

UNITY

update

May 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Possibility, Perseverance & A Root Beer Float.

Reflections on Change
from **Stacy K. Martin**

I realize that right now everyone is in the middle of deciding how to vote on the new TA. As I was giving these heady issues some thought and getting ready to write this article, I decided to have a nice root beer float. Just a craving that must have come with knowing that we all have a tremendous thirst for knowledge about what to do with our vote. No, that is not the reason, and I will follow up with why later in this article.

I actually want to take the time to address a few things which I have been unable to before now. The first week of May has been exciting. It was filled, not with only the Membership starting the voting process on the Near International/Over Water Flying TA, but also, your new Executive Board met for the first time to go through new Officer training. Some of us ran together as a team during the election, but let me assure you, the only team that we have in place at this time is one team, dedicated to working for the Members. Campaigning is over, and it is time to get rid of all the differences anyone may have had prior to the elections.

After sitting in with the new Executive Board last week, I am very excited to see the possibilities that exist for this Board, for the potential that we all bring to the table, and the opportunity that we have to serve our Members. I have been waiting for the opportunity to tell you some of the things that we, as your Executive Board, will stand for going forward. Now that we have met as a group I can judge where we stand as a new Board, and it is rewarding to see Board members who are ready to put all of their efforts into working for the membership, as it should be.

As I re-read the last Unity Magazine, I read a lot of articles that talked about Unity and rebuilding the trust of the Membership. But it is my opinion, that if you refer to the minutes of the last Board Meeting in April, the standard of unity discussed in the Unity articles was not applied in practice. Let me give you some examples. For instance, this is now the second time that our current First Vice-President is facing the possibility of having

a Membership trial to decide whether or not he has violated confidentiality. I agree that if the charges are egregious enough to merit a trial then a trial should be held. However, the last trial against this same member cost the Membership at least \$18,000.00. If we have another trial, it will cost roughly about the same. In another recent action, one former Board Member made several motions to reduce the pay of not only full time Officers, but all of the positions in the Union, including the Grievance Team and your Negotiating Team. I am not sure how most of you feel about this, but I for one am not interested in making any cuts to these positions. It certainly was not a problem for the prior Executive Board to work at these pay rates, it only became an issue when they were on the way out the door. These things contradict the message some of these same Officers wrote about in Unity.

There is now a change in the Board and I hope you are satisfied with it. Sometimes change comes about when you least expect it, or perhaps when you want it the least. This brings me back around to the root beer float I was talking about earlier. About a year and a half ago, my son and I retired for the night, and sometime in the night I aspirated. The next day, my 8 year old son could not wake me up to take him to school. So, he stayed home and played games all day. He became concerned and called his grandmother, who called 911. I had an infection which had gone undetected and untreated. I am very happy Kendon finally called for help that day. Prior to this experience, I had only had root beer a couple of times and for some reason as I left the hospital, I had a craving for root beer. For the last year and half I have preferred root beer over any other type of beverage. This change was not something that I was expecting in my life, it just happened. Change comes in many forms. There are times where change ends up being thrust upon you, whether you are ready for it or not. You just have to accept it, and if there is something that you can do to improve it, you do so.

The same can be said with your new Executive Board. Almost every position on the Board has changed. Whether you voted for this change or not, I hope that you will stand behind us and encourage the new Executive Board to succeed. We all pledge to make sure that this change makes our Union stronger, better and unified more now than ever before. I am extremely excited about the changes that are already taking place. Many times I have reflected on the experience that made me suddenly want a root beer. What I have found is that although I may not have been happy about or liked what brought about the change, I have added it to my life, and realize that I should pay more attention going forward. Perhaps, the change coming about in your life happens specifically for you to see things differently. We just have to have an open mind and appreciate the differences as we work together toward our common goal.

STACY K. MARTIN

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MAY 1, 2012 Welcomes New Executive Board Members to Brookriver Drive

Fresh on the heels of a successful training session, your newly elected Executive Board took to the boardroom for the second time in as many weeks. This time it was all business.

Board Members arrived early Tuesday morning, rolled up their sleeves and got straight to work. First orders of business included reviewing and confirming Committee Chair appointments, setting upcoming Membership meetings, overseeing the education of the Overwater & Near International Tentative Agreement and other key agenda items in an effort to ensure the business of TWU Local 556 continues to run smoothly.

The excitement of new possibility was palpable with the freshest faces the Local 556 offices have seen in some time. From the start Rob Riddell, Board Member at Large contributed idea after idea on a myriad of topics.

Recording Secretary Jannah Dalak shared that, "What matters most is making sure that our Members are represented in a professional manner combined with that 'good old hospitality' that everyone deserves." She went on to

"Have you been sitting on the side lines too long? GET OFF THE BENCH - the team needs you. GAME ON!" -Rob Riddell

express that the new Executive Board realizes that what our Members need and want is a leadership that listens, is open to comments and dependent on participation.

Although the session completed on Friday, May 11, the day-to-day workload reaches far beyond the Big D.

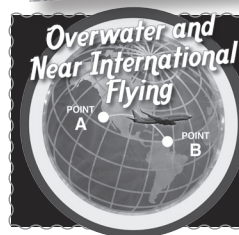
Many Board Members stepping into these important roles at this important time are finding Union business to be as challenging as it is rewarding. The work so far has proven to be never ending, often filled with more hours than are available in a day; but with their big commitment and keen focus come big rewards.

From the seasoned leadership of returning board members to our brand new elected officials, Brookriver Drive welcomes and supports them all as they lead TWU Local 556 into this next exciting era.



Above: TWU International President, James C. Little & ATD Director, Garry Drummond attend 556 Executive Board swearing in ceremony.

Below: Valerie Jean Boy & Stacey Vavakas - Proud to serve the Members of TWU Local 556.



Just Vote

Voting Ends MAY 21

Noon Central

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Unity and Unity Update are official publications of **Transport Workers Union Local 556**, representing the **Flight Attendants of Southwest Airlines**.