



# TWU LOCAL 100 NEWS

## Station Division

JUNE 2011

### E-Board Takes Care of Business in Albany

In a first for Local 100, our Executive Board met in Albany and conducted regular business before breaking out to visit legislators in an effort to see A. 6766/S.4259, the "MTA Lock Box" legislation passed before the end of the session next week. The Lock Box bill – if passed by the Senate and Assembly and signed by Governor Cuomo – would protect dedicated streams of MTA funding from being "raided" for other budget priorities. As Local

ment and could be repeated if it provides useful results.

Stations E-Board members, Christine Williams, Div Chair Derick Echevarria, Paul Piazza and VP Maurice Jenkins, visited the offices of Senators Gustavo Rivera, John Sampson and Bill Perkins. Station E-Board members: Annie Hallahan (medical), Katherine Taylor-Davidson (vacation) and Mike Morales did not make the trip.



Above, Local 100 Executive Board (in part) in Albany on June 15. Right, Exec. Board members (Stations) Derrick Echevarria (left) and Paul Piazza go over materials for discussion with legislators.



100 and transit advocates have pointed out, the State legislature removed \$360 million in MTA funding over the last two years – a shortfall that led to the massive TWU layoffs last year. Our top priority is to make sure this doesn't happen again.

Local 100 was also in Albany to make sure current arbitration provisions between the MTA and Local 100 remain in place and to bring attention to rising concerns about transit safety in the wake of the suspension of four Local 100 Bus Operators for drawing attention to safety defects at MTA Bus. TWU Local 100 President John Samuelson told the Executive Board that the trip to Albany was an experi-

Politics is always a significant aspect of our work defending the membership. In the very near future Local 100 will need all its members to make visits to their local elected officials and impart to them the importance of legislation that would benefit Local 100 mem-

bers. The voice of E-Board members and Union leadership in Albany is an effective voice of the membership reaching out to their elected officials is even more momentous.

### Counterfeit Grievance Update: Be on guard against funny money.

The counterfeit grievance is still alive and is scheduled for Arbitration June 24th. We feel we have a real issue in this grievance that is central to our working conditions as Station Agents. We promised to keep you updated on this grievance and hopefully we will have more and better news by the July newsletter.



### Dues increase & Retro

Mirroring our recent contractual wage increase, dues for Local 100 members at TA/OA increased in May. They are now \$27.06 per paycheck for most members at TA/OA. Dues are set in accordance with the Constitution of the TWU and rise when wages rise.

There is also an extra one-time dues assessment of \$5.32 in paychecks issued June 8 and June 9 (less for Traffic Checkers). This assessment covers the difference between the old rate and the new rate retroactive to January 16. Dues will return to \$27.06 in paychecks issued June 22 and June 23.

This money covers the amount of dues that would have been taken during the time that we did not get our raise. Remember, this is a ONE –Time payment and has nothing to do with the Solidarity Fund.

### TWU Local 100 at 1700 Broadway (54th St.)

Telephone Numbers 1700 Broadway  
(212) 873-6000

- VP Maurice Jenkins x 2037
- Div Chair Derick Echevarria x 2117  
(Discipline Arbitration, E Board)
- CTA Vice Chr. Joe Bermudez x 2056  
(CTA & overall safety issues)
- Paul Piazza x 2036  
(E-Board, Contract Arbitration)
- CTA Sect Chr. Marvin Holland x2063  
(CTA & PAC issues)
- CTA Rec Sec Brian Brooks x 2056  
(Night Safety Job)

- S/A Vice Chr. Anthony Atria  
212-712-5891 (p.m. City Hall Hearings)
- Rec Secty Christine Williams  
212-712-5891 (E. Bd., a.m. City Hall hearings)
- SA Rec Secy Felicia Fields  
Members Services (347) 643-8067
- SA Sect Chr. Harold Haywood  
2 Bway hearings (646) 252-6787
- James Fullard  
2 Bway hearings (646) 252-6787

## Taking a stand for Safety on the job

Three Bus Operators in Queens, acting under New York State law, declined to put unsafe buses on the road. Defects included upper rear marker lights on an Orion bus and upper brake lights on two MCI Cruisers. Management, flagrantly ignoring safety standards, took the Operators out of service.

Our members' actions were not only justified, but required by law. They did the right thing, and now TWU Local 100 is doing the right thing and standing by them.

The week before this incident, an entire wheel assembly came flying off a bus (out of College Point) and a lady and her baby were almost crushed. In another incident, a bus out of LaGuardia burst into flames while in service. And on June 2, a bus out of Queens Village Depot caught fire and burned to the ground as it left the depot for passenger service.

There's a good reason for all the safety regulations, and why Bus Operators must perform pre-trip inspections according to NYS Law.

The MTA has picked the wrong fight. TWU Local 100 is sticking with safety and sticking with the law. TWU Local 100 members will work safe. We will continue to enforce safe work practices throughout the system above ground and underground.

### It's in the Contract: Part 4: The safety dispute resolution form.

The main goal of all Local 100 members is to provide a decent life for their family and themselves. One of the most important aspects of being able to do that is working in a safe environment. In Stations every day we take our safety for granted: whether not using gloves to pull garbage or not making sure your booth

## Transit Workers Appreciation Day



*Thousands of transit workers, thousands of hot dogs, and dozens of bar-b-cue grills going full-out were part of Transit Worker Appreciation Day at MCU Stadium at Coney Island in Brooklyn. Many union members picked up valuable tips and literature at the associated health fair in the big parking lot outside the stadium. The Stations highlight was the incredible barbequing done by our own "grill master" CTA Div Vice Chair Joe Bermudez at the Stations tailgate party. We also raised \$200 for the Widows and Orphans Fund which will be converted into 2 tickets to the gala*

door is locked; not inspecting your forklift or truck before using it, or over stacking pallets on either one. These events are largely under our own control. These lax work habits can lead to unsafe work conditions.

**What do you do when a manager or a supervisor asks you to do something that is unsafe or is something you were not trained or authorized to do?** The proper steps should be to alert the supervisor or manager that you were NOT trained to do such a job and you do NOT feel safe in doing it. If they order you to do what you feel is unsafe, the contract has a way to help you – **the Safety Rule Dispute Resolution Form**.

The safety rule dispute resolution form is a contract gain won in the 2002-2005 contract and remains in effect to this day. It was a major gain for TWU Local 100 members. This form is to be used when a member feels that their safety is being compromised by a supervisor's order. It is important to remember that if you were not formally trained to do a certain job, it should be considered a safety violation.

#### What to do:

- Identify the safety issue with the supervisor giving you the order.
- Tell the supervisor in question that you do not feel safe doing the task. **(Do not refuse an order, site a safety reason for not doing it.)**
- If supervision still insists on ordering you to do the task, ask for a Safety Rule Dispute Resolution Form.
- At this point all work stops. Management is required to have one or get

one. If the manager has to go get a form, no work can be resumed until this matter is resolved. When management produces the form, you should:

- Fill it out, including all information: name, pass#, date, details of the safety violation etc.
- The manager/supervisor then fills out the form and explains what actions are being taken to correct the safety challenge.
- If you do not agree with the mgr/supervisors' action, you must indicate what the disagreement is and then the matter is referred to a higher level MTA Manager.

Again, no work can be started or completed on the task in question until the appropriate high level MTA Mgr arrives.

- If they so wish the high level MTA Manager CAN order the task to be done, but they will be held fully responsible for any/all violations, injuries or mishaps.

Safe working conditions should be all of our concerns. Just like the four bus operators who refused to take unsafe MTA buses out into passenger service. **We must be diligent and know our rights.** The Safety Rule Dispute Resolution Form is an important, protective part of our contract and another weapon we have against management abuses. Like any other powerful weapon it should be used with care and only when necessary.

**Missed something? ALL STATIONS NEWSLETTERS FROM 2010 to present are available for view on [www.TWULocal100.org](http://www.TWULocal100.org)**

**2011 NYC LGBT PRIDE MARCH**

**Sunday June 26, 2011**  
**March Time 12:00 Noon**

Parade Route 37th Street/5th Ave. to Greenwich Street

Members should arrive at 10:30 A.M.  
Family and Friends welcome

Please sign up to attend at [www.twulocal100.org](http://www.twulocal100.org) or fax form to 212-245-4102

For additional information, call Celia at 212-873-6000 Ext. 2065 or 646-261-3726. E-mail [ctolentino@twulocal100.org](mailto:ctolentino@twulocal100.org)

\*Members in Good Standing Only