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November 8, 2010

President's Report

Since I took office in August it has been a busy three months. We have voted on a Tentative Agreement where M&R and Stores failed 2 to 1 and Tech Specialists ratified their agreement. I have attended Negotiations meetings for M&R, Stores, and Fleet Service and believe that changes for the better in organization and strategy have been made and communication improvements are being made as well. In fact, we (negotiating committee) have requested to NMB to set up our next round of meetings with the company to move forward with the process of obtaining a contract for our members.

Currently we are in the middle of recalls and there have already been over 100 AMT reassignments and OSM recalls since I have taken office. As a reminder keep your transfers and upgrades current. We are working to improve our own communications to better inform the membership.

1,900 plus grievances are also a priority of the new Executive Board and mine. We have scheduled dates (Nov. 8th & 9th) to arbitrate the 29D's of Landing Gear, CFM Outsourcing and the Stores AOS grievances. We also have moved forward with the stores Retro grievances by way of submitting them to the Cross Utilization Panel.

Furthermore, we have made changes within the local and have assigned some

new standing committee chairs, such as Dave Corbit over Recalls, Bear Messick over Seniority Protest, Joe McGill over R.O. and Political Action, Chris Gibson over Community Service and more. We are still looking for Member volunteers to sign up on committees and get involved with the Local.

I would like to mention that some changes are currently taking place in the Safety Committee to better communicate and handle our issues through all shifts and areas. John Carlisle and I met with the company and brought forward over 250 safety issues including heavy metals such as hexovelant chromium, beryllium, and others. We, as a union, have to be our brother's keeper and do all we can to look out for one another and that is key to safety and unity.

I have been inundated with complaints from members because the company has unilaterally made decisions to change the 4/10 shifts back to 5/8 coverage without input from the union. I firmly believe this is wrong. Changing the 4/10 shift is not a contractual violation but it is definitely a violation of the supposed "Working Together Process."

The union's agreement to work together with the company was made because of our desire to protect our member's careers. For many years the union watched as this company wasted billions of dollars through bad management decisions that could have been avoided if the workers had a voice about how our work is accomplished. When we identify a problem, it's all about communication; that is the basics of working together. It's NOT some complicated thing.

We more than proved our members ability to compete in the airline labor market with the Pulse Line and Winglet projects. Many other projects were in sourced or kept in-house because of our members input.

Lately the company has stepped away from the process and they are making decisions without the union. The Working Together Process has changed to something that is unrecognizable to our members. It must change. The only process we can live with is one that is good for all TWU members and protects their careers.

I have met with the new VP of Base Maintenance Bill Collins and informed him of the unilateral decisions their managers made on the 4/10 issue and he agreed that these decisions shouldn't be made without the unions input. Next week he is going to review the data his managers used to make this decision and they will then meet with the union, ALT and JLT to review the decision.

President Little Nominated to FAA Advisory Council

Oct 13 2010

TWU International President James C. Little has been appointed by U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood to the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Management Advisory Council (MAC) to help advise the FAA on management and policy issues related to the airline industry.

President Little will bring his experience in the airline industry and the perspective of workers to the MAC, which provides FAA Administration with expert opinion on the areas of policy, spending and regulation. The MAC will focus on the important issues of improving safety, developing the Next Generation Transportation System and addressing workforce issues. For his three-year term, President Little will be in an important position to assist in moving the FAA forward during a period of challenges and changes in the airline industry. His position will ensure that workers have a voice at the table and that the TWU has a role in shaping the future of key issues that affect TWU members and the traveling public, such as continuous improvement in safety and a new air traffic management system.

LABOR HISTORY THIS MONTH

Important Dates in Labor History

Nov. 15, 1881

The labor organization later known as the American Federation of Labor is founded at Turner Hall in Pittsburgh. Cigar-maker Samuel Gompers would become its president in 1886.

Nov. 11, 1887

Four labor organizers hanged for alleged conspiracy in riot and bombing in Chicago's Haymarket Square.

Nov. 23, 1887

The Thibodaux Massacre. The Louisiana Militia, aided by bands of "prominent citizens," shot at least 35 unarmed black sugar workers striking to gain a dollar-per-day wage, and lynched two strike leaders.

Nov. 14, 1903

The Women's Trade Union League is founded.

Nov. 23, 1903

Over 1,000 troops sent in to Cripple Creek, Colorado after miners went out on strike for \$3 daily minimum and 8-hour day. Rough Rider General Sherman Bell declared martial law. Newspapers later revealed he was also being paid by the mine owners. After 15 months of violence, the mine owners conceded the 8-hour day and \$3 daily minimum.

Nov. 22, 1909

The "Uprising of the 20,000." Female garment workers

went on strike in New York; many were arrested. A judge told those arrested: "You are on strike against God."

Nov. 1, 1918

Malbone tunnel disaster in Brooklyn. Scab motorman crashes subway train during strike killing 97 people, injuring over 200. Forces subway company into bankruptcy.

Nov. 30, 1930

Mother Jones, the Miner's Angel, dies at age 100. Founder of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), she led a children's march against child labor and was known as "the most dangerous woman in America."

Nov. 9, 1935

Eleven unions meet at Mine Workers headquarters with John L. Lewis to form the Committee for Industrial Organizations with the American Federation of Labor. They would soon break with the AFL and begin to organize workers along industrial lines.

Nov. 7, 1959

The Taft-Hartley Act is invoked by the Supreme Court to break a steel strike.

Nov. 13, 1974

Karen Silkwood, an activist with the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union is killed in a mysterious car crash during an investigation of an Oklahoma nuclear plant.

Civil and Human Rights

The Human/Civil Rights Committee are sponsoring children who come into the emergency services with DVIS (Domestic Violence Intervention Services). They come into the system too late for help from the Angel Tree.

As domestic violence increase during the holidays, we would like to help them with gifts on Christmas morning. We are raising money in hopes of helping all of them. Last year we helped 19 kids and the NEOLC helped 7 others.

We will be at the November and December Joint Shop Stewart/Membership meetings. We will also be on the floor. We appreciate all that you have to give.

- Teresa Ellis Day shift CRC, APU
- Alicia Oates Shop 2713, Day Shift Hanger 5 & 6, CAM 918-935-7671
- Teresa McMillen Shop 2218, Day Shift Hanger 3 & 4 918-361-8384
- Travis Turner Day shift Palm Building
- Tracy Hardin Shop 2791, Day Shift Crew Chief Structures Shop Hanger 1 & 2, Warehouse 292-2943, 918 409-5962
- Elaine Gibson 2nd Shift Wheel and Break