

INSIDER



**TRANSPORT
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AMERICA, AFL-CIO**

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Jerry McCrummen, Vice President Local 555 and COPE Director, Peggy Olstein-Wiedman attend the annual "Unity Spring Fling"

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Center; President, Donald Tyndall
Local 502, El Segundo, CA.

ATD



Joseph C. Gordon
ATD Director

DIRECTORS UPDATE



"Prejudice is the child of ignorance."

—William Hazlitt,
English writer

I was fortunate to have attended the Civil and Human Rights training sessions in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on behalf of International President James C. Little, and the International Administrative Committee. The training session took place on April 22-23 and was hosted by TWU-ATD Local 514 in their new state of the art facility.

I would like to thank Local 514 President Steve Luis and the entire Executive Board for their gracious hospitality. Several speakers attended on behalf of constituent groups within the TWU and AFL-CIO organizations. They shared some great ideas and suggestions learned from their vast experience and diverse careers. I believe the information shared will be invaluable to those who attended the training sessions.

Sister Sandra Burleson and brother Louis King from Locals 260 and 514 respectively, are the Chairperson and Co-Chair of the Civil and Human Rights Committee. They did an outstanding job preparing their material, setting up meeting rooms, coordinating, and facilitating the training activities. It was great to see so many Locals committed to sending representatives that want to learn more and mentor others within their Locals. However, I will always wish there would have been more members attending. The feedback received by the committee was very positive.

The Civil and Human Rights Department was established during the 2001 TWU International Constitutional Convention by President Emeritus Sonny Hall. The new department was unanimously endorsed by the delegates attending. At that time, International Administrative Vice President Larry Martin was appointed by President Hall to serve as the Director of the newly established department. During his tenure, brother Martin did an outstanding job in developing the program, recruiting talent and helping mentor others such as sister Burleson and brother King. Larry Martin, now retired, was one of the guest speakers that attended this training session. He was and still is a strong advocate for civil and human rights and has dedicated his life and career to promoting dignity and respect for everyone. We are extremely grateful for his passionate service and commitment to the TWU and its members.

The main theme of the session was - that every worker, every human being, be treated with dignity and respect in the work place as well as away from work. We should all have these fundamental rights, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation or our religious beliefs. We, as labor leaders, concerned members and activists, should all share an equal role in making sure these rights are protected for our members and others. We should stand firm to let those who do discriminate know that this behavior is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated in our environment.

How many times have you witnessed a co-worker being treated harshly and disrespected? Did you simply stand by and do nothing or say nothing to stop it? What

would you have done had it been a family member or a very dear friend? What is the right thing to do?

One of the main goals of the Civil and Human Rights Committee is to make others aware of discrimination and assist any requesting TWU Local in developing their own CHR committees. We encourage active support from all members within their Locals. As we engage one another, old perceptions melt away and this often leads to a new attitude of respect and tolerance at home and the workplace. Amongst the rank and file, our behavior can begin to change, showing that we do care for one another.

We can be proud and different at the same time, while still respecting our unique diversity that bonds us as a union.

I certainly understand that the world is not a perfect place. It should be fundamental for all of us to simply say "treat others as we would like to be treated," but it's not as easy as it seems. However, we can lead by example and we must do our part to make sure that we stand up for the rights of our co-workers as well as the rights of others, no matter who they are or where they're from. That is what dignity is about.

If you presently do not have a Civil and Human Rights Committee established within your Local, then I strongly encourage you to do so. That should be our goal and our mission! Let's work together and bring out the best in one another. We need everyone's help, so please consider becoming involved now.

"AN INJUSTICE TO ONE IS AN INJUSTICE TO ALL"

"our behavior can begin to change, showing that we do care for one another and we can be proud and different at the same time, while still respecting our unique diversity that bonds our union."



Frank McCann Jr,
International Director of
Organizing

Organizing Update

Over the past year, the TWU International Organizing Department has been working hard to review and assess previous organizing campaigns in an effort to develop new organizing strategies. In 2007, we ran the one of the largest campaigns in recent history - Continental Airlines - but, we suffered a loss by about 300 votes. Fortunately, during that drive we had the opportunity to train a large group of our members on some of the basic skills of organizing. Potential new members need to realize the importance that a union contract can provide. Communicating with these future members and understanding their issues are key factors in securing an election and delivering that all important first union contract. Many of our members had never endured the pressures of an organizing drive, where management constantly threatened and intimidated their workers, which by the way, is illegal. Our members were fortunate to come into the Transport Workers Union via the paths paved for us by prior leaders

and organizers who fought the tough battles to secure solid pensions, health benefits, vacation pay and a decent wage.

It's our departments' goal to take a snapshot of each Local's organizing needs, whether internal or external, and help them prepare for the road that lies ahead. We want to ensure that they keep a watchful eye on the ever-present possibility of our work being outsourced to non-union workers because of their lower wages and dismal benefits. Being alert and prepared is the key to protecting the strong union contracts that we currently have in place. It's our responsibility to protect our jobs, not only for ourselves, but for the future of the American workforce. Corporate America is doing anything they can to reduce the bottom line at the expense of the workers. CEO's accomplish this task every day, by shipping work overseas and reducing or eliminating health and pension benefits. But they themselves are protected by ironclad contracts loaded with premium benefits, "golden parachutes" and millions of dollars a year in stock options and salaries.

Our Organizing Department is continually researching companies around the United States for possible organizing leads. We are also collaborating with other unions to target major companies, so we can work as a team and learn from each other. Over the next few years, it's my vision to get even more members involved with our organizing projects, so we can continue to expand our department and our membership. This can only happen with the continued support and dedication of our members and a strong commitment from our Locals. Together we can make a difference!



In case you missed it, the April edition of the TWU Express had several good articles. One was the exemplary effort by Aviation Maintenance Technicians at American Airlines responding to the grounding of over 300 aircraft. They worked around the clock across the system for several days, to inspect and return to service the grounded MD-80 fleet. Aviation experts, mechanics and some politicians have recently claimed that the Federal Aviation Administration's grounding of the MD-80's was not necessary. They called it a knee jerk, tit-for-tat over reaction, due to previous criticisms of FAA oversight within the industry. The agency was grilled publicly after flagrantly allowing Southwest Airlines to skip mandatory inspections for cracks in the fuselages of their Boeing 737's. After that humiliation, the FAA went on the war path. They apparently decided to show the airlines just who is in charge. It reminds one of an infamous government under reaction; "Brownie, you're doing a heck of a job." - G.W. Bush

Another story was the in-depth coverage of the TWU COPE Legislative Conference held in Washington D.C.. The detailed coverage reflects a growing number of politicians that are actively seeking labor's support in the upcoming elections. New candidates and incumbents from both parties spoke at the conference. They steadfastly voiced their support for unions and working families' issues like jobs, health care, prescription drugs, food and gas prices, and the Employee Free Choice Act. They asked for our members support in these elections.

If you presently do not contribute to the Committee on Political Education Fund, please consider doing so. Your contributions are essential to electing the right candidates to office. Union members across the country are ready for change in government, we can help make that happen with our donations. They are needed now.

If you did not receive a copy of the April issue, you can access it online. You can contact the COPE department online also. Please consider donating today.

www.twu.org



Now What?

By: Ron Harp
Chief Steward, Local 530

For members of the Transport Workers Union, two notable dates have recently passed. One is April 30th, 2008 on which the five-year Agreement between American Airlines and the TWU became amendable. The other, May 1st, 2008 marks the last compensation increase of the agreement, which leaves us still short of our 2002 wages.

It has been a number of years since we at MCIE have toiled under an “expired” contract. While an expedient and fair address of the AA/TWU Agreement is rightfully expected after five years of the Restructuring Agreement, history has shown the process can become painstakingly slowed unless the parties are engaged and motivated. The above mentioned date brings into play a number of rules and regulations that deserve review by the membership. Those are in the form of the Railway Labor Act of 1926.

When Congress passed the legislation, it was applicable to the most critical transportation infrastructure of the time – railroads. The RLA was amended in 1936 to cover the emerging airline industry. When enacted, labor “won” the right to organize, negotiate, and establish a grievance system. The railroads “won” the right to a lengthy, complicated negotiation process – without disruption of commerce.

Congress, in passing the RLA mandated a “work now – grieve later” rule to serve the public interest by keeping commerce moving. One of the few exceptions is safety. A worker who reasonably believes a task to be unsafe is not required to perform that task first, and then grieve.

Collective Bargaining Agreements do not “expire” under the RLA but rather, become amendable. Provisions of the previous agreement remain in full force, “status quo” until such time mutually negotiated change is accepted by both parties.

First in the process are direct negotiations, in which the parties meet without the assistance of a mediator. When motivated, good-faith bargaining is employed, this step is most likely to produce a timely, mutually acceptable agreement. If the parties “deadlock” or “break off” negotiations, either party during a 10 day status quo period may elect to engage the services of the National Mediation Board.

The National Mediation Board (NMB) is a federal agency created by the RLA. The Board is comprised of three members appointed by the President. The law requires at least one board member be from a political party other than the sitting President. Mediators are staff members tasked by the Board to supervise mediation of contract negotiations.

Once mediation is invoked, there is no time limitation to this step. The Board can determine when and where the parties meet, but it is normally established by mutual agreement of the parties and the NMB. The NMB has authority to end meditation, and proffer binding arbitration. Both Union and Company concurrence is necessary to engage in arbitration.

If either party rejects arbitration, a 30 day cooling off or status quo period must be observed. If at the end of 30 days, no agreement is reached, the parties are free to exercise “self-help.” The Company may impose its last offer, cease operations, or engage in other self help. The Union may

call a strike, or engage in other self help.

There are many other facets to the process which can derail or slow negotiations. Ultimately the NMB can notify the President, that, in its judgment, the dispute between a carrier and its employees cannot be adjusted and “threatens to substantially interrupt interstate commerce to such a degree that could deprive any section of the country essential transportation services.”

A Presidential Emergency Board, if invoked, can substantially delay the right to self help.

As you can see, the passing of the amendable date could be a significant step in the process. As a member of the TWU, being informed about the process itself, along with negotiations updates from our team is critical to maintaining solidarity, and encouraging the Company to bargain in good faith!



INFO-LINKS:

- WWW.TWU.ORG
- WWW.AFLCIO.ORG
- WWW.TTD.ORG
- WWW.ATDWWC.ORG
- WWW.PBGC.GOV
- WWW.PBS.ORG
- WWW.FAA.GOV
- WWW.UNIONPLUS.ORG
- WWW.DOL.GOV
- WWW.SHOPTWU.COM

UAL Mechanics Dump AMFA

The failure of the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association to hold United Airlines to its contractual obligation to limit outsourcing and thus protect member's jobs, has led to their early demise at UAL.

The National Mediation Board announced the results of the electronic vote on March 31, by a vote of 4,113 – 2,631, United's aircraft mechanics and ground support equipment mechanics overwhelmingly chose the International Brotherhood of Teamsters as their new collective bargaining representative.

Rich Petrovsky, an SFO based United Airlines aircraft mechanic and chairman of the Committee for Change movement, spearheaded the internal organizing campaign. Petrovsky said, "After two years of hard work, we now have the opportunity to work with the strength of a true union behind us to secure our futures."

The Teamsters' victory culminates a two-year effort by UAL mechanics and related personnel to gain strong representation. The bargaining unit consisted of 9,300 active and furloughed members eligible to vote in the election. Organizers attempted to reach each and every one of the furlougees. "We're thrilled that United's mechanics voted to join our union by such a large margin," said Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa. "United mechanics will now have the Teamsters' strength behind them in their fight against outsourcing to foreign repair stations. United has cut more maintenance positions than any other U.S. airline," Hoffa said, noting that United outsourced 45 percent of its aircraft maintenance expenses in 2006, three times the amount it outsourced in 1998. Hoffa also said the Teamsters would support the mechanics in their efforts to curb excessive executive compensation and restore their own retirement security.



Chicago based UAL mechanics rally in support of IBT



Dennis Burchette, International Vice President, AA System Coordinator

A Challenging Journey

As an elected labor leader for over 16 years, I have had various opportunities to participate in several contract negotiations. One thing that I have found to be true regarding contract talks - they all take on a life of their own. While union members may share in the desired outcome, the journey that leads us there may not always be so apparent.

I recall when Zebco Inc. announced that they were closing their manufacturing facility in Tulsa, Oklahoma, some years ago. With little concern for the workforce, management announced that they were outsourcing 250 jobs to communist China. The workers would be permanently laid off and have to fend for themselves.

That specific outsourcing episode led organized labor across the nation to mobilize their union members. From every aspect, union members protested and voiced their displeasure with Zebco's decision to toss aside its' workers. We participated in media blitzes and led pickets from congressional offices to nationally sponsored Zebco sporting events.

Additionally, our local flew over 25 members to Chicago, Illinois, where we joined with our brothers and sisters from Local 512 and 563 to picket the shareholders meeting of Brunswick Corporation, the parent company of Zebco.

Our attendance and apparent disruption at the shareholders meeting, along with other protests, led to talks that eventually put an additional one million dollars towards a plant closing agreement. This money helped bridge our members until they were able to find meaningful employment or retrain for another job.

That journey could not have been scripted in the beginning. We had to take advantage of every opportunity as they presented themselves. In effect, those talks took on a life of their own; this was uncharted water so to speak. But one thing that we all shared from the beginning was the known fact that the workers come first! That has been and always will be, the true defining character of my union.

Apply Now for 2009 Washington Internships

Although this year's TWU Legislative & Political Department internships are continuing, now is the time to apply for the "Class of 2009." The internships are an excellent opportunity for members who have been active in politics to gain valuable training as union lobbyists. Successful candidates will work directly with Political & Legislative Director Roger Tauss, Legislative Representative Portia Reddick White and Political Representative Alex Garcia.

Applications can be downloaded from the TWU website and mailed to the TWU office at 10 G Street NE, Suite 420, Washington, D.C. 20002 or faxed to 202-638-6102. Applications will be reviewed by the directors of the Air Transport, Transit and Rail Divisions in conjunction with the Political and Legislative Department. **Deadline is September 30, 2008.**

A successful candidate must be a member in good standing of his or her Local Union – and include a letter of recommendation from the Local President. Previous activism in the local, as well as strong oral and written communication skills and a keen interest in politics are a must.

"HOLLYWOOD TO THE DOCKS"

"Why I Marched"

By: Sharon Polk, Local 502
Recording Secretary

The march from "Hollywood to the Docks" took place April 15 - 17, 2008. Over three hundred union workers and activists volunteered their time to participate in the three-day march. Camping out along the way, they talked with neighbors and curious passersby about their mission - good paying jobs for everyone.

The Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, organized this historical "Hollywood to the Docks" labor march. Their purpose was to raise awareness for all workers and highlight union solidarity and strength. The marchers want the local community to know that this year alone more than 350,000 Southern California union workers, represented by 30 different labor unions, are negotiating their contracts. Union jobs are good paying jobs and benefit many workers, union and non-union alike. This is the largest number of union workers to ever be in contract negotiations simultaneously in the history of the Los Angeles labor movement. The workers participating in the march represented Hollywood actors and writers, long-shoremen, port drivers, truck drivers, homecare workers, various union officers, teachers, janitors, airline workers, nurses, clergy, ironworkers, electricians, carwash and hotel workers.

The three-day walk covered 28 miles starting in Hollywood and ending in San Pedro, California. San Pedro is a gargantuan dock and seaport complex where thousands of containerized cargo

ships are loaded and unloaded every year. The port itself provides many workers with good paying union jobs. One thing that really struck me was a man who brought along his 7-year old daughter. He told me that she could



Dave Arian, ILWU Executive Board Local 13, carries his granddaughter, Jady Rose, for a few blocks before the rally outside Wal-Mart

not wait for this day to come; she was so excited to join the others in the walk. The father said that usually his daughter has a hard time getting up for school, however, during the march I watched her rise at 6am with the others and no complaints, just eager to go. Watching her childish enthusiasm reminded me of what this fight is about - the future of our children and grandchildren.

The Teamsters Union provided a flat bed truck stacked with large stereo sound speakers, a mixing board, powerful amplifiers and a public address system. Music played loudly as we danced and boogied our way through

different neighborhoods of Los Angeles. On the second day we stopped and protested outside a Wal-Mart store in Torrance, California. For forty minutes we marched outside the store and witnessed a different kind of Wal-Mart greeter - mad as hell managers! Several union leaders spoke to us from the rolling stage parked out front and announced they were going into Wal-Mart to speak with managers about their pay scale, anti-union position and their treatment of employees; the crowd went wild. To no one's surprise, Wal-Mart management declined to speak with them, or let them inside.

Union members are the middle class backbone of this country. Union represented or not, we all want the same thing for our families - good schools, good jobs with benefits and a safe environment to raise our families. Union negotiated contracts have raised the pay and benefits standard for many non-union workers. Their employers often match union wages to try and stop organizing drives of their employees.

I hope that our efforts will help open the eyes of those who feel they don't really need a union. I want employers to



"I'm marching because there are no good jobs; my 16 year old son feels that his only way up or out is to join the military."

Irene Gonzalez, probation officer and member of AFSCME Local 685

know that we, union members, will not stop fighting for good jobs, dignity and respect. Workers in our country deserve

"HOLLYWOOD TO THE DOCKS"

(CONTINUED)

more than just a job. We should stand together now to make that American Dream possible or it will surely vanish.

When I was asked to help organize this historical event and march representing my union, I did not hesitate - yes! I am an American Airlines employee who has sacrificed much over the last four years and am anxious about our current contract negotiations. I need an increase in wages just to keep up with the cost of living and the rising cost of driving a car to and from work. My co-workers are barely coping and struggle to pay their bills and feed their families. I marched



"I'm marching here because there are so many underpaid working class people in our country."

Victor Lopez, ILWU member for 25 years, Local 13, San Pedro, CA.

with my brothers and sisters who are fighting to keep good paying jobs. We marched to ensure that those living in the middle class today can maintain that same standard of living tomorrow, while those still fighting to get there can do so. I marched because I have what others do not - a union, a good paying job, health care benefits, a home and a pension. Compared to others, I have achieved the American dream. I walked with the others in solidarity. It's about dignity; it's about respect; it's about diversity and earning a living wage, no matter who you are. No one is taking that away from me, I fought hard to get here; I am continuing my struggle to stay middle class and will fight so that others can have that same success.



"The state of the working class people is on the line, if union brothers and sisters don't join together there is no way to stop big business from destroying the middle class."

Malocca Hawkins, CWA member, Local 9505

For me, witnessing the solidarity of such a diverse group of workers during the marathon three day march was unbelievable, a once in a lifetime experience. The Wal-Mart protest will always be a priceless memory too. Our march ended Thursday night with a wonderful rally at the San Pedro docks. As the container ships were being unloaded, nearly 8,000 workers gathered to listen to union leaders speak of the struggles of American workers. It was a moving finale for our march for good paying jobs. When the rally was over, I found myself limping a bit, a painful blister on my toe, my voice was hoarse and my throat was sore, but I realized the power in our togetherness. It was all worth it and if asked to do it again, I would not hesitate - yes!



Sharon Polk, TWU Local 502 Recording Secretary, march organizer and dedicated union activist



Wal-Mart manager calls for backup - "uhh,.. hello boss...."



**Save My Home Hotline:
1-866-490-5361**
Union Fits



Local 555 Hosts "Unity Spring Fling"

With almost predictable springtime weather on hand, TWU Local 555 members did not let cloudy skies dampen their enthusiasm during their 5th Annual "Unity Spring Fling." The outdoor party and cookout was held May 6th at Frankie Carter Randolph Park, in Friendswood, Texas. Local members flew in from several stations to attend the party.

Union officers, representatives, and negotiating team members joined the celebration promoting union solidarity. Peggy Olstein-Wiedman, International Director of the Committee on Political Education and Local 555 member, Ryan Notton, provided

voter's registration packets and COPE contribution sign up forms. There was a raffle that helped raise money for the COPE fund and an array of COPE apparel for sale. Another Local 555 member, Tom Hoff, volunteered to drive a shuttle van for most of the day, picking up and dropping off members at nearby Hobby Airport.

TWU Local 555 represents ramp, operations, provisioning and cargo agents at Southwest Airlines. Members working at Houston's Hobby Airport, have hosted the event annually and invited their sister Local 556, which represents the Flight Attendants at Southwest Airlines. Softball and volleyball games were available for those energetic enough to play, and the playground for the kids was a big hit. There were ample supplies of food and drink, accompanied with music, conversation and a scheduled talent show but Elvis did not show. Both Locals contributed financially to cover the expenses.

The cooks started Sunday morning preparing and seasoning 18 beef briskets, averaging 12lbs. each, prior to Tuesday's cookout. They did a remarkable job while other members contributed their favorite dishes - potato salad, beans, cole-slaw, desserts and some good natured ribbing of one another. The bragging rights have to go to the "Brisket Kings" for the smoked briskets they perfected. They were absolutely and utterly delicious and members were in line for seconds in short order. It was evident that everyone

was enjoying themselves throughout the day.

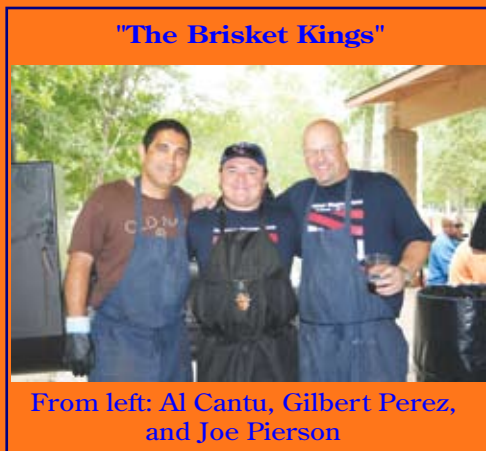
Local 555 is presently in contract negotiations with SWA and Local 556's contract will become amendable on June 1. Negotiations were a prime topic for many members,

several voiced their concerns over the direction our country is headed. Several have vowed to become more politically involved.

Others expressed the "notion" (Texan- for idea,) that this is labor's year to turn things around in Washington, D.C. They realize that success is directly attributable to their commitment to one another.

The real voltage behind any union is in its membership. When they collectively stand together strengthening their common bond, they light the way for others. Members

from both Locals demonstrated this clearly during the "Unity Spring Fling." Talks of contract negotiations and politics did not stop them from partying and enjoying some family fun, while making plans for their future. Kudos to all those volunteers that helped make the day a big success.



"The Brisket Kings"
From left: Al Cantu, Gilbert Perez, and Joe Pierson



Disc Jockey "Captain Kaos"
AKA - Chris McBee



Manny Martinez has worked at Southwest for 10 years and is currently a Station Representative. Asked about the upcoming presidential elections, he said:

"I feel that I have to support the Democratic Party in this election - it truly is time for a change"

Local 555

"Unity Spring Fling"

Local 556



Local 556 members from left: Recording Secretary, Cuyler Thompson; Crystal Rains; Houston Domicile E-Board Member, Michael McNeil and Patty Harper



Jesse Soto has been with Southwest Airlines for 27 years. He is presently Recording Secretary and Safety and Health Advisor for Local 555. His thoughts on the upcoming elections:

" We are in a crucial time in our history, it is imperative that we change our nations leadership and the direction our country is going."



Robert "Wolfie" Bettinger has worked for Southwest Airlines 24 years. He is presently the District 4 Representative responsible for 11 other SWA stations.

" We have already lost so much under the Bush Administration, it is time for a President who cares about the working people!"

Solidarity & Unity Effect Change!



Patti Adams has been with Southwest for 12 years as an Operations Agent. She is a former District Rep. and presently working on the Local 555 Negotiating Committee. Asked about negotiations she responded:

" It's going well, so far, our membership is behind us, we have been better with our internal communications and this provides valuable feedback to the Negotiating Committee. This helps strengthen our position in negotiations with the company."



Amye Thompson
Local 555 Staff,
Leave Specialist



Gerry Duplan
Local 555, Alternate
Shop Steward



Linda Dill
International Organizer

What the Working Women's Committee Means to Me

The idea of a Working Women's Committee within the Air Transport Division was born several years ago. Primarily due to the foresight of James Little, ATD Director at the time, the ATD-WWC has shown solid growth ever since it's inception. Today, this committee is an active reality for many women in the airline industry. The basic idea was to educate and involve more working women from the airline division. Union women have a strong voice, we can mobilize, we are effective and exhibit our strength and solidarity in numerous ways. We can make a difference when it matters most. A woman's perspective adds value, solutions and diversity to meetings and conferences. This additional dimension has often been overlooked, or snuffed out, by leaders and officers at some locals. Many women in this division have felt intimidated or inadequate because of the perception of others within their locals. Women have been dealing with this kind of subtle discrimination throughout their lives. Our gift, or contribution, is our ability to empathize with those who have had to fight for respect, the underdog, the one who is usually ignored by those in charge. I love a challenge, but I wasn't always that way. The WWC helped me to emerge from my own self imposed obscurity.

During a Civil and Human Rights Meeting several years ago, Liz Campbell and I were asked by Director Little to spearhead and brainstorm the idea of developing a Working Women's Committee within the division. We gladly agreed to help out. Jim's idea was a committee that would be more personable by working and communicating together with achievable goals in mind. This would hopefully attract more women to become involved and help our union in various ways critical for our success. We brainstormed for weeks and presented a plan, receiving full support from the TWU-ATD Director and the divisions officers.

Our first meeting consisted of 12 charter members and I was elected as the first WWC Chairwoman along with Portia Reddick-White as the Co-Chair. Debra Brandt, from Local 580, was elected as the Secretary, but Sharon Polk from Local 502 had to fill in for Debra's remaining term due to

"If you ask what I came to do in this world; I am here to live out loud!" E. Zola

adjustments at her Local. It has been an amazing adventure during these last four years. We have enjoyed many experiences together; educational seminars, political awareness, laughs and tears, mentors and informative speakers opened our eyes to the challenges women continue to face. With the support of the TWU International, the ATD and most of the Local Presidents, more of our members are participating and having success in the causes they confront. With their encouraging support, they allowed us to be creative and develop a successful Working Women's Committee.

I have always enjoyed being active in my Local, from shop steward to activist, and eventually elected to an E-Board position at Local 514. I have considered it an honor to serve others as an involved member. On a personal level, the ATD-WWC provided me a network of union

women that I have gained knowledge, principles and energy from. I have always been one to let others know how I feel. At times, I am often outspoken, and always make my voice heard. The question is; did I use it wisely? The answer - not always. I have had many mentors, thank you all; you have shown me patience, kindness, understanding and love. These Sisters and Brothers have helped me carve out a new chapter in my life. I am a proud mother of five wonderful sons. That, in itself, gives me the passion to continue the fight for unions and workers' rights. My love for them is boundless, as is my love for my family, grandchildren and my union. As President Michael Quill once said, "To be a member of a union is more than paying dues, it is investing part of yourself."

The ATD-WWC provided that path, pushing me to discover what I was truly made of and how to move forward. The support from this committee is something that I cannot put into words.

I embrace a special place in my heart for this group, a very humble feeling to be elected by your peers, having their trust and faith in you as a leader. Accountability has provided a learning platform for us all. We have developed lifelong friendships that we will cherish. As we rotate into different roles within our Locals or the International, I hope others will step up and press forward with our continuing fight for equality, recognition and workers' rights. I have, no doubt, that being a member of the ATD-WWC played a significant role in preparing me for my new position as an International Organizer. I could not have imagined myself doing this kind of work 5 years ago. My goal is to share the knowledge I have learned so that others may join the fight and help us in making a difference. The ATD-WWC represents solidarity in action; union women rock!

Volunteering is the key; please get involved. Thank you all for being there to show me the way. You have made my work and home life much better than it ever would have been without a union.

**Maintenance Skills Competition
A Big Draw in Big -D**

The aviation Maintenance Skills Competition that was held in Dallas, Texas March 10-12 had originally planned for six different tests that would challenge aspiring aircraft mechanics and current Aviation Maintenance Technicians. News of the MSC spread quickly among Aviation Maintenance Schools and AMT's currently working in the airline industry. Because of the increased interest, additional tests were added, making the skills competition even more comprehensive. The AMT Society sponsored the event during the Aviation Expo in downtown Dallas.

The MSC tests included:

- Electrical and avionics troubleshooting
- Piston engine troubleshooting
- Composite repairs
- Auxiliary Power Unit (APU) assembly, inspection and fiberscope
- Removal and installation of Gulfstream IV wheel and brake assembly
- Written test on Charles E. Taylor
- Safety wiring
- Hardware identification
- Windshield inspection and repair

AMT's represented by the Transport Workers Union at American Airlines and American Eagle placed third and fourth respectively. The team from Continental Airlines took first place. Plaques and Snap-On tools were awarded to the winners. Next year's

MSC will take place in Las Vegas, Nevada, during the Aviation Industry Expo, March 10-12, 2009.



Local 562 AMT's place third at MSC

From left: Phil Firmano, James LaBrecque, Phil Hoczela, Robinson Torres and AMT Society Director, Ken MacTiernan.

Not present, Coach Dave Hayden



David Quiroga inspects a magneto prior to installation



Jose Galarza, American Eagle Assistant Coordinator helped organize "Team Eagle" for the MSC contest in Dallas



From left; David Quiroga, Local 576 DFW; Shad Bell Local 572 CMH; Hirmiz Mikhael Local 574 MQT; Carlos Rivera Local 573 SJU



Left to right; Team Captain-Hirmiz Mikhael; Carlos Rivera; Shad Bell



Carlos Rivera identifies the proper aircraft hardware needed for repairs



Maintenance Skills Participants

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