

# Talking 241 Talking Union, Talking Sense



## Int. President Hanley visits Local 241, Feb. 6

Shake off the Super Bowl on Monday, February 6 because International President Larry Hanley will be attending not only the 8:00pm but a special morning meeting to begin at 10:00am.

## Negotiations update

What's happening? Contract negotiations are scheduled to continue on January 20, with both sides exchanging proposals. Check back here and on the website [www.atu241chicago.org](http://www.atu241chicago.org) for updates.

## A message from your Trustees

As interim leaders of Local 241 we'd like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member for your cooperation, support and collaboration in working to get Local 241's affairs in order so your Local can represent and serve you well.

To date, with your help, we have brought under control the Local's finances, obligations, expenses, contracts, staffing levels, grievances and other issues. There is still work to be done, but we remain confident that with your assistance we can get the Local back on sound legal and financial footing. We will soon be launching training programs to help you – the members – develop and strengthen important skills to lead your union.

This will be critical as contract negotiations with CTA kick into gear. We remain committed to getting you the best possible contract and we will not settle for anything less.

In an effort to keep you better informed we are introducing Talking 241 - a newsletter from your Local 241 trustees. Through this you can learn the latest developments, issues and successes impacting your union.

Please let us know your thoughts about *Talking 241*, and if you have ideas for stories, please contact an Assistant to the Trustees in your garage. Please be sure to check out our website and future issues of *Talking 241* for updates on the trusteeship.

*Javier and Marcellus*

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## Local fights CTA exploitation of part-time operators

Busted! Documents recently obtained by Local 241 confirm that CTA flagrantly violated our contract by continually requiring part-time bus operators (PTBOs) to work more than 32 hours per week since February 2010, the month almost 1,000 full and part-time members were laid off. The local is pursuing the matter in an arbitration hearing that began January 6. The Union is asking for a make whole remedy that could cost the CTA, a significant amount of money.

The documents requested by the local reveal that, over the last two years, PTBOs logged at least 318,000 hours more than the total they should have worked had the agency abided by the collective bargaining agreement.

CTA filled the void left by the lay-offs with the extra hours it demanded from part-time workers. And, since PTBOs don't get the paid vacation, paid holidays, short term disability benefits, or pension contributions that full-time workers receive, CTA saved a bundle of money.

CTA not only exploited part-time workers, and prevented them from going full-time, they laid off full-time workers as well.

## Talking contract with Part Timers

Our thanks go out to all of you who sent in proposals as we prepared for contract negotiations. We literally received hundreds of ideas that have helped us form our bargaining positions.

We are now seeking more input from our part-time members. To achieve that goal some of your part-time members at your garage will be conducting one-on-one questionnaires with you.

All answers will be kept confidential and will be used to ensure we have a strong and unified bargaining position at the table. The results of the questionnaires will be published in late February.

Please be sure to participate to ensure your voice is heard to help build a stronger ATU Local 241. Remember this is your contract and your future.

## Laid off members receive holiday help

Forty-three brothers and sisters remain laid off from the CTA. The holiday season was very difficult for many of them and their families. In years past, Local 241 provided money to each garage for a holiday party. But, this year it just didn't seem right to spend money on parties, when 43 of us are laid off. So, we took a different approach in December to show our holiday spirit and gave \$100 to each laid off member. We want every laid off member to know that we haven't forgotten you.

## Retiree Health Care Trust rumors FALSE

Rumors that members' contribution to the Retiree Health Care Trust will increase this year are **FALSE**. The amount withheld from your paycheck for the Retiree Health Care Trust will remain at 3% for 2012.

## 2011 Pension payments paid in full

Like digging out after last year's blizzard – the work of digging Local 241 out of deep financial trouble has been tough, but significant progress is being made.

The trustees are happy to announce that we are once again current with regard to Local 241's Officer Pension Plan obligation. Payments for 2011 have been paid in full.

## Some History

No officer pension payments had been made in 2011, and a \$721,000 back payment was due when the local was trustee'd in September. A loan was obtained to cover that amount and monthly payments on that loan are being made now.

Please note that the Local 241 Officer Pension Plan is *completely separate* from your CTA pension. It was created in the 1950's and it can't be changed. However, no future officers or executive board members of Local 241 will be eligible to enroll in this plan.

## Pre-retirement seminars in the works

Trustees are working to develop and organize Pre-retirement seminars. Please check back for the schedule of these seminars in future newsletters and on the website [www.atu241chicago.org](http://www.atu241chicago.org).

## AVAS arbitration award

In an arbitration award, CTA has the right to use AVAS to determine whether or not to discipline operators for schedule adherence.

Any operator who believes the posted findings are incorrect can request a complete printout of the data from their manager – and the manager **must** provide it. If the operator disagrees with the information in the printout, the operator has **four (4) days** to dispute the findings on the **Operator's AVAS Dispute Form**. If operators don't submit the Dispute Form in time, CTA can consider the AVAS data correct.

If any discipline is issued, the manager must provide the operator's Board Member/Assistant to the Trustees *all* the information they're relying on to issue the discipline. The operator then has **14 days** to file an "AVAS Grievance" on the AVAS grievance form located in the garages.