



TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO

# UNITED INVINCIBLE

ADVOCATING ON BEHALF OF WORKING MEN AND WOMEN SINCE 1934



The Transport Workers Union of America (TWU) represents nearly 140,000 members across the country, organized into four divisions: Air; Rail; Transit, Universities, Utilities and Services; and Gaming. Our members are governed by the National Labor Relations Act, the Railway Labor Act and public sector statutes. The newest members of the Transit Division are new-model transportation workers at urban bikeshare programs.

TWU is dedicated to bettering the lives of working families. We work to safeguard and improve working conditions and living standards of all workers. We demand respect, dignity and equality for all. Our members make airplanes fly, railroads run, buses, subways and bikes move, and casinos succeed! We are nearly 140,000 transportation workers and “We Move America.”

Labor unions have always been under attack from big business and often from state and national legislators. However, unions help bring workers out of poverty and into the middle class. In fact, in states where workers don't have union rights, their incomes are lower. TWU firmly believes that unions help employers create a more stable and productive workforce, where workers have a say in improving their jobs. That is good for the company, the employees and the American economy.

In states that have laws restricting workers' right to unionize, the average pay for all workers is lower. So-called right-to-work laws that limit the right to collectively bargain contracts (including wages and benefits) are a bad deal for all workers.

TWU fights for its members on Capitol Hill, at state houses, at the bargaining table, in the courts and on the shop floor. We negotiate and enforce the best contracts. We serve and protect the traveling public as they go to work, to school, take a vacation and safely deliver them home.

Our members include: aircraft mechanics, cable car operators, ramp workers, baggage handlers, flight attendants, customer service representatives, bus operators, motormen, table game dealers, maintenance workers, coach cleaners, flagmen, school bus drivers, pilot instructors, onboard food and beverage service, firefighters, dispatchers, track workers, power line workers, station agents, ticket agents, tour guides, crane operators, and many more.



Then and Now: Top: TWU fights for a 40-hour work week in 1951. Below: TWU members and International President Harry Lombardo (center) at a Capitol Hill rally.

They are employed by: New York MTA, American Airlines, Amtrak, Southwest Airlines, Houston Metro, San Francisco MUNI, Caesars Palace, Alaska Airlines, Norfolk Southern, CSX, Philadelphia SEPTA, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Metro North, Kennedy Space Center, Fort Gordon, Citi-Bike, Fort McCoy, National Grid, Columbia University, Barnard College, multiple school districts and municipalities, and others.

## TWU'S LEADERSHIP

**HARRY LOMBARDO**  
International President

**JOHN SAMUELSEN**  
International Executive Vice President

**ALEX GARCIA**  
International Secretary-Treasurer

**GARY E. MASLANKA**  
International Administrative Vice President

**JOHN BLAND**  
International Administrative Vice President



L to R: Gary E. Maslanka, Harry Lombardo, John Samuelson, Alex Garcia, John Bland

# WORKERS' RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS



*In its long history, TWU has always fought for equality in the workplace, and since the beginning, has been a force against discrimination based on race, creed, sexual orientation, or ethnicity. Below is a brief history of TWU:*

- 1934:** Founded by Michael J. Quill, by organizing transit workers in New York City.
- 1937:** Organizes New York City transit and negotiates contracts covering 38,000 workers within 9 months.
- 1937:** Affiliates with the CIO and is chartered to organize workers in transportation and allied industries.
- 1938:** Forces Fifth Avenue Bus Company to open access to bus driver titles to black workers.
- 1940s:** Expands nationally to organize transportation workers in Philadelphia, Winston Salem, San Francisco, Houston, Columbus, Omaha, and other cities. Sets up airline mechanics' schools in Miami that are open to both black and white workers.



TWU founder Michael Quill, right, handing strike instructions to Brooklyn powerhouse workers in 1937.

Establishes the Air Transport Division, organizing Pan American World Airways and American Airlines.



Mike Quill greets Dr. King before the civil rights leader addressed the TWU convention in 1961.

- 1944:** Columbia University maintenance and housekeeping employees vote to join TWU, followed by Barnard College in 1946.
- 1944:** Organizes allied transportation workers such as power utility workers who work for the Brooklyn Union Gas Company, now National Grid.
- 1950:** Organizes public service employees in municipalities and school districts in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.
- 1954:** 40,000 non-operating railroad workers merge with TWU.
- 1957:** Charters its first government enclave local at Cape Canaveral and the Air Division expands to represent those employees who are part of the guided missile program.
- 1962:** Fights for and secures the end of segregated bus lines in Houston, and the segregated pay scales that came with them.

- 1965:** TWU members march with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. from Selma to Montgomery.
- 1966:** Launches a transit strike on January 1 that cripples the city of New York. Twelve days later, the strike ends and TWU strengthened the rights of public sector workers, dramatically improved hours, conditions, and pay; and leveled the playing field for all public employees.



- 1980:** Wins uniform changes at Southwest Airlines so that female flight attendants no longer have to wear suggestive clothing that brought on sexual harassment during flights.
- 2007:** Forms the Gaming Division to represent table game dealers at various properties in Las Vegas.
- 2014:** Organizes bikeshare workers in New York, Washington, DC, Chicago and Boston who join the Transit Division.

