



# BURNING BRIGHT



Transport Workers Union  
Utility Division

Transport Workers Union Local 101 AFL-CIO 195 Montague St., 3rd Floor,  
Brooklyn, NY 11201 Tel: 718-745-7597 www.twulocal101.org



**BREAST CANCER  
AWARENESS**

**HELP FOR  
CAREGIVERS  
HELPING VETERANS**

**LOCAL 101 MEMBER  
SAVES WOMAN  
FROM HOUSE FIRE**







## Constance's Corner

By Local 101 President Constance Bradley

The contract fight between National Grid and two unions representing workers in the Boston area is over. After a tough fight that saw the international conglomerate lock out workers – cutting off their pay and health benefits – the two sides reached an agreement in January.

We're on deck. Our contract negotiations start this summer and my administration is focused on getting ready. We are meeting with our lawyers, crunching numbers and evaluating what happened in Boston as we plot our strategy.

One thing is crystal clear. We have to stand united and have no divisions in our ranks when we face off against the bosses. Major corporations like National Grid put profits over everything else. We have to make them see us and listen to us. We are the people answering the phone calls, making the appointments, reading meters, welding pipes and maintaining high-pressure equipment in the bitter cold and sweltering heat. We have families to feed, kids to send to school and bills to pay.

We deserve the respect that they so willingly give to their wealthy stockholders and well-compensated executives who work in cushy corner offices and carpeted boardrooms. National Grid is making a push to contract out more of our work, including phone calls traditionally handled by our call centers, and the inspection of gas lines at building walls, which is now mandated by the Public Service Commission.

Local 101 has proven in the past that contracting out always costs more than using in-house forces.

We are currently fighting one case in arbitration and will continue to forcefully oppose any expansion of outsourcing in the future.

Contracting out also was an issue in Boston, where National Grid really put the screws to workers. According to news reports, one of National Grid's contract proposals involved more outsourcing, although the company at some point did drop it. The company also initially demanded that 1,250 gas workers represented by the United Steelworkers Union agree to a series of concessions, including the elimination of traditional pensions for new hires, and the elimination or scaling back of retiree health benefits, life insurance and paid sick time.

The unions fought back and took a strike authorization vote. The company locked out the workers on July 1. That meant no pay and no health coverage. The lockout lasted six months!

In the end, both management and labor compromised. Workers won solid raises and preserved retiree health benefits, life insurance and paid sick time. New hires, however, will not get traditional pensions but get a 401k with a company match.

Local 12012 President John Buonopane, whom I met in July when we went to Boston to show our solidarity and participate in a union rally, said unity was critical.

"We feel good," Buonopane said. "We did something that we think was unprecedented. We stood up to up to a multinational, multibillion-dollar corporation that has more money than a lot of countries in the world..."

We had to compromise but we compromised on our terms." We will fight hard like our brothers and sisters in Boston, but again, we need to be united and willing to participate in any actions deemed necessary, including protests and rallies.



## Local 101 to Rookie meter re

A Local 101 member woman from near-certain he pulled her from a raging East New York, Brooklyn, Joe Lauro, a National Grid reader, sprinted into the ho firefighters arrived on the s found the woman passed hallway floor, he said.

"It was extremely hot a smoky," Lauro said. "It wa hard to breathe. It was lik was being cut from the he in there for just 45 second the longest 45 seconds o

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hired 1978

**Michael Sica**  
hired 1979

**David Reyes**  
hired 1970

**Gregg Noto**  
hired 1975

If you have recently retir someone who has retire us their information and love to include them in t Bright edition. We also v tell your co-workers abo births and other big eve Local 101 members.

Email Burning Bright a twulocal101@aol.com





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**Local 101 to the Rescue!**  
 Rookie meter reader saves woman from Brooklyn fire

A Local 101 member saved a woman from near-certain death when he pulled her from a raging house fire in East New York, Brooklyn, on Feb. 4th. Joe Lauro, a National Grid meter reader, sprinted into the house before firefighters arrived on the scene and found the woman passed out on the hallway floor, he said.

“It was extremely hot and extremely smoky,” Lauro said. “It was super hard to breathe. It was like the oxygen was being cut from the house. I was in there for just 45 seconds but it was the longest 45 seconds of my life.”

Lauro brought the woman to the sidewalk where a small crowd had gathered. Paramedics then took her to an area hospital. She was in serious-but-stable condition, according to news reports.

“He really is a hero,” TWU Local 101 President Constance Bradley said of Lauro. “That poor woman would have died. Thank God Joe was in the area, heard the screams, and took

immediate action. Local 101 is proud to call him one of our own.”

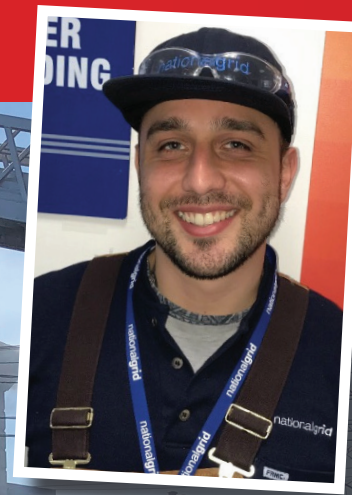
Amazingly, this was the second time that Lauro - who has been on the job just four months - saved the same woman from serious injury, if not death, that day.

Lauro, 27, was walking his route on Hendrix Street at approximately 10:30 a.m. when he heard the woman scream, “I’m going to f-ing die! Somebody help me! I’m going to f-ing die!”

He ran to Belmont Ave, raced around the corner and found the woman on the driveway outside. Apparently, she jumped from a second-floor window to escape the flames but her path was then blocked by a locked gate.

Lauro didn’t have the key. He was, however, jacked-up on adrenaline.

“I literally bent the bars on the gate and she slid through,” he said. “I wasn’t conscious of it. I just did it. This lady needed help or she was going to die.”



Lauro and others brought the woman to the corner. But she then ran back into the house, saying she had to get her “babies,” an apparent reference to cats left inside, Lauro said. News reports made no mention of cats either surviving or perishing in the blaze.



**Congratulations to our recent retirees!**

After years of hard work, the following TWU Local 101 members can now sleep in and forget about punching the clock! We wish them all the best.

- |                                      |                                     |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Joseph Druckman</b><br>hired 1978 | <b>Frank Colon</b><br>hired 1984    |
| <b>Michael Sica</b><br>hired 1979    | <b>James Kroboth</b><br>hired 1991  |
| <b>David Reyes</b><br>hired 1970     | <b>Louis Brunetti</b><br>hired 1989 |
| <b>Gregg Noto</b><br>hired 1975      | <b>Steve Tinglin</b><br>hired 1980  |



Retiree Steven Tinglin shaking hands Local 101 Vice President Joe Coscia. Also pictured, Local 101 Executive Board Member Derrek Oliver (far left), Delegate Warren Rollins, Executive Board Member Phil Coiro and Financial Treasurer Richard Diaczuk.

If you have recently retired, or you know someone who has retired, please send us their information and any photos. We’d love to include them in the next Burning Bright edition. We also would be happy to tell your co-workers about anniversaries, births and other big events in the lives of Local 101 members.

Email Burning Bright at:  
 twulocal101@aol.com



Retiree Gregg Noto (center) with Local 101 Financial Treasurer Richard Diaczuk (left) and Vice President Joe Coscia.



Retiree Louis Brunetti receiving retirement achievement award from Local 101 President Constance Bradley.





# Holiday Celebration

*TWU LOCAL 101*



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# Breast Cancer Awareness



There was a pink tide in Coney Island this fall, and TWU Local 100 was right in the thick of it.

More than 35,000 people – including a large contingent of Local 101 officers and members – participated in this year’s Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk in Brooklyn.

The Oct. 21st event raised more than \$500,000 for breast cancer research.

“It was a great event,” Local 101 President Constance Bradley said. “Everyone’s spirits were high. As cold as it was, and it was freezing, everyone was smiling and cheering each other on.”

October is national Breast Cancer Awareness month. The pink ribbon is the international symbol of breast cancer awareness. The ribbon and color, more generally, indicate support for victims and for finding a cure.

Nearly four-dozen Local 101 members joined the massive crowd and walked the 3.2-mile route along the famous Coney Island boardwalk.

“Our turnout was amazing. We’ve had in a long time come out, they come.”

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, and raising money for research.

Many walkers participate in the event. Some have passed away from breast cancer, and others are survivors. Local 101 President Josephine Arrington, who has breast cancer, and several other members are in remission.

Local 101 Recording Secretary Elizabeth V. and several other members are survivors, including John Nellis.

“We could feel the love in the air on October,” John Nellis said.

The Local 101 group includes Executive Board members and other members.

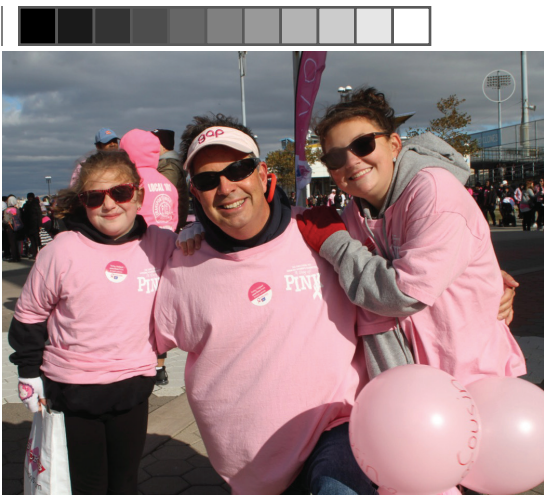




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"Our turnout was amazing," Bradley said. "It was the greatest we've had in a long time. It shows that if the union calls you to come out, they come."

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer events take place all across America with two goals: raising awareness of breast cancer, and raising money for life-saving research.

Many walkers participated in memory of loved ones who have passed away from breast cancer or in support of cancer survivors. Bradley walked in honor of former Local 101 Vice President Josephine Arroyo, who is fighting her second bout with breast cancer, and Local 101 member Louise Barnes, both of whom are in remission.

Local 101 Recording Secretary John Nellis walked with his young nieces, Elizabeth Virginia and Lily Grace, in support of several survivors, including John's mother, Mary Ann Nellis.

"We could feel the love all around us on that special Sunday in October," John Nellis said of the event.

The Local 101 group included Financial Treasurer Richard Diaczuk and Executive Board Member Coretta Jones.

## Make Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk in Brooklyn:

**Route Length:** 3.5 miles along the Coney Island Boardwalk.

**Goal:** To raise awareness of breast cancer, and raise money for breast-cancer research

**Organization:** Making Strides of Brooklyn, an affiliate of The American Cancer Society.

**Number of teams that participated:** 903

**Total number of marchers:** ~ 35,000

## Breast Cancer Facts and Figures

**Estimated new cases in the U.S. this year:** ~ 270,000

**Estimated deaths:** 41,000

**Estimated new cases in New York:** 17,400

**Estimated N.Y. deaths:** 2,400





# LOCAL 101 HELPED GET THE VOTE OUT.



The stakes of the federal and state elections on Nov. 6th were extremely high, and TWU Local 101 helped turn out the vote with great results: pro-union candidates were victorious, including Gov. Cuomo and our new Attorney General, Letitia James.

*"The leaders we elect will make decisions that affect your everyday life*

*— your job, health care, energy costs, the economy and more,"* Local 101's officers and Executive Board members said in a turn-out-the-vote email blast to the membership. *"So don't sit this one out — join your friends and neighbors and make it count on Election Day!"*

Local 101 also steered members to a League of Women Voters website that enabled voters to find their voting location simply by typing in their address. And the union reminded members what types of ID are acceptable at the polls and fielded voting-related questions from members at the Union Hall in downtown Brooklyn.

On the state level, N.Y. Governor Andrew Cuomo crushed Republican Marc Molinaro and earned a third term as the Empire State's top executive. On the campaign trail, Cuomo bashed Molinaro, a former Republican state Assemblyman and Dutchess County executive, as a Trump "Mini-Me" who supported Trump's anti-union, favor-the-rich agenda.

Democrats in New York also took control of the state Senate for the first time in decades.

Gov. Cuomo has championed and signed legislation to mitigate any

possible negative impacts from hostile court decisions on the federal level.

In 2017, for example, he signed new legislation allowing full union dues to be deducted from New York State taxes.

*"At a time when unions are under attack on the national level, New York is fighting even harder to preserve union jobs and uplift the middle class,"* Cuomo said. *"By allowing full deduction of union dues, we are providing more than just a financial benefit, but also a strong demonstration of our unyielding commitment to defending union jobs as a pathway to the middle class."*

James also has a long history of standing with organized labor over her career as a City Councilwoman and Public Advocate.

James' election on Nov. 6th was historic. She is the first woman to be elected New York attorney general; the first African-American — man or woman - to hold that position; and the first African-American woman to be elected to a statewide office in New York.



Local 101 President Constance Bradley with former U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch on Election Night.



Local 101 President Constance Bradley with Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (D-Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn)



## Help for

There are valuable p available to military vete many vets don't know That's a problem that is by the Transport Worl Local 101 Veterans C

And this year, the cor taking a particular int federal program that in helps transform husba and siblings of veteran wounded or traumatize of duty into at-home sc

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The Department of V Affairs' Comprehensive for Family Caregiver: provides relatives wi counseling, monthly s and other benefits.

*"You are essentially w VA,"* Yvonne Bailey, of the Local 101 Veteran said. *"It's a good prog, a lot of vets were fallir the cracks at the VA. being treated more as than a person. So the new program that ena to more involved in the physical and mental h*



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**ARE ELECTED BY  
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## Help for Caregivers Helping Veterans

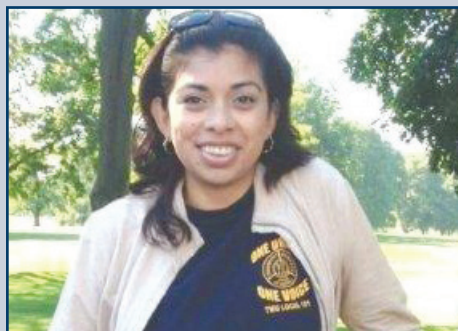
There are valuable programs available to military veterans — but many vets don't know about them. That's a problem that is being tackled by the Transport Workers Union Local 101 Veterans Committee.

And this year, the committee is taking a particular interest in a federal program that in some ways helps transform husbands, wives and siblings of veterans seriously wounded or traumatized in the line of duty into at-home social workers.

*"We can't do enough for our veterans,"* Local 101 President Constance Bradley said. *"They put their lives on the line for us. They sacrificed time away from their families. We owe them much more than we can ever give."*

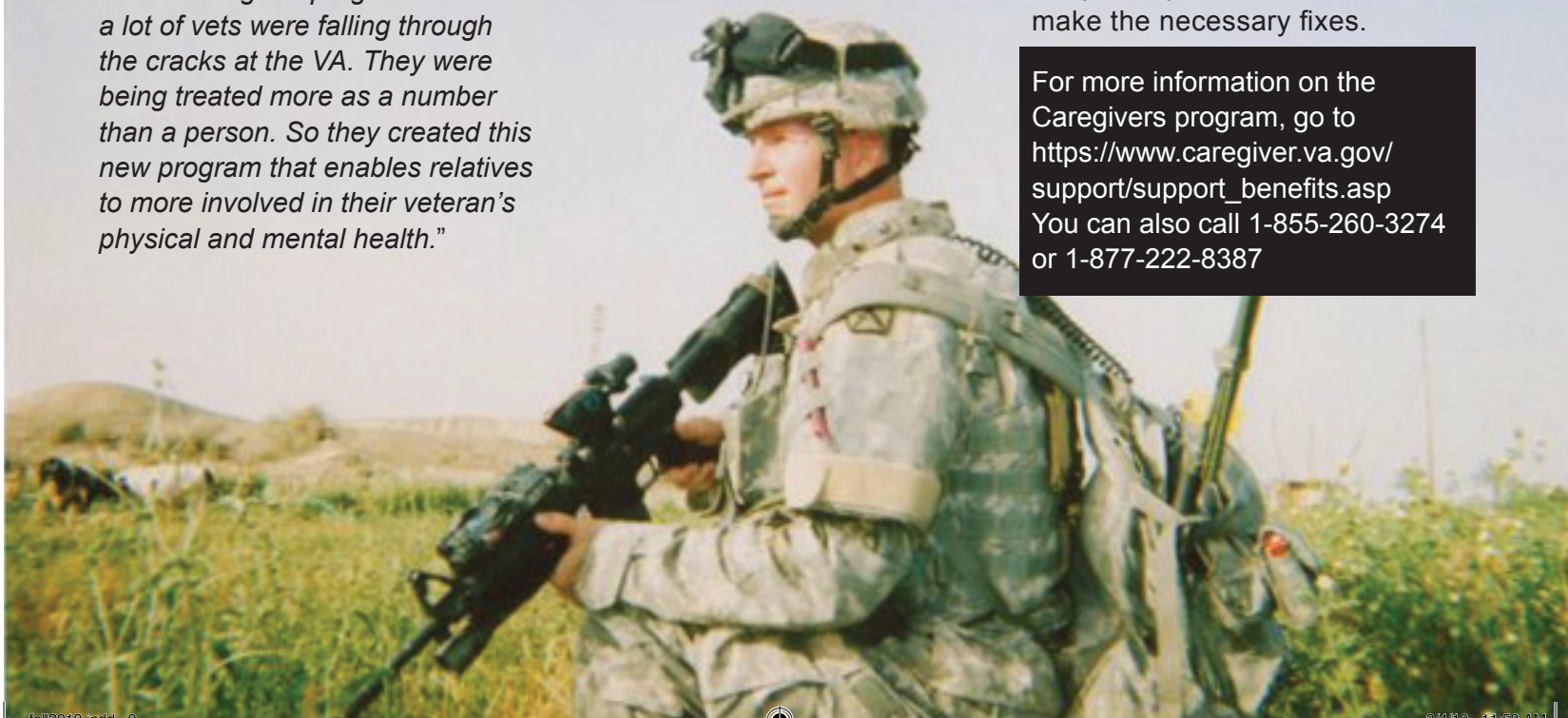
The Department of Veterans Affairs' Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers program provides relatives with training, counseling, monthly stipends and other benefits.

*"You are essentially working for the VA,"* Yvonne Bailey, chairwoman of the Local 101 Veterans Committee, said. *"It's a good program because a lot of vets were falling through the cracks at the VA. They were being treated more as a number than a person. So they created this new program that enables relatives to more involved in their veteran's physical and mental health."*



Bailey finished the required training and was certified by the VA last year. Her husband, an electrician with IBEW Local 3, is a Purple Heart recipient who served two combat tours in the Middle East. He survived 13 wounds, including gunshot and shrapnel wounds. *"I take care of his appointments and paperwork,"* Bailey said. *"I make sure he takes his medication, and reach out directly to his medical providers if necessary, because I'm authorized to do so."*

There are eligibility requirements. A veteran must have suffered a serious injury, or be afflicted with a serious condition, including traumatic brain injury or psychological trauma, that was caused or made worse by active-duty service.



Family stipends range between \$660 and \$2,600 a month, depending on how much care is needed, according to the military newsite, Military.com.

The program originally was intended for veterans who were injured on or after Sept. 11, 2001. But Congress last year passed a law that opens it up to other vets. The Veterans Affairs Department is in the process of writing new rules and procedures for the extended group of possible participants.

Once that is done, veterans injured on or before May 7, 1975, could be eligible for the program starting in 2019. The second phase, which would allow veterans injured after May 7, 1975, and before Sept. 11, 2001, would begin two years later. The program has had its fair share of problems since it was launched in 2011. Critics, including the VA Inspector General last year said the VA bureaucracy had prevented some eligible veteran families from enrolling, prematurely discharged others from the program and provided benefits to some that didn't really qualify. VA officials promised to make the necessary fixes.

For more information on the Caregivers program, go to [https://www.caregiver.va.gov/support/support\\_benefits.asp](https://www.caregiver.va.gov/support/support_benefits.asp) You can also call 1-855-260-3274 or 1-877-222-8387





# AROUND THE UNION

Our parent union — The Transport Workers Union of America — represents approximately 150,000 members and our ranks continue to grow. In other words, there's a lot going on in the TWU family.

Transport Workers Union President of America President John Samuelson brought a renewed focus on organizing when he was elevated to the post in May 2017. He also has urged TWU's locals to be more aggressive in fighting the bosses, and has provided resources and headquarters' staff to assist such efforts.

**Here's a look at some of the campaigns and developments involving our union brothers and sisters across the country:**



## Columbus, Ohio.

The TWU is waging a fight against the possible deployment of autonomous self-driving buses in Columbus. The city of Columbus, and the state of Ohio, are testing computer-operated shuttles that ostensibly will be controlled by computers.

TWU Local 208 represents the bus operators, mechanics and other workers employed by the Central Ohio Transit Authority. TWU is waging a multi-faceted campaign, People Before Robots, to protect Bus Operator jobs and the safety of riders. The campaign involves paid and free media, lobbying elected officials, grassroots organizing and legislation.

TWU was heavily involved in the November gubernatorial election in Ohio and held events with Democratic candidate Richard Cordray.

These events helped bring public and press attention to our proactive message: even if technology advances, bus operators can't be replaced because they do much more than drive, including calling the police in emergencies, reporting suspicious packages or people, serving as a deterrent to crime, providing medical assistance until paramedics arrive and giving directions.



## New York City

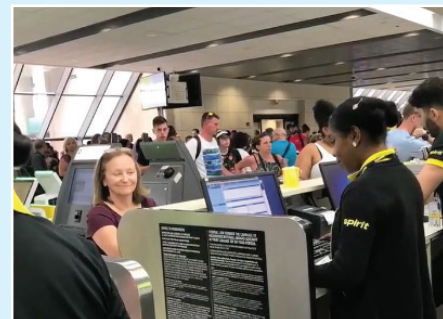
More than 100 Amtrak workers, union leaders and supporters leafleted riders and held a protest rally in October against job cuts at the national railroad.

The protestors filled a good portion of the steps outside the massive Farley Post Office across the avenue from the Penn Station rail hub. Approximately 1,700 workers could lose their jobs if Amtrak CEO Richard Anderson goes through with plans to eliminate all dining car service and other service cuts.

"As he slices and dices Amtrak, he is not only ruining quality of service for passengers, he is turning middle class jobs into junk," John Feltz, TWU's Railroad Division director, said. "Anderson thinks he can run Amtrak like an airline, nickeling and diming customers. This is a national railway and we won't sit idly by while this robber baron CEO takes away our jobs and diminishes service."

TWU Local 1460 represents Amtrak food-service workers in part of the U.S. It is part of the Amtrak

Service Workers Council along with UNITE HERE Local 43 and Transportation Communications Union/International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers.



## Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Customer Service Agents employed by Spirit Airlines voted overwhelmingly to form a Local under the TWU banner.

**"We are going to have a voice at the table and that's big"**

More than 80% of agents casting ballots decided to unionize, according to results that the National Mediation Board in Washington, D.C., released in September. The board oversaw the election and tallied the results.

"We are going to have a voice at the table and that's big," Marcos Perez, one of the 300 customer agents at Spirit, said after the vote. "Before it was one-way decision making and now we are not going to be silenced anymore."

TWU Organizing Director Steve Roberts and Assistant Organizing Director Sean Doyle led the campaign drive. Voting took place by telephone and Internet.

The successful culmination of the Spirit Airlines campaign came just five months after 5,000 flight attendants at JetBlue Airways voted to join TWU. A committee of flight attendants is currently negotiating their first contract with JetBlue.

## Local

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**Constance F**  
*President*

**Joseph Cos**  
*Vice President*

**Richard Dia**  
*Financial Sec*

**John Nellis**  
*Recording Sec*

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**Brooklyn, N**

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# Local 101 Utility Division

TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION of AMERICA  
AFL-CIO

**Constance Bradley**  
*President*

**Joseph Coscia**  
*Vice President*

**Richard Diaczuk**  
*Financial Secretary-Treasurer*

**John Nellis**  
*Recording Secretary*



**TWU Local 101**  
195 Montague Street  
3rd Floor  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
(718) 745-7597

## NOTICE OF SECTION MEETINGS FOR 2019

All members are welcome to attend

Thursday - March 21

Thursday - April 25

Thursday - May 23

June, July and August - On Recess

**MEETINGS START AT 6 P.M. SHARP!**

**Location: Knights of Columbus, 1305 86th St., Brooklyn, NY, 11228**

**ALL DELEGATES AND SHOP STEWARDS MUST ATTEND**

**THIS NOTICE TO BE POSTED ON ALL UNION BULLETIN BOARDS**

Workers Council along with Local 43 and Transportation Union/International of Machinists and Workers.



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**are going to have a voice at the table and it's big"**

80% of agents casting votes to unionize, according to the National Mediation Board in Washington, D.C., released the results. The board oversaw the vote. "Before it was a time when we were going to have a voice at the table that's big," Marcos Perez, 100 customer agents at the vote. "Before it was a time when we were being silenced and now we are going to have a voice at the table that's big." Organizing Director Steve Doyle led the campaign which took place by telephone

Successful culmination of the campaign came months after 5,000 flight attendants at JetBlue Airways voted to unionize. A committee of flight attendants is currently negotiating a contract with JetBlue.







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**TWU Local 101 Section Meetings  
are held monthly on Thursdays  
at 6 p.m. at  
The Knights of Columbus,  
1305 86th St., Brooklyn, NY, 11228**

**ALL DELEGATES  
AND SHOP STEWARDS  
MUST ATTEND**



## **TWU LOCAL 101**

**Constance Bradley**  
*President*

**Joe Coscia**  
*Vice President*

**Richard Diaczuk**  
*Financial  
Secretary-Treasurer*

**John Nellis Jr.**  
*Recording Secretary*

**Executive Board**  
*John De Morato  
Derrek Oliver  
Coretta Jones  
Phil Coiro*

**Administrative Staff**  
*Angela Green*

**Burning Bright,**  
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