

# TWU EXPRESS

THE TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO | WE MOVE AMERICA | SUMMER 2015 | VOL. 67 | NO. 2



[facebook.com/transportworkersunion](https://facebook.com/transportworkersunion)



[youtube.com/transportworker](https://youtube.com/transportworker)



[@transportworker](https://twitter.com/transportworker)



[flickr.com/transportworkersunion](https://flickr.com/transportworkersunion)



## Moving Forward

Accountability. Action. Progress.



# Moving America – And Our Union – Forward, Together

*By International President Harry Lombardo*

For many years now, TWU has used the slogan “We Move America.” From airport ramps to bus depots to railroad trains to universities and utilities, TWU members get Americans where they need to go with the services they need, playing a critical role in making our economy run. But it’s important that we remember our initial slogan too: “United. Invincible.”

Here at the International, we’re as committed as ever to the hard work our members do to move America and to making sure you’re well-represented, safe, and that your rights on the job are protected. But we’re also committed to moving ourselves forward as an organization; to building on our history, learning from it, and ushering in a new era of progress and accountability.

We’ve taken important steps forward on a number of our convention resolutions, and we’ve done it by getting out in the field and talking directly to you, the people who make this union run. At our transit conference in Atlantic City, we heard about the legislative issues related to transit funding and development, and we used that momentum to do something about it. In late April, I testified before the Senate Banking Committee, (see pages 6-7), urging Congress to take swift action to ensure America’s transit systems get the funding and repair they need, and that the backbone of those systems – you, the workers – be heard. It was a great moment for TWU and a great example of taking the good ideas we come up with together and putting them into action.

It’s important to me that I spend time here in the office getting our house in order, but it’s just as important that I’m out in the field and at the negotiating table with the people who make this great union tick. Step by step, we are building an organization so that it works for every member – regardless of division, local, or employer.

Brother and sisters, we’re at a critical time in the history of our union. We have too many members without contracts, and it’s time to move forward as one united organization to fight for these rights. We must come together with discipline, unity and solidarity to be one union, because I’m tired of employers taking advantage of our members and making profits from their hard work. I sit in my office and wonder how to help these people who don’t have a contract; I wonder what the International can do to help members who are negotiating. A successful union is, by definition, people coming together collectively for concerted activity for the mutual benefit of their compensation from their employer. And that’s what we should be: here for you, whenever you need us.

It’s my hope that you’ve begun to recognize our progress. We’ve set our priorities and now it’s time to implement them. I ask for your continued support, encouragement, ideas, and participation as we continue on this path of progress. I have always placed my faith in the members throughout my career. And they have never let me down.

---

“Step by step, we are  
building an organization  
so that it works for  
every member –  
regardless of division,  
local, or employer.”

---





# TWU EXPRESS | CONTENTS

Summer 2015 | Vol. 67, No. 2

## IN THIS ISSUE:

**TRANSIT, UNIVERSITIES, UTILITIES AND SERVICES:** *Lobbying for funding, update on Vision Zero, organizing in New Jersey, and more*

**RAIL:** *Celebrating our retirees, upcoming negotiations with Amtrak, and more*

**AIR:** *NMB certifies WU-IAM joint association at American, visiting with locals, latest flight attendant news, and more*

**ADMINISTRATIVE:** *Expanding International staff, creation of International Campaigns Unit, and new commitment to training, education and leadership development*

**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT AND FEEDBACK:** *Photos of TWU members in action*

**PAGE 2 . . . . .** President's Column

**PAGE 5 . . . . .** TWU Fights Fast Track

**PAGE 6-7 . . . . .** President Lombardo Testifies Before Senate Committee

**PAGE 8-9 . . . . .** Leadership Visits Airline Locals,  
Celebrates NMB Certification of Joint Association

**PAGE 10 . . . . .** New Gaming Division Officers Sworn In,  
Local 241 Hard Work Pays Off

**PAGE 11 . . . . .** Informational Picketing at Allegiant Airlines

**PAGE 12 . . . . .** 2015 Quill Scholarship Recipients Announced

**PAGE 13 . . . . .** Interview with Eddie White, Local 2054

**PAGE 14 . . . . .** Street Co-Naming Ceremony in Honor  
of Murdered Bus Operator Edwin Thomas

**PAGE 15 . . . . .** Local 100 Targets NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio

**PAGE 16 . . . . .** International Campaign Unit and In-House  
Training, Education, Health & Safety Unit

**PAGE 17 . . . . .** First Test of New Workplace Election Rules

**PAGE 18 . . . . .** Railroad Division News

**PAGE 19 . . . . .** Coney Island Family Day,  
Airline Division President's Meeting

**PAGE 20-22 . . . . .** Our Members in Action

**PAGE 23 . . . . .** Secretary-Treasurer's Column

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO

Published by the Transport Workers Union of America — ISSN 0039-8659

501 3rd Street NW 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20001 Phone: (202) 719-3900

Annual subscription price \$2.00 per year. Oriana Korin, Communications Director.

Postmaster: Send address changes to TWU EXPRESS, 501 3rd Street NW 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20001



# Have You Been Watching TWU's Award-Winning Videos?

**T**WU's short videos give you an up-close look at the crucial work that TWU members do every day — whether we're at our job sites or out performing service to our communities. Wherever you find TWU members, you'll see the same qualities: dedication, expertise, professionalism, and heart! Check out TWU's YouTube channel and get to know your proud brothers and sisters!

For years, our inspiring videos have won award after award, and as we reported last issue, 2014 was no different. So far in 2015, a shorts program of TWU videos was screened at the Annual Worker's Film Festival in New York, and two of our other pieces, Profits Before People: The New Southwest Airlines, and a video on the TWU Working Women's Committee were screened at the Santa Fe Labor Film Festival.

If you haven't checked out our YouTube channel yet, now's the time to get online!

#### FIND OUT MORE ONLINE...

facebook.com/transportworkersunion  
twitter.com/transportworker  
youtube.com/transportworker  
flickr.com/transportworkersunion



Go to the union's YouTube channel to watch "TWU Local 527: Union at Work," a recent TWU video production that's been getting a lot of attention. TWU members nationwide perform some of the most important work in this country. Get an inside look at the vital support services Local 527 members provide to the U.S. military at Fort Gordon Army Base in Augusta, GA and the U.S. Army Quartermaster School in Fort Lee, VA.

## TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO

**HARRY LOMBARDO**  
*International President*

**JOHN SAMUELSEN**  
*Int'l Executive Vice President*

**ALEX GARCIA**  
*Int'l Secretary-Treasurer*

**JOHN BLAND**  
*Int'l Administrative Vice President*

**GARY MASLANKA**  
*Int'l Administrative Vice President*

**MICHAEL J. QUILL**  
*Int'l President, 1934-1966*

**SONNY HALL**  
*Int'l President Emeritus*

**MICHAEL O'BRIEN**  
*Int'l President Emeritus*

## INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

**PATRICIA BOWDEN**  
**CHARLES CERF**  
**MICHAEL CONIGLIARO**  
**DALE DANKER**  
**SEAN DOYLE**  
**GARRY DRUMMOND**  
**JEROME LAFRAGOLA**  
**TOM LENANE**  
**CARL MARTIN**  
**THOM MCDANIEL**  
**CURTIS TATE**  
**TONY UTANO**  
**JAMES WHALEN**

## INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORS

**JOE CARBON**  
*Director of Gaming Division*  
**GARRY DRUMMOND**  
*Director of Air Transport Division*  
**JEROME LAFRAGOLA**  
*Director of Transit, Universities, Utilities and Services Division and Administrative Assistant to the International President*  
**GARY MASLANKA**  
*Director of Rail Division*



# TWU Fights Unfair Trade and the Trans-Pacific Partnership

**T**WU has joined with the entire labor movement in opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), an international trade agreement that would dramatically alter the American economy for the worse and provide special protections to unaccountable multinational corporations. This fall, Congress is likely to vote on this misguided trade deal.

TPP would be one of the largest free trade agreements ever and includes the US and 11 other countries throughout the Pacific Rim. The trade deal has been negotiated in secret by special interests to benefit their own bottom line at the expense of workers and the environment. Only government officials with security clearances and corporate negotiators have had access to the text.

Despite White House support, opposition has been strong. The unions who lived through NAFTA and saw jobs shipped overseas have organized rallies, protests, and nationwide call-in days for members to contact Congress and voice their opposition to TPP. Union allies in Congress have been on the front lines of pulling back the curtain on this disastrous deal.

TWU will continue to stand up against unfair trade until we are victorious in this fight.



## How Will the TPP Affect the Economy?

- Since the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was enacted in 1994, the U.S. Labor Department has individually certified more than 2.5 million American jobs as destroyed by either direct offshoring or displacement by imports. The Economic Policy Institute estimates that the true number of jobs lost is actually closer to 3.5 million.

- This job loss is obviously devastating to the livelihoods of the families who experience it directly. It also reduces the tax revenue available for schools, infrastructure, and other vital public services, and it puts a significant downward pressure on the wages and benefits of the jobs that are left.

- Much of this trade-related job loss is the result of corporations looking to exploit cheap labor abroad — often in countries where workers are violently suppressed for organizing in favor of better working conditions.

- The TPP is expected to accelerate the global race to the bottom in working conditions, and unless significant changes are made, would undercut labor standards in the United States and across the world.



### FIND OUT MORE ONLINE...

- facebook.com/transportworkersunion
- @transportworker - #StopFastTrack
- youtube.com/transportworker
- flkr.com/transportworkersunion



## President Lombardo Testifies Before Senate Committee

In April, President Lombardo testified before Congress to demand a long-term, sustainable source of funding for transportation infrastructure in America, while also stressing the need to protect transit workers on the job. His remarks were made before the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs' hearing on reauthorizing MAP-21, the federal surface transportation legislation.

President Lombardo highlighted the unique history of TWU, stressing its role in some of the greatest issues facing our nation over the last 80 years.

"TWU has been the backbone of historic worker struggles on issues ranging from equality, human rights, and civil rights to workplace safety and work rules," he informed the committee. "We believe that all Americans are entitled to their piece of the American Dream regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, or creed."

He also discussed the consequences for the future of the country - hours lost and money wasted - because of the poor quality of our infrastructure. He noted the peril we are placing future generations in if we fail to act now to provide a long-

term, sustainable funding solution for buses, rails and roads. Moreover, stopping the alarming rate of assaults on transit workers is a key priority of the TWU. There are easy solutions to these problems, but he stressed that the will to act must be there to create solutions.

"On average, there are over 200 reported physical assaults annually against bus operators in New York City and Philadelphia combined," noted President Lombardo. "These operator assaults cannot continue. Working class Americans should not go to work every day fearing for their safety on the job. The solutions aren't difficult and we need this Congress to prioritize the safety of our riders and our operators by installing plexiglass barriers."

Lombardo called on Congress to take action on providing operating assistance in addition to capital investment. He discussed the need to both maintain and modernize our transit systems, and the dangers of relying on public private partnerships.

"I believe if we collectively have a backbone and confront the problem, we can develop a bi-partisan solution to invest in the future of America," concluded



President Lombardo. "So I have a simple message today - let us find those on each side of the aisle with a backbone. Let us end this 20-year debate for a sustainable, long-term solution. And let's get America moving again!"

This marked the first time a TWU President has been invited to testify before Congress in over a decade, an indication that our union's renewed investment to lobbying and political action is paying off. At last year's Transit Conference, members voted in support of a series of action steps, including engaging in the public debate over the need for increased investment in transit systems. President Lombardo's testimony was able to position TWU members at the center of our country's economy, highlighting the need to protect the workforce that keeps America moving.







FIND OUT MORE ONLINE...  
facebook.com/transportworkersunion  
twitter.com/transportworker  
youtube.com/watch?v=ufYRAoYvM1I  
flickr.com/transportworkersunion

## *Read President Lombardo's Full Testimony Here:*

On behalf of the Transport Workers Union of America and our 200,000 members and retirees – thank you for having me here today to testify on such a critical issue. To the members of the committee I look forward to a positive discussion today.

I am the ninth President of the Transport Workers Union of America and the TWU is a proud activist union. We have deep roots in our communities and a variety of industries in which we play an essential role in enhancing the quality of life of all Americans and our economy – WE MOVE AMERICA.

From New York to San Francisco, should you ride on a plane, train, bus, subway, and now, even a bike, you are a beneficiary of our proud, hard working, well trained, and skilled members.

Our members serve as the backbone of the transit, air and rail systems in this country.

I grew up in Philadelphia and as a young man I learned quickly you needed a backbone to move ahead. I became a member of TWU Local 234 as a car cleaner for SEPTA, our public transit system. I, like all young folks, wanted to participate in the American dream.

I worked hard and played by the rules and began to move up through the union. I was promoted to a rail mechanic, became a shop steward shortly thereafter, and just five years later became a business agent. Now I am the international president. This is indeed an amazing country.

I am so proud to serve in this role because TWU has been the backbone of historic worker struggles on issues ranging from equality, human rights, and civil rights to workplace safety and work rules.

We believe that ALL Americans are entitled to their piece of the American Dream regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, or creed. That dream is now at risk for those following in our footsteps because we are not upholding our responsibility to them to invest in their future.

Where is our backbone? Where is our commitment to the future?

Lack of infrastructure investment has horrendous consequences for the future of our country.

Consider the following:

- Americans spend 5.5 billion hours in traffic each year, which costs families more than \$120 billion in extra fuel and lost time.
- American businesses pay \$27 billion a year in extra freight transportation costs, increasing shipping delays and

raising prices on everyday products. And, by failing to invest, we are closing the door on our future.

- In addition, and more importantly, we are passing this debt and this burden on to our kids and grandkids.
- We have an obligation here to give the next generation a better shot than the one we had – we cannot imperil future generations by failing to act now.

Look, we all know the gravity of the situation we face, yet we have failed to have a BACKBONE on this issue for over 20 years...

The time has come... we need to act!

We need a long-term sustainable program.

We need to fund the program.

We need to prioritize the health and safety of our workforce – and improve working conditions.

The increasing number of assaults on our operators has to be addressed.

On average, there are over 200 reported physical assaults annually against bus operators in New York City and Philadelphia combined.

These operator assaults cannot continue.

Working class Americans should not go to work every day fearing for their safety on the job. The solutions aren't difficult and we need this Congress to prioritize the safety of our riders and our operators by installing plexiglass barriers.

We need to provide operating assistance, on a temporary and targeted basis, in addition to capital investment. We must provide the basic critical funding to this national priority. Operating cuts threaten public transportation systems and this Congress should not tolerate it.

We have to both maintain our systems and monetize them.

We need to stop thinking that Public Private Partnerships are a panacea for transit.

In fact, in many cases, P3's threaten the public interest by undermining commitments to timely and safe transit service, and to workers, wages and retirement security.

I believe if we collectively have a BACKBONE and confront the problem, we can develop a bi-partisan solution to invest in the future of America.

So I have a simple message today –

Let us find those on each side of the aisle with a backbone –  
Let us end this 20 year debate for a sustainable, long-term solution –

And let's get America moving again!

## Leadership Visits Airline Locals Celebrates NMB Certification of Joint Association

As part of TWU leadership's ongoing commitment to rebuilding the relationship with members, President Lombardo, Secretary-Treasurer Garcia, and other members of the leadership team have spent much of the first half of 2015 on the road meeting with locals, talking to members and boards, and engaging in discussions about upcoming negotiations and other issues facing the rank and file.

In May, the team visited the West Coast, where they met with Local 505 Title II Auto Mechanics and Title III flight service members at San Francisco's International Airport, as well as Local 502 and 591. Members and officers indicated that they were reassured by the presence of the union's highest officers, many

remarking that it was particularly inspiring to engage one-on-one with President Lombardo.

"It was such a refreshing change and a moral boost to see our leadership out in the field. The rank and file really appreciate it not having a huge wall or distance between us and the people we elected," said Leo Matos, 1st Vice President of Local 513.

The group also visited several locals in the Dallas, Texas area, including mechanics at Local 513, and then joined in the swearing in of new board members and officers for Local 555, Southwest ramp, operations, provisioning, and freight agents.

With each unit, President Lombardo spoke of the need to come back together as one union and to unite against the companies that are making record profits on the backs

of their workers. Southwest employees, who have been working without contracts for several years, said they're ready to head back to the bargaining table. In fact, a day after being sworn in, Local 555's President Greg Puriski traveled to Houston for an action at the Southwest Airlines Shareholder Meeting.

"It was great to have the opportunity to sit down with our leadership and hear about the direction they have planned for the International. I appreciate the assurance that they'll support us in any way necessary," Puriski said.

President Lombardo was also quick to assure members that their international union had their back, and that the airlines could expect highly trained, skilled negotiators at the bargaining table.

"I want our members to understand that this is their union, and that they should direct their anger at the real enemy: their employer," he explained.

The trip was followed shortly after a surprisingly fast certification of the TWU-IAM joint association by the National Mediation Board, a process through which the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association (AMFA) was unable to collect the necessary support to even appear on the ballot as a potential agent for representing employees. The decision by flight service, mechanic and related, and stores classifications to maintain TWU-IAM representation offered a clear vote of confidence by the workers for their union.

"With today's ruling, the Associations can now get down to the business of negotiating the industry's best contracts that our members deserve," said President Lombardo and IAM General Vice President Sito Pantoja in a joint statement.



**FIND OUT MORE ONLINE...**

- facebook.com/transportworkersunion
- twitter.com/transportworker
- youtube.com/transportworker
- flickr.com/transportworkersunion



## Background on the TWU-IAM Joint Association:

The unions requested on August 16, 2014 that the NMB make a determination of single carrier status for all classes and crafts covered by the Employee Associations. The NMB ruled on April 15, 2015 that American Airlines was operating as a single carrier for all groups covered by the Associations' filing. The NMB's process allowed a 30-day period after a single carrier determination for any intervenor to supply a showing of interest to compete for representation of the employees affected. No such showing of interest was filed resulting in the Board issuing a certification of the TWU-IAM Associations as the recognized bargaining agents. The TWU-IAM Association represents approximately 30,000 ground workers at American Airlines and is the largest union at the carrier.

## What happens now?

On the heels of the association certification, the flight service and mechanic and related negotiations committees spent a week in early July preparing for bargaining at the Machinist's William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Complex in Hollywood, Maryland.

"Combining the labor agreements from two different airlines is a complex process, but this reconciliation will be the foundation on which new agreements will be forged," said TWU International President Harry Lombardo and IAM General Vice President Sito Pantoja in a joint statement. "The Association is eager to complete our preparations so we can get to the table and bargain the contracts our members deserve."

"It's largely due to the hard work and past sacrifices of members represented by the Associations that American Airlines is now among the most profitable carriers in the world," continued Lombardo and Pantoja. "It's time that these dedicated employees share fully in the success they've been so instrumental in creating. That simply means the industry's best labor agreement." The Association's leadership and membership are anxious to begin joint contract talks so their compensation is directly reflective of the airline's success.



### SWEARING IN OFFICERS ACROSS OTHER DIVISIONS



#### Local 260 in Houston Installs New Officer

Pictured left to right are: D.J. Johnson (Executive Board Member), Jose Cruz-Torres (Executive Board Member), Cecil Dutton (Executive Board Member), Horace Marves (President), Fidel Minor (Vice President), Mary Simon (Executive Board Member) and John W. Bland, International Administrative VP.

## New Gaming Division Officers sworn In



From left, President Cynthia Fall, Executive Vice President Tambrey Hashimoto, and Secretary Treasurer Kathie Kurkjian.



From left, Tynisia Boon, Wynne Property VP; Ronda Beese, Local 721 Executive Board Member; Joe Carbon, Gaming Director.



From left, Ken Weathers, Harrah's Property VP; Lola Jones, Paris Property VP; Cynthia Falls, President; Tambrey Hashimoto, Executive VP; Kathie Kurkjian, Secretary Treasurer; Tammy Chaplin, Local 721 Secretary; Joe Carbon, Gaming Director.

## Hard Work Pays Off: Local 241 Pushes Columbia to Correct Years of Underpayments

Upon discovering that Columbia University was miscalculating night shift workers' overtime pay, resulting in years of lost wages for these particular members – Local 241 took action.

After a period of investigation, the local's officials approached university management directly in an effort to respect the bargaining relationship and avoid federal court. Columbia agreed to correct the practice going forward, and will make all affected members whole for unpaid compensation dating back three years. This represents a significant victory for members of Local 241, many of whom work in shifts that receive a night differential.

"This resolution provides that every affected member will receive the compensation they deserve. Our members work hard for every penny they earn, and Local 241 will fight every day to ensure that our members receive their due," said Local 241 President Luis Ventura. "By approaching the University, and convincing them we were right, we saved years of drawn-out litigation in court – so our members could get their money now instead of waiting."



Pictured here is President Luis Ventura, Treasurer Dino Centrone, and plumbers Marco Vinuesa and Arcel Martinez.



# Members Hold Informational Picketing at Allegiant Airlines Shareholder Meeting

**A**llegiant Air flight attendants joined fellow TWU members to gather for informational picketing at the company's shareholders meeting in Las Vegas this Thursday, June 18.

Allegiant flight attendants voted for TWU representation in December 2010 and have been in negotiations with the company since June 2011. While Allegiant has made record profits for the last several years, its flight attendants continue to fall far short of industry standards in terms of work rules, benefits and compensation. The union protested the failure of airline management to reach a labor agreement after over four years of negotiations with the more than 800 flight attendants, who are members of TWU Local 577. The company has become notorious for its lackluster labor relations: negotiations between Allegiant and its pilots have

dragged on for over two years and recently narrowly averted a strike by the Teamster-represented workforce.

"The message from our members is simple," said International President Harry Lombardo, "Four years is too long to wait for a contract. If the company wants to get rich on the backs of their workers, we're going to make sure people hear about it."

Allegiant CEO Maurice Gallagher is well known for a lack of respect for his own employees. He has a history of telling new flight attendant classes that they shouldn't consider their jobs with Allegiant a career, and recently, in court, referred to contract negotiations with pilots as a "Kabuki dance."

"Allegiant has spent millions of dollars on union busting efforts, costly court battles, and stalling techniques to resist negotiating the fair contracts that the flight attendants and pilots deserve," said Thom McDaniel, TWU International Vice President. "It is our goal to remind the shareholders that every dollar spent fighting against the fair treatment of Allegiant employees affect the company's bottom line and is a dollar out of their pockets."

The picketing was covered by several local and national media outlets, and marked a great show of unity amongst TWU members.

#### FIND OUT MORE ONLINE...

- facebook.com/transportworkersunion
- twitter.com/transportworker
- youtube.com/transportworker
- flickr.com/photos/transportworkersunion/sets/72157654371203228





# 2015 Michael J. Quill Scholarship Recipients Announced

**W**e are proud to award this year's Michael J. Quill Scholarships to several deserving students. Since 1970, TWU International has held an annual drawing to provide college tuition assistance to the deserving children of hard working TWU members, reflecting our commitment to protecting our people and their families by helping them achieve their educational goals.

The idea for the scholarship program began at the thirteenth constitutional convention as a memorial to our first International President and other deceased members of our union. The fund provides 15 college scholarships of \$1,200 each, annually renewable for four consecutive years. The scholarship money is paid directly to the college that the successful applicant attends and may be used only for tuition, college fees, or room and board while pursuing an undergraduate degree. Renewal of the scholarship for the second and succeeding years is conditioned upon successful completion of the regular course of studies in the preceding year, as attested by the college. We are particularly proud that the Quill Scholarship provides continued support to its recipients throughout their college careers.

TWU leadership is committed to honoring the tradition of investing in the educational goals of our members' children. This year's recipients represent some of the best and brightest students in the

country, and we are thrilled to honor their educational achievements and help to support their commitment to learning. Out of hundreds of applicants, this year's awardees were selected by International Executive Vice President and Local 100 President John Samuelsen and TWU retiree Francine Albach drew the names. On the following page, you'll find a full list of recipients, as well as acknowledgement of the generous benefactors that fund the scholarship program.

**Union Plus also recently awarded \$150,000 in scholarships to 106 students representing 36 unions, including two winners representing the Transport Workers Union of America, in the 2015 Union Plus Scholarship Program.** In this 24th year of the program, more than 5,000 applications were received from union members, their spouses and their dependent children in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This year's TWU winners are:

Eduardo Aroix Jr. of Miami. Eduardo, who is a member of TWU Local 568, has been awarded a \$500 scholarship.

Tianyu She of Brooklyn, N.Y. Tianyu, whose father, Shen She, is a member of TWU Local 100, has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.



**Know someone who might qualify?** Check back in the next issue for more information on the 2016 application process.



**Michael J. Quill  
Scholarship Winners**

Andrew J. Preus , Local 101  
Joseph E. Berry, Local 510  
Sean R. Capper, Local 225  
Jennifer M. Jarosz, Local 507  
Lily Clegg, Local 513  
Alphonso M. Williams, Local 100  
Vlad M. Dubossarskiy, Local 100  
Jeanine A. Gonzalez, Local 241  
Dana E. Rauseo, Local 567  
Savannah K. Knighton, Local 556  
Monique T. Campbell, Local 291  
Jennifer Landron, Local 100  
Kiara I. Jordan, Local 101  
Carlos A. Hicks, Local 513  
Ryan T. Lupo, Local 101

**Alternates**

Jennifer N. Sullivan, Local 241  
Brandon L. Sloan, Local 591  
Katelyn M. Graham, Local 514  
Anaya J. Batts, Local 100  
Shakiya S. Bates, Local 100  
Tatiana A. Luis, Local 514  
Tiffany R. Latimore, Local 101  
Emery U. Whitfield, Local 5  
Natalie L. Croitoru, Local 556  
Paul M. Kowaleski, Local 101

**Union Benefit  
Planners**

Devon T. Lewis, Local 507  
Tara M. Schoepp, Local 512  
Zachary W. Cain, Local 514  
Lauren M. Smart, Local 512  
Nina-Simone E. Beaver, Local 229  
Ali W. Alkhafaji, Local 591  
Mariah L. Cadet, Local 101  
Daniel Ramirez Jr., Local 100

**M3 Technology**

Emilio K. Eisenhardt, Local 291  
Maliq L. Donovan, Local 100  
Connor H. Antignolo, Local 501  
Christopher Q. Young, Local 514  
Carmen A. Dunn, Local 2017

**Pitta & Gibling**

Tia R. Hamilton, Local 100  
Jibi G. Jacob, Local 252

## Interview with Eddie White, Retiring After 41 Years of Service on the Railroad



**Please tell us about your history with TWU.**

I started with the union in 1974, and I've been a committee member, vice president, or officer at various points throughout my 41 years on railroad.

**What has been the best part of being a TWU member and officer?**

The people I've met are by far the best part of this experience. I remember President Lombardo when he was a young man! It's been so fantastic to work with people from around the country – helping each other, sharing knowledge, and fighting back on behalf of our members. I left every President's Council meeting feeling more motivated, knowing that my local members weren't the only people facing a particular set of issues. This has by far been one of the best experiences of my life.

**Tell us one of your best memories while on the job.**

A year ago, we were marching through the halls of Congress during a hearing on our contract – that advocacy and mobilizing efforts is really how we got the contract. It's been such a pleasure, working with Gary Maslanka and Tommy Murray and Charlie Moneypenny – I remember coming to DC to lobby everyone from Congressman Moakley, to Congressman Lynch, to Congressman Capuano.

**What are your plans for retirement?**

I'm still going to be involved – I'm always here to help with lobbying and outreach in Washington, DC. But other than that, I'm going to play lots of golf and give our home on Sebago Lake the TLC it needs!

**What is your message to other TWU members?**

Keep up the fight!

*Know a retiree or member we should profile in The Express? Send their name and story to: [okorin@twu.org](mailto:okorin@twu.org).*

# MTA Bus Operators, Local 100 Members and Elected Officials Gather for Street Co-Naming Ceremony in Honor of Murdered Bus Operator Edwin Thomas



On December 1, 2008, Bus Operator Edwin Thomas, a 46-year old father of two, was stabbed to death by a passenger on the B-46 Bus at Malcolm X Boulevard and Gates Ave. in New York. He was loved by his co-workers and respected and liked by his passengers. Local 100 has helped keep his memory alive with annual memorials near the site of his murder, and now, with the help of City Councilman Alan Maisel, there will be a permanent memorial for Edwin Thomas: a street co-named in his honor in the shadow of the Flatbush Bus Depot, home to the B46 Line.

At the official street-naming ceremony, family and colleagues gathered to celebrate the life of Brother Thomas and his long history of service to the community. As Councilman Maisel said, "Today we honor the life of Edwin Thomas, who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our City. I salute the transit workers whose unheralded contributions often go without recognition."

International Executive Vice President and Local 100 President John Samuelsen said: "Our union, and especially the workers here at Flatbush Depot, are grateful to Councilman Maisel for his work to secure this recognition for Brother Edwin Thomas. Our bus operators safely carry more than 2.5 million passengers every day, and often are faced with unruly and dangerous situations for themselves and their passengers. They are truly unsung heroes in our society. Hopefully today's event will serve as a reminder of the dangers they face and the service they render to our great city."



**FIND OUT MORE ONLINE...**

- facebook.com/transportworkersunion
- twitter.com/transportworker
- youtube.com/transportworker
- flickr.com/photos/60007264@N08/sets/72157653841361472





# Local 100 Targets NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio for Safety Stunt that Punishes Bus Drivers

**T**WU Local 100 is continuing to fight against NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio's unfair "Vision Zero" plan, a result of the Vision Law that unfairly and illogically targets bus operators, criminalizing any accidents involving pedestrians and handcuffing bus drivers on the spot without an investigation. In essence, the law penalizes transit

professionals for doing exactly what the city and the MTA require them to as a condition of employment, making it so that accidents in which there was no negligence or recklessness by the operator are now landing our members in jail. As part of their campaign to raise awareness and change the text of this poorly-written law, Local 100 has launched a series of

print ads in the New York Daily News that illustrate the illogical, unnecessary rules stipulated by the law. The good news? The campaign is working.

Several city council members have come on board to amend the law, with the latest numbers tallied at 25 supporters of the amendment and counting. The focus of the campaign is to propose a real, workable solution that actually addresses the systemic causes of right-of-way accidents involving MTA buses, including street design, MTA bus routing, pedestrian and cyclist behavior, and lines of sight on buses.

Local 100's position is that reckless or dangerous acts by any motorist – including bus operators – should be punishable offenses, but that arresting responsible bus operators at accident scenes is an unwarranted criminalization of professional drivers before the facts of the case are known. The fact that an accident has occurred is not proof of culpability on the part of the driver, nor proof that the driver has not exercised "due regard" when operating in the intersection. Bringing added muscle to the campaign, Local 100 has filed suit in New York's State Supreme Court to have the section of the law that provides for misdemeanor penalties against drivers who infringe on the "right of way" and cause injuries voided. Our reasoning: the law does not contain a definition of what "due regard" actually means. Short of clear evidence that the driver ignored safety rules or was operating under the influence, that's for trained accident investigators to determine – not for officers on the scene to engage in a rush to judgment.

Check out the New York Daily News' coverage of the ad campaign here: <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/twu-local-100-ad-slams-mayor-bus-driver-arrests-article-1.2235063>.

A Message from New York City's Transit Workers

## Uncuff'em, Mayor DeBlasio!

As the City Council debates to decriminalize public urination and fare beating on our subways and buses — despite the fact that fare disputes lead to assaults on our Bus Operators — your Vision Zero campaign criminalizes the working men and women Bus Operators of TWU Local 100 for simply doing what NYC and the MTA order them to do everyday. So now public urination and fare beating are no big thing, but Bus Operators are criminals? **Not very "progressive" of you, Mayor DeBlasio.**

MTA Bus Operators, and all transit workers, are pillars of NYC's minority and blue-collar neighborhoods. They safely carry more than two and a half million passengers every day over the most difficult routes in the world. They do their jobs driving buses with multiple blind spots, on routes requiring dangerous left turns with no dedicated left turn signals.

And when a tragic right-of-way accident occurs, through no negligence by a Bus Operator, you and the so-called progressives on the City Council think it is necessary to arrest and humiliate them? This could not possibly have been the intent of the Vision Zero right-of-way law.

Let's be clear. The fact is your Vision Zero law has succeeded in criminalizing an entire class of hard working, law abiding unionized workers and you are wrong for doing so. **Not very progressive, Mayor DeBlasio.**

**WE ARE NOT CRIMINALS**

**#AmendVisionZero**

TRANSIT WORKERS LOCAL 100

TWU of America  
Harry Lombardo  
President

# President Lombardo Creates International Campaign Unit and In-House Training, Education, Health & Safety Unit

As part of the ongoing commitment to serving TWU's members and creating a more powerful union, President Lombardo and TWU leadership have embarked on a significant review of our union's structure, which included interviews with staff, member surveys, and a public affairs and communications audit. This work was part of an effort to make our union more effective, and to use your feedback to help us become more focused, more powerful, and more connected to our members and locals. It will also increase our ability to share information and communicate both internally and externally.

What follows are some key, actionable next steps that have come out of this process, including the creation of a new unit that will help TWU win strategic fights and position its members for victory, be it through contract negotiations, legislative battles, or in the eyes of the public.

The new division is called the International Campaign Unit, and International Vice President Jerome Lafragola has become President Lombardo's administrative assistant in charge of overseeing this unit. The unit will play a critical role moving forward, and as we advance our priority campaigns – be it contracts, ad-hoc issues, or legislative agendas – Vice President Lafragola

will be in charge of bringing together all necessary departments, divisions, and resources needed to achieve these goals and develop the strategic campaign plans.

In addition to the ICU, TWU will recommit to devoting time and resources to member development. International Administrative Committee Board Member and Railroad Division Director Gary



Maslanka will oversee the building of an in-house national training, education, health, and safety unit, which will focus on building out our capacity for professional staff training, leadership training, state conference leadership training, and a campaign boot camp. This unit will include the standard steward, treasurer, grievance handling, and other trainings that we already provide.

These changes are all part of an effort to bring TWU into a new era of collective power and strong representation for our members. In order to respond to the issues we face, we must create the necessary infrastructure that allows us to operate as strategically as possible. By harnessing our assets and utilizing the talents and abilities of all of our staff and members, together, we will move TWU forward.





# Workers Vote Union YES in First Test of New Workplace Election Rules



**FIND OUT MORE ONLINE...**

facebook.com/transportworkersunion  
twitter.com/transportworker  
youtube.com/transportworker  
flickr.com/transportworkersunion

Local 226 represents some 800 bus drivers and social service workers in New Jersey. The local is about to grow by 100 members, thanks to a successful organizing campaign by bus driver Luis Del Toro and his co-workers who work for Trans-Ed, a company that provides bus service to school districts in northern New Jersey.

Local President Jon Bradford credits the strong organizing committee with the victory, particularly after Del Toro and others reported that their boss was abusing them, telling them they would have to pay damages if there was an accident, even though the company has insurance.

## First Win Under New NLRB Rules

This victory is the first-ever campaign conducted under new workplace election rules issued by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). The rules, finalized last December, took effect in April. They're intended to create a more level playing field, increase transparency, and eliminate long delays that can be costly to both employers and workers seeking union representation.

Del Toro and a team of his co-workers turned in cards asking for a representation election on April 14, the first day the new rules took effect. On April 27, less than two weeks later, union supporters won a solid 66-31 majority and their election win was certified on May 6.

Just a month after their campaign got started, Trans-Ed workers are now talking about what they'd like to see in their first collective bargaining agreement.

"I want everything to change," says Del Toro. "Right now we've got no medical, no benefits I want my vacations paid. I want to be an eight-hour driver, not a four-hour driver."

This isn't the first time Trans-Ed workers have joined together to try to improve their workplace. Two years ago, an organizing drive was unsuccessful after the company owner called a series of captive audience meetings—including one in which he crammed dozens of drivers inside a school bus and threatened to sell the business.

This time around, it was a different story.

For many years, employers have stalled workplace elections, arguing for months and years about the size and shape of potential bargaining units. The goal is to take the momentum out of organizing campaigns—or to cancel the election altogether.

## Fewer Delays, More Democracy

The delay-or-deny strategy will become more difficult under the new NLRB rules, which require employers to provide a list of eligible voters two days after workers file a show of interest in forming a union. Elections will be scheduled, the rules state, on the "earliest date practicable."

Now, workers get to have their say first—and lawyers can start arguing after the votes have been counted.

A slew of business groups—including the Associated Builders and Contractors, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, and the National Retail Federation—are challenging the new rules in court. According to one legal filing, more than 140 groups of workers have filed for union representation since the new rules took effect on April 14.

"The best part is, the rules cut down on the delay tactics employers typically use," said Organizing Director Steve Roberts. "I've never seen an election this fast."

*Portions of this article first appeared in the AFL-CIO Now blog and are reprinted here with permission.*

## Railroad Division Holds Presidents Council Meeting

**O**n June 2-3, the Railroad Division held a Presidents Council meeting at the International offices in Washington, D.C. During the two-day meeting, a number of important topics were addressed, including reports on the early stages of negotiations for both Amtrak and freight railroad members and the advancement of Railroad Division initiatives to provide guidance and support to new officers. Officers in attendance also had the opportunity to hear a report from International President; Harry Lombardo and Secretary Treasurer Alex Garcia followed by an open discussion with international leadership. In addition, Government Affairs Director Brendan Danaher provided an informative presentation on the legislative process,

including a comprehensive update on passenger rail reauthorization, both the House bill 749 and progress on a Senate version. Participants also heard comments from Transit, Universities, Utilities and Services Division Director and Administrative Assistant to the International President Jerome Lafragola, Director of Accounting and Chief of Staff John O'Donnell, Communications Director Oriana Korin, and International Representative-COPE, Gwen York.

During the meeting Railroad Division officers, staff and TWU leadership took the opportunity to recognize Local 2054 Executive Vice President Eddie White for his more than 40 years of dedicated service to TWU, and congratulate him on his retirement (see page 13 interview with Mr. White).



### PASSING OF LOCAL 2015 PRESIDENT JAMES RILEY

Longtime TWU Local 2015 President James Riley passed away on Wednesday April 8th. First elected as Vice President in 1978, then as President in 1984, a position in which he served until his passing. James was a dedicated advocate for TWU members over the past 37 years. James also served on the Amtrak Negotiating and Grievance Committees and assisted in the presentation of arbitration cases. He will be sincerely missed.

## Railroad Division Contract Negotiations Update

### Amtrak

With Section 6 notices (contract proposals) served on Amtrak for two Railroad Division groups, Carmen, Helpers & Coach Cleaners and On-board Service Attendants, and initial meetings with Amtrak for both of these groups behind us, we are in the early stages of our next round of bargaining with Amtrak. As we know all too well from experience, a number of factors play into the Amtrak bargaining equation, historically resulting in difficult negotiations. Although it is early, there are indicators that suggest that we are heading into another difficult round of bargaining. That said, we are gearing up for these negotiations with resolve to achieve a solid contract that our members deserve, and that reflects the work our members do to keep Amtrak running.

### Freight Railroads (Conrail - SAA, CSX & NS)

We are also in the early stages of negotiations for our members employed on Conrail (SAA), CSX, and Norfolk Southern. These talks are taking place with a coalition of unions made up of TWU, the Transportation Communications Union/IAM, including the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen Division of TCU/IAM, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), and the International Association of Machinists (IAM).

In the coming months, we will be providing periodic updates as these negotiations progress.

#### FIND OUT MORE ONLINE...

- facebook.com/transportworkersunion
- twitter.com/transportworker
- youtube.com/transportworker
- flickr.com/transportworkersunion





FIND OUT MORE ONLINE...

facebook.com/transportworkersunion  
twitter.com/transportworker  
youtube.com/transportworker  
flickr.com/photos/60007264@N08/  
sets/72157653849217218

## Coney Island Family Day

Local 100's 2015 Family Day brought together TWU's transit, universities, utilities and services, air, and rail locals and their families for softball, grilling, fundraising, and fun. Congratulations to Local 100 for retaining their softball trophy, and thanks to the local presidents, officers, and members who came out, including President Mike Conigliaro of Local 101, President Debra Hagan of Local 252, Executive Vice President Pat Flannery with Local 2001, President Victor Gonzalez and Vice President Angelo Cucuzza with Local 501, and President Joe DelliSanti and Vice President Steve Hamm of Local 299. It was an incredible day of unity for TWU, as members from across our locals and divisions made their way to Coney Island to participate in the tournament.

International Vice President and Director of the Transit, Universities, Utilities and Services Division Jerome Lafragola also joined in the celebration along with International Vice President Curtis Tate, who has played a pivotal role in creating and growing the Coney Island Family Day. Director of Government Affairs Brendan Danaher and members of the International's political and COPE team including Gwen York, Terry Daniels, Andrew Rangolan and Heather Lavery also attended to sign up members to get involved in political action.

## Airline Division President's Meeting Brings Together All Air Locals

In June, ATD presidents gathered in Cocoa Beach, Florida for an informative two-day meeting on legislative, organizing, and contract issues affecting many airline locals.

Robert Wechsler offered a fascinating and informative history of TWU's service contract locals, dating back to World War II and the Service Contract Act of 1965. Participants also heard presentations from several local presidents, included Kevin Smith of Local 525, Robert Payne of Local 526, and Benyoel Morgan of Local 527, and President Smith treated attendees to an all-access tour of NASA's Kennedy Space Station.

Director of Government Affairs Brendan Danaher offered an

update on key legislative issues, including the upcoming FAA reauthorization, and M Public Affairs founder Maggie Moran walked the officers through potential employer campaigns in which TWU could engage. Economist Dan Akins also lead the group through a fascinating assessment of the economics of the airline industry following the post-9/11 bankruptcies and restructuring.

Finally, President Harry Lombardo addressed the group, urging unity and a commitment to winning back many of the concessions members have faced in their recent contracts.

For video highlights of President Lombardo's remarks, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkwvrmFMHak>.





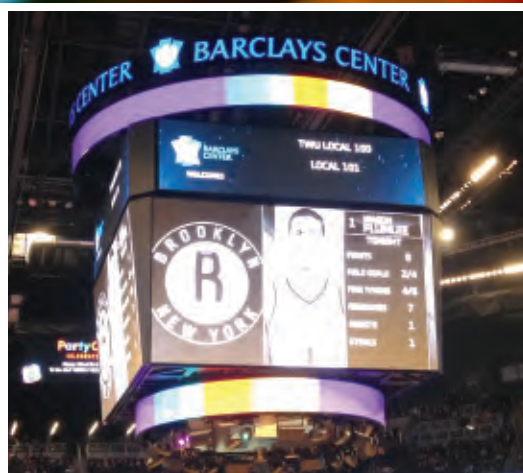
## *Moving Forward On... Seeing Our Members in Action*



Check out some of the best photos of our members from the last few months! Whether it's at trainings, on the job,







meeting with elected officials, getting sworn in, or taking political action, TWU members are always on the move.





*Moving Forward On... Seeing Our Members in Action*





# Progress Toward Our Goals

*By International Secretary-Treasurer Alex Garcia*

**T**WU is taking things to a new level of effective action, from representation on the local level to policy influence in the national political arena. In this issue of the TWU Express, I hope you learned a great deal from the extensive coverage of a number of significant new initiatives that have already had major impacts throughout our organization.

We've invested more time and resources into our government affairs work to help us maintain a strong presence in advocating for our members and their issues with elected officials. Through the work of our State Conferences, we have played a critical role in numerous legislative and political campaigns. And our diverse TWU committees now welcome members from all of our divisions, and they are moving forward on ambitious agendas to empower our members in the fight to protect working families.

We are also achieving the goals set out by the convention resolutions and we have made significant progress in restoring our union to sound financial footing. The International is committed to developing open communication and active coordination with every TWU local, and to making the process as transparent as possible.

In our winter issue, we demonstrated our commitment to righting this ship, and to engaging each of you in that process. This issue, I'm pleased to report on our progress, and on the strides we continue to make to move this union into its next phase of organizing, political action, and training.

The process of seeking your input and continually reexamining what we do and how we do it must remain at the core of how we operate, and your voices are an essential piece of that puzzle. Our next step is to implement changes based on that feedback. I hope you've begun to see some of those changes already, and that you'll continue to see them as we increase the flow of information both internally and externally.

I have faith in this organization, and I'm proud to be a part of this pivotal moment when we're taking it back. In order for everything we're doing to be as effective as possible, we need every single brother and sister to be a part of it. Please join the International and your local officers in rebuilding our union so that it works from the inside out, so that every budget and every contract and every policy we uphold enables us to have the resources to fight and win for all working men and women.

Thanks to each of you for all that you do to keep us moving forward.



---

“The International is committed to developing open communication and active coordination with every TWU local, and to making the process as transparent as possible.”

---

**THE TRANSPORT WORKERS  
UNION OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO**  
501 3rd Street NW, 9th Floor  
Washington, DC 20001

NON PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT 1028  
LONG PRARIE, MN



Here's one more thing  
Union families can share.

**Save with AT&T Wireless** and Union Plus. Just because you're union, you can save 15% on select wireless service from AT&T, the only national wireless provider that's union—like you. You can save whether you're already an AT&T customer, or switching to all-union AT&T. Plus, if you use a Union Plus Credit Card on qualifying purchases, you're eligible for up to \$250 in rebates. For union members, this is an easy call.



**Save the Union Way at [UnionPlus.org/ATT](http://UnionPlus.org/ATT)**

All program plans for new and existing customers may require a new two-year contract. This offer cannot be combined with any other discounts. Qualifying monthly data plan required.