



# TWU LOCAL 100 NEWS

## Station Division

April 2010

## Layoffs Still on the Table

All across this country, public transportation systems are under attack. San Francisco, Washington, Atlanta, Cleveland, Cincinnati and many others are being rapidly down-sized. Cleveland lost up to 50% of its workforce on Easter Sunday. If that happened here over 17,000 TWU members would be without jobs -- a horrifying thought. The MTA still plans to lay-off over 450 Station Agents. The exact number is still uncertain, but the Union's position is that even one layoff is too many.

TWU Local 100 has been attacking the layoffs from many sides:

- **IN THE MEDIA:** Your Union has enabled the media to see our side of the story. We have prompted most of the stories you read

### Fighting Job Reductions In Stations Since '90s

It is important to know that layoffs and booth closings are nothing new. Since the inception of the Metrocard in the 1990's the MTAs long-term plan was to automate fare collection. The MTA, with Mr. Jay Walder at the helm, is determined to reduce our Station Agents even more. Although the MTA claims the layoffs are due to money short-falls it is pretty clear that that is not the complete story. We suspect they are using the current financial crisis to initiate their long-term plans. We have received word that almost every division in TWU Local 100 is about to lose jobs in the near future, not necessarily personnel but jobs. The pattern is clear, eliminate jobs, eliminate O.T. then eliminate workers. As the members of stations know, losing jobs is the first step in the MTAs long-term plan of reducing the workforce. So, really the layoffs in Stations is everybody's fight not just ours.

### Arbitrator Considers Union Grievance to Delay 2010 SA Summer Pick

Arbitrator Richard Adleman is expected to rule quickly on our grievance to delay the Summer Pick as the fight to stop further booth closings continues. He is considering our argument that closing the booths imperil passenger safety, and opens our system to crime and terrorist attacks.

At one point, however, Adleman stunned

everyday about how the closings of booths and the elimination of Station Agents will adversely effect public safety.

- **ACTIVISM:** We have spent countless hours handing out flyers to the public explaining how this layoff would impact them. Judging from the public reaction, the public is clearly on our side.

- **POLITICAL ACTION:** Our Political Action Committee has been extremely active in forging alliances with the community and lobbying politicians to battle the MTA. We have also spearheaded formation of a new national coalition of transportation labor, environmental, community and passenger advocate leaders to rescue the nation's financially distressed mass transit systems. Founding members of the coalition -- **KEEP AMERICA MOVING** -- include **Rev. Jesse Jackson**, Transport Workers Union Local 100 President **John Samuelson**, ATU International President **Warren George** and TWU International President **James C. Little**. They articulated the plight of mass transit in America and the steps needed to fix the crisis at a press conference at New York's Penn Station March 31, 2010.

NYC Public Advocate **Bill de Blasio** and Assemblyman **David Weprin** sponsored press conferences with Station agents to highlight the fact that almost 50% of the MTAs cameras do not work.

Assemblyman **Keith Wright** is entering a bill in the NY State legislature to study the long-term effects of reducing Station Agents and would put a moratorium on eliminating Station Agents for at least 2 years.

everyone by asking us if we had "asked the terrorists if they plan to bomb the subways." He also interjected that he is "a fiscal conservative" and that everyone would have "to sacrifice."

The pick itself is a disaster. Stations department stands to lose over 139 jobs with the possibility of losing 181 in total. While our efforts did not produce the desired outcome, hopefully they will be helpful in the long run.

### Fight Back Committee

*All interested Station department members who wish to join the fight back committee can do so by calling (212) 873-6000 x 2036 and sign up. We do not have much time before the clock runs out, if we do go out it is better to go out fighting. Call today.*

### LOBBY DAY APRIL 27, 2010

#### Get on the Bus to D.C.

It is vitally important that everyone joins the fight back. On April 27, 2010 Lobby Day is going to Washington D.C. If you received a layoff letter there should be no reason that you do not attend. If you did not receive a letter, you should attend because you could be the next one receiving a letter.

Do you really think you are safe because you have 10, 15, 20, 25 years on the job? Think again. It may not be you now, but it could be you a year from now or two years from now. The MTA will stop when we make them stop, and not a moment sooner. It is up to all of us to stand together and fight for our jobs.

*Sign up sheet and further details on the reverse side of this newsletter.*



There are risks and costs to a program of action. But they are far less than the long-range risks and costs of comfortable inaction.

John F. Kennedy

# The State of the Station

By Maurice Jenkins

Vice President, Station Department, TWU Local 100

**I**T HAS BEEN A VERY TRYING FIRST 90 DAYS. Pending layoffs, disciplines, grievances, etc. have all been top priorities. We have been actively fighting on all fronts to save our jobs. **President Samuelsen**, along with the other members of the top four, has been fighting tirelessly to accomplish these goals.



It has made me proud beyond measure to see some of our people so actively involved in the fight to secure our futures. I would have liked a better turnout at our meetings and press events, but we have more participation by station agents than we have had in a long time – with hundreds of you making time to come to the Hall, to ride to Albany, and to speak up to the press and to the MTA Board.

Our Division Chair, **Derrick Echevarria**, spoke strongly on behalf of all of us to the MTA Board on March 24th, as well as our favorite militant, **Marty Goodman**. **Christine Williams** gave a speech that caught the attention of the press. It's up on our website. Another of our stars at the MTA Board Meeting was **Felicia Fields**, a mother of five, who hit the Board so hard that they started cutting off the mike. Then there was **Sabrina Greene**, a mother of four, whose speech was so moving that the press almost crushed her in their attempts to get a sound bite.

All of our speakers were strong. **Sharon Allen** challenged Walder directly, saying he looked pretty comfortable sitting there on the Board when soon she would be needing a job. It was a proud day. The crew from the 7 line are some of the strongest supporters of the fight to stop layoffs. More of our Local 100 members need to get it like they do. We must win this fight and to do that, we must participate. Just as victory is shared by all so must the fight be fought by all.

We haven't forgotten the other Departments, but just as a hospital must do triage so must we. And just as we promised, we will empower the membership to be a force to be reckoned with. So please be patient: We will get to everyone in every station and location.

New shop steward classes are now starting, and I am proud to say that Stations has the highest enrollment. We are actively on the road, fighting for better conditions together.

**Remember: We will work hard for you. We will work better with you.**