

Local 1181-1061

Amalgamated Transit Union A.F.L.-C.I.O.



20 N. Central Avenue - Suite A
Valley Stream, NY 11580

Office 718-845-5600
Fax 516-881-7651

March 1st, 2017

TO: ALL ATU LOCAL 1181 MEMBERS:

The 2013 ATU Convention amended the Section 18.1(a)(2) of the ATU Constitution to increase the per capita tax paid each month by Local 1181 to the ATU by \$1.50 per member per month effective July 1,2014 and by an additional \$1.50 effective July 1,2015. Section 18.1(a)(3) requires that these increases "shall be added to the actual dues paid by active members in each LU [local union]."

In addition, Section 18.2 requires that the minimum monthly dues rate for all active members must be adjusted each July based upon the annual percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). According to the ATU, the most recent CPI increase was \$.05. Moreover, local unions whose dues for active members as of July 1,2016, were less than the minimum required dues of \$55.95 must increase the dues for active members by \$2.00, plus the \$.05 increase in the per capita tax. Effective July 1,2016, the minimum monthly dues rate established by the ATU is \$56.20.

The per capita tax funds the general expenses of our International Union, as well as new educational, communication, training, field mobilization, organizing, collective bargaining, contract campaigns and other exciting initiatives established by our International President Larry Hanley and the ATU General Executive Board. The Local 1181 Executive Board fully supports these programs, which enables all ATU locals to increase their capacity to fight for their members in these trying times.

As you know, in the last 5 years, Local 1181 has been in the forefront of battles to protect its members, battles that we now see throughout the country as powerful interests seek to weaken, if not destroy, the labor movement. We learned much in our battles with the Bloomberg administration, and with our employers in New York City, Long Island and Westchester, valuable lessons we have been able to share with our brothers and sisters in ATU and elsewhere in the labor movement, including in the NYC Central Labor Council and The Long Island Federation of Labor, where we are an active presence, and in the New York State AFL CIO, where President Michael Cordiello serves as an elected Vice President.

Despite the financial obligations set forth in our Constitution, the cost of our battles with the Bloomberg regime and our employers in New York City, Long Island and Westchester, as well as our ongoing political and legislative efforts in New York City, Long Island, Westchester and

Albany, we have not increased dues as required by the ATU, over the last 2 1/2 years. We recognized the difficulties that our members encountered as a result of the attacks on the EPPS and in our battles with our employers. Thus, for that time period, the Local continued to pay its per capita to the ATU and its operating expenses without passing any of that increased cost to our members, as the Constitution provides.

We knew that could not continue indefinitely, as a matter of sound fiscal management as well as maintaining our obligations to our international Union. After consulting with International President Hanley, we have concluded that the Local needs to bring its dues and per capita structure in line with the requirements of the ATU Constitution.

Accordingly, effective March 13, the following changes in dues will take effect: 1/ dues will increase by \$.75 per week for members paying more than \$56.20 per month and \$1.25 per week for those paying less than \$56.20 monthly and 2/ the Local will comply with the requirement in Article 14, section 3 of the Local Bylaws that minimum dues, which is the International per capita tax, be paid by all categories of local members. Also, after consulting with Brother Lawrence J. Hanley, and according to Article 24 section 3 of our By-laws the Local has the obligation to apply the minimum dues of this Local Union for all categories of members including those who may have been terminated and having their case litigated by the Local Union, those who are on disability, workmen's compensation, or unemployed due to lack of summer work. Such minimum dues shall be collected monthly, except the members who are furloughed during the summer months (July and August), will have the minimum dues deducted upon returning to work in September.

We were able to put off these modest, required adjustments for 2 1/2 years, due to prudent fiscal measures taken by the Executive Board. But we have to recognize that the battles are not over for us, or the ATU, particularly in the current political environment, which is hostile to the needs of working people and their representatives.

If we want to continue to fight for our member's rights, in contract negotiations, grievances and arbitrations, in court, lobbying, organizing campaigns and other mobilizations and initiatives to protect what we have won over the years, and to continue our efforts to improve the lives of our members and their families, which is the sole goal of this Union, we must recognize that we can no longer do so by ignoring our financial obligations to the ATU and this Union.

We strongly believe that these adjustments, together with our unity and solidarity, will continue to give us the resources we need to continue and develop new tactics to fight on behalf of our members and their families to protect and advance their hard won gains and improve their lives. As always, please contact your shop steward or delegate if you have any questions.

In solidarity,



Jean Claude Calixte
Financial Secretary / Treasurer
ATU Local 1181-1061