

TWU Express

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keeping the MOVEMENT ALIVE

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Defending public workers, Giving back to the
community, Michael J. Quill Scholarship



wish list for a better AMERICA

by *International
President*
James C. Little

I'd like to start off the New Year with some suggestions for our new neighbors in the nation's capital — President Obama and the Congress.

President Obama recently delivered his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress on Jan. 25. He highlighted the importance of fostering innovation and building a competitive economy through investments in infrastructure, transportation and education. Obama made some important points, but I want to lay out the issues I think the President and Congress should focus on this year. Think of it as TWU's "wish list" for a better and more prosperous nation.

Stimulate the Economy: As we've been saying it is all about jobs, jobs, jobs. I hope President Obama has learned from the November elections that jobs and a speedier recovery from the recession are foremost in voters' minds. And I believe his political opponents in the new Congress will soon learn that more tax cuts for the rich were NOT what voters had in mind when they elected them to office.

It's clear that while the initial stimulus efforts did much good, they were not enough to get us out of the worst downturn since the Great Depression. I believe it's not too late to give the economy the boost it needs.

Invest in Infrastructure: One of the best ways to stimulate the economy is to invest in the nation's infrastructure, something that will not only create jobs in the short run, but will keep our nation competitive well into the future. And the best way to do this is an investment in our nation's transportation system.

While we clearly need to rebuild our roads, upgrade our airport facilities and modernize our rail system, we must also act boldly to prepare for the future. Two priorities that come quickly to mind are high-speed passenger rail (the U.S. system is a joke compared to Europe and Japan) and an expansion of our urban transit systems.

Funds must also be available for operating assistance to help cash-strapped local governments run their transit systems, otherwise it's like buying a new car and not having enough money to buy gas. As a nation, we must recognize that public transportation benefits us all through energy conservation, lowered pollution and reduced congestion.

While we clearly need to rebuild our roads, upgrade our airport facilities and modernize our rail system,
we must also act boldly to prepare for the future.

Keep Jobs in America: In addition to creating jobs, we must protect the jobs we have. Too much of our manufacturing has been moved to low-wage havens overseas. While the big corporations prosper, our children and grandchildren face shrinking job opportunities.

As our aircraft mechanics know only too well, the movement of jobs overseas isn't limited to manufacturing. TWU will continue its efforts to prevent the outsourcing of our work to foreign repair stations and urge the President and Congress to adopt measures to keep good-paying jobs here in the United States.

Defend public workers: The deep recession has left many of our states and local governments in dire financial straits. But

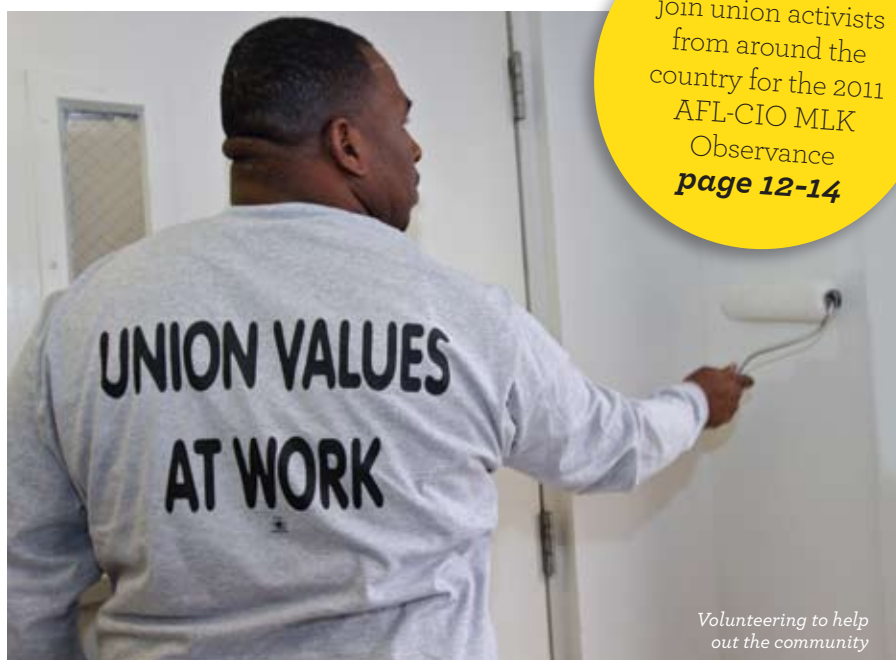


instead of blaming the bankers and CEOs who drove the economy off a cliff, politicians of all stripes are asking hard-working public servants to bear the brunt of the sacrifices. The right-wingers among them even want to take away the right of public employees to organize and strip workers of their bargaining power. As you'll see elsewhere in this issue, TWU is gearing up to defend against this latest attack.

Preserve Social Security: Our nation's most successful program, which has kept generations of seniors out of poverty, is likely to be targeted in efforts to rein in the federal budget deficit. The reality is Social Security still has a surplus and any future shortfall can be fixed without cutting benefits or raising the retirement age. With private pensions threatened, protecting Social Security is more important than ever.

I ask you to join me in rededicating ourselves in 2011 to the mission TWU has advanced for more than 75 years — improving our members' lives in the workplace and beyond.

HONORING DR. KING



TWU members
join union activists
from around the
country for the 2011
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Remembering John Orlando

The TWU family lost a long-time and dedicated leader, John Orlando, former TWU International Vice President, who passed away on Jan. 26, 2011. He represented the TWU-ATD membership for close to 30 years as an International Officer and as a Contract Negotiator and American Airlines System Coordinator. He helped guide the union through difficult times of deregulation and airline bankruptcies. He advocated for TWU members and protected their hard won gains like pensions and good working conditions.

A memorial service was held in his honor on Feb. 11 at Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery followed by a reception at Local 513 in Southlake, Texas.

His wife Carol Orlando survives him and condolences can be sent to her. For more information visit www.twu.org.

John will be sorely missed by all that knew him, but we will continue to carry on his strong legacy as a powerful advocate for working people.

John with fellow TWU leaders at an International Executive Council meeting.




TWU and IBT Collaborate on Aircraft Safety

TWU, in collaboration with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT), is calling on Congress to ensure uniform safety standards for maintenance work on U.S. based aircraft in order to protect workers, their jobs and the flying public.

TWU and IBT sent a joint letter to the leadership of the House Subcommittee on Aviation calling for uniform safety standards applied at all domestic and international maintenance repair operations. The statement applauds the Subcommittee's request for further review by the Office of Inspector General regarding the FAA's oversight of repair stations. The TWU and IBT combined, represent the majority of certificated Aviation Maintenance Technicians at the largest U.S. carriers, giving the alliance a powerful voice on maintenance and related safety issues.

Regulation and safety standards have

not kept up with the increased outsourcing of repair work to contractors within and outside of the United States. The lack of oversight and accessibility for Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) inspectors, especially at non-certified facilities employing unlicensed mechanics, poses a national security threat.

The joint statement is the latest in ongoing collaboration between the TWU and the IBT to advocate for airline workers. The TWU and IBT, along with the Coalition of Airline Pilots Association, joined together in 2010 to form the American Aviation Labor Alliance (AALA) in order to coordinate legislative and policy efforts around aviation and security issues. The collaboration between unions is an important labor relationship that strives to protect and confront serious threats to American jobs in the airline industry. 

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Allegiant Air Flight Attendants Vote Yes for TWU



The organizing team in DC for the election results. L to R: Frank McCann (International Director of Organizing), Karen McKenna (Allegiant Air flight attendant), Kristi Cohen (Allegiant Air flight attendant), Susan Kern (Local 556), Karla Kozak (International Organizer), and John Roberts (International Organizer)

The flight attendants at Allegiant Air are going to have a voice on the job after a majority voted to join the TWU in order to gain respect and improve their working conditions.

The flight attendants scored a major victory as an overwhelming majority voted to join the TWU and will now gain collective bargaining rights. They were the first flight attendants to vote for union representation under the new federal rules that call for a simple majority in airline and railroad union elections.

"Allegiant is a good place to work, and now it's going to get better," said Kristi Cohen, an Allegiant flight attendant who is also based in Las Vegas. "Now we've got a voice on the job - which means we can do an even better job of providing great service to our customers. Once we can negotiate about our schedules, work rules, and other issues, we'll be full partners in growing the business."

The flight attendants are the first work group at Las Vegas-based Allegiant Airlines to unionize. They will join the more than 9,400 TWU flight attendant members who work at Southwest Airlines and enjoy an industry-leading contract.

"This is the reason you get involved in the union movement, to help more workers have a voice," said TWU International President James C. Little. "We're excited to welcome a terrific group of workers to the TWU family, and to build on the success we've had at Southwest."

After an unsuccessful attempt at orga-

nizing with a different union four years ago, conditions at Allegiant only worsened. According to Karen McKenna, an Allegiant Air flight attendant, she and her co-workers struggled to be treated with respect and were subject to long hours with little control over scheduling, inconsistent work rules and management favoritism. After trying to work with the Allegiant management proved to be fruitless, some of the workers contacted TWU about starting an organizing drive.

*This is the reason you
get involved in the
union movement,
**TO HELP MORE
WORKERS HAVE
A VOICE.***

"When we first called TWU the organizers gave us a task and then waited to see if we would follow through," said McKenna. "By the time they hung up the phone we completed the task and called for the next one. We quickly got their attention and showed them we were committed to forming a union."

The workers, along with TWU assistance, launched an active organizing campaign in May of 2010. Different regions and areas of responsibility were divided amongst

leaders who were in charge of distributing information and holding meetings with their co-workers to educate them about the benefits of being in a union. The flight attendants got their message out through phone trees, meetings, emails and a new website. Through their tireless efforts they were able to overcome the anti-union scare tactics of the company.

Allegiant managers, President Little said, "ran a very aggressive 'vote no' campaign, which is typical of most employers. Allegiant flight attendants did a great job standing up for what they believe in."

Now, the flight attendants are elated about having a union and a new level of protection and job security and are ready for the tough battle to secure a contract with decent wages, sick leave and job security.

"We are looking forward to meeting with management and getting them to respect us as a work group and letting them know that this relationship can be incredibly successful," said Cohen.

With the victory, the TWU will continue to increase its presence and role in advocating for flight attendants and airline employees on issues impacting the airline industry ranging from health and safety to company mergers.

Other work groups are also in the process of organizing at Allegiant and could be joining their co-workers in the TWU.

"We have shown other workers and other work groups at Allegiant that they can stand up and that they can speak out," said McKenna.



TWU Members Donate Gear to Help American Soldiers

Sometimes a simple thing can make a big difference, which is why TWU donated top-of-the-line rucksacks to outfit a unit from the Army National Guard in Oklahoma as they prepare to deploy to Afghanistan.

TWU members were able to personally thank the soldiers for their service and sacrifice when they presented the rucksacks to the unit at the Local 514 union hall in Tulsa,

Top: Oklahoma Army National Guard unit of scout snipers with TWU Veterans Committee. Bottom: Ryan Hager, E5-Sergeant, Oklahoma Army National Guard, presents certificate to Jose Galarza, TWU International Rep.



Okla. on Dec. 18.

President TWU Local 514 Sam Cirri told the soldiers, "We want to thank you for what you do. You serve the country, you serve the people, and you protect our freedom."

The unit of scout snipers is extremely specialized, but they are not supplied with all of the appropriate gear for their particular role and mission. The new rucksacks, which are allowed but not provided by the Army, are a specific type of backpack that will allow the scouts to carry all their gear when they go on missions.

"To have this much outpouring of caring for troops shows our unit that there are really people who care," said Ryan Hager, E5-Sergeant, Oklahoma Army National Guard. "It is an amazing thing to see."

When Curtis Lyons and other members of the TWU ATD Veterans Committee and Local 514 heard about the unit's need for top-notch equipment they decided to raise money to purchase rucksacks for the soldiers. The drive quickly grew into a

union-wide effort. The response was so overwhelming that TWU was able to buy more than enough rucksacks to outfit the soldiers, now they plan to supply another unit.

"You see these young men and you know what mission they do. This was the first opportunity I had to maybe help keep some of these guys or other guys alive," said Lyons.

To help donate more rucksacks to units in need email the TWU ATD Veterans Committee at veterans@twu.org.



Global Campaign for Quality Public Services

Countries around the world are suffering from drastic cuts in public services and misguided attacks on public workers, but a campaign led by the Council of Global Unions is uniting unions and communities in fighting for quality public services in order to promote social justice.

The "Quality Public Services- Action Now!" (QPS) campaign was launched by ten global union federations, including the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF), of which the TWU is an affiliate and active member. The QPS campaign is dedicated to uniting private and public sector unions, community organizations and the general public in a defense of public services like transit, education and health. Providing vital services funded through equitable tax systems is essential to help-

ing the world rebound from the economic collapse while providing decent jobs and creating an equitable society.

"This new global campaign promotes investment in quality public services as the best way to protect and create jobs for economic recovery, address poverty and inequity, and build environmentally sustainable, secure and democratic societies," said TWU International Vice President and Director of Strategic Planning Roger Toussaint who was recently elected Vice-Chair of the ITF Urban Transport Committee and participated in the initial strategy meetings. "This is a future-leaning approach that promises and promotes links to the kind of broad popular front we will need in order to achieve the objectives of the QPS campaign."

The campaign is focused on building alliances and solidarity and helping people find common cause. The QPS action plan is focused on connecting global and local struggles, building coalitions, sharing information, mobilizing media and responding to imminent threats to services and public sector jobs.

"Governments spent money rescuing banks, and are now cutting back on public services," said Peter Waldorff, General Secretary of global union federation Public Services International, in an interview with the ITF. "If we want to fight inequality, we have to fight this,"

The attack on public services is part of a larger assault on equality and justice and is led by the forces that want to privatize, deregulate, exploit workers and dismantle the social safety net.

"There is an obligation to act now because there is so much at stake," said Waldorff. "If we're not fighting back, we could lose decades of improvements in society."

not everything is super at AMERICAN AIRLINES

Super Bowl Protest Against Corporate Greed

A loud and enthusiastic group of TWU members from across the country descended on the Dallas Fort Worth International Airport on Monday, Feb. 7, the day after Super Bowl XLV, to tell the thousands of passengers that everything is not super in Dallas as American Airlines continues to deny its union workers an equitable contract.

As passengers got out of cabs and shuttle buses at Terminal D they were met with a boisterous crowd carrying picket signs and chanting through blaring bullhorns. Hundreds of TWU members, alongside fellow union flight attendants, pilots and ex-NFL players with the NFL Players Association, rallied to seize upon the national attention brought by the Super Bowl and the busiest travel day of the year at DFW in order to expose the corporate greed at American Airlines.

"The workers at American Airlines have made sacrifices and taken cuts, now its time for the company to step up to the plate," said Garry Drummond, TWU International Director of the Air Transport Division. "This demonstration during the Super Bowl shines the public spotlight on the ongoing dispute and lack of a decent contract for the TWU members at American Airlines."

Passerby's got the message that "American Airlines doesn't play fair and that's not super" from flyers, chants, signs and a moving billboard. People stopped to show support and ask how they could help the workers in their struggle.

Donny Tyndall, Presi-

dent of Local 502 in Los Angeles, who flew to Dallas to join the picket added, "Most of the fans who came to Dallas are aware of the potential lockout by NFL team owners. We want them to know of serious labor problems on the airline that takes them in and out of Dallas and the greedy behavior of the airline's managers."

After taking wage cuts, concessions and layoffs in 2003 to help the company avert bankruptcy, the 34,000 union workers at American Airlines want a fair deal. AMR, the parent company of American Airlines, has handed out over \$300 million dollars in bonuses to top executives over the last five years, yet demands that workers take pay and benefit cuts. Contract talks for fleet service workers, mechanics, flight dispatcher

and other TWU-represented work groups has dragged on for more than four years, despite the assignment of federal mediators. And company continues to ask for the concessionary pay and benefit cuts

"In sports you look at the top guys when things go wrong and re-evaluate the game plan. Instead, American Airlines is blaming workers and labor costs as the problem, but there needs to be some self-reflection at the top. We are sick and tired of excuses," said Darrin Pierce, President Local 513.

Behind the slogan of "One Union, One Voice," members from all departments joined together to hold the event. For those on the picket line, the event was an oppor-

Continued on page 16.

Right: A moving billboard spread the message around DFW airport. Below: TWU members picket outside of Terminal D carrying signs and chanting slogans.



apply for the 2011 Michael J. Quill **SCHOLARSHIP**

Since 1969, TWU has been awarding 15 four-year college scholarships annually to the dependents of TWU members. The awards are worth \$1,200 each annually, for a total of \$4,800 over the four year college period.

Winners of the scholarship are determined by a public drawing held each May at TWU Headquarters. The benefits of the first 30 drawings have been enjoyed by families throughout the Union. Sons and daughters of members in city passenger transit, railroad and air transportation, utilities, public employment, space instal-

lations, and allied industries are among those who began their college education with the help of funds paid to the universities.

The scholarship money is paid directly to the college or university that the successful applicant actually attends. Applications can be secured online and from the first issue of the TWU Express each year.

The Quill Scholarship Program is supervised by International Executive Vice President Harry Lombardo with the able assistance of Administrative Secretaries Bernadette Uckele and Carlean Williams.



FAQs:

How does an applicant qualify?

The applicant must be certified twice. First, a TWU Local must certify the facts that make the applicant eligible. Secondly, the principal of the high school must attest to the fact that the applicant is capable of doing college work. The applicant must comply with the Rules of the Scholarship Fund, available upon request.

Who is eligible?

Sons and daughters and dependent brothers and sisters (claimed with IRS) of present, retired, or deceased TWU members who are High School Seniors and who will enter an accredited college of their own choice beginning with the Fall term are eligible. Sons, daughters, brothers, and sisters of full-time, paid officers of the Union are not eligible.

What is the deadline?

All applications must be received by the Michael J. Quill Scholarship Fund by May 1, 2011.

How is the scholarship paid?

Money is paid directly to the college or university that the successful applicant actually attends.

How does a person apply?

Visit www.twu.org and click on the Michael J. Quill Scholarship link on the right-hand side of the main page. You can download the application there. Applications can also be secured from TWU Locals throughout the country.

How are the winners decided?

By drawing to be held in May of each year at the TWU headquarters. Winners will be notified immediately thereafter.



▲
The 2010 Michael J. Quill Scholarship Winners

From the TWU Organizing Department:

Time to Defend Unions and Educate Young Workers

As union members, we are accustomed to having rights and protections that are guaranteed through our union contracts. Members know their contractual rights, which are spelled out in itemized articles dealing specifically with pay rates, seniority, benefits and other situations considered important to the membership. The union bargains with employers over these issues until an agreement is reached. When our parents told us to, "get it in writing," it was for good reason. It still is.

As TWU Organizers we often get to speak with hundreds of workers that have no idea of what unions provide. Today's younger workers seem to have been brainwashed about organized labor, our purpose and how we function. Many of them have been told, "unions really aren't needed today" or "you should be happy to have a job."

Why do corporations and business owners despise labor unions?

Partially because unions have the ability to enforce accountability on employers, but more likely it's the company's loss of total

control over their employees and business dealings. Companies don't want to involve unions, what they call a "third party," in their business decisions. However unions are not a third party, they consist of members, real working class people, people who are employees of a company who have chosen representation.

Companies know union contracts have teeth and consequences if they don't abide by the contract. Ask a retired union member. They know the value of their contracts, pensions and health care benefits. They recognized the value in their union's ability to bargain a better wage and quality of life for their families. But times have changed for union workers and in some cases retirees.

Our fight for workers' rights is more important now than ever as thousands of union jobs in the public and private sectors are under attack by both political parties. Name calling and blaming unions for the country's financial mess and balancing municipal budgets on the backs of workers has affected us all. It's turned

pathetically ugly with pay cuts, layoffs and pension and medical coverage givebacks across the country.

Is labor going to stand there and take this? As a TWU member, what do you do for your local? Do you attend your union meetings, educating each other, and participating or volunteering to help with a certain cause? Our founder, Michael J. Quill once said, "It's more than paying dues, you must prepare yourself for leadership."

Educating America's younger generations about historic labor struggles, the labor movement and its purpose are critical for the nation's economic recovery. Unions continue fighting for equality, human rights and improved safety and working conditions. But, before we settle in and become complacent with our lives, or our union, ask yourself, what are you willing to do to ensure survival of the next generation's union protected middle-class workers?

RULING PROVIDES JUSTICE FOR LOCAL 721 CASINO DEALER

Justice was served for two TWU Local 721 shop stewards at Wynn Casino in Las Vegas when a judge ruled they should be reinstated after the company illegally retaliated against them for being union activists.

An administrative law judge for the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) ruled to uphold workers' rights by ordering Wynn to give Ronda Larson her job back and restore David Sackin to full standing. The judge found the company guilty of violating labor law and punishing workers for their union engagement with firings and suspensions.

"This decision is a victory for workers' rights and the right to have a union and a voice on the job," said TWU International President James C. Little. "Thankfully, these TWU members will have their jobs back and the company will have to follow the law."

Larson will return to her job on the casino floor and is entitled to back wages for the time she was fired. According to the judge, the company was looking for an excuse to fire Larson because she helped organize the union. Sackin will return to full job standing after being suspended in retaliation for his outspoken support of his co-workers.

"You should not have any fear in openly supporting your Union and participating in Union conversations or activities because you are protected by Federal Law if you do," said Local 721 President Kanie Kastroll.

This ruling shows that management cannot

discipline their employees for exercising their right to have a union, yet all too often companies are able to intimidate workers because the NLRB process is too slow and too weak. Workers need tougher enforcement and stronger laws to ensure they have the freedom to join and be involved in a union.



State Conferences on Frontline To Defend Public Workers

by COPE
and Political
Field Director
Alex Garcia

TWU's State Conferences are an important part of our political field program. We've been working hard to nurture and strengthen these conferences and now we'll be looking for them to lead the fight to protect our public workers.

In states across the country, cash-strapped local governments are seeking to reduce budget deficits by cutting wages and benefits. This attack is coming from both sides of the aisle, including many politicians who are usually our friends. But the biggest threat is that a number of union bashers are using the budget crunch to push laws to reduce labor union strength and even end their very existence.

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka explains that such ploys go beyond employers asking for concessions in tough times. "I am talking about the campaigns in state after state, funded by shadowy front groups, aimed at depriving all workers — public and private sector — of the basic human right to form strong unions and bargain collectively to lift their lives," he says. "These attacks on workers ultimately are attacks on our children and their ability to have the kind of life we wish for them."

TWU's State Conferences are already gearing up to repel this onslaught, which unfairly targets public workers for an economic mess created by Wall Street and big corporations. Planning sessions have taken place, or soon will, in Florida, Texas, Georgia-Tennessee, Nevada-Arizona, California and New Jersey. In addition to grassroots lobbying efforts and joining coalitions with other groups, TWU members are recruiting volunteers for COPE drives to make sure we have an adequate

war chest for what is likely to be a long and protracted battle.

There's no doubt states are in trouble. New census figures show state revenues declined by nearly 31 percent in 2009, a \$1.1 trillion loss. Nicholas Johnson, Director of the State Fiscal Project at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, told the Washington Post that this year would be "the most difficult budget year for states ever."

Elected officials of both parties will try to get public sector unions to agree to wage freezes and/or reduced pensions. We'll fight these misguided and unfair demands as we always have, but we will be especially on guard against the structural changes that would weaken unions long-term.

Naomi Walker, the AFL-CIO's director of state government relations, believes the public will be against such anti-union efforts if we get our message out effec-



Former U.S. Labor Secretary Robert Reich believes public servants are convenient scapegoats and a way for big business to deflect attention away from bloated corporate salaries, Wall Street bonuses and windfalls for private equity managers whose profits are taxed at the lower capital gains rate.

"Their version of class warfare is to pit private-sector workers against public servants," Reich said. "They'd rather set average working people against one another — comparing one group's modest incomes and benefits with another group's modest incomes and benefits — than have Americans see that the top 1 percent is now raking in a bigger share of national income

These attacks on workers ultimately are attacks on our children *and their ability to have the kind of life we wish for them.*

tively. "We've been fighting against privatizing Social Security and sending jobs offshore and to get the best deal for the unemployed," she said, explaining that it would be easier for labor's enemies if unions weren't there to speak up for working families.

It's this effort to weaken unions in general that makes this fight important, not only for our public sector workers, but for our airline, rail and other members. All are active in our State Conferences.

than at any time since 1928, and paying at a lower tax rate."

We think our members will see through this trick and our State Conferences are leading the effort to get out the word about this latest scam. We hope all of you will join us in this battle and become involved in your State Conference and other political activity.

And of course, we'll be asking for your COPE contributions to make our efforts possible.

continuing **DR. KING'S STRUGGLE** *for social justice*

*Dr. King
Holiday
Observance*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said that racial equality depends on economic equality and believed that the most powerful way for people to improve their lives is through collective action and unions. That very vision brought together nearly 500 union activists, including TWU members from around the country, in Cincinnati for the annual AFL-CIO Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Observance on Jan. 13-17. At a time when Dr. King's dream is being threatened by high unemployment, rising inequality and an attack on workers, the Dr. King weekend was an opportunity to build unity, demonstrate collective power and empower people to keep the movement alive.





“Yes it is a crisis, but we are always ready and suited up to fight back to ensure that there is equality and social justice in this country,” said AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Arlene Holt-Baker during a town hall meeting. “We do it because we believe in it and we do it because Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would expect no less of everyone of us.”

The TWU has long been a pioneer in civil rights and has been involved with the AFL-CIO’s Dr. King observance since the event’s inception. This year TWU continued to play an active role with leaders and members representing locals from across the country participating.

“The TWU has been rooted in civil rights since the beginning with our leader Mike Quill who was a big component of the civil rights movement,” said TWU International Director of Human Rights and Chair of the Women’s Committee Sandra Burleson. “Just like Dr. King set a legacy, our leader set a legacy for unions and the TWU to continue the fight for equal rights for all working people.”

The busy four-day celebration, featuring workshops, community service projects, and rallies, was held in Cincinnati because of the city’s important civil rights history as a key stop along the Underground Railroad and the ongoing struggles for equality. National labor, civil rights and faith leaders along with Ohio activists, workers and politicians spoke about the legacy of Dr. King and his strong belief in the right of workers to organize. The conference highlighted the connections between labor and human rights and called for a unified movement to defend all working people. Speakers discussed current issues such as the attack on public workers, healthcare reform and job creation.

“With visionary leaders, the civil rights and labor movements came to understand that we share common interests, common values, common goals and yes, common enemies,” said Wade Henderson, President and CEO Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, during his keynote address. “Whenever any American is forced to suffer from discrimination or exploitation we are all demeaned or diminished.”

A panel discussion and small group sessions were also held to explore immigration issues and brainstorm ways for the labor movement to take action. “Immigrants are just trying to make a living for themselves like everyone else,” said Travis Turner, TWU Local 514. “As Dr. King taught us, we are all in the same boat and if one goes down then we all go down.”

“Just being out here I have learned how important it is to keep the movement going,” said Curtis Brown, Local 555. “Without the

things that Dr. King and other leaders have done we would not have the rights we enjoy today. We have to keep the fight going and moving forward.”

Meanwhile, for many attendees, the event was about more than the just the official program, but an opportunity to learn about the experiences of other unions and communities, share strategies and build solidarity.

“We get to compare notes with one another and have conversations about what is going on at my local and what is going on at your local,” said Louis King, Executive Board TWU Local 514. “We discuss how we handle the challenges and how we are getting through.”

Attendees also put their words into action and showed support for Ohio’s working families by participating in a energetic town hall meeting and marching to a candlelight vigil in front of city hall.

As they sang songs and union chants, attendees gathered in the bitter cold at the candlelight vigil to listen to workers tell their stories and to speak out against the attack on unions and public workers, attacks led by newly elected Ohio Republican Gov. John Kasich.

“We stand ready for the fight and are pleased that you are here tonight with us to help send a message that we are not going to allow the rights of workers to be taken back so easily,” said Ohio AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Pierrette Talley in front of the crowd. Talley was referring to the Cincinnati city government’s attempt to privatize sanitation workers because of Ohio’s budget deficit, a symbolic gesture given Dr. King died in 1968 while supporting unionizing sanitation workers in Memphis, Tenn.

However, the pressure of hundreds of union and civil rights activists from around the country descending on the city forced the city council to back down and saved hundreds of jobs.

“Marching through the streets gives you a lot of pride,” said Tracy Hardin, Local 514. “Here we were 400 or 500 strong marching for one cause, one movement. We had an effect and brought the message to the public.”

Union members also participated in a day of community service (see full story on p. 14).

The weekend’s event culminated in a community breakfast and a parade of unions, community groups and young people through the streets of downtown Cincinnati celebrating the city’s connection to Dr. King and the dream of racial equality.

“We’ve come a long way with human rights, but we still have a long way to go,” said Ralph Darnell, Financial Secretary Treasurer TWU Local 555. “You can’t stop fighting.”





Above: Michael Williams of Local 291 paints the wall of a church in Cincinnati. Right: Diana Tiggs of Local 512 helps students with their addition



keeping the **SPiRiT** alive

Two busloads of union volunteers walked into the Rockdale Academy in Cincinnati early on a Friday morning and were greeted by the smiling faces of young students and their teachers. The nearly 100 volunteers, including many TWU members, were getting ready for a morning of community service to commemorate Dr. King's message of helping others.

As part of the annual AFL-CIO Martin Luther King Holiday Observance, over 300 union members and civil rights activists participated in a day of service at sites around Cincinnati. Volunteers tutored children, painted walls, scrubbed floors and moved supplies to give back to the city that is struggling with unemployment and public service cuts.

"Being part of a union is like being part of a big family, so we try to take that feeling out into the neighborhoods," said Ralph Darnell, Financial Secretary Treasurer Local 555. "We are showing people that unions want to give back, that's just what we do."

TWU members went to the Rockdale Academy and others went to the South Avondale School where they worked with children and assisted with cleaning and

maintenance of the building. Louis King of Local 514 was among those who taught reading and math to 6th and 7th graders, he encouraged them to solve problems and commit to their schoolwork.

"It is so important to do community service and to keep Dr. King's dream alive," said Curtis Brown, Local 555.

TWU Local 291 from Miami went to the Rockdale Baptist Church where they got

make connections with the community.

According to Pastor Rousseau O'Neal of Rockdale Baptist, he has a long history of working alongside unions and was delighted to have TWU volunteers working in his church.

"I want to thank everyone who came out to work with our kids," said Rockdale Academy Principal Cheron Reid. "It was so important for the kids that you all came out

Being part of a union is like being part of a big family, so we try to take that feeling out into the neighborhoods.

their hands dirty painting the church's interior and doing other vital repairs.

This was the first AFL-CIO Dr. King observance for Michael Williams, Transportation Vice President Local 291. He was excited to work with his TWU brothers and sisters at the Rockdale Baptist Church and continue the service work he does back home in Miami.

The school and church leaders were inspired by the outpouring of support from the volunteers who came from all over and took time to help people in Cincinnati and

here in numbers like this and gave them the example of so many positive males and females, especially African-American. That really does a lot for us."

Sandra Burleson, TWU International Director of Human Rights and Chair of the Women's Committee, thinks community service helps educate people about unions. "People need to know that unions are about getting involved in the community and helping others. It's not just about us, we are about giving back," said Burleson.



AN ATTACK *on public workers*

As America continues to suffer from a recession caused by risky financial speculation and unchecked greed, some politicians and their corporate-backed friends have turned to blaming public workers and their unions for America's economic woes.

Newly elected Governors and State legislatures around the country are proposing a range of anti-worker legislation that would take away the right to organize and collectively bargain, slash benefits and eliminate jobs. All this is in the face of high unemployment and a slow economy.

For example, in Tennessee, there is a proposal to strip teachers of the right to form unions and in Ohio the Republican governor wants to take away the ability of home health and childcare workers to bargain for a better future. Even the Democratic Governor of New York, Andrew Cuomo, has made public unions a target by threatening to eliminate thousands of jobs and reduce pensions. The most drastic of these proposed bills will not pass or stand up to legal scrutiny, but they represent a dangerous sentiment and are an affront to all working people.

Rather than addressing the real causes of the economic crisis and government deficits, right-wing politicians and media have chosen to scapegoat the hard-working public workers who provide America with essential services. These politicians and talking heads say that wages and pensions are too high and dragging down the economy. However, it was Wall Street and the home foreclosure crisis that caused the loss of billions of dollars and wrecked havoc on the economy, not family-supporting wages and decent healthcare.

Transit workers, fire fighters, teachers and social workers provide services that make our cities and towns run. These pub-

lic workers get us to and from work, educate our children and keep us safe. But in the eyes of some politicians these dedicated public servants have become the enemy and are faulting their wages and pensions for the fiscal crisis.

These attacks against public workers are built on lies and false information. The anti-union voices claim that public sector wages are higher than the private sector, but public workers actually make less when you account for education and experience. Governors are blaming state deficits on wages and benefits bargained by unions, but states with more unionized public workers don't have higher levels of debt, if anything the opposite is true. Texas, for example, has one of the lowest rates of public worker unionization, but one the highest levels of debt, while Massachusetts has a large unionized workforce and little debt.

The corporate media also loves to fault public worker pensions for government deficits and being a burden on taxpayers, yet these pension plans were full-funded before the financial collapse in 2007 that decimated government funds and shrank tax revenue. Nor are pension plans solely paid for by government money.

Workers have been contributing part of their paychecks for years to fund their retirement. The pensions for these workers are anything but overgenerous, especially compared to the millions of dollars hedge fund managers pocket in yearly bonuses. A typical public worker who averages a \$45,000 salary might retire with a \$19,000 a year pension, enough to support them in their old age but certainly not a lavish lifestyle.

Ultimately this attack is about deflecting the blame from Wall Street and weakening the labor movement. Politicians can score political points while avoiding a challenge to powerful moneyed interests. Anti-worker interests are eager to weaken progressive public sector unions that represent a growing portion of the labor movement; publicly employed union members now outnumber private sector and represent about 36 percent of the public sector workforce. This is an attempt to weaken unions, the most powerful grassroots political and social movement and the leading voice for all working people.

Anti-labor forces are trying to divide public and private workers by blaming their supposedly "inflated" benefits for unemployment and debt. American workers should



Allen Edwards, Local 260, is a bus operator for Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas and one of the many hardworking public employees targeted by politicians.

not be fighting over corporate scraps in a race to the bottom of lower wages and fewer benefits. Instead all workers should have health insurance, a pension, vacation and decent wages. Ultimately, when police officers and nurses have livable wages all workers benefit along with the entire economy.

The TWU has long been an advocate for the rights of public workers. TWU's founding leader Mike Quill pioneered collective bargaining for publicly employed workers and fought for the right of NYC's public workers to have a union and to go on strike. TWU and the labor movement will not stand by while the right of workers to have a voice and a middle-class job are rolled back.



Passengers at DFW going home from the Super Bowl were met by hundreds of TWU members from across the country, ex-NFL players and fellow union allies.

Continued from page 7

tunity to create unity and mobilize to fight for a fair contract, while educating the public about the continued greed of American Airlines' management.

"This protest inspires our members who are frustrated and it lets them know the union is fighting for them," said Pierce. "This shows we need to come together collectively to take on this fight."

Workers at American Airlines, like Chris Nelson, a Local 565 member with over 25 years at American Airlines who joined the picket, wants the company to bargain in good faith and to get a long-overdue contract that honors the people who are the backbone of the company. While executives get rich, workers' families are losing their homes and struggling to make ends meet with lower income.

We need to come together collectively to **TAKE ON THIS FIGHT.**

Patti Oaks is a fleet service worker from Local 568 in Miami and has worked for American Airlines for 21 years. "We want to be treated fairly and to be respected for the work we do with a contract. It's been far too long," she remarked.

"We are here today to get the public engaged on what is happening within corporate America and specifically with the employees of American Airlines. We took deep concessions in 2003, and some of our members have come close to bankruptcy as a result," said Jim Fudge, President of Local 541.

ATD Locals from around the country representing workers at American Airlines began planning the large event after holding a similar protest against corporate greed on April 15, 2010, the day American Airlines executives took home their hefty bonus checks.

Mark York, Local 513, said that the strategic planning committee learned best practices from TWU members at Southwest Airlines and Rail and Transit Division Locals. They adapted new strategies and utilized cutting-edge electronic communications tools like text messages, robo calls, Facebook, email and websites, as well as flyers and phone calls. "We have gone to a whole new level of communicating with our members," said York.

Leading up to Monday's rally, TWU members passed out flyers at DFW on the Friday before the Super Bowl. They gave people a team roster that had TWU's message on the back.

According to protest organizers, this was not a single event, but part of a campaign to gain justice for workers at American Airlines.





From left: Spreading the holiday cheer at the annual Yuletide Drive; Honoring Dr. King's legacy by providing community service.

LOCAL 234 GIVES BACK

Local 234 in Philadelphia has been busy giving back to the community. This holiday season they held a toy drive and gave children free rides on the Santa Express. Local 234 members participated in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Day at the Paul Lawrence Dunbar Promise Academy in North Philadelphia. They scrubbed, sanded, cleaned and painted to rejuvenate the building and provide the students with a clean and safe place to learn.

LOCAL 526 Defends Jobs

TWU leaders met with members of the U.S. Congress to discuss issues affecting the jobs of TWU members at the Naval Submarine Base in Kings Bay, Ga.

Local 526 members are firefighters at the Naval Submarine Base and have provided the base with exemplary service since its opening in 1979. The fire depart-

ment has received numerous awards and accolades for superior work from the Navy. However, a possible change in hiring requirements could put many of the firemen out of work.

↓ Robert Payne, President Local 526; Kevin Smith, President Local 525; Benyoel Morgan, President Local 527; and Richie Boehm, ATD International Representative meeting with Rep. Corrine Brown



JUSTICE FOR THE HEROES OF 9/11


The brave Americans who responded to the 9/11 attacks to save lives and repair the damage are finally getting the medical care they deserve as the U.S. Congress passed a bill funding health care compensation.

After stalling in the Senate, a compromise was reached on the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act and both the House and Senate approved the legislation that will provide \$4.2 billion to monitor and treat first-responders who suffered illnesses and injuries at Ground Zero.

"Finally these American heroes who answered the call of duty are being given the respect and resources they deserve," said TWU International President James C. Little. "It is a disgrace that their healthcare compensation got caught in political game playing."

These heroic men and women risked their lives to help others and respond to an attack on America, but have fought for nine years to get just compensation. They were exposed to toxic dust and fumes as well as numerous other hazards. More than 13,000 of the responders are sick and in treatment and nearly 60,000 are in health monitoring. Many are suffering from respiratory problems and cancer.

"The men and women who risked their lives without prejudice that day went the last nine Christmases without knowing if the government would help them," John Feal, a demolition supervisor who lost a foot at Ground Zero, told The Washington Post. "It's a better Christmas gift than anything they could have asked for."

The bill had appeared to be dead, but public pressure and outrage pushed the Republicans, who initially blocked the bill, to put aside partisan bickering to support American heroes. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) brokered a compromise with Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) that reduced costs and altered the funding mechanism. 



LOCAL 576 Oath of Office

Newly elected officers at Local 576 in Grapevine, Texas are sworn in. From L to R: Jose Galarza (International Rep and AE System Coordinator), Matt Smith (Treasurer Local 576), Mike Alberts (Board Member at Large Local 576), Gary Hill (President Local 576), Barry Arbelius (Vice President Local 576), David Quiroga (Board Member at Large Local 576), Pamela Dillehay (Recording Secretary Local 576), David Ortiz (Board Member at Large Local 576).



LOCAL 510 New Officers

Newly elected officer at Local 510 in Alexandria, Va. L to R: Charles Gray (DCA Chairman), Tim Shea (Local 510 Secretary-Treasurer), Nancy Wood (Local 510 Vice President), Pete Hogan (Local 510 President), Gordon Burton (Local 510 Executive Board Member), Brain McMahon (2nd Vice President Title I, II, V). Not pictured is Kevin Sullivan, Local 510 Executive Board Member.

SHOP TWU

Find exclusive Union products at our TWU store at shopTWU.com. All merchandise is Union made in the U.S.A.



LOCAL 502 Officers Sworn In

Newly elected officers at Local 502 in El Segundo Beach, Calif. get sworn in. From L to: Tim Gillespie (International Rep), Steve Marr (Vice President Local 502), Thomas Pickle III (Executive Board Local 502), Pete Savino II (Secretary Treasurer Local 502), Gary Gill (Executive Board Local 502), Donny Tyndall (President Local 502), Derek Moore (Executive Board Local 502), Darren Gamble (Recording Secretary Local 502), Robert Gless (International ATD Deputy Director).

LOCAL 590 Helps Out Military Families

Local 590 BNA participated in the Snowball Express, which hosted 83 local area passengers who have lost a spouse or parent in the Iraq or Afghanistan wars. Members donated their time to work the flight and give back to the families who have sacrificed so much for America.

L to R: Greg Cosey (Secretary Treasurer/Recording Treasurer), Howard Blaydes (President Local 590), Chris Bloebaum (Fleet Service Clerk), and Steve Douglass (Crew Chief Fleet Service Clerk).



LOCAL 100 Members Back at Work

The first class of station agents at the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) returned to work in February after months of being laid-off and a long fight to get their jobs back.

The Local 100 members are the first of many station agents who will be going back at work after Local 100 and community groups held rallies and pressured the MTA to rehire the 260 workers who were laid-off in August. Station agents are vital to ensuring the safety of the public and providing assistance to passengers. Local 100 will continue to ensure that all members get their jobs back in order to provide for their families and ensure safe and efficient public transit in New York City.

The first class of returning station agents.



BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR OF NASA

TWU got an inside look at NASA with a tour by Local 525 in Cocoa Beach, Fla.

The underside of Shuttle Atlantis housed in the Orbiter Processing Facility.



LOCAL 541 New Officers

Newly elected officers at Local 541 in Euless, Texas take the oath of office.

From L to R: Earl Smith (Financial Secretary/Treasurer Local 541), George Cusic (Recording Secretary Local 541), Rick Campbell (Executive Board-Pilot Instructors Local 541), Mike Cook (Vice President-Instructors Local 541), Jim Fudge (President Local 541), Mark Stephens (Executive Board -Technicians Local 541), Nate Pike (Vice President-Technicians Local 541).



UNIONS CALL FOR ACTION TO CREATE GOOD GREEN JOBS

TWU representatives attended UN Climate Talks (COP 16) in Cancun, Mexico as part of a delegation from the International Trade Union Council (ITUC), where they advocated for action to equitably and quickly address climate change while ensuring a just transition for workers.

The TWU joined the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA), Service Employees International Union (SEIU), and Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA) in issuing a joint statement that advocates for science-based reductions in greenhouse gases and action to create good green jobs.

The statement argues that the world needs a fair, ambitious and binding climate agreement created through the United Nations process, which gives voice to unions and social movements.

The United States has a responsibility to reduce its emissions and the Obama administration should use its powers to take bold action, regardless of legislation in Congress. A comprehensive response to climate change, including protections for impacted workers and communities, would create millions of green jobs in various sectors through the reengineering of the economy.

"We believe that an aggressive and science-based approach to emissions reductions is not only absolutely necessary from the perspective of achieving a sustainable environment; it will be good for our economy and for working families," reads the statement.

The international labor movement wants clear and robust binding-commitments to reduce carbon emissions that will help spur investment in green industries and preserve the globe for future generations by preventing the disastrous effects of climate change.



Photo by John Mueller

Winning the Future with High-Speed Rail

It took visionary leadership and a commitment to investing in America to build our national highway system and put a man on the moon, now it is that pioneering spirit that America needs to build the next generation of infrastructure.

In his State of the Union Address, President Obama championed infrastructure and high-speed rail investments as part of the effort to "win the future" and spur innovation. Obama envisions 80 per cent of Americans having access to high-speed rail and leveraging private investment to help fund a 21st century transportation system that creates jobs and moves people quickly and efficiently while reducing climate change.

Yet as China, Japan and Germany roll out cutting-edge high-speed rail systems that travel at speeds of more than 200 mph, some politicians in the United States have decided to hold America back by neglecting investments for high-speed rail projects.

A group of newly elected Governors are handing back Federal dollars to build high-speed rail, while a group of conservative Republicans in the U.S. Congress have created a proposal to slash spending on all rail and transit projects. These shortsighted policies would keep America from developing the infrastructure to be competitive in the global economy and costs thousands of jobs.

When Ohio Governor John Kasich stepped into office one of his first moves was to give back more than \$400 million intended for high-speed rail projects in

this state, despite the potential to create jobs and connect Ohio's largest cities. The recently elected Governor of Florida, Rick Scott, has put a new rail line between Tampa and Orlando capable of speeds up to 168 mph in jeopardy, despite \$2.4 billion from Washington to help cover construction costs. In Wisconsin, Governor Scott Walker shut the door on yet another rail project and rejected \$810 million.

As the citizens of Ohio, Florida and Wisconsin lose out from improved transportation and thousands of green jobs, other states like California are seizing the moment and lining up to take the rejected funds. California was able to get half of the funds redirected from Wisconsin and Ohio to projects in their state.

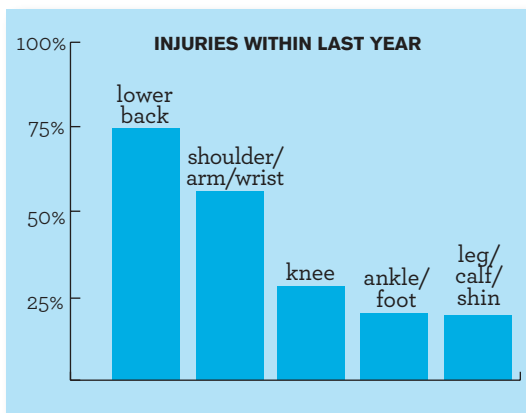
The Republican Study Commission, a group of conservative Republican Congressmen, put forth a proposal to cut billions of dollars including all federal money for Amtrak and funding for commuter rail, rapid transit systems and high-speed rail. This ill-advised proposal stands no chance of being put into action, but represents a dangerous attitude and a slide backwards.

However, transportation and high-speed rail should not be a partisan issue. Developing American industries and connecting people is a win for everyone. President Obama called on bi-partisan efforts to rebuild America's crumbling infrastructure and has shown a willingness to make compromises in order to move the country forward.

airport baggage handlers HEALTH AND SAFETY

Results are in from the health and safety survey of airport baggage handlers conducted by the TWU who worked with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the Occupational Health Internship Program.

These results will help us promote education and safety awareness for TWU baggage handlers and can be used to promote further research into solutions for making the workplace safer. The results are similar to international studies of baggage handlers and the occupational hazards faced in the industry.



INJURY RATES

73.1% of baggage handlers surveyed experienced lower back symptoms within the last year; most common symptoms were aching/pain and stiffness

50.9% of ramp workers with a lower back injury reported to the company and **48.1%** went on sick leave

44.2% of ramp workers with a shoulder injury reported to the company and **34.9%** went on sick leave

22.7% of ramp workers with a knee injury reported to the company and **18.2%** went on sick leave

TASKS MOST LIKELY TO CAUSE INJURY

Manually pushing/pulling loaded carts
Unloading carts at the Bag Drop to belts
Stacking bags inside narrow body aircraft cargo bin

ADMIN SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE SAFETY

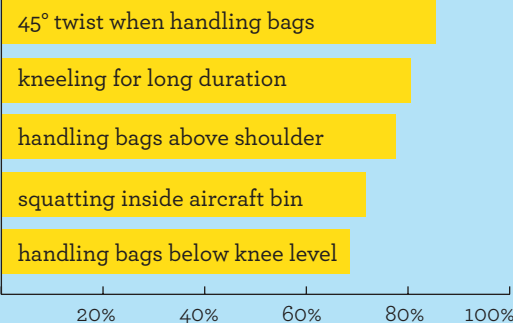
Place heavy tags on heavy baggage to warn baggage handlers (**90.4% agree**)

Improve staff scheduling to meet work demand (**82.2% agree**)

Improve quality of supervision (**76.4% agree**)

Improve maintenance of baggage handling equipment (**73.6% agree**)

PERCENT OF RAMP WORKERS SURVEYED THAT WORK IN HAZARDOUS BODY POSTURES



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO MAKE YOUR WORKPLACE SAFER?

Take A Micro-Break

Stretch and move around for 5-20 seconds

- Relieves muscle tension, loosens joints and increases blood flow

Change Posture or Activity

- Cargo-hold: switch from kneeling to squatting or sitting, switch with partner baggage handler from rear to front (and vice versa)

Get Help – Share the Load

- Rear Cargo-hold: You should never be alone!
- If you find yourself alone: Exit and get HELP from a Supervisor or another baggage handler
- If you cannot get help, do not throw/toss bags — work SAFE and slide bags 1 at a time (Ground Operations procedure)

Make your voice heard. Talk with your local Safety and Health Committee Reps so they can bring up your concerns at safety meetings. Keep helping promote safety awareness because the more we talk about safety the less we talk about injuries.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced on Jan. 25, that it has temporarily withdrawn its proposal to restore a column for work-related musculoskeletal disorders (MSD) on employer injury and illness logs, citing concerns from small businesses. The “MSD” column was included in the injury logs that OSHA required employers to fill out prior to 2001. Under the Bush administration, the column was eliminated. In announcing the decision to “temporarily withdraw” the proposed reinstatement of the MSD column, OSHA pointed to concerns of the small business community. However, businesses with 10 or less employees are not covered under the record-keeping rule, so this proposed change would not affect small business.

At TWU we know that a great number of our members in all divisions are affected by these work related injuries. As you can see from the study done last summer, MSDs take a tremendous toll on ramp workers. Employers may succeed in sweeping these injuries and the workers that they impact “under the rug,” but TWU will continue to fight to eliminate and prevent the hazardous conditions that cause these injuries. To learn more about what can be done to identify and prevent these hazards, contact the TWU Safety Department at EWatt@twu.org.



NEW HEALTH-CARE REFORMS FOR THE NEW YEAR

With the start of 2011, millions of Americans will benefit from several provisions of the historic healthcare reform bill that went into effect on Jan. 1, 2011 and are immediately making an impact on people's lives and increasing access to affordable quality care.

The provisions include reduced prescription drug costs for seniors, expanded preventative care programs and requirements on insurance companies to spend more money on providing health care.

Under the new rules, health insurance companies will now have to spend a larger portion of premiums, at least 80 percent, on actually providing care, rather than company profits and salaries.

Senior citizens will see lower prescription drug costs and expanded preventative care. Some people enrolled in Medicare will have lower prescription drug costs, from \$700 to \$1,800 annually, thanks to a provision that closes a controversial gap in coverage that required some seniors to pay full price for their medicine. A new rule will also provide free preventative health measures, such as cancer screenings, annual physical exams and personalized wellness plans.

The legislation also creates a system to issue federal grants to companies with less than 100 employees who institute wellness programs.

More aspects of the law are being phased in over time that will expand insurance coverage and reduce costs for hardworking Americans. Despite the benefits, Republicans have taken a cynical and partisan vote in the U.S. House of Representatives to repeal the law. With Democratic control of the Senate and the White House, the Republicans stand no chance of reversing the important measures to provide all Americans with decent and affordable health insurance.

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND BOARD MEETING



The International Executive Council and Board met on Feb. 1-2 in Las Vegas for its first meeting of 2011. The group reviewed TWU's activities and strategies for moving forward in the coming year.

The conference featured a guest presentation from Brian Turner of the Transportation Learning Center who addressed the Council and Board on the topic of "How Can Transit Be a Better Place to Work." Former Local 530 President Gordon Clark was honored at the meeting for his many years of leadership in the face of adversity.

DIVISION UPDATES:

Railroad Division

High-speed rail will generate new jobs and open the possibility to new organizing. Reported on ongoing efforts to promote the development of high-speed rail systems

that will create jobs and provide faster and more efficient travel.

Air Transport Division

Reported on the turbulent contract negotiations at American Airlines and the necessity of getting a contract. In organizing news, Allegiant Air Flight

Attendants voted to join with TWU and there are also two ongoing organizing campaigns at both Jet Blue and Virgin America.

Transit Division

Reported on new organizing victories including Rotem-Hyundai and the first contract negotiations underway there. The Transit Division reported on a number of contract updates as well as progress in potential new organizing leads. The TWU is continuing its work with fellow transit union the ATU to fight against cuts to public transit and is having a joint meeting in February.

Gaming Division

Ratified a historic contract for 600 dealers at Wynn Casino in Las Vegas and are currently in negotiations at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

Justice Delivered for UPS Workers in Turkey

After a 10-month long battle, the Turkish union TÜMTİS, affiliated with the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), has reached a settlement that puts workers back on the job at UPS in Turkey after being fired for union activity.

The TWU joined with unions around the world pressuring UPS to respect the rights of workers in Turkey. After 272 days on the picket line, the 163 workers finally got justice when they returned to their jobs on January 31, 2011. The workers received compensation, but the struggle still continues for

the workers who are organizing and trying to secure company recognition of their union in order to bargain a contract.



TWU rallies in New York during an international day of action to support the Turkish workers.

new year, **SAME RESOLUTION**

by *International
Secretary-Treasurer*
Joseph C. Gordon

When people ask about my New Year's resolution, I reply that in my

private life it may change from year to year, but as a union leader it's always the same: to make life a bit better for working men and women.

I like to think I've had some success at keeping that resolution and that the union movement has made a difference in people's lives. But it sure isn't getting any easier! Recent polls show that many Americans share my view.

The vast majority of American retirees see their children and grandchildren being unable to participate in the "American Dream" and afford retirement, according to a poll conducted by ProtectSeniors.org, in conjunction with former Chairman of the Richmond Federal Reserve Bank and former White House ERISA advisor, Dr. Thomas Mackell Jr.

Almost three quarters of poll participants said that they expect their children and grandchildren to have worse career and lifestyle opportunities than they enjoyed.

"This is a real tragedy," said Dr. Mackell. "In the past it was a given that children would enjoy better career and lifestyle opportunities than their parents. That chapter in American life appears to be ending."

Income statistics also paint a bleak picture, showing the widest rich-poor income gap on record. In 1965 the wealthiest households in America had a net worth 125 times greater than the median family's net worth, according to the Economic Policy Institute, and that gap expanded to 225 times in 2009. The income of the wealthiest people has grown explosively while working people have seen little growth. Between 1979 and 2005, house-

holds in the bottom fifth of the income bracket saw an income growth of \$200, while those at the top 0.1 percent pocketed a \$6 million increase.

Over 65 percent of respondents in the Mackell study replied "no" when asked if they thought their children would be able to afford retirement. Even more doubt their grandchildren will be able to afford retirement. Meanwhile, almost 90 percent said that they believe it will be more difficult for their children to live the "American Dream" and only 1.9 percent believed their grandchildren will have an easier time living that dream.

While shocking, these figures are understandable when we look at how hard it's

*My New Year's
Resolution:*
**TO MAKE LIFE A
BIT BETTER FOR
WORKING MEN
AND WOMEN.**

become for working families to stay afloat. Too many jobs have gone overseas and those that remain often don't pay a living wage. We tell our kids to go to college and then see them struggle to find jobs that use their education. In the meantime, college costs continue to rise as does rent, health care and the other essentials.

A generation ago, "competitiveness" was the big buzzword and was used as a sword against private sector workers.



Wages needed to be lower and hours longer if we were to compete in the global economy. Well, American workers are now among the most productive in the world, and still their jobs are sent to places where relative wages are even lower.

Now, fast forward to 2011 and the attack is on our public workers. We're told they make too much money and their benefits are too good. Quite frankly, it's the same old hokum and just another attempt to prevent workers from having a say in their economic lives.

So, what do we do? As a union leader, I'm making the same resolution this year: to work as hard as I can to represent our members at the bargaining table and in the political arena.

It's never been easy standing up for working people and it's a job that can't be done alone. That's why I call on all of you to fight with me this year to create a better future for our children and grandchildren.

TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

501 3rd Street NW, 9th Floor
Washington, DC 20001

Union Plus—helping TWU families get ahead.

College Edge

Education services for TWU members

GOING BACK TO SCHOOL?

SENDING YOUR CHILDREN TO COLLEGE?

Get an edge with education benefits from Union Plus that can help college dreams come true.



UNION PLUS SCHOLARSHIP

- \$150,000 in awards ranging from **\$500** to **\$4,000** are available annually to students attending college, trade or graduate schools.
- To apply, download an application at **UnionPlus.org/Scholarship**.

COLLEGE SAVING GRANT

- **\$500 grant** for union members who start a new 529 college savings plan for children under 12.
- For info and to apply visit **UnionPlus.org/CollegeSavings**.



COLLEGE PREP DISCOUNTS

- **Save 15-60%** on college prep courses from **The Princeton Review**.
- **Classroom, online and private tutoring** for the SAT®, ACT®, GMAT®, LSAT®, GRE®, MCAT®.
- To enroll or learn more **call 1-888-243-7737** or visit **UnionPlus.org/CollegePrep**.



EDUCATION REBATES

- Use your **Union Plus Credit Card** to purchase from an educational institution and receive money back. Details at **UnionPlus.org/EdRebate**

NLC SCHOLARSHIPS

- Union Plus Scholarships for **National Labor College** degree programs.
- NLC offers **unique online degree programs** tailor-made for full-time working men and women.
- To learn more about NLC programs call **1-888-427-8500** or visit **NLC.edu**.



For details about all the **education benefits** available to TWU members, visit:

UnionPlus.org/Education