



The Chief

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'Extras' Key to TWU Deal

READ WHAT RICHARD STEIER – THE EDITOR OF THE CHIEF LEADER NEWSPAPER AND AN EXPERT ON NYC UNION CONTRACTS – HAS TO SAY ABOUT TWU LOCAL 100'S NEW LABOR AGREEMENT. READ IT – AND VOTE YES!

The Transport Workers Union Local 100 tentative contract deal, like several ones reached by municipal unions with the de Blasio administration, may prove to be most attractive to the rank and file based on gains it offers outside of the two 2.5-percent raises over its 28-month span.

Yes, Local 100 President John Samuelson made good on his pledge to exceed the 2-percent annual increase that had been the maximum for any contract negotiated with a union under Governor Cuomo's jurisdiction during his first six years in office.

A significant improvement in members' right to cash out unused sick leave when they retire—about 3,000 employees will be eligible to retire over the life of the contract—could mean nearly \$20,000 more to a 30-year employee making \$30 an hour at the time of his or her retirement. Health-benefit upgrades specific to women, as well as better facilities at their workplaces, are also included in the pact.

About 640 employees of MTA Bus would have their daily schedules reduced by a half-hour, with no loss of pay. Eight hundred ironworkers and painters in Maintainer titles would get an extra \$1 an hour for lead-paint-removal work. And 1,700 Station Cleaners would join the rest of the Local 100 bargaining unit that deals with snow-removal work in getting time-and-a-half for it.

In bringing back a deal just hours after the old one expired Jan. 16, Mr. Samuelson was able to get a “me-too” clause from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority under which, if the Long Island Rail Road unions were able to obtain better terms, Local 100 would be entitled to a match. As Mr. Samuelson noted, those employed by the LIRR, because they are covered by the Federal Railway Act rather than the state Taylor Law, have the right to strike, giving them leverage that his union lacks.

Union members typically focus primarily on wage increases rather than fringe benefits in assessing a deal. But while the pay hikes, which are supplemented by a \$500 bonus that is pensionable but won't be rolled into base salary, are solid, members should take a good look at the gains in other areas in deciding on the merits of the pact.

