Thank you to the members who came out to the October 12th union meeting as International Vice President Chuck Watson and organizer David Heller were pleasantly surprised by the turnout and were glad to answer questions.

Thank you to all that supported the petition action on October 13th as we acquired nearly 100 signatures which is a great start!!

Our Wednesday phone calls are a hit, keep up the great work!!

Please attend our upcoming actions and keep the pressure up!!

#### **October:**

- Tuesday, October 25th 1pm  
City Hall (65 Niagara Square)  
Buffalo Common Council Meeting

-Thursday October 27th 12pm  
181 Ellicott St. NFTA Board of  
Commissioners Meeting

#### **November:**

- Continuing petition circulation T.B.A

- Thanksgiving season action T.B.A.

#### **December:**

- Christmas season action T.B.A.

We hope that a resolution is reached and we can cancel upcoming actions. However, we remain strong and resolute as we will fight this battle as long as necessary. The NFTA can make this stop at any time! **FAIR CONTRACT NOW!**

#### **Union Newspaper**

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## Bargaining Update From IVP Bruce Hamilton

### No Deal Yet

Talks have not yet produced resolutions of the major issues that divide NFTA and Local 1342: wages that get us to rates that would be in place now if average wage increases had been provided over the past 8 years plus an additional amount of cash that would make Metro workers whole or nearly whole for wages lost over that period.

Union negotiators have offered several alternative approaches to making a deal work, and NFTA has modified some of its positions, but union negotiators don't believe NFTA has put enough on

the table to justify bringing a package to the members for a vote.

It has begun to look like NFTA is trying to prod us into acting like a union if we want to achieve a fair contract. We all know what that means: When called upon to participate in union activities, jump right in as if your livelihood depended upon it. (Hint: It Does!)

Think about the many kindnesses you extend to NFTA users every day. Now double that, and show our riders that as much as they need us, we need them. We are not going to win this fight by ourselves. We need our riders, our allies in the labor

movement, our transit advocacy groups, community and environmental groups, and everyone who wants to have easy access to reliable, safe, convenient and affordable transit; everyone who wants to ease congestion, lower overall pollution, and take the stress out of their commute to join with us in demanding fair treatment for the proud members of the Niagara Frontier community who perform essential public services – the members of ATU Local 1342.

In short, keep doing what you have been doing for the past few months, and encourage your co-workers to join you. Let's answer NFTA's challenge and show them what a real union looks like!

### NEXT ROUND OF ACTIONS

## ATU 1342 at the Buffalo Common Council

We are on the agenda for the Buffalo Common Council's Community Development Committee meeting. Now is the time to finally make a showing at City Hall! We need as many members there as possible in order to give **OUR** side of the story.

- **What:** The Buffalo Common Council's Community Development Committee meeting
- **Where:** Buffalo City Hall (65 Niagara Square)
- **When:** 1:00 PM Tuesday, October 25th

## Time's Up Pack the NFTA Board!

As the NFTA Board of Commissioners convenes its next monthly meeting, we, along with our community allies, will pack the Board room once again as a show of force and unity as the company discusses its budget.

- **What:** Board of Commissioners meeting
- **Where:** NFTA HQ (181 Ellicott St.)
- **When:** 12:00 PM Thursday, October 27th