

HOW SOLIDARITY CAN WIN

Come hear four of the victorious Boston School Bus Drivers talk about their fighting strategies, as part of their west coast tour!

Friday, July 22, 6:00 pm

ATU Local 1555, 132 9th St, Oakland

Across from Lake Merritt BART



After more than two years of hard-fought struggle, last year the militant, fighting rank and file of the Boston School Bus Drivers Union — United Steelworkers Local 8751 — won a historic victory against global giant Veolia/Transdev, one of the most notorious union busters, as well as Boston Public School bosses and Mayor Marty Walsh.

Four fired union leaders, out of work since October 2013 on bogus charges of leading a wildcat strike, went back to work on Dec. 23, 2015. In addition to

reinstatement of the four with full seniority rights and a substantial monetary payment, the local won a contract with economic justice and the protection of 40 years of the collective bargaining process.

Solidarity is key to the Boston school bus drivers' success. "Team Solidarity" has been building power among the working class through a 40+ year commitment to militant unionism, racial justice, disability justice, LGBT*Q rights, and anti-imperialist struggle including solidarity with Palestine.

Veolia has been in the business of union busting for centuries. How did the Boston school bus drivers prevail?

A commitment to racial justice: USW 8751 is a rank and file union with roots in the anti-racist struggles of the 1970s and the desegregation of Boston schools in 1974. Today the union is 98% people of color, mostly Haitian and Cape Verdean immigrants and African American, Latin@ and Asian. Members, including President Andre Francois, are active in the Black Lives Matter movement and the Haitian liberation party, Fanmi Lavalas of Boston.

A commitment to anti-imperialist struggle: USW 8751 sent money to support the ANC in South Africa fighting apartheid. The union consistently stands in solidarity with our Palestinian trade union brothers and sisters, marching in the streets to stop Israeli assaults, free political prisoners, and put an end to apartheid and colonization.

A commitment to LGBT*Q rights: The very first contract of USW 8751 in 1977 had domestic partner benefits of drivers in a "marital-like relationship". The contract extended medical insurance, life insurance and all other benefits to partners. This past year USW 8751 invited



Steve Kirschbaum, pictured above, brings USW 8751 militant support to Verizon strikers.

national trans* justice organizers to write the language around trans* inclusion and LGBT*Q rights which now appears in the new contract.

A commitment to disability justice: The union since its formation has worked in alliance with disabled folks under the leadership of the Disabled People's Liberation Front. The union has worked with disabled activists to serve the disabled student population in Boston and in the broader disability rights movement marching for full accessibility and to defend gains they've been a part of winning, including full-service on the MBTA, and other state programs. USW 8751 has been a part of the campaign against so-called "sheltered workshops", which exploit the labor of disabled people.

A commitment to local community in struggle: USW 8751 consistently stands and puts bodies on the line with those who are struggling in the community — with other workers, students, parents, teachers, indigenous communities, communities being gentrified, disabled folks, LGBT*Q, immigrants, all who are oppressed.

Join the movement to fight corporate power and imperialism!

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1573335282960281>

For more info: <https://solidarityworks.wordpress.com/>

USW 8751 Tour DELEGATE BIOS

Georgia Scott is the first African American woman treasurer of the union. She was first a bus monitor and then a bus driver for 20 years. In 1965, when Scott was only nine years old, she participated in the historic "Bloody Sunday" march for voting rights over the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, where she was born.

Nora Braggs was born in Mobile, Alabama. She was a school bus monitor for 10 years, and like Georgia, was able to become a bus driver because of USW local 8751's extraordinary contract language providing special priority upgrade training and "absolute preference in hiring". The local fought for and won this language early in contract negotiations, as a remedy for the company's past history of racism and sexism. Nora is a shop steward and leader in many of the contract committees and is a lead organizer of Team Solidarity. Nora is very active in organizing her community thru her church.

Stevan Kirschbaum is a 42-year veteran driver, founding organizer and Vice President of USW 8751. He's one of the four union leaders who were illegally fired by Veolia in November 2013. All four were voted into leadership again in April 2015, despite Veolia/Transdev attempts to divide the union. In March 2015, Stevan successfully defeated Veolia's anti-union felony frame-up charges against him.

Claude J St Germain, "Tou Tou": Under the leadership of this Team Solidarity leader, local recording secretary and Boston Fanmi Lavalas leader, the leadership has initiated an extremely popular and exciting "stewards school" held in the bus yards, with the stated purpose of training an army of new Team Solidarity leaders and sharpening the skills of the veteran leaders. The sessions also raise political campaigns, concrete solidarity with the Verizon Strike and present lessons from Local 8751's 40+ year history.

Hannah Kirschbaum has been a member of Team Solidarity since its inception and has been an active supporter of the Boston School Bus Union for many years. She assists in organizing, and participates in, rallies, picket lines, and "pack the court" actions. She helps to chronicle USW Local 8751's struggles by contributing articles and photos to Workers World newspaper, <http://www.workers.org/>. She is currently in her final year of study at Suffolk University Law School, concentrating in Labor Law.