

# Speak Out Now! At AC Transit 10/9/2017

## The Real Orientation

Management has *its* orientation and training for new drivers. But in the past, the older generation of *drivers* would sit you down and lay it all out for you, from the *workers* point of view.

It was understood that management makes working conditions difficult, or even impossible sometimes. It is the workers who need to look out for each other because more often than not, we cannot depend on help from AC management.

If your leader is way behind on schedule, picking up all your passengers and falling back further because of it, you pull over and take their passengers. That was just something you did. That way they can catch up on their schedule and pick up the riders they normally would have, and we pick up ours. **Everyone** does their work, **everyone** gets their break. Sometimes people leapfrog to get a similar outcome.

This prevents one person from doing all the work while the other gets a temporary reprieve. The reason why this was a part of orientation is because people understood that having a union at work is not enough. Being united, everyday, standing up against unjust working conditions for ANYONE is the only to protect your own interests. The slogan "an injury to one is an injury to all" exists for a reason: injustice happens to *everyone* sometime and when it does, we need others to stand up against it with us.

## Left And Rights Not Always Right

AC operators ought to have what we need to drive our routes. That's why we get a book with all the Lefts and Rights from the Training Department.

But sometimes the Lefts and Rights we're given are not the right ones. For newer drivers or people doing work at Divisions that are not their home Division, this can be a real issue.

We should not have to depend on riders or other drivers to get us out of sticky situations. Those calling the shots Downtown ought to get it right so that we can have the tools to get it right. Maybe that is too much to ask.

## It's Not That Easy

It seems as though remedies are always presented to workers to combat work related issues such as high levels of stress, and muscular pain. Such remedies include different stretches that target specific muscle groups in order to "ease" pain.... or simply getting "more" sleep to eliminate stress.

Unfortunately it just isn't that easy, and the fact that these remedies are presented to the work force just goes to show you that management is very much aware of how stressful and painful a work day can be. High levels of stress are known to bring on serious illness and repeated muscular movement only wears out our joints over time.

How about taking a look at what the root cause of joint damage is, rather than just offering a set of stretches for some kind of temporary relief. Also, how about taking a look at what is actually taking away time from getting a good night's rest, like having to leave several hours earlier from home just to get to work on time because we cannot afford to live in the city that we work in.



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