



Local 562

**TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA**  
**AFL / CIO**

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Bob Owens	President
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Steve Gukelberger	Exec Board 1
Harry Charalambous	Exec Board 2
Angelo Ragucci	Exec Board 3

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Local 562;

September 4, 2009

**Negotiations;**

No mediated sessions took place the month of August, however there was a meeting between the Article 12 subcommittee and the company in Dallas on Aug 20 and 21. Articles 12 and 3 remained open in the June proposal. Further sub-committee meetings should take place after the TWU Convention.

The company is looking for sweeping changes to Article 12. The sub-committee will continue to meet with the company and when a final draft is agreed upon it will be put forth to the whole committee for acceptance or rejection. Our next mediated session is tentatively planned for November 9th.

**Strategic Planning Session**

On August 19th I attended the TWU Strategic Planning Session in DFW. The meeting was hosted by Bobby Gless and Jamie Horowitz (Media Consultant). The focus of the meeting was how to mount a media campaign to pressure the company to deal in good faith at the bargaining table.

**TWU Statewide Conference**

On August 25 the NYC Statewide Presidents Conference was held at Local 100's headquarters in Manhattan. The main topic was the upcoming 2009 election cycle and the importance of keeping what pro-labor or even neutral to labor politicians in place. The biggest concern is over in New Jersey with the challenge against Corzine from very anti-union Christie. Local 100 has considerable resources that are available to get labor's side of the story out and we were given a tour of their facility. For those interested in voting the last day for registering is Oct 9, 2009.

Other issues discussed were upcoming events such as;

- The TWU Convention September 14-18
- Primary Election Day-Sept 15
- Commissioning of the USS New York-November 7

While at the Local 100 hall I had the opportunity to see a demonstration of the electronic voting system that is one of our resolutions for future Conventions. Local 100 has over 40 people on their E-board so they use the system during their board meetings. The display has several options, such as an immediate bar graph with the exact numbers on the vote, another page shows exactly how each E-board member voted.

The USS New York was built with steel recovered from the ruins of the Twin Towers. The TWU is looking into obtaining tickets to attend the commissioning ceremony which will take place November 9th in New York. The ship will be open for visiting November 9 through the 11th.

**Health and Benefits Meeting**

On August 26 and 27 the Health and benefits meetings were held in MIA. Harry Charalambous and I attended the meetings. The only good news is that yearly mammograms are now covered, that's due to legislation. The bad news is that despite the fact that the company claims the inflation rate for Medical was between 8 and 9% the POS plan, that most of us have, is going up nearly 20%. What this comes out to is the equivalent of a 31 cent an hour paycut. My guess is they used the same math here that they use when they tell us how much money they lost despite the fact that they had higher earnings than ever before and lower labor costs.

### **Labor Day Parade**

Local 501 has invited us to walk with them at the Labor Day Parade . This year the parade will be held on Saturday September 12, 12pm, the staging area for the TWU is on 46th Street between Vanderbilt Avenue and 5th Avenue. All are welcome. Come out, bring your family and support organized labor.

### **Local**

The company has become progressively more aggressive at enforcing their rules. We would urge our members keep in mind that the perks, benefits, compensation and working conditions that lured us here have been replaced by TV cameras, electronic badges and who knows what other sorts of surveillance. This is not the same company we hired on to. If you deviate from the rules they will discipline you-the preferred method being termination till arbitration. If you screw up trying to get a plane out on time they will not back you, in fact they may report you. It's even gotten to the point where things that they used to give you "atta-boys" for now earn you a CR-1 for "job performance". I never thought I would see the day when a mechanic was written up for finding and fixing a hydraulic leak, but that day has come. The phrase of the day; C-Y-A, and do so at all times. Keep in mind that everything you do is under scrutiny and act accordingly.

### **Passings**

In the month of August we lost two of our brothers;

- Juan Collado, who worked in Avionics at LGA passed after a long illness. He is survived by his wife and four young children.
  - Bill Moorer and Aircraft Mechanic from JFK died suddenly. He is survived by his grown children, and grandchildren.
- They both died young, Juan was in his 40s and Bill was in his early 60s. Keep them and their families in your Prayers.

Fraternally;



Bob Owens

President

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