



TWU LOCAL 100 NEWS

Station Division

March 2010

Union Fight-Back in High Gear

Station Division's main focus is on fighting potential layoffs and keeping open a large number of booths that are slated to be closed during the SA summer 2010 (July) pick. Everything possible is being done to achieve these goals. But that has not prevented us from doing the day to day work of the Department: representing members at hearings, writing grievances against MTA abuses, answering phone calls and solving all kinds of problems.

March Madness

Here's a look at the hectic schedule this month to save Station jobs.

Thank you to the Station Division volunteers who came out and helped your Union officers hand out leaflets.

Over 25,000 leaflets were handed out in 4 days.

March 2: MTA public hearings in Staten Island and Queens. TWU station officers and members attended and spoke out.

March 3: MTA public hearings in the Bronx and Brooklyn: TWU station officers and members attended and spoke out.

March 4: Union-wide rally with students, other Labor Unions outside MTA public hearing in Manhattan. Thanks to those sisters and

brothers who came and stood up for their fellow members.



March 4th Rally

That is real Unionism, not only talking a good game. A union-wide rally on layoffs and service cuts was long overdue. Among those who spoke out to stop the MTA service cuts and the layoffs was Michael Steinberg whose life was saved by a Station Agent when he was attacked by a deranged man with a saw in a subway station.

March 11: In a letter to MTA CEO Jay Walder, three prominent members of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security warned that the MTA's decision to dismiss hundreds of station agents will leave the subways more vulnerable to terrorism.

March 12: Emergency Division meeting on the layoffs and the letters. President John Samuelsen spoke at the a.m. session. In a real break from past policy, members were encouraged to ask the President questions and exchange ideas. Change really has come to the TWU. The P.M. session featured Recording Sec'y Benita Johnson, Administrative V.P Angel Giboyeaux, TWU Political Action Director Vernon Thorpe & TWU Community Organizing Director Marvin Holland. Again, the free and open exchange of ideas was encouraged and accomplished. Thanks to these true union leaders for their tireless efforts.

Also thank you all those who helped distribute flyers for this event. The response was overwhelming. Keep it up Stations, you are growing into a real force.



March 15th: Quill-Connolly Day at the Union Hall: Bob Crow, General Sec'y of UK's Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers Union gave us some great first-hand knowledge on how to deal with the MTA's Mr. Jay Walder.

March 15th: TWU backed Jose Peralta wins in a special election for a seat in the 13th State Senate district in Queens.

March 17th: Station Division Fight Back Committee strategy meeting. If anyone is interested in joining the fight back committee, please contact the Union Hall.

March 18th: Press conference with NYC Public Advocate Bill de Blasio, who spoke out against layoffs of Station Agents and the closing station booths. Station Officers also spoke.

March 19th: Special Legislative Breakfast with over 20 local politicians. Over 50 TWU members who are in jeopardy of being laid off were given the opportunity to ask questions. Station VP Maurice Jenkins made a stirring presentation.

March 23rd: Special bus trip to lobby Albany politicians to provide funding to stem the layoffs. Four buses left from the City at 6:00 A.M. We lobbied the Legislature for a bill to force the MTA to rescind the layoff threat.

March 24th: MTA public hearing at 347 Madison Ave 9:30 a.m. Station Officers and members were there and had their voices heard.

S/A 2010 Summer Pick. (July)

Without giving specific numbers, the pick books presented to Station Division are a disaster. Be assured that your elected representatives in Station will fight with every resource available to them defeat what MTA management is attempting to do.

Pay Raises

The raises went through in the paycheck of March 4th. The other provisions of the contract such as swapping AVAs and banking O.T. are subject to an implementation meeting that will be held with MTA CSO John Gaito shortly.

The “on paper only” trap

There is a trap out there, carefully laid out by the MTA where if you don't watch out, before you know it, you could be out of a job: Let's say a member goes AWOL and gets an automatic 1 day suspension. It happens sometimes and nobody's perfect. So when the member comes to a hearing, they are told it is only “on paper” and please try not to do it again. A slap on the wrist. Everybody goes home happy.

But whether you realize it or not, the trap has been set. An “on paper only” violation is one where the member never spends a minute in the street, which is at first glance good for the member, but in reality is turning out to be a real nightmare.

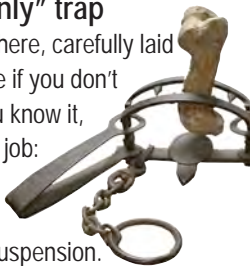
What the member fails to realize is that while the violation is “on paper only” the progressive discipline process moves on, from 1 day, to 5 days, to 10 days to 20 days etc...all the way to dismissal. Before they know it, the member is facing dismissal, many times without ever having to spend a real day in the street. It happens all the time.

Don't be fooled by “on paper only” suspensions, they have a way of getting out of control and have many times led to dismissals which are never “only on paper.”

When you get a “on paper only” violation, see it for what it is, just another way for the MTA to give you a pink slip.

Some people have way too much time on their hands

On a sad note, there are some unknown individuals intent on creating false rumors and even sending out fraudulent information while posing as official sources. In other words, peo-



Protect Your Pick Rights

If your picked job is a booth, then that is the job you are supposed to work. You are not supposed to be pulled from booth to booth. Or pulled from a SCA booth you picked, to a money booth that that has no relief. Your pick rights are important. Your pick rights are sacred. Your pick rights are the product of many years of hard-fought struggle by the TWU. Don't give them away as if they are worthless.

Whether SCA booths or money booths, your picked job is your picked job. You have the right to work it.

If you are working an SCA job, that does NOT mean that Supervision can tell you to perform functions that are not included in that SCA job. Especially if they ask you to go off your station to do them a “favor.” Or ask you to become a lunch relief. Or a delivery person. **Just say no.**

When you agree to do work that is not in your job description, you are hurting every single member of Stations Department and yourself. Do you think supervision will help you if you get written up because you do “favors” for them? Think again.

We have had reports of supervisors:

- Ordering Station Agents to pick up their paychecks for them,
- Doing ladder surveys that take the SCA on a 15-20 station extended tour of the system,
- Asking Station agents to deliver boxes of quarters from booth to booth. Without an escort.
- Asking SCA agents to pick their

ple sending out fake letters to fellow workers. Obviously these are some sick, sick people. To try to further panic people at a time of crisis is really sick. If you know any of them let them know the proper authorities are investigating so it will be only a matter of time before they are caught.

For more information on this and other issues please come to your Station Division meetings.

Shop Steward /Activist Program Cycle Begins on March 29th

The TWU Education Department has begun the first cycle of the new TWU shop steward and union activist program. Station Division is included in the first cycle. It will begin March 29th and run for 7 weeks. This Shop Steward program will be intensive and challenging. 25 station members will be spread out in one of

breakfast/lunches/dinners for them.

- Do station inspections on stations other than the ones the Agent is assigned to, other than the side the SCA booth is located on.
- Asking Agents to close their picked booth and open another booth.
- Push water in rain storms
- Shovel snow.
- Scrap stations, including cleaning MVM machines with rags.
- Give lunches or comforts to other SA's.

If you get seriously injured when doing a favor outside of your job description, you may not be able to have a successful comp claim. The Comp Board could deny you because you should not have been doing what you were doing. What if your injury is a permanent disability? Maybe the supervisor will stick up for you? Yeah, right. When you think about doing a favor for a supervisor, think about what will you say to your spouse or kids if things go horribly wrong.

Ask yourself: why are they closing SCA booths? We know it was an ill-conceived and stupidly thought out program to begin with, but another reason is that the job was not worked correctly and the MTA decided it was not necessary.

Do not do management's job for them. Let them do their jobs. They make plenty of money so let them earn it. Forget doing favors for the Supervisors and work to the rules and duties of your jobs. Never work out of title. Protect yourself at all times. If any Supervisor insists you do something you think is NOT your job call the Union Hall at (212) 873-6000x2036, x2038, x2127 and we'll handle it.

the 4 sessions. Those of you who signed up for the program and have not yet received a phone call from Education Director Nick Bedell will be placed in a future program, so do not think you were skipped over. The Station representative on the Education committee is E-board member Paul Piazza (who also writes this report). Paul will be attending and assisting Nick in the Thursday A.M. class.

See you all there.



“First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win.”

Mahatma Gandhi

The State of the Station

By Maurice Jenkins

Vice President, Station Department, TWU Local 100

IT 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 Samuelson**, 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.