



# TWU LOCAL 100 NEWS

## February 2011

### Station Division

#### ***Promise Made, Promise Kept***

### **Solidarity Fund Contributions Ended Early**

When the solidarity fund was approved by the overwhelming majority of the Executive Board, there were certain conditions and promises made to the membership to insure that the fund would be managed properly.

The union leadership pledged that the Fund would be transparent. It is.

It was promised that an accounting of the fund would be available on the TWU Local 100 website with hard numbers for all members to see, so they could keep track of the money coming in and going out. It is.

Finally, it was also promised that the fund would be regularly reviewed to make sure there was enough money to pay members medical bills, and to determine when contributions reached or exceeded projected costs. That promise was kept as well. In January member contributions were cut in half from \$10 to \$5 per paycheck. And now, in February, the contribution phase of the Solidarity Fund is over.

According to information that we have received from the Solidarity Fund Oversight Committee, all member contributions to this dues assessment known as the Solidarity Fund ended with the paycheck of February 6, 2011. In other words, the last payment into the Solidarity Fund was on the check of Feb. 6, 2011. That's it. Contributions are concluded.

But make no mistake, the medical coverage for those laid-off members who need it will still be there for the assigned term.

The Executive Board promised at least six months of medical coverage, and that promise will be kept. It could be retroactive coverage, coverage from a certain month to a certain month, or coverage going forward, but that promise of six months coverage for eligible members will be kept.

No doubt the Solidarity Fund was a hot-button issue in Local 100. All kinds of baseless allegations of funny business with the fund flew in from seemingly every direction. The overall vote on passage of the Fund was close. The vote in Stations, where 61% of Stations members said "yes" to the fund is what enabled it pass in the first place.

Some of the misgivings about the fund were legitimate questions regarding its necessity and/or administration. However, most of the anti-Solidarity Fund rhetoric was mostly union politics. It is our opinion in Station Division that that if internal Union politics is more important than helping your members, then something is seriously wrong.

But, do not make the mistake of thinking that members cannot question decisions made

in TWU Local 100. Members have the absolute right to their opinions and the right to let their feelings be known. After all, the members are the Union.

The membership has the right to question and debate decisions made by their Union representatives. But there is a line between legitimate questions and political maneuverings.

A huge "thank you" must go out to every single member in stations who voted "yes" on the Solidarity Fund, or simply contributed to it and made it an unqualified success. The Solidarity Fund was true Unionism in action; congratulations to everyone involved.

## All Aboard to Albany!

# LOBBY DAY

## TUESDAY MARCH 29



**Buses Leave at 6AM**



**WE haven't received our 3% Raise yet...  
And THEY'RE getting a \$4.5 Billion tax break!**

New York's wealthiest will reap a windfall this year when the "millionaire's tax" expires. TWU says no – keep the tax in place. Save transit service and civil service pensions. If we save funding, we save transit service and we save our jobs.

#### **Stand As One to Fight For:**

- The Safety Bill that will stop the MTA from eliminating our conductor jobs and stop new Station Layoffs
- A process for appealing disqualifications of School Bus Drivers
- Saving Our Pensions
- A Financial "Lock Box" to Stop the Theft of Transit Funds

**For more information  
call our hotline:  
646-539-2069  
or visit our website:  
[www.twulocal100.org](http://www.twulocal100.org)**

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## Working and Winning For the Membership In Supply Logistics

On Thursday January 27, 2011 the NY metropolitan area was hit with up to 20 inches of snow, on top of the 36 inches of snow we previously received. Understandably, some of our members had difficulty getting to work on time, or at all. In the Supply Logistics section, members who had difficulty getting to work or arriving late to work were told by management that they could not use AVAs to cover for the day if they did not show up, or they had to work extra hours if they were late.

At the same time our brothers and sisters in RTO were experiencing the same type of problems: RTO Vice-Chair Joe Costales suggested a standard "snow" grievance that could be adapted to any department in TWU Local 100. The actual grievance contains language pertaining to "unusual circumstances" not specifically snow. This "snow" grievance was then posted on the Union website, twulocal100.org

Station Division reps circulated a hand-out entitled "How to get paid in a snow emergency"

and named Stations Rep Christine Williams as the contact person. Almost immediately calls from the Supply Logistics location at 55 Maspeth came flying in. Twenty or so members were being docked or denied pay because of the recent snow storms.

The members requested help and Station division set up a meeting with the members on Feb. 9, 2011.

Then an odd thing happened: Management in Supply Logistics learned of the Union's intention to come to 55 Maspeth writing grievances and they began to contact the members and offer AVAs to cover the days. All this before TWU reps even stepped on the property.

Some of the members took the deal management gave them but some were not offered deals. Some 13 grievances were written for the S/L members on that Wednesday, covering everything from the original "unusual circumstances" grievances covering cuts in pay and AWOLs to requests to pay for O.T. when members had their shifts changed.

We were notified by a member from S/L involved in these grievances on Feb. 16th that management had capitulated and paid almost everyone. For those management did not pay, we will go ahead with our grievances. The fates of these grievances are to be determined.

But what is for sure is that calling your Union when there is a problem gets results. In this case, the threat of TWU action forced management to reconsider their decision and offer a fair settlement to the S/L members.

What is also true is that inter-departmental co-operation inside the TWU, in this case between RTO, Stations and Communications, also makes for a stronger, more effective Union for us all.

## Arrested?

### What do I do now?

If you happen to be arrested for any reason, you **MUST** report it. There are no circumstances where this MTA rule can be violated or avoided. If you do not report it you are only making a bad situation worse. Most importantly, do **NOT** call in sick to hide the arrest or try to figure a way out. This will triple your problems. Depending on the severity of the offense a member may not return to work, or work while they have an open case. No exceptions. In all cases of arrests contact your Union reps and report it to the TA.



## Time and attendance: Still a huge problem


Time and attendance continues to be a huge source of write-ups for the members. Please make sure you:

- ✓ Show up to work when you are scheduled. If you are going to be late call your reporting location and let the person you are relieving know that you are running late. We have cell phones and if you are underground, find the booth and make the call. And if you know you are supposed to get to work 15 minutes prior to the tour, make sure you do. People have been getting caught out there with improper reliefs costing them thousands of dollars because they tried to cut corners and be slick.
- ✓ Properly fill out and submit your sick forms in a timely manner. Whether you are in the 70% or 30% you have 3 days to get that form to MTA. For example: if you return to work on the 5th day of the month, you have the 5th, 6th & 7th to get that sick form in. The best way to submit your sick form is at the source; go to 130 Livingston and put it in there. Sign any relevant time control logs once you get there. And please make copies of them, and save your stamped submitted sick forms. Members are up for dismissals and final stipulations because of these issues. Do not let this happen to you.

## Counterfeiting Grievance: Fighting Back against Funny Money

Due to the large number of counterfeit bills in the system and the fact the MTA makes Agents accountable for them, Station reps are initiating a grievance to demand better detecting equipment to catch up to high-tech counterfeiters. It is unfair that SA's are being held accountable for counterfeit money when the equipment we have been given is antiquated, and in many instances useless. We'll keep everyone posted.

*"At the time I was arrested I had no idea it would turn into this. It was just a day like any other day. The only thing that made it significant was that the masses of the people joined in."*



**Rosa Parks 1913-2005**

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