





The TWU On the Frontlines

By International President John Samuelsen

"The TWU's #1 priority
is aggressively
defending the
livelihoods of our
members, and that
includes your health
and safety."

In my nearly three decades as a Trackworker, I've seen a countless number of brothers and sisters killed in the line of duty. But it pales in comparison to the loss of life I've witnessed among our membership to this brutal virus.

And what makes it even more horrific, is the fact that many of these deaths could have been prevented if state, cities and municipalities were more competent and less indifferent. When the COVID-19 pandemic started to spread across the US, the TWU and our sister unions had to fight tooth and nail to for proper PPE to protect us against this invisible killer. In many cities this fight is ongoing and far from over. Their blatant disregard for health and safety is shameful.

TWU members are the circulatory system for other essential workers in the war against COVID-19. Without transport workers, society's ability to defend against the virus would be crippled. Workers must be given the proper PPE to prevent the spread of COVID-19. One would think it's a no-brainer, but many bosses don't see it that way. In fact, in nearly every one of our cities, and at nearly every one of our employers, TWU members are only getting the PPE because the union fought it out.

It's that same fighting spirit that brought us to such a great victory with the American Airlines contract. We refused to give in to the company's demands for concessions, and because we had the audacity to resist, our members now have an industry-leading contract with wage and benefit increases across the board. Most importantly we beat back AA's main demand, the offshoring of our aircraft maintenance. Defending our scope protections by stopping the offshoring of aircraft maintenance to foreign countries is something no other union has accomplished, and we should be extremely proud. We defended our jobs and we defended the safety of the American Airline's passengers.

Our new TWU never stops moving forward. We're continuing our efforts to organize rideshare workers in California. Our bikeshare unit is growing. We're supporting several locals in contract fights and we are making real progress negotiating our inaugural contract with JetBlue InFlight Crewmembers.

The TWU's #1 priority is aggressively defending the livelihoods of our members, and that includes your health and safety. Don't let the bosses bully you into working unsafe. They don't care about you or your family, only about their profit margin.

In these unprecedented times, the TWU International is working nonstop with our local unions to assist them in any way we can. By the grace of God, the pandemic will cease and some level of normality will be restored.

A handwritten signature of John Samuelsen in black ink.



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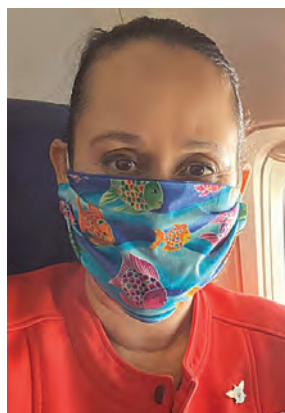
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Heroes in the Face of Pandemic

*By International Secretary-Treasurer
Jerome Lafragola*

As states issue stay-home orders to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and the whole world seems to grind to a halt, so many TWU members still get up each day, go to work and perform their craft.

Ninety-five percent of TWU members are deemed essential workers. Our public transit workers serve as a circulatory system for other frontline workers, ensuring doctors, nurses, pharmacists, police, firefighters, grocery store clerks and other heroes get to and from their jobs safely. And so do our railroad workers, flight attendants, mechanics, fleet service workers, universities, utilities, and Port Authority workers...the list goes on.

Unfortunately, certain TWU members are experiencing devastating layoffs and furloughs. This is particularly true for workers in school districts, including drivers, assistants, cafeteria workers, etc. It's important to note that a number of these workers are preparing and delivering much needed meals to families. With so much uncertainty about how long the COVID-19 crisis will last, it makes the situation that much harder.

Even though we've experienced an unbearable amount of loss, the TWU is strong and fighting. The TWU International has been assisting locals to obtain the proper PPE they need. Our members were being denied PPE on the job, creating deadly situations for both workers and passengers. The TWU worked with local leaderships to develop strategic fightback campaigns in cities like Philadelphia, New York, Columbus and Miami. Now TWU members are receiving the masks, gloves, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes they need to prevent spreading COVID-19.

When certain employers across the country wouldn't provide PPE to our members, the TWU put together an internal committee to buy as much PPE as was available and systematically distributed it to our own. In turn, this caused certain employers and agencies embarrassment, and only then did they start providing proper levels of PPE.

Because all TWU campaigns are multi-pronged, we sent letters to multiple government agencies and companies, including but not limited to the Federal Transit Administration, the US Department of Transportation and Southwest Airlines, and are collaborating with other unions – such as the Amalgamated Transit Union – to require safe working conditions on the job.

Each state, city and municipality has different regulations when it comes to health and safety. That's why the TWU is demanding a nationwide standard to protect workers' lives and ensure everyone comes home safely to their families.

In these tumultuous times, it's important as union sisters and brothers to find ways to support each other. I believe in the TWU family, and even if we must remain six feet apart, we can still work closely together to fight back against employers who aren't doing enough to protect our members.

Rest assured, we will get through this crisis. In the meantime, we will mourn for those who died tragically and fight tirelessly for the living.

I hope you and your families stay healthy and safe.
United Invincible.



*"Even if we must
remain six feet apart,
we can still work
closely together to
fight back against
employers who aren't
doing enough to
protect our members."*

IN MEMORIAM



McMahon at DCA with colleagues.

Remembering Brian McMahon

"It is with deep respect and admiration we at the Air Division say goodbye to Brian, a man who was proud of his family, his work, and his union. We'll miss you brother."

—TWU Air Division Systems Coordinator and International Vice President Gary Peterson

In November, TWU Local 591 member and DCA Station Chairman Brian McMahon lost his life to cancer. While Brian may not have been known by a large number of members outside Washington D.C., he was a longtime union representative working for TWU members employed by American Airlines, including participation in past negotiations.

Unfortunately, about a year ago, Brian was diagnosed with cancer, which ultimately caused him to step away from working at American Airlines. But his dedication as a union member and representative never wavered, and he listened into the Local 591 weekly call until his passing.

"It is with deep respect and admiration we at the Air Division say goodbye to Brian, a man who was proud of his family, his work, and his union," said TWU Air Division Systems Coordinator and International Vice President Gary Peterson. "We'll miss you brother."



McMahon at DCA with the old chrome planes - the first airplanes he worked on when joining American Airlines in 1985.

TWU Members Ratify Industry Lead

Outsourcing Stopped, Major Salary Increases

On March 26, over 20,000 members of the TWU voted overwhelmingly to approve new contracts with American Airlines by the following margins:

- Mechanic & Related: 90.94%
- Fleet Service: 95.45%
- MLS/Stores: 92.12%

The \$4.2 billion deals provide the best wages, benefits, working conditions, and outsourcing protections in the airline industry. These are unprecedented gains during a time of economic upheaval.

The hard-fought contract was painstakingly negotiated for more than half a decade by the TWU-IAM Association and American Airlines. Unparalleled wins include:

- Steps will be taken for outsourced aircraft maintenance work

to be brought back in-house, paving the way for thousands of new Transport Workers Union jobs.

- Aircraft maintenance work will be limited from being offshored to foreign countries, increasing the level of safety on passenger aircraft.
- TWU members receive industry-leading salaries; and double the number of holidays and sick days.

"This contract is among the TWU's most hard-fought and impressive victories. It provides our members with well-deserved, industry-leading wages and benefits, it also makes air travel safer for the flying public by limiting the amount of aircraft maintenance done overseas – something no other union has succeeded in doing," said International President John Samuelson. "It's a prime example



ing Contract at American Airlines

of what workers can achieve when they have the willingness to stand together and collectively fight back. If we fight, we can win – and this was a massive fight and we absolutely won.”

“This may be one of my proudest moments as a TWU member in a leadership role. This was a very long and difficult road for

“This contract is among the TWU’s most hard-fought and impressive victories.”

our members and now we finally have the contract we have been working so hard towards,” said TWU International Executive Vice President and TWU-IAM Association Vice Chair Alex Garcia.

“I hope this industry-leading contract sets a precedent for future generations, so our hardworking, dedicated members can earn the benefits they deserve, and the flying public will remain safe.”

“Our members waited patiently for way too long for this contract and the TWU Air Division sacrificed countless hours at the negotiating table, but it was all worth it,” said Air Division Director Mike Mayes. “The TWU is leading the way, ensuring stable livelihoods for all workers, and this contract is a step forward for everyone.”

The five joint collective bargaining agreements cover workers in these areas: Mechanic & Related, Fleet Service, Maintenance Control, MLS/Stores and Maintenance Training Specialist members. The contracts were negotiated by the TWU-IAM Association, which was formed after the merger of American Airlines and US Airways.





TWU Members Are the Frontline

This is a rapidly changing situation and all information was current as this issue went to press. For the most updated info, please visit www.twu.org.

As we battle the COVID-19 pandemic, TWU members face unparalleled public health and economic crises. Ninety-five percent of TWU members are deemed “essential workers”, on the frontlines, working heroically to keep transit systems, airlines, railroads, and other employers moving, while putting their own health at risk. School bus crews, mechanics, maintenance, custodians – all members are stepping up to the plate and making sacrifices. Others are facing layoffs and furloughs as travel grinds to a halt, and schools and businesses are shuttered.

Dozens of TWU members have been killed in the line of duty by this pandemic and thousands more are sick or possibly infected. The TWU leadership and staff are doing everything possible to help mitigate the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on our members

and their families. International President John Samuelson gives weekly video updates and the website www.twu.org/covid-resources is updated regularly, as well as the TWU’s Twitter, Facebook and Instagram pages.

Many states, cities, municipalities, along with agencies and companies, are refusing to provide proper personal protective equipment (PPE) to prevent the spread of COVID-19. After hearing concerns from locals, the International stepped in to ensure that our members and riders were being properly protected.

TWU International has delivered masks, gloves, sanitizer and other PPE to locals in all divisions, nationwide. Locals throughout the country requested and received PPE directly from the International.

Here are some stories out of our locals.



Local 234

“I’m choosing life over death,” said Local 234 President Willie Brown as he threatened a job action for April 23, because SEPTA refused to provide proper PPE.

Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney stepped in at the eleventh hour, promising to meet the union’s demands. SEPTA has complied.

Local 291

Miami has been one of the least responsive cities to this crisis, providing Local 291 Bus Operators with only a single Clorox wipe to use each day. Because fundamental safety and health needs were



repeatedly ignored, Local 291 President Jeff Mitchell threatened to sue Miami-Dade County Transit at a press conference.

Mitchell did numerous radio and news interviews to expose the Transit Authority and its Director, Alice Bravo, for their inability to supply the proper PPE. He met with County Commissioners who have acquired and donated a limited supply of gloves and masks to the local to distribute to the members. U.S. Rep. Debbie Mucarsel-Powell also donated 2,800 N95 masks to the local at a press conference held by Mitchell. Bus operators are also experiencing severe overcrowding on the buses, putting our members in grave danger. The commissioners are also pressuring the transit authority protect our members.

After the local aired their concerns publicly and threatened to sue N95 masks began to appear suddenly, as if by magic. But the TWU is keeping the fire turned on with the Ride Not Die campaign. Visit ridenotdie.com for more.

Local 1400

After many weeks of Local 1400 urging the Port Authority of NY & NJ to provide our First Responders with N95 masks and proper PPE, they finally made this vital equipment available to our members stationed at the Lincoln Tunnel, Holland Tunnel and George Washington Bridge. Additionally, this ensured that essential workers at the Port Authority Bus Terminal, LaGuardia, Newark and John F. Kennedy airports received surgical masks and proper PPE.

“With assistance from the TWU, the local was able to mail every member a safety package including N95 masks, surgical masks and gloves,” said Local 1400 Vice President Patrick J. Reynolds.



Heroes of the COVID-19 Battle



Local 222 – Longtime member Marvin Griggs.

Local 2054 – Dave Duffley and Tyler Gwin disinfect Acela trains.



Local 2014 – Local 2014 members on the job with PPE in Chicago.



Local 2001

Local 2001 members are essential workers, helping to move essential goods across the country. Some work for CSX Railroad. Pictured are Glen Botrato, who works in the CSX South Kearny Intermodal yard in New Jersey. Others work for Amtrak and



MetroNorth. Pictured are Sherry Hamid and Jesus Chavez from Grand Central Terminal (GCT).

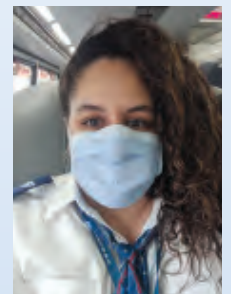
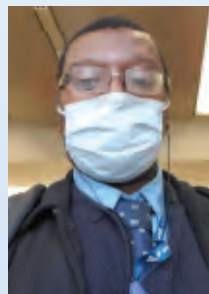
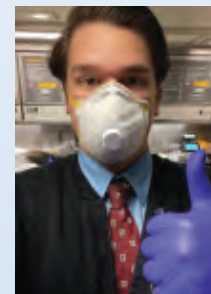
Local 2003

Pictured are members from Local 2003, who serve as coach cleaners disinfecting cars in the Amtrak Shop in Beech Grove, IN: Angela Garland, pink shirt and Chris Patrick, green gloves.



Local 1460

Local 1460 members serve as onboard service workers on Amtrak trains. Because ridership has plummeted, they are able to practice social distancing and have been provided the proper PPE. Pictured are Kevin George on Train 173; Eddie Covert, an en route cleaner and Jasmine Ponton, a service attendant on Train 173.





Local 241

Columbia University threatened to reassign some members of the custodial department at Local 241 to clean New York Presbyterian Hospital – a facility they are not required to work in according to their contract – and planned only to provide the “bare minimum” of PPE required by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The University wanted them to work in areas of New York Presbyterian Hospital used by doctors, patients and the general public, which would put TWU members directly in the pathway of COVID-19. On top of that, TWU Local 241 members are not trained to perform their work in this type of facility.

The threat to local members was very personal, as one member of the local had already passed away due to the virus when the university issued its demands.

Local 241 informed Columbia University they would not work without proper PPE via a press release, “Columbia University to Local 241: Drop Dead”, which caught the attention of the university’s students.

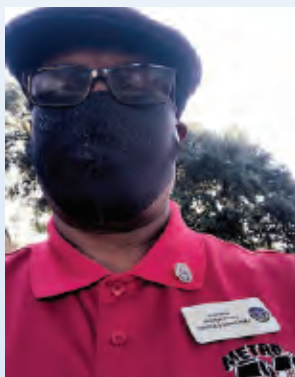
Because of combined pressure from the local and International, the university backed down, and provided proper PPE and training. No additional issues have been reported as this issue went to press.



Local 260

“Don’t let the bright skies in Texas fool you, this pandemic is real. And like with any other crisis or emergency, it is our members who are on the front lines. I’m proud of our TWU members who put fears aside to move America,” said Local 260 President Horace J. Marves, Houston, TX.

First responders pictured above on duty at the Kashmere Transit Center in Houston. (L-R) Union Steward Shelia Owens, Kashmere BOF; Operator B. Perkins, Kashmere BOF; and Union Steward Daniel Randell, Kashmere BOF with their PPE in place to fight the spread of the coronavirus.



Local 261

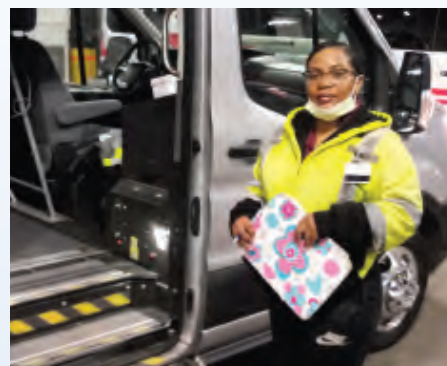
“Hello TWU brothers and sisters. Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, I pray that each family continues to practice safe distancing, washing of hands, wearing a mask and sanitizing your surroundings. The TWU strives for perfection and getting the job done together, and we will rise. Peace and blessings, stay safe!!” said TWU Local 261 President Bedennia Barnes, Houston, TX.



Stephanie Pardue disinfects her vehicle.

Local 212

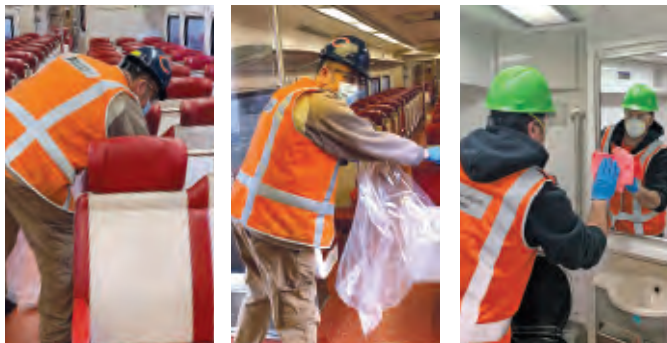
“Local 212 drivers cleaning and sanitizing during COVID-19 and are continuing to service our ADA ridership!” said Local 212 President Marvin Mallory, based in Columbus.



Robin Robinson wears PPE to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus.



Tomara Abner cleans her vehicle to prevent the spread of COVID-19

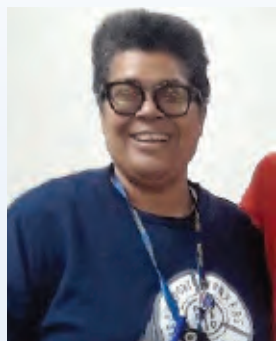


Local 2055

Coach cleaner and Local 2055 Executive Board Officer Nick Pascale and Local 2055 Secretary-Treasurer Gary Criscuolo disinfecting a train in New Haven, CT.

Local 250A

"Now that our essential frontline union members have finally been issued some PPE, we are now better equipped to provide essential services. However, the struggle for safer working conditions is far from over," said Local 250A President Roger Marenco, San Francisco, CA.



Local 262

"Our prayers and thoughts are with our TWU sisters and brothers across the country. We're in this thing together, stay safe!!" said TWU Local 262 President Lisa Walton, Houston, TX.

Local 200

"In safety and solidarity, Local 200 would like to extend well wishes to all TWU families across the country. While we all work hard to continue to keep this country moving during this pandemic, remember stay strong and be safe," said TWU Local 200 President Jasmin Charles, San Francisco, CA. (L-R) Sec/Tres. Jose Alvarez, President Jasmin Charles and Member-at-Large Thomas McQueen.



Local 265

"Hello from Conroe ISD Transportation. Stay strong and be safe, sisters and brothers," President Venesta Davis, Conroe, TX.



Venesta Davis

Local 556

Local 556 members are creating their own PPE, since Southwest Airlines refused to provide its own. Pictured is Local 556 member Gisela Alvarez.



Gisela Alvarez

Local 550, 556, 557

Southwest Airlines is faring well during the pandemic, boasting billions in profits thanks to a government bailout. But too much is never enough for CEO Gary Kelly, who requested that TWU Locals 550, 556 and 557 open and/or negotiate concessions into our members' contracts.

The TWU immediately responded with a letter, "While we certainly understand that Southwest management wants to explore how the company moves forward, the TWU has no interest in regressing from our current negotiated contracts. We have no interest in concessions. We have fought for years to improve our members' livelihoods and we will robustly continue to do so."

The following week in a video, Kelly accused the union of breaching a confidentiality agreement by sending the letter. He also claimed he never asked for concessions and urged workers to fight for their livelihoods. The TWU couldn't have given better advice. See page 27 for details.

Local 555 Members – Wearing Intl' Provided PPE





Locals 501, 570, 591

Because New York City currently has the highest number of COVID-19 cases in the country, TWU members at Locals 501, 570 and 591, based at JFK and LaGuardia Airports, will partially stay home with pay during the pandemic.

Members of TWU International leadership were instrumental in securing these victories after members voiced concerns to local leadership.

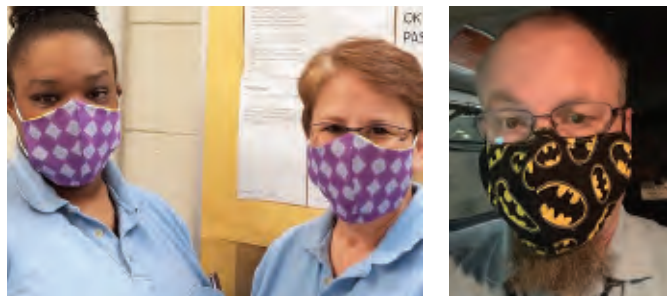
Local 289

Local 289 members are school bus drivers, cafeteria workers, custodians and school maintenance workers in the Upper Darby School District in Pennsylvania. During the pandemic, they are delivering meals to students.



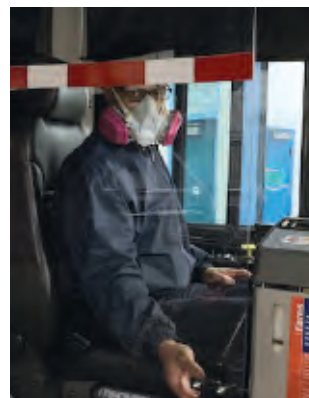
Local 223

Local 223 members in Omaha are sporting masks homemade by the Fashion Institute of the Midwest – which donated 200 to the local after a student saw a Facebook post and reached out. Metro has also provided members with masks, as well as bungee cords to put across the aisles of the buses, hand sanitizer and hazard pay.



Local 171

Local 171 members in Ann Arbor, MI, are prepared with PPE. Management complied when the local asked for shields to act as a barrier to be installed on buses to protect and separate operators from passengers.



Local 220

Pictured below are cafeteria workers at Sodexo, a food service company servicing public schools.

Local 220, based in Brick, NJ, also represents the township's EMS workers and mechanics.





Local 229

Private companies have responded miserably to this crisis compared to public agencies – and Hudson Bergen Light Rail (HBLR) is one of the worst offenders.

Before the International got involved, Local 229 members were not being given any kind of PPE, while being forced to work in deadly conditions on un-sanitized vehicles. As this issue went to press, there were two members of Local 229 diagnosed with COVID-19 and several in quarantine due to exposure, and the International is fighting for their paid leave.

After President Samuelsen threatened an aggressive job action in the press, HBLR executives, New Jersey Transit, and Governor Murphy's office became involved. As a result, members are now given a mask and gloves upon request, and the employer has made sanitizing wipes and hand sanitizer more readily available. Vehicles are also being sanitized and disinfected more often.

Local 252

With nationwide school closures resulting from COVID-19, many children who rely on school for breakfast and lunch have been unable to receive the food they need. However, TWU Local 252 members stepped in and have been delivering food five days a week to the children and families of the William Floyd School District on Long Island since March 16. This will continue until the schools are reopened.

There are about 55 drivers from First Student Bus Company who work in teams of two to make between 120-200 meal deliveries a day, per bus, as safely and efficiently as possible for everyone.

"The reaction from the community has been one of immense gratitude in this very difficult time," said Local 252 President Debra



Hagan. "These caring, selfless drivers have received thank you cards from members of the community as well as many positive posts on social media."

Local 239

When the Richmond County (Georgia) school system shut down and the Student Meal Program began on March 18, members of TWU Local 239 served the community's students breakfast and lunch on school buses – without any PPE or following any CDC guidelines.

In the first two weeks, two Bus Operators reported COVID-19 symptoms, with only one confirmed.

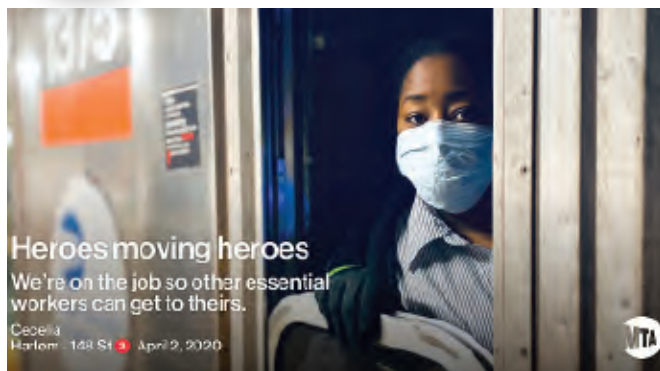
Local 239 contacted the director, senior director, and the school superintendent to let them know of these life-threatening issues. Still, the Local did not receive PPE until April 14. Even then, they were asked to spray the masks they received with disinfectant for repeated use. Members eventually received gloves, shared hand sanitizer and a germicide spray for our school buses. To try to fill the gap, the International sent a shipment of masks.

"Thankfully, the confirmed driver is on the mend, and the continuance of PPE supplies and the following of CDC guidelines were promised through the end of the meal program, scheduled for May 22," said Local 239 Co-Vice President Yolanda T. Brown, thanking International Rep Theotis James for his assistance.

Local 101

Local 101 has 11,700 members continuing to work despite the COVID-19 pandemic and 16 members of the local had tested positive for the virus as this issue went to press. Utility workers at National Grid in New York have taken a number of additional safety precautions, including taking separate vehicles to the work site, operating on A and B schedules with a week off in between, and remote work for customer service, clerical, and collections workers.

"I'm extremely proud of all of you and I'm glad you are getting the attention and praise you deserve," said Local 101 President Constance Bradley. "Because of you, millions of people are able to heat their homes, keep the lights on and cook for their families."



– with at least 70 members having lost their lives as this issue went to press.

The union got the MTA to agree to pay each victim's family \$500,000 – an agreement that also includes members of TWU Locals 106, 2001 and 2055.

Local 100

Throughout this crisis, TWU Local 100 members demanded more protective equipment and stringent measures in the fight against COVID-19. The MTA was slow to provide masks and other protective equipment, but they are now distributing supplies, after lots of pressure by International President Samuelson.

However, the distribution throughout the massive system can be spotty at times. The union successfully advocated for a number of changes, including rear-door boarding of buses, elimination of nearly all cash transactions at Station Agent Booths, increased cleaning and disinfecting of worker facilities and work sites, including subway train cabs, protective face shields for Conductors, and expedited testing of workers.

TWU Local 100 members are heroes, getting essential workers like nurses, firefighters, supermarket workers and home healthcare aides to their jobs. Local 100 has suffered the most during this crisis



Solidarity from South America

Argentina

Joaquin Garcia, a SUBTE transit union member from Buenos Aires, wore a TWU Local 100 handkerchief, as a sign of solidarity while preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Venezuela

On April 9, Francisco Torrealba, President of the Bolivarian Federation of Transport Workers of Venezuela (FBTTT), sent a letter to TWU members, expressing their solidarity during this pandemic. The letter was sent after 41 MTA workers lost their lives to the virus.

"[The FBTTT] expresses its deepest condolences and regret for this loss and send its hopes for those workers so they get better soon. We understand the unique times that our workers, organizations and countries are living through, especially New Yorkers at this moment," Torrealba wrote. "We would also like to express our complete solidarity with every transportation worker; they are brave souls working tirelessly to help their fellow citizens. Please rest assured that you can count on us during these difficult times."

Joaquin Garcia, a SUBTE transit union member from Buenos Aires

TWU Honors Dr. King

TWU members across the country traveled to Washington, DC Jan. 17-20 to take part in the AFL-CIO's Martin Luther King Jr. Civil Rights Conference 2020. Members from divisions spent the weekend volunteering and attending "Give Us the Ballot" political bootcamp.



MEMBERS IN ACTION



Garcia, Mayes, Swear in Local 513 Executive Board

On Monday, February 24, International Executive Vice President Alex Garcia and Air Division Director Mike Mayes swore in members of Local 513's Executive Board in Texas.

"I think it's a privilege to be part of something that can seem so run-of-the-mill, but actually is a crucial part of our union's future," Garcia said. "I congratulate Local 513's new Executive Board and wish them the best of luck. The International will be here to support any way we can."

New President Greg Cosey said, "It's a huge honor to represent members in this capacity and I am completely excited and looking forward to the next three years. From a local standpoint, we have some things we have to work on: We need to be more visible to members and responsive to their needs; that's one of the biggest challenges."

Treasurer Darrel Kizer said he was looking forward to his fourth term.

"It's always a great honor to be part of a great organization I believe in. It's humbling," he said. "Members simply being who they are makes this job great. We go through our ups and downs, but we are a family and we always go through it together."



Rallying for PRO Act

On Jan. 9, TWU members joined a Communication Workers of America rally in support of the Protecting the Right to Organize Act in Florida.

Local 229 New Officers

International Rep Carl Martin swears in new officers for Local 229 in January: Duane Boone, Vice President, Maintenance of Way and Christopher Rotondo, Executive Board, Maintenance of Way.



MEMBERS IN ACTION



Local 100 Members Front and Center at Super Bowl Parade

Believe it or not, TWU Local 100 members played a key role in the Super Bowl Champions parade in Kansas City.

It turns out that the parade organizers' contract with Big Bus Chicago is for 10 open top buses to carry the victorious Kansas City Chiefs players and coaches and

families. TWU Local 100 members are the Operators, and union tour guides rode up top with the players and families for safety purposes. The TWU International has organized Big Bus in New York, Chicago and other big cities over the past couple of years.

Local 260

Members of Local 260 and International Rep Jose Cruz, with U.S. Senate candidate M.J. Hegar in mid-January in Texas.



Local 571 Swearing In

International Rep Jose Galarza swears in members of Local 571's Executive Board in Chicago on Jan. 6.

Local 504 Swearing In

International President John Samuelsen, Air Division Director Mike Mayes, Local 504 Ex. Vice President Robert Payne, Local 504 Vice President Oscar Gonzalez, Local 504 Financial Sec. Treasurer Monteith Charles, Local 504 President Richard Boehm, International Representative Kevin Smith, and Local 504 Executive Board Members: Efrain Santibanez, Leonard Smack, Paul Reid, Kerrie Maeha and Eric Pfeiffer.





TWU Staff in San Juan

TWU International Staff and Officers at the conclusion of the IEC & B meeting in San Juan on Feb. 12.

New TWU Executive Board Members Sworn In

At the Winter IEC & B meeting in San Juan, International Secretary-Treasurer Jerome Lafragola swore in new members of the TWU Executive Board: Jenny Schar, Christina Scott, Greg Cosey, Patrick Howard, Brian Pollitt and Grigoriy Dunichev. Gary Shaible was sworn in by International Executive Vice President Alex Garcia later that month.



Solidarity with APA

On Jan. 29, TWU Air Division members picketed outside DFW Airport in solidarity with the Allied Pilots Association (APA) in their fight for a fair contract with American Airlines.





Gwen York speaking at the 25th Constitutional Convention

Day of Service to Commemorate Gwen York

On Feb. 14, TWU members held a day of service to commemorate former TWU International COPE Director Gwen York two years after her passing.

Members of Gwen's family, including her daughter, Alyson Reed and sister Wanda Goode; childhood friend and Southwest Airlines Flight Attendant Beverly Cross, and fellow TWU Local 556 members, including members

of the TWU Local 556 Executive Board, traveled to Trusted World in Garland, TX.

Trusted World provides resources including clothing, food, and toiletries to schools, police departments, and non-profit agencies at no cost. Volunteers spent the day sorting items in the warehouse so that they could be distributed to those in need.



TWU Goes on Tour with Powered

The TWU International went on tour this winter with a grassroots political training program, Powered Up!

Powered Up! provides TWU members with training so they can become political activists in their states and within their workplaces. Power structures in the U.S. have steadily shifted against labor unions and the working class for decades - and more than ever we need to be prepared.

Activists in training heard from TWU Government Affairs and COPE department staff, as well as experts on best practices in communicating effectively with members using modern day technology. The goal of the training was to activate members to be more involved in their communities and states in order to bolster more organizing drives and issue-based campaigns.

Two-day trainings took place in the North, South, and East.

The training scheduled for the West in Southlake, TX, hosted by Local 513, March 16-18, was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

During the first day of each conference, members shared their stories and reasons for becoming involved in their local, discussed member-to-member organizing approaches, and heard presentations from International staff on legislative and political organizing. To close out the day, they discussed how to build their own Powered Up! campaign from scratch.

The second day featured presentations from the TWU COPE Department and State Conferences, as well as a presentation from the International's Communications Department on social media best practices, and tips on holding a press event and building relationships with the media.



West - El Segundo – Powered Up! West took place in El Segundo, CA, hosted by Local 502, January 13-15. The intimate and sunny training featured a special presentation on building and mobilizing worker power from Chloe Osmer, Organizing Director for the LA Central Labor Council.

Up! Grassroots Political Training



Patrick Flannery, Angelo Cucuzza, Elizabeth Crowley and Steve Hamm



Councilmember Justin Brannan

North – Brooklyn – Powered Up! North took place in Brooklyn, NY, hosted by Local 100, February 3-5. Councilmember Justin Brannan talked with members about the importance of public transit within all neighborhoods of New York City. Queens Borough President candidate Elizabeth Crowley spoke with members about her fight for transportation funding for Queens and the importance of a transportation system that works for everyone. She also received an endorsement from the New York/New Jersey State Conference.



South – Philadelphia – Powered Up! South took place in Philadelphia, PA, hosted by Local 234, February 17-19. Councilmember Curtis Jones Jr. emphasized that his first endorsement was from TWU Local 234 and how he's been a strong advocate for job protection and wage increases during their collective bargaining negotiations.



Local 234 Executive Vice President Brian Pollitt, Councilmember Curtis Jones Jr. and Local 234 President Willie Brown

TWU 'Member Moment'

Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-1)

The TWU has champions fighting for workers in every state around the country. Elected Members of the U.S. Congress and state legislatures have your back in our nation's capitols, yet most of these allies remain unknown outside of their home districts. To help you get to know these compatriots better, the TWU Express is featuring a new recurring section called "Member Moments," which will give you a personal view of some of our union's greatest friends in positions of power around the country.

This issue features an interview with U.S. Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), who represents Bucks County and a portion of northwestern Montgomery County in Pennsylvania. In the 116th Congress, Rep. Fitzpatrick is a member of the Foreign Affairs and Transportation and Infrastructure committees; the founding member of the Congressional Citizen Legislature Caucus, a bipartisan group of lawmakers committed to fighting for term limits and Congressional reforms; and a member of the No Labels 'Problem Solver Caucus.'

Q1: Since coming to Congress, you have been one of the most vocal supporters of working families – championing labor rights, raising the bar for workplace safety, and supporting organizing drives to increase union membership. What does the Labor movement mean to you?



Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick

A: Protecting the rights of our workers means protecting the backbone of America, the middle class. The Labor movement means standing up for the little guy who plays by the rules and is trying to make a better life for their own family. Everyone has the right to a fair wage and safe working conditions, whether they work in a factory, office, or coal mines. Unions put workers first, and workers benefit from a union presence in their workplace.

Q2: Your district and the entire country are facing serious infrastructure challenges. What do you believe we need to do to address these important problems?

A: Every aspect of our infrastructure desperately needs to be improved...roads, bridges, transit systems, airports and

railroad networks. Through my service on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I have advocated for the workers who build and maintain our infrastructure systems. The solution is to pass a major infrastructure package with defined and stable sources of revenue. For every dollar we invest in infrastructure, our economy sees an exponential return.

Q3: You've found success moving legislation in both Republican-controlled and Democratic-controlled Congresses. What approach have you taken that's allowed you to be such an effective representative for your constituents?

A: My district is made up of all of Bucks County, and part of Montgomery County, in the suburbs of Philadelphia. I was born and raised in this community. My constituents are my family, friends and neighbors, so fighting for them is easy. I think that advocating for your constituents is much easier and more impactful when you have known many of them for your entire life. I think my colleagues recognize this, and they understand how passionate I am about the priorities of my constituents and look beyond the party politics. As Vice Chair of the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus, I've put a heavy emphasis on working with Republicans and Democrats to promote commonsense solutions to kitchen table issues.



The TWU was in the house!

TWU Supports Presidential Candidate Forum in Vegas

On Feb. 16, the TWU supported United for Infrastructure's Presidential Candidate Forum at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Then-candidates Pete Buttigieg, Amy Klobuchar, Tom Steyer and Vice President Joe Biden answered questions about the future of our nation's infrastructure and transportation systems. The forum was livestreamed on CSPAN.

International President John Samuelsen attended and spoke with

several members of the press. TWU State Conference members were out in full force, including New York/New Jersey; DC/Maryland/Virginia; Arizona/Colorado/Nevada/New Mexico and California, as well as members from TWU Local 556, and 577.

Local 577 President Joe Mayfield appeared on the local Fox News channel, discussing issues that matter to his members.



State Conference Chairs Damion West, Angelo Cucuzza, Klarissa Principe and Matt Hettich



President Samuelsen speaks with the media



Local 577 President Joe Mayfield speaks with a local news channel

RDU, TWU Protest in LA & San Francisco

On April 16, Rideshare Drivers United (RDU) and the TWU held a protest between the California Employment Development Department offices and the California Labor Commission's offices, in both Los Angeles and San Francisco, simultaneously.

Uber and Lyft drivers caravanned around the offices, demanding that California enforce AB 5 legislation so drivers can become eligible for expedited unemployment insurance, and so Uber and Lyft give drivers the backpay they are owed.

On behalf of more than 2,500 Uber and Lyft drivers across California, protestors demanded the upwards of \$600 million in back wages, business expenses, and damages that have already been generated through RDU's online wage claim form.



In Memoriam: Austina Wyannie Sajery

With great sorrow, the TWU memorializes Austina Wyannie Sajery, a Capital Bikeshare employee who passed away on January 17.

Austina was a bikeshare worker for four years, starting as a Station Valet and working her way up to Dispatcher. Her sudden death was felt throughout the shop floor. She was a vibrant and respected member of our Capital Bikeshare and TWU family.

Fellow union members shared what she meant to them.

"Austina and her fun energy always greeted me when I got back to the warehouse after a day's work. She was creative. She was a very vibrant person, always willing to talk to anyone and ask them about their day. She was very relatable, very artistic, [and] talented when it comes to drawing. She was always very excited about everything. I never saw her in a bad mood. Having her always talk to people was very awesome. She was positive energy in any kind of group she was in," said Chris Peña, Field Bike Mechanic.



"She had a really warm heart," said James Martin, Service Department.

"Austina was one of the first people to make me feel welcomed at work because she treated me like a friend upon our first interaction. I thought she was so cool because she was in a punk rock band. I already miss

her presence in the warehouse," said Heather Hunter-Nickels, Recording Secretary.

Immokalee Water and Sewer District Workers Could be Newest TWU Members

Immokalee Water and Sewer District workers in Immokalee, FL were voting via mail ballot for representation by the TWU as this issue went to press.

TWU International Organizing Director Steve Roberts and Assistant Organizing Director Sean Doyle started organizing the Southern Florida utility workers in late 2019. The election was switched to voting via mail ballot after the COVID-19 pandemic broke in March. Ballots were mailed to workers in April and were counted on May 13.

"We are cautiously optimistic that the TWU will win this election," Roberts said. "We have a very good and dedicated in-house committee, working hard to get out the vote."



Bike Share Visits Capitol Hill

On January 22, TWU bike share members met with the Committee on Education and Labor on Capitol Hill to discuss working conditions, ongoing contract negotiations and their relations with their employer Lyft/Motivate.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATES

TWU Secures Pro-Worker Coronavirus Relief Bills

TWU leadership and staff engaged directly with U.S. Congress and the Administration to ensure that transportation workers' health, livelihood, and security were at the forefront of any coronavirus response. Over three weeks in March, the House and Senate passed three significant pieces of legislation to combat the coronavirus pandemic.

Phase 1: Research and Public Health

On March 3, the President signed into law \$8.3 billion in spending on vaccine research and public health initiatives. This money, appropriated before the virus was recognized as a pandemic, was immediately put into transmission prevention measures and longer-term research on a vaccine.

Phase 2: Addressing Immediate Concerns

The *Families First Coronavirus Response Act* became law on March 18 and included several important wins for the TWU. The bill entitles public sector workers to paid leave if they have been quarantined because of COVID-19 or if they are caring for someone who has been quarantined because of the virus (including parents who need to watch their children due to school closures). The bill also significantly increased the resources available to state unemployment agencies to process claims from workers out of work due to the virus.

Phase 3: Stabilizing the Economy

The largest economic stimulus package in U.S. history became law on April 3. The *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* is pumping \$2.2 trillion into the economy to keep workers employed and the country running. The bill included:

- \$25 billion for transit
- \$60 billion for airlines and airline contractors (split evenly between loans and grants)
- \$1 billion for Amtrak

Additionally, this money came with strong worker protections. Airlines who accept grant money cannot furlough workers or reduce pay or benefits. Transit agencies cannot waive labor protections during the pandemic. And Amtrak must prioritize keeping workers employed. Taken together, these measures represent a huge shift in focus compared to previous government aid bills.

The CARES Act makes workers, not corporations, the priority for federal funds and guarantees that federal money will reach TWU members' bank accounts.

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TWU-IAM Ratifies New Contracts at American Airlines

On March 26, the TWU-IAM Association announced its American Airlines membership overwhelmingly ratified contracts covering more than 30,000 Mechanic & Related (including Maintenance Control Technicians & Maintenance Training Specialists), Fleet Service and Material Logistics Specialists/Stores members.

Percent Voting Yes:

- Mechanic & Related: 90.94%
- Fleet Service: 95.45%
- MLS/Stores: 92.12%

"The resounding approval of these contracts yet again proves that by standing together and demonstrating our solidarity and



determination, we are able to achieve contracts our members deserve," said Association Chair Sito Pantoja and Vice Chair Alex Garcia. "It is that same resolve that will get us through this unprecedented crisis facing our airline, our industry and our country."

For more details, see page 6.

JetBlue Negotiations & COVID-19 Update

With the development of the COVID-19 pandemic, the TWU has been working with JetBlue management to ensure that Inflight Crew Members (IFCs) are provided the safest possible workspace at home. The TWU is negotiating its inaugural contract with JetBlue on behalf of more than 5,000 IFCs.

At the recommendation of the union, management has agreed to allow IFCs to wear masks and gloves, limit refreshment service, implement more frequent aircraft cleaning and social distancing, and designated a lavatory for crew use only on the aircraft.

"The TWU continues to push for additional adoption of FAA and CDC recommendations and additional precautions to keep our members safe," said Thom McDaniel, TWU International Vice President.

The TWU has also signed a memorandum of understanding with the company, that includes quarantine and pay provisions for IFCs who are exposed to or contract COVID-19.

Due to the drastic reduction in flying caused by the coronavirus, JetBlue announced a series of opportunities for paid or unpaid leave throughout the summer. The company has agreed to not contest unemployment claims for any IFCs who take the leaves. After the TWU urged, the company has also agreed to develop new procedures for IFCs to be released from being on call with pay, providing staffing is adequate to cover the operation - eliminating the need for exposure risk due to commuting to work when there is sufficient staffing.

The TWU has requested updates from management regarding the number of IFCs who have been exposed to or tested positive for COVID-19. The company will not release that information, so the union has established a reporting mechanism for IFCs to document exposures to determine if current precautions suffice, or if further steps need to be taken.

While one bargaining session in the beginning of the pandemic was cancelled, the TWU IFC Negotiating Team (NT) is continuing negotiations remotely, as the team follows stay home orders. The NT has reached 20 Tentative Agreements and is actively negotiating six additional articles with only a few items left to agree to before moving on to economics.

"The COVID-19 threat and the impact on the daily lives and economic security of our members make it more important than ever that we reach a fair contract that will protect JetBlue IFCs," said McDaniel.

Local 592 Overwhelmingly Ratifies ExpressJet Contract

On Jan. 2, members of Local 592 ratified their contract with ExpressJet Airlines, with a 94 percent voter turnout and 69 percent of the membership voting in favor of the new agreement. A tentative agreement was recently reached, and the newly ratified agreement was effective immediately.

"Our ExpressJet Dispatch Group has ratified an industry-leading contract. The carrier recognized the importance of industry-leading pay and work rules during bargaining in order to keep their Dispatchers at ExpressJet and for the future success of the airline," TWU Air Division Systems Coordinator Gary Peterson said.

Message to Southwest Airlines Members from President Samuelson

On April 28, TWU International President John Samuelson sent the following letter to members at Southwest Airlines.

"The TWU International leadership was glad to hear Gary Kelly in his recent video say that he would fight for the livelihoods of our members. We were even more appreciative of the fact that he recognized the workforce as Southwest Airlines most important asset.

"Mr. Kelly's words of encouragement in his video were good to hear and his humility did not go unnoticed. Nor did his video acceptance of the TWU's suggestions, regarding non-concessionary actions. Those actions would be appropriate at this time, since they do not violate our collective bargaining agreements. However, in the video Gary Kelly asserts that the TWU has been disingenuous regarding the company's pursuit of TWU contract concessions. Plain and simple, an 'ask' for concessions did occur. Perhaps some of Gary Kelly's underlings were overly ambitious and did so without his authorization? Or maybe there is some other confusion which is unknown to us, but it definitely happened. In fact, it triggered a letter to Southwest whereby the TWU informed them that we are not interested in concessions.

"Gary Kelly also talks about the 'Southwest Family.' During the current negotiations with our flight attendants, training instructors, dispatchers, meteorologists and previously with our fleet service group, the TWU has very clearly seen how Southwest treats our 'TWU family.' In fact, there is a whole lot of clarity. For nearly ten years management has had a chance to show our 'TWU family' how much they 'luv' us. Unfortunately, during the greatest economic boom in the airline industry's history, instead of taking care of the 'TWU family', management often boasted about profitability and took care of their corporate leadership. Now they seem both unprepared and unable to explain where the billions in record profits over that time disappeared to?

"Southwest is asking that TWU family members step up and sacrifice, yet they willfully chose not to share their fruitful bounty with our 'TWU family' during the best of times. Gary Kelly has a duty to live up to his words and take every other available action before coming to TWU to ask for a single concession from our groups, engaged in negotiations."

"Southwest is asking that TWU family members step up and sacrifice, yet they willfully chose not to share their fruitful bounty with our 'TWU family' during the best of times. Gary Kelly has a duty to live up to his words and take every other available action before coming to TWU to ask for a single concession from our groups, engaged in negotiations. The TWU abided by our contracts in the best

of times, while the airline thrived and made enormous profits. The TWU now expects the airline to live up to their end of the bargain in these tumultuous times. Simply put, that means strictly adhering to the labor contracts Southwest Airlines has entered into with the TWU."

The video can be viewed at bit.ly/GKellyvideo. His remarks on "concessions" begins at the 11 minute and 30 second mark.

Spirit Air Negotiations Update

The Spirit Air Negotiating Team - Mariluz Ramos, Gerwin Mucke, Tina Coolidge-Ulrich, Marcos Perez and Laquisha Bryant - met from February 26 thru February 28, successfully negotiating and tentatively agreeing on the following articles:

- Training
- Reduction in Force & Severance
- Uniforms
- Preamble
- Purpose of Agreement
- Recognition and Job Security
- Voluntary Time Off

These articles are the beginning of the contract, which our group at Spirit Airlines will enjoy once they ratify their first agreement.

Message from TUUS Director Curtis Tate

Sisters and Brothers,
This has been a devastating several months. We have suffered losses of friends and loved ones. Dozens of our TWU family have been lost to this terrible pandemic. Thousands have tested positive or been quarantined.

Throughout this terrible ordeal, one thing has become clear: we are the heart and soul of this country. Never considered first responders in the past, we are now essential workers and the front line in the fight back against the virus. We are the ones risking our lives – not the CEOs and corporate bosses that we fight on a daily basis, nor the athletes, movie stars, and musicians that we all love.

We are the front line: Bus and Train Operators transporting healthcare workers to hospitals, school bus operators and attendants delivering meals to children who wouldn't otherwise have one, utility workers keeping the gas and electricity on, skilled tradesmen and mechanics, maintainers, university personnel, security officers, dispatchers, and all the other titles and crafts of the TUUS Division who continue to show up to work while everyone else stays home.

A great debt is also owed to our healthcare professionals, law enforcement, firefighters and EMS, truckers, and food industry workers, and others. But let me be clear: none of this would be possible without the work that you are doing – the work that keeps our towns, cities, and country moving.

And you have done all of this under extremely difficult



circumstances, often with very little cooperation or support from the boss. Across the country, the bosses have thrown us out to be ravaged by the virus without the proper protective equipment or cleaning supplies.

The TWU has worked night and day to assist local presidents in their fight to obtain the necessary supplies to keep workers safe on the job. In some cities there have been job actions, the threat of job actions, or lawsuits – all this just to get what we need to protect ourselves. In many cases, TWU has even provided the only personal protective equipment that we have. If the TWU can find and secure it, why can't the bosses?

TUUS representatives have been in contact with Locals to ensure compliance and proper implementation of government directives. We held conference calls with local presidents, TUUS staff, President Samuelson, Secretary-Treasurer Lafragola, and the Government Affairs Department. The calls were to brief the presidents, explain government programs, hear from the presidents and thank them and their members.

Together we will come through the other side. Though we are six feet apart, we are linked in unity.

On behalf of the entire TUUS Staff - Carl, Theo, Cruz, Willie and Shavon – we hope you and your families are staying safe.

Thank You!



Local 250A New Executive Board

Members of the new Local 250A Executive Board met on February 6 – before social distancing was enforced. Pictured with them are TWU International Reps Gary Shults and Jose Cruz.

Saving Lives at Local 1400

On Nov. 14, Port Authority Tunnel and Bridge Agent (TBA) Michael Shulman was on his way to work when he approached an accident on Staten Island. He pulled over and one of the drivers involved was unresponsive. Shulman's instincts kicked in: He immediately removed the driver from the vehicle and began performing CPR until the EMTs arrived. The driver regained his pulse, was taken to the hospital and recovered.



On Dec. 16, for the second time that week, Lincoln Tunnel TBAs responded to a car fire in the Center Tunnel, extinguishing the vehicle and towing the car out.

In April, Crew Chief Keith O'Halloran and TBA David Brierty saved two lives via CPR in 15 days. On April 11, they responded to a contract worker having a seizure on the roof of the Lincoln Tunnel Admin Building. When they arrived, he had no pulse and wasn't breathing. They performed CPR and used the Defibrillator. After three rounds of CPR and two shocks, the patient starting breathing, and regained a pulse. EMS transported him to the hospital and later that day, he was alert, and resting comfortably. On Sunday, April 26, the duo was dispatched to the report of an unresponsive, 52-year-old male on the Route 495 East approach to the NY-bound Lincoln Tunnel. O'Halloran applied the AED, and Brierty inserted an oral airway and began ventilations with a big valve mask. After O'Halloran began a second round of CPR and PAPD assisted with ventilation, a pulse was detected. EMS arrived and the patient was transported to Hoboken University Medical Center.



Tragedy on the Tracks: Local 100 Train Operator Killed in Arson Fire

On March 27 at about 4:30 a.m., an unknown person (as this issue went to press), set fire to the tracks at the Central Park 110th Street subway station in Harlem.

Local 100 Train Operator Garrett Goble, 36, lost his life while trying to safely un-board passengers from his 2 train. No riders were injured.

Local 100 President Tony Utano said, "Our Conductor acted heroically to move passengers to the platform out of danger and deserves our deepest thanks and support for his bravery. This incident once again points out many life-threatening dangers that await transit workers across the city when they go to their jobs every day, 24 hours a day."

Goble's death occurred right after the first two COVID-19-related deaths rocked the local. Utano said at the time the situation was "hard to comprehend."

"This is an unspeakable tragedy. I'm in stunned disbelief. The Train Operator was my age and had about the same number of years on the job. It's a nightmare," Eric Loegel, the Local 100 Vice President representing Train Operators and Conductors, said. "My deepest condolences to his family and friends



Garrett Goble



during this extremely sad time. The train conductor is a real hero. Safely evacuating people from the burning train—he did an incredible job and deserves our honor and praise."

The New York City Police Department is offering a \$52,500 reward for information leading to the arrest of the suspected arsonist who started the blaze.

Local 2001 Rallies in Jersey City

On Thursday, January 30, members and officers of TWU Local 2001 held a spirited informational rally outside the PATH Commuter Rail Grove Street Station in Jersey City to inform the public that they have been working without a contract for nine years.

Jersey City Mayor Steve Fulop visited the picket line. While they have been waiting nine years for a fair contract, the Port Authority of NY/NJ has spent \$3.9 billion on a new transportation hub and spends \$3,000 a day to maintain the white Italian marble that adorns its entrance.

In a letter to the National Mediation Board (NMB) dated January 16, the TWU requested to be released from Mediation. On February 10, the NMB advised that our request was denied.



Norfolk Southern Closes Roanoke Virginia Locomotive Shop *Work to be Transferred to Juniata*

On February 18, Norfolk Southern Railroad closed an overhaul shop for their locomotives in Roanoke, VA and moved the work to their Juniata Locomotive Shop in Altoona, PA.

This shop traces its history back to the 1850s, when the Pennsylvania Railroad established the Altoona Works to supply locomotives, freight, and passenger cars and related equipment to the railroad. By 1945, the shop was among the largest repair and construction facilities in the world.

Today, the Juniata shop is the most modern locomotive heavy repair facility in the railroad industry. Their capabilities include every locomotive component and Norfolk Southern employs more people in Altoona, Pa. than any other location in their network.



Local 2054 President Tommy Murray Retires with Nearly 50 Years of Service

Local 2054 President Tommy Murray retired in February after serving TWU members for nearly five decades. He joined the Railroad Division in 1971 and spent his career fighting on behalf of workers in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

What made his job so enjoyable were the people he worked alongside every day. “I come from a railroad family – my fathers, brothers and uncles all worked for the railroad,” Murray said. “Some things may have changed from back in the 70s, but people are people.”

Murray’s biggest challenge? “Bosses who were bullies,” he said. “I have so many stories about bad bosses that I could fill a book. I’ve never had a bad day at work, but I can’t speak for my bosses – I have a feeling they had worse days than me.”

Looking towards the future, Murray shared advice for less-seasoned TWU members: Get involved!

“Get motivated – there’s this sense of dependency that the other will always do it,” he explained. “Attend union meetings. It’s sort of like church: You don’t go there just when you need it, you go all the time. If someone is taking money out of your paycheck, you should be a responsible member. Go attend meetings and give your input.

“I worked with a lot of good people and was fortunate,” Murray recalled. “I can’t say a negative thing about my time at the railroad or with the union. I would advise everybody to get involved in their local. It should be a big part of your life – it dictates how you and your family are going to live.

“You shouldn’t depend on anybody to do your fighting for you – you should do it yourself,” he concluded.

Murray’s colleagues shared warm wishes.

“I have known Tommy (AKA Senator Murray) for over 15 years and he has been a good friend and mentor on union issues for me or anyone that asked. It has amazed me how congressional members respect him within MA and RI. I will miss working with him, especially at COPE, RRD Presidential Councils and Conventions. We had many good times in DC at the Dubliner Bar and Grill. Enjoy your retirement.” - *Brian DeLucia* -TWU International Railroad Representative

“I have had the pleasure of knowing and learning from one of the best. I have known Thomas for 20 years and he took me under his wing and has taught me and navigated me through the workings of the Union and lobbying on Capitol Hill. Being the first female president in the Rail Division, Tommy showed me the ropes and always had my back. I not only had a mentor but a best



TWU Local 2054 member Kevin Murray, Political Action Director Regina Eberhart, Local 2054 President Tommy Murray and Railroad & Transit Division Administrator Shavon Gibson

of friends. Tommy will be sorely missed, and I only hope I can carry on his teachings...No one will be able to fill his shoes. He is one of the best.” - *Amy Griffin, President, Local 1460*

“Even though his name is Tom, we all know him as Mickey. A name he carries proudly as it was his father’s nickname. Mr. Murray was also a long-time employee of the railroad. Mickey joined Penn Central out of high school at the age of 18. As time progressed, he went from freight to passenger. Along the way Mickey became actively involved in the union, starting off as committee person, then moving on to secretary-treasurer. Eventually Mickey became Local 2054’s longest serving president. As president, he kept the rank & files’ concerns first and foremost, while maintaining a strong alliance with our federal & state divisions. As not only a union brother, but his brother, I am proud to have worked for and with him for over 20 years. His measured but forceful leadership will be missed by one and all. Speaking for myself, I would again like to thank Tom (Mickey) for a half century of selfless dedication to the railroad and the TWU membership. Enjoy your retro, you’ve certainly earned it. Respectfully with love, your brother Kevin M Murray.”

“I met Tommy for the first time at the convention in 2013. From that moment on I knew if I needed anything, I could go to him for advice. He is a true dedicated union man. Having gone to the Hill several times with him was a true pleasure, as he was well known there. He is a very funny and smart, all around great guy. He is going to be missed at the TWU. I wish him the best in retirement.” - *Bob Cifarelli, President Local 2055*

“Tommy and I worked the railroad between us 90 years: Penn Central, Amtrak, Conrail, CSX Commuter rail in Massachusetts and New England. We were union representatives for the TWU for almost all that time. Tommy is the most knowledgeable man on this earth about railroad issues. There’s no one better to represent you when you’re in trouble than Tommy. I am proud to call Tommy my friend and brother. I loved walking the halls of Washington with him and our time at the Dubliner. Wishing you all the best Tommy, enjoy your retirement, Love ya.” - *Eddie White, Former Vice President, Local 2054.*



Gaffney (back row, second from left) attended a face-to-face OLAV training in Durand on Jan. 10.

What Does an OLAV Do?

Local 2051 member Thomas Gaffney lives in Detroit and works as a Carman for Conrail. He's also a trained Operation Lifesaver Authorized Volunteer Presenter (OLAV) for the Mechanical Department for Conrail Detroit - an active, continuous public information and education program designed to help prevent crashes at highway/rail grade-crossings.

"Our goal is to eliminate trespasser incidents along all railroad rights-of-way within our state," Gaffney explained. "Although most of my presentations will be Michigan based, you should be aware that Operation Lifesaver's network of authorized volunteer speakers and trained instructors offer free rail safety education programs across the U.S. We speak to such diverse audiences as school groups, driver education classes, community members, professional drivers, law enforcement officers, emergency responders, as well as our fellow railroaders."

The programs are co-sponsored by federal, state and local government agencies, highway safety organizations and America's railroad systems.

"In my unique case, I give presentations to the public as both a representative of Conrail and Operation Lifesaver, but just like all OLAVs, I basically speak on what the 3 'E's' of Operation Lifesaver are: Education, Engineering, and Enforcement," Gaffney said. "Each of the 3 'E's' has a role in our attempt to reduce the over 500 fatal crashes and over 600 trespasser fatalities that occur each year in the United States."

"Specifically, as an OLAV for OLI Michigan and as a representative of Conrail, it's my goal to educate and promote a better

understanding within the communities we operate within about the need to not only be aware of our operations, but to better understand the role we play in their communities," he concluded.

For more info, visit <https://oli.org/>

Local 1460 Leadership in LA

Local 1460 President Amy Griffin and Secretary-Treasurer Vickie Smith met in Los Angeles with labor relations representatives from Amtrak and the Amtrak Service Workers Council (ASWC) on February 19-20 to discuss issues related to onboard service members.





2020 Secretary-Treasurer Training in the Books

Members from all TWU divisions attended the Secretary-Treasurer Training at the Maritime Institute, in Linthicum, MD, March 2-6. TWU International Secretary-Treasurer Jerome Lafragola led the class.

Participants learned how to use financial accounting software;

follow generally accepted accounting standards; how to meet DOL and IRS filing requirements; how to operate local union treasuries in accordance with fiduciary responsibility standards, and follow other standards that protect local union members' dues.



Amidst the TWU's many victories in the workplace, it's important to remember that our members also have lives outside of their day jobs.

Lawrence Branchetti Receives Lifetime Achievement Award for Music

TWU Local 568 retiree Lawrence Branchetti, a world-renowned performer of music from Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and others, was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Association of Music, Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres. Branchetti's music has been heard on more than 1,200 radio stations around the world and he joins the likes of Tony Bennett and Andrea Bocelli in earning this award.

Branchetti was a member of Local 568 from 1990-2004. "I remember when he played the local's Christmas parties and he even sang at convention," said International Executive Vice President Alex Garcia. "He is a fantastic guy and I wish him the best."

"He was always a straight-up guy – never causing problems and always working hard. He was entertaining," added Chuck Hernandez, Local 568 Vice President.

Branchetti has been singing since he was eight-years-old, appearing alongside Frank Sinatra and performing Sinatra's music on numerous television and radio shows around the world. He has recorded more than 140 songs. For details, visit branchetti.com.



Michael Serrapica Publishes Book



Michael Serrapica

Michael Serrapica, a retired TWU Local 513 member, recently published his first book, "Conned Conservatives and Led-on Liberals: You Think the Thoughts you Think are Yours? Think Again!"

In it, Serrapica studies the various methods of persuasion used to manipulate how we think, act and, most importantly, vote. His book is based upon his studies of the works of experts in the fields of persuasion, propaganda, psychology, media, and politics. Additionally, he calls upon the lessons he learned from over 30 years as a worker and his service as a shop-steward, local vice-president and media specialist for the TWU.

Branchetti's career started in 1979 with Trans World Airlines. He was a shop-steward for the International Association of Machinists at JFK Airport. When American Airlines took over TWA, he became a TWU member and moved to Kansas City, MO.

Serrapica said he always knew he wanted to write a book but wasn't sure about what.

"Then one day it hit me! My background in broadcasting taught me to be more aware of how propaganda works. I knew that experts manipulate us into doing their bidding, while at the same time convince us that their ideas are our own," he recalled. "I also knew that propaganda works because no one believes it can work 'on them.' That, however, does not make me an expert. So, I decided to start writing from that perspective. My book describes how I learned from the experts; what tricks are used to manipulate us, and how 'we' can protect 'ourselves.'"

"Something I say several times in my book is simply this: As opposed to accepting 'facts' automatically, as offered by the first source we get them from, it is safer to be skeptical, especially if that source claims to side with our personal ideology," Serrapica concluded.

You can purchase his book on Amazon.



Veterans Committee Meets in Miami with New Leadership

The TWU Veterans Committee held its first quarter meeting in Miami, FL, hosted by Local 568.

This meeting commenced a new chapter of the committee with newly elected Chair Chris Kiernan from Local 501 and new Co-Chair Andre Hanekamp from Local 513. TWU International Secretary-Treasurer Jerome Lafragola and International TUUS Division Director Curtis Tate also attended.

The Committee is ramping up their efforts to reach as many members as possible and provide help and support to all veterans. Many new initiatives were discussed and the Veterans' Committee is excited and proud serve veteran/military members.

To join the Veterans' Committee or for more info, visit <http://veterans.twu.org/>



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