

# RWU Information

## RWU 2016 Annual Report Available

The RWU *Annual Report* is now available to all members and the general public. Members who receive *The Highball* by mail may have already noticed your personal copy of the *Report* inside your copy of this newsletter which you should have received in the mail. All new members who join throughout the course of 2016 will have the *Report* mailed to them as well. And everyone can access the *Report* on the RWU website.

The RWU *Annual Report* began five years ago. It is a summary of what the organization has achieved and accomplished over the course of the preceding year, what campaigns and events it has engaged in, resolutions adopted, along with the general state of the organization. Please take the time to look it over.

## RWU Launches First Ever Fund Appeal Drive this Spring

Railroad Workers United (RWU) is a membership based organization, and as such, the vast majority of our funding comes from our members through their annual dues. We have kept the dues at \$50 a year (that's just \$4.16 a month!) since we were founded nearly 10 years ago. And we hope to keep them that way to ensure maximum membership and participation in the organization. That said, we are living in extraordinary times which call for extraordinary action. And that takes money.

Therefore, RWU will engage in our first ever fundraising drive this spring. We encourage all members and supporters to contribute what they can, either as a one-time or a recurring donation. More details are available on the website.

Things that we have taken for granted for so long - Railroad Retirement (1935); The Federal Employers' Liability Act

**Railroad Workers Memorial Day**  
The RWU Steering Committee announced that it will observe the annual Railroad Workers Memorial Day on May 1st, 2016. The day is dedicated to the memory of railroad workers who have died in the line of duty. The committee will be holding a memorial service at the RWU headquarters in Washington, D.C. at 10:00 AM. The service will be open to the public and will include a prayer, a reading of the names of the fallen, and a moment of silence. The committee will also be distributing informational materials to the public about the dangers of the railroad industry.

**RWU Facebook Page**  
The RWU Facebook page has been updated with a new cover photo and a new profile picture. The new cover photo is a photo of a train, and the new profile picture is a photo of the RWU logo. The committee will be using the new cover photo and profile picture to promote the organization's activities and to raise awareness of the dangers of the railroad industry.

**RWU Steering Committee**  
The RWU Steering Committee is composed of the following members: [List of names and titles]

**RWU Steps Up Defense of Scapegoated Canadian Railroad Workers**  
The RWU Steering Committee has taken a stand in support of Canadian railroad workers who have been scapegoated for the actions of a few individuals. The committee has issued a statement condemning the actions of the Canadian government and has offered to provide legal support to the affected workers.

**Official Website**  
The RWU website has been updated with a new design and new content. The new design is more user-friendly and easier to navigate. The new content includes information about the organization's activities and a call to action for members to get involved.

**RWU Organizes in Defense of Railroad Worker Whistleblowers**  
The RWU Steering Committee has organized a campaign in support of railroad worker whistleblowers. The campaign will involve the distribution of informational materials to the public and the organization of a protest in Washington, D.C. The committee will be working to ensure that whistleblowers are protected and that the railroad industry is held accountable for its actions.

(1908); the union shop provision of the RLA (1951); Amtrak (1971); good wages, benefits and working conditions and a minimum of two in the cab (1830), are all under attack by rail CEO's, boards of directors, and politicians alike. We as railroad workers have our work cut out for us. To win the battles that loom on the horizon, we need to educate, organize, and motivate ... and raise some necessary funds to assist us in this effort. Let's face it, \$4 a month from a small group of committed rail workers - no matter how committed - is not a lot of money to run a national organization with.

Throughout the spring, we will be posting notices on the RWU website and Facebook Page, and sending out email appeals to donate. Those of you who get this newsletter in the mail got a hard copy fundraising letter along with it. Please, donate what you can and help build Railroad Workers United!