

# Talking 241

*Talking Sense, Talking Union*



## LABOR NOTES CONFERENCE

As part of the ongoing effort to stress member education, involvement and activism, the ATU International Mobilization and Training Department announces the upcoming **Labor Notes Conference**. The Conference will be one of the biggest gatherings of grassroots union activists, worker center leaders and other 99 percenters like you. Isn't it time to fight back? Come and meet other activists who are on the front lines in our unions and our communities. **Labor Notes Conferences** include workshops on contract campaigns, beating apathy, bargaining over technology and understanding the economy. The Conference will be held in Chicago on May 4-6, 2012. If you are considering attending and would like more information, please contact your Local 241 Assistant to the Trustee at your facility, or call Local 241 at 312-341-1733.

## GRIEVANCE HANDLING

Our membership deserves a grievance process in which a grievance is properly investigated, processed in a timely manner and one that provides the member real time step by step updates. Our membership also deserves a process that does all the above in a cost efficient manner. The Trustees demand no less.

Given the volume of grievances the Trustees found and the phone calls received, it was painfully clear that the system was not working. It was painful to see the juggling act between three law firms and an in house attorney. It was painfully clear that this juggling act was not in the best interest of our membership.

Something had to change. We no longer utilize an in house attorney and we are back to using one law firm. Additionally, the ATU International Vice Presidents/Trustees are establishing a new Internal Grievance Committee process. Our goal is to move grievances through the grievance procedure in a more efficient and cost effective manner.

As most of you are aware, there are a number of grievances still pending arbitration dates. The Trustees are working to find a resolution to this on-going problem. It's not magic, but better training, better

**LET'S GET SOME UNITY IN OUR COMMUNITY!!!**

[www.atu241chicago.org](http://www.atu241chicago.org)

## PACE NORTHSHORE CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY

PACE Northshore has had two negotiating sessions thus far. Our contract proposal, developed by the contract committee and worked upon at Local 1759 Union meetings, is available for member review on the ATU Local 241 website. The upcoming negotiating dates agreed upon between Union and Management are Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, March 22, 2012. Among those we plan to use at the bargaining table are ATU International Vice Presidents/Trustees Javier Perez and Marcellus Barnes, as well as Sherie Voyles and Taylor Muzzy, who are trusted attorneys from the law firm that we have utilized for many years and Assistants to the Trustees Larry Threatt, Phil Carlson and Mike Purcell.

### YOUR ASSISTANTS TO THE TRUSTEES

#### **WEST:**

Ernest Jones

#### **NORTH SHORE:**

Phil Carlson

Larry Threatt

Michael Purcell

#### **SOUTH WEST:**

Candace Lewis

Caesarie Montgomery

## RED TAILS

On Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, as part of our Black History month celebration ATU International sponsored a private screening of **RED TAILS** for approximately 175 children and young adults drawn from Church and Community groups. The International Trustees thank the Local 241 Women's Caucus and all volunteers that took time out of their day to support our Locals outreach to our communities. Keep on the lookout for streaming of this event on the ATU 241 website.



## PACE SOUTHWEST PREPARES FOR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Preparations are underway for contract negotiations at PACE Southwest. The current contract expires at the end of June, so it's time to roll up the sleeves and get to work on it. Contract proposal forms are being circulated amongst the membership. The form only takes a couple of minutes to fill out, so please take the time to let the Trustees know what's on your mind. These proposals will let the Trustees and the rest of the negotiating team understand what your priorities are and will play an important role in formulating the contract proposal. A separate survey specifically for Part Time operators is also being circulated. The Trustees want to have a clear understanding of the Part Time operator's issues and as such, their input is