

TWU Local 501 President's Council Meeting Report/Atlanta Georgia- August 2023

This meeting was very informative, positive and seems to have TWU Leaders within the organization creating a clear bond and unity together which is definitely falling into the category of "United-Invincible".

The meeting was started with a Safety Briefing by Brother Sean Doyle.

Our IAC leadership was present with our Directors Andre Sutton (Airline Division) Willie Brown (Transit) and John Feltz (Rail) leading the way.

International President John Samuelsen took the liberty to speak and address and open the meeting with the Presidents.

President Samuelsen spoke on the value and importance on all Divisions gathering together.

John spoke of being at a NYC strike on 19th street and Broadway recently involving Actors who most make less than TWU Workers. (Ai) is attacking their industry.

Trade Unions need to hold the fort against (Ai).

John stated with concern that in the South anywhere from 5-10 years all jobs could be lost if you're not in a trade Union.

John reported that Airlines will see Robots (Ai) in the future with great concern of a possible displacement of our workers.

President's Samuelsen and his well-known feelings and displeasure towards bosses was clearly communicated.

The next order of business was a special presentation made by Alex Garcia & Curtis Tate.

On behalf of the IAC, TWU Local 501 was provided a 75th Anniversary Plaque in which I was honored and privileged to have the opportunity to accept on behalf of our Local and Members. It was a humbling and amazing experience to stand in the front and center of the many TWU Leaders with the IAC and receive a historical milestone recognition.

Over the course of the last few years, there have been many Locals that have also reached this incredible milestone. The IAC is fully committed to honor these Locals and have the TWU Directors of their respective divisions assigned to accomplish the goal.

Moving Forward:

Cope Presentation:

The importance of raising funds was discussed and why Labor is involved in politics.

Cope has a goal to protect and advocate for our members interests but in no way does COPE tell anyone how to vote.

Technology Change:

TWU strategies were discussed on how to deal with the New Automation ERA.

Opinion has it that New Automation will eliminate millions of jobs for vehicle drivers and retail workers.

(Ai) is connected to your i-phone which tracks and collects your data.

- GPS is (Ai)
- Spell check is (Ai)
- Germany already has a fully autonomous train
- UPS- Has 20 Pilotless Planes
- Electric Flying Taxi's is not a Jetson's joke anymore
- San Francisco already has an autonomous shuttle

We must prepare for the future:

We must bargain differently.

Tech initiative- Coordinating and supporting Locals.

How can we prevent contractual language that prohibits or slows down the (Ai) onslaught coming our way?

We are going to need Technology protections in our CBA's.

We shouldn't be surprised when employers provide free i-phones to employees for tracking purposes.

AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler

Liz leads 12.5 million workers.

Liz spoke on the Labor Movement & it's relevance.

Liz Shared data poll results such as:

- 71% of Americans support Unions
- 75% support Strikes
- 88% of young people support Unions

Liz Shuler believes Organizing is a priority and we should Organize at least (1) Million over the course of the next ten years.

Liz spoke on the importance of transformational Organizing.

Liz believes that Re-building American Infrastructure with Union jobs is of great importance & that Unions need to be at the beginning of the (Ai) TECH!

Brother Sutton next introduced Shurly Duff who provided a WWC Report:

Shurly informed us that the next WWC mtg will be in October in Tulsa at TWU Local 514.

Shurly stated that these meetings consist of listening to the woman and what they want.

Shuly stated the gameplan moving forward is going back to the basics and having the Chairs come up with agendas.

Developing woman and addressing workplace issues is a priority along with creating a mission statement.

The next WWC meeting will consist of Election rules and an Election.

Brother Sutton next introduced Jose Galarza who presented a Veterans Committee report:

Brother Galarza informed us that the International Veterans Committee was established 15 years ago on November 11, 2008.

The objective of the committee is to Unite.

There are 16 Locals involved in Veterans meetings, a 19% Local participation.

The next Veterans Committee Meeting will be held in FLL on September 14, 2023.

Jonna Huseman provided a TWU Communications Update:

Jonna spoke on the importance of the TWU Express, our media outlets and supporting Committees. Jonna also expressed how beneficial it is to circulate the Press Outreach/weekly clips.

Andre Sutton next introduced our Organizing Committee- Angelo Cucuzza & Sean Doyle

Sean Doyle thanked ALL leaders for their continued support to the cause.

Sean informed leaders that he has been involved in organizing since 1995.

Brother Cucuzza informed leaders that Organizing is a difficult job and he has incorporated the AFL-CIO to assist with organizing training.

Angelo spoke on Internal Organizing and the difficulty of 1st CBA's & Newly Elected Leaders.

One major topic discussed throughout our meetings was the importance of the fight at Metro North. We were informed that at Metro North, they have been working under a (4) year expired contract. The company wants language that says it can open up the CBA and change language whenever it wants.

The TWU is encouraging our brothers & Sisters to hold the line as there is clearly a possibility of a strike. The company is harassing & intimidating the workforce which is a violation of the RLA. Cucuzza commended Local 501 for sending some of our leaders to assist in the metro North Fight.

Director Willie Brown

Spoke on the importance of strike power.

Brother Brown was very passionate in his presentation and informed everyone in order to strike you have to prepare beforehand.

Willie informed everyone present that during the course of a strike that ALL benefits stop.

With a One Union – One Fight concept, Brother Brown encourages ALL TWU Locals to assist with donations such as funds or food during a TWU strike.

The International suggests Locals have a banking change with the Bank of Labor

This Bank of Labor is doing business in all 50 states and wants to do business with the TWU.

It's a Union founded and operated bank.

A presentation with a side-by-side analysis, transition stages and other information was provided.

Legislative Update presented by Zach

Government Affairs Department

The message delivered was that we need to maximize political power of the TWU, creating political power.

Zach reminded everyone of the retirement age going to age 67.

On the topic of JetBlue/Spirit, we were informed that a trial is set to start in October 2023 with a decision expected by December. This trial could destroy 300 plus TWU jobs in FLL.

Some other information shared was that Amazon is delivering packages by drones.

At this time there are Air Taxis & small deliveries by a/c with no dispatcher requirement.

Delta & United also own Air taxi manufacturers.

AA owns Vertical (AAM Company).

Recover Ways/EAP presentation by Director Ken Morse & Tony Lepore

A video format presentation was provided and can be viewed on our TWU Local 501 website.

Discussions on the importance of an active EAP program, substance abuse and confidentiality were held for a lengthy period of time along with a grief and loss topic.

Serving Responsibly Overview Document was thoroughly reviewed:

TWU Local Officer & Executive Board Member Duties and issues were the main topics:

- Governing Documents and Law was reviewed.
- Local Officers & Board Members have many responsibilities and obligations.
- Discussions on the TWU International Constitution, Local By-Laws, CBA's and the LMRDA were held at length.
- Local President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary and Financial Secretary Treasurer duties was discussed.
- The importance of Team Building and having a unified Local Executive Board was highlighted by being passionate, United, working collectively and by its morale.
- The LMRDA compliance was carefully reviewed and highly recommended that it be considered to be a very important duty and responsibility.
- Maintaining records, safeguarding funds and assets, Union bonding, and elections are just a few of the many topics reviewed.

The entire IAC addressed the large group of Union leaders:

- A few of the primary points made were by President Samuelsen who passionately stated we must never forget to take care of ourselves and our family.
- Vice President Alex Garcia pointed out that networking with each other was of great importance.
- Curtis Tate & Jerome Lafragola made it a point to thank ALL the Union leaders in the TWU organization for there hard work and sacrifices.

The Divisions then broke off into their own groups:

Air Division Director Andre Sutton held court with Air Division TWU Presidents and some Local Officers who had been invited to the council meetings. The primary topic was future Negotiations.

- We had a long dialog on how we plan to move forward with our next negotiations with American. I believe we had a very productive discussion and our initial opinions presented will have an impact that will expediate the final decisions made.

“ALWAYS BE A PROUD MEMBER OF THE TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION”

In Solidarity,

Victor J. Gonzalez

President, TWU Local 501

International Executive Council