

Early morning on February 17, 2014, our beloved brother **Bradlee Pratt** passed away in his sleep. A dedicated shop steward and tireless leader, Bradlee worked at the Washington Convention Center for the past 15 years and worked a second job at American University for the last three.

He led us to many a great union victory, most recently at the Convention Center where he filed dozens of grievances and mobilized 70 of his co-workers to participate in a single action and helped stop the company from over-using temporary agencies.

Bradlee inspired all of us with his determination and perseverance in the face of considerable physical pain. We will miss his generosity, sense of humor, and amazing warmth and care. Our condolences go to his family, his loved ones, his co-workers, and everyone who was blessed to know him.



## Atlanta

Hotel and airport workers, along with their families, attended the Martin Luther King, Jr. march in Atlanta on January 20. On January 19th the workers from hotel and airport attended a motivational MLK breakfast.



## Washington, DC

### Tarshea Smith Honored

Tarshea Smith, an organizer with Local 23 in Washington, D.C., found herself in the middle of a surprise awards show during a city-wide committee meeting in January. At the sudden ceremony, Rev. Michael Livingston, the national policy director for Interfaith Worker Justice, presented her with the 2014 Workplace Leadership Award. Local 23 members were proud to join with Rev. Livingston and IWJ, long-time allies of UNITE HERE, to celebrate Tarshea's award.



Tarshea had worked for Georgetown University Dining Services for 20 years before she became one of the first workers on the organizing committee. She helped lead her co-workers to win a union in 2011. Now an organizer, Tarshea remains guided by the statement, "faith without works is dead."

## Charlotte

### Saving full-time Jobs at Home Team Sports and the whole airport.

Recently at Host Charlotte, the Union won an important victory by enforcing hard-fought contract provisions. At Home Team Sports, a manager took three full-time vacant shifts and broke them up into six part-time shifts. Bartender **Damon Baddelley** brought it to the attention of Union Representative Emilio Abate who filed a grievance. The company reposted the jobs as full time!

The Shop Steward team of Angela Jennings, Jorge Tresierra and William Voltz did a great job resolving this issue. A special cheer for Damon Baddelley who participated every step of the way.



Kwante Stinson (L) and Local 23 Shop Steward William Voltz (R).

### No more 24 hour rule for switching shifts

The union fought back against the arbitrary implementation of a "24 hour rule," which prohibited employees from switching within 24 hours of the start of a shift. The rule put a hardship on employees who need a same day switch.

Thanks to a grievance filed by **Jorge Tresierra** and the efforts of Stewards **Brice Kuevi**, **Patrick Bijou**, **Angela Jennings** and **William Voltz**, there is no more "24 hour rule."

Under the new procedure employees who request a switch should put it in writing or send an e-mail (so that it can be documented).

Talk to your Shop Stewards and call the Worker Resource & Action Center at 1-888-503-4848 if you have questions about your rights on the job and your Union contract!

### Texas



In Texas, airport members went to the Houston city council to speak about protecting their jobs. After they spoke, Councilman Jerry Davis came out of the council chambers to speak with them.

In the first two weeks of February, three fired Sky Chefs workers in Dallas were reinstated.

***Sí se puede!***

### Non-Chapters

**El Paso HMS HOST** succeeded in getting a very good contract, which was unanimously ratified by the membership. Also, we had eight new members sign up!

**DNC Oklahoma City** also achieved and unanimously ratified a wage supplement contract.

**DNC National** finally resolved the Personal Days grievances after a several months of dealing with this issue. We avoided arbitration with DNC by reaching an agreement on the 2012 untaken personal days nation wide.

Thanks to all who helped in this. The main thing we learned is that workers need to request personal days in a timely manner. If they aren't used, they will be lost.

### Denver

In Denver, we reached a tentative agreement with **DNC** on the wage supplement. We bargained a very good contract, which the workers will be ratifying on February 20, 2014. The Committee is strongly recommending it.

On March 11, the **FMCS** will hold a Stewards/Management Joint Training entitled "Conflict Resolutions, Handling Grievances, Contract Interpretation and Employee Relations." Also, two new Union Stewards were recruited; Latasha Brown and Linda Murillo.

Negotiations at the **Pepsi Center** have begun. The workers have been very active. We had filed several grievances and are dealing with management in Labor-Management meetings for the first time. And we have recognized eight new Shop Stewards.

A worker training will take place on February 25 and 26. This training will be done by the **FMCS**.

