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Transport Workers

BULLETIN



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Redoubling Our Efforts for a Safer Workplace

THE LINE-OF-DUTY DEATHS OF TWO TRANSIT workers just days apart in late March are terrible reminders that no matter how hard we work to secure a safe workplace for everyone, we simply haven't done enough.

St. Clair Richards Stephens was a happy-go-lucky 23-year old kid just starting out in transit as a Trackworker with his whole life in front of him. Stephen Livecchi was a beloved maintenance veteran at the College Point Depot in Queens planning for his retirement.

I visited St. Clair's mother in the Bronx and Stephen's widow in Middle Village, Queens. I and the rest of TWU Local 100 made absolutely sure that these families were taken care of during their time of grief, and that they received every benefit available to them under our collective bargaining agreement. The families of both of our lost union brothers showed incredible strength and dignity. I wish I could have waved a magic wand and taken their grief away. Instead, I stayed with the family throughout the processes to ensure that they knew that TWU Local 100 will always be there for them.

In our daily fight for a safe workplace, could we have done anything differently that might have saved these two

men? It's a question that probably has no correct answer. But it's a question that I will continue to ask myself every day that I am President of Local 100. I do know that we must redouble our efforts to prevent these kinds of tragic accidents from happening in our properties.

We go to work every day to deliver a vital service to millions of New Yorkers. We work so that we can provide a decent middle class lifestyle for ourselves and our families. No one should have to give life and limb to this job.

Please, brothers and sisters, take care of yourselves on the job. Watch out for your brothers and sisters. Together, we can and we must stop these horrors from happening to any other transit family.

MLK Remembrance

Local 100 joined the rest of the nation in marking with reverence the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on April 4, 1968 in Memphis as he fought for striking sanitation workers.

As members of TWU, we can all take pride in the fact that our organization supported Dr. King's crusade for equality in American society from the earliest days of the movement. While many in positions of power sat on their hands during the difficult 50's and 60's, TWU never flagged in its responsibility to fight for fairness not only in our own workplaces but for people across America and throughout the world. How do we truly honor Dr. King's boundless legacy? Never slide back in our commitment to his principles of equal rights and opportunity for all.

Subway Action Plan Finally Fully Funded

The huge crowd of transit workers who made their way to Albany in a bus caravan in late March for Lobby Day 2018 can take great satisfaction that our presence there helped push full funding for the Subway Action Plan, and the 2400 new transit worker jobs that come with it, across the finish line.

Just days after we made our presence felt in Albany, the legislature and Gov. Cuomo came to agreement on a budget that provides for an additional \$400 million to complete the plan initially announced last summer. The budget also provided for a per ride assessment for Uber, Lyft and yellow taxis that will continue to fund MTA state of good repair programs in the years ahead.



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Cuomo Tours 207th Street

Local 100 President Tony Utano was on hand with Gov. Cuomo as he toured the 207th Street Main Shop and then announced full funding for the MTA's Subway Action Plan.



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2nd Apprenticeship Class Underway

20 more transit workers are upgrading their skills in a 6-month program at one of New York's most prestigious trade schools. The program is so popular, the next class will have 33 participants.



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Goodbye and Good Riddance to Winter

Transit workers toughed it out and kept service moving without interruption the entire winter through record cold, snow storms and three Nor'easters.



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MTA Recognizes Transit Heroes

Local 100 President Tony Utano congratulates one of the many TWU members to be cited for heroism and exceptional service at the MTA's annual Medals of Excellence ceremony.



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Gov. Cuomo announces full funding plan at 207th Street shop with Local 100 President Tony Utano, International President John Samuelsen, Local Administrative Vice President Nelson Rivera, MTA CEO Joe Lhota and others listening.

Cuomo Tours 207th St. to Applaud Fully Funded Subway Action Plan

THE LOCAL 100 EXECUTIVE BOARD VOTED overwhelmingly to elevate Utano after accepting the resignation of three-term President John Samuelsen.

The MTA's \$856 million Subway Action, which has been the subject of a heated battle between Gov. Cuomo and Mayor de Blasio for the past 9 months, is finally fully funded as part of the state's new fiscal budget.

An ecstatic Gov. Cuomo announced the big win for the MTA and transit workers in a press conference at the 207th Street Main Shop on April 12, 2018.

The Governor toured the shop along with TWU Local 100 and International officers and an assemblage of MTA and NYCT bosses before telling the media that the 207th Street Overhaul Shop, along with the Coney Island overhaul facility will rehabilitate more than 1,300 cars a year - nearly 40 percent more than previous years.

TWU Local 100 President Tony Utano, TWU International President John Samuelsen, Local 100 Secretary





Treasurer Earl Phillips, and Administrative Nelson Rivera accompanied Cuomo on the tour.

“The full funding secured in the FY 2019 state budget will allow New York City Transit to significantly enhance the number of workers hired as part of the Subway Action Plan and allow the MTA’s car overhaul shops to be fully staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week,” said Gov. Cuomo.

“The subway system is the lifeblood of New York City, and the newly fully funded Subway Action Plan is essential to deliver a mass transit system of the caliber that New York’s economy and people require and deserve,” Cuomo continued. “Enhancing the reliability of subway cars leads to fewer delays and better performance for riders, and we are determined to further modernize the system quicker than had ever previously been thought possible.”

The Subway Action Plan was originally announced last summer during what the media labeled the “Summer of Hell” when breakdowns, signal malfunctions and other issues dogged City transit, the LIRR, Amtrak and Metro Norththe system.

At that time, Gov. Cuomo announced a transit “emergency” and with the union’s input, quickly engineered the plan, which included hiring 2,400 more transit workers across the system, to fix the problems. The Governor pledged that half the money would come from Albany, and asked that the City to fund the other half. Mayor de Blasio refused, saying the MTA “is the

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state's problem" despite numerous high ranking City officials urging the Mayor to kick in the money.

In response to the Mayor's recalcitrance, the union took out a series of blistering full page newspaper ads demanding that the City pay its fair share. "50-50 Is Fair," declared the ads. In one memorable ad in the New York Daily News, the union pictured de Blasio sitting on a stack of money, which represented the City's \$4 billion budget surplus. "Get Off Your Cash," said the ad.

In the end, the Governor and other State officials forced the City's hand to come up with other half of the money. Had de Blasio continued to resist, the State would have swept the funding from City sales tax revenue. In return, the City asked for and received a "lock box" guaranteeing that all money it kicked in for the plan would be used exclusively for that purpose.

The City also received an assurance of \$90 million set aside for station overhaul would be used for access for the disabled.





Local 100 officers surround Gov. Cuomo at bill signing ceremony at the UFT hall in downtown Manhattan. Included in photo are President Tony Utano, Secretary Treasurer Earl Phillips, Administrative VP Nelson Rivera and VP's John Chiarello, Richard Davis, JP Patafio, Derrick Echevarria, Shirley Martin, Peter Rosconi and Joe Costales.

TWU Local 100 Praises Victory

Cuomo Signs Bill Blunting Fallout from Janus

While the national labor movement anxiously awaited the outcome of the Supreme Court case *Janus v. AF-SCME*, public sector unions in New York, led by TWU Local 100, engineered a preemptive legislative strike to blunt the fallout of the Janus case.

The bill, signed into law at a press conference on April 12th attended by TWU Local 100 President Tony Utano and the entire Local 100 Executive Committee, amends the Taylor Law's "duty of fair representation" clause.

Should the Supreme Court rule in favor the plaintiff, Mark Janus, unionized workers in the public sector could "freeload" on paying dues, but the union would still be required to represent that worker as if he/she were a member in good standing.

The measure signed into law by Gov. Cuomo, absolves the union from representing non-dues payers in disciplinary procedures, or any other aspect of representation not specifically related to the collective bargaining process. The measure also provides other important protections.

Local 100 President Utano hailed the measure. "Freeloaders not paying dues but getting all benefits of union membership including higher wages, better benefits, safety on the job, and full due process, is just wrong," he said. "Facing the likelihood of a negative Janus ruling by the Supreme Court, Gov. Cuomo provided leadership with this legislation and created

a fair buffer for New York's public sector unions. He deserves tremendous credit for stepping up in this manner."

Gov. Cuomo told the huge crowd watching the signing ceremonies. "We're going to sign that Janus bill, but my friends that is the first step of the resistance. We sign that bill, then we go to work and we turn this state around and we turn this nation around and we make America America again."

Gov. Cuomo said that "this action sends a clear message to the rest of the nation: we will not let this federal administration silence New York's working class, we will support every voice in every community and in every industry, and we will do everything in our power to protect the right to achieve the American Dream."

TWU International President John Samuelson said: "Backers of the Janus case are fraudulently wrapping it in the flag of free speech. It has nothing to do with free speech. It's about power politics and the decades-old crusade by union haters to destroy the most potent social force left in the nation that advocates for good middle class wages and benefits for America's working families. This legislation championed by Gov. Cuomo and the New York State labor movement creates an even playing field for union members in New York. The rest of the country should follow our lead in battling for the middle class."

Will the Supreme Court Stand With the Corporate Billionaires or the Working Men and Women Who Move This Country?

AS WINTER TURNED TO SPRING, IT WAS MORE A QUESTION OF 'WHEN' NOT 'IF' THE SUPREME COURT will stick it to millions of public sector workers in the Janus v AFSCME case.

When 'when' occurs, the billionaire Koch brothers, financial backers of every right wing anti-union organization in America, will be popping the cork on a case or two of champagne.

The Koch brothers' dupe in this case, Mark Janus, says that paying dues to the union that has provided him with good wages, good benefits and a secure pension violates his freedom of speech under the 1st Amendment because the union's political positions don't reflect his.





The Janus case is a clone of a 2016 case, *Friedrichs v California Teachers Association*. At issue is the Supreme Court's 1977 decision in *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education*. That landmark decision upheld, unanimously, that a union with an exclusive right to represent a particular group of public employees is legally empowered to collect an "agency" or "fair share" fee for costs related to collective bargaining and other representational activities from workers who choose not to join the union. In *Friedrichs*, the Supreme Court voted 4-4 because the likely fifth vote to overturn *Abood*, Antonin Scalia, had died suddenly.

Justices Roberts, Thomas, Alito and Kennedy voted against the union. Justices Sotomayor, Bader-Ginsberg, Breyer and Kagan voted in support of the union position.

The Court's newest Justice, Neil Gorsuch, who describes himself as a Scalia judicial clone, is fully expected to be the fifth vote this time. Anyone who doubts the Gorsuch position need only read a recent article in *Politico* by Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who pointed to a luncheon held at the Trump International Hotel in New York in September 2017, which was hosted by two Koch brothers' fronts partially responsible for picking up the legal tab for *Janus*. The guest speaker at that luncheon was none other than Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch.

The *Janus* case, like *Friedrichs*, would therefore make the collection of agency fees unconstitutional. In other words, a post *Janus* world would create a scenario where workers could freeload off the backs of their co-workers by not paying dues for fees of any kind. However, the union would still have to represent non-payers as if they were members in good standing.

Local 100 President Tony Utano said that such freeloading "goes against any sense of fairness in America. To gain all the benefits of union membership; the higher wages, better benefits, safety on the job, and full due process, and get it for nothing, that's just wrong. It's like you having to pay car insurance for your car and your neighbor's car just because your neighbor wants something for nothing."

Janus backers, which include the National Right to Work

Committee and the State Policy Network among many others (all Koch brothers' fronts) are wrapping the case in the flag of "freedom of speech."

In fact, the State Policy Network crows on its website that *Janus* "is our opportunity to defund and defang one of our freedom movement's most powerful opponents, the government unions." They also said that because of *Janus*, they are "primed, right now, to deliver the mortal blow," to public sector unions.

"Obviously, the case has nothing to do with free speech," said TWU International President John Samuelson. "It's really about power politics and the decades-old crusade by union haters to

destroy the most potent social force left in the nation that advocates for good middle class wages and benefits for America's working families. The premise that union members must shoulder a financial burden to provide for freeloaders in their workplace is downright un-American. In any other aspect of our life the idea that you deserve something for nothing is soundly rejected."



Probably the starkest indicator that the *Janus* case is all about politics, and nothing about free speech, comes from two amicus briefs, one filed in 2015 by the U.S. Department of Labor under President Obama, which argued against overturning *Abood*. The second brief was also filed by the U.S. Department of Labor earlier this year under the Trump administration. It states that *Abood* must be overturned.

"Unions have won increased wages and benefits for their members. They've won rights on the job and protections against arbitrary bosses. Unions have made the workplace safer, air and water cleaner, and supported regulations that have protected consumers and communities. Mostly, unions give working people a louder voice and greater political influence," said Local 100 President Utano. "The Koch brothers and their friends want to roll these back because they believe that the weaker unions are, the more the top 1% take. Their goal is to cripple unions financially making it easier to roll back the gains we've already made."

Union Helps Mayer Win NYS Senate Seat

Shelley Mayer, the Yonkers Assemblywoman who has supported TWU Local 100 on issues from the picket line to the Assembly Chamber in Albany, won a landslide victory for the New York State Senate in a special election on April 24, 2018.

TWU Local 100 President Tony Utano, who led the union's GOTV effort for Mayer called the win "vital to pushing the Senate into worker friendly hands."

"We were the first union to endorse Senator Mayer in this election," said Utano. "She wholeheartedly deserved that support and we are proud to have been part of this important win for us and all labor in New York State."

The seat represents the 37th Senate District, which stretches from Yonkers up to Bedford. It's been open since January, when former Sen. George Latimer resigned

after being elected Westchester County Executive last November.

"Voters said that they reject the extreme conservative philosophy from Washington," Gov. Cuomo said at Mayer's victory celebration. "When you attack New York, New York fights back and that's the message of today."

TWU volunteers helped Mayer's campaigns on door-knocking forays, phone-banking and other GOTV activities. President Utano joined other activists in the big push the weekend prior to the election.

Mayer is a regular attendee at TWU events. Most recently, she supported the union in its contract fight with First Mile Square School Bus. She walked informational picket lines outside of the company's depot in Yonkers along with workers and union officials.



Happy TWU supporters with Shelley Mayer at her celebration election night.



FLASHBACK: Shelly Mayer, center, with President Tony Utano on the picket line at First Mile Square in November 2017.



Local 100 President Utano, Vice Presidents John Chiarello and Pete Rosconi and union volunteers with Shelley Mayer on election day at a Metro North station.

2nd Apprentice Class Is

Union officers helped kick off the second class of TWU Local 100's reinvigorated Upward Advancement Apprenticeship Program in February.

President Tony Utano, Secretary-Treasurer Earl Phillips, Recording Secretary LaTonya Crisp, Administrative VP Nelson Rivera, Vice Presidents John Chiarello and Shirley Martin, LE/S Chair Duvet Williams, CED Division Chair Eugene Bleyneis, and Trustee Shannon Poland attended a ribbon-cutting for the new class at the Apex Tech-

nical School in Long Island City. Thanks to the program, the 18 apprentices -- drawn from the ranks of the lower paid titles -- are on the fast track to trades jobs in Maintenance of Way. But noted Utano, the privilege of being in the program is accompanied by lots of hard work. "These workers will take about 900 hours of classroom and practical hands-on work, so that when they graduate they will be able to hit the ground running in their new apprenticeship positions at the MTA."



Secretary Treasurer Earl Phillips congratulates apprentice of being chosen for the program.



President Tony Utano imparts some of his knowledge of electricity to latest apprentices.



Underway

During the intensive 6-month training program, the workers are paid their normal title's pay at 40 hours. After graduation, the workers are assigned to their new apprenticeship titles. They will work in that title for three years before moving up to the full journeyman title and pay.

The Upward Advancement Program is headed up by Training & Upgrading Fund Director Charles Jenkins.

After cutting the ribbon backed by our 18 new appren-

tices, other union leaders and the Apex President Steve Markowitz, Local 100 President Tony Utano congratulated the class, noting that once they graduate, they will be eligible to become Helpers in his home Department, Maintenance of Way.

Training and Upgrading Fund Director Jenkins added to applause: "It's no accident that we have seven women in this program. That is a commitment from your union to empower women."



Apprentice Alex Ramos knows that a heavy emphasis will be placed on wiring and electricity in the 6-month program.



Vice President Shirley Martin (right) proudly stands with the 7 women apprentices, who make up nearly 40 percent of the class.



Here's a group photo of 2nd class of the UAP Apprenticeship program with union officers at ribbon cutting ceremony.



Snowmageddon 2018 Thank

OLD MAN WINTER BLEW IN WITH SOME OF THE COLDEST days on record as 2018 began – and so on January 6, President Tony Utano brought news crews out to an MTA yard on Shell Road in Gravesend in four-degree weather, to showcase track and signal crews clearing signals in four-foot high snowdrifts.

President Utano, with MOW Vice President John Chiarello, demonstrated to the media the conditions transit workers endure to put service out to the riding public.

The freezing weather eased up later in the month, but several more snowstorms hit the City forcing transit to adopt weather contingency plans including curtailment of articulated buses.

Our Bus Operators and CTA's rose to the occasion as always, as did all transit workers to keep the system open and running for the City of New York.

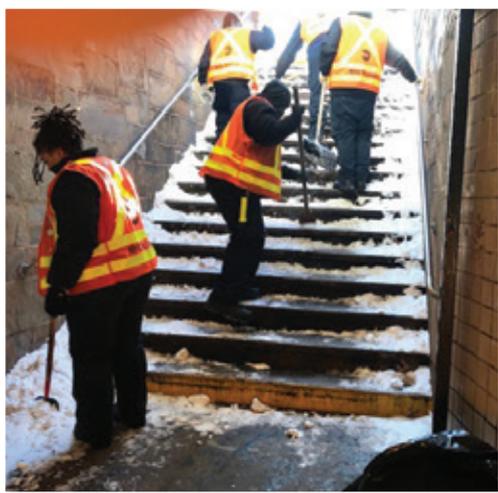
(Photos by Alan Saly Elton Perez and MTA)



fully in Rearview Mirror



Local 100 President Tony Utano tells media that transit workers soldier on no matter what the weather. He's telling the news crew the message as the wind chill factor was 20 below.



Utano Blasts de Blasio for Ignoring Fallen Transit Workers

Not even a tweet!

New York's Mayor Bill de Blasio told NY1 News that he didn't recognize the line-of-duty deaths of transit workers St. Clair Richards Stephens and Stephen Livecchi last March because "they are not City employees."

"God forbid anyone dies at the Port Authority, the State government, the City government, obviously I feel something, and my personal condolences go out, but my official role is to speak about it when it's a City Employee," said de Blasio.

TWU Local 100 President Tony Utano earlier in the day had blasted de Blasio for not attending the wakes or funerals of either worker.



Mayor de Blasio was at a presser with Police brass when a reporter told him of Utano's criticism. The Mayor said he didn't go to the services "because I only respond when it is a City worker."

"That is just despicable. It's a slap in the face of every bus and subway worker in the City."

*—Tony Utano,
President, TWU Local 100*



Local 100 President Tony Utano told the media that Mayor de Blasio's failure to recognize the deaths of two transit workers "is despicable."

"Mayor de Blasio should be ashamed of himself. Two transit workers were killed on the job – and the Mayor couldn't be bothered to attend either of their wakes or funeral services. He didn't even send a representative on his behalf. He made no gesture of any kind to recognize that these two hardworking men lost their lives in service to the city of New York," said Utano. "That is just despicable. It's a slap in the face of every bus and subway worker in the city."

In response to the Mayor's excuse that he skipped the services because "they are not City employees," Utano countered: "We move nearly 8 million New Yorkers in the five boroughs, including hundreds of thousands of NYC public school students and municipal workers, every single day. Without MTA transit workers like St. Clair Rich-

ards Stephens and Stephen Livecchi nobody could get to their job, or school, or anywhere else. The city couldn't function."

He also noted that the Mayor has four representatives on the MTA Board, none of whom attended the services either.

Gov. Cuomo sent personal condolences directly to the families, while Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul, State DOL Roberta Reardon, City Council President Corey Johnson, MTA Chairman Joseph Lhota, NYCT President Any Byford, MTA Managing Director Ronnie Hakim and many other dignitaries did attend.

"Transit workers will never forget Mayor de Blasio's total lack of respect," said Utano.

Local 100 Mourns Loss of Two Workers to On-the-Job Tragedies

Two transit workers, a young Trackworker with only 6 months on the job and a veteran MTA Bus Helper with 37 years of experience, were killed in line of duty tragedies one week apart in late March.

St. Clair Richards Stephens joined Transit in September 2017 after waiting for nearly 5 years to be called off the Trackworker list. He was on the overnight shift March 20th clearing debris at the 125th Street Station. As he and his co-workers cleared up to let a work train place, Brother Richards Stephens fell backwards about 10 feet from the upper to lower track. He died at the scene of head trauma.

One week later on March 27th, Stephen Livecchi was directing depot traffic at the College Point facility when he was hit by a bus moving in reverse. He also died at the scene.

The two fatalities sent shock waves of sorrow and concern throughout the union.

Local 100 President Tony Utano went to the scene of the track fatality to show support for coworkers and address the media.

Utano said: "Transit workers are on the job 24 hours a

day, 7 days a week to provide New York City with its most essential service. We work in tough, dirty, dangerous conditions every moment of every day on the job. TWU Local 100 works hard to insure the safety of this valiant workforce, yet the incredibly dangerous work we do continues to take its toll on the men and women of New York City Transit."

Union officers got word of the Livecchi tragedy while in Albany at the Local's annual Lobby Day event on March 27, 2018. Utano met numerous times with the families of both workers to comfort and insure them that the union would make

sure that family benefits are promptly delivered.

Hundreds of members and officers attended the wakes and services for both workers. President Utano remained with the families the entire time, ushering in and introducing elected officials like New York State Lieutenant Gov. Cathy Hochul, State DOL Commissioner Roberta Reardon, City Council Speaker Corey Johnson, MTA Chairman Joseph Lhota and many others.

Utano told the families that "with TWU Local 100, you are not alone. This union will always have you and your family in our hearts, and we will always be ready to assist in the months and years ahead.



St. Clair Richards Stephens



Stephen Livecchi



Stephen Livecchi Mourned by All at College Point



Local 100 President Tony Utano (right) and International President John Samuelsen (left) console Donna Livecchi on the loss of her husband.

As scores of Stephen Livecchi's co-workers, many still in their work uniforms, walked slowly into the Village Chapels in Middle Village to pay their respects to a fallen union brother and his grieving family, the mourners all spoke of a friendly, helpful co-worker loved by everyone at College Point Depot.



loved. He was a kind and generous man. He took care of my two elderly parents. He did everything for them. He loved my two kids."

Tom McGlynn, a close friend and co-worker for 35 years, remembered Stephen as a quiet, wonderful guy, quick with a smile and a good-natured joke. "I have never heard one person at the depot say a bad word about him," said McGlynn. "Everyone liked him because he helped everyone. The drivers, the cleaners, the maintainers. Stephen was all over the depot doing his job and reaching out to help. He absolutely loved his job."

McGlynn recalled with a smile, "Steve was a big Astros fan. He was always wearing Astros stuff. I mean, who in New York is an Astros fan? We all kidded him about it. He was so happy when they won the World Series last year."

Stephen and his wife, Donna, had been married for nearly 35 years. They had no children, but Stephen's sister-in-law, Cara, said he was a strong father figure for his two nephews.

"We're devastated," Cara told the media. "He was very much

McGlynn, a member of the P&E department at MTA Bus, said it was he and his wife who first introduced Stephen to Donna 35 years ago. "My wife and Donna went to high school together and were good friends. I remember her asking me if there were any nice single guys at the Depot, and I thought of Stephen right away. We set them up on a blind date, they fell in love and made a life together."

Stephen loved to go to the track and Foxwoods Casino, McGlynn said. "Steve would do the football sheets at the depot, but just for a few bucks, nothing big. It was fun, it brought everyone closer."

McGlynn said that Donna Livecchi is very appreciative to the union for being there for the family. "Donna told me afterward that all the support from the union and Steve's co-workers really helped her get through the ordeal."

As the Livecchi family continues to grieve Stephen's loss, so does his second family at College Point Depot. "The mood is very somber," said McGlynn. "This was an absolute tragedy for everyone."

Stephen Livecchi's co-workers file out of Church after funeral.

"Everyone liked him, because he helped everyone."

Co-Worker Remembers Union Brother

St. Clair Richards Stephens liked being part of a team. In High School he played on both the offensive and defensive lines and helped bring Truman HS a City Championship trophy in his Junior year.

After graduating, St. Clair worked at Pathmark and as a security guard. He took the test for MTA Trackworker in 2012. He finally got called in 2017. His family said that St. Clair “loved the job because he was part of a team again.”

Brother Trackworker Mike Graham met St. Clair when the two were in Track Safety School together in September 2017. After completing their training and participating in a mini-pick, the two were assigned to the same track gang.

“He was a sweetheart of a kid,” said Graham. “Everyone liked him. Even strangers on the train took to him. He was very friendly to everyone.”

Graham, 54, is a veteran TWU member from the School Bus Division in Westchester. He worked as a Bus Operator for Royal Coach and at the union hall on release time before taking the test and being called for Trackworker himself.

Graham noted the big difference in their ages, and said he would encourage St. Clair to take advantage of the opportunities at the MTA. “St. Clair would say he didn’t know if he



Co-workers from St. Clair’s Track Safety School and from his Track Gang gather to say goodbye at funeral services in the Bronx. Mike Graham is in back center.

could do 33 years as on the Track,” recalled Graham. “I’d just tell him that the MTA is a big company with a lot of opportunities for advancement.”

Graham said that St. Clair had also been asking his advice about purchasing his first car. “It’s sad,” said Graham, “very, very sad.”

Graham said that the entire Track gang has taken St. Clair’s death very hard. “I can’t speak for everyone, but I know it feels different out there now. The younger guys are having a tough time. It’s not easy sharing a locker next to a guy and working together as a team every day, and then he’s just gone.”

‘He was a sweetheart of a kid.’



This recent photo shows St. Clair (rear with arms raised) and part of his Track Gang. “Everyone liked him,” said Mike Graham.

Executive Board Names Joe

The Local 100 Executive Board has elevated Jose Manuel “Joe” Costales to the fill the vacancy of Vice President from the Rapid Transit Operations Division.

Costales, 59, has been with transit since 2000 and has been active in the union since 2005. He has served on the Executive Board since 2015 and prior to that was Chair of the Conductor Tower Division of RTO.

Prior to joining Transit, Costales worked as a truck driver for UPS and heavy equipment driver. He was an active member and shop steward for the Teamsters Union during those years.

He was born in the Bronx and brought up in Brooklyn. He graduated FDR High School in Bensonhurst. After high school, he joined the Army and served in the 101st Airborne Division in Germany and at Fort Campbell, KY. He earned his Air Assault Qualification as well.

He now serves as Chair of the TWU Local 100 Veterans Committee.

As Vice President, Costales said he “wants to rebuild pride and solidarity throughout the Division.” He wants to provide ample assistance to new employees “to navigate their probationary period with the company. “I want RTO be a strong, united division,” he said.



President Tony Utano, (l-r) Recording Secretary LaTonya Crisp-Sauray, new Track Chair Carlos Albert, and MOW Vice President John Chiarello.

Carlos Albert Named Track Chair

In other recent actions, the Executive Board unanimously elevated Carlos Albert to Chair of the Track Division. The veteran officer and activist replaced Paul Navaro, who earlier resigned his office to concentrate full time in his role as the Local 100 Director of Safety for the Subway Divisions. Albert joined New York City



New RTO Vice President Joe Costales congratulated by Sec'y Treasurer Earl Phillips, with President Tony Utano and Recording Secretary Latonya Crisp looking on.

Costales RTO Vice President

Transit in 1993 as a Track Worker. He served as a Track Shop Steward for a number of years prior to being elected to the union's Executive Board in 2003. He was elected Chair of the Division in 2006. In 2010, Albert was named a full time member of the Track Safety Task Force.

In accepting his assignment, Albert said that he will aggressively represent the workers against management abuse, and vigorously enforce all safety regulations to insure a secure work environment.

Sisters Harrison and Goodridge-Seymour to Board, Canty to LE/S Vice Chair

In March the Executive Board named Linda Harrison to the Executive Board for the Stations Division. Linda is currently Division Vice Chair for Station Agents.

At the April meeting, the Board unanimously voted to replace longtime MABSTOA Executive Board member Christopher Magwood, who is retiring, with Harriet Goodridge-Seymour, currently Vice Chair at Mother Clara Hale Depot. Sister Goodridge-Seymour has 23 years with transit, and becomes the first woman to serve as an Executive Board Member from MABSTOA.

Finally, the Board elevated Chris Canty to Vice Chair of the Line Equipment/Signals Division.



Linda Harrison, center, was named to Exec. Bd. and Chris Canty (2nd from left) is now LE/S vice Chair.



Harriette Goodridge-Seymour is sworn in by officers.

Union Sponsors 2nd Puerto Rico Relief Mission

Four TWU Local 100 Members - two Bus Operators, one Collecting Agent, and one CTA - boarded a flight to Puerto Rico in January as part of the union's second relief mission to Puerto Rico. The four, including Bus Operators Hugo Rodriguez and Moises del Rio, Collecting Agent Emiliano Padilla, and CTA Jose Domenech, assisted doctors and nurses delivering care to a population still recovering from the onslaught of Hurricane Maria last year.

The mission, sponsored by the union, is part of a continuing effort coordinated by TWU Local 100 Administrative Vice President Nelson Rivera, who has been to the island twice since the weather disaster. Under the direction of President Utano, he assembled two teams in alliance

with the New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA), and its president, Judy Sheridan Gonzalez. She called the work of our members essential in providing urgently needed care to hundreds of patients in Puerto Rico.



Subway Action Plan Gets Boost

Just days before the New York State’s \$168 billion budget was to be finalized, 1,800 transit workers converged on Albany to push the union’s agenda, including full funding for the much-debated “Subway Action Plan.”

The timing wasn’t a coincidence. The Local’s leadership wanted to be sure that lawmakers found a way to fund the second half of the \$800 million needed to pay for the Subway Action Plan, which includes the hiring of 2,400 new transit workers.

At the same time, the union made clear it’s goals for action on pensions, due process for school bus workers, and

safety bills which have been steadily progressing through the legislature.

Members streaming up to Albany on 40 buses each got packages spelling out our legislative priorities along with instructions on how to approach their legislators. The day before, on March 26, the union leadership hosted a reception for key members of the Senate and Assembly, priming them on what our members wanted to see as they visited the legislators’ offices.

With the first buses arriving at around 8:30 AM, members walked through the concourse underneath Empire State Plaza, taking photos with their co-workers and then having breakfast in the cavernous auditorium where TWU



as 1,800 Converge on Albany

presented its political program and heard from politicians including State Senators Andrea Stewart-Cousins, John Flanagan, Diane Savino, Assemblymembers Joseph Abbate, and Martin Malave-Dilan. Members also heard from State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli and New York State AFL-CIO President Mario Cilento.

Then, it was off to lobby in earnest. While members walked the halls to communicate the union's concerns to their own representatives, President Tony Utano, Secretary-Treasurer Earl Phillips, Recording Secretary LaTonya Crisp, and Administrative Vice President Nelson Rivera were tightly scheduled for meetings with key players.

President Utano, in his speech to the assembled mem-



bers, kept the focus on our traditional objectives, including passing legislation to enhance our pensions. “Getting pension reform is perhaps the most difficult legislation to pass,” he said, “but we are committed to getting it done.” He noted that Assemblyman Peter Abbate, who addressed the hall to thunderous applause, is the Assembly sponsor of all three of Local 100’s pension enhancement bills.

Among his lobbying visits, President Utano met with Sen. Jeff Klein who promised that the \$836 million subway action plan – stalled by NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio, who wouldn’t commit to matching a State commitment to put up 50% -- would be fully funded. Also, an additional funding source was identified – surcharges on Uber and Lyft rides – that will add millions in years to come that will go to maintaining the salaries of new Local 100 members hired in the surge to restore the system from years of neglect.









Quill-Connolly Celebration

AN SRO CROWD TURNED OUT TO TRANSPORT HALL ON THE evening of March 15th to honor the union's Irish roots. The event, Quill-Connolly 2018 honors TWU's founder, Michael J. Quill, and James Connolly, the founder of the Irish Transport Workers and General Workers Union and the inspiration to TWU's earliest leaders.

Local 100 President Tony Utano greeted the big crowd to the union hall for the annual event held in conjunction with St. Patrick's Day celebrations around the City.

Keynote speaker, International President John Samuelson, said that TWU has "never wavered" from its core industrial union principles, instilled by Quill who believed

deeply that one union for all transit titles was essential to real union power in the workplace.

Speakers also included two officials from the London-based Rail, Maritime and Transport Union (RMT), one of TWU's closest overseas allies. Sean Hoyle, President, and Steve Hedley, Assistant General Secretary, delivered greetings from the RMT's 83,000 members across the UK from the mainline and underground railways, shipping and offshore, buses and road freight.

Entertainment was provided by Irish musicians Eamon O'Leary and Jefferson Hammer and the Niall O'Leary Irish Dancers.

Jim Gannon, Director of Communications for Local 100, served as emcee for the event.



Eamon O'Leary (right) and Jefferson Hammer.



The Niall O'Leary Dancers in action.

Honors Union's Beginning



Local 100 officers and staff, including President Tony Utano, Secretary Treasurer Earl Phillips, Recording Secretary Latonya Crisp, Administrative Vice President Nelson Rivera and Shannon Poland, greet our guests from the UK, including RMT President Sean Hoyle and Asst. General Secretary Steve Hedley.



President Utano greets members to Quill Connolly event.





caption

TWU Dedicates MLK Plaque at Black History Celebration

TWU Local 100 hosted its annual Black History celebration at Afrika House in Brooklyn on Feb. 24, 2018 at which Local 100 President Tony Utano unveiled a beautiful new plaque commemorating the 50th anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that will be permanently displayed in the union hall.

The plaque reads: The Transport Workers Union Local Honors the Boundless Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. His Fight for Equality Continues to Echo Across America 50 Years After His Death

Utano said that he hopes those words will serve as reminder of Kr. King's ultimate sacrifice for the civil rights movement. "We can look at this plaque and remember with pride that the sacrifices of Dr. King and so many of that generation are what continues to inspire us today," said Utano at the February event.

The celebration featured historical performances of African heritage as well as two of America's most prominent advocates for civil rights, Akeem Browder and Shaun King.

Akeem Browder took on the cause of prison reform following the tragic suicide of his brother, Kalief, who was imprisoned on Riker's Island for three years without ever being tried or convicted for the crime of allegedly stealing a back pack.

Shaun King, outspoken news columnist and now a commentator on TV's Young Turks, and is a nationally prominent supporter of the Black Lives Matter movement, spoke on the condition of race relations in America.

Also featured was Tonya Boyd, the first African American female Deputy Chief in the New York City Fire Department.

Also, Station Cleaner Sean Monroe was honored for his quick thinking heroics in helping to safety evacuate frightened transit riders when a would-be suicide bomber tried to detonate a pipe bomb in the heavily trafficked passageway from 7th to 8th Avenue the 42nd Street complex.

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams also stopped by to extend his well wishes.





5,000 jetBlue Flight Attendants Vote TWU

International Scores Big Win for Labor Movement

THE TWU INTERNATIONAL UNION SCORED ONE OF THE BIGGEST organizing wins in the private sector in years in April when 5,000 Flight Attendants at jetBlue Airlines voted to go union.

The result of the vote in the six-month campaign was announced at the headquarters of the National Mediation Board in Washington, DC. Anxious jetBlue Flight Attendants who had worked on their own time to support the union and TWU International Union officials gathered for the important decision. The group broke out in cheers with hugs all around when the tally of 2,661 for TWU to 1,387 for no union was announced.

TWU International President John Samuelsen called the win a “historic victory.”

“This is yet another example of the tide turning in America as workers continue to lock arms and fight back to defend their livelihoods,” said Samuelsen

The victory came after a multi-pronged organizing campaign by rank-and-file flight attendants and professional TWU organizers. Nationally, the Transport Workers Union represents more than 140,000 workers in the airline, railroad, mass transit, utilities and service industries.

“Our first order of business will be negotiating the flight attendants’ initial contract,” Samuelsen said. “The crewmembers want and deserve job security, representation and due process in disciplinary cases, improved wages and benefits, and a seat at the table in case of possible merger or acquisition.

TWU Local 100 President Tony Utano offered his congratulations as well. “The is a great win for our TWU International. John (Samuelsen), the union organizers and the in-house committee did a tremendous job to bring this victory home. The 43,000 members of Local 100 welcome these new members to the TWU family with open arms.”

Samuelsen said the union expects to score a first agreement in a reasonable amount of time. “JetBlue is an extremely profitable corporation, and now the time has arrived for these frontline workers to be appropriately compensated for their undeniable contribution in bringing JetBlue this high level of success,” said Samuelsen.

He added that if the company refuses to bargain in good faith, they better be ready for severe pushback. “This union is prepared to engage in a fightback campaign that will continue until a contract is secured and the Inflight Crewmembers are protected.”



jetBlue Flight Attendants take selfies at NMB offices to share online.



Happy jetBlue flight attendants and TWU International Union officials cheer the big win at the NMB offices in Washington, DC.



NYC Central Labor Council President Vincent Alvarez at City Hall presser with TWU Local 100 President Tony Utano, City Council Speaker Corey Johnson and others.

Union Honors Fallen on Workers Memorial Day

The families of five transit workers killed on the job joined Local 100 President Tony Utano, other officers and members at the union hall for a moving memorial to their lost ones as the labor movement marked Workers Memorial Day 2018.

Utano greeted the families of Trackworkers Danny Boggs and Marvin Franklin, killed days apart in April 2007, Conductor Jennelle Bennerson, who was killed on the job Jan. 18, 2003, Bus Operator William Pena, killed Feb. 12, 2014, and Trackworker St. Clair Richards Stephens, who lost his life on March 20, 2018.

Utano said that despite the union's efforts for safety on the job "tragedy injury and death continues to take its toll on transit workers."

In directly addressing the families, Utano delivered a pledge to "recommit myself and TWU Local 100 redouble our efforts

to fight for a better and more secure workplace so that no other transit family has to endure your pain and suffering."

Shah Franklin, son of Trackworker Marvin Franklin addressed the luncheon on behalf of the families. He thanked the union for annually sponsoring the memorials and urged officers "to keep all those who are currently working and those in future as safe as possible."

The day began at City Hall for a press conference at City Hall where Council Speaker Corey Johnson pledged to hold a similar event each year and also to begin every stated meeting of the Council with a reading of the names of fallen workers. Attending for Local 100 were President Utano, Administrative VP Nelson Rivera. and other labor leaders and safety advocates. Utano spoke of the loss of transit workers over the years and the importance of their sacrifice being recognized.



Families of transit workers killed on the job with union officers at Workers Memorial Day event at union hall.



Shah Franklin, son of Trackworker Marvin Franklin, urges Local 100 officers to keep up the fight for a safe workplace.

Scholarship Program Awards

A roomful of proud parents applauded as TWU Local 100 President Tony Utano, along with John Pescitelli, President of M3 Technology, gave out \$66,000 in scholarships to college students, the children of TWU

Local 100 members, along with a few members who are in college part-time while on active duty.

Four of the 50 winners got \$5,000 scholarships, with the rest receiving \$1,000 each. Names are drawn by

lottery, and can win in more than one year.

President Utano, congratulating the students, said it was possible that one of them might discover a cure for cancer. He urged them not to forget



Anila Williams, one of the \$5,000 winners, is a student at the Florida Institute of Technology, working towards a degree in electrical engineering. Standing with her father, Albert, who works as an EMD in MOW/LES, Anila said that she wanted to “get a taste of everything” before she settles down to a career after graduation. Her immediate plans include an internship on the electrical maintenance team at SUNY, and possibly an application to NYCT.



\$60,000 in Grants

where they came from, sustained by the support of their parents and TWU Local 100. He noted that the union's scholarship program with M3, which supplies life, disability, and other insurance products to members on a voluntary basis, has been in place since 2010.

Each year, the amount of scholarship monies has increased, with a total of \$245,000 awarded to date.

Below, Scholarship winners, families and union officers gather for a group shot at celebratory luncheon at Transport Hall.

2016 M3 Technology, LLC - TWU Local 100 Scholarships Winners

Schol. Winners	School / Major - Local 100 Member / Department - Division
Nikkita Allain	NYU: Science Engineering - Self / Stations
Anlia S. Williams	Florida Institute of Technology: Electrical Engineer - Albert Williams / MOW-LES
Messiah Sith	City College of NYC: Computer Engineer - Koddens Sith / RTO - TIO
Madeline Joseph	Hunter College: Nursing - Marie R. Joseph / PBL School - Bus Operator
Michela Lyn Brunetta	Roger Williams University: Marine Biology - Michael Brunetta / MABSTOA Maint.
Erich Makarov	Columbia University: Economics - Alexandre Makarov / MOW - LES
Alome Wheeler	Bethune Cookman University: Business - Henry Wheeler / TAS - B/O
Nasya Francis	University of Albany: Business Administration - Morton Francis / MABSTOA Maint.
Amit Chowdhury	Yale University: Computer Science - Nitai Nath
William Almestica	NYACK College - Self / CED
Tamia Jenkins	Virginia State University: Elementary Education - Alfred Jenkins / MTA Bus B/O
Uzair Quazi S	UNY Downstate: Nursing - Wazir Qazi / MOW - LES
Alisa Savchenko	College of Charleston SC: Biology - Viktor Savchenko / MOW - Power
Shela Brun	Queens College: Mental Health Counseling - Self / TAS - B/O
Reuven Glezer	Baruch: Journalism - Boris Glezer from CED
Christina Slaughter	Hunter College: Business - Welton Slaughter / RTO - TIO
Katie Flowers	Five Towns College: Business Admin - Thomas Flowers / RTO - C/T
Priya Ramalathan	Molloy University: Nursing - Vishwanath Ramalathan / CED
Neetha Pally	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy - Derassy Palatty / MOW - Structure
Tess Schneider Rivera	Shenandoah University: Exercise Science - Murray Schneider (g) / CED
Vincent Irizarry	John Jay College: Criminology Jose Irizarry / MABSTOA Maint
Kasim Nasir	Lincoln University: Computer Science - Todd Murgin (S) / RTO - TIO
Brianna O'Brien	Butchess Community College - John O'Brien / MABSTOA Maint.
Bhavika Mullick	Hunter College: Media Art - Vishal Mullick / CED Car Maint.
Dornesh Needham	Westchester C.C. - Michael Needham / MTA Bus - B/O
Ionut Rotariu	City College - Self / CED
Vincent Palmaro	St. Joe's University: Business Admin Vincent Palmaro / RTO - C/T
Ashley Kelly	Adelphi University: Nursing Cory Todd / MOW - LES
Mykala Hobson	Hunter College: Psychology - Richard Hobson / TAS - B/O
Briana Connor	University of Notre Dame: Engineering - Troy Connor / MOW - LES
Anthony Papa	Brooklyn College: Biology - Bridgel DeLeon / TAS (R)
Gary Beygel	SUNY Broome - Isak Beygel / TAS - B/O
Suvian Tan	Pratt Institute: Architecture - Chue Tan / TAS - B/O
Alejandro Amoyo	New York City College of Technology - Self / MOW - Track
Kemari Best	Old Westbury - Keith Best / MOW - Track
Florencia Fills-Aime	University of Buffalo: Engineering - Pierre Fills-Aime / MOW - PDM
Steven Mathew	St. John's University - Cherian Mathew / CED
Christopher Guastella	City College: Electrical Engineering - Thomas Guastella / CED
Jonathon Gomez	College of Staten Island - Joseph Gomez / MOW - LES
Brianna LeFever	SUNY New Paltz: Psychology - Evon LeFever / MABSTOA DIV I - B/O

TRANSPORT WORKERS LOCAL 100 www.twulocal100.org





NYCT MEDALS OF EXCELLENCE CEREMONY

34 Transit Workers Cited for

The MTA presented 34 MTA New York City Transit employees, most of them TWU Local 100 members, with Medals of Excellence for exemplary service and acts of heroism and altruism in February.

Local 100 President Tony Utano attended and was a special guest speaker. Utano praised all transit workers for their work and contributions to New York City. “Every day in our system, hundreds if not thousands of transit workers put themselves out to help the millions of riders who depend on us to get them to work and back home safely,” said Utano.

“Transit workers have more interaction with the public, by far, than any other group of public employees,” Utano continued. “We have a far greater impact on the social and economic welfare of our City than any public service, including Police, Fire and Sanitation. But we rarely get the credit we deserve. Everyone in this room knows this to be fact.”

New York City Transit President Andy Byford joined Utano in presenting the Medals to the honorees.

“New York City Transit employees are among the city’s hardest working and bravest public servants because on any given day, they face incredibly challenging situations that require quick thinking and courage,” said Byford. “Our employees keep customers safe and transit moving by keeping cool heads in heated moments. We thank these employees whose inspiring acts of humanity and bravery help make the MTA network — and the whole city — a better, safer, and kinder place.”

The ceremony honored workers for service and acts of bravery in 2016 and 2017, including two terrorism attacks. Fifteen workers were acknowledged for acts of heroism and bravery that occurred either on or off duty; 16 were recognized for job-related acts that involved personal risk or exceptional judgment; and three employees were honored for distinguished service reflecting the highest standards and ideals of a public servant.

RECIPIENTS INCLUDED: *Dispatcher Victor Arroyo, Bus Operator Diana Belgrave, Collecting Agent Marston Blanch, Bus Operator Devon Bryon, Conductor Warren Cox, MTA Attorney Andrew Dell’Olio, Dispatcher Peter Eco, Bus Operator Hayden Guinaldo, CTA Darren Johnson, Signal Maintainer David Martinez, Bus Operator Bruce Mitchell, Bus Operator Kenly Molina, Station Cleaner Sean Monroe, Supervisor Juergen Muehlhaus, Dispatcher Anthony Ventimiglia, Conductors Ayana Arroyo and Da’Tra Felder, Dispatcher George Burton, Trackworkers Greg Cawley, Paul Hayes and Darrell Neslon, Bus Operator Norton Cockburn, Cleaner David Cooper, Dispatcher Eugene Griffith, REM Kwong Hong Wong, Bus Operator Alexander Rodriguez, Conductor Kiamesha Scott (SIRTOA), Ellis Tommaseo, Bus Operator Henry Williams, Security Chanthara Xumphonphakdy, John Herzog, Bus Operator Kirt Clarke, Gen. Supt. Eddie Giha, and Stations Planning manager David Hasse.*



Medals recipients line up for a group shot with union and NYCT officials.

Actions 'Above and Beyond'



Local 100 MOW Vice President John Chiarello (left) congratulates Signal Maintainer David Martinez on his award.



President Tony Utano congratulating two recipients.



Local 100 Recording Secretary Latonya Crisp (right) with NYCT President Andy Byford (left).



TWU Attends Black and Puerto Rican Caucus Weekend

TWU Local 100 sent a strong contingent of officers and activists to the 47th Annual Conference Black and Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus in mid-February. The body represents 53 Assembly and Senate districts across the State of New York and carries tremendous clout in the legislature.

The event drew dignitaries and elected politicians from New York City and across the state. Gov. Cuomo was the featured speaker at the Caucus dinner, and

Mayor de Blasio spoke at the Labor Luncheon on Feb. 18, 2018.

Local 100 sponsored a legislative reception later that evening attended by some of the City and State's most influential officials, including State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, City Comptroller Scott Stringer and NYC Public Advocate Tish James. Assemblywoman Latrice Walker, Chair of the Legislative Caucus, also attended to thank Local 100 for its support.



NYS Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie (3rd from left) greets TWU officers to event. From left with Heastie, TWU Political Director Michele Gilliam, President Tony Utano, Sec'y Treas. Earl Phillips, VP Shirley Martin and Admin. VP Nelson Rivera.



Assemblyman Felix Ortiz (2nd from left) with union officers JP Patafio, Tony Utano and Louis Marrero.

Local 100 activists arrive in Albany via bus to the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus weekend. The union's top officers were there to greet them.



DIDNT HAVE ROOM FOR THESE 2 PHOTOS?????????

Black and PR 9 President Tony Utano speaks at legislative reception, as from the left, Admin. VP Nelson Rivera, Sec'y Treasurer Earl Phillips, Recording Sec'y Latonya Crisp, and Vice Presidents JP Patafio, Richard Davis and John Chiarello, listen.

Black and PR 10 Local 100 contingent ready for action at Black and Puerto Rican Legislative Conference.



Vice Presidents JP Patafio (left) and Richard Davis (right) with State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli at Local 100 legislative reception.



President Tony Utano (left) and Sec'y Treasurer Earl Phillips with Sen. James Sanders and caucus kickoff reception.



Vice President Shirley Martin (left) with OA Division 2 Vice Chair Oneisha Grace.



Local 100 officers and staff at dinner featuring Gov. Cuomo as keynote speaker.



President Tony Utano (right) greets Assemblywoman and Caucus Chair Latrice Walker to the union's legislative reception. Local 100 Political Director Michele Gilliam looks on.



NYC Public Tish James (left) addresses legislative reception.



MMM Draws 1,000

More than 1,000 TWU Local 100 members attended the union's annual Mass Membership Meeting at the Brooklyn Marriott in December. The event was highlighted by a "State of the Union" address by President Tony Utano, detailing our accomplishments this past year and challenges ahead.

International President John Samuelson brought greetings from TWU members across the country, which NYS AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer Terrance Melvin delivered the keynote address.

Another highlight was an emotional video that documented the work the nine-member team of transit workers who went to Puerto Rico to repair damaged electric services, fix generators and roofs, and transport healthcare workers to their patients.



NYS AFL-CIO Sec'y Treas. Terrence Melvin (2nd from left) with Local 100 Rec. Sec'y Latony Crisp, President Tony Utano, and TUF Director Charles Jenkins.



Organizer Robert Clouden (right) with members from the School Bus Division.

International President John Samuelson addresses the big crowd.

Local 100 Members



Sec'y Treasurer Earl Phillips (3rd from right) with members, including OA Maintenance Vice Chair James Whalen.



MTA Bus officers with Division VP Pete Rosconi (center).



TAS officers led by VP JP Patafio, Div. Chair Willie Rivera, Vice Chair Armando Serrano, and Exec. Bd. Member Rocky Veltri.

Filmmaker Crafting Documentary

TWU FOUNDER MICHAEL J. QUILL WILL BE THE focus of the upcoming feature length documentary “Which Side Are You On?” by award winning filmmaker, Macdara Valley. Valley hails from the north of Ireland and now lives in the Bronx. He has made a number of films over the past 15 years which have been met with international critical acclaim.

The Transport Workers Bulletin recently sat down with Valley to discuss Which Side Are You On? and to learn more about how he’s making this important documentary.

Macdara, what inspired you to make this film?

I have a family connection to Mike’s story, I am related through marriage to Monsignor Owen Rice who was a life long friend and supporter and actually officiated at Mike’s funeral service in St. Patrick’s Cathedral back in 1966.

Mike was such a great character – savvy, pugnacious, funny, with a really big heart. You literally couldn’t make him up. He was one of the great unsung heroes of the America and his story – which hasn’t been told – is incredibly relevant to what’s going on in the world today.

More than anything though, it’s such a dramatic story, the way Mike literally fought to his death to protect the rights of TWU members.

Where does the title come from?

According to Pete Seeger, who sang it at Mike’s funeral, Which Side Are You On? was one of Mike’s favorite songs. The song is about a bloody union war in Harlan County Kentucky, and it’s fantastic. For me it sums up Mike’s no compromise approach to his life’s work – you were either with the working people or you were against them.



My favorite film is from the 1940’s – an event run by the TWU to raise money for American forces fighting in World War II. You see men and women of all colors and ethnicities enjoying a day out in the Bronx laughing and dancing.

How are you telling the story?

I want to keep it as real as possible, so I am telling it through the words of retired rank and file TWU members who knew Quill personally. I’ve already interviewed over 30 of them and have more interviews planned in the months to follow.

I’m also making Mike’s own voice central to the film. Since the 1930’s, the union has created compelling films and stories so its voice could be heard. All that has been preserved. It’s incredible stuff – footage of Mike and of TWU members at work, at play

and on the picket line. My favorite film is from the 1940’s – an event run by the TWU to raise money for American forces fighting in World War II. You see men and women of all colors and ethnicities enjoying a day out in the Bronx laughing and dancing. They’re like a family coming together at a time of real national need.

The film will also have dramatic reconstructions of key moments in the Mike’s life - fighting against the British in the Irish War of Independence; going up against the KKK in Philly in 1944 and his imprisonment and death in 1966. There was so much drama in Mike’s life.

of TWU Founder Mike Quill

Which Side Are You On?

Come all of you good workers

Good news to you I'll tell
Of how the good ol' union
Has come in here to dwell

Which side are you on?
Which side are you on?

My daddy was a miner
And I'm a miner's son
And I'll stick with the union
'Til every battle's won

Which side are you on?
Which side are you on?

They say in Harlan County
There are no neutrals there
You'll either be a union man
Or a thug for J. H. Blair

Which side are you on?
Which side are you on?

Oh workers can you stand it?
Oh tell me how you can
Will you be a lousy scab
Or will you be a man?

Which side are you on?
Which side are you on?

Don't scab for the bosses
Don't listen to their lies
Us poor folks haven't got a
chance
Unless we organize

Which side are you on?



Tell us about the interviews you did with the retirees

Well, my approach has been a bit like the Band of Brothers TV series, if you've seen that. The retirees I spoke with describe unbelievably bad working conditions that they and their fathers before them had to endure – split shifts, gruesome workplace accidents and terrible pensions that forced men to work until they dropped dead. It kind of makes you understand why they loved Mike so much – he got rid of a lot of that.

I loved talking with Salvatore Montanino, who went out to strike in 1966. He's still up there working at the 207th St. shop, and he told me about the intimidation some of the strikers felt from members of the public. One woman threatened to throw acid on them!

But there are also really touching human moments, like when Bill Quinn told me the story about his parents dancing in their kitchen after the TWU leadership negotiated a contract in the 1930s that not only gave them a raise but also two weeks paid vacation.

When will the film be finished?

We've created a fifteen minute teaser and we're currently raising money to finish shooting and complete production. We're planning to have the film finished in late 2019, but the exact date all depends on funding.

Getting this film financed has been a tough road. I've had the door slammed in my face a few times from corporate TV types. I suppose it's not in their interest to have Mike's story told, which is probably why we don't hear stories about working people's struggles in this country.

Anyone who wants to get involved and be a part of bringing Mike's story to the widest possible audience can return the form on this page or go to our website mikequillfilm.com. There, you can see our video trailer, order an advance copy of the DVD or download, and/or make a tax deductible donation to the project.

The TWU knows how important Quill was. In the current climate of unions being attacked, this film has the potential to be a call to action, highlighting the labor movement's heroic story. We all should look forward to seeing the final product.

Valley's filmmaking team includes Mark McAuley, a BAFTA award winning cinematographer and executive producer Paul Miller, who counts director John Sayles's Oscar nominated film Lone Star among his many credits.

Valley has written and directed two full length feature films, Babygirl (2012), which premiered at the Tribeca International Film Festival and won the Panavision Independent Spirit Award, and Peacefire (2009), which won Best First Feature at the Galway Film Fleadh. He's also made a number of documentaries for Irish national television, notably John P. Holland: Inventor of the Submarine (2017).

'Big Bus' Workers Vote Big 'Yes' on 1st TWU Contract

Drivers and Tour Guides at Big Bus New York voted decisively to approve their first TWU Local 100 contract with their employer. The vote was 114 to 13 – an approval percentage of 90%. The new contract covers approximately 200 Drivers and Tour Guides. It provides immediate raises for every member of between \$4 and \$1 per hour, depending on time in service. Members with at least two years of service go from \$18 per hour to \$22 per hour – an increase of 19%.

The contract includes improvements in medical insurance, a 25% matching 401(k) after five years of service, more paid time off, and two new additional holidays for all employees. It provides for picks based on seniority. In perhaps the biggest win for our Drivers and Tour Guides, the agreement puts in place full due process discipline and grievance rights. Now, under a union contract, Big Bus Drivers and Tour Guides are no longer “at will” employees.

Local 100 President Tony Utano called the contract vote “a big win for Big Bus members, and for the tens of thousands of tourists who rely on the professionalism of our Drivers and Tour Guides.”



The happy Local 100 negotiating committee is with President Tony Utano (center) and Division Chair Carlos Bernabel (right).



Trans Express Committee Plans Contract Strategy

Local 100's newest members, the 250 drivers and mechanics at Trans Express, met at the union hall recently to strategize for contract negotiations. The workers voted TWU late last year. From left in photo are Organizer Dexter Victory, Director of Organizing Frank McCann, Trans Express workers Eugenio Vasquez, Kenneth Ferguson, Cynthia, Local 100 President Tony Utano, Division Chair Carlos Bernabel and union attorney Ed Kennedy.

TWU Officers Attend MLK 50th in Memphis

Local 100 Recording Secretary Latonya Crisp, Administrative Vice President Nelson Rivera, TUF Director Charles Jenkins and Political Director Michele Gilliam represented the union in Memphis at events marking the 50th Anniversary of the assassination of Dr. King.

Photos here show the giant march and rally on the anniversary of Dr. King's death. Inset photo, Local 100's Crisp and Rivera at the event.

ATTENTION NYCERS MEMBERS

Important News about your Annual Disclosure Statement

Starting in 2018, the New York City Employees' Retirement System (NYCERS) will no longer print and mail Annual Disclosure Statements (ADS) to our 200,000+ active members. They will be available in your secure MyNYCERS account in late April, where they can be printed out or saved to a desktop or mobile device. The electronic ADS will be in an easy-to-read letter format and will include a new feature for most members: an Estimated Retirement Benefit and Projected Retirement Date. The electronic ADS is:

- Secure – Reduces the risk of mail and identity theft
- Responsible – Less paper helps protect our environment
- Economical – No printouts + no postage = significant cost savings

Get ready for your electronic ADS:

To view your 2017 ADS, you must have a registered MyNYCERS account. Details on how to register can be found [at www.nycers.org](http://www.nycers.org). Please refer to Brochure #967.

If you haven't already signed up for MyNYCERS, now is the time! With a MyNYCERS account, you can log in any time to view your account balances, apply for a loan online, change your address and more.

Sign up for MyNYCERS today, and be ready for your electronic ADS.



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MTA Analysts Vote 192-2 for 1st TWU Contract

You won't see them in the stations, on the tracks, or driving a train – but don't let that throw you. The men and women who run the MTA's number and data operations are mission-critical for transit – and now they're part of our union family. A two-year organizing drive first brought in the MTA's Computer Specialists and Associates, and now 500 Staff Analysts have come aboard, bringing the total number in these titles to about a thousand.

Both units have new contracts, with the Staff Analysts voting just last month to OK their first pact with the MTA by a vote of 192 in favor, 2 opposed. TWU Local 100 President Tony Utano was on hand at the Union Hall when the final votes were tallied on the evening of April 26th. He praised the work of the organizing committee, which was headed up by MABSTOA Director of Maintenance Tom Lenane. The new contract – mirroring that obtained for the Specialists and Associates the year before – gives our new members a solid raise that parallels that won for our main TA/OA bargaining unit, retro pay, commuter passes, and overtime – something they were not allowed to earn before the agreement was ratified.

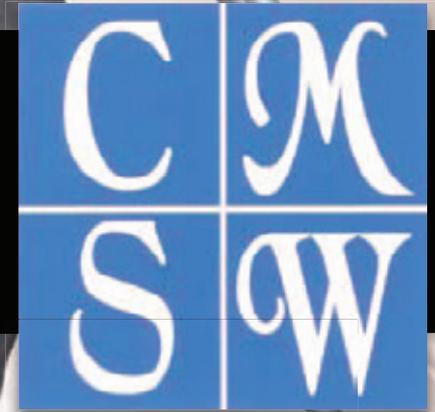
Behind the scenes of NYCT, our new sisters and brothers who work on terminals are responsible for all back office functions – that includes the fare media (Metrocard), all payroll processing, the MTA's trip planning software, customer complaints, tests that screen for employment, and the back-office work required by contractors and capital construction. In addition, they run the MTA's media operation.

Bringing them on board was a natural for the TWU, grounded in our industrial union roots. Founder Mike Quill's goal was to organize everyone in transit, taking down all barriers between workers. He believed we would be stronger as a result, and time has proved him correct. The new units will allow the union to build stronger contract fights, and have grown TWU Local 100 to a new high of 44,000 members in all divisions and departments.

Most of the new titles work out of 2 Broadway and 130 and 180 Livingston Street. Others are in key locations throughout the five boroughs.



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