

## TWU Joins in Call to Protect Transit Operators from Assault

Published 07 Apr, 2016

In a letter to Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx today, TWU joined other unions in the AFL-CIO's Transportation Trades Department in urging the secretary to issue a rule to protect bus drivers and other transit operators from physical assault.

The letter, signed by International President Harry Lombardo and seven other union leaders, points out the gravity of the situation and the growing threat to transit operators regardless of where they work: cities, suburbs or even rural communities.

"These incidents not only pose severe physical and emotional problems for the members we represent but jeopardizes the safety of public transportation more broadly," wrote the union leaders. "When operators are assaulted, passengers can be put at risk when violence spreads into a vehicle."

The unions are pursuing legislative action as well. One section of the FAST Act—passed in December with extraordinary help from TWU members—requires the Federal Transit Administration to issue a rulemaking on transit operator assaults. The signatory unions call on Secretary Foxx to finalize a rule by the end of 2016.

TWU is committed to protecting our members on the job—and the passengers whose safety they are entrusted with—and will continue to push for congressional action on this issue. informed.

Transport Workers Union Local 260  
2150 W. 18<sup>th</sup>. Street, Suite 104  
Houston, TX 77008  
Office: 713-864-4346  
Fax: 713-869-5655

## President's Corner



Greetings Everyone,  
Our new "Labor Agreement" has finally arrived! Did you know our benefits are better than managements? Just ask your brothers and sisters who took on management roles.

As your President I am working hard to improve our working conditions and things are getting better. We are getting more straight runs, making progress on the way controllers and dispatch communicate with us and just recently the Temporally Income Benefit Policy (TIB). This policy establishes salary continuation for the first seven days of a compensable injury from a work related assault.

I want to invite all members to attend our Union meetings. The only way we can know what is going on throughout the system is through active Union Brothers and Sisters.

Your President,

*Horace J. Marves*

May 2016 – Edition

# Local 260 EXPRESS



## In This Issue

Pg. 1 – 2  
Building A Stronger Union

Pg. 3  
Dollars & Sense

Pg. 4  
President's Corner  
Operator Assaults

### Contributors

JCruz Torres  
Horace Marves  
Robert Garrett

Newsletter Editors  
JCruz Torres - Editor  
R. Garrett - Co-Editor  
A. Sylvester – Co-Editor

Transport Workers  
Union Local 260  
2150 W. 18<sup>th</sup>. Street,  
Suite 104  
Houston TX 77008

Phone: 713-864-4346  
Fax: 713-869-5655

If you have an idea for an article, please call the Union Office and share it!  
713-864-4346



## Building A Stronger Union Politically

Voting is among our most important civic responsibilities. American democracy depends on it. Free and Open election are a must and we need our members to be a part of the electoral process. We are advocates for the middle class and it is our duty to help elect Union Friendly politicians who will support important issues that will affect our daily lives. The people elected to Congress and the White House affect our work life in many ways; workplace safety, privatization and transportation funding are just a few.



TWU International President  
Harry Lombardo

The International will conduct a national voter registration drive and steps are being taken for it to be successful. In Texas one must be authorized as a volunteer deputy registrar to participate in the registering drive. TWU'S International President Harry Lombardo has set a goal for us, he has asked that **80%** of TWU members be registered. There are 13,910 TWU members in the State of Texas and 3,690 of those members are not registered to Vote. We need to register 908 members and reach the **80%**. TWU Local 260 has 343 members not registered. It is going to be a challenge but it is not impossible. TWU's Government Affairs Department has provided us a packet with legal information, deadlines, flyers and a list of our members who are not registered to vote. Yes, we know who you are.

## Building A Stronger Union Politically

I have been given this task but I cannot do it alone. We are looking for members to become volunteer Deputy Registrars and help reach our goal. We need people who can make valuable contributions to team objectives and who will display a positive vision on what we are aiming to accomplish. The deadline to have members registered and be able participate in the General Election is October 10, 2016.

So if anyone is interested in helping our Union move forward in becoming as strong as we are to be, please contact me. J. Cruz Torres Maintenance Grievance Representative.  
I will provide anyone ready to help all necessary information.

Local 260 President Horace Marves has appointed me to represent our Union in the Texas/Oklahoma State Conference. The Conference will meet periodically and being part of this group will allow me great resources. I have committed myself to do the best job possible but like I have mentioned before I do need your help.

J. Cruz Torres  
Maintenance Grievance Representative  
(713) 854-6055

### Local 260 Union Meetings

Come, be informed and be heard on

June 25<sup>th</sup>

July 23<sup>rd</sup>

September 24<sup>th</sup>

October 22<sup>nd</sup>

November 26<sup>th</sup>

at 12:00pm on each date at the  
Local 260 Union Hall & Education Center

## Dollars & Sense



By Robert E. Garrett, Secretary-Treasurer

Kudos, to all bus and rail bargaining unit employees for performing admirably during the recent April 15, 2016 flooding. Once again, you displayed a “servant’s heart”, during this cataclysmic event.



As Tier I employees, we are deemed “essential personnel”, during disasters and other declared state of emergencies. That’s why the Local will not relent in clamoring for deferred vacation, which can be used as a safety net, in the same manner that management applies its “vacation days”, “well days” and “employee days”. (It’s time to put proof to action in classifying us “essential personnel”.)

On another front, the Local is receiving the brunt of criticism for the disproportional ratio of straight runs to split runs...of which management is solely responsible. (Refer to Section 104 of the Labor Agreement) The Officers of Local 260 have incessantly, been advising management of this issue that affects our quality of life, and serves as one of the reasons for its constant turnover rate.

To date, our efforts, have placed the issue on management’s “radar screen”, however, the issue is in a current state of “*paralysis by analysis*”. (Interpretation: They are studying how much of a strain on their budget it would cost to make our lives better?)

Lastly, I would urge all unaffiliated rank and file employees to join us in the constant and consistent fight for equality, better working conditions, and better wages, by partnering with dues paying members, who make it possible for us (as bargaining unit employees) to have a voice, in determining, not only the conditions, of our employment, but also in our future; and as we constantly continue to excel at what we do every day, as “essential personnel” may our efforts translate into dollars and sense.