

Metro Teamster



No. 1—Winter 2019

Very Not Official.

We Want Our Bargaining Meeting!

"Whenever a collective bargaining agreement is about to be negotiated, modified or extended at the request of the employer or by this Local Union, the principle executive officer or business representative shall call a meeting at which the membership shall determine and authorize the bargaining demands to be made."

Bylaws of Teamsters Local 695, Section 26
**Negotiations, Ratification of Agreements,
Strikes and Lockouts (A)**

The contract at Madison Metro Transit (City of Madison) expired December 31st, 2018.

According to our Local's current bylaws, the union was supposed to

call a meeting where "the membership shall determine and authorize the bargaining demands to be made."

Nearly a year later, this meeting still has not happened. Members have heard little about the status of the ongoing bargaining; "We'll tell you when there's something to know."

At the two meetings we've had in the last year and a half, both times business agents declared that we would not be talking about bargaining.

Teamsters at Metro submitted a petition to the Union demanding that we get the meeting that was supposed to happen BEFORE the contract expired. We collected dozens of signatures from drivers,

mechanics, service lane workers and office employees — we're going to keep circulating petitions until we get the meeting, so if you'd like to sign still, talk to Nikki S in the lane, Matt S or Laura S (drivers) or Trina in the office.

Members need to be able to say what we want and what we're willing to bargain to get it. We need to have a meeting as a union to make it clear what we won't accept, and push for what needs to happen.

We're hoping the Local schedules a meeting before the holidays, but talk with your coworkers about what we want so we can present a unified front at the meeting. We'll announce it as soon as we know.



SEND US YOUR NEWS!

Got a question? Opinions? News to report or something you want in the newsletter? Send it to us for the next Metro Teamster at: rebuild695@gmail.com

Answering Common Questions

Why did we give up our right to strike?

Article 4.2 in our contract says this: **“No Strike.** *The Union recognizes the validity of Section 111.70 of the Wisconsin Statutes and agrees not to support any action in violation of said Statutes. The Union agrees that for the duration of this Agreement, Union Officers, Representatives or members will not authorize, assist or support any strike, work stoppage, slowdown, interruption of work or interference with operations of the Employer. “*

That means two things:

1) During the LIFE OF THE CONTRACT we agree not to strike and they agree not to lock us out. When the contract expires, if the union chooses not to sign an extension, this language doesn't bind us. Right now, we are in exten-

sion, so effectively this contract still governs and things stay the same.

2) State law (after Act 10) made it a misdemeanor for public sector employees to strike, but **transit workers are protected by Section 13(c) of the Federal Transit Act**, which preserves our rights.

ATU Local 998 at Milwaukee County Transit struck in 2015, and threatened to strike three times this year when they were not getting what they wanted out of contract negotiations. We fall under the same rules that they do.

We have the right to strike. If the members think we need to strike, we would have to refuse another extension and vote to authorize a strike following the rules in our bylaws.

Metro Medical Exam Goes To Arbitration

Madison Metro Medical Exam (MMME) is going to arbitration. Members overwhelmingly said we don't want the union to sign-off on the City's plan to send CDL holders for regular medical exams. Teamsters 695 has refused to sign the agreement. The City of Madison intends to implement the plan, so the union has grieved the MMME and it will go to arbitration. We have no details on when the arbitration will be yet.

REBUILD MEETING:

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS!

Saturday, 12/14/19 NOON—Willows Tavern

5485 Willow Rd., Waunakee WI 53507

We need to work together to present a united front to our business agents when we talk about what we want at this bargaining meeting. Show up so we can decide what the main demands are.

UNIONS

A MAJOR INCONVENIENCE FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO EXPLOIT AND STEAL FROM THE WORKING CLASS

IN MEMORIAM

Sherrie Peetz passed unexpectedly on 11/28/19. She drove bus for 32 years and was a proud Teamster. Rest in Peace.

The family requests monetary donations be made to the Lakeview Library via the Madison Public Library Foundation – Lakeview Endowment Fund – <https://mplfoundation.org/>



Hans Roth passed away 11/28/19. Hans had retired from Metro after working for over 30 years as a bus driver and trainer. A donation may be made in Hans' name to your favorite charity.