

# Speak Out Now at BART (July 15, 2024)

## A New Contract?

Rumors were flying around about a new contract proposal. Now it is a reality. There is a contract extension proposed, beginning at the expiration of the current contract at the end of June 2025.

Of course workers face increases in payments into medical and prescription plans. And then there's the question of wages which is the "selling point".

Why is this a wage increase of 2% for the first 6 months and then another 2% increase and the same for the last year? That doesn't add up to a full 4% each year. Even a full 8% increase over two years, wouldn't even begin to make up for what has been lost and is no protection for what could lie ahead.

## Inflation?

BART Management calculates inflation in different ways. When it comes to fare increases, the rate of inflation they cite is 5.5%. But when it comes to wages it is a different story. It's 3% or 4%.

It's time for them to get out of their real estate business and whatever else they are up to and figure out how to really maintain this system. And that doesn't just mean maintaining equipment.

## The Simplest Things

Getting the simplest things taken care of at BART can turn into a major production. In System Service, sometimes getting necessary cleaning products can take forever. And for Station Agents, try replacing a chair that is literally falling apart or is essential to address an identified physical need. It's not like people are asking for luxury accommodations.

Maybe an excursion to BHQ for an exchange? How about trading some of the well-used chairs or early model fax machines for newer ones?

## Labor Peace or Class War?

Earlier this year during the negotiations with the Big 3 auto companies, UAW president, Shawn Fain said the working class in this country is facing a war – "a class war".

That is unusual coming from a president of a union in this country, where the focus is usually on "labor peace". When working people, who face daily attacks on our standard of living, health and safety and on basic social services, are told we have to accept this, it is not peace. It is surrender.

This week is the 90th anniversary of the 4-day San Francisco General Strike that came out of maritime workers' strikes along the West Coast. On July 16, 1934 more than 150,000 workers went on strike in San Francisco for four days in response to the police killing of two workers who were involved in the maritime strike.

The history of this country, like others, has been one of workers fighting back. It starts small and then people decide they have put up with enough.

### A SPEAK OUT NOW TOWNHALL

# FORCED MIGRATION CRISIS AT THE BORDER

**7/20**

**4PM**



We cannot allow the separation, imprisonment, and deportation of migrant families to be carried out in our name.

Justin Akers Chacón a Chicano educator, author, and socialist activist will discuss the current crisis at the border.

**SOUTH BERKELEY SENIOR CENTER**

**2939 ELLIS ST, BERKELEY**

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**\$80,000 + 0 = \$800,000**



**"That's right, I've decided to give myself zero pay raise this year."**