



# TWU LOCAL 100 NEWS

May 2012

Station Division

## Local 100 Leads the Way at May Day March/Rally

On May 1, 2012 TWU Local 100 led a march of labor unions, community groups and the Occupy Wall street protestors to show a united front in the face of the 1%'s continued assaults on the rest of us. Local 100 members gathered at Union Square and marching with a HUGE crowd all the way down to NYCT headquarters at 2 Broadway.

As usual Stations Department was well represented. VP Maurice Jenkins led a contingent of Station personnel that was proud and loud. The solidarity shown on this day was incredible. All departments were represented well. Special thanks in Stations must go out to S/A Paul Flores, S/A Tareque Ahmed and C/A Victor Devers. Other Special thanks should go out to JP Patafio (TA Surface), Fernando



Braga(MOW) and Tony Aiken (MABSTOA) for leading us in chants and cheers.

If you remember the November march in support of OWS when the TWU helped bring together upwards of 15,000 people into the streets of Manhattan, this march was just as big and probably bigger.

Conservative estimates had the crowd at 20,000 people. We marched as one Union united for a good contract, fair treatment and social justice. We have had many rallies and marches in the last couple of years, but this May Day march was absolutely an unqualified victory.

## 2,000 Members Attend Lobby (MTA Can Pay) Day in Albany

Lobby Day 2012 (March 27, 2012) was a real success. About 2,000 members attended -- the largest number in memory. Most of them actually saw who they were supposed to see. Many times when our members go up there, the politicians seem to give us the slip. But not this time. Our members delivered a strong message to the politicians: tell the MTA to stop stalling and negotiate, because "The MTA Can Pay." This also was one of the most organized Lobby Days in memory. It pretty much went off seamlessly. Not a lot of walking around and wasting time. Pretty much all business. The main focus of Lobby Day 2012 was of course, our contract and to that end, there was an informational gathering at the Hart Theater, where contract updates and plans were laid out. One of the highlights of the informational gathering was a film chronicling the struggles of MLK in regards to the sanitation workers strike in Memphis. The other highlight was President Samuelsens' address to the members. All in all, Lobby Day was a well organized and executed success. We laid the law down to the Governor and with sheer numbers made our presence as a Union felt.



# CTA CORNER

By Joe Bermudez, CTA Division Vice-Chair

## For the record

Stations department has a total of 1600 cleaners to maintain 468 stations. This number sounds like a lot but it's really not. Consider:

Vacation Reliefs	=	<b>75 jobs</b>
Station RDO	=	<b>250 jobs</b>
Extra (am/pm/nites)	=	<b>100 jobs</b>
Mobile Wash/refuse	=	<b>300 jobs</b>
		<i>625 jobs (subtotal)</i>
WEP's		75 jobs
<b>total</b>		<b>700 jobs</b>

Now let's subtract these jobs out of the total 1,600 slotted cleaner jobs minus all the jobs removed for support. The total number who actually clean stations are **900 actual jobs**.

I could be off by twenty or so, but the principle is the same, **900 cleaners to clean 468 stations is just impossible**. Trying to maintain an acceptable level of cleanliness in them is failing. The conditions in these stations are unhealthy for cleaners and the riding public. Between the rat explosion and bed bug infestations (*and who knows how many communicable diseases that manifest from lack of proper sanitation*).

The union and MTA management should work together for the same goal: to provide a clean and healthy environment in the subway system. The biggest stumbling block to that is management. They say it can be done with the number of CTAs we have. The Union and the Station CTAs know, at current staffing levels we will never meet the expectations the riders deserve and expect. We are always asked to do more with less.

The Union cannot hire more CTAs, only the MTA can do that, but it is the Unions' job to let management know when something is not working. We need more cleaners this is the bottom line. Management talks about employee availability when they drive the cleaners to sick calls for stress, work related injuries, just plain old fatigue.

## Enough is Enough

Rules and regulations are made for guide lines and safety. What needs to be done is: we must follow these rules and guide lines to the max.

➔ get to work on time,

- ➔ always submit sick lines on time,
  - ➔ make sure you call sick before the hour make it your rule two hours before.
  - ➔ never say "no." Comply and grieve later. If necessary use the safety dispute resolution form
- Work rules,
- ➔ never scrap stairs sweep them properly,
  - ➔ always keep one hand free when climbing stairs,
  - ➔ overflowing cans should always be broken down for proper lifting,

These rules exist to protect us from injury, we must stop trying to please management and keep doing more with less. The more we keep trying to do the less they will try to increase the amount of CTAs.

Discipline is on the rise out in the field and we cannot blame labor relations for this, these are write ups from the road that should not even get to labor relations. They are problems that should be handled in the field.

Why is it when Supervision does something wrong they get a conference and when we do something wrong it is a hearing? These generals and chiefs should be more willing to hold conferences for hourly employees the way they do when supervision messes up.

## Managements Numbers Grow

When I first started for NYCTA in 1994 we had one Chief Station Officer (CSO) : Carol Meltzer, one Assistant Chief Station Officer(ACSO): Joe Burzo and my seniority number was 1772, today in 2012, we have one VP/CSO John Gaito, we have four, I repeat four ACSO's: 1 for mobile wash./refuse, 1 for the north, 1 for the south, 1 for OSAC operations.

In contrast the total number of cleaners today at its peak will be 1604. This shows that even though the numbers are decreasing for the hourly employees, (this is with out mentioning the layoffs of station agents and all provisional station maintenance people laid off.) the numbers for Management is going through the roof.

Management raised their numbers, they decided they needed more managers to handle a smaller work force. And expect us to do more with less. Work smart, work right, work tight. No favors.

Our Goal is: **WORK SAFELY, FOLLOW THE RULES, TRY TO ENSURE THAT EMPLOYEES AND THE RIDING PUBLIC HAVE WORKING AND RIDING CONDITIONS THE GUIDELINES THAT THE MTA IS SUPPOSED TO BE PROVIDING.**

## The War against Bed Bugs in our Stations

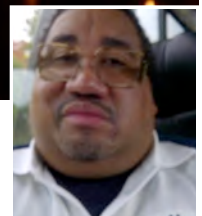
With the warmer months quickly approaching, be mindful that Bed Bug Season is upon us again. Bed bugs breed and thrive during the summer months. The MTA has now begun to use "Roscoe" the dog to sniff out the bed bugs. This is something the Union has asked for months ago. The MTA finally got around to it and now acts like it is their idea.



For example, we recently had a bed bug situation at 125th street A/D/C and "Roscoe" (actually Lonnie) was brought in to sniff the critters out. Lonnie found where the bed bugs were and the exterminators got rid of them. On the other side of the coin, "Lonnie" was brought out again at Prospect Ave on the #2 and did not find any bed bugs.

That should tell us 2 things; the MTA is getting serious about bed bugs and we should let professionals do their jobs. Also remember that if your booth is found to have bed bugs and an exterminator does fumigate it please consult with the exterminator on how long you have to wait before it is o.k. to go back inside the booth. Every method of extermination is different and there is no set time. Some methods need up to 3 hours of waiting until the affected areas are inhabitable again.

Your Union suggests that if you suspect bed bugs at your location or room, notify supervision immediately. You should then notify your Union at 212.873.6000 x2055, x 2036, x 2037. Station department personnel should follow all health and safety regulations associated with such problems. If you go outside the booth, there should be a supervisor or NYPD officer with you.



*It is a great sadness that we announce the sudden passing S/A Norman Winston Pou. We didn't see eye to eye on a lot of subjects but Mr. Pou was family. His contribution will be missed, his spirit will be missed. RIP*

Maurice Jenkins, VP Stations



## State of the Station

By V.P Maurice Jenkins

**It's a glorious day.** We have 90 returning station agents in the month of April and May. At the rate we are going it's possible that we will have everyone back before the end of summer.



We have heard from upper level management that they may even be calling from the 2008 list. Who ever thought that for station agent we would ever hear the words "new hires" again? God is good.

It's been a very good March and April on other fronts as well.

We had a great turnout for Lobby Day. A way to gauge success is the outcome. Many times it's not immediately recognizable but this isn't one of those times. We were in Al-

bany to fight for a contract and that's what we made known to the politicians. When we left, there wasn't a politician in the capital who didn't know we were there and why. This worked in our favor on another front.

There was a vote on a new pension tier (Tier 6) for new hires. Let's talk about the changes. Every worker hired as of April 1, 2012 must pay more into the pension, based on their income. The hired paid employees pay more than the lesser paid workers. BUT, while the retirement age was pushed back to 63 for new hires, Local 100 was able to hold the line for the next generation of transit workers by maintaining the 25-55 pension. In other words, the new age requirement is for everyone except TWU Local 100. Our presence in Albany paid off for our future generations of transit workers. It's a testimony to the power of our strong lobbying effort. TWU Local 100 sets the standard for the other unions to follow. Was it a total success? We will have to see. But it was an important win because of the time and age requirements that won't change for us.

## NEVER WRITE G2'S WITHOUT A UNION REPRESENTATIVE!

by Al Jenkins, S/L Section Rec. Sec'y

Whenever asked a question that can lead to a investigation, you have the right to ask for a Union representative. Recently in Supply Logistics, a member was questioned about his work performance. Management had no real evidence for the behavior in question, but after a co-worker revealed names and certain information, this worker is facing suspension pending dismissal. Never enter a room with management alone. Always ask for a Union representative. Never volunteer any information that may hurt you or your fellow members.

### Grievance updates:

- The counterfeit bill grievance is scheduled to be re-visited by the arbitrator on May 17.
- The Hurricane Irene grievance Step 2 decision should be coming in soon. We will take that to arbitration (if we lose step 2).

*Both grievances are still alive and kicking, hopefully we can win both. Everyone has to realize that these grievances are extremely complex and will take time. Remember we are in this for the long haul.*

**Save the Date!**  
**JUNE 2**

**FREE ENTRY FOR TWU LOCAL 100 MEMBERS & 5 GUESTS!**  
*(REGISTRATION REQUIRED)*

**TWU Local 100 Family Appreciation Day!**

**Featuring**  
**FREE FOOD & DRINK**

**SOFTBALL DOUBLE HEADER**  
TWU Local 100 All-Star Game!  
Followed by Local 100 vs. Philly's TWU Local 234!

**FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**  
3 x 3 Basketball Tourney!  
Jump Rope Competition!  
Chess! Checkers!  
Potato Sack Races!  
Clowns!  
Face-Painting & MORE!

**HEALTHCARE EXPO!**  
**FLEA MARKET!**  
**TALENT SHOW!**  
**OPEN MIC!**  
**GIVEAWAYS & PRIZES!**



# MAKE A DIFFERENCE



## Become a TWU Local 100 Shop Steward

If you want to get involved in your union, and make a real difference on the job for you and your co-workers -- then join the proud ranks of TWU Local 100 Shop Stewards. Since the beginning of 2010, more than 300 of your Brother and Sister Transit Workers have gone through shop steward training, provided by the Local 100 Education Department.

When you become a TWU Shop Steward, you become one of the union's front line soldiers. You become the first line of defense against injustice on the job.

As a shop steward you will be expected to be a communicator, a problem solver, an educator, a health and safety watchdog, and a political activist. You will be expected to speak up when you see something you know is wrong. You will work closely with elected officers and staff to guarantee that the union and its members are treated with respect.

Not everyone is cut out to be a union shop steward. But if you think you are, if you think you can help your co-workers and your union in our ongoing battle with the MTA, we want you on our team.

You'll have to make a commitment of your own time to get started, by signing up for a six-week course, one day a week, for two and a half hours each class.

**The program covers:** TWU History, Contract Knowledge, Grievances, Responding to Discipline, Medical Appeals, Organizing and Mobilizing, and Communication Skills

*To sign up for one of the upcoming courses, please fill out the following coupon*

### Upcoming Shop Steward Programs

Please put a check next the class you would like to attend.

*Classes are one day a week, 2 1/2 hours for 6 weeks.*

**Thursday A.M.** - May 24th, 31, June 7th, 14, 21, 28

**Location:** 275 7th ave. (between 25th and 26th Sts.)  
16th Floor **9:30am to 12:00pm**

**Thursday P.M.** - May 24th, 31, June 7th, 14, 21, 28

**Location:** PS 371, Brooklyn (4th Ave. and 36th St.)  
**6:00pm to 8:30pm.**

Name (first, middle initial, last)

Address

Job Title

Division

Pass#

e-mail

Phone (cell)

Phone (home)

**Fax this form to: 212-245-4102.** For additional information contact TWU Education Director Nicholas Bedell at [nbedell@twulocal100.org](mailto:nbedell@twulocal100.org) or call 212-873-6000 ext. 2035.

