



TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA
AFL / CIO

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Local 562

JFK-LGA-EWR-PHL-SJU-BOS

www.twu562.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Local 562;

April 10, 2009

Today is Good Friday, it's also the 100th day of this administration of Local 562. While the majority of my efforts are dedicated to Contract Negotiations I'm happy to say that due to the efforts of the entire Executive Board that we are progressing on several of the issues that were brought up during the campaign. Although not all of us ran on the same ticket we are united in a singular goal to deliver the best representation we can for those we represent. Here are some of the issues and how they are being addressed;

Accountability;

There is currently a motion on the Floor to be voted on at this month's membership meetings to amend our Bylaws to allow the members to initiate the recall of any union official in the Local if the majority of the members wish to do so. I hope that the turnout is large and that the members put this amendment into place.

Communication;

The Local has created an E-mail list to help keep the members informed. To date we have over 300 addresses but would like to see that number grow. We would like to have every members E-mail address. Since taking office I've sent out around 800 E-mails between the E-Board, other Locals, the International and the members. If you would like to add you name to the E-mail list contact Joe Urso at HDJoe61@aol.com.

The Local Website is kept updated on a regular basis by Angelo Ragucci. You can find anything from Contracts to industry news. There is also a link to the recently updated and reformatted Negotiations Website, or you can go directly to <http://negotiaate.twu.org/>. One of the biggest changes in the new site is the fact that you can see all the TAs as well as the Union proposals, something we never saw before.

All the officers and section chairmen have cell-phones, you can find their numbers on the website. Most have E-mail addresses and computer access as well when you need to contact them.

Accessibility;

One of things that I spoke about even before the campaign and would like to explore is the creation of an On-line Local. The idea is to allow members to conduct union business on-line. The On-line Local would give members the ability to review financial reports, make motions and vote at the time (within certain parameters) and place of their choosing. I believe that this Flexibility will allow more members to participate in the Union. This will perhaps be the second biggest challenge, after Contract Negotiations, that the Local will face but we have a surprising supporter in this endeavor. Jim Little has expressed an interest and offered support. While the whole thing is still in just a conceptual phase, the International has offered the assistance of David Moses and Alan Treadwell, two of the International IT guys, to assist us in setting it up so we will have something in place to show the members for approval.

Transparency;

Transparency is tied in directly to Accessibility. While information is available at the Hall if the members don't have the means to go to union meetings then for all intensive purposes transparency is inhibited by accessibility. Accessibility is pretty much confined to union meeting dates. Over the last 100 days I've been on the road or having meetings 49 days, weekends accounted for another 28 days so I've only been in the office 23 days, if someone wants to come to the office they would have to do it when someone is there and there is no other full time staff. So when/if we get the local On-line it should offer members much more access and therefore transparency.

On another Transparency front, last week I attended a conference on TWU Strategy in Silver Springs MD. One of the recommendations I was able to put forth was to have electronic balloting at the TWU International Convention which takes place this September. Local 100 already has the system in place so hopefully we already have a large block of supporters. While observers are allowed to view the proceedings of the Convention most members don't have the means to travel to Las Vegas to do so. Electronic Balloting would provide more insight into the proceedings and also ensure that the votes are tallied accurately.

Reformation of The International:

Over the past few months I've seen many positive changes at the International. Some new faces, hopefully with new ideas, have been placed in the International. During my last tenure in office the International pretty much tried to keep Locals separate, now there is more of an emphasis towards bringing them together. Even such once "verbotten" topics such as restructuring are open to discussion. One positive change that I've seen is that there is no longer as much denial as there used to be. In the past if anyone complained about the performance of the labor movement the topic went directly to attendance at union meetings, as if poor attendance was a cause instead of a symptom. There is more of a willingness on the part of the leaders to admit that it's the leadership that must change their ways before they can expect the membership to do so.

So that's where we are now, many things are still "works in progress", but I'd like to reassure you all that they are "in progress" and haven't been forgotten. One Hundred days out of 1095 have already come and gone, we have faced and handled some expected as well as unexpected challenges. Hopefully you have seen change. We will continue to give our best efforts and hopefully the changes will produce positive results for all of us.

Fraternally:



Bob Owens

President Local 562