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Air Transport Local 501

TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

Affiliated with the AFL-CIO

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March 19, 2026

TWU Local 501 – President's Update to the Membership

Brothers and Sisters,

As we rapidly move through the new year, your Executive Board wants to provide an important update on several issues that continue to shape our workplaces, our livelihoods, and the broader world around us.

Global Conflicts & National Instability

The world is facing serious geopolitical tensions, and we must be mindful of the potential consequences these conflicts could bring into our lives. A war involving Iran, for example, will have far-reaching effects on the global economy, national security, and the aviation industry.

Combined with the ongoing partial government shutdown and the complications it brings to airport operations, we must remain alert, informed, and prepared for disruptions that may impact our jobs and our families.

Adverse Conditions & Article 14(i)

Recently, we were forced to navigate another difficult situation with the company involving Adverse Conditions. Despite clear language in Article 14(i) of the JCBA, American Airlines once again chose to ignore its obligations and placed our members in unsafe situations.

After six years under this agreement, we should have a definitive and consistent understanding of how Article 14(i) is to be applied. Instead, the company continues to take the position that the article "never applies," or they complicate the process to the point where the protections intended for our members are effectively denied. This conduct is unacceptable, unethical, and dangerous.

Your Executive Board will continue to challenge these violations and defend the contractual rights that protect our safety and our jobs.

Failure to Comply with New York State Law

Another serious concern is the company's failure to comply with the New York State law that took effect on February 22, 2026, granting employees:

- 32 hours of unpaid protected time off, and
- Paid prenatal leave

Despite TWU Local 501 raising this issue with Labor at the very beginning of the year, the company continues to claim they are "evaluating the law" and will "circle back."

Meanwhile, our members are being denied benefits they are legally entitled to.

Any member who believes their rights have been violated may file a complaint at nyc.gov/workers and should also contact a Local 501 representative to file a grievance.

We will support every member who chooses to take action.

Unstable Management & Operational Chaos

The constant managerial turnover at our stations is creating an unstable and unproductive work environment. New managers—or managers with little to no operational or contractual experience—are being placed in charge of complex airport operations without the knowledge needed to run a safe, efficient, and functional workplace.

Their inability to manage canceled flights, sick calls, forced overtime, and irregular operations leaves our members dealing with chaos instead of leadership. This instability is unacceptable, and we will continue to hold the company accountable for the consequences of its decisions.

Moving Forward: Control the Controllables

In times like these, preparation and discipline matter.

Your Executive Board strongly encourages every member to control the controllable:

- Protect your employment
- Follow safety procedures
- Support one another
- Use your contractual rights
- Stay informed and stay united

If you need your job, this should be simple: work safe, work smart, and work together.

Despite the challenges, TWU Local 501 remains strong, focused, and committed to defending every member. Be kind to one another, stay vigilant, and always be a proud member of the

Transport Workers Union.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Victor J. Gonzalez", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Victor J. Gonzalez President, TWU Local 501

TWU International Vice President