



# The Newsletter of TWU Local 101 • SPRING EDITION

# BURNING BRIGHT

Transport Workers Union  
Utility Division

One Union. One Voice.

Transport Workers Union Local 101 AFL-CIO • 195 Montague Street, 3rd fl. Brooklyn, NY 11201 • TEL: 718-745-7597 • Spring 2015 • www.twuocal101.org

## Local 101 Increases Focus on Education in 2015



First of all, I want to thank each and every member for a job well done during those tough winter months. We owe our successes to your tireless efforts and your commitment to showing up every day and doing your best. You have risen to every challenge that came up, from the buildup of snow on our property to the proliferation of leaks. When Brooklyn and Queens residents needed your help to stay warm in record low temperatures, you were there for them without fail.

The past few months have brought some good times along with the challenges. We have especially enjoyed introducing the rewards program, which has already provided some exciting benefits that we have been able to enjoy together. One of the most memorable was the drawing for tickets to the Nets vs. 76ers game at Barclays Center on January 9, which we followed with a free throw contest on the court with Local 100. Our players represented us well and beat the Local 100 team by one point. The \$1,000 they won for their Local from our rewards program is paying for free access to the services of Tutor.com for anyone in our members' immediate families who is in school, from kindergarten through the second year of college.

This decision was part of our ongoing ef-

fort to help our members and their families prepare for the future. Our job is to hold the company accountable for its role in your lives, but our ultimate goal is the well-being of our union family, both now and in the future. In today's world, where information is an increasingly valuable commodity, we must recognize that education is a vital resource for all of us and, most importantly, our children. For this reason, while we may devote most of our day-



Theresa Gavaglia and daughter Jessica, a student in our SAT Prep class

to-day educational efforts to professional issues like pension benefits and grievance procedures, we are constantly searching for ways to give you and your families access to a wider range of educational resources. So far the most no-

table results of this policy have been the free Tutor.com memberships and the huge tuition discount on a Princeton Review SAT prep class from our rewards program. Currently, one of our most important informational projects is the contract books, which we expect to be able to distribute before the end of this year. We seek to provide these resources because we have already seen what this union can achieve when our members support each other and their union leadership. Having overcome so many challenges with your help, we are proud to lend our support in turn as you and your families pursue your own goals.

In closing, I want to thank all of you for continuing to support your union. By showing up every day and demonstrating pride in your work, you bring honor and strength to all of us. I wish you and your families a safe, happy and relaxing summer and encourage you to keep up with union news as we distribute it through our website and email campaigns. I hope to see all of you at Family Day on August 29.

—President Michael Conigliaro

# At Home or in Congress, Your Union Is There for You

Our union is so much more than negotiating contracts, solving grievances, arbitrations and battling with management. Behind the scenes, we are extensively involved with politics. I am part of a TWU political group that meets monthly to discuss how we can obtain politicians' help in resolving issues that affect either our Local or the other locals within the International. This prestigious group is made up of railroad, airlines, transit, universities and, of course, us. We all brainstorm to help our brother and sister unions combat complex situations within their union. Even though we represent different factions of TWU, we all have the same problems, and we all share our solutions and political clout to our advantage.

This New York State/New Jersey State Conference is currently working

to address an urgent problem. We are doing an "all-out" campaign to Washington legislators to pass a bill extending the MAP-21 act, which authorizes federal funding for transit infrastructure. If we don't act soon, thousands of hardworking transit workers could lose their jobs because funding to make improvements to our nation's roads, bridges and public transit systems will run dry by July 2015. A well-funded reauthorization bill would provide job security for public transit workers and put millions of people to work in good jobs while also improving traffic congestion. Local 101 is participating in an aggressive writing, phone, legislator visits urging them to support MAP-21. This campaign is going on

within TWU unions throughout the United States because we are stronger when we work together.

Another side to Local 101 that we are proud of is the "human side" of this union. As many of you already know, your lives and our lives are intertwined in so many respects.

We are here for you and your family. We attend wakes, funerals and fundraisers; visit you in the hospital, send you a "get well" or sympathy basket, etc. ... We lend an open ear to your personal problems. We try to steer you in the right direction. We are here for you 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Even if it has nothing to do with your job, we will always lend a hand or an ear to help you. You are not just our union members. You are our family.

—Vice President Josephine Arroyo



## Local 101's New Treasurer Explains Long-Standing Loyalty to Union Family

This year has brought me new responsibilities along with my new position as your Secretary-Treasurer. As I take on a larger role in advocating for you with the company and supervising our financial transactions, my work for this Union consumes much more time than it did before. This change has been challenging, but it's a challenge I love. After almost 22 years working for National Grid, supporting my fellow Union members in both good times and bad has become second nature to me.

One responsibility I particularly value is welcoming new members to our Union. Part of that process consists of routine business like collecting contact cards and initiation fees, but every time I send a welcome letter or visit a class for new hires to introduce them to their delegates and encourage

participation in Union activities, I take pleasure and pride in seeing our family grow. It is an honor to tell new members, on behalf of the whole Union, that they can count on us to be there for them.

This message represents the central purpose of our Union, which we all work constantly to fulfill. We can confidently promise to do our best to help our fellow members because our instincts will not let us do otherwise. The strength of our Union is the trust we earn from each other by looking out for each other's well-being as we do for our own. Every time you show commitment and loyalty to the Union, whether by coming to a section meeting, by helping to organize an event or by giving vacation days to a member in need, you renew our commitment to supporting you through whatever

comes your way. If you need to talk, you can come to me and trust that your problems will remain confidential. If you ask a question I don't know the answer to, I'll ask someone who knows and get back to you. But most importantly, I will always value the work you do for your family, your company and your Union.

—Secretary-Treasurer Constance Bradley



# Working Women's Committee Organizes Events to Promote Solidarity

LOCAL 101'S WORKING WOMEN'S COMMITTEE HAS HAD A BUSY FEW MONTHS.

The new Committee, chaired by Rea Plummer, met for the first time this year on Saturday, January 31. The meeting established customs that the Committee has followed ever since, such as welcoming children at meetings and inviting attendees to voice their work- or union-related concerns. The following two meetings featured informational presentations on financial planning and National Grid's Employee Assistance Program.

The highlight of the Committee's year so far was the Outstanding Women's Banquet, held at the Union Hall on Saturday, May 16. At the banquet, Ira Carrington-Caddle, Nicole Castle and Coretta Jones, chosen in a vote open to all Local 101 women, were presented with the Committee's Outstanding Woman Award for their dedication to their jobs, families and communities. Food was served by Local 101 volunteers Dennis Brown, Timothy Williams, Vaughn Becote, Claude Ross and Eric King. LaTonya Crisp-Sauray, Recording Secretary of Local 100, gave a speech encouraging all the women in the audience to "know their worth."





# Two Survivors of Pearl Harbor Attack Address

The TWU Local 101 Veterans' Committee met for the second time this year on Monday, April 13, with two special guests in attendance: Rev. James Blakely, 95, and Clark Simmons, 93, both U.S. Navy veterans and survivors of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. At the Committee's invitation, they had come to speak to an audience of Local 101 members about their lives, their experiences in the military and their memories of the infamous attack on December 7, 1941.

Rev. Blakely began by describing his childhood in segregated Arkansas, where he joined the Navy to escape the threat of lynching after stepping on a white man's foot. He was serving as an officers' cook on the U.S.S. St. Louis when the Japanese bombs began to fall. One of them hit the St. Louis but did not explode. After Pearl Harbor, Rev. Blakely saw combat at a number of other important battles in World War II's Pacific theater.

Mr. Simmons followed Mr. Blakely's account with a vivid description of the day. He was an officers' steward on the U.S.S. Utah, which was being used for gunnery training. The Utah was hit by two torpedoes early in the attack and sank within eight minutes, while most of her crew survived by swimming for shore.

Over the years, Mr. Simmons's experiences helped him come to the conclusion that humans' invention of efficient machinery for killing each other proves the moral and intellectual weakness of the human species. Nevertheless, both of the guest speakers inspired admiration and hope in the audience by focusing on the good fortune that had enabled them to survive the attack and live on into the present.



# the Local 101 Veterans' Committee



Left:  
International  
Representative  
Jose Galarza



Right: International  
Vet. Committee  
Chairman  
Pete Meyer



Chairperson Minerva Rivera and Co-Chair Eric King with James Blakely and Clark Simmons



Co-Chair Eric King and Timmy Williams of TWU Local 101 with James Blakely and Clark Simmons





# TWU Local 101 Vs. TWU Local 100 in a head-to-head free throw shoot- out at Barclays Center

Local 101 members gathered at Barclays Center on the evening of January 9 to watch the Brooklyn Nets play the Philadelphia 76ers. The game tickets were provided by the Local as part of our new rewards program. Brooklyn led until the last quarter, when Philadelphia pulled ahead. The crowd, including the Local 101 group, stood and cheered on the home team for the last two minutes of the game, but the Nets never quite managed to take back the lead and ended up losing by just two points.

After the other spectators left, Locals 100 and 101 took over the court for a free throw competition. The two teams, of ten members each, lined up amid friendly trash talk to take turns shooting. Local 101 won with 17 points to Local 100's 16. As a prize, Local 101 received \$1,000 from the rewards program to provide services from [www.Tutor.com](http://www.Tutor.com) to members and their children from kindergarten through the second year of college.



**TWU Local 100 and 101 members gather for a group shot**





**Local 100 MOW VP Tony Utano, Community Ambassador John Borrelli of Modell's and President Michael Conigliaro**



**Sec'y-Treasurer Constance Bradley and Dennis McEachern**



# SHOP STEWARDS AND DELEGATES BRUSH UP ON THEIR UNION RIGHTS

Both new and seasoned Local 101 Union shop stewards and delegates were trained to be legal and ethical representatives for their union brothers and sisters. The goal of the workshop was to provide members with their history of unions, purpose and union rights. TWU International instructor Robert Wechsler guided our members through multiple possible scenarios of disputes between union members and management so they could learn the proper procedures and protocols within their union rights.





# Your new TWU Local 101 Legal Services Benefit Plan is having your lawyer on retainer 24/7.

## What's in it for me at no cost?

Simply by being a member of TWU Local 101 you and your dependents are enrolled in the **Standard Plan**. The **Standard Plan** gives you free phone consultations, two free in-person consultations per year, reduced hourly rates, and low set fees on a number of services—divorces, closings, wills, and more.

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Enroll in the **Gold Plan** and get much more. Free separation agreement. Free uncontested divorce excluding court fees. Free Traffic Court representation. Free misdemeanor representation. Free will. And even lower-cost hourly rates. (Home serve is already paying for this.)

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## Business Protection Plan

Form a business, create a partnership, set up contracts, accounts, etc.

## What if I have an accident?

**Your lawyer is on call 24/7.** Get answers immediately. And pay a reduced fee if you need to sue.

## What if I'm hurt on the job?

**Your lawyer is on call 24/7.** Not only helping with filing the right claim and keeping your income flowing, but with issues involving return to work.

## What if my child is arrested or I'm charged with DWI?

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JOIN TWU LOCAL 101 FOR THE UNION'S

# Family Day Picnic!!!

August 29<sup>th</sup> at Floyd Bennett Field!

3<sup>rd</sup>  
Annual

**FREE POPCORN & COTTON CANDY!  
FREE SPORTS FIELDS & COURTS!  
FREE CARNIVAL GAMES!**

**FREE BBQ!  
FREE FACE PAINTING!  
FREE WATER SLIDE!  
FREE PARKING!**

**MEMBERS: CHECK YOUR  
HOME MAILBOX! PLEASE  
FILL AND MAIL IT BACK  
TO THE UNION HALL!**

**Show Your Local 101 Union Pride**

Visit [www.twulocal101.org/family](http://www.twulocal101.org/family) for more info





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TWU Local 101  
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## INTRODUCING LOCAL 101 REWARDS ENJOY! SAVE! WIN!

Exclusively for TWU Local 101 members and families. TWU Local 101 is excited to announce the launch of Local 101 Rewards, a brilliant new service for Local 101 members and their families. Enjoy awesome benefits, savings, and prizes from trusted partners who will go the extra mile for our members. Whether it's tickets to a game or special deal on a new car, look to Local 101 Rewards for something special every day.

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