



TWU LOCAL 100 NEWS

Summer 2011

Station Division

Preparations Underway for Contract 2012

The TWU 100 Executive Committee and Executive Board met for two days this week to develop a strategy for the upcoming contract negotiations with the MTA. They discussed the political, economic and fiscal context in which the talks will take place, the implications of recent agreements made by other unions, and the need to protect the wages, benefits and jobs of transit workers. The Executive Board rejected the notion that working people should pay the price for the finan-



cial crisis caused by banks in 2008. After discussion in which all Board members were able to participate, the board voted to fight against givebacks similar to those made by other unions, such as frozen wages and higher member payments for medical benefits. The Board then overwhelmingly approved a multifaceted campaign that will engage Local 100 members and build support among riders, community organizations, elected officials and other unions.

Although the Local's officers recognize that these negotiations will be among the most difficult TWU 100 has ever faced, we are committed to winning a fair contract that can be presented to the Local's membership for acceptance or rejection.

Upcoming Events

Come out and help your union celebrate the following events.

Aug. 14 - Dominican Day Parade

Aug. 19 - Dia de los Obreros

Aug. 20 - Health & Wellness Forum

Sept. 5 - West Indian Day Parade

Sept. 10 - Labor Day Parade

Sept. 18 - African American Day Parade.

Go to the Local 100 website for more info:
www.twulocal100.org

Back to BLUE

Uniforms

It's official!

The station agents' uniforms will be going back to blue: shirts, pants and coats. Upper level MTA management has confirmed this to us. Also the vendor for the uniforms will be changing. What is not going to change is our allotment schedule. More news about who the new company is and how you can order the uniforms will come as we progress through the change.

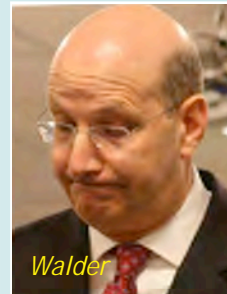
A special note of thanks should go to S/A Wynne Chapman who was a one-woman gang in getting this "change to blue" initiated. S/A Chapman, on her own, took an activist approach to the issue by starting a petition. This is an example of real activism. On her own S/A Chapman brought an issue that many felt needed to be changed and helped get changed. Between her actions and the actions of Stations VP Maurice Jenkins communicating those concerns to MTA management the job was done.

Jay Walks Away! Will Not Be Missed

Statement from TWU Local 100 President John Samuelsen on the resignation of MTA Chairman Jay Walder.

"Transit workers won't miss Jay Walder and quite frankly will be glad to see him go. He has been antagonistic to the union and the workers from his first day on the job. His attempt last year to blackmail the union into major pay and other concessions led to gratuitous layoffs. He ushered in unprecedented service cuts in both subway and bus service, with particular insensitivity to already underserved areas of Queens, Brooklyn and the Bronx.

"He never grasped the notion that our bus and subway systems are the most basic and vital service afforded to New York's working class. And he was ineffective in dealing with Albany to not only secure new funding for



public transportation to avoid service reductions, but to protect the dedicated sources of transit revenue. He attacked his blue collar workforce and his own lower level white collar employees. But never looked to upper management on his "quest" for cost savings.

"He leaves New York City transit in worse shape than when he arrived less than two years ago. We will urge the Governor to appoint a new Chair who will view his workers as allies not the enemy, and a person who fully grasps the magnitude of the contribution of our public transportation to the economic vitality of New York."

In Station Division, the news of Walder's resignation was particularly welcome. Walder laid-off 456 of our members in order to force the Union to reopen the contract award. He brought misery to our members and their families.

But in the end TWU Local 100 prevailed: we kept our contract, our people are coming back to work and Walder leaves for greener pastures. After countless public hearings, MTA board meetings, protests and the like, one fact remains: Local 100 is still here and Jay Walder is gone. Something we can all be proud of.

Working in the **HEAT**

Working in hot environments is not safe. Your body builds up heat when you work and sweats to get rid of it. Too much heat can make you tired, hurt your job performance, and increase your chance of injury. When the temperature changes quickly, you need time for your body to get adjusted to the heat.

Be extra careful early in the summer when hot spells begin.

You have a right to a safe & comfortable work environment:

Hydrate yourself. Water is best.

CTAs take regular heat breaks. Smart work habits can prevent heat related illness.

Need relief? Follow up with supervision immediately:

Station- Call your respective field office

If no resolution to heat related issue call your UNION REPS @ 212.873-6000 TO GET ACTION.

On the road again: Suspended College Point Bus Operators reinstated

Four Local 100 Bus Operators who stood up for safety and their union on May 26, and paid for it with suspensions and terminations, are back to work. Arbitrator Howard Edelman issued an immediate bench decision on June 24 to return three of the Operators to their jobs at the College Point Depot. A fourth Operator, a probationary employee, had been returned to work the previous week in a negotiated settlement. Edelman also ordered both sides to convene a labor-management committee to develop a comprehensive "safety" defect list to guide both Company and Union representatives in determining whether buses are



If needed, file a Safety Rule Dispute Resolution Form. But please contact a Union rep first. For off-hours safety emergencies, call 347-203-8919

to be held out of passenger service. The May 26 stand-off took place when the Operators, with union reps at their side, refused to take buses with safety defects on the road during pre-trip inspections mandated by law. Their actions were not only justified, but required by law. Arguing Local 100's case at the arbitration were President John Samuelson, Secretary Treasurer Earl Phillips, Vice President John Day and attorney Denis Engel.

Counterfeit Grievance: Update

On 07/07/11 we had our Counterfeit Grievance heard in Arbitration. It is not finished or decided. There was no ruling. So it is still on going. We were remanded by the arbitrator to seek negotiations with the appropriate MTA managers and there was a jurisdictional conflict between the Expedited Arbitration process that is in the CBA and the Contractual Grievance process that is in the CBA. Basically a technicality. So we are still alive in this fight. It's not over until we stop trying to win.



We are actively trying to take on this problem from a few different angles. The Grievance process is just one of them. So the news is briefly, the fight for a fair counterfeit policy still goes on. But the Authority seems to have dug its collective heels in on this one and will not budge. So it may be a long fight.

The purpose of this grievance is to get

our S/As better equipment in the booths so they can detect some bills that they have a difficult time checking now. It is also about getting us proper training. It is a grievance to "level the playing field" when it comes to counterfeits, to at least give us a fighting chance in the booth. It is mainly about fairness.

If anyone feels they have been unjustly charged for a counterfeit bill, they should contact the Union Hall (212) 873-6000 x 2036 or contact the Union reps at 2 Broadway (646) 252-6787 and put in a monetary grievance. If you KNOW you have done everything right. as per MTA instructions on counterfeits....Used the provided pen.....checked the serial number from the memo MTA provides....held it up to the light to check the watermark and image etc.....and the MTA still says you have a counterfeit...don't take a deal to pay half or 75% of it...FIGHT IT. ALL THE WAY TO EXPEDITED ARBITRATION if need be. Your Union will stand with you through the entire process.

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

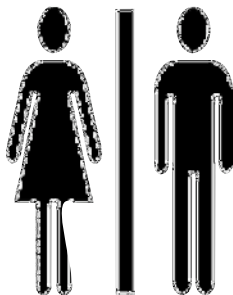
Telephone Numbers 1700 Broadway
(212) 873-6000

- 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

MTA going after Comfort Relief Practices

Upper level MTA management has indicated to us that many SA are calling for comfort reliefs and doing other things. Like talking on their cell-phone or smoking or parking their cars or just plain disappearing.

A comfort relief is mainly for lavatory issues. It is designed to give the station agent the ability to leave the booth for a short period of time to take care



of an urgent hygiene issue. As long as you call your field office or supervisor that you are taking a comfort you can go, you do not need permission. That is in the contract. But before you leave the booth, please make sure your booth key works.

But with that being said some sanity must prevail into the conversation: utilize your time wisely and for the use it was intended. Comfort reliefs are not for cigarette smoking, cell phone talking, car parking, etc. Now that management is out there looking for violations it would be a good time to stay within the guidelines of the rules. Comforts should have a suggested length of maybe 10-15 min in maximum. Managers and beakies may be out looking for these violations so watch yourself. Protect yourself, do not give MTA a reason to make you lose pay. If you need clarity on comfort reliefs call a shop steward or a Union rep at the Union Hall.

To drive the point home a little further, I am sure most of us are aware of the video of the CTA and SA smoking by the stairs. Both those guys had supervision waiting for them the very next day. Being HOS is no fun. You lose money and time and could lose your job, depending on your record. Be careful, because they are out there. And they are looking for you.

Missed something?

**ALL STATIONS NEWSLETTERS
FROM 2010 to present
are available for view on
www.TWULOCAL100.org**

State of the Station

By Maurice Jenkins, Vice President

It's been awhile since my last *State of the Station* message. I'm proud to say that the Stations Division union team has been doing so well there was not a need sound off on any subject. But with a new contract coming up there is a need to get everyone on the same page

We all know the economy is in a sad state. The term "it's tough all over" applies like never before. The state is in trouble, the City is in trouble, and labor is in trouble. We face one of the hardest times in recent memory. Other unions have blinked and they have given major concessions. We only have to look at CSEA. They have taken a contract that has a 5 year term with 3 years of 0% wage increases. Also included is a health care increase to 30% out-of-pocket for their medical benefits. And they must swallow 9 days of unpaid furlough over the life of the contract.



We have to stick together; we have to be prepared to do whatever is necessary to make sure we don't lose everything that those before us fought for and some even died for.

We are formulating strategy as we speak. Your leadership knows we are in for the fight of our lives. We want and need input from the membership. More than 5,000 members responded to our contract survey. We are tabulating the results, which will give us a basis of where to start. We have proven that together we can make progress.

With the help of the membership, in the form of a member-petition, coupled with negotiations on my end with management, we were able to eliminate the dreaded white shirts. WE can do more. Shop stewards, stay ready, we will need you. Members stay tuned we have more work to do.

We work hard for you, but we work better with you!

HEY, WE'RE ALL BROTHERS AND SISTERS: COOL IT!

There seems to be an unusually large amount of member on member incidents lately. Not only physical violence but verbal altercations as well. Things like one member writing up another for not doing something they were asked to do, like emptying the trash or giving out a key. Members making careless and hurtful remarks about other members are a problem as well.

I cannot stress enough that the MTA will treat ANY violations of these types as serious incidents. And usually both members will get hurt. It does not matter who was right or wrong in the situation but it does matter that it happened. That is what the MTA cares about.

I understand that sometimes people just

don't get along. Just because you work with somebody does not have to mean you have to like them. But, we are expected to remain professional and business-like at all times. Also we all must understand that each one of us works this job as a means to provide for our families and ourselves. If your relief is comes in after the hour everyday (late) do what you have to do to correct the situation, work it out, but resorting to physical violence helps no one. If the person you relieve has bad hygiene don't report them to a supervisor, buy a can of lysol. Talk out your problems with your co-workers, if that does not work call the Union Hall or a shop steward to intercede.

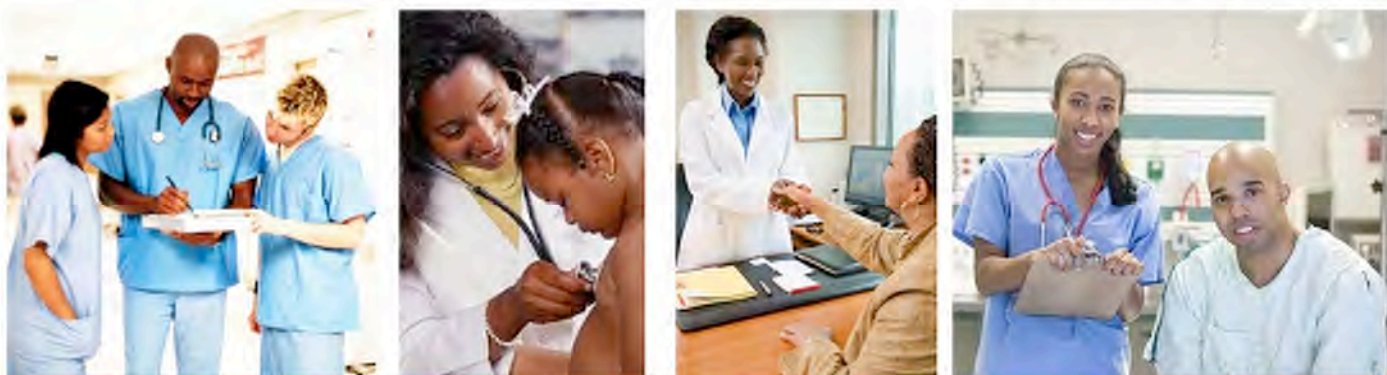
You may win the battle and get your antagonist fired, but in the process you might get fired as well. The MTA has zero tolerance on altercations. Protect your job, be professional at all times.

Local 100 Members

NAVIGATING HEALTH BENEFIT CHANGES



and how it affects you



Join your union for this important and informative one-day program on Health, Wellness, and Safety

Saturday, August 20th • 9AM - 4PM

At the Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies
(25 West 43rd Street, 19th floor New York, NY 10036)

Breakfast and lunch provided.

**RSVP required (registration form on the back).
Open only to members in good standing.**

The following topics will also be covered:

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| Workplace Safety | Occupational Athletics |
| Preventable Diseases | Women's Health |
| Physical Therapy & Pain Management | Stresses on the Job |
| Heart Health | Pensions |

Featuring a special panel on Transit Worker Safety with

Assemblyman Rory Lancman (Chair, Assembly Subcommittee on Workplace Safety)

Councilman James Vacca (Chair, NYC Council Committee on Transportation)

Call the Union Hall for more info: 212-873-6000 exts. 2026, 2060 or 2157

Or visit www.twulocal100.org

