

TWU EXPRESS

TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO • UNITED INVINCIBLE • SUMMER 2016 • VOL. 68 • NO. 2

**ELECTION
2016**

*Know where the
candidates stand*



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Let's Get To Work

I don't need to tell you what a critical election this is for the working people of this country. In fact, I suspect a number of you are tired of hearing about this presidential campaign already; tired of the insults, the rhetoric, and the near-constant barrage of manufactured political nonsense that defines electoral politics in America.

But I ask you to indulge me for a moment as I attempt to remind you why it all really matters. Some 45 years ago, as a young man, I was working as a car cleaner for SEPTA, the public transit line in Philadelphia. As I looked down the bay of cars, watching my colleagues—mechanics, track workers, signalmen—I saw my whole life. I saw decent, honest people, working themselves to the bone, trying to earn a living and maintain a decent quality of life for their families. Their wages were meager, their pensions were constantly in jeopardy, and their safety on the job was often at risk. I knew then, in that moment, that they deserved better. And I knew I wanted more.

That's how I got my start in trade unionism, and how I became inspired to rise up through the ranks of this great union. More importantly, it's a reminder of why we're all here. Of why what we're doing matters. We're members of this union so we can come to the table and negotiate the best contracts possible. But I think union membership comes with an even greater responsibility—a responsibility to those who may come after us, and to those who may not have all that we have. We must educate. We must agitate. And we must organize—to grow our union, but also politically, to make sure the right people are in office supporting American workers. In this election year, I can't think of a better way to do that than to get out and make our voices heard with our vote. The stakes are simply too high not to.

I hear from many of our members that you don't like to be told for whom to cast your ballot. That's fair. This year, the International Administrative Committee and I felt it was critical to endorse Hillary Clinton because of the stark contrast on the issues between the two presidential candidates on the ballot in November (see page 13). I hope you received my message outlining our choice when we made the endorsement and that you took the time to read it.

No candidate is perfect. All I ask is that you honor your responsibility as a union member and a citizen and that you get educated on the facts. Read this issue of the *Express* and learn where the candidates stand on right to work... on minimum wage laws... on transportation jobs. Make your own choice, but please, make an informed one. The next president will fill vacancies on a Supreme Court that will be deciding cases that affect the future of the labor movement. When I cast my ballot later this year, I'll think back to my days at SEPTA, and I'll connect the dots right back to this election. When it comes down to it, which candidate is more likely to have the backs of working people?

In the meantime, we keep fighting. Read in this issue about all the campaigns we're waging at TWU, not just political ones but contract fights and solidarity campaigns, too. It's a long road ahead, but we keep fighting.

United Invincible,

Harry Lombardo

"No candidate is perfect. All I ask is that you honor your responsibility as a union member and a citizen and that you get educated on the facts."



@transportworker

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Quill Scholarship Winners

As graduation loomed in May for high school students across the country, 335 of them, sons and daughters and other dependents of TWU members, awaited word on the Michael J. Quill Scholarship announcement.

Established in 1969, the Quill Scholarship Fund provides 15 scholarships worth \$4,800 to college-bound dependents of TWU members. It is paid out per year in the amount of \$1,200 to winners who continue to be eligible over their four-year course of study. The money is paid directly to the recipient's accredited college or university and may be used for tuition, college fees, or room and board while pursuing an undergraduate degree.

TWU leadership is committed to honoring the tradition of investing in the educational goals of members' children and is grateful to be joined in this endeavor by three other scholarship sponsors—Union Benefit Planners, M3 Technology, and Pitta & Giblin LLP.

At TWU International headquarters in late May, the names of the lucky winners were drawn at random by International Executive Vice President and Local 100 President John Samuelsen, assisted by Executive Secretary Tinisha Thompson, Local 100 members,

and representatives of the other generous sponsors.

Speaking as a parent and proud union member, Samuelsen said, "these scholarships offer a chance for our children to have greater opportunities than we did. We're proud of our work and what we do, but we may not want our kids working on a subway track at three in the morning."

The winners came from locals large and small across TWU divisions, representing some of the best and brightest students in the country, eager to continue their education. They can now do so with some financial assistance to make the journey a little easier.

Union Benefit Planners sponsored 14 scholarships of \$2,500 each; M3 Technology awarded five scholarships of \$2,000 each; and, in memory of J. Brian Duggan, Pitta & Giblin provided two scholarships worth \$2,500 each. These scholarships will be paid out in the first year, as a single award.

TWU will continue to honor our founder by investing in the next generation and to support the commitment to learning that all of the Quill Scholarship applicants exhibit. TWU members and their families are the union's greatest asset.



Phil Joseph Abad, Local 100,
& Audrey Asare, Local 569



Jeremiah Brown, Local 513
& Maria Almodovar, Local 591



Alyssa Bratulic, Local 2019
& Unalo Hinson, Local 510



Krystal Irizarry Ortiz, Local 504
Alexandra Klobusnik, Local 2019



Nathan Nguyen, Local 568
Daniel Nokelty, Local 101



Sierra Skaggs, Local 514
& Audrey Soto, Local 512



Erica Vasquez, Local 100
& Amy Wilkins, Local 591



Krystal Yee,
Local 100

More Scholarship Winners

Union Benefit Planners — \$2,500

Keodra Gathers, Local 100
Rachel Seitz, Local, Local 514
Austin Danek, Local 512
Anatasia Spicer, Local 200
Jordan Chung, Local 100
Kye Scott, Local 555
Sophia Akuna, Local 514
Cori Myers, Local 100
Andru Pak, Local 576
Eric Sandusky, Local 106
Quintana Killings, Local 291
Rebekah Sherwood, Local 2003
Skyler Accomando, Local 507
Isabel Zou, Local 100

M3 Technology — \$2,000 each

Austin Robinson, Local 2011
Kylie Pelicas, Local 555
Elias Esparza, Local 513
Briana McGovern, Local 106
Kaela Bresnan, Local 100

Pitta & Giblin — In memory of J. Brian Duggan — \$2,500

Mya Hutchins, Local 252
Brandon Gutierrez, Local 591

United. Invincible.

The TWU International Campaign Unit is in full swing, running three campaigns nationwide.



TWU's International Campaign Unit (ICU) has been working at full strength over the last few months, advancing three priority campaigns union-wide.

The ICU was formed a year ago and is under the stewardship of International Vice President; Administrative Assistant to the International President; and Transit, Universities, Utilities and Services Division Director Jerome Lafragola. It has marshalled the forces across TWU in order to help the union win these strategic fights.

At American Airlines, Southwest Airlines, and for Election 2016, the union has put together a coordinated effort to position its members for victory and in doing so, continues to fulfill the resolutions made at the 2013 convention.

American Airlines

Working with the Air Division Presidents' Council and other stakeholders to identify contract strategies and priorities, the ICU has developed an internal organizing campaign, "Today We Unite," designed to generate union-wide support for the negotiating committees at the bargaining table with American Airlines.

In partnership with local presidents, TWU International staff identified the most pressing contract issues and continue near-weekly

bargaining sessions with the company. While members of the Joint Association teams have been hashing out agreements at the table, scores of members—officers and rank-and-file workers alike—have been hitting the shop floor to build support for what the union knows will be a strong contract. Despite member frustration with the usual stalling tactics employed by management, TWU is galvanizing the workforce like never before. At six major hubs—Dallas-Fort Worth, JFK and LaGuardia, Miami, Chicago O'Hare, Tulsa, and Los Angeles—volunteer member organizers, or VMOs, are meeting one-on-one with employees, coordinating solidarity actions and recruiting even more activists to join the fight. The VMOs and local officers are trying to correct misinformation and communicate with employees in a timely manner, making sure all members know the union has their back.

Phase Two of the campaign "Today We Unite; I'm Ready to Fight," has now begun in earnest. After a two-day planning session in late May, the ICU developed a strategy that includes targeted week-by-week communications, new materials to showcase TWU member pride, a soon-to-launch web page, videos telling member stories, targeted emails and shareable social media graphics that illustrate how the

airline industry has taken advantage of its workforce. There will be regular leadership messages directly to members as well as campaign organizing events in the workplace.

All TWU members who work for American Airlines, whether at one of the targeted hubs or not, can join the ICU effort to build support for the new contract. Contact your local president and join the movement.

Southwest Airlines

Many TWU members who work for the company Herb Kelleher built feel Southwest no longer has any "LUV" for its employees. But the ICU is working to bring dignity and respect back to members by engaging directly with two Southwest locals.

The ICU worked with a professional polling and research firm to conduct focus groups, message research, and polling with members of Locals 555 and 556 to gain an understanding of sentiment regarding management, the union, contract elements, and the negotiations process.

At Local 555, which represents ramp workers, the ICU coordinated message development, local leadership site visits, and member education. These efforts paid off when Local 555 members voted to approve their tentative agreement (TA) in February. The voter turnout of over 84 percent reflected the keen interest among members in a new

contract, and was a clear testament to the member engagement by local and International officers.

Local 556 may have suffered a setback when its first TA was voted down by the flight attendants last year, but the ICU stepped in and stepped up to help the local in its ongoing effort to turn things around. International President Harry Lombardo, Secretary-Treasurer Alex Garcia, and ICU Director Lafragola met with the Local 556 board to offer support after the unsuccessful vote and to discuss how the International, through the ICU, could help.

Together, the group mapped out internal and external campaign plans, once again using polling results to help understand member priorities and reposition the local's efforts moving forward. The members heard directly from President Lombardo in a letter that appeared in Local 556's magazine *Unity*, where he offered the full support of TWU. Interactive Media Producer Mary Matthews worked with the local to develop a video strategy that resulted in a national campaign "People Behind the Profits." (*Watch the video at PeopleBehindtheProfits.com*)

Local 556 continues their impressive social media and communications efforts to showcase its members, and support for the bargaining team continues to grow. The ICU is confident about the outcome of the vote when a new TA is reached.

Election 2016

The election is in full swing and the two major parties have chosen their candidates. For the ICU, the Election 2016 effort began early in the cycle and focused on voter registration, member education, and voter mobilization and get-out-the-vote efforts, or GOTV.

In the first phase, and before the International endorsed Hillary Clinton (see page 12), all TWU locals were open to endorse the candidate of their choice. The ICU focused on increasing member voter registration numbers, education efforts on the importance of this election to the entire membership, and engaging in direct member contacts through fliers, emails, and on-the-ground organizing efforts to increase voter participation.

Phase Two has now begun with an aggressive voter contact campaign, designed to engage registered members of TWU across the country in advance of the November election. This strategic phase of the campaign is based on geographic region and job sector and is structured in a way that targets new or infrequent voters in the hopes that increased contact from the International will lead to increased turnout, instead of spending resources on likely voters whom data suggests already turn out in nearly every election. The union will also launch a new section of the TWU website to provide important

information, including state-by-state links for voter registration, polling place locators, and absentee ballot information, since these vary from state to state.

The ICU also plans on utilizing mail, email, phone calls, and even text messaging throughout this phase, and will provide locals with sample messaging and collateral materials to post and distribute at worksites.

Closer to November, the third phase will begin with survey phone calls to members to determine their position on Secretary Clinton. Based on responses, additional turnout efforts will target members in key states, with the ultimate goal of maximum TWU turnout and participation in every state.

The work of the ICU won't be over when these three campaigns are concluded—it will continue to harness TWU's strength across divisions to coordinate with locals and members to win big, be it in a contract campaign, a political fight, or an organizing effort. By unleashing the full resources of TWU International, the ICU has demonstrated that the resolutions passed at the 2013 convention were not empty promises. The union has empowered its locals; unified TWU and expanded the work of the State Conferences; and built a fighting organization... and the work will continue to unite TWU.



As part of the "Today We Unite" campaign, members are making sure to download the TWU App—available for Apple and Android phones—and following TWU on social media.



TWU for Hillary is well under way. See page 12 for a full story on TWU's endorsement.



Local 556's video, *The People Behind the Profits*, has already had thousands of views.

From the Shop Floor: Odds & Ends from TWU

International Representative and Working Women's Committee Chair Gwen York

was selected to participate in the AFL-CIO's Inaugural Women's Global Leadership Program as part of the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women. She was joined by 49 other union women at the 60th session of the Commission held at the United Nations, where the theme was women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development. The Women's Global Leadership Program focused on developing a shared understanding of the global economy, gender and labor rights, and economic policies that promote equality and the international labor movement.

After the New York City Council passed two laws which would have restricted where **Local 225-represented tour bus ticket sellers** could operate, the local has fought hard to mitigate the impact of the measures. The legislation, aimed at aggressive costumed characters in Times Square who have become the target of growing complaints from tourists, will also restrict hours and locations of ticket sellers of Gray Line and Big Bus tour companies. With the help of the New York/New Jersey State Conference, Local 225 launched an effort to effect the rule-making process with the city Department of Transportation on one law, and to influence the redrafting of the legislation by the NYC Council on Consumer Affairs on the other to include modifications that would benefit the ticket sellers, who work on commission.

Local 291 President Clarence Washington

made the list of "South Florida's 50 Most Powerful and Influential Black Professionals in Business and Industry for 2016" in *Legacy Miami* magazine and was honored at a black-tie event in mid-May. Washington joined Miami-Dade County law enforcement officers, religious and political leaders as well as business executives in accepting this honor. The awardees were featured in the *Miami Herald* on May 9 and *Legacy Miami* publisher Kervin Clenace (pictured right with Washington) bestowed the awards. Joining Washington at the event were his wife, Freddy; Local 291 Vice President Pete Flores; Secretary-Treasurer Cassandra Gilbert; and Administrative Assistant Ken McKay.



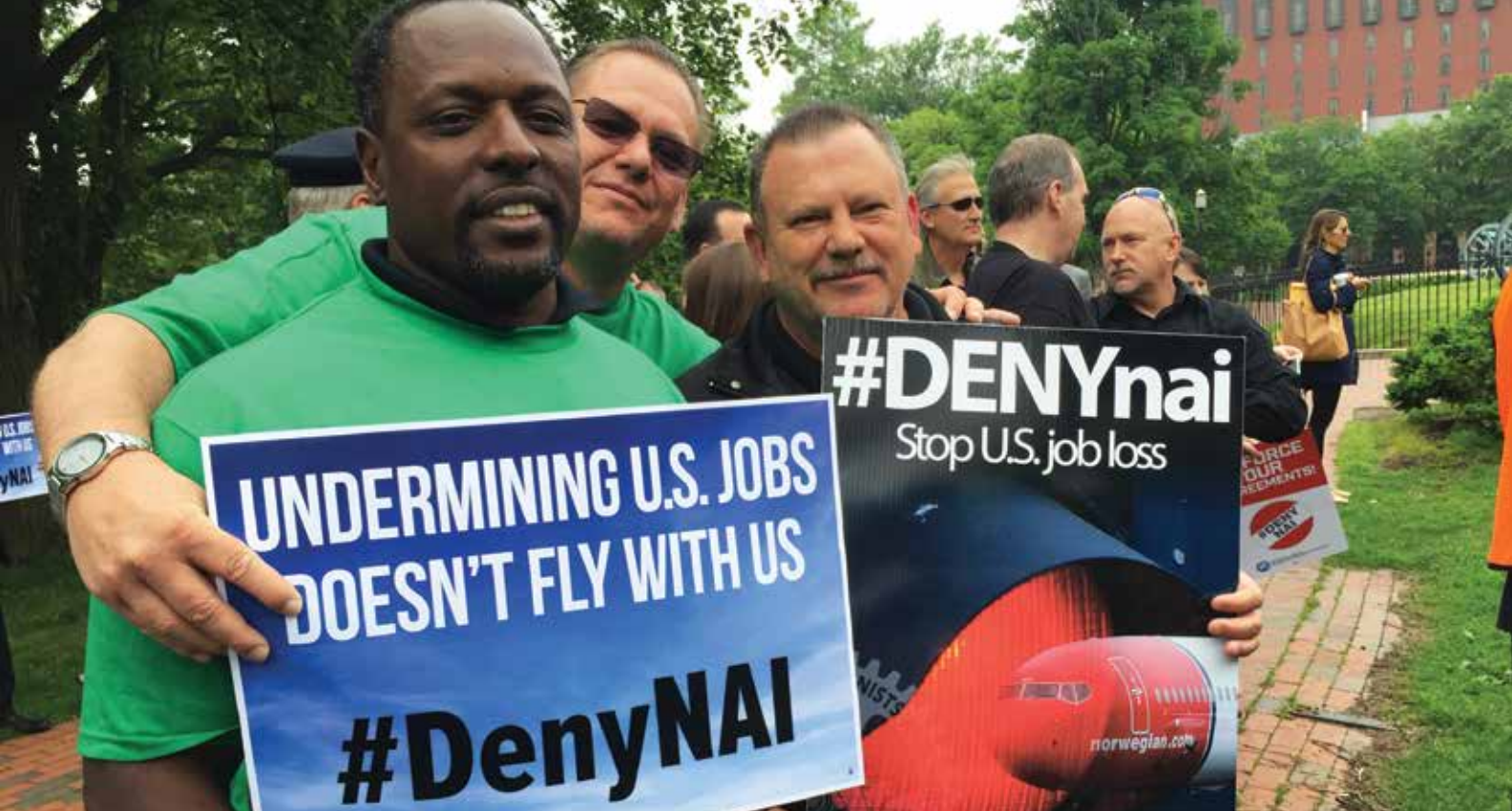
Local 241 President Kelvin McAllister, along with fellow officers and the local's contract committee, completed negotiations with Columbia University on three separate contracts. They won a four-year contract with wage increases and improvements to healthcare benefits, and successfully bargained work rule changes as well as reforms to sick leave, disability, and access to time off. The Local 241 team fended off attempts by management to gain any concessions.

Local 2001 has ratified its new contract with New Jersey Transit, after a strike was averted in March. Two unions voted down the contract and were headed back to the bargaining table at press time.

Thanks to three years of hard work by Local 100 and state-wide military groups, the Veteran's Equality Act was signed into law in New York in May. This means that all New York State military veterans—regardless of where they served—will be able to buy back three years of pension credit in public retirement systems.

During a visit to the San Juan Airport as part of the American Airlines "Today We Unite" campaign (see page 6), **Local 501 officers discovered that American actually had to rent equipment from Delta Airlines** in order to tow its aircraft at SJU. After pressure from TWU and the local, within a week, American expedited repair on three out-of-service push tractors and made arrangements to purchase new ones.





TWU Continues to Fight Norwegian Air International

For more than three years, TWU has been fighting Norwegian Air International's (NAI) dangerous scheme to undercut the U.S. aviation industry's safety and labor rights standards by creating a sweatshop airline. NAI has asked the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) for an air carrier permit to allow it to provide service to and from the U.S.

While the airline is Norwegian in origin and ownership, it wants to operate as an Irish air carrier to get rid of its strong Norwegian unions and to lower the bar on labor standards. If the carrier permit is approved, the airline would contract out its flight crews to a hiring agency in Thailand.

In April, the airline received tentative approval from DOT to begin service to the U.S. Later that month, a bipartisan coalition in the House of Representatives introduced a bill to prohibit NAI's Irish-flag subsidiary from violating labor standards in the aviation industry. As of press time, the DOT had not responded to the latest round of protests from TWU, its allies, and other aviation labor unions.

"NAI is a model for corporate practices that depress wages and diminish collective bargaining rights,"

said TWU International President Harry Lombardo. "It will contract—or more accurately 'rent'—its flight crews through a recruitment firm based in Asia, which operates according to inferior labor laws."

As the comment period on the approval drew to a close in May, TWU members took part in a protest in front of the White House, urging the Obama administration to reverse course and "Deny NAI."

Hundreds of members from eight different unions, representing more than 200,000 members of the aviation industry, stood shoulder to shoulder to voice their opposition to DOT's move and to educate tourists and passers-by on the dangers of travel on a low-cost carrier not subject to America's strong labor and safety standards. Local 556 was represented by stewards Roy Soria, Damion West, Jennifer Vitalo, and Corliss King, while members of the American Airlines negotiating teams, spent part of their short lunch break away from the table to support the Deny NAI efforts. They included Andre Sutton (502), Mike Mayes (505), Tim Hughes (507), Brian Oyer (513), Jason Best (514), Art Risley (529), and Mike Bush (591).

FAA Reauthorization Moves Through Congress

The U.S. Senate in April overwhelmingly passed a long-term reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration budget and sent its version of the bill to the House of Representatives. The House version of the bill, which would fund the FAA for six years, made it out of committee but has been hung up over a controversial proposal to privatize the nation's air traffic controllers. The Senate version does not have this provision.

The Senate bill does ban mobile telephone use during flight and bans knives in airplane cabins. It also requires flight attendants to receive training to identify human trafficking.

TWU will keep members apprised as the reauthorization bill moves through Congress.

TWU Members Protecting Public Health

A news headline can be frightening if an outbreak of a little-known disease threatens to reach America's doorstep. This year it is Zika, a mosquito-borne disease that has been linked to birth defects in infants whose mothers contracted the virus while pregnant. The current outbreak began in May 2015, with the first cases reported in Brazil—host of the 2016 Summer Olympics. Athletes from around the world, as well as spectators and the airline employees who will transport them, have expressed concern about the risks of Zika, as they travel to and from Rio de Janeiro for the games. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a special 2016 Olympics alert as media attention on both the Games and the outbreak are increasing.

But did you know that some TWU members are on the front lines of disease prevention and control, working to keep the public safe?

That's right. There are eight members of Local 250-A who are Disease Control Investigators with the San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) and they are actively tracking the Zika virus, in addition to other communicable and infectious diseases, following recommendations and guidance from the CDC.

Local 250-A has over 2,000 members and along with transit operators and mechanics, includes museum conservators, curators, and environmental health inspectors.

Long-time TWU member Anna Branzuela is one of these "disease detectives" and has worked for the San Francisco DPH for 27 years and has been a loyal TWU member for 24.

Branzuela's background is in communications but the investigators have diverse qualifications, from medical and scientific to community service and HIV counseling.

The other members of the "Mighty 8" Local 250-A members are: Karen Luk, Kacy Diouf, James "Mac"



McMasters, Felix Crispin, Candy Box, Pubu Pubu, and Sharon Pen.

The position of Disease Control Investigator was created in the wake of the AIDS epidemic in San Francisco in the early 1980s.

The process starts when a person becomes ill with an infectious disease (like Zika) and his or her health care provider alerts the local health department, as required by law. Upon confirmation of the diagnosis, "we notify the patient to ensure appropriate medical follow-up and we elicit information through specialized interview techniques," explained Branzuela. The investigators provide treatment, testing, and recommendations to the patient. Health education counseling is also offered to prevent future outbreaks and to reduce transmission of the disease.

But like many occupations in the U.S., the disease detectives are being squeezed out of the health department—and the union—by contractors.

Funding for local health departments has traditionally gone from the federal government to the states, then on to local jurisdictions. Now those federal funds are going

Above: Felix Crispin, Candy Box, and Pubu Pubu are Disease Control Investigators with the San Francisco Department of Public Health and Local 250-A members. Left: Anna Branzuela has worked for the DPH for 27 years, and she's a vital part of this group of "disease detectives."

from the state to contractors (in many cases, the Public Health Foundation), diverting funding for the badly-needed positions.

Since 1995, there has been a 75 percent decrease in Disease Control Investigators in San Francisco. In 2015, during the Zika outbreak and on the heels of the Ebola crisis, there were only seven trained union Disease Control Investigators in San Francisco. Now there are eight.

"The city needs to value the service we provide and strengthen the position, bring it back in-house. The employees could join the union and be provided with workplace protections and rights. It would be a win for the employees, TWU, and more importantly, the people of San Francisco whose health we monitor and protect," declared Branzuela.

Branzuela also said all TWU locals could benefit from the information they have, and they're happy to share. Know that if there's another public disease outbreak, the disease detectives of Local 250-A will be on the case.

Taking Union Activism to the Next Level

Every election year, TWU encourages its members to get involved in their local, to participate in their State Conferences, and to make their voices heard throughout the political process.

But throughout the year, every year, there are TWU members who are involved in the wider labor community. They put their union beliefs to the test on a larger stage and engage in public service and activism by running for local office. They exercise the leadership skills learned in the labor movement to fight for working people.

Michael Broadhead, a Phoenix-based Southwest Airlines flight attendant and proud member of Local 556, is one of these activists.

He began his career with Southwest in 1995, joining TWU as a term of employment. “Little did I know how much I would come to support the union movement and cause,” Broadhead said. He wasn’t raised in a labor-friendly household—which makes for some interesting discussions around the Thanksgiving table!

Between his scheduled flights, Broadhead is fighting the good fight on a number of fronts.

He is Chair of the Maricopa Area Labor Federation (MALF), having been elected in April 2016. “In my campaign, I said ‘if you vote for me, you are willing to participate.’ We are off to a great start,” he said. Broadhead, on behalf of the Federation, was one of the speakers at the Arizona ceremony commemorating Workers Memorial Day at the state capital on April 28. He paid tribute to Phoenix-area aviation workers who have lost their lives while on duty as well as those airline employees onboard the flights that were hijacked on September 11, 2001. He is currently participating with the Political Committee of MALF interviewing legislative candidates, and the Federation plans on supporting some candidates with neighborhood canvassing.



Michael Broadhead, a Phoenix-based Southwest Airlines flight attendant and proud member of Local 556, is chair of the Maricopa Area Labor Federation, a community volunteer, and labor activist.

Along with volunteers from 12 different unions, Broadhead and other Local 556 members (and his sister!) spent time painting buildings occupied by low income residents at a housing complex owned by the Labor’s Community Service Agency. The LCSA is an Arizona social service agency established as a partnership between the United Way and the AFL-CIO. The two-day Labor Cares event was a huge success and received extensive media coverage in Phoenix.

In addition to his commitment to obtaining union contracts and supporting the local, Broadhead intends to “support the affiliates of MALF in any way I can, to reinforce our strength for one another and to expand MALF,” he said.

Broadhead has also been active in his local chapter of Pride at Work, the constituency group of the AFL-CIO that organizes mutual

support between the organized labor movement and the LGBT community to further social and economic justice.

He speaks passionately about his community involvement and union activism. “I have done a lot of different types of union work over the years, and one the most important things I’ve learned is to be honest with yourself and to find the right places to contribute, and to steer clear of the wrong places. The great thing about labor? There is an endless list of places to contribute.”

Are you involved with your local AFL-CIO federation or other community political organization? Do you hold local office yourself? Drop us a line at communications@twu.org. We hope to highlight the important work you do.

The Choice is Clear: TWU for Hillary

Election 2016 has been like no other—loud, long, and unpredictable—and the two main political parties have finally chosen their candidates. After a ferocious debate on the issues that matter to working people, it is time for TWU members to make their choice. International President Harry Lombardo and the International Administrative Committee have asked members to consider just how critical that choice is in this election, with so much at stake, and to educate themselves beyond campaign rhetoric, lofty promises, or out-sized personalities. Now more than ever, it's time to focus on the bread and butter issues that affect your lives, today and in the future.

For far too long, you have worked under concessionary contracts at the hands of greedy employers getting rich off of your hard work—robbing your pensions, neglecting your healthcare, and abusing bankruptcy laws at the your expense. It's clear that working people need an ally in the White House: someone who will partner with unions, who will stand and grow with union members, and who is open to fighting a corporate culture that takes advantage of the rest of America.

Only one of the two candidates is in a position to meet the needs of TWU and its members.

Hillary Clinton has demonstrated her commitment to giving working people a voice against corporate America, to workers' organizing and collective bargaining rights, and protecting retirement security. She has an impressive plan to invest in the country's infrastructure. Of the two remaining candidates, Hillary Clinton is the best choice working people have to make sure that they can protect the fundamental ability to unionize and join together for a

It's critical to the future of TWU, and to our members, that the next president:

Expand health care for the middle class.

Protect collective bargaining rights for working people.

Fight against the corporate greed that has left working people without fair contracts.

What's At Stake?

Make the right investments in transportation and rail infrastructure.

Appoint justices to the Supreme Court who will protect the best interests of working people, not corporate CEOs.

Ensure pro-labor individuals are appointed to the National Labor Relations Board and the National Mediation Board.

united voice at work.

It's no secret that some rank-and-file union members support the Republican candidate. But make no mistake: President Lombardo has denounced Donald Trump as "nothing more than a hustler. He's in the face of the establishment, but he's no friend of ours," he said.

President Lombardo and the IAC have urged every union, especially TWU members, to go all out for Clinton now that she has secured the nomination. "We have five months to save ourselves, to stand up for America," he said. "If Trump takes over, we are dead meat."

But to be clear, he added, "If Clinton is elected, the labor movement will have to continuously pressure her to make good on her commitments."

In the meantime, TWU is throwing its considerable muscle and resources behind Clinton. And members should know that should she be elected in November, that same muscle and those resources will continue to put pressure on her to deliver for labor and the security of working men and women.

This may well be the most important election in the history of the labor movement, particularly with the rise of "right to work" legislation on the state level threatening the labor movement's



TWU International President Lombardo has denounced Donald Trump as "nothing more than a hustler."

very existence. Of right to work, Trump has said, "I like right to work. My position on right to work is 100%." That position would be a death knell for unions. And that's only the beginning. Workers' rights, health care, pensions, transportation investment, pro-labor voices across government—these are the issues that truly define Election 2016.

Who should be in the White House come November? Someone who will fight for long-term investment in road transit and rail infrastructure and protect airline workers' retirement security? Or a corporate CEO who will side with corporate America and its greed by fighting against working people every step of the way?

The choice is clear. Your rights. Your pay. Your pension. Your future. Your move. Vote November 8.

Calling All TWU [Political] Party Animals! Have you been so politically active in Election 2016 that you have been selected as a delegate to either the Republican or Democratic conventions this summer? If so, TWU's Government Affairs Department wants to hear from you! Please send your name, local, state, and which convention you'll be attending to COPE@twu.org.

In its long history of political involvement, TWU has never told members for whom they should vote. But informing members about where a candidate stands on economic and labor issues is your union's responsibility.

DONALD TRUMP: ON THE RECORD



ON THE ECONOMY

- ✗ A Donald Trump presidency is rated as the sixth greatest threat to the global economy, as serious as terrorism and a European Union collapse.¹
- ✗ Trump wants to give a \$3 trillion tax cut to millionaires and billionaires like himself.²
- ✗ Trump's proposed tax cuts would increase the national debt by \$30 trillion over two decades.³

ON WORKING PEOPLE AND UNIONS

- ✗ Trump said, "I love right-to-work," the CEO-written law that guts unions, drives down wages, and takes power away from working people.⁴
- ✗ Trump Tower in New York was built with undocumented, non-union workers who weren't paid the minimum wage.⁵ In fact, he opposes increasing the minimum wage, saying "wages [are] too high."⁶



- ✗ Trump's Las Vegas hotel will not recognize its workers' union. Union activists were allegedly harassed with "physical assault, verbal abuse, intimidation, and threats by management."⁷

[1] Economist Intelligence Unit findings reported in the Guardian UK, 3/17/16; [2] Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 4/28/16; [3] Tax Policy Center report, 12/22/15; [4] Washington Examiner, 2/23/16. [5] NBC News, 2/26/16; [6] Republican debate, 11/10/15; [7] Newsweek, 6/3/16. Photos: Gage Skidmore (top), Rev Stan (bottom).

For Local 2019, Annual Dinner Is More Than a Meal

Belonging to a union is like having a second family, and it was with that spirit that Local 2019 held its annual membership dinner meeting in early May and honored an earlier “generation” of leadership.

The dinner meeting was an opportunity for new Local 2019 President Mike Paragios and his leadership team to carry on a tradition that has been an integral part of the local’s membership outreach and education efforts for years. Accordingly, the theme for this year’s dinner was, “As new leadership takes hold, we take a moment to honor those who worked before us.”

The evening began with a passionate speech from U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio). The congresswoman spoke eloquently about her working class roots and the railroad families she knew growing up in Toledo. Her tireless defense of working people has been a hallmark of her career. She acknowledged the hard and dangerous jobs railroad employees perform every day, and said she’s proud to continue to stand with TWU advocating for the rights of working families. Local 2019 presented Rep. Kaptur with a plaque expressing the members’ appreciation for her support.

Consistent with the evening’s theme, Local 2019 then recognized TWU International Representative and former Local 2019 President Fred Fink, with a plaque honoring his commitment and work on behalf of the local for over 37 years. The members also paid tribute to Fred’s wife Diane for her unwavering support as Fred built a strong, united local and advanced the interests of Local 2019 members.

Also on hand that night were representatives from the Railroad Retirement Board. New and experienced employees alike benefited from hearing directly from the Board about what is



Local 2019 President Mike Paragios prepares to present TWU International Representative and former Local 2019 President, Fred Fink, with a plaque honoring his commitment and work on behalf of the local for more than 37 years.

involved in retirement and gained additional information about future benefits.

The members were also addressed by International Administrative Vice President and Rail Division Director Gary Maslanka, who spoke of the challenges the movement faces, including battles in the Supreme Court and legislation pending on Capitol Hill. Maslanka also congratulated Local 2019 and all TWU members for their help in securing passage of the FAST Act last year, citing TWU’s grassroots involvement—mobilizing members to call their congressional representatives—as a major factor in this victory.

Local 2019 invited its extended family to share the fellowship of the evening. In addition to Maslanka, TWU International Representative Theotis James and COPE Field Representative Gwen York joined the local in honoring Rep. Kaptur and Fred Fink. Three Ohio TWU leaders were also on hand—Local 2011 President John Hofbauer, Local 208 President Andrew Jordan,

and Local 1 Vice President Tony Barbitta. Their presence was a testament to the meaning of a union: the ability to join minds and voices to work for a common goal.

Congratulations to President Paragios and his leadership team for a successful event, and for continuing a Local 2019 tradition that showcases membership outreach, education, and the strength of the union family.

Want to see more member photos? Follow us on Instagram.



@transportworker



*Above: International President Harry Lombardo with officers and members of Local 234 in Philadelphia, his first "home" in TWU.
Below: President Lombardo was honored as one of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO COPE Award winners.*

Harry Goes Home: A Special Celebration

In April, International President Harry Lombardo headed back to his old stomping grounds for two special occasions. First, he addressed the 42nd Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Convention, speaking on the theme of "Solidarity is Power." Lombardo joined both Democratic presidential candidates and other union leaders in Philadelphia at the gathering and addressed the more than 700 delegates, telling them, "I'm grateful to the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO for teaching me what solidarity means," and harkening back to his time as president of TWU Local 234. "Solidarity is not just a slogan. An injury to one is an injury to all," he continued. That evening, President Lombardo was honored as one of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO COPE award winners at a reception.

For Lombardo, who worked his way up from being a SEPTA car cleaner to being Local 234's youngest business agent, and eventually serving as the local's top officer, being back in Philadelphia was a unique opportunity to reconnect with brothers and sisters from across the labor movement. It was also a chance to remember where he came from. Members were eager to spend time with their transit brother, snapping photos and recalling stories of Lombardo at the negotiating table or walking a particular picket line. In Philadelphia, it's clear that Harry Lombardo and TWU go hand in hand.



The following evening, President Lombardo went back to his TWU roots for a banquet honoring his work with Local 234, where he served as local president from 1989 to 1996 before moving to the TWU International staff and eventually running for international office. Current President Willie Brown, Executive Vice President Brian Pollitt, and other local officers and members toasted Lombardo's long career building the local, crediting him as the foundation on which the entire organization is built. They thanked him for his decades of service to Local 234, particularly for his work in making members love the union, and using hard work and enthusiasm to motivate them.

President Brown offered a particularly moving analogy of the work Lombardo did to make Local 234 the powerhouse it has become, explaining, "When you're a kid on the basketball court and the ball gets caught between rim and backboard, the strongest kids hold a lighter kid on their shoulders to get the ball out. Today, we're standing on Harry's shoulders."

In a lively and heartfelt celebration of Lombardo's service, members celebrated his work to make people love TWU and the local, and the spirit and intent with which he fought for its members at all costs. They credited Lombardo's hard work, drive, and enthusiasm as the foundation on which so much of Local 234's success is built.

More Kudos for Lombardo

Shortly after his trip home to Local 234, President Lombardo was honored for his outstanding leadership by Labor Press, New York's leading source for daily labor news and industry information.

The event was also attended by a delegation from the AFL-CIO, led by Secretary-Treasurer Elizabeth Shuler and AFL-CIO Investment Trust Corporation President Mike Stotz who personally thanked Lombardo and the other honorees for their hard work: "The sense of duty and obligation that you instill in your members by not only supporting their work, but by supporting the communities that they live in sets a shining example."

That is certainly true for all the honorees, but none more than President Lombardo, who has ably led TWU as International President since 2013 and has been a dedicated union man since 1972. Under his leadership, TWU has organized more workers than it had in years.

Transit Division Engages Local Officers

In keeping with TWU's pledge to offer more education and resources for locals, the Transit, Universities, Utilities and Services Division held a two-day training conference in early June for nearly 75 of its local presidents and officers.

The meeting was chaired by International Vice President, Administrative Assistant to the International President and Division Director Jerome Lafragola, who sees the

yearly conference as a way "to continue to build strength and unity within the Transit Division. It is helpful to bring the leaders together in person to share ideas and exchange tips and strategies to maintain a united workplace."

Government Affairs Director Brendan Danaher provided a legislative update on the status of the FAA bill, what the vacancy on the Supreme Court means for unions, and why a coalition of aviation unions is opposed to the Department of Transportation's approval of Norwegian Air International's (NAI) application to start service to the U.S.

In discussing FAA reauthorization and NAI, Danaher pointed out that the most successful legislative pushes, such as that with the FAST Act last year, are union-wide efforts. Without the assistance of TWU International and members across divisions, the transit legislation never would have passed.

Lafragola and Danaher also spoke of TWU's efforts to increase voter registration ahead of the November election. Lafragola described how TWU's International Campaign Unit is working with locals and State Conferences to register members to vote, and described the other campaigns the ICU has mounted, including those at American Airlines ("Today We Unite"), Southwest Airlines, and the broader Election 2016 campaign (see page 6).

The afternoon brought presentations and discussion on the dangers transit members face every day from diesel exhaust fumes.

The first panel was headed by Local 100 Secretary-Treasurer Earl

Phillips. The attendees heard from an attorney, who successfully argued before the Workers Compensation Board that a Local 100 member's death from lung cancer was due to diesel exhaust exposure and an occupational health specialist.

The second panel included officers from four locals who discussed their workplace issues. Local 1400 Vice President Pat Reynolds, Local 252 President Deborah Hagan, Local 171 Executive Board Member Francis Borzo, Local 208 President Andrew Jordan, and Local 234 President Willie Brown also opened the floor for other locals to share their stories of concern and even success in mitigating the danger. Pressuring agencies to deploy more hybrid and electric buses, replacing diesel power equipment, and providing adequate ventilation and safety equipment are all strategies to keep our members healthy.

A lively presentation came on day two with a panel from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS). In response to locals seeking a more cost effective and efficient way to resolve grievances, TWU invited the FMCS to provide training on grievance mediation, a free service provided by the government agency since 1947.

The panelists asked which locals have used the FMCS or that of an outside mediator. They broke the attendees into smaller groups for a role-playing exercise on mediating a dispute and had them report their findings. Several attendees remarked that they were thrilled to learn about FMCS' free services,



Above: Transit Division Director Jerome Lafragola chaired the conference of nearly 75 local presidents and officers.

Below: Panel members Willie Brown, President of Local 234 and Deborah Hagan, President of Local 252 discuss the dangers of diesel exhaust fumes for members.



which would save money for locals.

The FMCS panel was followed by Larry Willis, Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department who discussed new and proposed regulations facing bus and transit operators, especially new federal sleep apnea rules and hair testing for drug use. The latter is based on bad science and racial bias, and the TTD is working to modify the legislation and has successfully ensured that the final bill restores the role of scientific experts.

Finally, the locals received training on how to effectively use social media to promote the work of the locals, the International, and our priority issues. For some attendees it was a refresher course and for others an opportunity to sign up for Facebook and Twitter accounts on the spot. Said Local 252 President Debra Hagan, "I just needed someone to get me started. Now I'm off to the races!"

The meeting concluded with the traditional presidents' roundtable, where officers were able to share conference feedback and pressing issues on their shop floor.

Lafragola urged everyone to turn their meeting experience into action, and to use the conference not only as an opportunity to learn, but a way to empower and inspire members.

By holding conferences such as these, TWU continues to build on resolutions passed at the 2013 convention: empowering locals, unifying TWU, and providing a safe workplace for members. Participants left the meeting eager to put their training into action by engaging with members and fighting for TWU's priorities.



Welcome New Officers!

*All over the country, locals are swearing in new officers.
If you have photos to share, email them to communications@twu.org*

Local 556



Local 556: Michael Massoni is sworn in by Local 556 President Audrey Stone

Local 549: Seated left to right: Treasurer Lee Roper, Envoy Section Chair Cecil Watson, Group A Vice President Jon Ramirez, Recording Secretary Sarah Maker. Standing left to right: Express Jet Section Chair Dennis Sweet, Executive Vice President Scott Alexander, Group A Member at Large Rick Brooks, UPS Section Chair Randy Carter, President Damon Wood, Group C Vice President Charlie Vanderhoof, Group B Vice President Aron Glorioso, Group C Member at Large Ken Kishman, American FPS Section Chair Bill Chapman, Sun Country Section Chair Toney Edlund, International Vice President Gary Shults, International Representative Jose Galarza.

Local 549



Local 591

Local 591: Standing, Left to Right: Sean Doyle (TWU International Vice President), Rich Rivera (SE Region Vice President), Steve Halter (SW Region Vice President), Santos Dorta (Title II Executive Board), Jorge Rojas (Recording Secretary), Mike Bush (Title V Executive Board), John Iuliano (NE Region Vice President), Mike Mayes (TWU International Staff Specialist). Seated, Left to Right: Glenn Olsen (Treasurer), Gary Schaible (Vice President), Gary Peterson (President), John Ruiz (W Region Vice President), Pete Caruso (Title I Executive Board).





TWU Members Keep America Moving

Above: In mid-April, TWU hosted the Coalition of Flight Attendants, with members from TWU, the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, and the International Association of Machinists flight attendants in Washington, D.C.

Below: Local 512 conducted a steward training seminar. From left to right: Secretary-Treasurer Trevor Chalcraft; Raul Merlos; Executive Board Member Chris Biancalana; Legislative Field Coordinator Derrick Smith; Vice President Kevin Hagn; Executive Board Member Dwight Davis; John Gannon; Executive Board Member Michael Lenehan; Ray Silo, Ben Delagarza; Fern Datil; Safety Coordinator Ken Cruz.





One: Longtime Local 526 President Robert Payne received a plaque to honor his service to TWU and the members of 526. Presenting the plaque are Local 525 President Kevin Smith, left, and TWU International Representative Richard Boehm.

Two: A TWU member in the Air Force Reserve deployed in the Middle East shows his union pride while on patrol. This member asked to remain nameless for his safety. Thank you for your service and stay safe!

Three: Local 276 member Mary Seals has been a Waco Transit driver for 33 years. She was recently rewarded for her service with her own parking space. Congratulations, Mary!

Four: Brendon Remezas, co-chair of TWU's Veterans Committee participated in the 22-mile Chicago Veterans Ruck of Honor to raise awareness of the 22 veterans a day who commit suicide in this country. Over 1,000 people participated and the event raised more than \$90,000. Way to go, Brendon!

Five: Local 526 members recently attended a grievance administration class in Kings Bay,



Georgia. Attendees included (some not pictured): Rick Wimpey, James Head, Jeff Day, Kevin James, Vice President David Black, Wendy Jacques, Charles Duregger, John Sloan, Michael Roberts, Chris Martin, Mike Lavery, Denice Foster, Maria Isais and President Steve Gunn.

Six: TWU's Working Womens Committee met in Miami in late May. Hosted by Locals 291 and 568, the committee was addressed by Annette Taddeo, a TWU-endorsed congressional candidate and Theresa King, the first female President of the Florida Building and Construction Trades Council (center, blue shirt).





MEMBERS BEAT THE HEAT WITH LOCAL 100 FAMILY DAY

For Local 100, 13 was certainly not an unlucky number in June as 10,000 transit workers and their families turned out for the 13th annual Local 100 Family Day at Coney Island.

The weather was warm at the storied New York beach front and so was the camaraderie as Local 100 was joined by other New York-area locals including Locals 101, 252, 501, and 2001. Even Local 570 from Florida was on hand to enjoy the day.

International Executive Vice President and Local 100 President John Samuelsen hosted the festivities, and was joined by International Vice President; Administrative Assistant to the

International President and Director of the Transit, Universities, Utilities and Services Division Jerome Lafragola. Government Affairs Director Brendan and members of the International's political and COPE team, including Gwen York and Heather Laverty, staffed the COPE tent to sign up members to get involved in political action. They were joined this year by Communications Director Ori Korin. Other members of the TWU International staff, including Vice President Carl Martin, International Representative Theotis James, and Andrew Rangolan were also there to represent the union.



The ocean breeze carried aromas from tailgate parties of every size and cuisine over the festivities while a dozen moon bounces, face painting clowns, and a magic show kept the kids busy and entertained. An ice cream truck churned out treats all day, helping to keep everyone cool, while retired NBA star and Brooklyn native Chris Mullin posed for pictures and signed autographs for excited fans. Each year, the event draws hundreds of vendors, as well as various TWU International and Local 100 committees looking to engage and educate members on the critical issues facing unions, their pensions, and the workforce that keeps New York moving. The picnic is a testament to Local 100's incredible presence in the city's political scene, but also its overwhelming influence on the families and communities all around greater New York, a shining example of solidarity between locals and the importance of growing up in a strong union household.

A health and wellness fair saw steady traffic all day, bringing tips, delicious snacks, and CPR training to the Local 100 extended family. "It doesn't get any better than this," Samuelsen said. "This is exactly what union pride is all about."

The highlight of the day was the softball tournament at MCU Park between six locals. While the Local 100 home team may have kept their winning streak alive, all the locals hit a grand slam on a great day for all of TWU.

Samuelsen to MTA Board

International Executive Vice President and Local 100 President John Samuelsen was appointed by New York Governor Cuomo to serve on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority board. The nomination was approved by the State Senate in June making Samuelsen the first Local 100 president to ever sit on the board, which meets monthly to set policy for the largest transit system in the country.

Local 101 Protecting the Public

Ever warned someone about "playing with fire" when that person is prepared to do or say something that might turn out badly?

The figure of speech hits a little close to home for Local 101 and its 1,600 members, because it could be a real fire that their employer, National Grid, is faced with if the utility company's practices continue.



Local 101 President Mike Conigliaro testified in front of the New York City Council about safety concerns with National Grid's contractor use and published an op-ed (below) to draw public attention to the issue.



Local 101's members are field representatives, technicians, distribution mechanics, and 22 inspectors for New York's massive utility company. They install and maintain natural gas supply lines and pipes, and ensure the lines eventually connected to commercial and residential facilities in Brooklyn and Queens—including their own homes—are safe.

But National Grid has hired so many contractors to install these lines that there aren't enough trained union inspectors to visually review the work, forcing Local 101 inspectors to make safety checks

over the phone, and to simply ask the job foreman if the work was done properly, sight unseen. There is even a box on the report form to check 'Not witnessed by inspector.' Despite this terrifying reduction in quality of service at the direction of the company, in January, National Grid approached the state Public Service Commission for a 14 percent rate hike.

That's right. The contractors performing the work are being asked to self-inspect gas line installation at the same time the company is asking for more money from its customers.

Local 101 President Mike Conigliaro has launched a legislative and public relations campaign to raise awareness among the public and to educate the New York City Council, which is now considering safety legislation to address the issue.

In April, facilitated by the New York/New Jersey State Conference, Conigliaro testified in front of the Council as it debated whether to tighten gas line safety regulations in the wake of a deadly explosion last year.

After describing the rise in the use of contractors without a corresponding increase in the number of inspectors, Conigliaro warned of the gravity of the situation. The local, with considerable help from TWU International, is also launching a radio ad this summer as a public service announcement on the issue. "The International has helped us every step of the way" in this fight, said Conigliaro.

Small locals like Local 101 may find it daunting to get involved in an issue that involves the public, the press, and legislators, when in reality, says Conigliaro, "it was really easy once we started making the connections," through the New York/New Jersey State Conference and with help from other locals like nearby Local 100. It's another great example of TWU locals having each other's backs in the fights that matter. And the effort seems to be paying off not just in exposure for the issue, but for the safety of over 1 million New Yorkers.

Cross-Local Cooperation Ensures Passage of New Contract

Local 226 President Jon Bradford was stymied. His new members had voted down the first contract negotiated with the Trans-Ed School Bus Company in northern New Jersey...twice.

To Bradford's dismay, the votes had come after a hard-fought battle for representation in 2015 in the first-ever campaign conducted under new workplace election rules issued by the National Labor Relations Board. The rules were crafted to create a more level playing field, increase transparency, and eliminate long delays that can be costly to both employers and workers seeking representation. The rules cut down on delay tactics that employers, including Trans-Ed, have typically used to thwart union organizing. As a result, the Trans-Ed workers organized and then voted for union representation in just two weeks under the new rules.

The negotiating committee went to work and hammered out a contract to bring to the members—who wanted a union contract but couldn't collect enough votes to actually ratify the agreement.

The likely cause? An inability to communicate effectively with the employees. The members at this particular shop—school bus drivers, monitors, and mechanics—are predominantly of Dominican descent, many with limited English ability, especially when it comes to something as complex as a union contract.

That's where nearby Local 225 and its reinvigorated leadership stepped in. TWU International Representative Curtis Tate remembered a charismatic Local 225 officer and activist named Yanildy Taveras. Not only did she have the smarts of a union organizer, but she was also bilingual. Tate coordinated a meeting with the officers of both locals and proposed the idea of sending Taveras to Trans-Ed to speak one-

on-one with the reluctant members. The gambit paid off, and the local presidents stepped back and allowed Taveras to get to work. She took time off from her job at Gray Line Tours and went to the Trans-Ed shop floor armed with fliers and other materials translated into Spanish. She was able to explain the details of the contract in the workers' native language, answer their questions, and stress the importance of voting in favor of the contract as the culmination of their efforts to organize last year.

"We met on a Thursday, the campaign kicked off Monday, and the contract was ratified overwhelmingly by the end of the week," said Tate. "Yanildy made the difference."

"I enjoyed meeting the members and officers of another local, hearing their concerns and then working with them to solve their issues," said Taveras after the votes were counted.

"Local 225 was instrumental in helping us ratify the contract with Trans-Ed," said Local 226 President Bradford. "They know what 'unity' means in 'union.' We needed help and without hesitation they came."

Local 225 President Lenwood McKoy echoed those sentiments. "'United Invincible' is not just a slogan. At TWU, the locals have each other's backs. This gives each local great confidence when facing challenges," he stated.

Both leaders remarked that this type of cross-local cooperation would never have happened or even been encouraged previously at TWU, but that President Lombardo's commitment to strengthening



Top: Local 225 officer Yanildy Taveras was instrumental in helping Local 226 pass a new contract. Being bilingual paid off, as she was able to communicate the details of the contract in Spanish directly with the Local 226 workforce, many of whom are from the Dominican Republic. Center and below: Local 226 members on contract voting day.

locals and creating a stronger, more fighting union was more apparent than ever.

"The Trans-Ed vote was a perfect example of TWU efficiency," said Local 225 Secretary-Treasurer James Muessing. "The International rep identified a needed skill set to achieve one local's goals, reached out to another local who could fulfill that need, and brought the officers of the two locals together."



The Power to Campaign...And Win

This administration takes a great deal of pride in the careful, critical work we did upon coming into office to right-size TWU financially. As we move through our third year in office, our budget is balanced, we are fiscally secure, and we have regained our stride.

In this issue, I hope you took notice of the great work our International Campaign Unit has done. We put a structure in place that helped Local 555 do message research with their members, and we continue to support the local and its leadership. We also helped Local 556 tell personal member stories in the launch of its “People Behind the Profits” campaign. We continue to execute the American Airlines “Today We Unite” campaign, which has recruited an unprecedented number of volunteer member organizers and supporters to take action in support of TWU in its negotiations with the company. And of course, we are moving forward with our 2016 get-out-the-vote member education and mobilization campaign, which is turning out record numbers of TWU voters in support of the issues that matter most to working people. We’re running some of the best strategic campaigns this union has ever seen, and we’re doing it with you, our members.

We also take great pride in our continued ability to reach across our divisions and partner between locals and departments to get work done. That’s part of the reason the ICU was created, and it is certainly why it’s succeeding: because when we all work together to set strategic goals, implement plans to achieve them, measure our success, and learn from where we may have fallen short, we walk away stronger and more powerful than ever.

It’s become increasingly clear that TWU is really working as one union, where every local has each other’s back, and every fight we take on is one that we intend to win. As someone who has, in my way, grown up in this union, it’s quite a sight to see and it makes me very proud.

Thank you for your continued faith in us. We hope you’ll get involved in these efforts either at your local, within your State Conference, at the division level, or here at the International. There’s a role for each and every member to play at TWU, and you are all an important part of our continued success.

In Solidarity,

Alex Garcia

“We’re running some of the best strategic campaigns this union has ever seen, and we’re doing it with you, our members.”



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