



PUBLISHED BY TWU LOCAL 100 • WINTER 2019 • VOL.10 • NO.1

# Transport Workers

**BULLETIN**



## Painting the Town When the City's Lights Go Down!

PAGE 7

### Newly Elected President Tony Utano Takes Oath of Office

Local 100 President Tony Utano is sworn into office by International President John Samuelson (left) and International Secretary Treasurer Jerome Lafragola.

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## Headline?

OUR CONTRACT WITH THE MTA, COVERING nearly 40,000 Local 100 members at NYCT, MaBSTOA and MTA Bus expires on May 15, 2019.

The usual pre-contract dance by the MTA has already begun.

A flood of articles bemoaning the MTA's shaky financial structure began appearing in newspapers and on the local news broadcasts some weeks ago. These articles were no accident, but carefully planned news pieces to set the stage for negotiations in a 'woe is me, we're broke,' atmosphere.

Recent skirmishes with the MTA over contracting out of traditional TWU work are more examples of pre-contract posturing meant to send a message to us.

It's nothing new. I have seen it happen 10 times before as a negotiating member of both main table discussions and departmental committees.

Shakespeare's memorable phrase, the past is prologue, or in other words, history sets the context for the present is always appropriate when it comes to contract time with the MTA.

At the present time, we don't even know for sure who will be on the other side of the main table talks. The MTA Chair's position remains unfilled, and many of the other players are somewhat or completely new to the process of negotiating with TWU Local 100.

Regardless, I expect a tough battle. We will be fighting hard for the kind of economic package we need and deserve. We will be battling to protect our health benefits and your safety on the job. We will be fighting as well to reduce the ridiculous amount of unfair and unnecessary discipline we face every day on the job. And if recent events are any indication, we will be fighting against management efforts to slash transit workers' jobs in favor of contractors or technology.

We have already begun preparing for this enormous undertaking. My early message to everyone, is get ready. Stay strong. Stay united. When the rank-and-file of TWU Local 100 stands together, no one can beat us.

### **Election Is Over, Time to Move On!**

Votes in our Local-wide election were counted in early December. Complete results can be found on the union website.

I wish to thank the membership to giving me such a huge mandate to lead our union for the next three years. During the campaign, I focused on issues. I stayed positive and did not put out one negative piece of literature. Not one negative word about other candidates come out of my mouth.

I ran on what I had done since becoming President in late 2017, and on my vision for the future of Local 100. I congratulate every candidate who won the membership's trust to lead in their departments. All elected officers have an important job to do. I pledge to work with every elected candidate for the good of this membership.

As we look ahead to the many tasks we face across our union, it is incumbent upon us to fight the bosses, and not each other. In-house political turmoil saps the union of its energy and strength. Management abuse feeds on union discord. Our job of representing the membership is too important to let anything stand in its way. Let's move forward as one.





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Gus Moghrabi  
Mary L. Price  
Orlando Vasquez



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# Transport Workers

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## BULLETIN

### 10 2nd Apprentice Class Graduates

*The 19 Local 100 members who graduated the 6-month Upward Advancement Program are not working in higher paying jobs in MOW Titles.*



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### 13 James Headlines 'Year of the Woman' Winners in NY

*Local 100 President Tony Utano campaigns with New York State Attorney General Tish James. She won tough elections in the primary and general election with TWU support.*



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### 20 Union Awards More 911 Medals

*Local 100 sponsored its annual commemoration of 911 with by awarding medals to participants in the rescue and recovery effort.*



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### 24 State Comptroller DiNapoli Is Guest at Italian Night

*This year's special guest of honor at the union's Italian Night celebration was newly re-elected State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, shown with President Tony Utano and Secretary Treasurer Earl Phillips.*



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# Health & Wellness Fairs

## Promote Wholesome Lifestyles

Local 100, in cooperation with the MTA, last year launched a new series of lunchtime health and wellness fairs where medical professionals provide key screenings for free, and providers' displays outline services available to the membership.

Information is also provided on healthy diets and lifestyles.

A light lunch is provided along with neck, shoulder and foot massages.

One of the most recent Health Fairs took place at Gleason Depot in Brooklyn.

Stay tuned. One of these fairs may be coming to your location in 2019.







# Utano Elected to 3-Year Term as President

## *Phillips, Crisp, Rivera Round Out the Top 4*

TONY UTANO, A 38-YEAR VETERAN OF LOCAL 100, was overwhelmingly elected President of the union in a secret mail ballot counted on Dec. 7, 2018. The election was conducted by the American Arbitration Association, and was overseen by Neutral Monitor Barbara Deinhardt.

Rounding out the top four elected officers were Earl Phillips, Secretary Treasurer; LaTonya Crisp, Recording Secretary and Nelson Rivera, Administrative Vice President.

The seven elected Departmental Vice Presidents include: John Chiarello, MOW; Richard Davis, MABSTOA; JP Patafio, TAS; Shirley Martin, CED; Peter Rosconi, MTA Bus/School Bus/Para Transit/Private Operations; Lynwood Whichard, Stations and Eric Loegel, RTO. (Complete election results can be found on the union website: [www.twulocal100.org](http://www.twulocal100.org).)

President Utano pledged to work in unity to move Local 100 forward. Said Utano: "I want to thank TWU Local 100 members for electing me President of our great union in such overwhelming fashion. I will not let you down. It takes dedication and vigilance 24 hours a day to keep this union strong and to protect each and every of you on job. I have been fighting this fight for TWU members for the



past 38 years. As I move forward as your elected President, I pledge that I will be tenacious in carrying out the duties of this office and in fighting for strong contracts, affordable health care and safety on the job.

"Now that this election is over, I and all the officers elected with me today, are turning our full energies to challenges that face us in 2019 and beyond.

Now it's time to put this election behind and move forward in unity. Now is the time to join together as one strong, united fighting force for TWU Local 100."

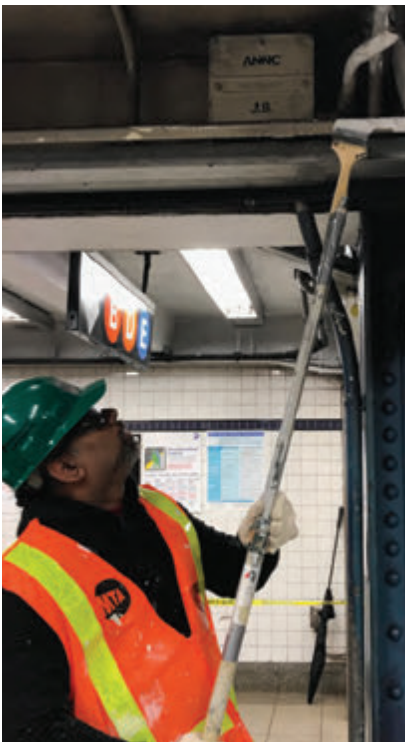
# Painters Hit 7th Avenue Stop on the Overnight

New York City Transit employs more than 300 Local 100 Painters, classified under their civil service title of Structure Maintainer, Group G.

They clean, chip and paint structural steel and masonry and woodwork, strip paint and wallpaper, stain and finish wood, mix colors, set up and use paint spraying equipment. They also set up and work on scaffolds, replace glass in windows and doors and load, unload and drive motor vehicles. Our SM-G's work underground and out doors on structures in all weather conditions.

Many work overnight when ridership is low. In these photos, taken on the overnight at the 7th Ave. (B, D and E) Station. They made the site safe for passengers by putting up heavy plastic sheeting to protect platform air against lead scrapings. Before scraping the old lead paint, our Painters don personal protective equipment.

Qualifications for becoming an SM-G include two years of journeyman experience as a Painter preceded by two years of work as painter's helper, apprentice, or trainee.





# Union Attacks “Fat Cat” Consultants in Media Campaign

TWU LOCAL 100 BLASTED THE MTA - and its “fat cat” consultants - in a full-page ad placed in the New York Daily News on Jan. 7

“The MTA is wasting your money on consultants to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars - and simultaneously cutting back on subway car cleaning and track inspections,» the ad declared. «While Fat Cat consultants feed at the MTA trough, your ride is going to get dirtier and potentially downright dangerous.»

The high-profile attack included the photo of a smiling consultant, Charlie Hall of WSP (formerly Parsons Brinckerhoff), pawing a pile of cash.

The “Consultants Cashing In at The MTA” ad is part of Local 100’s campaign against budget cuts the MTA board adopted in December. Dozens of car cleaner and track inspector positions were eliminated through attrition as part of that budget. Transit officials have claimed the reductions will not lead to a filthier or less-safe system. TWU Local 100 President Tony Utano and TWU of America International President John Samuelsen have derided those claims as ridiculous to the media, transit officials and board members.

The MTA shelled out more than \$2.1 billion in the last five years to consultants for a wide range of tasks, including construction management, engineering, IT and legal services. The annual payouts totaled \$580 million last year, more than double the approximately \$280 million consultants reaped in 2014.

Gov. Cuomo, two days after the Local 100 ad hit the stands, said in an interview with the Daily News



**CONSULTANTS CASHING IN AT THE MTA**

*Charlie Hall is a senior vice president at WSP (formerly Parsons Brinckerhoff), a consulting/engineering company that is reaping millions from the MTA.*

The MTA is **wasting your money** on consultants to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars a year — and simultaneously cutting back on subway car cleaning and track inspections. While **Fat Cat** consultants feed at the MTA trough, your ride is going to get dirtier and potentially downright dangerous.

MTA spending on Professional Services Contracts has more than doubled, rising each year from approximately \$280 million in 2014 to \$580 million last year. Consultants stuffed more than \$2.1 billion of MTA money in their pockets over the last five years. The MTA is flushing your hard-earned money down the toilet on consultants who are only interested in enriching themselves rather than improving the subway.

**Haven't you had enough of the MTA's consultant boondoggles?**

 PAID FOR BY THE TWU OF AMERICA AND TWU LOCAL 100 

John Samuelsen, President  
TWU of America

Tony Utano, President  
TWU Local 100

editorial board that that MTA is captive to a “passive conspiracy of the transportation industrial complex” where major capital projects are undertaken with the same contractors and vendors, and no competition for designs.

“Blow it up,” he said referring to the MTA.

# Feds Order Doubling of Random Drug Screens

**By David Katzman**  
**Director of Research**

Happy New Year's from the U.S. DOT's Federal Transportation Administration. Not!

Last year, the average transit worker had a 25% chance of getting picked for a random drug test. In 2019, it will be 50%.

Under federal law, the rate of random tests depends on the percentage of transit workers nationwide who turned up dirty two years before. From 2004 through 2016, the rate of positive results was under one percent. In 2017, that number went up to 1.06%. So now there will be double the randoms until the number falls under 1% for two years running.

That means double the hassles that come with random screens.

The increase was triggered by what FTA's acting administrator, K. Jane Williams, called "a recent uptick in the proportion of violations identified through random drug testing," in a letter dated Oct. 17.

This is not a New York City Transit thing. This is a national

thing. It will happen in Chicago, Philadelphia and Los Angeles the same as in New York.

It is likely that the opioid epidemic pushed the number up. But there is another factor that will make it hard to bring it down again. That is the number of states that are legalizing the personal use of marijuana.

But here's the blunt truth. No legal marijuana for transit workers

It doesn't matter how many states legalize marijuana. Transit workers caught dirty for marijuana will still risk their jobs. The marijuana ban is federal, and that trumps state law.

The law and the tests do not distinguish between being high today and having taken a puff when you were on vacation last month. They can't tell the difference between toking up and taking a drop of cbd oil for your aching joints. They just know you were caught dirty.

The bottom line: When you have retired with a guaranteed pension and lifetime medical benefits, you can make up for lost time. Until then, you must take a pass or risk your job.

**Here's the blunt truth.**  
**No legal marijuana for**  
**transit workers**







# Sick Time Win in Westchester Delivers for 123,000 Workers

LOCAL 100'S HARD-FOUGHT TWO-YEAR CAMPAIGN TO PASS A Westchester-wide law granting the right to earn sick leave for County workers succeeded on October 1, 2018 when legislators passed the measure.

The tide turned when County Executive George Latimer – strongly supported by the TWU – prevailed in a contest with former Executive Rob Astorino in November of 2017. Along with Latimer came a blue wave of democratic legislators who also backed the sick time bill. The Democratic caucus said before passage that 36% of workers in the County had no right to sick time.

Under the new legislation, modeled after a similar New York City law passed in 2014, employees in Westchester will be able to earn 1 hour of sick leave for every 30 hours worked, up to a maximum of 40 hours a year.

Workers who currently get their pay docked for calling in sick will be able to take up to 5 days off a year – with pay – in order to recuperate.

A significant number of Local 100

members in Westchester are expected to benefit by receiving more paid sick days or the ability to take paid time off without scheduling it days in advance. The law will also help an estimated 123,000 in the County. The law's provisions do not affect existing collective bargaining agreements but come into effect when new contracts are negotiated.

“This common-sense bill will make Westchester a healthier place to work

and live,” Local 100 President Tony Utano said.

Local 100 first brought the idea of an Earned Sick Leave law to the Westchester County Board of Legislators two years ago. TWU was a leading member of a Westchester coalition that worked and lobbied officials on the issue. The coalition consisted of unions, community groups and civic organizations.

If a business is found to violate the law, it could be made to pay three times the amount they would have paid for the sick time, \$500 for each instance of time denied, or other penalties.





# 2nd Apprenticeship Class Completes

THE SECOND CLASS OF THE TWU LOCAL 100 UPWARD ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM GRADUATED FROM THE APEX TECHNICAL School's program in July on electrical theory, wiring and motors. The 19 graduates are now working in new higher paying titles in MOW as Transit Electrical Helpers.

For six months, the group of former Cleaners, Traffic Checkers and TPPA's, attended the intense 900-hour program at the region's top trade school. During the training, the candidates were paid their full transit salary.

Local 100 President Tony Utano said that the entire union is looking to the graduates to be successful in their new roles. "Your success," said Utano, "will enable us to grow the program, so that others can receive the same opportunity as you." He said that the next class in the fall will have 34 candidates. "This is a good thing," said Utano, "this is what unions do."

Other officers attending including Secretary Treasurer Earl Phillips,

Recording Secretary LaTony Crisp, (CED) and Derrick Echevarria, Administrative Vice President Nelson Rivera, and Vice Presidents John Chiarello (MOW), Shirley Martin and Charles Jenkins, Director of the TWU Local 100/NYCT Training and Upgrading Fund hosted the event.





# Upward Advancement Program



Reginald Hancock



Latasha Goodall



Nakita Ollivierre

## What The Grads Are Saying...

CTA **Reginald Hancock**, one of the graduates, who had a background in electrical theory from New York City Technical College, said: “I learned more in six months in this program than in four years at college.”

Another graduate, **Latasha Goodall**, who has worked at Coney Island as a Cleaner since 2005, said that the program “has changed my whole life.” She said that the training was a particular struggle because “I didn’t know anything about motors, or wiring. It’s like a miracle. It was very hard, but I’m here, I made it.”

Traffic Checker **Nakita Ollivierre**, said that the only thing she knew about electricity six months ago was “how to plug a cord into the wall outlet. Now I can start a three phase motor.” Nakita said that she always thought she would be a white collar worker, after graduating St. John’s with a degree in Psychology. “I never thought I would love motors. I love this.”

TPPA **Laurence Allen**, who was born in Jamaica and went to John Jay for Security Management, also had zero background in electricity. “It was a very challenging program. But eventually everything came together for me.” Laurence, who has three sons, said his job with NYCT was his first union job and he sees the difference. “The union job is great, the best job to have. Local 100 is a great union for our workforce.”

**Tamika Lassiter** is a 17 year veteran of Transit as a TPPA. Her mom is a retired Train Operator, who told Tamika after she got out of the U.S. Navy in 2000 to apply for a transit job. “A few years ago I started taking advantage of the technical courses at the union hall with the Training Upgrading Fund. Once I started there, I knew I had found my calling.” Tamika said the Apex training “is tough. It is trying, but I learned a lot and I’m ready.”

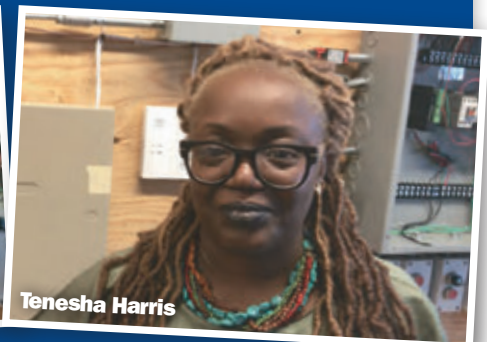
**Tenesha Harris**, a Station Cleaner since 2006 said, “the program is hard, it’s rough. Don’t think you can come in here and whiz through it. It’s a lot of studying. You have to put your all into it.” She is hoping to get assigned to Elevator & Escalator, but is ready for anything. “The union has helped me big time in so many ways. This program, it’s a blessing.”



Laurence Allen



Tamika Lassiter



Tenesha Harris

# Latasha Goodall Loving Life in Lighting

THIS TIME LAST YEAR, LATASHA GOODALL WAS wrapping up her 12th year as Cleaner at Coney Island and taking her first steps to a new career path.

Latasha had been chosen a member of the second class of the TWU Local 100 Upward Advancement Program which began training in January 2018.

She was among the group of former Cleaners, Traffic Checkers and TPPA's starting the tough 6-month course sponsored by the TWU Local 100-NYCT Training and Upgrading Fund.

In July 2018, her group graduated from the program that focused on electrical theory, wiring and motors.

The day after graduation, she reported to her new job as a Transit Electrical Helper as part of the LES Lighting Department. At the time she said she was a little nervous about the new job but felt that the training had prepared her. "I didn't know anything about motors, or wiring," she said. "It's like a miracle. It was very hard, but I'm here, I made it."

Now, 6 months later Latasha Goodall is loving life, and loving her new job and her co-workers in Lighting.

But she admits, "it's not easy. I thought it was going to be a piece of cake. But no, you really have to be prepared each day. There's a lot to know and a lot to learn."



Latasha reports to Pitkin Yard in East New York every work day where she and her crew receive work assignments. She checks her safety equipment and tools and starts the day.

"My co-workers are great," she said. "They share their knowledge freely. We all want to get the job done right."

As to being a woman in a traditional man's job, she admits it has its challenges, but her co-workers have made the transition easy. "There are two other women in my crew. Our guys treat us really nice. They are very respectful. We are part of the team."

Latasha said that she is "really happy I made the decision to get into the Apprentice program."

And as far as the future is concerned, "the sky's the limit."

*Latasha Goodall (center) is shown with her Lighting crew at Pitkin Yard.*





# TWU Helps James, Gillibrand, Stewart Cousins to Big Wins

Political pundits called it the Year of the Woman in the leadup to the November elections.

On Nov. 6, 2018 the voters made prophets out of those pundits by electing 117 women to seats in the U.S. House and Senate, and statewide offices.

New York did not disappoint. Voters here elected women, all with strong TWU Local 100 support, to three of the most important jobs on the ballot.

The most hotly challenged race was the contest for New York State Attorney General, where now former Public Advocate Letitia “Tish” James scored a big win for NYS Attorney General.

James made a special guest visit to the July Local 100 Executive Board meeting and she was rewarded with a unanimous endorsement. Local 100 President Tony Utano said at the time that the endorsement was “an easy choice, as the unanimous vote of the Board indicates. Tish James has been there for transit families and all of New York’s working families her entire political career. She has an impeccable record of service to our City and she will make a great Attorney General.”

Two other women, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and State Senator Andrea Stewart Cousins won their bids for re-election with full Local 100 support. Gillibrand is already being talked about as a possible presidential candidate for the Democratic Party.



**U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand is flanked by President Tony Utano, left, and Political Director Michelle Gilliam.**



**President Tony Utano is shown with Andrea Stewart-Cousins, the first woman to hold the job of Senate Majority leader in Albany.**

Stewart Cousins, the daughter of a 20-year transit worker in Car Equipment, has already been named as Senate Majority Leader, the first woman to hold that office, which is seen as the second most influential position in the State, behind only the Governor.

Local 100 President Tony Utano hailed Stewart-Cousins ascendency as “a win for all working families in our state, and especially for transit workers. As the daughter of a transit worker, Sen. Stewart-Cousins knows first-hand the kind of sacrifice we all make to deliver New York City’s most important public service. It will be good to have one of our own in one of Albany’s most important positions.”



**Tish James is shown at union headquarters after being endorsed by the Executive Board. She is shown with the union’s top four officers. From left are: Recording Secretary LaTonya Crisp, Administrative VP Nelson Rivera, President Tony Utano, Tish James and Secretary Treasurer Earl Phillips.**





MTA  
Cuts Back  
on  
Cleaning

F. WASSER



# MTA's Scheme on Car Cleaning Is Rubbish

By Pete Donohue

STAND CLEAR OF THE FESTERING GARBAGE.

MTA managers have hatched yet another boneheaded scheme to reduce cleaning costs in the subway, and the results are predictable: more filth, more trash, and more angry riders.

A total of 91 car-cleaner positions will be eliminated through attrition during 2019, according to MTA financial plans.

Because of the staffing cuts, trains on some lines will only be swept and mopped at one end – instead of at both terminal stations, officials said.

So that half-eaten Happy Meal that a slob left behind could remain on the floor for hours before being addressed.

The same goes for a puddle of spilled coffee, a discarded fast-food container, crumpled up freebie newspapers and other trash.

As any Cleaner will tell you, those are the relatively mild scenarios. A half-chomped Happy Meal trampled by a thousand feet is a bouquet of roses compared to some of the horrific messes cleaners periodically remove. Let's just say "soiled car" are two words nobody wants to hear.

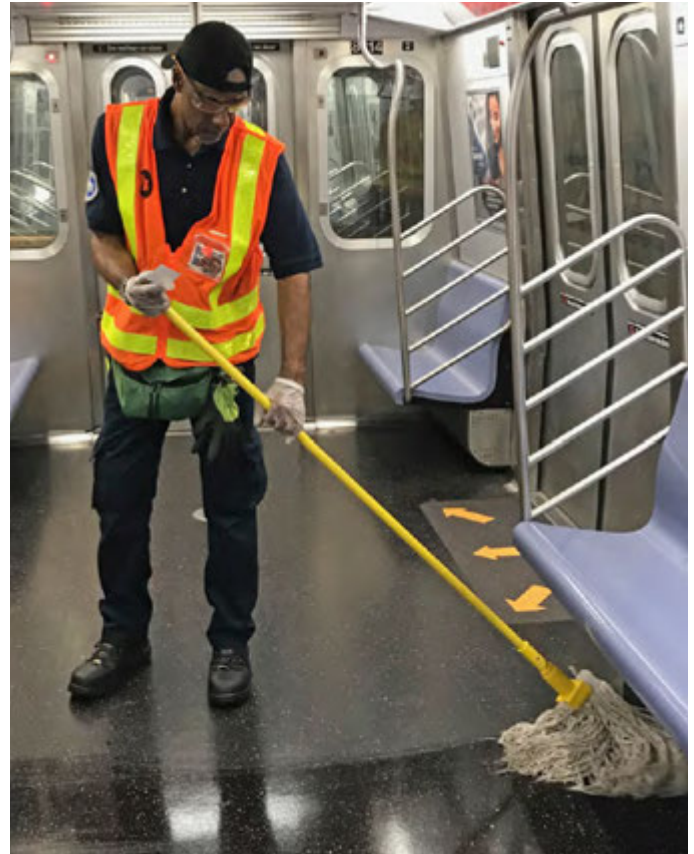
There won't be layoffs. The MTA plans on leaving vacancies unfilled. But TWU Local 100 is pushing back with a public outreach campaign. The union is leafletting riders at terminal stations, urging them to call the MTA board and demand they maintain a full cleaning workforce.

The tactic worked last year with proposed MTA cuts to elevator operators and station agents. After a wave of bad publicity generated by Local 100, the MTA backed off.

As Local 100 President Tony Utano said in an Op-Ed published in City Limits:

"You can't have it both ways," Utano wrote. "You can't have the world-class subway system everyone in New York City is demanding and also cut the number of workers..."

"You can't make the subway system safer, cleaner, more timely, more reliable, more customer friendly and more attractive to riders in this age of Uber and Lyft by reducing the number of workers in stations, on trains and on the tracks."



**"You can't make the subway system safer, cleaner, more timely, more reliable, more customer friendly and more attractive to riders in this age of Uber and Lyft by reducing the number of workers in stations, on trains and on the tracks."**

*– Tony Utano, President, Local 100*

This proposal is reminiscent of the "New Cleaning Initiative" the MTA launched in 2017. It removed most overnight station cleaners on some lines, leaving only skeletal crews. Officials said the lighter ridership during those hours ensured cleaners could be redeployed and not worsen station conditions.

They were wrong. The MTA junked the initiative last year. They should junk this idiotic scheme too.

# The Bus to Harvard Law, By

By Alan Saly

IN 1985, TAREK ABDELGHANY WALKED OFF A plane from Egypt at JFK. Unfamiliar with America, and with no friends or contacts in New York, he wasn't sure where to turn. He had come to America for a better life, from a country increasingly under the sway of the military. Sharing a ride into Manhattan with a German couple, he landed at a midtown hostel. He checked in, and the desk clerk told him, "One night only."

Tarek had worked as a crane operator in Egypt, but pounding the pavements of New York City, he could only find a job as a dishwasher. 33 years later, Tarek's youngest son, Mohamed, is preparing to enter Harvard Law School. Mohamed wrote a letter to the union, which we received in November:

"I write this with great pride, a hat-tip to the many years that Local 100 has served as a cornerstone and a lending hand to our family," he wrote. "My father, Tarek Abdelghany, is a member of Local 100 and I, Mohamed Abdelghany, am his son. I was born in Queens, New York and together with my family, a family of five, we lived in a humble one bedroom apartment no larger than two strides in any direction. I was supposed to become another statistic, another soul lost to the school-to-prison pipeline. It didn't happen.



"Your unwavering support for your union members has moved our family from a lower, working class to a middle-class family. Your union work has addressed our deepest fears, the type of fears that manifest in the form of bills, tuition, and other expenses. My father's income has helped my sister become a clinical psychologist with two master degrees. My father's income has helped me graduate top in my class, become vice-captain to the nationally ranked Debate Team at Rutgers Newark without worrying about paying for school. Your endless full-court press for policies that improve our living condition has helped me maintain a 3.9 Honors GPA and apply to the ivy's for law school. A law degree that I will use to advocate for you all one day."





# Way of Gleason Depot

The letter told a timeless American story, of a union leveling the playing field so that our members could enter the middle class and seize the opportunities that come with it.

After stints in the restaurant industry, working home delivery for Home Depot, and hiring onto construction sites with no benefits or health coverage, Tarek Abdelghany applied for a Bus Operator job with New York City Transit. He started on October 9, 2000 at the Jackie Gleason depot in Brooklyn, just as his youngest son, Mohamed, was about to turn five.

Tarek had less than a year on the job when the aftermath of 9/11 created fear in the City's Muslim communities. The new Bus Operator went to then Division Chair J. P. Patafio at the Union Hall, telling him that he was under a lot of stress and suspected that he was being followed because of his ethnicity. "We discussed the situation, and what precautions to take," JP recalls. "And I told him, if he ever needs me, or has any concern, to call me at any time, any hour of the day.

"Tarek found comfort in his Union family," JP said. "Supposedly, these wide divisions exist between different ethnic groups, but in fact, when you're union, we're all transit workers, and so we've got to support each other. That's the beauty of the union. If it works, you get support, you achieve a career, and your kid gets through college. If it doesn't work, you get ignored, ridiculed."

Mohamed's parents, Tarek and Magda, had made sure to raise him bilingual, so he grew up fluent in both English and

Arabic. He applied to Rutgers from Passaic CC and got a full ride, including a stipend so he could live away from home and near the school. He became the youngest-ever director of Ramadan Operations for the Islamic Center of Passaic County, serving around 30,000 people, and introduced former President Bill Clinton who came to Passaic Community College as a guest speaker in 2016.

His excellent grades won him a membership on the 2016 New Jersey All-USA Academic team and a Coca-Cola Scholarship, and he delivered the college's commencement address for 2016. At Rutgers, Mohamed continued his strong academics, and was invited to intern for New Jersey Senator Corey Booker in the summer of 2017.

Mohamed started studying for the LSAT in March of 2017, a path that would ultimately see him successfully applying to Harvard Law, as well as gaining acceptances from other prestigious law schools including Columbia and Stanford. He wrote his letter to Local 100 before he knew he would be attending Harvard in the fall.

What was responsible for this amazing trajectory? Mohamed credits TWU Local100 first: "I can't help but to think that a lot of things had to go right for this to happen, and one of those things was my dad having a good paying job."

Bus Operator Tarek Mohamed, who just retired from his job at New York City Transit, has his own words of advice: "I'm glad I worked in a shop with a union," he says, "and this is my advice to anyone: Be union; it will be good in the long run."





## Events at Union Hall and Tuskegee Airmen Depot

# Union Honors Its Military Veterans

Local 100 paid tribute to its members past and present who have served their country in the U.S. military services at the union's annual Veteran's Appreciation Day on Nov. 8, 2018.

Veteran's Committee officers, Dartagnan Magana, a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, and Joe Costales, an Air Force veteran, served as co-chairs of the event at 195 Montague St.

Secretary Treasurer Earl Phillips welcomed the attendees.

State Senator Joe Addabbo, ranking member of the Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs Committee, delivered the keynote address.

### Tuskegee Depot Event

Earlier in the day, members and officers at the Tuskegee Airmen Depot honored their brothers and sisters who had, or are currently serving.

Local 100 President Tony Utano attended the event and delivered greetings from the membership.

"I have a deep respect for those who served," said Utano. "Our veterans are a valuable resource to the MTA workforce — in terms of leadership, knowledge, and teamwork — and they are vital to strengthening and expanding our own union's membership."



Secretary Treasurer Earl Phillips (left) with Sen. Joe Addabbo (center) and Dartagnan Magana.



Secretary Treasurer Earl Phillips greets Bhudpaul Dharamraj, a U.S. Air Force Captain stationed at F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming, and his dad, Jaipau, a Railroad Stock Worker at veterans event at union hall. Eight years ago, he won a Local 100 college scholarship.



The TWU Local 100 Color Guard is shown with Secretary Treasurer Earl Phillips.

Group shot of those who took part in the veterans event at Tuskegee Airmen Depot.





# Cuomo Vetoes Pension Bill, But Promises Action in 2019

GOV. CUOMO DELIVERED A PRE-CHRISTMAS piece of coal to transit workers with his veto of legislation that would have removed the overtime cap on the final Tier 6 pension calculation for transit workers.

However, the Governor's veto message held out a promise of addressing the overtime concern in 2019.

Said TWU Local 100 President Tony Utano: "The Governor's veto message is hardly a rebuke of our efforts. It is quite the opposite. In his message, Gov. Cuomo recognizes the vital role of NYC Transit Workers in restoring the system back into a state of reliability. More importantly, he states that he is committed to developing a plan to address the overtime cap issue."

Local 100 pushed the Tier 6 pension bill through both houses of the state legislature just days apart in June 2018, and will begin a new legislative push in early 2019.

"Local 100 went down a similar road with our Veterans pension credit bill," said Utano. "That bill was initially vetoed and then signed into law the following year. So this veto is not the end of our fight on Tier 6, and we will plow forward into 2019 pursuing justice on this issue."

Utano added: "It's important to note that TWU Local 100 has advanced the issue of Tier 6 pension reform far beyond anyone else in the state. This is because of the tenacity and active involvement of our membership. Our efforts resulted in both the state Assembly and Senate passing our bill lifting the overtime cap earlier this year, and we end 2018 with a public commitment from the governor that he will work with us to address the issue."

"Fighting to reform pensions is always a long term operation and we have made incremental progress. In 2019 we will keep pushing forward toward the goal of lifting the overtime cap," Utano concluded.

## TPPA's Honored at 'Security Awareness Day'

New York City Transit's Department of Security sponsored a Security Awareness and Recognition ceremony on Nov. 29, 2018 at 130 Livingston Street. Transit brass, including NYCT President Andy Byford, addressed the gathering and handed out achievement and longevity awards. Above photos show some of the Local 100 TPPA's honored along with (inset) Akinwunmi Tamuke Durojaiye, who was singled out for his 36 years on the job.



# Union Honors 911 Responders

LOCAL 100 CELEBRATED ITS 4TH annual recognition ceremony on Sept. 6, 2018 for transit workers who responded to the 9/11 rescue and recovery effort.

President Tony Utano, Secretary Treasurer Earl Phillips, Administrative Vice President Nelson Rivera, Vice President John Chiarello and other officers presented beautiful medals, designed by MOW LES Vice Chair Mario Galvet, to members who worked at the site, as well as others who developed verifiable 911-related diseases in the past year.

Assemblyman Peter Abbate, a key supporter of those who responded to the post 911 effort, delivered a keynote address.

A few weeks after the event, the union scored a breakthrough with MTA on sick time used on illnesses caused by the work at the WTC site.

The MTA had been dragging its feet in complying with the recently enacted New York State General Municipal Law Section 92-d, which says state agencies, public authorities, and municipalities outside of New York City must honor sick time requests

as non-chargeable by employees who have verified 9/11 related ailments.

The victory involved Bus Operator Anthony Tousius, who became sick with a 9/11 related illness in 2011 and had to use his own sick time to recover. Union action helped Brother Tousius gain restoration of 56 days of sick time under the new law.

Brother Tousius initially was denied restoration of sick leave until TWU Local 100 took up his case, first filing a grievance under the direction of TA Surface Vice President JP Patafio, and then handing off final negotiations to Local 100 President Tony Utano.

On hearing of the decision on October 5, brother Tousius wrote the following to Brother Utano: "I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to you and your steadfast efforts to secure my sick time in



**Bus Operator Anthony Tousius.**  
(Courtesy of Robert Hennelly and the Chief Leader Newspaper)



**Captions**  
**Captions**



**Captions**  
**Captions**



# Scores Win on Sick Time

a timely fashion. Your faith in my campaign helped sustain me in my own struggle to get this done. My thanks also to J Patafio for being the direct liaison between management and myself. A special thanks goes to James Manzella for being the one who encouraged me from the very beginning.

All of you were there for me and I will never forget this as long as I live.

The decision in the Tousius case means that other TWU Local 100 members who are in a similar situation can also have their sick time restored if it was improperly withheld.



*Structure Maintainer Bobby Nash, receives medal from union leadership.*



*Cleaner Gwendolyn Broughton worked at the World Trade Center site from 9/11 into the winter. She bagged suspected remains and cleared stations of hundreds of pounds of dangerous debris. She was forced to retire due to respiratory issues.*

*Retired Structure Maintainer Steven Gottfried, who is suffering from two forms of cancer, receives medals from President Tony Utano shortly after the event at the union hall.*



*Track Equipment Maintainer Dan Dermody with leadership at medal presentation.*



*Captions  
Captions*



*Bus Operator Jaylyn Soto evacuated people from the WTC site on her M103 Bus. She received a Recognition Pin from from President Tony Utano.*



*Mike Flynn, MaBSTOA Maintenance, receives medal from President Tony Utano.*





*Union officers, including President Tony Utano, Administrative Vice President Nelson Rivera and Vice Presidents John Chiarello and Derick Echevarria with members of the Indian Day Committee and State Senator-elect John Liu.*

# Union Celebrates 13th Annual Indian Day

HUNDREDS OF LOCAL 100 MEMBERS AND FAMILIES gathered for the 13th Annual Indian Day on Nov. 4, 2018 at the IBEW Local 3 facility in Queens.

TWU Local 100 President Tony Utano delivered opening remarks to the event, singling out retiring Executive Board member Jolly Eapen, who has served as chair of the Indian Day Committee since its founding.

Brother Eapen did the honors in the Lighting the Lamp ceremony, after the Rockland School of Violin performed the American and Indian National Anthems.

Special guest speakers included Indian-American community activist Harry Singh, State Senator-elect John

Liu and Assemblywoman-elect Catalina Cruz.

Pooja and Rahul Sharm and Revathi Nair sang and a stirring Bollywood Dance was performed by Anil Diwakar of DPA Events & Entertainment.

Sponsors included Grey & Grey, LLP, Fusco, Bradenstein, Rada, and CMSW.

Traditional Indian dinner was provided by Sitar Palace.

The Indian Day Committee members included: Jolly Eapen, Nelson Rivera, Sam Ponnolil, Shirley Martin, Philip Thomas, Varghese Lukose, Reghunathan Nair, Viswanathan Kunju Pillai, Roy Mathews, Bobby C. Parambil and Kamal Kumar.



*Guest Speaker Harry Singh (3rd from left) with Administrative Vice President Nelson Rivera, Jolly Eapen and Sam Ponnolil.*



*Lighting the Lamp ceremony at 13th Indian Day.*





*President Tony Utano with Assemblywoman-elect Catalina Cruz and State Senator-elect John Liu.*







NYS Comptroller Tom DiNapoli (displaying plaque) is shown with, from the left: Secretary Treasurer Earl Phillips, Administrative Vice President Nelson Rivera, Vice President Richard Davis, President Tony Utano, and Vice President John Chiarello.

## SRO Crowd Turns Out for Italian Night

LOCAL 100 CELEBRATED ITS 13TH ANNUAL ITALIAN NIGHT CELEBRATION on Oct. 25, 2018 before a full house of members, families and friends.

The 300 guests were there to recognize the long history of contributions by Italian Americans to New York City Transit and to TWU Local 100. They were also there to deliver best wishes to Local 100's first Italian American President, Tony Utano, and to welcome special guest speaker, Thomas DiNapoli, Comptroller

of the State of New York.

MOW Vice President John Chiarello hosted the event. He lauded the contributions of Italian American workers in building the nation's infrastructure. "Italian Americans became of the foundation of America's blue collar working class, and of course, a huge building block of the American trade

union movement," said Chiarello.

Local 100 President Utano delivered greetings to the big crowd and introduced the keynote speaker, DiNapoli, who was presented a plaque lauding him for "Always Setting the standard of Honesty in Good Government."

DiNapoli, who recently published a report on the grim state of the MTA's finances beyond 2019. "The MTA needs more revenue," he said. "But we're not going to do it off your backs," he pledged.

Attendees were treated to a menu of ethnic specialties from a well-known Italian restaurant, as well as an espresso and cappuccino bar.

Sponsors included CMSW, M3 Technology, Investors Bank, Freedom Mortgage and Fusco, Brandenstein & Rada.











*Local 100's top four officers visit with parade dignitaries, Rep. Charles Rangel and Mayor David Dinkins.*

# Union Marches Proudly in 49<sup>th</sup> African American Day Parade

TWU LOCAL 100 HELPED SPONSOR THE 49TH Annual African American Day Parade in September, and then turned out to march and celebrate with an estimated 900,000 participants and well-wishers.

This year's parade theme, Culture is Key, was in keeping with the parade's original mission to highlight African American culture and heritage.

This year's grand marshals were Arthur Mitchell, founder of the Dance Theatre of Harlem, NY1 news anchor Cheryl

Willis, Radio 103.9 host Tom Joyner, WBLS and WLIB news director Ann Tripp and ground-breaking rapper Doug E. Fresh.

Also present were two of Harlem's most esteemed residents, former New York City Mayor David Dinkins and Rep. Charles Rangel, who served his Congressional district for 46 years. Both stopped by to pay their respects to the Local 100 contingent at the parade.

Local 100 President Tony Utano, along with Secretary Treasurer Earl Phillips, Recording Secretary LaTonya Crisp and Administrative Vice President, led TWU's marchers on the parade route.



*TWU Local 100's Color Guard leads the union's parade marchers.*



*Recording Secretary LaTonya Crisp visits with four women members of the NYPD.*





*Local 100 officers leading TWU's contingent, from the left: Recording Secretary LaTonya Crisp, Administrative Vice President Nelson Rivera, President Tony Utano, MOW VP John Chiarello, Secretary Treasurer Earl Phillips, and VP Derick Echevarria.*





# Union Colors Fly at Dominican Day Parade

TWU LOCAL 100 PARTNERED WITH SEIU 1199, the New York Presbyterian Hospital and a number of other prominent organizations to help sponsor the 36th Annual Dominican Day Parade on Aug. 11, 2018.

The union contingent marched proudly up 6th Avenue in front of the Local's impressive float. Costumed traditional dancers were a special attraction that entertained the crowds. An approximate 10,000 marchers representing scores of unions, companies, community groups and more participated in all.

The union served traditional Dominican fare to the union members and families who came to the event to make the pre-march wait a festive affair.

On the morning of the parade, union officers attended the annual Dominican breakfast in Inwood where parade dignitaries and numerous politicians, including Congressman Adriano Espaillat, the first Dominican-born legislator to be elected to the U.S. Congress. NYS Attorney Tish James, NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer, Gov. Cuomo and Lieutenant Gov. Kathy Hochul also attended.

TWU Local 100 t-shirts highlighting Dominican heritage were a huge hit.









# Union Turns Out for West India

TWU LOCAL 100 MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TURNED out in numbers for this year's West Indian American Day Parade on Labor Day to honor the City's Caribbean community and the union's growing Caribbean-American demographic.

The union made its presence felt in a big way in the march along Eastern Parkway in Brooklyn. Members carried flags, and marched alongside a beautifully decorated Local 100 float and a clean energy powered New York City Bus. The members turned out earlier, where the union had set up two tents and served traditional Caribbean dishes to get things started.

The union's top leadership including President Tony Utano, Secretary Treasurer Earl Phillips, Recording Secretary LaTonya Crisp and Administrative Vice President Nelson Rivera all joined in the fun.

Numerous politicians made it a point to drop by to pay their respects for the TWU delegation. They included Public Advocate (and NYS Attorney General-elect) Tish James, Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, Brooklyn District Attorney General Eric Gonzalez, NYS Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, City Comptroller Scott Stringer, City Council President Cory Johnson, State Sen. Kevin Parker, Assemblywoman Rodneyse Bichotte, City Councilman Robert Cornegy, and U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand.





# n Day Parade





# Members, Families Pack

More than 600 people turned out to the union's 4th Annual Chinese American Mid-Autumn Festival on Sept. 27, 2018 at the New Spring Garden Restaurant in Brooklyn.

Host John Chiarello marveled at how the event has grown in just four years, noting that sign-ups for the event has to be cut off 48 hours after they begin because so many people want to participate. "I think we could rent out the Barkleys Center and we would fill it up," said Chiarello to the crowd.

President Tony Utano delivered the greetings of the union's 45,000 members. The program featured vocal performances by Winnie Huang, a traditional Chinese performance.

Secretary Treasure Earl Phillips, Recording Secretary LaTonya Crisp, Administrative Vice President Nelson Rivera

and Vice Presidents John Chiarello and Shirley Martin also attended, along with numbers Divisional officers.

But the night was all about great food, great friends and good time away from the job.

Along with the union, the event was co-sponsored by Investors Bank, Freedom Mortgage, and Fusco, Brandenstein & Rada.





# Chinese Night Celebration





# 700 Attend 13th Russian Americ

LOCAL 100'S 13TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF Russian-American Heritage Day drew a capacity crowd on Oct. 14th to Tatiana Restaurant in Brighton Beach. Over 700 union members and guests enjoyed a festive afternoon with dancing, entertainment, and a few speeches from key political figures, including New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer, City Councilman Mark Treyger, and New York State Assemblyman Steve Cymbrowitz, among others.

Event Chair Grigory Dunichev said that the membership stands behind Local 100 President Tony Utano.

"Because of what Tony Utano has brought to the table over the past year – I believe that our union is more united and more ready to go to war with the MTA than ever before," said Dunichev in his introductory remarks. "I believe that Tony Utano is the right man to lead us in this contract fight."

Utano told the big assemblage that he has worked hard to make sure that TWU and TWU Local 100 members are respected on the job. "Respect helps to build unity. And unity helps to build strength. And when TWU is strong in every shop, in every barn, in every depot, we are an unbeatable force," said Utano.





# an Heritage Day







## GLEASON DEPOT CHAIR WHITFIELD GIBSON REMEMBERED AS ‘TENACIOUS FIGHTER’ FOR TWU MEMBERS

TWU LOCAL 100 OFFICERS AND MEMBERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE FROM TA Surface and Maintenance in Brooklyn, are mourned the passing of Whitfield Gibson, Chair of the Jackie Gleason Depot since 2006. Brother Gibson died July 23, 2018, after a difficult battle with cancer. He was only 50 years old.

Word of his passing spread quickly around the union, prompting a flurry of heartfelt comments from officers and members about his dedication to the union and to transit workers.

TWU Local 100 President Tony Utano said that Gibson’s passing “is a deep loss for our union.

Whitfield Gibson was a dedicated officer and an inspirational leader for all of TWU. His impact at Gleason Depot was profound, and we are all in his debt for the type of leadership he brought to TA Surface and all of Local 100. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family. He will be sorely missed.”

TWU International President John Samuelsen said that Brother Gibson was a “fighter” with a “never back down” attitude. “It’s truly sad to lose someone like Whitfield Gibson at so early an age,” said Samuelsen. “He has given so much to this union and our members over the years, and he still had so much more to give. He will be sorely missed.”

Local 100 Secretary Treasurer Earl Phillips, who like Brother Gibson, was born in Barbados, said:

“We have lost a hard-working, courageous Chairman. He had been elected and reelected at Gleason Depot for the past 15 years, and the way he took care of his members, he could have stayed as long as he wanted. I have lost a brother countryman, and we all have lost a true stand up union leader.”

Vice President J.P. Patafio, a close personal friend and co-worker said: “Brother Gibson was a beloved chairman. He dedicated his life to Local 100 and its members. He has touched hundreds of lives at Gleason in so many ways. With management, he was a tenacious fighter. He defended the membership tooth and nail. He knew the contract inside and out, and would never let management get over on anyone. He was respected and feared by management. They knew that with Gibson, he drew a line in the sand and they couldn’t cross it. He really cared. He had a lot pride in himself and in this union, and would never allow the union or a Local 100 member to be disrespected. He was truly a first among equals.”

Whitfield Gibson was born in Barbados on Aug. 11, 1967. He started as Bus Operator in 1999, and in less than four years, was elected Gleason Depot Vice Chair. He was then elected Chair in 2006 and has held that position since. Prior to being hired with NYCT, Gibson drove for Green Bus Lines, formerly a private company, now part of the MTA Bus Division.

He is survived by his mother, father, sister and brother, and a host of friends and co-workers.

TAS Division Officers are planning to unveil a memorial plaque for Whitfield Gibson at Gleason Depot in the near future.



Brother Gibson, right, leading TAS members in a march down Broadway to a contract rally at 2 Broadway.



Whitfield Gibson, right, with friend and union colleague, Local 100 Vice President JP Patafio.



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RT556 1116



# Greenwich School Bus Contract Approved, 113 to 4

Members at Student Transportation of America, Inc. (STA Greenwich) have approved their new union contract by a margin of 113 to 4. The agreement for the school bus company was reached on Nov. 15 of last year, with Local 100 President Tony Utano joining the talks in the final hours to conclude the agreement.

It features annual wage increases, important new guarantees on daily and weekly pay, and a host of benefit improvements. It increases pay by 3 percent in each year of the 5-year package, and the first increase is retroactive to July 1, 2018. The compounding factor brings the actual total increase to nearly 16 percent.

In addition, Drivers and Monitors will now be paid their weekly picked run hours from the first scheduled day of school to the last actual day of school including all intervening school holidays, closures, scheduled or unscheduled vacations, unless the employee absents him/herself from work. The daily hourly guarantee goes from 5 hours per day to 5.3 hours per day (26.5 per week) in the 4th year of the agreement, and to 5.5 hours a day (27.5 weekly) in the 5th year of the contract. Currently, Drivers earn \$29.16 per hour and Monitors earn \$17.00 per hour. For the eight Spare Drivers and Monitors (a picked job), there will be an immediate increase in the guaranteed minimum hours to 7 hours per day or 35 hours per week.



**The numbers are overwhelming. 113 yes to 4 no. From left: Ex. Bd. member Orlando Vasquez, School Bus representative Jemary Pabon; Organizing Director Frank McCann; STA section officer Jamille Aine, and Division Chair Gus Moghrabi.**

The negotiating committee won increases in the Life Insurance Benefit for all employees, regardless of service time; a hike in the company matching contribution to a worker's 401(k) plan, and an increase in the employer cap to both single and dependent health care coverage. Finally, the committee scored wins on years-of-service bonuses for all workers, and safety bonuses for Monitors.

## Scores Turn Out for Annual Bangladeshi Picnic



**Union officers and members gathered at beautiful Belmont Lake State Park on Long Island for this year's Bangladeshi-American picnic. Officers including President Tony Utano, Secretary Treasurer Earl Phillips, Recording Secretary LaTonya Crisp, Vice President John Chiarello and Structure Division Chair Richard Rocco joined the popular event.**





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