



# TWU LOCAL 100 NEWS

## Station Division

April 2011

## Way ahead of schedule!

### *The return of laid-off Station Agents continues*

The return of our laid-off members continues at an accelerated rate. So accelerated in fact, that we are way ahead of the projected mark of "125 by June or July." We are already at #131 from the August 13th list as of March 31. We hope that this trend continues. So that everyone comes home. Everyone laid-off in stations has been contacted for either a S/A or CTA job. Some did not take the CTA job or were ruled ineligible because of disciplinary problems. No one has been refused from those called to the S/A job. It should be noted that everyone was called back in seniority order, and will keep their seniority upon return.

We would like to thank everyone in stations for making this a reality. We all contributed to this, whether by attending rallies, protesting outside Walders' house, contributing to the Solidarity Fund, or whatever else, this is a moment that everyone in Local 100 can enjoy and be proud of. We all contributed to it one way or another. It goes to show that if we stick together in good times or bad we can get positive results. Stations, we are proud of you and proud of every member of TWU Local 100.

## It's in the contract: S/A Comfort reliefs

It is important to remember that comfort reliefs are contractual. The rule for comfort reliefs are clearly stated in Section 3.8 sub section I #4 (j) on page 143. "Railroad Clerks (S/A) upon request will be granted necessary comfort relief during their tour of duty, without reduction in pay."

This section of the contract clearly states that upon making the request for a comfort, it must be granted. A comfort cannot be denied, as long as the proper supervisory personnel are notified. That being said, remember you must take your PPT (booth key) with you. And as a part of your proper relief upon arriving to work, make sure you test your PPT to see if it is op-

## No More Legal Options for MTA 3 Percent Raise Coming Soon

The New York State Court of Appeals has denied the MTA's motion for appeal of our third year wage increase and the roll-back of health care contributions. This ruling effectively ends the MTA's two-year legal campaign to block implementation of the union's contract arbitration award. For Stations members, this means a retroactive 3-percent increase to Jan. 16, 2011. For MTA Bus members, the increase becomes effective on schedule - April 1, 2011.

This also means a roll-back of employee contributions on health care to a flat 1.5 percent based on 40 hours -- with full retroactivity to Aug. 15, 2009 for TA and OA, and Dec. 1, 2009 for MTA Bus. To break it down this means that you are owed retro money for any O.T. you worked since Aug. 2009. We will also be owed a Retro check for 3% of your hourly wage, per hour worked from Jan 16, 2011 until now, including O.T..

Local 100 President John Samuelson called the court's decision "an important win for transit workers and the collective bargaining process."

"The MTA has spent the past two years in a costly series of challenges that they knew they could not win. We're extremely happy that the legal fight is behind us, and that the workers will begin receiving the wage increase they so richly deserve."

Samuelson added that the Court's ruling validates the leadership's decision to hold fast against the MTA's

attempt to hold transit jobs hostage to the 3 percent increase. "Most of the members laid off last year are back on the job, or soon will be," said Samuelson, "and they, as well as thousands of their brother and sister transit workers will all enjoy the benefits of the union's fight to preserve our contract and our wage increase."

### *The new wage scales in Stations are as follows:*

**S/A: \$ 27.50**

**CTA: \$ 25.39**

**C/A: \$ 28.49**

**RRSW 1: \$ 28.11**

**RRSW 2: \$ 31.43**

erational. There are few things worse than going out for a comfort and being surprised that your PPT does not let you back in. Also remember that comfort reliefs are not an excuse to go shopping or disappear, not that any of us would. But it is important to understand that comfort reliefs are designed for those urgent emergencies that seem to pop up when you least expect them.

So, if you need a comfort relief, here's the procedure

- **pick up your booth phone,**
- **call your appropriate Field Office or supervisors' office.**
- **make a request for a comfort relief.**
- **go!**

### Quote of the month . . .



*"Injustice anywhere, is a threat to justice everywhere."*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in a letter from a Birmingham jail on April 13, 1963

## Recognizing Achievements of our Station Shop Stewards

Since last January this administration has put an emphasis on the shop steward program led by TWU Education Director Nick Bedell. In Stations, we have had many new shop stewards sign up for the course and become active. We have also had many established shop stewards come to the training classes for a refresher. Congratulations to them all. We would like to take the time to recognize the achievements of 4 of our station shop stewards: **John Borrero, Vanessa Jones, Marty Goodman, Kendra Hill and Brian Brooks**. They have all shown incredible initiative and dedication.

**S/A John Borrero** is a familiar name in Stations. He was an elected officer for many years. As a shop steward he has continued his dedication, and has volunteered his services. He is currently working on checking L/R schedules for safety concerns. Using his vast experience, John quickly identified a series of problems with L/Rs and is willing to roll his sleeves up and help to solve them.

**S/A Vanessa Jones'** training as a shop steward and her extensive training as a authorized TWU safety rep has helped her do quality work for all TWU members. Whether she has been released by the Union or done so on her own time, Vanessa continues to show a high level of expertise and a deep reservoir of compassion for her fellow members. She has worked in the S/A pick, in the TWU office and on special assignment and has exceeded all expectations with her great work.

**Marty Goodman** is a long-time activist/shop steward who, with the recent wave of lay-offs in Stations, has devoted much of his time to fighting for his fellow members. When other people stepped back Marty Goodman stepped up. Marty has brought his militant attitude and activist perspective not only to job-related issues, but to important social and global issues. We commend him for his constant presence at crucial events like the daily protests at Jay Walders' house, MTA board meetings, MTA public hearings and his unyielding support to any fellow Union member in need. He does all these things, it is crucial

to add, on his own time without complaint and with extreme dedication to the cause.

**S/A Kendra Hill** is another former elected Union officer who continues to help the members by being a TWU shop steward. She has been a conduit of information on the road between the members and the Union, bringing to the Unions' attention some important safety issues. She has also been very active in TWU special events such as our various Lobby Days in both Albany and Washington D.C and the Widows and Orphans event. As a shop steward she has made herself available for the members for much needed help.

**CTA Brian Brooks** is a relative newcomer to the TWU scene in his capacity as the elected Recording Secretary of the CTA section, but not a rookie CTA by any means. He is currently the Station Division night safety Rep. If you work a mobile wash team or clean the stations at night you undoubtedly have seen Brian on his rounds. Brian is out in the field continuously, providing guidance and information for the members. Brian covers over 450 stations -- an impossible task for anyone. **These are not the only ones who have distinguished themselves. All our Station shop stewards have done a fantastic job.** Anyone wishing to become a Shop Steward, call TWU education director **Nick Bedell @ (212) 873-6000 x2035** to enroll in his excellent course (**free of charge**).

## Shop Stewards Honor Roll

### Station Agents

Tareque Ahmed,  
Sharon Allen,  
Theresa Byfield, John Borrero, Arthur Clements, Tapan Das, Felicia Fields, Paul Flores, Joseph Gifford, Alice Ginn-MdKay, Marty Goodman, Sabrina Greenwood, Sandra Harris, Kendra Hill, Rushdi Huq, Vanessa Jones, Eugenia Jones, Emery Nauden, Kelebohile Nkchereanye, Jose Rosado, Laura Ryan, Tracey Williams, Markeith Woolford.

### Cleaners:

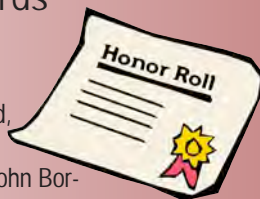
Joseph Ayala, Brian Brooks, Patrice Brown, Nelson Stinson, Pete Lepore.

### Supply Logistics:

Jonathan Palusek, Jonathan Ware.

### Collecting Agents:

Eduardo Martinez, Oracio (O.G.) Gonzalez, Alfonso Quattlebaum, Gail Waller, Tom Yee.



## CTA News: Snow Emergencies vs. Operational Emergencies

What's the difference? CTAs it's your call: The MTA has sent the Union a revised winter operation manual which would affect all CTAs, in regards to the when and where and whys of reporting to work in the event of a snow emergency or an operational emergency. The Union is currently reviewing this winter operation manual and need CTAs to come and look at it as well. AT the next division meeting on Thursday April 21st 2011 at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. CTAs will have the opportunity to go over this manual and advise the Union on changes that could possibly be made to it. But, in order to have input to this manual CTAs must come to this months' division meeting.

April's monthly division meeting will be held at 5 West 63rd street, In the YMCA near Central Park West and 63rd street. Take the A/D/B/C/#1 to 59th st. station and walk over or the N/R/Q to 57 street station.

## Serious Issues Surface in Health Benefits Transfer

An increasing number of TWU Local 100 members have reported significant problems in accessing the health benefits with the new providers. These providers were supposed to replace the old providers in a seamless process. Instead, some members or dependents have been mistakenly dropped from coverage without explanation. Others are having problems with special needs such as medical appliances.

Local 100 is addressing these issues aggressively as they come up, and using them as the basis for a detailed appeal to an arbitrator. Local 100 staffs our own Member Services Unit. This is not the same as Employee Benefits, which is run by the MTA. If you do not find your issue satisfactorily resolved by Employee Benefits, call Member Services. If you have contacted Employee Benefits without having your issue resolved.

## Station Management Changes

The experimental Station Management program seems to be over. They are going back to the old "a supervisor is a supervisor" designation. Your Union expressed doubts to management that the division of supervision would be sustainable. We found it too confusing and time consuming for our members. We know our members are perfectly willing and able to do whatever job their given titles require, but they need clarity. Hopefully, this restructuring of MTA Management will give them just that.