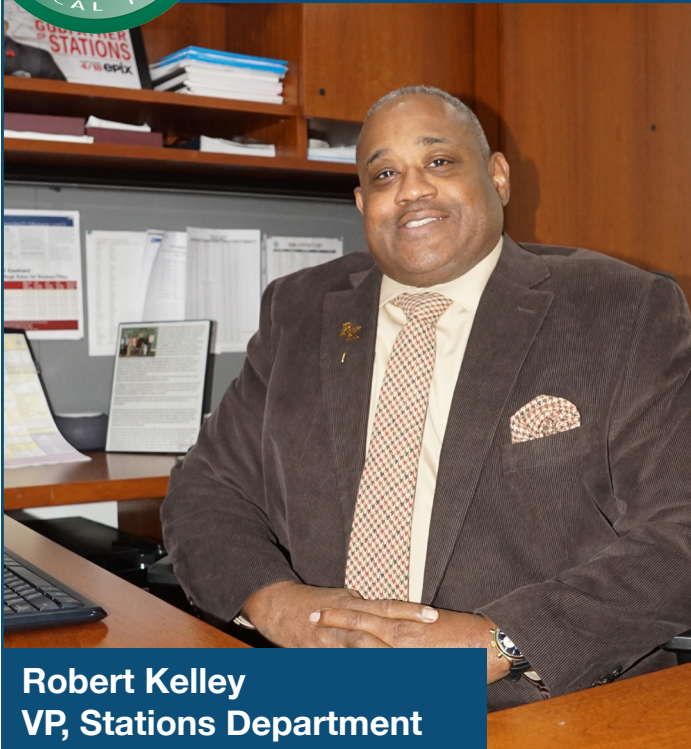




# AT THE GATE

JANUARY 2024

A TWU Local 100 newsletter for members of the Stations Department from the desk of Stations Vice President Robert Kelley



**Robert Kelley**  
VP, Stations Department



An all woman crew prepares to take up the nightly challenge on refuse.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

I hope that all of you were able to share smiles and laughter with family, friends and loved ones over the Holiday Season. January is a time when we see a number of predictions for the coming year. I don't go for predictions. Simply put, they are based on assumptions and odds and **I won't gamble on our future in Station!** I was pleased that the recently approved budget (and five year plan) of the MTA carried no deficits! A balanced Budget has been presented for the first time in as long as anyone can remember!

One item in the budget, the MTA's decision to do work 'In house' and not relay on 3rd parties/outside contractors whenever feasible, brought back memories of December 2018.

I had just been elected Division Chair. The Authority implemented a 'deep cleaning' program performed by outside contractors (it had been approved by the MTA Board the previous July). Astor Place was the first location to host the program. That is where I went. My position was non-negotiable: **It's our work and ours alone!** The contract was allowed to run its course, but the Agreement worked out with then NYCT

President Byford, ensured that Station CTA's would be trained to carry out the new duties. **Today, CTA's do the work! And will continue to do so forevermore!**

The budget also contains several references to "AI" (Artificial Intelligence) its application via "CCTV" (Closed Circuit Television) and live video streams on the stations. I have mixed feelings on having an "eye in the sky" in our workplace. For several years the 'TA' has used "AI" to monitor passenger flow at several locations. It was a pilot program that was

awarded through the annual Transit Tech/ TIPS competition but now it seems to be expanding its focus to matters which infringe on privacy rights. I will not tolerate any member receiving discipline from "AI".



Cr. Peter Foley

**"I will not tolerate any member receiving discipline from AI"**  
-Robert Kelley,  
VP of Station



## LOBBY DAY

Local 100's annual Lobby Day in Albany will be held this Spring. A large turnout would drive home the message; "Improve our Tier 6 Pension". This is a priority and the fight to bring positive change is one which must be continuously waged in the State Legislature until we have achieved Pension Justice!



## On the way: Interborough Express

The "Interborough Express" (IBX) is a planned Light Rail line running passenger service from Bay Ridge/Sunset Park to Jackson Heights. It is estimated that up to nineteen stations could serve the residents of the 'Transit Desert' in East New York, Bushwick and Central Queens. To me that equates to additional jobs for Station Agents, CTA's and Collecting Agents (up to 200 for Station Division members). This project could be completed by the end of 2027, let's get that work!

## Promotional Opportunities

The Transit Authority is having difficulty in filling some skilled positions around the system. They should be persuaded to look 'in-house'. Training would be offered and new routes to promotion opened up. As of now, the Authority must hire 60 new bus operators in order that they remain in compliance with Federal regulations. Last March Station Agents duties were dramatically changed and every Agent received a "monetary promotion" of one dollar an hour. Recently a Promotional Test for CTA's to Station Agent was scheduled, it is a step in the right direction. It is time to provide More Promotional Opportunities!



## Station Agent of the Future

I and my Staff will continue to address Training classes (for OMNY/ Customer Service as well as New Hires). It is essential to reinforce knowledge of the provisions in the "Station Agent of the Future Agreement". There are still isolated instances when a 'GSM' or 'General Superintendent' goes rogue (right into the Tyrant Model) and tells Agents that they must stand outside for their entire 8 hours. This is not what the Agreement states. We perform Customer Service

## Building a Better Future

duties, not morphing into statues waiting for a pigeon to perch on our shoulders! A framework for "Field Representatives" is being drawn up. Having a greater Union presence in the field, on all tours, would bring prompt closure to such grievous transgressions against the Agreement.

When Our Union arrived to deliver the gifts collected in our annual 'Toy Drive' the joy and warmth that filled the room was mesmerizing. The director of 'Sesame Flyers' (in Brooklyn), where the 'sacks



of presents' were dropped off, was awed by the donation of 2,000 toys. She noted that normally they receive 200 to 300 gifts for the Holidays! The laughter and smiles of the children present said it all; It is our duty to build a Better Future. Together, we can accomplish so much for our families and our communities for many, many, years to come.

**Put STATION FIRST!**



# HERE & THERE

Customer service taking a big step forward in 2023.

## ORWELL WAS WRONG... ABOUT THE YEAR!

George Orwell depicted a soul-less society in a world guided by a surveillance fueled all-knowing “Big Brother” in his novel ‘1984’. He was sixty years off the mark. The MTA Board awarded a contract to Boyce Technologies Inc. to provide “Design-Build” services for closed circuit television systems for passenger identification on the NYCT system. The contract calls for the installation of CCTV cameras at the fare control areas at 106 stations. The project is scheduled to be completed in the first quarter of 2027.

## CONGESTION PRICING NEARS

The MTA announced dates for Public Hearings regarding the tolling system they plan to implement in Manhattan’s Central Business District (CBD). Currently they hope to activate the network of cameras this coming June. There will be four Hearings, Thursday Feb. 29th and Monday March 4th (both at 6 p.m.) and 10 a.m. sessions on Friday March 1st and Monday March 4th. The hearings will be held at 2 Broadway. Registration (to comment) will

close 30 minutes after the start of the hearing and will commence one week before the scheduled date and can be done on-line, by calling the Public Hearing Hotline at (646) 252-6777 or in person. The Traffic Mobility Review Board has recommended a base toll of \$15 per automobile entering the ‘CBD’ between 5 a.m. and 9 p.m. on weekdays and between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. on weekends. A 75% discount would affect cars entering the District during the overnight/off peak time frame.



## MTA BY THE NUMBERS 2023

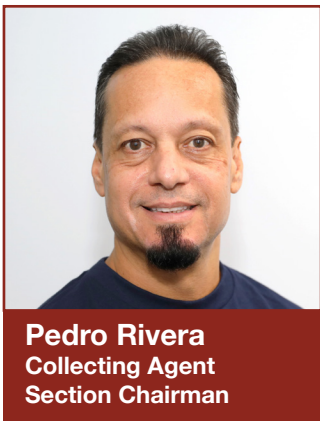
On December 27th the MTA released via a Press Release: “MTA By the Numbers in 2023” sharing some interesting statistics from 2023 (Jan. 1, 2023 through November 2023). The station with the most swipes (6.3 million) was Main St. on the #7 line. At 3.4 million taps Grand Central had the highest OMNY usage. The # 6 line was the busiest route, transporting an estimated 140 million passengers. The most bewildering highlight was that 74th/ Roosevelt Ave and Union Square had the busiest bathrooms in the system. Thankfully, the numbers and methodology for the final category were not shared in the announcement. Did they count the number of flushes? Or.....? Yucky!

## MTA BOARD

The December 20th Board meeting was a ‘love fest’ of sorts. Except for the 19 speakers in the Public Comments Session, pats on the back and praise were the order of the day. The achievements of the past year were highlighted, even a glossy video was shown. Chairman Lieber, alluding to the cost, called it a “white elephant” but conceded that “Grand Central/Madison” has exceeded estimates of passenger volume. “Increased ridership” was attributed not only to the ‘back to the office’ dictum many businesses have issued but also the quality and efficiency of public transportation. Lieber was passionate on

the subject of Congestion Pricing. He inferred that it was long over due, the State Legislature gave it the green light over four years ago and the concept has been floating around since the Lindsay Administration. He was proud of what he called the “herculean effort” that went into compiling the “20-year Needs Assessment Plan for the MTA”, the road to the constant improvement of the regional transportation network for the next two decades. The “Queens Bus Redesign” was something that was finally coming to fruition, The Chairman mentioned that the current routes date back to data from nearly 70 years ago.

“Increased Accessibility”, primarily the installation of more elevators around the system, is a matter that’s dear to the Board. The installation of elevators in the subways will continue at the determined pace of the past year. “Financial Stability” was another point that Lieber is proud of. Over \$400 million was saved last year and there are zero deficits in the Budget through 2027. He concluded by praising “Transit Advocates.” He thanked the Governor and other elected representatives as well as transit advocacy groups and those who addressed the MTA Board at the monthly meetings during the Public Comments portion.



**Pedro Rivera**  
Collecting Agent  
Section Chairman

## COLLECTORS WORLD

*By Pedro Rivera*

I would like to wish a HAPPY NEW YEAR to all Collecting Agents and their Families!

The New Year is a year of hope for all of us. We will continue working hard for our members. We are moving forward in the right direction! I would like to thank all of you for your support! Together, looking forward to a Better Year!



**Michael LittleBear**  
Division Vice Chairman

## Supply Logistics

*By Michael LittleBear*

HAPPY NEW YEAR  
SUPPLY/ LOGISTICS FAMILY!

As we walk away from 2023 and march into 2024, I hope that we are all strutting tall, strong and healthy.

Station Vice President Robert Kelley and the rest of OUR UNION are always looking for ways to improve and 'big up' our department. We are always seeking ways for our members to get promotions

and an improved quality of life. We work hard for NYCT and must be fairly compensated for our work. We welcome input and ideas for promotional lines and the means to improve our daily grinds. V.P. Robert Kelley has our backs. He is working hard to assist us with our goals of a better quality of life and an improved work life as well. Together we can make Supply/Logistics a better place. Let's all strive to make 2024 an **OUTSTANDING YEAR FOR ALL OF US!**



**Shameia Colter**  
Station Agent Section  
Recording Secretary

## Keeping the Engine Running

*By Shameia Colter*

The Central Union Office of the Division of Station is located at 195 Montague St. It is the main hub for member inquiries on all matters. Any questions, information and referrals come through the Central Office. The chief function of this office is to help navigate and assist by any means

necessary. We are your "Resource Center." If you call and the Reps are busy, access any Union Rep's number from the TWU Stations Contact list. The Central Union Office can be reached at 212-873-6000 (ext: 2036 or 2055). We are here to solve and resolve!



**Jason Nisanov**  
Station Agent Section  
Vice Chair

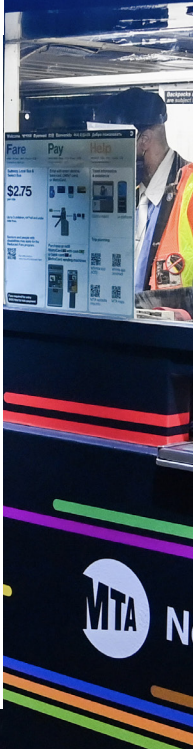
## A Message from 2 Broadway

*By Jason Nisanov*

Having worked from time to time at 2 Broadway I can say that there is never a dull moment. It is where the disciplinary process is conducted from simple 'DANs' to cases that will end up before an Arbitrator.

When someone first arrives, we ask them to sign in on the 'front clip-board' and have a seat. We will be with you as soon as possible. We do our best to accommodate everyone, be it in person or over the phone. Hearings are done primarily on the A.M. tour (8-4). City Hall hearings are held on the A.M. and P.M. tours. If you have a hearing (whatever the

reason) we recommend that you come in full uniform. If there are any questions or concerns, please reach out to a Union Rep. If your Hearing is held over the phone, make sure that whatever the decision, you ultimately sign off to appeal or to accept. We will set up the paperwork for you to sign electronically. Whether over the phone or in person, you must sign! Doing nothing can lead to implementation of the original penalty. Do not hesitate to call before your Hearing if you have any concerns. I hope that this has been a help in giving a basic understanding of how the process unfolds.





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## SHARE YOUR CONCERNS, THOUGHTS AND IDEAS AT THE 2024 STATION DIVISION MEETINGS

January 25, 2024  
 February 22, 2024  
 March 28, 2024  
 April 25, 2024  
 May 23, 2024  
 June 27, 2024

July 25, 2024 \*\*  
 August 22, 2024 \*\*  
 September 26, 2024  
 October 24, 2024  
 November 2024 (TBD)  
 December 2024 (TBD)

**\* Dates are subject to change pending Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays**  
**\*\* According to the TWU Local 100 Bylaws- Summer meetings are dispensed with during the months of July and August by majority vote at the June meeting.**



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## WHO TO CALL AT TWU:

### Training and Upgrading

Elevate yourself and enhance your career by calling (718) 780-8700. Whether it's "prepping for a Promotional exam", learning new skills in the Technology and Maintenance fields or taking advantage of the "Tuition Reimbursement Program" (up to \$4,000) call or e-mail 'training@twulocal100tuf.org'.

### Member Services

Keeping the members informed about their Health Benefits. They are located at 180 Livingston St. in Brooklyn. Though the MTA administers the Prescription Drug and Medical Plan (for over 20 years now), The TWU administers the Dental (347-643-8061 (or 8069) and the Vision Plan (347-643-8064).

Any questions about your coverage, or wondering who to call? The Member Services main line is 347-643-8060 (or 8062)

### Union Assistance Program (UAP)

The 'UAP' values the confidentiality and privacy of members who, due to stress, grief or a tumultuous home life are risking their jobs, often times, taking a path that leads to substance abuse. The 'TA' will suspend or even fire you! The 'UAP' will help you and, will not share any information with the 'TA'. Get back on track to a **Better Future!** If you want help and guidance call 212-736-3579.

### Pension Review

Thinking of "hanging it up"? Call the TWU Pension Consultants at 212-873-6000 (extensions; 2161, 2076 or 2037). Find out what your monthly benefit will be as well as options available and cost. They will walk you through the process of retiring; who to see and where to go. Retirement should not be a stressful undertaking.



Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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# TWU Member Services

*We're moving in early  
2024 right behind  
the Union Hall*



149 Pierrepont St. 1st Floor.  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

# HELPING YOU STAY CONNECTED

Check out our new events page!

See all upcoming events

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Get directions

Print event flyers



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