

TWU

The Transport Workers Union
of America *United Invincible*

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SIGNATURES TO REPEAL SB5 REACH

1.3 MILLION

OHIOANS GET UNION BUSTING BILL ON THE BALLOT
FOR A PEOPLE'S REFERENDUM



*Rallies in Pennsylvania, Florida and New York, Shop steward training,
Transit and equity townhall, Democratizing union election rules*

beyond the DEBT LIMIT CHARADE

by *International
President*
James C. Little

This summer we have seen Congressional Republicans, doing the bidding of their party's far right fanatics, willing to play a game of chicken with the debt ceiling and the American economy. Economists of all stripes say that failure to raise the debt ceiling would be totally irresponsible, perhaps throwing the economy into a worse tailspin than in 2008.

However, regardless of how the debt ceiling is extended, the attack on working people will continue. I'm especially worried about the long-term threat to Social Security, Medicare and other social programs — all in the name of deficit reduction.

The Republicans have made clear their intention to cut these vital programs, while continuing to give away billions in corporate welfare and tax subsidies to oil companies and other big business' enjoying record profits while hard working Americans continue to sacrifice. While the President has been too willing to compromise on trillions of dollars in spending cuts, on the up side, he wants to close tax loopholes for corporations and the wealthy and smaller cuts to Social Security and Medicare.

One of the scams on Social Security is to disguise the cuts as a minor change in the way inflation is calculated. This stealth cut would reduce benefits for an average earner retiring this year at age 65 by \$6,000 over the next 15 years. Young people will suffer even more and will have less retirement security when they stop working. Even worse, if this "chained CPI" method of calculating cost-of-living increases is applied

to income taxes, it'll be a tax increase on poor and middle-class workers, while having almost no impact on the rich.

The Republican proposals on Medicare will also fall hardest on younger workers by substituting a voucher plan for traditional Medicare. According to Dean Baker, the co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that by 2030, a 65-year-old would pay \$20,000 more per year under the voucher plan than he or she would have paid under traditional Medicare. Under the GOP budget plan, eligibility for Medicare would likely rise to age 67, leaving millions of older Americans without affordable coverage.

Regardless of how the debt ceiling is extended, the attack on working people will continue.

Like our health care system in general, Medicare has serious budget issues that President Obama started to address in his landmark health care legislation last year. But Social Security is not part of the budget problem and faces only a modest shortfall in coming years. Much of that can be remedied by raising the income cap for high earners.

The conventional wisdom is that the Social Security shortfall is driven largely by rising life expectancy, and that the key to restoring solvency is to raise the

normal retirement age, the age when participants are eligible for full retirement benefits. But, a recent study by the Economic Policy Institute shows that gains in life expectancy represent only a small part of the fiscal challenge facing Social Security. The increase in the normal retirement age from 65 to 67, currently underway, already offsets gains in life expectancy for workers born before 1960, and longevity gains for younger generations account for only a fifth of the projected Social Security shortfall.

According to EPI, the bigger problems are weak wage growth and rising income inequality, which account for more than half the projected shortfall that has emerged since Social Security was last restored to long-term balance in 1983. Earnings inequality has eroded Social Security's taxable earnings because earnings above a cap are exempt from Social Security taxes. Likewise, slower wage growth increases the costs as a share of taxable earnings.

I agree wholeheartedly with AFL-CIO President Rich Trumka who says, "At a time when retirement security remains an elusive goal for most Americans, cuts to Social Security benefits—in whatever form they take — should not be on the table."

We in the labor movement will continue to oppose any cuts in Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid benefits, including any cuts in cost of living adjustments. The best solution to our deficit problem is to create good jobs that will rebuild our economy.





Fight for Collective Bargaining

TWU members mobilized to collect thousands of signatures to repeal SB 5 in Ohio. **Pages 12 & 13**

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Gary Maslanka

Named Administrative VP

Gary Maslanka, TWU International Director of Rail Division, has been named Administrative Vice President and will bring his experience and dedication to this important leadership position where he will continue to advocate for TWU members and working families. "It is truly an honor to have this opportunity and I will do my best to support President Little and the unwavering efforts of TWU's leadership team to protect and advance the interests of TWU members and working families," said Maslanka. "It is what I have done for years, and will continue to do."

Due to the disability retirement of International Administrative Vice President, Susan Resch, the TWU International Executive Council endorsed Maslanka to fill the remainder of the vacated term, as outlined in the TWU Constitution Article VII. "There is no question that Susan Resch will be missed and on behalf of all of our staff we wish her all the best for the future," said TWU International President James C. Little. "I am excited and proud to announce that Gary will be the new Administrative Vice President where his excellent leadership skills and vision will help advance the TWU. He has dedicated his career to defending the rights of working people and is a respected leader in the labor movement and the railroad industry."

Maslanka has a long history with the TWU, 37 years as a member and 34 years as an officer. He became Director of the Railroad Division in 2004 and was elected as an International Vice President in 2005. Maslanka's TWU career began in 1974 when he was hired as a Carman on Penn Central Railroad. He was an active member of Local 2020 in Buffalo, New York and was appointed Vice President of the Local in 1978. The



following year he was elected to his first term as President of Local 2020, then reelected as President for five consecutive terms. In 1998, Maslanka became an International Staff Representative for the Railroad Division.

Maslanka currently serves as Chairman of the Joint Council of Carmen, Helpers, Coach Cleaners and Apprentices (JCC), Vice Chairman of Amtrak Service Workers Council (ASWC), a member of the Railroad Safety Advisory Committee, an Advisory Board member of the Railway Workers Hazardous Materials Training Program and is active with the Rail Labor Division of the AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department where he recently concluded a term as Chairman of the Rail Labor Division.

"Having the opportunity to serve in this position begins a new chapter in my commitment to TWU members and working people, and I welcome this opportunity with renewed enthusiasm to meet the challenges that confront us," said Maslanka.

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pennsylvanians demand a **FAIR BUDGET**

The lively crowd on the steps of the Pennsylvania state capitol in Harrisburg on May 3 broke out into chants of “We Are One” as thousands of Pennsylvanians told Republican Gov. Tom Corbett and conservative legislatures that the state budget should not be balanced on the backs of workers, students and the poor.

Scores of TWU members from Pennsylvania joined the noontime rally in Harrisburg, including two busloads of Local 234 members from Philadelphia joined by many other TWU activists, wearing Workers’ Rights are Human Rights t-shirts while carrying signs and banners, travelled to Harrisburg on their own to hook up with the TWU contingent.

TWU members descended on the statehouse to show solidarity with fellow union members representing public and private sector workers to protest the proposed budget that would cut \$2.7 billion, including vital funding for public services, while continuing tax breaks for corporations. They were standing up against the attack on working families and joining the nationwide movement to defend the middle class. Local 234 President John Johnson helped to coordinate his local’s activism in fighting for workers’ rights.

“The Governor wants to make cuts to

services that everyday people need,” said Gordy Moreton of TWU Local 2009. “We need to stop this attack on the middle class.”

Worker unity and people power was on display as Local 234 and SEIU members chanted back and forth “We Are One” and “Workers’ Rights are Human Rights” on the steps of the capitol. Union members, community activists and clergy all spoke in front of the crowd after a group marched from the Chamber of Commerce where they protested against big business who refuses to pay their fair share. “If we allow them to knock us down, it is only going to knock the unorganized down,” said David Szczepanski of Local 234. “We have always been the voice of labor, so we are here for everyone today.”

The transit workers, teachers, construction workers, miners and nurses who took time in their busy workweek to rally for an equitable budget are fed up with politicians in Pennsylvania and across the country who are trying to slash services while giving away millions of dollars to the greedy corporations and weakening workers’ rights.

The protestors expressed their anger about the cuts to education that would eliminate kindergarten, cut back on after school programs, increase class sizes and increase college tuition. “These cuts would

limit the youth of America’s ability to prosper,” said Lawrence Ooten of Local 2016. “The Governor wants to make cuts to services that everyday people need, we need to stop this attack on the middle class”

“We don’t want our kids in over-crowded classrooms. We don’t want health care cuts for our seniors. We don’t want huge increases in tuition,” said AFSME Council 13 Executive Director Dave Fillman to the crowd. “A budget with devastating cuts for working families is wrong. A budget without a drilling tax on Marcellus Shale is wrong. A budget that allows tax loopholes for big corporations is wrong.”

Pennsylvanians are also outraged about the lack of taxes being paid by oil companies who are drilling for natural gas throughout the state. The huge multi-national companies are exploiting natural resources and polluting the environment without paying a cent to the state of Pennsylvania.

The partisan state budget was eventually passed on June 29 despite popular opposition and no Democrats voting for the budget that cuts spending by 3 percent and leaves many corporate handouts intact.



Top, left: Thousands of people gathered on the steps of the Pennsylvania state capitol, including a large contingent from Local 234. Top, right: TWU and union activists tell Pennsylvania politicians to stop balancing the budget on the backs of working families.



a festival for WORKING FAMILIES IN FLORIDA

Thousands of people crammed the Central Florida Fairgrounds on Saturday, June 4 to learn how to unite and fight for the future of their state. The festival included booths set up by 40 different organizations with multiple workshops, teach-ins, skill sharing sessions, rides and live music.

The Festival for Florida's Future was not just a rally, but a day-long celebration of what it means to be a middle class Floridian and the beginning of a working families movement. The festival launched a larger, sustained campaign to organize people from all backgrounds and walks of life to take action in order to make a difference in the lives of all Floridians.

TWU was a key organizer of the event, facilitating mobilization and turnout, not just of TWU members but all unions, especially in Miami and Dade County as well as coordinating buses. Transit and Air Division locals attended the event and participated in workshops and strategy sessions. "Our right to good jobs, to good benefits and to good pay are closely tied to human rights," said Jorge Rojas,

President TWU Local 561. "We have to make sure everyone is educated and everyone understands how important it is to keep well informed because before we know it we could very easily lose those rights to organize."

In Florida, Gov. Rick Scott has set out on an extreme anti-worker agenda by turning down money for high speed rail projects, limiting teachers' rights, disenfranchising voters and decimating public services.

"They want to eliminate organized labor in the state of Florida," said Mike Williams, President Florida AFL-CIO. "They want to eliminate the ability to form coalitions and partnerships with faith based organizations, with ethnic organizations, and to form a powerful family labor movement that can beat back their challenges, they want to eliminate our voices."

With a carnival atmosphere serving as a backdrop for the festival, workers and their families got the tools they need to build activist networks in their neighborhoods. These activities will also support a statewide effort to recruit and train workers and retirees to run for elected office.

"Workers' rights are human rights and



that is what we are about here today," said Tim Maitland of the Florida International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT). "Coming together for the benefit of all working Floridians."

Some of the workshop topics included: Speaking to Power—Using your story and voice to fight back, Why Grandma isn't dead—Stopping the destruction of Medicare and social security, and Labor Community Solidarity: Why Coalition Building Matters. In addition, there was music, games, dancing, food and an array of speakers. "We are rallying together to fight the attack against workers," said Jeffrey Townsley, Transportation VP Local 291 Miami. "We are going to keep fighting, we aren't going to lay down."



Top: TWU members gather at the TWU motor coach.
Right: Tim Maitland, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, holds up a TWU t-shirt.

TWU Presidents Hold Historic Strategy Summit

The first joint meeting of the Presidents' Councils of all TWU divisions took place in San Francisco on Thursday June 9th. In this historic "Workers' Rights are Human Rights War Room Strategy Summit," the Presidents analyzed the emergency situation facing the labor movement and brainstormed the TWU's response and strategy.

International President James C. Little chaired the meeting that brought together Local Presidents along with many members of the Executive Council and senior TWU staff to discuss the attacks facing labor and strategies for pushing back. Topics included: the historic nature of the challenges facing the middle class, the moral implications of government budgets, and the importance of building alliances and engaging globally. The Presidents broke into three groups to brainstorm strate-

gies involving collective bargaining, how and with whom to form alliances, and empowering members with the tools to advocate for workers' rights. The groups discussed the importance of being prepared long before contract negotiations start and mobilizing all members. They also stressed the necessity of a permanent commitment to our partners and reaching out to the public to move the struggle for workers' rights forward.

As labor is in the fight of its life, the TWU Presidents stressed the need to change how we do business if unions and the middle class are to survive these historic challenges. President Little called for a mobilized, independent TWU and labor movement that is ready to take action on the job and in the streets to defend working people.

FIGHT BACK IN NEW YORK CITY

The streets outside of New York's City Hall on Tuesday, June 14 were filled with thousands of public sector union sisters and brothers wearing their colors, waving signs, and cheering loudly. The rally marked the kickoff of a fight back from working people in New York who demand Gov. Andrew Cuomo and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and their legislative allies to stop asking the working class to pay for the mess created by Wall Street.

A contingent of TWU Local 100 members joined the Fight Back rally that was organized by New York City's largest public employee union, DC37. At least 1000 members of the United Federation of Teachers and 1199 SEIU joined the massive crowd after gathering in Brooklyn and marching over the bridge in a boisterous show of solidarity.

Working men and women are tired of having to carry the entire burden of rescuing our city and state from the economic crisis.

Members of a student-labor-community coalition gathered across from City Hall after the June 14 rally, vowing to sleep-in until the Bloomberg budget is defeated. The Tent City, dubbed "Bloombergville," is the first sleep-in protest outside City Hall in recent memory. The very next day more than 20,000 people from throughout New York City streamed across the Brooklyn Bridge in a "March for the Middle Class" to protest attacks on working families' jobs and values in the city and across the state. New York State AFL-CIO President Denis Hughes said the huge turnout for the march indicated "working men and women are tired of having to carry the entire burden of rescuing our city and state from the economic crisis."

Mayor Michael Bloomberg's planned cuts would close 20 firehouses, lay off more than 4,000 teachers and thousands of other workers, outsource other jobs, and slash benefits. Meanwhile, New York City is the income disparity capital of the world, where the richest 90,000 households earn \$10,000 a day while half of all city households earn under \$30,000 a year.



Top: TWU Managing Director of Legislative Government Affairs J.W. Johnson leads a group discussion. Left: TWU International President James C. Little kicks off the strategy summit.



Amtrak Privatization Bad for workers and Riders

The Mica-Shuster proposal to privatize Amtrak's Northeast Corridor (NEC) would be a disaster for the United States by putting reliable transportation and decent jobs at risk.

Rep. John Mica (R-FL) and Bill Shuster (R-PA) have proposed a plan to privatize Amtrak's NEC, which would jeopardize the operation of reliable passenger rail in the busy Northeast and the expansion of new infrastructure projects and high-speed rail. This is a harsh reminder that railroad workers are not immune to the attacks against workers going on across the country.

"Amtrak's NEC is a viable and widely used public service that is vital for economic activity between major American cities," said Gary Maslanka, TWU Inter-

national Administrative Vice President and Rail Division Director. "Privatization would not help the U.S. develop a 21st century passenger rail system but rather would lead to worse service and threaten good family-supporting jobs."

The bill is being touted as a new direction but is actually a worn out and dangerous path that would lead to the destruction of Amtrak and the loss of thousands of Amtrak jobs. Privatization is a policy experiment that has failed in the past and in other countries where it has meant worse service, less safety and higher fares.

At a time when demand for passenger rail is soaring and Amtrak is setting ridership records month after month, this proposal simply makes no sense.

This proposal would deliver a devas-

tating blow to workers rights', benefits and protections. As just one example, the bill could mean that some employees of private rail carriers would not be covered by the Railway Labor Act, which governs collective bargaining and union representation.

The proposed bill would also threaten the solvency of railroad retirement and have a devastating impact on thousands of active and retired rail workers by excluding rail workers employed by new rail carriers from coverage under the railroad retirement system.

This outrageous proposal is a serious attack, not only to Amtrak workers, but workers throughout the entire railroad industry. Collectively, we must forcefully oppose this attack.

TWU ACTIVISTS RAISE THE BAR IN NEVADA

The TWU Workers' Rights are Human Rights team in Nevada raised the bar for the rest of the country as TWU activists in Nevada gave new meaning to "on the ground" organizing, pitching a tent in solidarity with students protesting draconian public education cuts and putting pressure on politicians for their reckless legislation.

Students dubbed the tent city "Sandoville" in honor of the state's right wing Gov. Brian Sandoval, who is pushing the cuts. Starting on May 16 they camped out for three days on the lawn in front of the statehouse and engaged in round-the-clock protests, lobbying and direct action.

Then on Wednesday May 18, TWU members turned up the heat

on Congressman Joe Heck (R-Nevada), confronting him at a town hall meeting on both his vote to privatize Medicare and his anti-union voting record. Although Heck would not allow cameras or any other recording equipment at the event, the press reported that he took so much fire that he was forced to back away from the privatization idea, admitting, "I'm not saying it's the best idea..." The next day, TWU members joined several hundred other union members and community allies at a rally to "Stop the Attack on Prevailing Wage." After picketing in front of the State Legislature, protestors crammed a hearing on bill (AB412).



Working Women's Committee

Over 30 women from TWU Air Division locals and some guests from the Transit division gathered for a three-day ATD Working Women's Committee meeting to network and strategize on July 18-20 in Cocoa Beach, Florida hosted by TWU Local 525.

Participants discussed issues facing women on the job and working families as well as got an exclusive guided tour of the Kennedy Space Center and the shuttle launch pad thanks to Local 525 officers and President Kevin Smith who invited the WWC to Florida.

Guest speakers Roger Toussaint, International Director Strategic Planning, and Alex Garcia, International Director COPE and Political Field, who explained the seriousness of the anti-worker legislation blossoming across the country and called on TWU members to be involved at all levels to fight back against the organized decimation of the working class. Toussaint

said, "this assault is well planned and the other side has done their homework."

Legislative Field Representatives Terry Daniels and Gwen Dunivent explained TWU's State Conferences program that has been a success across the country and continues to grow in popularity. Select geographic locations focus TWU member's strengths to effectively lobby and fight back against the legislative attacks against middle class workers. In Florida for example, Andrew Rangolan, Vice President for Local 570 in Miami, is working with Daniels and Garcia to stem the constant stream of legislative attacks taking place in Florida.

Local 501 member Lucy Kugelman of Newark, NJ gave a presentation on "Worker Safety Awareness" and her Local's efforts to promote safety and education through innovate and fun strategies.


The next ATD WWC meeting will be held October, 17th-18th in Hurst, Texas.

AMERICAN AIRLINES INVESTS IN PLANES, NOT PEOPLE

On July 20 American Airlines announced unprecedented financial investment in the ordering of 460 new aircraft. Gerard Arpey, Chairman and CEO of AMR and American Airlines said that the order represents another important step in the company's strategy to build a strong foundation for the future.

However, aircraft are not an airline's only asset. Planes can't fix themselves, they can't

load or unload themselves — and they can't provide the quality customer service that is key to success in the airline industry.

The purchase was made possible by the significant sacrifices made by TWU members in 2003 to keep American's planes in the sky. Now it's time for AMR executives to concentrate on finalizing contracts that will give our members a strong foundation for our future. 

DEAR GOVERNOR, WE ARE UNITED



TWU sent a video message to the reactionary anti-worker Governors across the country telling them you have disrespected our communities and we are united in stopping this affront to democracy and human rights.

This video from the TWU is a response to the wave of legislation that restricts workers' rights, ends collective bargaining, cuts services and job creating projects, and rewards the wealthy with tax breaks. Americans know these politicians are a threat to the middle-class and are making their voices heard and standing up for justice and equality.

As the video says: "In capital city after capital city you have put your politics before the people. You have distorted the truth, hijacked the process, and disrespected the communities we have worked so hard to build.... Our workplace rights and protections cannot be erased by your signature, that's only emboldened by your hubris. You may govern, but we the people lead."

The TWU has joined with the labor, civil rights, social justice and environmental movements to mobilize a wave of grassroots opposition in every state where Governors think they can roll over the American worker. Working people built this country and although the politicians may govern, it is we the people that will lead.



Watch the video at <http://www.youtube.com/user/transportworker>



TWU International Field Trainers and leaders facilitate training session. L to R: Barry Roberts, Tony Noviello and James C. Little, International President. Left: Steward training at Local 514 in Tulsa, OK in February 2011.

TWU Training Program Empowers Shop Stewards to Defend Co-workers

TWU kicked off its Field Training program giving new and even experienced stewards an opportunity to gain and increase the tools and skills they need as the first line of defense. The Field Training Instructors, Barry Roberts, Tony Noviello and Joe Coccio, each bring many years of experience to the program and have been traveling to locals providing stewards and treasurers with hands on training. The training includes material specifically created for individual locals covering the role of a steward, and handling, writing and presenting a grievance as well as protecting members' rights.

The Field Training program began after a series of sessions focused on evaluating and developing a more efficient training program for TWU with the goal of improving TWU's educational and support services at the local level. "Stewards are the union's first line of defense," said Noviello. "It is extremely important for a steward to know and understand the contract (CBA) to properly represent the membership. What better way to arm our stewards then with all the training we can possibly afford to them." TWU kicked off its Field Training program giving new and even experienced stewards an opportunity to gain and increase the tools and skills they need as the first line of defense.

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TONY NOVIELLO: Noviello started with American Airlines in 1977 as a member of Local 501. He worked two years at LGA and at JFK before being laid off and relocated to DFW Local 513. There he worked as a Fleet Service Clerk on the ramp and became a shop steward in 1982. He was a shop steward for 17 years and was First Vice-President for Local 513. As First Vice-President for four consecutive terms he oversaw grievances, arbitrations, steward training and was acting President in 2003 and then again in 2004 through 2005. Noviello has been a Field Training Instructor since Aug. 2010.

BARRY ROBERTS: Roberts started as a bus operator in 1989 with the Manhattan

and Bronx Surface Transit Operating Authority (MaBSTOA.) A proud member of Local 100, he worked in the Bronx and Manhattan Divisions Department of Buses for over 20 years. He served as shop steward in 1996 and in 1999 Roberts became Vice Chairman of the Manhattanville Depot and then was hired by Local 100 as a staff representative for Division 1 in MaBSTOA. In 2000, he was elected to the International Executive Committee and International Executive Board as a Board Member and then elected Vice President of MaBSTOA in Jan. 2003. He has served as Local 100 Administrative Vice President and was elected to the IEC and IEB as Vice President in 2005 and most recently re-elected to the International Executive Board and Council in 2009. Roberts has been a Field Training Instructor since Aug. 2010

JOE COCCIO: Coccio started his career as a First Class Rail Vehicle Body Mechanic in 1983 and has been active with the union since 1986. He also had the honor of attending every convention since 1994 and served the members of Local 234 as Treasurer for three terms. While serving as Local 234 Treasurer, with the cooperative efforts of the President and Board, they were successful in taking that Local out of debt and leaving the members with a new modern union hall and a net worth of millions of dollars. Coccio is a Field Trainer for Treasury positions at locals and was appointed in October 2010.

where Ohio NEEDS TO GO

Discussion on Transit Equity

Inside the atrium of the Ohio state capitol in Columbus on June 1, workers, transit riders, community advocates and civil rights leaders gathered for a town hall style discussion about how transportation policy can foster equity, justice and economic opportunity in Ohio and across the country.

Reliable and affordable transportation is critical for connecting people to work, school and basic services and is an issue of equity and civil rights said speakers and audience members at the event, *Where Ohio Needs to Go: A Statewide Conversation on Transportation Equity & Federal Policy*. TWU International leaders along with civil rights activists, elected leaders and policy experts gave presentations while Ohioans gave testimony about the importance of public transportation in their lives and the need for equitable federal and state policy.

Andrew Jordan, President of TWU Local 208 in Columbus, Ohio, introduced a video message from TWU International President James C. Little who connected the struggle in Ohio with the rest of the

country and voiced TWU's commitment to fighting against transit cuts and the wider threats to worker and civil rights. "Transportation is about more than getting from place to place. It is about opportunity. It is about being connected to jobs, schools, housing, healthcare and the community," said Little. "But the sad truth is that for too many people public transportation options are unaffordable, unreliable or non-existent. There is an important opportunity ahead for us to address these issues of transportation equity as Congress considers the next Surface Transportation bill."

TWU Director of Legislative and Political Affairs Portia Reddick White provided a national level perspective in her presentation on equity and jobs. She argued that investments in public transportation make sense for the economy and the public and that politicians need to support transit safety, operations assistance and funding. "We have to let them know that transportation should not and will not be on the table for cuts," said White.

Lexer Quamie from the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights led a



April Cruse, a bus operator and ATU Local 627 member, testifies about the importance of transit access.

panel discussion on equity, civil rights and accountability and Jason Reece of the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity led the discussion on equity and access. April Cruse, a bus operator and ATU Local 627 member, testified that she sees firsthand how important public transit is to communities and that further service cuts will leave riders stranded and even cost people their jobs. "How will people get home from the late night shift? How will our seniors get to the pharmacy or the grocery store?" said Cruse. "Cuts in public transportation are not the answer for fixing the budget."

Several witnesses testified to the importance of public transit for people with disabilities for whom transit is a vital lifeline and the only affordable connection to the community and to employment. Donna Prease, a grassroots advocate with Linking Employment, Abilities & Potential (LEAP), said that people with disabilities are empowered by public transportation and are able to be connected when transit options are affordable and accessible.

The event was organized by TWU and a coalition of 14 other groups representing labor, disabled people, environmentalists, civil rights and communities, which included All Aboard Ohio, Amalgamated Transit Union, The Amos Project, The Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, Ohio BlueGreen Alliance, The Ohio Commission on African-American Males, Ohio Environmental Council, Ohio Higher Education Rail Network Institute, Ohio Olmstead Taskforce, Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council, PolicyLink, Policy Matters Ohio, and Progress Ohio.



TWU International Rep Theotis James (far right) moderated the panel. Next to him (R to L) are Portia Reddick White, TWU Director of Legislative and Political Affairs, Lexer Quamie of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and Jason Reece of the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity.

PEOPLE'S PARADE IN OHIO

Delivers 1.3 Million
Signatures to Repeal SB5



A semi-truck stuffed with petitions delivered nearly 1.3 million signatures to the Ohio Secretary of State on June 29 in order to put union busting Senate Bill 5 up for a citizen's veto. Activists collected five times the number needed to get the bill on the ballot for a public referendum.

Thousands of Ohioans marched through the streets of Columbus, Ohio to the state capitol to deliver the 1500 boxes of signed petitions in the People's Parade.

Those 1,298,301 signatures sent a powerful message that Ohioans are fed up with the attack on the middle class and the human rights of workers. The grassroots groundswell to repeal the unpopular SB 5 swept across the state as people collected signatures on sidewalks, at doorsteps, in union halls and churches. Now, the bill will be placed on the November ballot for the people to overturn.

"It's been a task to get those signatures," said Andrew Jordan, President of TWU Local 208. "But it's been so overwhelming that we could all come together to bring them down here. Now we have to get the message out to go and vote on Nov. 8 to repeal the bill."

TWU members in Ohio have been very active in the movement to repeal SB 5, collecting thousands of signatures and registering hundreds of new voters. TWU Locals in Ohio and the International staff worked together to train petitioners, organize events and canvass. TWU members attended training sessions organized by the We Are Ohio coalition on how to gather petitions and ensure signatures were valid. They then went out into their neighborhoods, churches and union halls to get signatures.

Local 1 from Akron, Ohio sponsored regular petition circulations, even gathering 315 signatures during one afternoon in the pouring rain. For weeks Local 208 in Columbus, Ohio held tabling and other petition events. Railroad Locals, such as 2019, also gathered hundreds of signatures. The TWU members who spent evenings and weekends working to stop SB 5 were a vital part of the effort to prevent this devastating bill.

"I have a grocery store across the street from my house and I have been going over there standing and talking to people a lot," said Kevin Hopsin from



A group of TWU members from around Ohio hold a petition drive.

TWU Local 1. "This is affecting a lot of workers... It is affecting all of Ohio."

SB 5 is a dramatic attack on workers' rights, possibly more extreme than the Wisconsin law. It restricts the bargaining rights of all public employees, including firefighters and police officers. Public workers would no longer be able to negotiate health care benefits or most working conditions and would be barred from striking. On the few issues workers would still be allowed to "negotiate," management, not a neutral arbitrator, would make the final decision.

The drive to repeal SB 5 is coordinated by We Are Ohio, a diverse coalition of Ohio workers, community groups, citizens and people of faith. They are pushing back against Gov. John Kasich and the right-wing state politicians who have overstepped and gone too far in the politically driven effort to take away the collective bargaining rights of public workers. Kasich is now one of the two most unpopular governors in the country, along with anti-union Gov. Rick Scott of Florida.

Ohioans will now shift their energy to mobilizing citizens to vote SB 5 down. Polls have shown that a majority of Ohioans supports repealing the bill.

"The people standing around me today are proof that while our campaign

might be outspent, we will never be outworked or out volunteered or out supported," said Melissa Fazekas from We Are Ohio speaking at the People's Parade.



THE MOVEMENT GOES GLOBAL

It is not just workers in the U.S. who are under attack. Governments around the world are trying to use the economic crisis caused by billionaires and speculators to gut vital public services and bust unions.

On Thursday, June 23, the world's unions, including TWU, participated in a global day of action to defend Quality Public Services. TWU's contribution was an event in Ohio to gather signatures to get a "Citizens' Veto" of SB 5, which helped collect hundreds of petitions for the recall. Meanwhile, our sister unions around the world, who are also affiliated with the global union the International Transport Workers Federation, held actions and events.

In an increasingly global economy, the anti-worker forces are acting globally. They aren't just attacking workers and cutting education, health care and public transit in places like Wisconsin, Ohio and New Jersey. They are attacking the working class around the world.

rally to make the **BIG BANKS PAY**

On May 12 the streets of New York City's financial district rang with the chants of 20,000 people including transit workers, teachers, students and community activists who disrupted the normal work day to tell the big banks to pay up and stop the cuts to public services.

The vibrant and diverse crowd represented all walks of life in New York and was a collective expression of outrage with Mayor Michael Bloomberg's proposed city budget that would make huge cuts while the biggest and richest banks and investors in the world dodge taxes and rake in billions of dollars in profits. Over 36 unions and community organizations came together to organize the event and to build a unified front against the proposed budget and soaring inequality. TWU members from Local 100 and other New York area locals representing the transit and air divisions, including Local 252 and 501, marched to oppose the budget cuts that would weaken the social safety net in the city and put working families at risk. The budget proposal would hurt public transit and be devastating to education; Mayor Bloomberg's budget would put nearly 6,000 public school teachers out of a job.

TWU members saw this not just as a fight for New York City, but more broadly against unchecked corporate greed and attacks on the middle class occurring in states and cities across the nation. "I am out here today because we believe workers' rights equal human rights and that if we don't come together today and start protesting and start making some noise they will be able to do what they did in Wisconsin and Ohio," said Donald Denison, TWU Local 234 in Philadelphia, PA, who joined the rally in New York. "The fight is now and America needs to wake up, otherwise we



will be set back 100 years."

Groups convened in eight different locations around Manhattan based on issues ranging from transit to housing to jobs and then marched to Wall Street where the huge crowd convened to hold teach-ins, play music and chant slogans. The crowd wound through the narrow streets with colorful signs, drums and whistles as bankers and stock traders watched from their offices.

The TWU contingent marched with the transportation and energy group that included environmentalists and other transit supporters. The group converged with immigration advocates, other unions like SEIU and CWA, housing activists and teachers. At moments the situation got heated as people spilled into the streets and engaged in civil disobedience and blocked traffic. Still, the demonstration was overwhelmingly peaceful and orderly. Protestors were sending a message to the big corporations that they need to pay their fair share and that people will not standby while inequality skyrockets and millionaires buy off American democracy. The financiers who caused the economic crisis are now making millions but workers and communities are still bearing the costs. In 2010,



the average CEO of a top 500 company received a total compensation package of over \$11 million- a 23.4 percent increase in one year. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate hovers around 9 percent and workers' wages and benefits have stagnated.

The May 12 mobilization also sent a message to politicians that people will hold them accountable and that budgets cannot be balanced on the backs of the middle class. Mayor Bloomberg, along with other Mayors and Governors, are claiming the public coffers are empty and that savings have to come from the pockets of public workers and that the services ordinary Americans rely on must be slashed. Meanwhile, these same politicians are proposing tax cuts for the wealthy, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has rejected a tax on New York's wealthiest residents, and are unwilling to make the people who caused the deficit pay up.

"Why are they balancing the mistake on Wall Street on the backs of working people?" said Christine Williams, Local 100. "Enough is enough we are not taking it any more. We are pushing back."



Top Left: Chanting and signing the diverse crowd spoke out against corporate greed and injustice. Top Right: Local 100 members march through the streets of the financial district.

COPE FUNDS: *our best defense against anti-labor attacks*

by COPE
and Political
Field Director
Alex Garcia

While we've been busy with the effort to repeal anti-worker legislation in Ohio, Florida and Wisconsin as well as the myriad attacks on public workers across the U. S., much of my personal focus this summer has been on the important elections next year.

The news out of Washington can be pretty frightening for working people — debt limit defaults, budget cuts, threats to Social Security and Medicare, a stagnant economy and sluggish job creation. The direction our country goes in the years ahead could well be determined by the Congressional and Presidential elections in the fall of 2012.

To have an impact on those contests, we need to build our COPE war chest. I'm often asked what is the most important thing I do as Director of COPE and Political Field Services. I'd love to say it was my persuasive lobbying or brilliant political strategizing, but of course it's making sure we have enough dollars in our COPE fund to offset the billions pumped into the political system by the large corporations and the enemies of average working people.

We can never match the huge amounts of corporate money that flood the American political system. Fortunately we have a "secret weapon" — millions of union volunteers who make a difference in elections, big and small, around the country. But without adequate financial resources,

we can never have the necessary impact.

Members also ask why the union is so involved in politics. Why not just concentrate on negotiating good contracts? The labor movement learned long ago that what is won at the bargaining table can be lost at the ballot box. That's because any gains we make can be wiped out by the actions of hostile or uninformed legislators, like we have seen in Wisconsin, Florida and Ohio. And it's particularly true for our many public workers who are now bearing the brunt of budget cutbacks and other anti-labor initiatives.

The general political climate is important for private as well as public workers.



candidates' voting records so our members can make an informed decision. We never tell members how to vote, but seek to educate them on the issues.

Because all donations are voluntary, it's imperative that we get our message out to the members. That's why I've been traveling around the country this summer and will continue to do so through much of next year. Some of the local visits we have coming up are in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Texas, Florida, Nebraska and Chicago, with more to be scheduled.

These are not easy times for working men and women. Unemployment is up and the standard of living is down for

*The labor movement learned long ago that
**what is won at the bargaining table
can be lost at the ballot box.***

Wage increases can be erased by inflation and good jobs can be trumped by bad trade deals. Retirement security can be lost to cuts in Social Security and Medicare. Dues money cannot be used for our political activities. COPE funds are the only way we can back candidates — Democrats, Republicans and Independents — who support TWU members on the issues vital to their livelihoods.

COPE helps register union members and their families to vote and publicizes

those workers lucky enough to have jobs. Decent-paying jobs with benefits continue to disappear from our shores.

Our only defense in this hostile environment is a strong COPE fund, backed up by a sizeable union presence at the ballot box next November.

I strongly urge you to give as generously as you can to COPE, volunteer for political activities if you can, study the issues and vote your best interests when the time comes.



SOUTHWEST PURCHASE OF AIRTRAN GETS APPROVAL

The Department of Justice gave Southwest Airlines approval for the purchase of AirTran Airways in April, a \$1.4 billion deal that is estimated to grow Southwest by 25 percent, including coveted access to Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson airport, one of the nation's busiest.

The U.S. Justice Department completed a mandatory antitrust investigation and concluded the deal would not hurt competition in the airline industry. "The merged firm will be able to offer new service on routes that neither serves today," the department said in a statement.

Southwest CEO Gary Kelley notified Dallas Fort Worth International Airport officials in May that they would stop AirTran service from DFW International by November 2011. The larger Southwest will employ almost 43,000 employees and serve over 100 million customers annually at more than 100 airports.

We know this fantastic opportunity for the growth and continued success of our company will present challenges, but we are prepared to meet them head on.

"We know this fantastic opportunity for the growth and continued success of our company will present challenges, but we are prepared to meet them head on," said Thom McDaniel. "In the very near future, we will meet with AirTran union leaders, as well as continue discussions with Southwest Airlines management on a transition agreement."

The combining of carriers is not totally complete until Southwest obtains a single carrier operating certificate from the Federal Aviation Administration, and the National Mediation Board rules that AirTran and Southwest are operating as a single transportation system.

Local 542 President Helps Implement NextGen Air Traffic Control System

Increasing levels of air traffic combined with limited operational air space and a grossly inefficient analog radar system designed for the 20th century has made the already demanding job of directing air traffic much more challenging for pilots, flight dispatchers and air traffic controllers. Thus, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and industry professionals are diligently leading development of NextGen guidance technology, a comprehensive overhaul of the National Airspace System that would replace radar guidance with digital satellite systems that use GPS.

John Plowman, President of TWU Local 542, was invited to join the NextGen Advisory Committee Working Subcommittee (NACSC) in March 2011 to utilize his extensive knowledge of flight operation to help the NACSC develop recommendations to the FAA for implementation of NextGen. Plowman is serving his fourth term as Local 542 President and is a certified dispatcher who began his aviation career in the U.S. Air Force and has worked as an FAA air traffic controller.

The NACSC, comprised of representatives from labor unions, airports, airlines and electronics manufacturers, was formed to assist the NextGen Advisory Committee (NAC) in developing consensus-based recommendations to the FAA on issues related to NextGen. NAC is working to develop a common understanding of NextGen priorities and the NACSC plays an important role in providing a venue for the FAA as well as industry partners to report progress on the development of NextGen capabilities.

By utilizing GPS technology, NextGen will increase fuel efficiency, reduce flying time, improve air traffic separation and enhance communications. This new satellite technology will minimize ground taxi

times, creating substantial fuel savings for air carriers.

The U.S. economy depends on aviation for commerce and tourism, and both will be positively impacted by NextGen's projected rollout in mid 2018. "The current air traffic control system has too many constraints," Plowman explained. "NextGen will create efficiencies in the system, saving time and fuel."

NextGen is a work in progress and the business case for implementation is obvious to most airlines, but they are studying the costs of equipment and implementation for different fleet types, compared to fuel savings and operational efficiencies. The expenditure for NextGen equipment will be a hurdle for some air carriers, smaller airports and even for the FAA given the governmental budgeting process.

Government incentives will be needed to help reduce the cost sting of upgrading and the FAA will clearly need increased government funding to complete full implementation in a 2025-2030 timeframe. But as airports and aircraft become equipped with the new NextGen navigation systems, the technology should sell itself.

"As dispatchers, safety is our number one objective, improving efficiencies on the ground and in the air provides a better product for the passengers," said Plowman.



John Plowman, President of Local 542, joined the NextGen Advisory Committee Working Subcommittee.


protecting transportation **WORKERS' SAFETY**

TWU's Health and Safety Task Force (HSTF) continues to participate in, and develop, its ongoing research efforts, health and safety training activities, and outreach programs. HSTF members have served as experts on Transportation Research Board (TRB) panels to weigh in on research efforts to improve bus operator health and wellness. The HSTF and Local 101 are also moving forward with a study of fleet safety, aided by collaboration with Occupational Health Internship Program partners. The HSTF has held training activities through which it continues to build its own capacity and that of our 114 Locals to anticipate and respond to health and safety issues. Two additional TWU members have gained "train the trainer" certification and TWU is working with partners to develop and expand health and safety training activities.

TOP SAFETY ISSUES

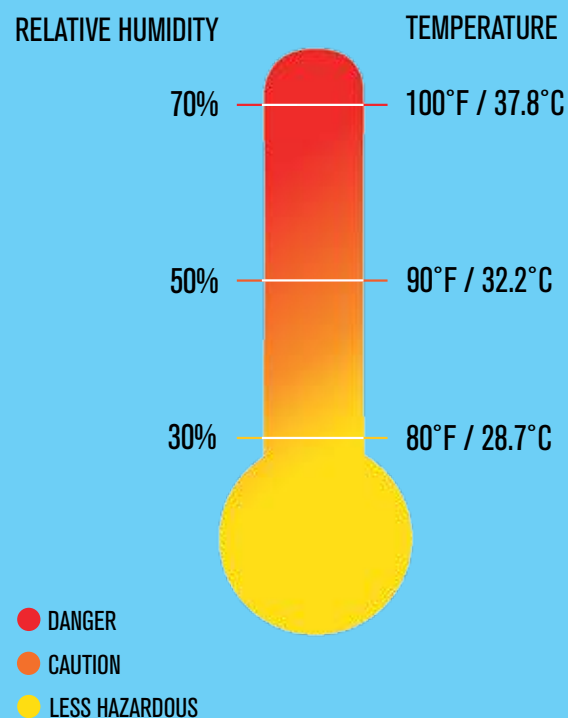
The National Transportation Safety Board released its new Most Wanted List for raising awareness of the top ten issues in transportation safety. Making the top ten were runway safety, safety management systems and human fatigue. Efforts to address worker fatigue, in particular, have intensified amid investigations into the recent headline-grabbing incidents involving air traffic controllers and charter bus accidents that resulted in injuries and fatalities. This has prompted research organizations and regulatory agencies alike to step up efforts to understand and address the systemic workplace factors that contribute to worker fatigue. Among these efforts are fatigue recommendations recently agreed upon by the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Air Traffic Controllers Association that call for development of Fatigue Risk Management Systems and adjustments in schedules based on fatigue science. The TRB is also sponsoring an upcoming fatigue conference this fall. In addition, Congress is considering legislative proposals to implement various engineering and administrative controls to improve bus safety.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

OSHA action continues to develop on a variety of health and safety issues that impact our members. The agency has proposed rules on occupational illness and injury recording and reporting requirements that are intended to improve the quantity and quality of information about these incidents, timeliness of responses, and, ultimately, the ability to prevent such events from occurring. OSHA has also begun developing new standards for infectious diseases and beryllium, and made development of injury and illness prevention programs (I2P2s) a top priority. TWU plans to remain actively engaged with the agency and key stakeholders throughout upcoming meetings on these issues so that workers are guaranteed workplaces that are not only safe, but healthy as well. 

STAYING SAFE IN THE HEAT

With the summer season now in full swing, transportation and worker safety issues have been front and center in the headlines and on regulatory agendas. With record-breaking and dangerous heat waves sweeping the nation, workers' risk of suffering heat-related illness and injury is at an all-time high. In anticipation of this threat, OSHA rolled out its new nationwide campaign to prevent heat illness amongst outdoor workers. You should also follow guidance provided in TWU's Heat Stress factsheet which has been updated and made available on the website in English and Spanish.





Army Sgt. Jose Tavera talks with TWU members at Local 568's annual picnic.

LOCAL 568 & VET COMMITTEE Honor War Hero

After honoring U.S. Army Sergeant Joel Tavera at Local 568's annual picnic on April 16, the ATD Veterans Committee organized a dinner-dance to raise money for Building Homes for Heroes, the nonprofit organization that is building a new home for the Taveras family in Tampa, Fla. After spending time with Sergeant Tavera and his family at the picnic, the TWU members and veterans were so inspired by his unimaginable sacrifices that they decided to do more to help out and organized a fundraiser.

Sergeant Tavera was seriously wounded in a rocket attack on his humvee while fighting in Iraq. Medics did not expect Sergeant Tavera to survive his wounds, but he has proved them wrong and now faces a series of additional medical surgeries and a lengthy rehabilitation. The Veterans Committee was able to raise over \$6,300 for Building Homes for Heroes.

The 2011 class of the SEPTA-TWU Local 234 Joint Transit Summer Youth Program with their parents and Local 234 leaders at the orientation on June 29.



LOCAL 234 MEMBERS Help Students Launch Careers

This summer 15 Philadelphia area high school students will have the opportunity to gain valuable on-the-job-experience that will help them launch careers in transit by working alongside SEPTA employees through the SEPTA-TWU Local 234 Joint Transit Summer Youth Program.

In its third year, the program brings together students from career and technical high schools with TWU mechanics to get hands-on instruction and mentoring. The students, with backgrounds in electrical, automotive and mechanical skills, spend eight-weeks of their summer at SEPTA facilities working on buses, mechanical systems and subway cars. The initiative is a joint labor-management effort by TWU Local 234, SEPTA, the Keystone Development Partnership, the Transportation Learning Center, Philadelphia Academies, Inc. and Philadelphia high schools.

"The program provides students with the opportunity for success later in life,"

said TWU Local 234 President John Johnson, Jr. "They get to understand the structure of a job and the sense of a career."

Through the program Local 234 members are able to mentor young people and pass on their skills and their craft to eager learners. By helping students gain skills and improve their jobs prospects, Local 234 is able to giveback to the community, build relationships and educate people about the important role of the union.

"We are showing people that unions care about the community and the people that we serve on our buses, subways and trolleys. These are our communities," said Johnson.

The students receive a transit pass, work an eight-hour shift five days a week, paid \$8 per hour and are placed according to their interests and location. The program began in 2009 and continues to be a model for training the next generation of transit workers and union leaders.

LOCAL 561 Officers Oath of Office



Left to Right: Don Videtich (TWU International Rep. for Maintenance and Related), Glenn Olsen (Treasurer), Pete Bloode (Executive Board- Stores), Jorge Rojas (President), Mike McIntosh (Vice President), Pete Caruso (Recording Secretary), Rich Rivera (Executive Board- Aircraft Maintenance), Eddie Suarez (Executive Board- Facility Maint./Automotive).





LOCAL 225 AND 226 Steward Training

Shop stewards from Local 225 and 226 held a training session in June to prepare members to advocate for their co-workers on the job.

LOCAL 542 Alaskan Airlines Contract

Local 542 members, who are flight dispatchers at Alaska Airlines, ratified a new four-year contract that provides wage increases and quality of life improvements.

A large majority of the 36 dispatchers, 86 percent, voted to accept the contract that will mean wages keep up with the increasing cost of living and workers have provisions to ensure a decent job. "This contract is a direct result of the committed input and support of our membership and represents an agreement that was achieved through open, honest conversation between the company and union," said John E. Plowman, President of Local 542.

LOCAL 2054 Officer Elections

Local 2054 in Boston will be accepting nominations for all local officer positions. The nomination meeting is Oct. 20, 2011 at the VFW Post #6536, 7 Ellery St. S. Boston, MA from 3-5 pm. Elections will then be held Nov. 7, 2011, same time and location. The term runs from Jan. 1, 2012 to Dec. 31, 2015.

LOCAL 550 Wants Some LUV

While Southwest Airlines shareholders were inside company headquarters in Dallas on May 18 holding their annual meeting and discussing executive bonuses, members of TWU Local 550, who are dispatchers at Southwest, rallied outside for a new contract that recognizes their years of hard work.

A group of Local 550 members and fellow TWU members held an informational picket to spread the message that dispatchers deserve some "LUV" and want a contract that provides decent wages and working conditions. "We are all long term employees of this company and we do love this company and we're very happy to see it prosper," said TWU Local 550 president Mike Connor. "We just want to share in that success."

The contract became amendable in 2009 after the previous 12-year contract expired. The dispatchers are the last work group without a contract and they want an agreement that shares the company's prosperity and provides decent jobs to the 184 dispatchers who make Southwest planes operate smoothly every single day.

"We have been great servant warriors for this last 14 years and kept this company operating efficiently, smoothly, and safely," said Connor.

I have no problem whatsoever with our officers being rewarded with the success of Southwest Airlines. I think it's only fair that we participate as well," said Local 550 member Steve Papaila.



Local 550 and fellow TWU members protest outside the Southwest shareholders meeting in Dallas.

RENEWABLE ENERGY TRAINING PROGRAM

Gives Local 100 Members New Skills

TWU Local 100 members are learning how to install and maintain photovoltaic (PV) panels through a joint training initiative with the MTA that is funded through a grant from the federal Department of Labor. The program is creating work for union members while helping the MTA develop renewable energy sources.

The first class of 15 TWU Local 100 members from Maintenance of Way graduated from the program in late June and learned how to operate PV panels over Coney Island's Stillwell Avenue Terminal train station. The enormous array of 2,730 solar panels will generate \$1800 worth of power per hour during peak times and will light the building. "It is a move into a green energy future for our union," said Local 100 Administrative Vice President Angel Giboyeaux.

The program will train hundreds more TWU members on fiber optics and how to install PV panels on other MTA properties around New York, including subway platforms and bus depots. Participants will gain skills to make the transit system greener and more energy efficient while cutting down on electricity costs.



Local 100 members learn about solar panels on the roof of the Stillwell Avenue Terminal train station. Photo by Alan Saly, Local 100



LOCAL 501 Swearing In

Newly elected officers of Local 501 at the swearing in ceremony. Front row (L to R): Robert Gless (International ATD Deputy Director), Angelo Cucuzza, Pasquale Albarella, Patrick Smith, Vinny Morales, David Virella, Vinnie Argentina, Tom Steele, Luis Rosa, Luis Rodriguez, Luis Mendoza. Back Row (L to R): Russell Spero, Jason Humiston, Victor Gonzalez, Jack Sullivan, Anthony Baselice, Paul Diamantos

2011 WINNERS OF MICHAEL J. QUILL SCHOLARSHIPS



AUDREY ASIBEY

The daughter of Local 252 member Adelaide Asibey, Audrey grew up in New York and will attend college at Old Westbury State University of NY starting this fall. In high school she had perfect attendance and was an honor roll member. She plans to study medicine and science in college.



JARED BILLINGS

Born in Pittsburgh and the son of Donald Billings, a US Airways flight instructor and a Local 545 member, Jared was a standout student and athlete at Quaker Valley High School. He was on the honor roll all four years and named to the National Honor Society while playing varsity soccer and participated in community service. He will attend Grove City College in the fall to study international business.



ZACHARY BILLINGS

A native of Texas, Zachary is the son of David Billings who is a Local 513 member that works as a facility mechanic at American Airlines. Zachary was an outstanding student and active in the Key Club and sports medicine. He is also a first-degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do. He will attend Texas Christian University to study biology in order to hopefully launch a career in pharmacology.



STEVEN BOI

He is an excellent student from Elmhurst, Ill. and the son of Brian Boi, an aircraft mechanic at American Airlines and a Local 563 member. In high school Steven earned National Honor Society and academic high honors recognitions while excelling in science. He will continue his education at Northern Illinois University studying high energy/particle physics.



BRYAN BRODEUR

A native of New Jersey, he is the son of a Local 225 Branch 4 member. Bryan was a standout soccer player receiving many accolades including All Shore Media Ocean County 2nd team in his senior year. He will attend Brookdale Community College where he is interested in studying physical education.



BRITTANY BYRD

The daughter of Sandra Rosado, a Local 556 member and Southwest Airlines flight attendant, Brittany was born and raised in Texas. She was an excellent high school student receiving recognition by the NAACP for her academic work and All District Academic honors for her play on the basketball court. She will continue her education at Stephen F. Austin State University where she wants to pursue nursing.



REBECCA FENDERSON

Born in New Jersey but now living in Brooklyn, NY, Rebecca is the daughter of Benjamin Fenderson, a Local 100 member who works as a train operator for the MTA. In high school Rebecca was a member of the National Honor Society and President of the Spanish Honor Society. She will start at Villanova University in the fall and wants to work in pediatric medicine.



AMBER GREENE

The daughter of Local 100 member and MTA bus operator, Debbie Greene, Amber graduated from high school in New York City where she enjoyed drama, swimming and soccer. She will attend Keystone College where she plans to study business.



DIANA MATOS

An honor roll student from Plantation, Fla., Diana is the daughter of Local 561 member and aircraft maintenance instructor for American Airlines, Richard Matos. She is in the National Honor Society and was awarded for her dedicated community service. At University of Central Florida she hopes to start a career in speech therapy.



SEAN MCCORMICK

From Chicago, Sean is the son of Paul McCormick, a Local 563 member who works as an aircraft mechanic at American Airlines. Sean shined in the classroom being named to the National Honor Society and received several scholarships and awards. He was also on the varsity cross-country team. While at Columbia College of Chicago he wants to study sound engineering.



KIRSTEN MCCULLOUGH

The daughter of a Local 514 member, David McCullough who works as a QC Inspector at American Airlines, Kirsten was active in band and student government at her high school in Oklahoma. She will attend Northeastern State University and looks forward to studying early childhood education.



JOHNATHAN MEFFORD

From Tulsa, Okla., he is the son of John Mefford a Local 514 member and machinist at American Airlines. At his high school Johnathan was on the student council and a standout athlete in football, basketball and baseball. He was a football All Star, team MVP in basketball and All Conference baseball player. He will attend Northern Oklahoma College and wants to be a firefighter or paramedic.



SHAMEEK MOSBY

From Queens, NY, Shameek is the son of Local 100 member and MTA track worker Keith Mosby. As a high school student he was on the honor roll and received the silver medal from the history department. In the fall he will go to Pennsylvania State University where he is interested in studying business and finance.



LEMUEL OVERTON

Born and raised in Oklahoma, Lemuel is the son of David Overton, Jr., an American Airlines aircraft mechanic and Local 514 member. During high school Lemuel was band president and class valedictorian. He will study music education at East Central University in Ada, Okla.



CHRISTOPHER PAGAN

From Jamaica, NY and the son of a Local 100 member and MTA bus operator, Richard Pagan, he will study computer science at Stony Brook University. In high school, Christopher was an outstanding student, in the National Honor Society, and an editor for his school's newspaper.

congratulations!

2011 UNION BENEFIT PLANNERS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



MATTHEW BATLLE

The son of two Local 556 members and Southwest Airlines flight attendants, Juan Carlos and Sonja Batlle, Matthew grew up in Arizona where he was a

scholar athlete in high school. He was named to the Arizona Interscholastic Association Honor Roll for his academic and athletic success. He is going to Metropolitan State College of Denver and hopes to become a commercial pilot and work for Southwest Airlines one day.



AUBREY PLANE

A native of Beaver, Pennsylvania, Aubrey is the daughter of Local 2035 member Clinton Nadzam who is a carman at Norfolk Southern Railroad. She hopes

to pursue a career in the medical field and will be attending University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, attend West Chester University of Pennsylvania and wants to study science.



REINIER DEGUZMAN

From Chicago, Reinier is the son of Local 512 member Ferdinand Deguzman who works at American Airlines. Reinier was an honor roll member and winner of the American Legion Award. He wants

to begin a career in business and marketing at Illinois State University.



ALEXANDER WALLERSON

Born and raised in New Brunswick, NJ by his father Roger Wallerson, a Local 100 member and mechanical maintainer at NYC Transit Authority, and

mother Desrene Wallerson, a nurse. He was a National Honor Society member, on the honor roll in high school and played on the varsity tennis team. He will launch his education in medicine and neurology at Rutgers University.



DANIELLE CRAIN

She is the daughter of a Local 234 member, Robert Crain, who works as a mechanic at SEPTA in Pennsylvania. Danielle has been an honor roll student

and won many accolades for her efforts in the classroom. She was also a member of the marching band throughout high school and the color guard for three years. She will attend West Chester University of Pennsylvania and wants to study science.

TWU Family Members Awarded **Union Plus** College Scholarships



Two children of TWU members have been awarded college scholarships in the 2011 Union Plus Scholarship Program along with 128 other students from union households.

Danielle Felde of Marengo, Ill., whose father John Felde is a member of TWU Local 512 and whose mother is also a union member, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. Cynthia Giovannetti of Keller, Texas, whose father Eric Giovannetti is a member of TWU Local 513, has been awarded a \$750 scholarship.

"During a time when the labor movement is under attack, helping union members and their children achieve their educational goals is critical," says Leslie Tolf, president of Union Privilege. "This year's scholarship recipients appreciate that their unions provide family-sustain-

ing benefits, a voice in the workplace and a path to achieve the American Dream."

For Cynthia Giovannetti, attending college is a step toward fulfilling her dream. Through her longtime volunteer work she developed a passion for helping kids and is planning to attend medical school to become a pediatrician.

When Danielle Felde suffered a serious injury during gymnastics she saw the importance of being part of a strong community through the TWU and her mother's union, the UFCW. Her TWU health insurance covered medical costs and the union hosted fundraisers. Danielle is recovering and excited to continue her education and plans to become an orthodontist.

From top: Cynthia Giovannetti of Keller, Texas; Danielle Felde of Marengo, Ill.

IPAD2 WINNERS

Thanks to all the thousands of people who updated their contact information and entered the iPad2 raffle. The winners were:

William Wallweber, Local 568

Fred Erion, Local 568 (retired)



by International
Secretary-Treasurer
Joseph C. Gordon

The National Labor Relations Board recently held hearings on some mod-

est rule changes that would return some balance to the union election process. These steps are sorely needed to level the playing field for working men and women.

As Labor Law Professor Julius G. Getman writes in an op-ed piece in the *Los Angeles Times*, "The new rules aren't radical; they are a step toward fairer representation elections. What is radical is the way such modest proposals have been attacked. That they have drawn bitter condemnation shows the extent to which the NLRB and the National Labor Relations Act itself have become the target of right-wing critics.

Why does it surprise me that anything designed to help workers is met with such resistance? For years, roadblocks that prevent workers from organizing have helped to destroy the American middle-class. If workers have less, then the wealthiest can have more. It's that simple.

The new rules would improve the balance between labor and management in several small, but significant, ways. Union organizers still couldn't enter company property, but would have an easier time contacting employees. Currently, employ-

NLRB takes modest steps to **LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD**

ers are required to furnish the union with the names and addresses of workers eligible to vote in the election. The new rules would require them to provide phone numbers and email addresses as well.

The NLRB is also seeking to speed up the election process, primarily by postponing hearings on voter eligibility until after the voting.

Employers claim such "snap elections" will give them too little time to counteract the union message. Anyone who's been involved in a union campaign knows this claim is ridiculous because employers

A study by Professor Getman of union representation campaigns found that employees were far more familiar with company arguments against unionization than with arguments in favor of unionization. The reason is simple: most workers attend one or more company meetings, while only a third attend union meetings, often citing child care or other duties in their off hours.

Union organizers report that captive-audience meetings are more and more common. And with advice from their anti-union consultants, employers have

If workers have less, then the wealthiest can have more. It's that simple.

are able to call anti-union meetings during working hours. Heck, many of them make their opposition to unions clear long before a campaign even gets underway.

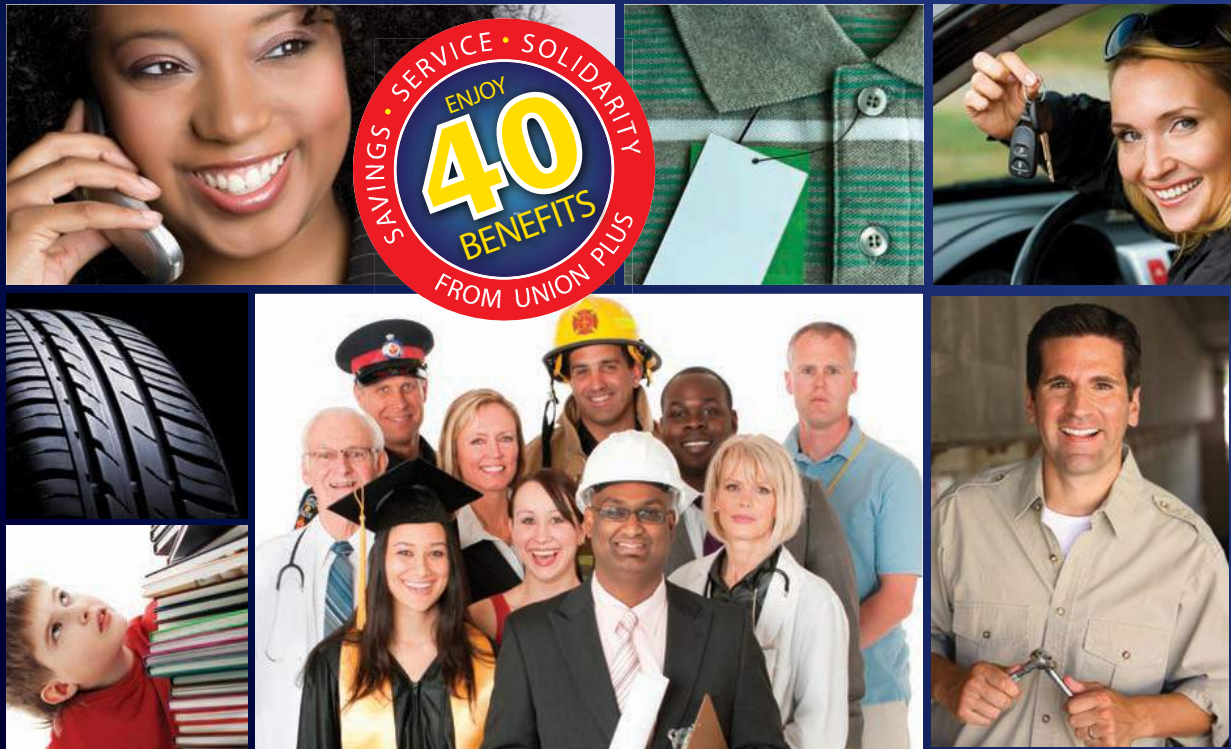
Using so-called "captive audience" meetings, the employer or his anti-union consultant regales workers with the disastrous consequences of unionization, including strikes, closed plants etc. Union organizers can't speak at those events and must make their points at meetings away from the work site, during workers' off hours.

learned that delaying tactics, such as challenging the union's proposed list of eligible voters, are effective. No matter how frivolous, delaying tactics erode workers' interest in the union and willingness to fight for their rights.

While certainly no panacea for all that ails our economy, the new NLRB rules are a step in the right direction. To rebuild the American middle class, we must strongly support workers' First Amendment right to organize and negotiate with their employers.

TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

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