



TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO

UNITED INVINCIBLE

ADVOCATING ON BEHALF OF WORKING MEN AND WOMEN SINCE 1934

[transportworkersunion](#) [@transportworker](#) [transportworker](#) [transportworker](#) [transportworkersunion](#)

The Transport Workers Union of America (TWU) represents nearly 140,000 members across the country, organized into three divisions: Air; Rail; and Transit, Universities, Utilities and Services. Our members are governed by the National Labor Relations Act, the Railway Labor Act and public sector statutes. The newest members of the Transit Division are new-model transportation workers at urban bikeshare programs.

The TWU is dedicated to bettering the lives of working families. We work to safeguard and improve working conditions and living standards of all workers. We demand respect, dignity and equality for all. Our members make airplanes fly, railroads run, buses, subways and bikes move, and casinos succeed! We are nearly 140,000 transportation workers and “We Move America.”

Unions help bring workers out of poverty and into the middle class. In fact, in states where legislation cripples the use of union rights, their incomes are lower. The TWU firmly believes that unions help employers create a more stable and productive workforce, where workers can have a say in improving their jobs. That is good for the company, the employees, and the American economy.

In states that have so-called “right-to-work laws,” worker income and benefits are lower. These misnamed laws, which aim at undermining the collective strength workers can achieve through their union, are a bad deal for all workers.

The TWU fights for its members on Capitol Hill, at state houses, at the bargaining table, in the courts, and on the shop floor. We negotiate and enforce the best contracts. We serve and protect the traveling public as they go to work, to school, take a vacation and safely deliver them home.

Our members include: aircraft mechanics, cable car operators, airport ramp workers, baggage handlers, flight attendants, customer service representatives, bus operators, motormen, table game dealers, maintenance workers, coach cleaners, railroad flagmen, school bus drivers, pilot instructors, onboard train food and beverage service, firefighters, dispatchers, track workers, power line workers, station agents, ticket agents, tour guides, disease control investigators, crane operators, environmental health inspectors, and many more.

They are employed by: New York MTA, American Airlines, Amtrak, Southwest Airlines, Houston Metro, San Francisco MUNI,

Caesars Palace, Alaska Airlines, Norfolk Southern, CSX, Philadelphia SEPTA, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Metro North, Kennedy Space Center, Fort Gordon, CitiBike, Fort McCoy, National Grid, Columbia University, Barnard College, multiple school districts and municipalities, and others.



Then and Now: Top: TWU fights for a 40-hour work week in 1951. Below: International President John Samuelsen joins 400 TWU members and our brothers and sisters from unions like APA and CWA, in Times Square to rally for an industry-best contract at American Airlines in 2017.

THE TWU'S LEADERSHIP

JOHN SAMUELSEN
International President

ALEX GARCIA
International Executive Vice President

JEROME LAFRAGOLA
International Secretary-Treasurer

CURTIS TATE
International Administrative Vice President

MIKE MAYES
International Administrative Vice President



L to R: Curtis Tate, Jerome Lafragola, John Samuelsen, Alex Garcia and Mike Mayes

WORKERS' RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS



In its long history, the TWU has always fought for equality in the workplace, and since the beginning, has been a force against discrimination based on race, creed, sexual orientation, or ethnicity. Below is a brief history of the TWU:

- 1934: The TWU is founded by Michael J. Quill, by organizing transit workers in New York City.
- 1937: Organizes New York City transit and negotiates contracts covering 38,000 workers within 9 months.
- 1937: Affiliates with the CIO and is chartered to organize workers in transportation and allied industries.
- 1938: Forces Fifth Avenue Bus Company to open access to bus driver titles to black workers.
- 1940s: Expands nationally to organize transportation workers in Philadelphia, Winston-Salem, San Francisco, Houston, Columbus, Omaha, and other cities. Sets up airline mechanics' schools in Miami that are open to both black and white workers during segregation.
 - Establishes the Air Transport Division, organizing Pan American World Airways and American Airlines.
- 1944: Columbia University maintenance and housekeeping employees vote to join TWU, followed by Barnard College in 1946.



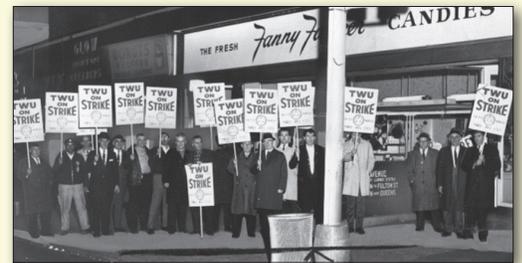
TWU founder Michael Quill, right, handing strike instructions to Brooklyn powerhouse workers in 1937.



Mike Quill greets Dr. King before the civil rights leader addressed the TWU convention in 1961.

- 1944: Organizes allied transportation workers such as power utility workers who work for the Brooklyn Union Gas Company, now National Grid.
- 1950: Organizes public service employees in municipalities and school districts in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.
- 1954: 40,000 non-operating railroad workers merge with TWU.
- 1957: Charters its first government enclave local at Cape Canaveral and the Air Division expands to represent those employees who are part of the guided missile program.
- 1962: Fights for and secures the end of segregated bus lines in Houston, and the segregated pay scales that came with them.
- 1965: TWU members march with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. from Selma to Montgomery.
- 1966: Launches a transit strike on January 1 that cripples the city of New York. Twelve days later, the strike ends and the TWU strengthened the rights of public sector workers, dramatically improved hours, conditions, and pay; and leveled the playing field for all public employees.

- 1980: Wins uniform changes at Southwest Airlines so female flight attendants no longer have to wear suggestive clothing that brought on sexual harassment during flights.
- 2007: Forms the Gaming Division to represent table game dealers at various properties in Las Vegas.



- 2014: Organizes bikeshare workers in New York; Washington, DC; Chicago; and Boston who join the Transit Division.

