



On The Move

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Union minded members agree, a Yes vote on Local 234's new contract is a no-brainer

As the details of Local 234's new contract become clear, our members have come to appreciate the significant gains made by the Union in a one-year agreement, with more to come next year, especially if the legislature passes a new funding formula for transit. The agreement, scheduled for ratification next Friday, includes many first-time gains for Local 234 members.

- **For the first time**, Local 234 negotiated a 7% wage increase. The wage increase comes in two installments, one on December 10, 2023, and another on July 7, 2024.

	<u>Current</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Wage Increase</u>
Bus Operator	33.57	34.91	35.96	\$2.39
Specialist	38.21	39.74	40.93	\$2.72
First Class	36.66	38.12	39.26	\$2.60
Second Class	35.10	36.50	37.60	\$2.50
Helpers	33.25	34.58	35.62	\$2.37
Cashier	32.81	34.12	35.14	\$2.33
Custodian	23.57	24.51	25.25	\$1.68

Custodians with nine years on the job will be paid \$26.21 in December and \$26.95 an hour in July. The dollar and cents wage hikes shown above will apply to Frontier and Red Arrow members in the same job classifications.

Compare and Contrast

TWU Local 100, the biggest transit local in the country, negotiated a 3-year contract in New York with wage increases of 3.0%, 3.0%, 3.5%.

TWU Local 260 in Houston negotiated a three-year contract with wage increases of 4%, 3.0% and 4%.

Carmen's Union Local 589 in Boston, with a big increase in transit funding, negotiated a four-year contract with wage increases averaging 4.5% per year.

The ATU in Atlanta negotiated a three-year contract increasing the starting rate for operators from \$17.39 to \$23.44 per hour, after going without any increase in wages for a year.

The Teamsters negotiated a much talked about agreement with the UPS increasing wages for full-time drivers by an average of 3.6% per year over 5 years.

- **For the first time**, Local 234 negotiated a 7% wage increase, along with a \$3,000 signing bonus.
- **For the first time**, Local 234 negotiated a restructuring of progression wage rates. As a result of the 7% wage increase and increases in progression rates, the hourly wage for new operators will increase by 25%, from \$20.14 to \$24.44 in December and \$25.17 hour in July, an increase of \$5.03 an hour for new hires and members hired in the last year. Members in the 13–24-month bracket will get \$25.93 in December and \$26.61 in July.
- **For the first time**, Local 234 negotiated a 5% increase in monthly pension benefits for members who retire over the life of the contract, including those who retired on November 1, 2023, *prior* to the ratification of the agreement.
- **For the first time**, Local 234 negotiated a strategically advantageous one-year agreement allowing us to bargain for a new agreement on the heels of an anticipated substantial increase in transit funding.
- **For the first time**, Local 234 negotiated a **retention bonus** of \$2,500 for members eligible to retire with 30 years of service or at age 62, who continue to work for the Authority and remain in the TWU bargaining unit for one year after reaching the date of retirement eligibility.
- **For the first time**, Local 234 negotiated an increase in the disability pension, increasing the benefit from \$500 to \$1,000 a month.
- **For the first time**, Local 234 made important inroads on new vehicle training for bus maintenance workers with the goal of having our members perform all warranty and vehicle maintenance work in-house.

RATIFICATION

Friday, November 10, 2023

There's only one question to ask.

Are you better off with, or without, this new agreement?

The answer is obvious.

Vote Yes