

Talking 241

Talking Sense, Talking Union



International President Larry Hanley
Attended 10am and 8pm Mass Membership
Meeting, February 06, 2012

Legislative Alert

On February 2, the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure began consideration of the federal surface transportation bill (H.R. 7). The bill, which was drafted solely by the Republican majority, would strongly encourage public transit systems to contract out existing work. It also rejects language in HR 3200, critical legislation that would allow transit systems to use a portion of their federal funds for operating assistance. In the closest vote of the day, the committee rejected the amendment by a vote of 28-26. Remember in November, VOTE!

Why Are We Emphasizing Training?

By International President Larry Hanley

Our International Union has established training as a top priority during the trusteeship of Local 241. It is the one way to ensure that the issues that brought about the trusteeship never occur here again.

For a union to work, like any other team, everyone must know and carry-out their responsibilities. Two of the main responsibilities for the Officers and the Executive Board of a Local Union, are to oversee the finances and grievance process. The membership is an integral part of our team that also requires training to understand and carry-out its responsibilities.

To facilitate this, our International Union has made a significant investment of staff and other resources in Local 241. We have begun the process of offering training to all members in processing grievances, the political economy, community involvement, basic leadership skills, running your union meetings, organizing rallies and dealing with the CTA. Our goal is to equip **you** to run Local 241 successfully.

We are rebuilding Local 241. This is an exciting and powerful opportunity to better understand how to build a strong union, how to help members better exercise the rights they have at work and our obligations to each other.

Are **you** up for the challenge? If so bring a pen, an open mind, a dedicated heart and we will give you all the tools you need to make Local 241 the best Union it can be.

Please contact the International representatives or **Your Union** office for a schedule of the classes and sign up.

Splish, Splash, I Was Taking A Bath

Our thanks goes out to Melinda Opiola, Servicer at the Chicago garage. There was a persistent fuel leak dripping on Melinda and her coworkers from overhead piping at the fuel island. Previous attempts to repair it failed, and members were being exposed to a serious safety hazard. Melinda brought the matter to our attention so we could get it promptly repaired. The piping was repaired, so no more splishing and slashing. If you see a safety issue that needs to be addressed, let your Local Union representative know.

BEST KNOWN FOR

Civil rights activist Rosa Parks refused to surrender her bus seat to a white passenger, spurring the Montgomery boycott and other efforts to end segregation.



Rosa Parks

“Protect Our Work”

On February 7th, an Arbitration hearing on Sub-Contracting was held. This is a major issue in the Maintenance Department. The issue at hand was belt tensioners that were removed by Service Solutions.

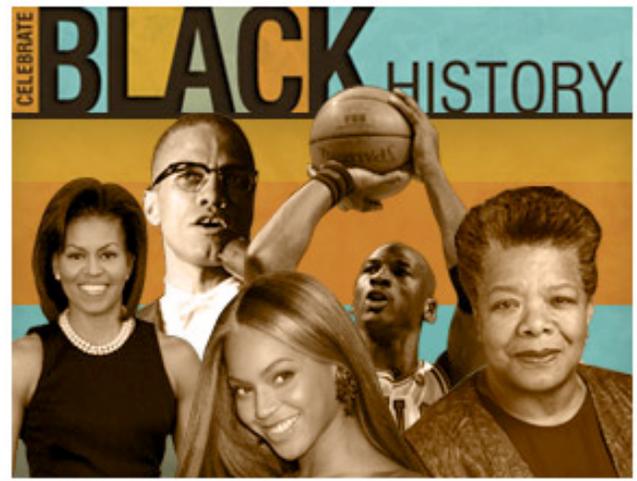
A great deal of effort was put into preparing for this arbitration and it showed. Four individuals testified on behalf of the Union and a clear and concise presentation was given by the Union.

The Union’s position is clear, work that Local 241 mechanics have normally and historically performed, included these repairers.

CTA’s position is that, it is to their discretion who can perform the warranty work.

CTA allowed Service Solutions to perform work, so CTA clearly violated Section 2.7 of the C.B.A. CTA argued it had established a long standing practice of sub-contractors performing work on CTA’s properties. They also argued that they did not hire Service Solutions, the manufacturer did. So, CTA believes that they did not violate section 2.7 of the C.B.A. Both arguments were made clearly to the arbitrator. Now, we anxiously await the arbitrator’s decision.

Also, on February 8th, Local 241 participated in another Arbitration hearing protecting our Picking Rights. We are awaiting this decision as well.



“One Toke Over the Line?”

In our first edition of *Talking 241*, we reported that contract proposals would be exchanged on January 20th. Well, they were. And, in reviewing the CTA’s proposals, I wondered if whomever cobbled them together was “One Toke Over the Line.” In short, if CTA is not required by legal statute to pay you, they propose not to. Minimum guarantees, pre-trip, prep-time and more out the window like a puff of smoke. Oh yes they have a great proposal for your pension, limit the maximum pay qualifier to 2080 hours. The author of this scheme was on some real “wacky tobaccy” here folks.

How about bumping rights and work rule modifications for Maintenance and General Office employees? How about creating some meaningful full time jobs with benefits for our part timers who are working 32 hours a week, now! And, who wants to be full time in order to provide for their family? CTA’s position, misery likes company so give us more part time, more part time hours. Benefits for part time you say? CTA position reminds me of a line from a popular western movie, “they don’t need no stinking benefits.”

What did our members propose? Decent pay, decent benefits, time lines on the disciplinary process, negotiations on AVAS, discussion and resolutions problems with running time and interlining to name a few.

Oh yes, the author of the CTA proposals must have had a “second roll” when this proposal was written to “gut” your health care plan and replace it with a high deductible plan.

Dates for negotiation have been scheduled for February 10, 24th and March 1st as. Negotiations are a “Long and Winding Road,” We’ll keep you posted along the way.