

Crucial MTA Bus Pension Arbitration 2nd Session Report

The second session of the all important MTA Bus Pension arbitration took place Friday April 29, 2016 at New York City Transit headquarters at 2 Broadway.

Local 100 President John Samuelsen and Counsel Denis Engel presented for the union with Arbitrator Howard Edelman presiding. Vice President Pete Rosconi and Division Chair John Day were also present for the union.

The union presentation documented how the two sides arrived at the binding arbitration process after reaching impasse on what constitutes pension parity with the TA, OA during recent contract negotiations.

The union took the arbitrator through a history of the MTA Bus pension plan, as well as a history of the OA pension which went through similar issues decades ago. The union presented a detailed comparison of the current MTA Bus Pension to that covering TA and OA members.

The union further offered clear solutions to the parity issue, including 1.) establishing a Final Average Salary (FASA) formula used to calculate the OA pension, or 2.) by increasing the pension multiplier used to calculate the current MTA Pension benefit to at least \$143 times years of service.

The union impressed upon the Arbitrator that MTA Bus members are anxious for a speedy resolution to the case.

The MTA made an effort to rebut the union's arguments, and will likely present its own case at a later date.

During contract negotiations, the MTA had made an important concession on the pension piece by dropping their demand that a pension improvement be paid for with concessions or work rule changes. The MTA also conceded that Local 100's position that a disparity exists between the MTA Bus Pension and the benefit covering workers in the TA and OA is correct.



Statement from President John Samuelsen on Pension Arbitration

"I am very happy with our presentation before Arbitrator Howard Edelman in our quest for pension parity with our TA and OA brothers and sisters. TWU Counsel Denis Engel did an outstanding job in preparing for this case.

"I am confident that we will come away with a good result from this arbitration that will significantly improve pensions for future MTA Bus retirees.

"What's important to remember is that we are fighting for the improvement to the pension with no strings attached. The MTA conceded this critical point during negotiations, which in effect ended the unfortunate cycle at MTA Bus of paying for pension improvements with concessions. We continue to steadfastly argue that the pension improvement is a matter of justice, and that any demand by the bosses for concessions is misplaced. Equal pay and benefits for equal work!

We will keep you fully informed of all developments in this arbitration."



John Samuelsen, President Local 100

