



TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

AFL / CIO

LOCAL 562

AIRCRAFT

MAINTENANCE / STORES

Bostons Title II

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Brothers & Sisters;

A growing number of our members are angered with our International and its lack of leadership during the negotiation process and at the same time are angry with the company with their concessionary comprehensive proposal. We are without a contract and the company refuses to recognize our sacrifices of wages and benefits. Remember, there is no incentive for the company to settle, its financial interests are protected because the status quo remains in effect. Under the RLA the contracts become amendable they do not expire. The membership also feels that union leaders remain insulated from the membership's anger at the higher levels. In addition the membership is also angered that our International leaders and management did not suffer any salary and benefit cuts as they did. At the same time, the membership wants to know why our leaders at the highest levels are appointed and not voted in by the membership. As a result many members want to know how changes can be made at the highest levels, *they want accountability.*

The changes although difficult can be made at the International Convention held every four years. The next Convention will be held in October of 2009. It is the supreme policy making body of the union and it's also where International officers are elected by delegates unlike some other unions where the membership elects their leaders.

To sum it up, delegates from all TWU Divisions gather to give direction to the International. This direction is in the form of Resolutions or Constitutional Amendments that are discussed and voted on by the assembled delegates (the number of delegates a local can send is addressed in the TWU International Constitution). An example of a resolution would be "Ballot Elections" for International Officers which failed by a majority vote in October, 2001. The International Constitution governs all union activities.

TWU Founding President Michael J. Quill once said: *"Attack on our civil rights and on the labor movement will go on as long as members of organized labor spend more time worrying about the size of their TV sets and parking spaces for their autos than they do about protecting their unions and their liberties."*

In Solidarity,
John Iuliano
President Local 562