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Air Transport Local 501

TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

Affiliated with the AFL-CIO

JFK – LGA – SJU – PHL – EWR – BDL

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EXEC. BOARD MEMBERS

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August 1, 2022

Brothers & Sisters,

On behalf of our TWU Local 501 Executive Board, we would like to provide this membership update. As the month of July has quickly come and gone already, we hope our members can find opportunities to enjoy the rest of the summer in your free time and make it through the remaining summer heat safely on the job.

During the last weeks of July during our field visits at JFK & LGA, work schedules, headcount issues, volume of chute bags and Title 2 work changes at JFK that we are forced to deal with continues to be a challenge. Regional work, LGA bag-room issues and training are also hot topics that require our Executive Boards complete attention.

At LGA, discussions with upper management on the lack of training for new hires determined that management has funneled our new members into the workforce without providing all of the required training necessary for them to perform all of the responsibilities of a Fleet agent. Considering the tremendous influx of new hires that have entered the workforce, when a substantial amount is not completely trained it creates safety concerns and a burden to the remaining workforce.

At LGA & JFK with so many new hires on the job, our Executive Board believes it is necessary and will be extremely beneficial to establish special membership meetings specifically for them at LGA & JFK. Gathering their experiences and opinions at this time and providing them with a strong Union dialog we believe can improve our working conditions, save jobs and lives.

As we move forward trying to navigate as an Association with more than two years under new JCBA's, the most recent topic that has popped up was discussed on a President's conference call on July 29, 2022 involving the intent an understanding of shift swaps and overtime compensation under Articles 18 (U)(V).

While our SJU leadership was the first to bring the issue to our attention, the issue quickly caught fire throughout the system. Our International is directly involved with Labor with the goal being to resolve the issue respectfully with a possible agreement. As this matter unfolds, we will keep our members informed and updated.

There are numerous and continuous daily challenges on the job, our members should not forget that there are some serious topics in our lives that cannot be ignored or forgotten. Covid-19 is in our lives and we should remain cognizant of it and remain vigilant against it. Now, we are facing a Monkey POX epidemic with NYC being the Epic center for it and our members in the NYC area should know that NYS has declared it a state of emergency. NYC has been a hot bed for violence, but these dangerous viruses that are lingering in our lives should be front and center as your daily concerns and not placed in the back of our minds.

Our Executive Board also is aware of all the social media reports and chats about American Airlines and bankruptcy. While American Airlines numbers are much different than other Airlines when it comes to its finances and debt, in the times we are living in all airlines are no further away from bankruptcy than American.

Your Executive Board recognizes that every day on the job may not be perfect, but we encourage our members to be thankful for all that is good in our lives. With our deepest sympathy we would like to inform our members of the sudden accidental loss of our JFK Brother Gregory (SNAKE) Petriella who was involved in a fatal Harley crash over the weekend while on vacation. Our hearts go out to Greg and his family and let this be a reminder to all of us that no day is guaranteed.

The Association on November 23, 2021 RE: Article 24 - Sick Leave, filed a grievance under CBA's Article 33 (b) covering Fleet & M&R groups for American Airlines unilaterally imposing a draconian Attendance Control Policy. The Arbitration date is scheduled for September 20, 2022 and All Locals have been requested to provide any information that might assist in achieving a Victory in this case.

There is also an Arbitration date scheduled on December 1, 2022, for a Holiday Pay Grievance as the company refuses to pay out the Holiday to our members who are on FMLA, OJI and Military Leave.

An M&R Aircraft Moves grievance also has a scheduled Arbitration date for February 22, 2023.

Although we are in the dead middle of summer time, our Local would like to inform our members that the De-icing jobs at JFK & LGA will continue to be our responsibility during the upcoming winter months. Our Executive Board is also setting up shop and preparing to assist our members for the upcoming Benefits enrollment period.

While this update does not come close to covering all the issues and information involving our Local and TWU organization, do not hesitate to reach out to any of our representatives for assistance or answers involving our Union. Also, stay in touch and informed by reading your Union Bulletin Boards, attending your membership meetings and visiting our website at Local501.twuatd.org.

In Solidarity,


Victor J. Gonzalez
President, TWU Local 501
International Executive Board