

Danny Biggs Elected TCU International Secretary-Treasurer

Following the retirement at the end of 2006 of Howard W. Randolph, Jr., Danny Biggs is now TCU International Secretary-Treasurer. Randolph had served in that position since autumn of 2003. When he announced his plans to step down, the executive council elected Biggs, then an international vice president, to succeed him effective January 1 of this year.

In 1975, Biggs, 57, started his rail career at Amtrak in Oakland, California, working as a ticket clerk, baggageman and dispatcher. He served as Assistant Local Chairman and District Chairman of Lodge 1909, then was elected to leadership posts in System Division 250 including General Secretary-Treasurer and General Chairman. While he was GC, Biggs served as the labor chairman of JMAC, the labor-management committee overseeing the Amtrak health plan for union workers, and as chairman of the Amtrak Service Workers' Council. He was elected a member of TCU's Board of Trustees in 1998.

Biggs became an International Vice President in January 2004. He oversaw the



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work of TCU's Social Services Department which handles health and welfare issues and the Manpower Training Department which works with the U.S. Department of Labor's Job Corps to provide job training programs at sites throughout the U.S.

"Danny Biggs is a smart, dynamic and committed leader who inspires confidence and stands up for what he believes," says President Scardelletti. "I know that as IST he will effectively serve TCU members and their interests."

Union Pacific Drops Bid to Export Jobs to Mexico

Citing the "political climate," Union Pacific Railroad in late January withdrew its request to the Federal Railroad Administration to allow it to run trains from Mexico into the U.S. without performing safety inspections on the American side of the border. The carrier proposed doing train safety inspections

in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, instead of in Laredo, Texas, effectively outsourcing jobs of TCU/IAM carmen and other union workers and potentially compromising public safety and national security. International President Bob Scardelletti praises International Vice President and Carmen Division President

Rich Johnson for rallying members and working with representatives of rail labor, safety advocates and others to let Congress and affected communities know what might happen. "Clearly UP took notice that the winds of change are blowing in Washington, DC," says Johnson.

"The connection between keeping American jobs in America and protecting national security should be pretty clear these days."

Report from the Bargaining Front

• In national freight rail negotiations for carmen and clerical contracts, talks were held January 31 and February 1 and no agreement was reached. "This industry is awash in profits. CEOs and upper management have been rewarded accordingly," said International President Bob Scardelletti. "It is now time for our hard working members, who have contributed so much to the railroads' revival, to share in the industry's success."

• Agreement was reached in late December to stop Amtrak's plans to hire an outside contractor to perform reservation sales office work. The agreement means that current part-time reservation sales workers will not be forced to go full-time or lose their jobs, as would have been required if Amtrak had proceeded to contract out the work.

• Maintenance of Way Supervisors at New Jersey Transit have ratified an updated contract. The agreement was reached December 6 and ratified by members of Lodge 5045 during Christmas week. The negotiating committee was led by General Chairman Tony Longo.

Important Notices for TCU Members

About TCU's Constitution

TCU makes its *Constitution of the Grand Lodge, Statutes for the Government of Lodges and Districts, and Protective Laws* available to members in two ways: the document can be downloaded directly from TCU's website at www.TCUnion.org or, to get a bound version, members should send a *written* request to International Secretary-Treasurer Daniel Biggs at TCU, 3 Research Place, Rockville, MD 20850.

About Grievances – Duty of Members

The Laws of TCU contain specific provisions for the filing and progression of grievances. Grievances must be presented in writing by the aggrieved employee, giving all known facts to the Local/District Chairman-Delegate (Article 1, Section 11(a) of the Protective Laws).

The laws of TCU also provide adequate methods for internal appeals on grievance matters. Most contracts contain strict time limitations on filing and progressing grievances.

Each and every member has an individual responsibility and duty to properly file and appeal grievance matters under the Laws of this Union. For further information all members should consult the Laws of this Union.

About Payment of Dues

The attention of our members is called to Article 6, Section 1(a) of the Lodge and District Statutes

which provides that members owing two months' dues will be **AUTOMATICALLY SUSPENDED** at 12 o'clock midnight on the last day of the second month **WITHOUT NOTICE**. Here is the relevant text of Article 6, Section 1(a) for lodges and districts:

Article 6 SUSPENSION—Members

Section 1(a). Dues and assessments are due and payable on the first day of each calendar month. A member owes two months' dues and assessments on the first day of the second month, which means that two months' dues and assessments, and not a portion thereof, must be paid on or before midnight of the last day of that month or the member will be automatically suspended. It is the responsibility of every member to know when dues and assessments are payable and pay them to an authorized representative of his Lodge (or the General Secretary-Treasurer for Districts) within the time limits specified in this Article.

No demand for payment of such dues or assessments or notice of nonpayment thereof or delinquency is necessary or required. A member who fails to pay his dues and assessments within the time limits specified in this Article is automatically suspended at 12 o'clock midnight of the last day of the second month for which he owes dues and assessments.

Note: Any individual paying an agency fee will be treated in the same manner as above set forth.

Dues Increase in April per TCU Constitution

Pursuant with Article 26, Section 2(b) of the TCU Grand Lodge Constitution, monthly dues will be increased effective April 1, 2007 by \$0.80.

Note: These notices, policies and procedures apply only to members of the Transportation Communications Union (TCU) which is an IAM affiliate. All Constitutional references are to the TCU Grand Lodge Constitution.