

TWU Express

TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO

UNITED INVINCIBLE SUMMER 2019 | VOL. 71 | NO. 2

[transportworker](#) [@transportworker](#) [f/transportworkersunion](#) [transportworker](#)



Our 20 Organizing Victories

envoySM

PSA Airlines



GR:D
BIKE SHARE

UH Bikes

Kalitta Air

BIG B
BUS

jetBlue

NYC Mt. Sinai
Hospital

Quality
Schoolbus

spiritTM

Ford GoBike

SP Plus
Transportation



Celebrating Our 20 Organizing Victories

By International President John Samuels

As this issue goes to the printer, the TWU is celebrating the organization of 20 units under this new leadership.

We are, without a doubt, the fastest growing union in the country. With your undertaking and dedication, we've driven membership to over 150,000 for perhaps the first time in the union's history. We've organized the following units:

- JetBlue Airway InFlight Crewmembers
- Spirit Airlines Customer Service Agents
- PSA Airlines Dispatcher Coordinators
- Kalitta Air Cargo Dispatchers
- SP Plus Transportation Ferry
- SP Plus Transportation Shuttle Bus
- Envoy Air Pilot Ground Simulator Instructors
- San Francisco Bike Share
- Washington, DC Big Bus Workers
- New York City Big Bus Workers
- Miami Big Bus Workers
- Las Vegas Big Bus
- Chicago Big Bus
- Los Angeles Big Bus
- San Francisco Big Bus
- Phoenix-Mesa-Temple Arizona Bike Share Workers
- Cleveland, Ohio Bike Share Workers
- NYC Mt. Sinai Hospital Network Shuttle
- Bronx, NY Quality Schoolbus Company Drivers
- NY MTA Bus White Collar Unit
- NYC Transit Staff Analysts

"Our mission is to advance the trade union movement and provide a stable, comfortable life for all working people."

The more we grow, the more density we have city by city. This leads to more leverage we can use to fight on behalf of TWU members' and their families' livelihoods.

One of those ways the TWU aggressively defends workers is by our infamous, strategic, multifaceted, fightback campaigns. We're fighting against automated vehicles in the state of Ohio (*see p. 25*), ridiculously greedy American Airlines (*see p. 18*) and privatizers who want to dismantle our national railroad system (*see p. 19*) – to name a few. In fact, nearly every single page of this magazine highlights one of our fightback campaigns.

Please keep in mind: Regardless of whether you are in Florida, New York, Texas, California, New Jersey or Oklahoma, coast-to-coast the TWU looks after the economic interest of our families. Our mission is to advance the trade union movement and provide a stable, comfortable life for all working people.

We truly are America's Fighting Democratic Union.

I hope you all have a pleasant and safe summer and enjoy the season with your families.



TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO

JOHN SAMUELSEN
International President

ALEX GARCIA
Int'l Executive Vice President

JEROME LAFRAGOLA
Int'l Secretary-Treasurer

CURTIS TATE
Int'l Administrative Vice President

MIKE MAYES
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

Delisa Brown	Tom Lenane
Willie Brown	Thom McDaniel
Dale Danker	Gary Peterson
John Feltz	Andre Sutton
Debra Hagan	Tony Utano
James Whalen	

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

John Chiarello	Horace Marves
LaTonya Crisp	Benyoel Morgan
Richard Davis	J.P. Patafio
Derick Echevarria	Nelson Rivera
Kevin Smith	

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Bedennia Barnes	Michael Massoni
Carlos Bernabel	Jeffrey Mitchell
Richard Boehm	Gus Mohgrabi
Jon Bradford	Lyn Montgomery
Constance Bradley	Thomas Murray
Dino Centrone	Paul Navarro
Brian Connors	Emmanuel Paragios
Brian DeLucia	John Parrott
Cassandra Gilbert	Earl Phillips
Victor Gonzalez	Dan Rivera
Amy Griffin	Richard Rocco
Vanessa Jones	Peter Rosconi
Tim Hughes	Armando Serrano
Theotis James	Robert Taylor III
Shirley Martin	Donald Yates

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



SUMMER 2019

CONTENTS

VOL. 71, NO. 2



DEPARTMENTS

- 2 President's Column
- 4 Secretary-Treasurer's Column
- 12 Legislative Department Updates
- 13 Organizing Department Updates
- 28 Committee Updates

FEATURES

- 5 First Ever Air & TUUS Division JPCM Convenes in Orlando
- 8 Members in Action
- 10 2019 Michael J. Quill Scholarship Winners, 50th Anniversary Drawing
- 18 Secretary-Treasurers' Training
- 26 Health & Safety
- 27 State Conferences

DIVISIONS

AIR

- 14 TWU Leads the Charge in Grounding Defective Boeing 737 Max 8

RAIL

- 19 Amtrak Service Workers Council Takes on Capitol Hill

TRANSIT

- 22 Big Bike Share Successes in San Francisco, Chicago

Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act of 2019 Will Strengthen Unions

By International Secretary-Treasurer
Jerome Lafragola

It's getting harder and harder to make ends meet, as working peoples' wages remain stagnant while the rich get richer. In fact, between 1980 and 2014, income for the bottom half of earners grew by only one percent, while income for the top one percent of earners jumped by 205 percent, according to Vox Research.

During this same time period, the percentage of workers who belonged to a union dropped significantly, from 33 percent in 1956 to only 10 percent in 2018.

Coincidence? Not a chance.

The higher percentage of union workers there are in any given community, the better wages and benefits are for everyone – regardless of whether you're a union member. Behemoth, greedy corporations understand this, so they are paying off anti-union candidates, who in turn pass legislation that makes it harder and harder for workers to organize. The miserly top one percent wants to keep all the country's wealth to themselves, even though it's made off the backs of working people.

But there is new federal legislation that can reverse this vicious cycle of the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer.

In May, the *Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act of 2019* was introduced by Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA-3) and Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA). The bill would eliminate right to work laws and modernize the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA). It would strengthen the federal laws protecting a workers' right to organize a union and enact serious safeguards against corporate interference in organizing campaign.

Today, the NLRA doesn't completely protect workers from any employer reprisals when organizing or empower workers to enforce their labor rights in court. The PRO Act ensures that workers can actually exercise those rights by:

- Increasing penalties for employers that violate workers' rights.
- Strengthening support for workers who suffer retaliation for exercising their rights to organize.
- Preventing employers from interfering in union elections.

The PRO Act also strengthens workers' right to bargain at the negotiating table, because it:

- Enhances workers' right to support secondary boycotts, strikes or other acts of solidarity.
- Allows workers to engage in collective or class action litigation against employers who violate their workplace rights.
- Ensures unions can collect "fair share" fees (currently forbidden in Right-to-Work states).
- Facilitates initial collective bargaining agreements by mandating binding arbitration for first contracts if the parties cannot find agreement on their own.

The TWU will fight to make this legislation into law so that all our members have the actual right to organize and make their communities more prosperous.

For updates about this bill and any other legislation the TWU supports, please visit www.twu.org.

I hope you and your families have a happy, healthy and safe summer!



"There has been new federal legislation introduced that can reverse this vicious cycle of the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer."

First Ever Air & Transit, Universities, Utilities and Services Division Joint President's Council Meeting Convenes in Orlando

The very first Air & Transit, Universities, Utilities and Services (TUUS) Division Joint President's Council Meeting took place in Orlando, April 29 through May 2. Leaders from both divisions had the opportunity to discuss issues they each face, as well as hear campaign updates from the International.

TWU International President John Samuels, TWU International Executive Vice President Alex Garcia, TUUS Division Director Curtis Tate and Air Division Director Mike Mayes were in attendance and took part in the conference.

"The union is constantly changing, but the one thing we have in common is our desire to protect and advance TWU families," explained Samuels as the meeting began. "Whether it's American Airlines, Southwest Airlines, the New York Transit Authority or the transit authority in Houston or Columbus – they are not going to buckle or settle unless we hit them where it hurts."

"We are coming together to fight," added Garcia. "Our employers are coming after the same thing: they want our jobs and they want our money. We must stay united so we can move forward together."

Day One

President Samuels stressed that he didn't like giving speeches and would rather have an open dialogue or shopgate. "I don't like talking from a podium, I would rather sit in the middle of a room and talk, would rather have a conversation," he explained.

Samuels did discuss all the different campaigns the International is invested in.



Members of the TWU Transit, Universities and Utilities Division leadership and staff

"We've launched sophisticated, fightback campaigns that we've never done before," he said, noting the contract fight with Local 291 in Miami and the statewide fight against autonomous vehicles in Ohio. "Unless we give management a reason to settle, they are going to plod along. We have to do something that affects on-time performance and production – focus on hitting the employer where they don't want to be hit."

Some tactics the International uses are direct actions within the membership, and digital and traditional media campaigns.



Members of the TWU Air Division leadership and staff



The first ever Air & TUUS Joint President's Council Meeting was a success



**International President
John Samuelsen**



**International Executive Vice
President Alex Garcia**



**TUUS Division Director
Curtis Tate**



**Air Division Director
Mike Mayes**

"Reach out to your representative for the resources and knowledge we have available to bring a sophisticated, TWU-style campaign to places it's not happening right now," Samuelsen said. "We now have an International leadership united across the board to win local fights and take a role of extreme support that, perhaps, did not exist in the past. I urge local leaderships in fightback campaigns to reach out to the International about developing a strategic campaign – campaigns that work for you and your local – not us."

Next on the agenda was a presentation by International Training Coordinator Gary Shults. He outlined some of the TWU's training programs and explained how to get one for your local. Send an email to training@twu.org for assistance.

Andrew Rangolan then gave an update on COPE and the State Conference program. As this issue went to press, there are 18 Air Division locals and 15 TUUS Division locals participating in COPE. There are currently 17 State Conferences, 14 of which have joint meetings.

Georgia State Conference Chair Benyoel Morgan explained, "State conferences come together for mutual aid of locals. We go to assist member locals with whatever their situation is, whether it be a contract fight, struggle with an employer or an organizing effort. It's a collective force of State Conferences to help locals. It's not just about politics."

New York State Conference Chair Angelo Cucuzza added, "There

are lots of interactions within the conferences themselves. The New York/New Jersey State Conference were all in DC to help the Rail Division. The Illinois/Indiana State Conference assisted with bike share organizing in Chicago. Those calls never go unanswered – it's about the bigger picture."

"We are more than just locals; we are like a family," said New Jersey State Conference Chair Steve Hamm. "We drop what we are doing and go assist that local. We take this seriously."

The day closed out with breakout sessions among Air and TUUS Division officers. TWU International Organizing Director Nick Bedell gave tips on how to run a successful union meeting, according to the TWU Constitution.

Day Two

On the second day of the conference, the International Communications Department screened videos that showed the history of the TWU and highlighted current campaigns.

Brendan Danaher, Executive Director to the International President and Zack Tatz, Senior Director of Government Affairs, gave an update on last year's Supreme Court *Janus v. AFCSME* decision and how it can affect Air Division members. Since the decision came out, 40 lawsuits have been filed and 10 were decided in favor of labor unions.

"At the International, we are focused on this and making sure you



Members of the Air Division did a team building exercise



Members of the Transit Division with their team building exercise

and your local are protected from these anti-labor attacks,” Danaher said. “Organize new workers, and also the workers you already have. Be in front of them and teach them the value of a union.”

Afterwards, TWU Air Division Systems Coordinator Gary Peterson talked about the concept of local autonomy and cleared the air of some misconceptions.

“The International supports the local. Local leaders are responsible for ownership of the local and working together as an organization on campaigns,” he explained. “The International is not going to be in the local’s business – we are not going to tell you how to run your local.”

The day closed with a presentation on *The Emerging Threats of Last Mile Mobility* from Bedell. Members went into breakout groups to discuss how to best combat automation in the TUUS Division and keep workers safe.

Day Three

International Campaign Organizer Heather Lavery gave a presentation about the Future Leaders Organizing Committee (FLOC) to the TUUS Division to kick off the final day of the conference.

FLOC first met the first week of December in 2018, with 50 folks from different locals, who talked about what they wanted to be working on and developed a pledge. In April, FLOC held its first

meeting where a female and male co-chair, recording secretary and communications chair were elected (*see p. 30 for more*).

FLOC is open to members aged 18-35, but they are also incorporating new workers and new members. Many Air Division locals have already started committees.

TUUS Division Director Curtis Tate encouraged interested members to reach out to Lavery. “There is a need to involve the younger and newer workers. There is a fear they will take your job, but if you don’t do that, when you retire or go to that vacation place, there will be no one to take your place,” he said. “Identifying and passing on that knowledge is a part of our job.”

Next, International Political Action Director Regina Eberhart gave a presentation on the threat of autonomous vehicles.

“You gave us a roadmap on how to fight autonomous bus technology,” said Local 208 President Jarvis Williams. “We educated and motivated our members.”

Some of the tactics used to reach members were hand leafletting and text messaging.

“You need to take the temperature of your own membership to see if folks are on board, or if you have to spend some time educating,” Eberhart explained. “Timelines are critical when dealing with strategic campaigns. Remember – we don’t run away, we fight back.”

The meeting concluded with an officers’ roundtable discussion.

To view all the photos, visit <http://bit.ly/2WORTZd>.

MEMBERS IN ACTION



Local 512 First Annual William G Lindner Award Ceremony

Local 512's new award is in honor of our first TWU Local 512 President. It recognizes local representatives for their dedication and exemplary service to our members. Our first recipients are Safety Coordinator Mitch Bitto, Grievance Coordinator Dana Marzillo, Chief Steward Amy Locke, and Chief Steward Keith Kmilek.

Local 1 Officers Sworn In

(L-R) Local 1 Vice President John Anderson, Local 1 President Tony Barbita, Local 1 Secretary-Treasurer Rick Speelman, Board Member Shawn Irvin and Board Member Crystal Justers are sworn in by TWU International Rep Theotis James in Akron, OH on April 16.



Local 512 Easter Egg Hunt

Local 512 held an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 13. The turnout was egg-cellent!



Local 512 New Steward Training

Local 512 training for new stewards took place in April.



MEMBERS IN ACTION



Local 290 Mass Meeting

Local 290 held a mass meeting on March 23 in Philadelphia. Seated at the front table, left to right, Executive Board members Mike Pearson and George Booker; Vice President Melody Rawls Allen and President Craig Holmes.



Local 171 – Members of Local 171 in Ann Arbor, MI with International Rep Gary Shults.



Local 291 Legislative Session

Members of Local 291 traveled to Tallahassee to meet with legislators at the 2019 Legislative Session. In attendance were Executive Vice President Joseph D'Elia, Transportation Vice President Jeffrey Townsley Sr., Transportation Vice President Shawntrel Jackson and Transportation VP Michael Williams.

Local 2055 Executive Board Training

Local 2055 Executive Board training took place April 10-12. Pictured are President Brian DeLucia, Vice President Robert Cifarelli, Secretary Treasurer Gary Criscuolo, Recording Secretary Peter Naiden, Executive Board member Thomas Doody and International Rep and Trainer Gary Shults.



Local 252 New Members

The newest members of Local 252 were sworn in during April's meeting. They represent workers from Suffolk Transportation and First Student. Each new member received a constitution, contract, by-laws and pin.





2019 Michael J. Quill Scholarship Winners

50th Anniversary Drawing

Established in 1969, the Michael J. Quill Scholarship Fund provides 15 scholarships worth \$4,800 to college-bound dependents of TWU members. It is paid out every 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.

On May 14, International Executive Vice President Alex Garcia, International Secretary-Treasurer Jerome Lafragola, Railroad Division Director John Feltz, International Rep Brian DeLucia and COPE Director Andrew Rangolan were in attendance, assisted by several members of the TWU International staff. TWU International Executive Secretary Tinisha Thompson managed the entire scholarship process. This year marked the 50th Anniversary of the scholarship drawing.

The TWU's leadership remains committed to honoring the tradition of investing in the education of our members' children and is grateful to be joined in this noble endeavor. In 2019, we are honored to have four additional scholarship sponsors, which added another 21 scholarships: Union Benefit Planners, M3Technology, Pitta LLP and Pitta, and Bishop & Del Giorno LLC. All of the above sponsored scholarships will be paid out in the first year, as a single scholarship.

The winners came from locals large and small across the TWU's divisions, representing some of the best and brightest students in the country. The TWU will continue to honor our founder by investing in the next generation and to support the commitment to learning that all the Quill Scholarship applicants exhibit. Our members and their families are our greatest asset.

Michael J. Quill Scholarship Winners – \$4,800 (\$1,200 paid out per year for four years)

Faith R. Bennett (Robert Bennett), Local 574
Zoe M. Brown (Rona Zimberg-Brown), Local 556
Kristin A. Coon (Bruce Coon), Local 514
Brandy Dowleyne (Leslie Dowleyne), Local 100
Jonathon J. Federer (Lori Federer), Local 556
Christian G. Haney (Amber Boyles), Local 556
Emily Helmich (Edward Helmich), Local 234

Clayton P. Johnson (Frank Johnson), Local 548
Lauren A. McFadden (Michael McFadden), Local 556
Kelly L. Mitchell (James Mitchell), Local 591
Yomar Ortega (Reynolds Ortega), Local 513
Anaiyah D. Smith (Donald Smith), Local 100
Holly N. Smith (Todd Smith), Local 514
Laura M. Taylor (Lisa Birzin), Local 220
Edison A. Youngblood (Edward Youngblood), Local 576

**Union Benefit Planners –
\$2,500 each for one year**

Kelly-Ann C. Aly (Tammy Dumay), Local 100
Jonnel K. Baldwin (Shelton Baldwin Sr.), Local 555
Srijita Heeya (Deepak Das), Local 100
Kennerly G. Holloway (Jesse Holloway), Local 514
George W. Hamilton III (George Hamilton II), Local 555
Hannah M. Jelercic (Tracy Culla), Local 526
Triston J. Martinez (Elcy Park), Local 556
Cori M. McDonald (Joy McDonald), Local 556
Phylicia M. Menendez (Pablo Menendez), Local 100
Kendia A. Missick (Eddrick Trumpler), Local 568
America Pineda (Fausto Pineda-Mora), Local 106
John P. Rodriguez (Michael Rodriguez), Local 100
Janae M. Tunley (Crystal Johnson), Local 514
Erick A. Wilson II (Erick Wilson Sr.), Local 513

M3 Technology – \$2,000 each for one year

Shawn B. Carrington (Shawn Carrington), Local 100
David B. Cooper (David Cooper), Local 514
Samuel M. Graphman (Steven Graphman), Local 2003
Maya N. Richardson (Raymond Richardson), Local 252
Laela D. Whalen-Ruiz (Kristen Whalen), Local 556

Pitta LLP – \$2,500 each for one year

Orla M. Hayes (Stanley Hayes), Local 100

**Pitta Bishop Del Giorno LLC –
\$2,500 each for one year**

Johnathan L. Salter (Byron Salter), Local 591

Alternates- *(in case any of the above declines
or is forfeited, alternates will be selected in the
following order)*

Mya P. Edwards (Stephanie Coward), Local 100
Stephen M. Atkins (Mark Atkins), Local 591
Richard Wong (Wan Wong), Local 100
Makayla M. Katz (Mark Katz), Local 100
Aubrey E. Lynch (Eric Trespalacios), Local 234
Jadah Best (Darryll Thomas), Local 100
Brett M. Callagy (Thomas Callagy), Local 252
Toni N. Gerbino (Tina Gerbino), Local 252
Kaylin S. Anest (Peter Anest), Local 100
Kaylee B. Vega (Winston Fernandez), Local 100



Stay Connected with the TWU International

Are you receiving email updates
from the TWU International's various
departments?

Let's make sure your information is
up to date!

Provide your local representative
with your current email address and
phone number so we can keep you
informed with the latest TWU news.

If you're not sure which local
you belong to, give us a call at
headquarters, **202-719-3900** and we
can assist you.

Or, you can visit the International's
website, **www.twu.org** for more
information.

Meet Senior Director of Government Affairs, Zack Tatz

The Transport Workers Union is excited to welcome Zack Tatz as the union's Senior Director of Government Affairs. In this newly created role, Zack will be responsible for political and legislative activities across the country in support of the union's public policy goals – including fighting anti-worker automation, ending corporate outsourcing practices, and empowering the labor movement's organizing efforts.



Zack Tatz, TWU's Senior Director of Government Affairs

Prior to joining the TWU, Zack served as the Manager of Government Affairs for the Air Line Pilots Association, International (ALPA), representing more than 60,000 professional airline pilots in North America. During Zack's time at ALPA, he was the lead political staffer for the union, overseeing the Association's political programs as they were recognized three times by the Public Affairs Council for outstanding work (twice for ALPA's political action committee and once for its grassroots efforts). During his final year with the pilots, ALPA's political programs generated more than \$2.4 million in voluntary political contributions and over 100,000 interactions between union members and federal elected officials.

"On the political side, technology is driving success for unions in public policy," said Zack. "Our opponents are usually much better funded than we are, but they can't compete with us on constituent engagement. Our challenge as a labor movement in recent years has been connecting all of the local work our members are doing to decision makers in Washington, DC. Technology, including social media, can be purpose-built to make that connection effectively."

Zack also served as a member of ALPA's legislative affairs team, which successfully lobbied the U.S. Congress for reforms at the Export-Import Bank, for increased air safety oversight at the Federal Aviation Administration, on international trade issues. "Winning in Congress," per Zack, "requires a constituent-driven message. A winning argument starts from why this is good public policy, but it ends with how does this benefit the people who live and work in the district? Here again, we have an advantage because those people are our members and our job is to better their careers and their communities."

Originally from Riverside, California, Zack started his career working on political campaigns while earning his undergraduate degree from the University of California in Berkeley. After graduation, Zack bounced around the country working to elect more than 20 pro-labor candidates to federal and local office – including many in Right-to-Work states.

"The TWU is a union with energy," concluded Zack. "We're growing in places and into industries that other unions aren't. I'm looking forward to being part of that success and helping to build the next generation of the labor movement."

Kincare for Flight Attendants Advances in California

California has long had family and medical leave protections above the federal minimums. These protections, known as Kincare, allow workers to take up to 12 weeks off work to address medical and other issues for themselves, as well as their family members, including parents, children, and siblings. Unfortunately, the nature of flight attendant jobs has left them largely excluded from these benefits at the state level.

To address this oversight, California Assembly Member Rob Bonta (D-Alameda) introduced AB-1748, which would amend Kincare qualification requirements for certain workers – allowing flight attendants and others whose full-time jobs may be 40 hours of flight-time each week to access Kincare benefits. The bill has so far passed two committees and is currently awaiting consideration on the Assembly floor.

TWU Calls on Congress to Protect Transit Operators from Assault

On May 8, the TWU sent letters of support to both the U.S. House and Senate urging lawmakers to cosponsor the *Transit Worker and Pedestrian Act* (H.R. 1139/S. 436). This bill is essential to helping protect transit operators around the country from the brutal assaults they face every day.

H.R. 1139/S. 436 would require local transit agencies to work with unions to create safety management plans to prevent assaults and increase the use of collision avoidance technologies, such as blind-spot mirrors. These measures will help ensure that workers have a safe operating environment and return unharmed to their families at the end of every shift.

You can read both letters at www.twu.org.

U.S. Congress Seeks to Address Toxic Cabin Air

On April 10, Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Representative John Garamendi (D-CA) introduced the *Cabin Air Safety Act of 2019* in both the U.S. Senate and House. This bill directly addresses the threat of toxic air onboard an aircraft by requiring the Federal Aviation Administration to create a system for reporting and responding to toxic air events during flight. The bill would also require sensors in aircraft to identify dangerous levels of carbon monoxide in cabin air.

The TWU has endorsed this legislation and is working with Congress to address this issue and protect the health of flight attendants and all who fly.

Our Latest Organizing Victory: Envoy Air Pilot Simulator Instructors

On June 6, Envoy Air Pilot Simulator Instructors (PSI) voted unanimously for union representation by the TWU. Based in Dallas, PSI's are highly skilled and train new pilots for Envoy Air.

Captain Rich Geeting, a member of the Organizing Committee, said that the best thing about joining the TWU is that he and his co-workers are "no longer employees subject to at-will employment."

"We are delighted to take control of our future by joining our TWU brothers and sisters," added Captain Mike Green, another Organizing Committee member.

TWU Organizing Director Steve Roberts said, "It's been a pleasure to work with the Envoy Air PSIs. I want to thank TWU Local 548 and Local 548 President Chris Turner for their support with this organizing campaign."

TWU Assistant Organizing Director Sean Doyle noted, "Another organizing victory for the national labor movement and another organizing win for the TWU - Welcome sisters and brothers to the Transport Workers Union of America!"

International Rep Jose Galarza agreed. "The TWU is happy to welcome another Envoy Air work group that wants fair living



Organizing Director Steve Roberts, Organizing Committee Member Captain Rich Geeting, Organizing Committee Member Captain Mike Griffin, Local 548 President Chris Turner, Assistant Organizing Director Sean Doyle and International Rep Jose Galarza.

wages and control of their future. Welcome to America's Fighting Democratic Union," he said.

CAMPAIGN UPDATES

Lee County, Florida

The International is continuing our campaign in Lee County, Florida, where we have the potential to represent 1,000 new members employed by Lee County Transit, Public Works, Fleet Management and Parks & Recreation. Cards are being signed; and we are working on building out an in-house committee.

For updates, visit www.twu.org/lee-county/.

Spirit Air CSAs, Kalitta Air Dispatchers

Spirit Air Customer Service Agents and Kalitta Air Cargo Dispatchers are currently engaged in first contract negotiations. They overwhelmingly voted for TWU representation in September and March, respectively.

Please visit www.twu.org/divisions/air-division/ for the latest updates.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

[@transportworker](https://twitter.com/transportworker) [f/transportworkersunion](https://www.facebook.com/transportworkersunion) [transportworker](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



JetBlue IFCs Abigail Valencia and Leah Weintraub with our friend, Jane, at JFK Airport.

Have You Met Our Friend, Jane?

Let us introduce you to our friend, Jane! Energized and inspired by future TWU representation, JetBlue IFCs are helping organize fellow JetBlue Mechanics and Passenger Service Agents. JetBlue IFCs Abigail Valencia and Leah Weintraub spend much of their free time grassroots organizing and hand billing at JFK Airport.

You can find the latest updates – and sign an authorization card – at www.twu.org/jetblue/.

TWU Leads the Charge in Grounding Defective Boeing 737 Max 8

When Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 plunged to the ground with 157 passengers and crew onboard on March 10 – the second Boeing 737 Max 8 plane to do so in months – the TWU immediately sprung to action, calling for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to ground the defective planes.

We’ve since learned that both tragedies were due to faulty sensors that forced the plane’s nose down, even though the pilot did not instruct the aircraft to do so. The Lion Air Flight 610 crash took place on Oct. 29, 2018 and killed all 189 passengers and crew onboard.

“We are extremely concerned that the angle-of-attack sensor, and/or the software, is problematic. Our concerns are exacerbated by post-accident data showing that the Ethiopian Airlines aircraft vertical speed was unstable after takeoff, which follows a similar pattern as the Lion Air crash. It is time the FAA stops coddling U.S. flagged carriers flying the 737 MAX 8. The FAA must hold them accountable for identifying, reporting and correcting defects which could put

flight crews and air travelers at risk,” wrote President Samuelsen in the March 11 letter to the FAA. “Most importantly, the FAA must take a position with the airlines flying the 737 MAX 8 that Flight Attendants must be allowed voluntarily to opt out of flying on the 737 MAX 8 aircraft without being subjected to discipline until a determination is made regarding the cause of these tragic crashes and corrective action is taken.

“A serious reckoning is in order. Will the FAA continue to allow the airline industry to place potentially less safe aircraft into passenger service, or will you stand up for average, ordinary, American aviation workers and air travelers?” he concluded.

Receiving no response, the following day, the TWU sent letters to American Airlines CEO Doug Parker and Southwest Airlines CEO Gary Kelly, demanding they “do the right thing and ground all the 737 Max 8 planes in the US until another disaster occurs. America deserves positive certainty regarding the safety of these aircraft. Put people over profits.”

President Samuelsen appeared on CNBC

and in multiple news outlets demanding that the aviation industry put safety over profits.

By March 12, every single country on the planet – except the US and Canada – had grounded all Boeing 737 Max 8 planes. Critics on social media accused the TWU of being “chicken littles” but we remained steadfast.

On March 13, the FAA finally called for the grounding of all Boeing 737 Max 8 aircraft.

In the weeks that ensued, Congress issued hearings and investigations.

As this issue went to press, it was revealed that American Airlines pilots warned Boeing about faulty safety features months before the Ethiopian Air crash – and Boeing admitted for the first time on May 18 that there is a flaw in the sensors.

Congressional hearings on the crisis began in May, with Acting Administrator Daniel Elwell facing questions.

The aircraft remain grounded around the globe.



TWU Bus is Going on Tour

The TWU Bus began its nationwide tour at Buffalo International Airport on May 21.

To find out where it is at any given time, send a Direct Message to the TWU Bus’ social media accounts:

- Twitter: @BussTWU
- Facebook: TWU Buss
- Instagram: @TWUBuss

Feel free to stop by and ask questions, sign an authorization card, get some TWU swag or just say, “Hi!”



President Samuelsen appeared on CNBC to discuss the Boeing 737 Max 8 crisis.

How Safe is the Cabin Air You're Breathing? TWU Launches Toxic Cabin Air Campaign

The TWU launched the first stages of its latest campaign, fighting for the safety of aviation workers and the flying public.

The International created a committee consisting of members from the Air and Transit, Universities, Utilities and Services Divisions, along with industry experts. As usual, the TWU is leading the charge with our Toxic Cabin Air campaign, calling on the FAA to monitor cabin air for toxic fumes.

The first component of the campaign is to educate TWU membership, which was underway as this issue went to press.

What Are 'Toxic Fumes'?

In recent weeks, there have been several stories in the news about diverted aircraft from all airline carriers in the US and abroad because of "toxic fumes." These fumes cause serious health concerns and are not monitored at all onboard aircraft.

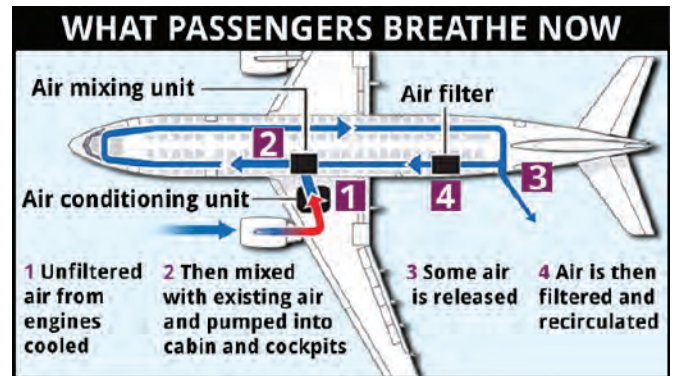
For example, eight passengers on a flight this spring were hospitalized after a toxic fume incident while waiting to take off.

Passengers are often unaware that the air they breathe on board is circulated through a "bleed air system." This system heats outside air over the engines – allowing toxic fumes to potentially seep into the cabin air.

The aviation industry often denies the threat of these chemicals, claiming that aircraft have been designed this way for years. The science, however, is clear on this issue. Engine oil, hydraulic fuel, and other aircraft fluids, when gasified, become potent nerve agents that can cause brain damage, cancer, and loss of motor function.

These nerve agents can be absorbed through inhalation and through the skin. Repeated or prolonged exposure to these – such as the daily exposure flight attendants endure – may result in the same effects as acute exposure. Some TWU members have become completely disabled from exposure to these chemicals.

These fumes can smell like dirty socks or other everyday



items – often causing people to ignore this life-threatening issue. Frequent flyers and other passengers may mistake the symptoms of toxic fume exposure for jetlag. In fact, travelers are at equal risk to the negative health effects from these fumes.

Federal legislation has recently been introduced in the U.S. Congress to address this issue. The Cabin Air Safety Act, sponsored by Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Representative John Garamendi (D-CA), would help set our cabin air on a path to being healthy and safe. The TWU fully endorses this important bill as a first step to ensuring our cabin air is healthy and safe.

What You Can Do

If you believe you've been exposed to toxic fumes, fill out the webform at <http://www.twu.org/health-safety/toxic-fume-exposure/>.

On that page, you can also find resources on how to fill out a Workers' Compensation claim, if you've been exposed to toxic fumes, depending on your state; download a palm card; and view your HIPAA rights.

Visit that same page for the latest campaign updates and how you can get involved.

Air Division Podcast Launched

On April 22, the TWU Air Division launched a podcast series. Local 513 Strategic Action Coordinator Brian Parker is currently hosting the podcasts that provide updates on news and events pertaining to Air Division members.

New episodes are released on Thursdays. At the time of this printing, Parker interviewed International Vice President Gary Peterson, International Vice President Andre Sutton, the Future Leaders Organizing Committee, IAM Executive Committee Negotiator Tom Reagan, International Representative Thom McDaniel, International Representative Kevin Smith and Veteran's Committee Chair Jose Galarza.

You can listen to the episodes at any time by visiting <http://podcast.twu.org/> and subscribe via iTunes or Google Play Music. Episodes are also linked to the TWU Air Division webpage.

TWU-IAM Association Responds to American Air's Lawsuit

On May 20, American Airlines filed an injunction against the TWU-IAM Association for allegedly slowing down work, causing hundreds of travel delays.

On May 21, the Association released the following statement:

"It is unfortunate that American Airlines has chosen to abandon negotiating with its employees and instead go straight to federal court. The airline is frustrated with the Association for refusing to allow more of our maintenance and repair work to be outsourced to South America, China and Europe. We are also standing strong against cuts to our medical benefits and retirement security. Our members value American Airlines fliers and work hard every day to ensure they have the best experience possible.

"The Association is ready and willing to get back to the bargaining table at any time and negotiate a fair joint collective bargaining agreement, but to do so would take a willing partner. We would much prefer to be at the negotiating table than in a legal battle brought on by American."

The Allied Pilots Association (APA) and the Association of Professional Flight Attendants (APFA) quickly pledged their solidarity.

"If American Airlines management really wants to know what's wrong with this airline,

all they have to do is look in the mirror. The problems at American Airlines are not caused by the proud, hard-working men and women of the IAM and TWU," read the APA release. "If American Airlines management truly wants to build a world-class airline, they need to take a hard look at their priorities. Rather than engaging in intimidation and litigation, they should be focusing on ways to deliver the culture change they have long promised.

"We stand with our IAM and TWU brothers and sisters in their efforts to maintain a safe operation and secure a fair contract," the APA concluded.

"Despite the constant problems that have left it ranked last among the major airlines, American Airlines continues to scapegoat and attack its hardworking unionized workforce, who sacrificed much to build the world's largest airline," said APFA President Lori Bassani. "This unnecessarily aggressive litigious attack on its workers is only the latest example of the lack of respect the airline has shown its longtime, dedicated employees... We stand wholeheartedly with the hard-working men and women of TWU and IAM."

No future mediation dates have been scheduled as of this publication. For the latest AA Association updates, visit www.twu.org.



Local 556 President Appointed to National In-Flight Sexual Misconduct Task Force

Local 556 President Lyn Montgomery was appointed to the National In-Flight Sexual Misconduct Task Force. She is the only flight attendant on the task force and one of two representatives from a labor union.

The Task Force is a subcommittee of the Aviation Consumer Protection Advisory Committee (ACPAC) for the U.S. Department of Transportation.

According to the charter, its members are expected to "review current practices, protocols and requirements of air carriers in responding to and reporting allegations of sexual misconduct by passengers on board aircraft." If need be, the Task Force will also provide recommendations to the ACPAC for consideration for the Transportation Dept. Secretary on "best practices relating to training, reporting and data collection regarding incidents of sexual misconduct by passengers onboard commercial aircraft."

President Samuelson applauded the decision. "In this new role, she will work to ensure the safety and security of both airline passengers and flight attendants," he said.



President Samuelson, Air Division Director Mike Mayes and International Rep Andre Sutton shopgate members in Miami on April 5.

JetBlue Negotiations Gain Ground

The JetBlue InFlight Crewmember (IFC) Negotiating Team spent the spring at the bargaining table, negotiating their inaugural contract.

On April 16, the negotiating team visited International headquarters in Washington, DC for a planning session (*see photos below*).

TeleTown Hall Call

On May 17, President Samuelson hosted a Teletown Hall Call for JetBlue IFCs. He and Administrative Vice President and Air Division Director Mike Mayes spoke about contract negotiations, toxic fumes in cabins, and other topics.

JetBlue IFCs had the opportunity to submit questions ahead of the call, as well as in real time while the call was happening.



TWU Executive Director Brendan Danaher, President Samuelson, JetBlue IFC Coordinator Carmen Gonzalez-Gannon and TWU Campaign Director Nick Bedell at the TeleTown Hall Call

To listen to the full recording of the call, as well as find any other negotiation updates, visit <http://b6.twu.org>.



American Airlines Should Care Campaign

TWU Locals 501, 502, 505, 507, 510, 512, 513, 514, 529, 567, 568, and 591 launched the American Airlines Should Care campaign, focused on educating the public on issues affecting Air Division members.

For over three years, the TWU has been engaged in contract negotiations with American Airlines and have been embroiled in a battle to save U.S.-based jobs that are vital to the safety and security of America's air travelers and flight crews. Now, it's time to get the general public on our side and educate them about American Airlines' unfair and potentially unsafe practices.

As a TWU member, you can help spread the message on behalf of your Air Division brothers and sisters. We cannot do this without you! The objective of sharing this campaign with your family and friends is to help spread the message of our continuing struggle



to get a contract with American Airlines. Here's what you can do to help and find more information:

- Visit the campaign website: AAShouldCare.com
- Follow on Facebook: [@AmericanAirlinesShouldCare](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanAirlinesShouldCare)
- Follow on Twitter: [@AAShouldCare](https://twitter.com/AAShouldCare)
- Sign the Petition: <http://chnng.it/thyrrtmzJb>
- When posting on social media, be sure to use the hashtag #PowerofCaring. The slogan is "Discover the #PowerofCaring"



Over 50 Attend Secretary Treasurers' Training

Over 50 local officers attended the Secretary Treasurers' Training at the Maritime Center in Linthicum, MD April 22-26. It was the largest class in TWU history.

International Rep Gary Shults explained that the

week-long class was only supposed to accommodate 30 attendees. Due to the overwhelming response, "no one was turned away."

International Secretary Treasurer Jerome Lafragola organized the event. Check out the photos!



Amtrak Service Workers Council Takes on Capitol Hill

On April 4, about 50 members of the Amtrak Service Workers Council (ASWC) took on Capitol Hill to demand that Amtrak stop outsourcing jobs and preserve our national rail network.

Members of the TWU, UNITE HERE and TCU-IAM participated in the Lobby Day in Washington, DC, while members of TWU Railroad Division locals were out in the streets, hand-billing outside of Boston South Station and New York Penn Station.

On social media, members and allies used the hashtags #DontFailRail and #BeHumaneSaveTheTrain to spread the word and build solidarity.

The lobbying did not stop on April 4 – anyone who wants to preserve Amtrak careers and service can call their elected official right now! Visit the Railroad Division page at www.twu.org for info.



Local 1460 and Local 2001 members meet with Rep. John Katko (D-NY-24)



Flying outside of Boston South Station



Meeting with Rep. Lori Trahan (D-MA-3)



TWU Railroad Division Director John Feltz (far right) and Railroad Division members wait to meet with Rep. Andy Kim (D-NJ-3)



Local 2015 Secretary-Treasurer Don Gillespie



Meeting with Robert Dougherty, Legislative Director for Rep. Anthony Brindisi (D-NY-22)



TWU members with Rep. Tom Malinowski (D-NJ-7)



TWU members meet with Rep. Tom Suozzi (D-NY-3)



Meeting with Rep. Max Rose (D-NY-11) Legislative Aide Asher Zlotnick



Local 2055 Secretary-Treasurer Gary Criscuolo with Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY-14)



Local 2001 Secretary-Treasurer Brian Corallo, Local 2001 President Pat Howard and Railroad Division Director John Feltz.



Taking the Message to Chicago

On April 24, the ASWC took their message to Chicago, holding a press conference outside of Union Station, demanding that Amtrak jobs not be outsourced and stressing the importance of the work onboard food and service workers perform.

Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-IL-3), Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL-9) and Rep. Chuy Garcia (D-IL-4) attended and spoke about their unwavering support for the work our members do and the importance of having a long-distance railroad to serve the entire country.

TWU Railroad Division Director John Feltz talked about Amtrak's unsung heroes: onboard food and service workers, while waving the over 300-page manual workers are required to read and study.

Included in the handbook are dozens of tasks and skills that our members are obligated to know, including: onboard customer safety; passenger train emergency preparedness; emergency evacuations; what to do during terrorist activity including bomb, chemical and biological threats; how to locate firearms and weapons onboard trains; how to treat/assist injuries and illnesses; assisting customers with disabilities; how to operate lighting, electrical distribution, HVAC, communication, entertainment and water systems on the train; and keeping up with FDA regulations.

"Outsourcing this work puts the safety of the riding public at risk. It's dangerous to have an unskilled, untrained worker responsible for the lives of thousands of passengers traveling across state lines," Feltz explained. "There is no substitute for the decades of rail service our members have under their belts. They deserve the utmost dignity and respect.

"Congress should not be allowed to take taxpayer money and then in turn use it to hire untrained contractors," he continued. "Instead, Congress should put secure language in the next FAST Act to ensure that this work not be outsourced and our members gain all the benefits they rightfully deserve.

"Onboard service workers are crucial to our national rail network. Let's make sure they get the benefits they earned and Amtrak customers receive the service they are entitled to," Feltz concluded.

Local 1460 President Amy Griffin, UNITE HERE Local 43 Secretary Treasurer Donald Boyd and TCU-IAM National Vice President Jack Dinsdale also gave remarks.

The next ASWC action was being planned as this issue went to press. Visit www.OutsourcingExpress.org for updates.



TWU Railroad Division Director John Feltz (second from left) spoke about Amtrak's unsung heroes: onboard food and service workers.



Local 1460 President Amy Griffin stresses the important work her members perform.

Local 2054 Lobbies Against Keolis

On Wednesday, March 27, TWU Local 2054 leadership, including President Tommy Murray, lobbied the Rhode Island and Massachusetts congressional delegation. They asked Congressmembers to investigate the crooked and corrupt French company, Keolis, as well as its ability to provide reliable service as a responsible commuter rail operator in the states of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.



Congressman Jim McGovern (D-MA) with members of TWU Local 2054 and TWU Political Action Director Regina Eberhart



Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) with members of TWU Local 2054 and TWU Political Action Director Regina Eberhart.

Amtrak Honesty Gram Launched

If you're on Instagram, put down this magazine, pick up your phone and follow @AmtrakHonestyGram.

It's an account exposing the truth of what Amtrak is doing to its workers, riders and the national railroad network – with no filters. Amtrak thinks it can cover up its corruption by creating cute content on social media, but TWU members are not fooled.



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

Local 2054 Election Notice

The following notice was posted on Feb. 7, 2019 by Local 2054 President Thomas Murray:

Notice to All TWU 2054 Members – Amtrak, CSX, Keolis: Effective December 31, 2019, all elected and appointed positions are declared vacant.

Nominations for the following elected positions will be accepted at the October 24 union meeting. The positions are:

- President
- Executive Vice President

- Secretary Treasurer
- Vice President
- Section Chairman

The above are four-year terms. These terms begin January 1, 2020 expiring December 31, 2023.

Elections will be held at the November 21, 2019 union meeting, location TBD.

All members must ensure that the Secretary-Treasurer has each members' current mailing address and if applicable email address.



Members of TWU Local 512, TWU Local 556, TWU Local 572 and TWU members at Divvy attended the Chicago City Council Pedestrian & Traffic Safety Committee vote to expand the bike share.



Members of the TWU Illinois/Indiana State Conference and Divvy Bike workers ready to testify at the Chicago City Council in support of keeping the city's bike share system public.

Big Bike Share Successes in San Francisco, Chicago

The TWU scored two big wins this spring in our bike share unit - and it was all due to the efforts of our locals, state conferences and members across the country.

Members across all divisions, no matter what work they do for a living, stepped up and came out to support bike share organizing efforts in San Francisco and Chicago. It was this act of solidarity that ensured our success.

Ford GoBike Workers Vote 60% to Join TWU

After an intensive organizing effort, Ford GoBike workers in San Francisco voted 60 percent for representation by the TWU. The vote count was announced on March 29. Ford GoBike workers are employed by Motivate LLC.

The campaign garnered a lot of local support from community members and organizations, including the San Francisco Democratic Socialists of America, Our Bikes, the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT).

"The ultimate act of democracy in a workplace is joining a union. By voting to join the TWU, San Francisco's Bikeshare Workers have greatly strengthened the economic security of families," said President Samuelson.

The TWU already represents Motivate workers in New York

City, Washington DC, Chicago, Boston and Jersey City, as well as bike share workers in Cleveland and Phoenix.

Ford GoBike has 4,000 bikes that can be docked at 300 stations across the San Francisco Bay Area.

Divvy Bikes Expands in Chicago

Chicago is getting more public bikes – and TWU members!

On April 10, the Chicago City Council voted to expand Divvy Bike Share across the city. TWU rank-and-file members and Divvy workers were heavily instrumental in getting the vote out.

At both the April 10 full council vote, the April 8 Pedestrian & Safety Committee vote and the March 28 public hearing, TWU members showed up and spoke out. Attendees included TWU Illinois/Indiana State Conference members, members of Local 512, Local 556, Local 572 and TWU members at Divvy.

TWU members who had never previously been involved in an action such as this were quickly brought up to speed by TWU International staff and their sisters and brothers from State Conference leadership.

Having such a solid sign of solidarity in one of the TWU's newest organized units is something to behold.

The TWU was also supported by the Chicago AFL-CIO and Unite Here.



Some of the newest TWU members: Ford GoBike workers in San Francisco.



TWU Illinois/Indiana State Conference members Donna Keith and Brendon Remezas after testifying before the Chicago City Council for its expansion.

TRANSIT UPDATES



TWU members who work for Divvy bike celebrate its expansion after the City Council vote.



Looking at a New Local

Newly organize bike share members met in Washington, DC May 18-20, mapping out what their future will look like.

Bike share workers are chartering a new local, separate from Local 100. Visit www.twu.org for updates.



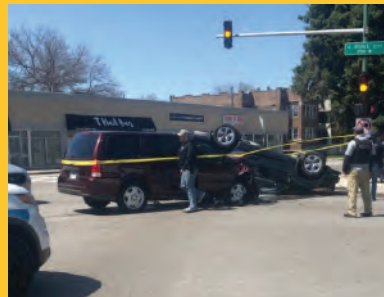
Chicago Bike Share Member Rescues Three, Including Baby, From Crash

Motivate Bike Share Worker Chris Reyes was on the job, sitting at the intersection of North Ridge Boulevard and Touhy Avenue when "all of a sudden a van comes speeding along next to me...goes through the intersection and plows into another car." The car flipped upside down, landing on the roof and trapping three passengers inside.

"I jumped out of my truck and ran over to the intersection," Reyes recalled. "I saw a lady hanging halfway out the back window. I began to pull her out and she was screaming for her baby, in a car seat still inside the car."

Reyes crawled inside the vehicle, grabbed the baby from the seat and handed it to the woman through the window.

"Now there's a guy in the passenger seat yelling that he's upside down and can't get out," Reyes said. "I



pressed the seat belt buckle, which released him, so he fell. I shoved him through the window and they pulled him out.

"Then, I crawled out the car, got back in my truck

and left," he continued. "I tell you: it was like out of a movie."

Reyes has been working for Motivate for the past five years and has been a TWU member ever since we started organizing. Dedication is second nature to him.

"Already 30 to 40 minutes had passed, so I got back in my truck so I could keep working," he said. "I just got in the truck and went back to work."

He also shrugged off being a hero. "I'm sure anybody else would have done the same in those circumstances," Reyes said. "It's always good to do a good thing."

Heartless School Board Ignores Local 239

TWU Local 239 members who work at the Mike Padgett Highway (MPH) Depot as bus operators, monitors and mechanics have been sickened by what the TWU believes is a toxic worksite. For nearly a year, the TWU International has been on the ground in Augusta, Georgia, building a community coalition. So far, their pleas to the Richmond County Board of Education have been ignored.

On Thursday Oct. 18, School Bus #267 experienced mechanical issues and caught on fire. Children were evacuated from the bus by the operator and luckily no one was hurt.

On Nov. 9, 2018, TWU members attended the Richmond County Board of Education meeting, asking for an investigation into the dilapidated school buses. Instead, the superintendent alluded that the fire was arson. Eventually, officials determined it was due to faulty maintenance.

On March 7, the TWU hosted a Citizen Town Hall: Toxic School Buses in Crisis to find solutions and demand answers from board members.

Most recently, on April 23, Local 239 members, bus operators, teachers and parents planned to deliver a petition signed by thousands to Board of Education members to ensure the safety of Richmond County students as they ride to and from school on buses provided by the county.

However, school board members decided to change the time of the meeting at the last minute. The public meeting began at 4:30 p.m., right after their general session ended, instead of the announced start time of 6:30 p.m.

Most who planned to deliver the petition weren't even able to attend the meeting because they were still out on the job, safely transporting students home.

See how much the Richmond County School Board care about its students?

The petition demands that the board:



School bus #267 burst into flames in October. The Board of Education has done nothing to rectify the situation.

- Upgrade the aging school bus fleet: 31% are over 11 years old and have outlived their usefulness.
- Make school bus driving a great job: Buses are overcrowded as a result of poor pay and conditions that cause high driver turnover. A full-time school bus driver has an enormous responsibility and must be fairly compensated.
- Immediately conduct an independent investigation into the environmental hazards at Mike Padgett Depot: 72% of drivers at the depot report having health symptoms as a result of working there. 50% reported missing work because of the symptoms.
- Hire additional mechanics to secure the safety of the fleet: Government inspectors found 420 defects - 54 which were listed as serious in 2018. 75.6% of buses had defects.
- Install fire suppression systems on all school buses: With three school bus fires this school year, it's clear that fire extinguishers alone are not enough to protect students.

The International was planning further actions as this issue went to press.

To sign the petition, or find more info and updates, visit www.ToxicSchoolBus.org.



Organizing Norfolk Port Truckers

Efforts to organize port truckers based in Norfolk, Virginia are still going strong.

As this issue went to press, the International Campaigns Department had a barbecue scheduled for June 15.

Reposting: Procedures for Transportation Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs

At the Air and Transit Division President's Joint Council Meeting in Orlando, there was some discussion about Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) drug and alcohol testing regulations. To read about testing procedures visit <https://www.transportation.gov/odapc/part40>

If you have further questions or need more information, please contact your Local Staff Representative.



People Before Robots Town Hall

The People Before Robots campaign, fighting against autonomous shuttles across the state of Ohio, gained some allies in the labor and faith community in greater Columbus this spring.

On May 30, the TWU International hosted a town hall in the Linden community of Columbus, where residents discussed the threat of autonomous vehicles and how it affects their safety.

For updates, visit PeopleBeforeRobots.org



Local 250A Ratifies New Contract By 3-1 Margin

On May 30, Local 250A members overwhelmingly ratified a new contract with major wins for local members. Local 250A represents San Francisco's iconic cable car, subway and bus operators, city inspectors and other workgroups. Local officers spent the spring negotiating a new contract with the city, with oversight from the International.

Transit workers' wage progression was one of the most important issues. Under the last contract, new operators had to be on the job 48 months before receiving top pay. In a city as expensive as San Francisco, some workers couldn't afford housing and had to sleep in their cars. Thanks to union members standing strong, new operators will now only wait 36 months. The contract also includes, among other benefits:

- Wage increases
- An additional floating holiday
- Increases in premium pays

- No health care increase
- Establishment of an accident review panel with an independent, neutral, third party

Transit, Universities, Utilities and Services Director Curtis Tate praised local members. "Lots of hard work and long hours went into getting the best contract possible for local members in all units. The numbers speak for themselves – if we work collaboratively, we can all reap the benefits."

"Thank you to all of our union brothers and sisters for your help and for your support. Remember, this is not the end, this is barely the beginning," said Local 250A President Roger Marengo. "We have a lot of work to do in the very near future, so let's continue to educate and organize ourselves so that we can continue to move forward as one strong unit."

The contract goes into effect July 1 and lasts through June 30, 2022.

Local 568 Member's Life Saved by Union Brothers at Safety Meeting

On March 13, a run-of-the-mill Air Division Safety Meeting quickly became a real-life lesson, when one TWU member began choking on his lunch and was saved by his union brothers.

After a long morning session, attendees were especially hungry when lunch arrived. Local 568 Safety Chair Joe Rodriguez took the first bite of his steak sandwich – but it “didn’t go down.”

He said he remained calm and tried to drink some water, but it came up through his nostrils. Rodriguez got up to go to the bathroom and gave a thumbs up that things were okay when someone asked.

“The worst thing I did was go to the restroom myself,” Rodriguez said, recalling how he was trying to bang his chest against objects to dislodge the food. He started to feel numbness in his jaw – one minute and eight seconds had already passed.

That’s when Rodriguez returned from the bathroom and made the international sign that someone is choking – holding his throat.

“These guys jumped up and did the Heimlich. The first attempt didn’t work,” Rodriguez said.

“The guys” he is referring to are heroes Mike Szwed, Vice President of Local 512 and Jay Sleeman of Local 513.

Still choking with his arms going numb, Sleeman threw Rodriguez “around like a wet rag,” performed the Heimlich and his throat finally cleared.

“When it came out, I couldn’t move. I was so exhausted from the lack of oxygen,” Rodriguez said. “I was embarrassed, but at least I was alive.”

‘Nothing Really to It’

Sleeman has a background in safety working for the fire department. He said performing the Heimlich on Rodriguez “all worked out great. There’s nothing really to it. You don’t think about it, especially if you’ve been trained. It’s a lot better feeling when it works out than when it doesn’t work out.”

The Heimlich maneuver works by putting your knuckles into the abdomen of the choking person, with a hard press in towards the backbone and up towards the throat. This swift motion pushes out air, which in turn knocks out whatever is lodged in the throat.

Sleeman said safety measures such as CPR and the Heimlich maneuver are something everyone should learn.

“It’s a rewarding thing to know,” Sleeman said, however adding, “I don’t feel like I should take a bunch of glory for it – I did it and I’m happy it worked out.”

TWU Family Strong

Rodriguez said he now looks at life with a different perspective. “You don’t realize how important life is,” he said, adding that when he got home, the first thing he did was hug his kids.



Air Division Director Mike Mayes, Mike Szwed, Jay Sleema, Joe Rodriguez and TWU Air Division Rep Tony McCoy at the Air and Transit President's Joint Council Meeting. Szwed and Sleeman were given awards for their heroic actions.

“I could not have been in better company when it happened because every guy there was a safety guy,” he said.

Rodriguez is a second generation TWU member – his father was a section chairman out of San Juan for Local 501. “All of my life I’ve been around the TWU. I was born into this family and they literally saved my life,” he said, adding that he is a former OSHA trainer and has been a TWU member for almost 30 years.

Rodriguez said he choked due to acid reflux, something he has had for many years. He ate something that didn’t sit well with him the previous day, which inflamed his esophagus, making it difficult to swallow.

“It’s something that happens once in a blue moon, but always review safety briefings, even with family members at home. If someone is choking, how do you communicate? What signal can I give?” Rodriguez explained. “Always prepare for the unexpected.”

Heroes Honored

On May 2, at the first ever Air and Transit Division Joint Presidents’ Council Meeting in Orlando (*see p. 5*), Szwed and Sleema were given awards for their heroic actions. Air Division Director Mike Mayes and International Rep Tony McCoy praised them for their quick-thinking, modesty and selflessness in saving their union brother.

Rodriguez said that he doesn’t wish his ordeal on anyone else. To prevent another near-tragedy, choking prevention posters are hung up all over the Local 568 union hall in English and Spanish.

“This shouldn’t happen again to anyone else and their family,” Rodriguez said.

Health & Safety Campaign Underway

The TWU International's Health & Safety campaign is underway, providing resources to members across all divisions.

For the latest updates, visit <http://www.twu.org/health-safety/>.

For the latest updates on the TWU's Toxic Cabin Air campaign, launched as this issue went to press, visit <http://www.twu.org/health-safety/toxic-fume-exposure/>



STATE CONFERENCES

California State Conference



The TWU California State Conference, working with Assemblymember Rob Bonta (AD-18), introduced a bill to help lower the California Family Rights Act's qualifying hours requirement for Flight Crew based in California (see p. 12 for more). TWU members lobbied at the California Labor Federation's Legislative Conference on April 1 and 2 in Sacramento.



FIND YOUR STATE CONFERENCE

Arizona/New Mexico

Chair: Jim Volpe, Local 556

Contact: jimvolpe@prideatworkaz.org

California

Chair: Matthew Hettich, Local 556

Contact: mhettich@twu556.org

Co-Chair: Chris Avila, Local 555

Contact: christopher.avila76@gmail.com

Florida

Chair: Jeffrey Mitchell, Local 291

Contact: 291unionman@gmail.com

Co-Chair: Susan Johnson, Local 556

Contact: swa45111@yahoo.com

Georgia

Chair: Benyoel Morgan, Local 527

Contact: morganb@twulocal527.org

Co-Chair: Yolanda Brown, Local 239

Contact: Yolanda_brown68@yahoo.com

Illinois/Indiana

Chair: Donna Keith, Local 556

Contact: dkeith@twu556.org

Co-Chair: Brendon Remezas, Local 556

Contact: bremezas@twu.org

Nevada/Colorado

Chair: Todd Towns, Local 555

Contact: todd_local555@hotmail.com

New York/ New Jersey

NY Chair: Angelo Cucuzza, Local 501

Contact: acuzz1967@gmail.com

NY Co-Chair: Patrick Flannery, Local 2001

Contact: patrickjf2001@aol.com

NJ Chair: Steve Hamm, Local 229

Contact: shamm229@gmail.com

Ohio/Michigan

Chair: Andrew J. Jordan, Local 208

Co-Chair: Mike Paragios, Local 2019

Texas/Oklahoma

Texas Chair: Jose Cruz, Local 260

Contact: jcruz@twu.org

Oklahoma Chair: D'Ann Johnson, Local 514

Contact: djohnson@twumail.org

COMMITTEE UPDATES



Veteran's Committee Meets in Miami, Denver

The TWU Veteran's Committee met Feb. 25-27 in Miami. The meeting was hosted by Local 568 (*photo above*).

Local 568 executive board member Kevin Staring received a certificate of appreciation for hosting the meeting and Local 568 President Luis Rodriguez was in attendance (*photo below, top left*).

The Veteran's Committee also met May 6-8 in Denver. The meeting was hosted by Local 556.

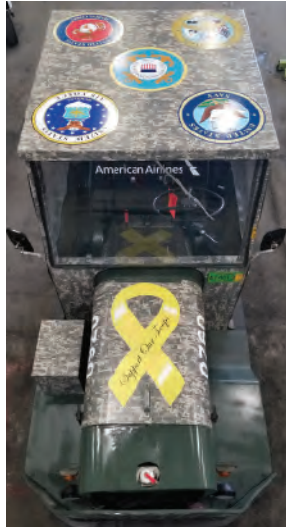
Per tradition, Local 556 member received a certificate of appreciation for hosting. Pictured are Local 556 Board Member At Large Eric Weis, Local 556 Veteran's Committee Vice President Wayne Tipton, Local 556 Veteran's Committee Chair Chris Sullivan, TWU Veteran's Committee Vice Chairman Brendon Remezas and TWU Veteran's Committee Recording Secretary Charlana Bilodeau (*photo below, bottom right*).



COMMITTEE UPDATES



The Local 501 Veteran Tug, supplied by American Airlines, is used to transport human remains of our veterans.



ARE YOU A VETERAN?

Are you a member of the TWU Veteran's Committee?

Sign up today at veterans.twu.org/



Working Women's Committee Meets in Dallas

Members of the International Working Women's Committee met in Dallas, May 20-22. The meeting was hosted by Local 513.

The next meeting of the Working Women's Committee will be hosted by Local 252 and will take

place July 24 and 25 in Islandia, NY. Rooms have been secured at the Hampton Inn Islandia Hotel and meetings will take place at Local 252's Union Hall.

For additional information, visit the Events Feed at www.twu.org.





Future Leaders Organizing Committee Formed

Members of the TWU Future Leaders Organizing Committee (FLOC) met April 3-5 at International headquarters in Washington, DC, planning the committee's goals and next steps.

Four leaders were appointed: Co-Chair Raychel Armstrong, Co-Chair Wyatt Gray, Recording Secretary Jordan Bravo and Communications Committee Chair Jarrod Gillen

Armstrong, FLOC co-chair and member of Local 577, said that one of FLOC's goals is to change how young workers interact within the labor movement.

"It provides me with a space to educate myself, challenge the way I think, and reflect on what I've done to bring workers together," Armstrong said. "Instead of asking what my union is doing for me, the question shifts to, 'How am I participating and helping my fellow workers?'"

Gray, FLOC co-chair and member of Local 513 said that he has renewed hope for the TWU's future after seeing all the "passion and motivation" from his fellow FLOC members.

"I'm so proud to work alongside other young workers helping get our fellow young workers and future leaders active and energized in the union, as well as re-



Communications Committee Chair Jarrod Gillen, Recording Secretary Jordan Bravo, Co-Chair Raychel Armstrong and Co-Chair Wyatt Gray

engaging with members with higher seniority to keep this movement going into the future," Gray stated. "Being a member of FLOC, I know the TWU will do great things."

Gillen, Local 568 Chief Shop Steward and FLOC Communications Committee Chairman, noted that after

COMMITTEE UPDATES

only two meetings, a lot of progress has been made establishing ways to better organize young workers and get them more involved in union activity.

"My enthusiasm definitely jumped after meeting other young TWU members from all over the nation and finding out there were people just like me who shared the same goal," Gillen explained. "Even though we all know we are up against powerhouse corporations trying to destroy the labor movement, we are all still ready to dive in head first. That, in itself, is very inspirational and keeps me on my toes to strive to do a good job."

Bravo, FLOC Recording Secretary and Local 510 Shop Steward said that since joining FLOC, the uncertainty he once had about the future of unionism is gone.

"Being able to have the opportunity to work side-by-side with such a passionate group and share ideas and visions to find solutions to real-time problems feels amazing," Bravo said. "Focusing on not only our future, but the futures of our fellow members' well-being, I was able to come to the realization that we need to stick together. Being a part of FLOC has given me a whole new view on the future as a TWU member."

Follow FLOC on social media:

Facebook: facebook.com/groups/twufloc

Instagram: [@twufloc](https://www.instagram.com/twufloc)

Website: www.floc.twu.org

The next FLOC meeting was slated for Aug. 6-7 in Miami, as this issue went to press.

FLOC'S GOALS ARE TO:

Recruit & mentor: Creating an environment where young union workers can develop mentor-based relationships that hold each other accountable.

Educate & empower: Provide educational resources and training on union basics, the history of the labor movement, the TWU and why member participation matters.

Organize & take action: Providing young workers the tools and relationships to help establish their own young workers committee locally and work with the local leadership to build unity.



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



Drive Away

When it comes to renting a vehicle, Union Plus can help get you the best deal. Check out the **Union Plus Car Rental Program**'s discounts and services for union members and save up to 25% on rates at companies including Avis, Budget and Hertz. Drive away in style—for less!

Learn more at
unionplus.org

