

Update

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 2006 MEMBERSHIP
MEETING* - ALL TIMES ARE LOCAL

DAL

DATE/TIME: Mon., 04/10/06 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: Holiday Inn Select Love Fld.
3300 W. Mockingbird Lane
Dallas, TX
(214) 357-8500

OAK

DATE/TIME: Tues., 04/18/06 at 11:00 AM
LOCATION: Oakland Airport
Esther Love Conference Rm
(Take Elevator to 2nd Floor,
go through the handicap
door, turn left, room is
halfway down hall on right.)
(510) 563-6424

PHX

DATE/TIME: Wed., 04/19/06 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: PHX Sky Harbor Airport
Terminal 3 - Level 2
HMS Host Conference Rm.
(At end of hallway next to
Sbarro)
(602) 273-3382

HOU

DATE/TIME: Fri., 04/21/06 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: Hobby Airport
The Cloud Room
(713) 641-7723

BWI

DATE/TIME: Tues., 04/25/06 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: Hampton Inn BWI
829 Elkridge Landing Road
Linthicum, MD
(410) 850-0600

MDW

DATE/TIME: Wed., 04/26/06 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: American Legion
Clearing Post 600
4352 W. 63RD Street
Chicago, IL
(773) 767-0230

MCO

DATE/TIME: Thur., 04/27/05 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: Hawthorn Suites MCO
7450 Augusta Natl. Drive
Orlando, FL
(407) 438-2121

MEETING AGENDA: - General Business.
Membership Motions re: Voting on Article on
Compensation for Union Work, and on Time
Period of Annual Survey Issuance.

* All sessions constitute the meeting.

**GENERAL UNION MEETING - OPEN TO
MEMBERS ONLY - ID'S WILL BE CHECKED**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Thom McDaniel, TWU Local 556 President

As TWU Local 556 celebrates Black History Month and salutes Civil Rights Leaders in this issue of *UNITY Update*, we can be proud that the Transport Workers Union was founded on a basis of fair treatment for every worker regardless of race, gender, religion, or other minority status.

Our founder, Mike Quill, a fiery Irish immigrant, began fighting for workers' rights in the 1930s when an a standard schedule for a New York subway worker was 12 hours a day and 7 days a week. Through his "soapbox speeches" during lunch, Quill organized the subway workers and founded the Transport Workers Union.

While racial discrimination was common in the early days of the American Labor Movement, Quill would not tolerate it. As an immigrant who knew discrimination, he did not limit his fight for equality to white workers, he quickly began to fight for the rights of "colored" workers and

women. Transport Workers Union became the first Union that prohibited racial discrimination. When Mike Quill stood up for the rights of black workers, they quickly understood the need for Unions and joined the TWU.

When our country became embattled in the Civil Rights struggles of black Americans in the 1950s and 60s, TWU once again joined ranks with the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. to fight for the rights of workers, because it was the right thing to do.

Many of our Union's greatest achievements have been in the area of civil and human rights. The Transport Workers Union of America and the labor movement were among the leaders in the struggle to gain passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the most far-reaching civil rights legislation in the United States. Title VII which prohibits discrimination in employment, almost appeared to model our Union's already existing non-discrimination language in



our collective bargaining agreements. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the National Voter Registration Act, effective in 1995, extends the basic fundamental right of access to the ballot to all citizens.

From the time TWU first fought for the rights of black workers, our Union has remained opposed to discrimination in any form. This Union is flatly opposed to discrimination in hiring, promotion, lay-off, or any other term or condition of employment.

Our Union continues to have an active Civil and Human Rights Department that carries on our fine tradition. If you would like to become involved, please let me know.

We can all be proud of the important role that our Union plays in Black History Month.

Making the Dream A Reality

Editor's Note: Just days before going to print, our Nation received the word that Civil Rights Leader Coretta Scott King died at the age of 78. Last month, we celebrated the life of her husband, Dr. Martin Luther King, and in honor of Black History Month, we thought it would be appropriate to print the words from his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. It seems even more appropriate now, since Mrs. King spent her life working to make the words of her husband's speech not just a dream, but a reality. The following is a transcript of Dr. King's spoken words delivered on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC, on August 28, 1963.

"I am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation.

Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity.

But one hundred years later, the Negro still is not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the Negro is still languishing in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land. So we have come here today to dramatize a shameful condition.

In a sense we have come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked "insufficient funds." But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. So we have come to cash this check -- a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice. We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quick sands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children.

It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment. This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. Nineteen sixty-three is not an end, but a beginning. Those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual. There will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights. The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges.

But there is something that I must say to my people who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice. In the process of gaining our rightful place we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred.

We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force. The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny and their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom. We cannot walk alone.

As we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall march ahead. We cannot turn back. There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, "When will you be satisfied?" We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality. We can never be satisfied, as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities. We can never be satisfied as long as a Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and a Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote. No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations. Some of you have come fresh from narrow jail cells. Some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by the storms of persecution and staggered by the winds of police brutality. You have been the veterans of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive.

Go back to Mississippi, go back to Alabama, go back to South Carolina, go back to Georgia, go back to Louisiana, go back to the slums and ghettos of our northern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed. Let us not wallow in the valley of despair.

I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal."

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a dream today. I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification; one day right there in Alabama, little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.

I have a dream today. I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

This is our hope. This is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with a new meaning, "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring."

And if America is to be a great nation this must become true. So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania!

Let freedom ring from the snowcapped Rockies of Colorado!

Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California!

But not only that; let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia!

Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee!

Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

And when this happens, When we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! free at last! thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

Reflecting Back...

On the life and impact of Rosa Parks



*by Portia Reddick White,
TWU Local 556
Civil and Human Rights Chairperson*

Rosa Parks did more for us than any of us can imagine. I can say with certainty that if she had not had the courage to sit down and stand up for her rights, many of us, including me, would not be able to celebrate our citizenship as free and equal Americans. We owe many who have gone on before us a debt of gratitude for their efforts in sustaining the fight for equal rights. Today, we celebrate the ability to work for companies like Southwest Airlines who give us the freedom to function as productive American citizens.

Because those before us took a stand, we now are afforded rights that we often take for granted. Next time you drink out of a water fountain, remember that there was a time that many were not allowed to drink out of a water fountain. Next time you go to a restaurant, realize that there was a time when some were not able to enter a restaurant, take a seat, order from a menu and be served. Next time you fly on a plane, look at the Pilots, look at the Flight Attendants. There was a time when men were not allowed to be Flight Attendants, and when women could not be Pilots.

In essence, because of the stand that Rosa Parks took, we all can sit anywhere we like on a bus, train, or plane, including the seats those who operate them sit in! In fact, because Rosa Parks took a stand against discrimination, society has not succeeded in separating us by the color of our hair, the color of our skin, the church we attend, or our sexual orientation. We must continue her efforts in mak-

ing sure that we protect the civil and human rights of every American citizen, and every worker in America.

We have a lot to be thankful for. Thank God times have changed; but, all is not perfect, so we continue the struggle. The struggle for equal pay, the struggle for breaking the glass ceiling, the struggle for the right to marry, the struggle for the right to be ourselves. The battle continues and we continue to fight the inequalities that still exist. We must remember those that have gone on before us. Those who endured the fight for equality did so for a reason. We must learn from them and continue to stand, or *sit*... whatever gets the job done!



Executive Board Elections

*by Sonia Hall, Chairperson
TWU Local 556 Board of Election*

Nominations for the TWU Local 556 Executive Board were taken at the 1st Membership Meeting of 2006. The election will be conducted via mail ballot. A ballot package will be mailed to each Member's last known address on February 21, 2006. Voted ballots must be received by 10:00 a.m. Wednesday March 15, 2006 at the post office box obtained for this purpose. Any Member who does not receive a ballot, or who defaces or destroys his/her ballot may request a duplicate ballot by contacting Ink Impressions, Inc. at 1-800-833-5568. Ink Impressions, Inc. will use the Membership addresses provided by Southwest Airlines. Please notify your Board of Election at 1-877-530-9884 with any address changes that may have occurred since February 1, 2006 in order to receive your ballot. Election officials and any observers will witness the tally, certifying their accuracy. Notice of the results will be posted in F/A lounges and a recorded message of the results will be available on the TWU Local 556 Hotline at 1-800-806-7992.

Call your Board of Election at 1-877-530-9884 with any election questions. Please exercise your right to VOTE!

UNITY Update

The official publication of the Transport Workers Union Local 556, representing the Flight Attendants of Southwest Airlines.

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