

## Question from a Member

Why does the union hall still display the old black and white pictures of our Union on strike with AA (in the 50's I presume) portraying men holding billy clubs in protest. What message are we trying to send to our members in today's time? Is the Union glorifying this mentality? I understand the mentality back then and disagree with those tactics then and now. Any honest protest should be done without the threat of violence and intimidation by any side, but rather use, to the point truthful and intelligible statements that reflect the situation as it stands. I say take down the old way of thinking (the old pictures) and bring in examples of peaceful and successful demonstrations. There are many examples in history that portray peaceful protests. Let's use one of them for a change. Please explain why I am wrong in this thinking.

Respectfully;

Mark Harrison, 1B Crew Chief

The history of labor is important, whether it is good or bad, because we learn from past victories and defeats. TWU officers and stewards prepare for arbitration by reading past decisions. Many times we settle grievances locally because we point out the company's past practice.

The man in picture to which you are referring is Jim Hale. I called and ask him about the event that is portrayed in the picture. The year was 1968 and TWU was on strike at American Airlines. The members had to build fires in 50

gallon barrels because it was cold and miserable. There were rumors of scabs that might cross the picket line. Jim said: "I was a young man and the bat was meant to intimidate. But, actually it did duty as a cane because my ankles were sore from walking picket for two weeks. Although we lost the pay we would have collected for those two weeks, we gained enough improvements in the contract that it did pay off in the end to go on strike." Jim was always involved with the TWU from volunteering help in any way, to becoming the Local's Treasurer and served in that office until he retired.

Labor has evolved in many different ways. Today the union settles most problems with grievances, arbitration or contract negotiations. However, there was a day when the only way a union could make positive change was to strike for a contract or hold a "wildcat strike" when someone had been treated unjustly. Sometimes companies would hire people to break up a picket line and you would lose if you did not fight back.

You will find members today who think we should have "wildcat strikes" again and other members that are glad it is past us. However, we should never forget those people before us who fought for change even in the face of violence, because they cleared the way for Labor to enjoy the peaceful and successful demonstrations we have today.

Rick Mullings

TWU Organizer

## Long Term Disability

Did you know that the TWU Long Term Disability policy rates are almost cut in half at age 50 with 15 credited years of service? In fact, there have been around 98 TWU Local 514 members who were over charged on their LTD premiums from July 2008 through July 2009 due to a payroll error. So, if you turned 50 and had 15 years of credited service or were over 50 and attained 15 years of credited service during this period you may have a refund coming to you. Check your pay stubs during that time and if you believe you have been over charged contact Mary Gorremans.

The LTD premium for those under 50 and those who have less than 15 credited years of service is around two hours pay a month or one hour pay every paycheck and is reduced to about one hours pay a month at age 50 with 15 credited years of service. The benefit pays 50% of your gross wages up to 24 months if you are disabled from your job and will continue after 24 months if you become disabled from any job. The LTD policy also has a supplemental pension for retirement while you are collecting the benefits.

# Recalls and Reassignments

Currently American Airlines is in the process of reassigning/recalling 40 AMT's and up to 52 AMT/OSM's which will cause Aircraft Cleaner upgrades and Building Cleaner new hires. *Note: Numbers always subject to change!*

Notifications went out Wednesday September, 29<sup>th</sup> to a number of members who have recall rights which are currently at other stations. Application and Interviews are being accepted to build a pool of Building Cleaners. Interested applicants can apply online at [www.aacareers.com](http://www.aacareers.com). Recalls and reassignments will be done in stages so it will not devastate any one classification.

*Join us in welcoming* the new 514 members who have moved here due to the recent Reduction in Force. We have 4 new Title V Stock Clerks, 22 new Title II Facility Maintenance Mechanics and 6 new Title I AMT's (1 Welder and 5 Machinist).

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## Veterans Committee Report

By Duane Wittman

Thank you TWU Local 514 for passing the motion sponsoring the Vietnam Veterans Luncheon at the Veteran Hospital in Claremore, OK on OCT 9.

On Oct 23 there is a Veterans Stand-down located at the American Legion Post 36 in Sapulpa, OK

The purpose of the Stand-down is to prepare homeless veterans for winter; they receive haircuts, clothing backpack and sleeping bags along with medications and personal items needed. Donations are being accepted for this event from NOW until Oct 15. Specific items in need are NEW underwear and socks, gently used clothing like jeans and shirts. Other items are boots, blankets, coats, sleeping bags or any other cold weather items you can give. You can drop these items off at the Grievance Office above Landing Gear Shop or at the Local Union Hall.

Hospital Veterans will be handing out candy for Halloween at the Claremore Veterans Center Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Bring your kids for Trick or Treat. All volunteers are welcome and needed.

Lastly, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> is the Veterans Day Parade and we would like a good turnout of TWU volunteers to participate in the parade. Watch for more information on Veterans Committee and there functions in future Informers.

### How The Health Are You?



## Health & Benefits Fair



Administration Building East Entrance

Wednesday, October 6, 2010

7:00 am to 4:00 pm

