

TCU is also looking for a sea change on government policy toward Amtrak. President Obama sees Amtrak as a key component of his energy, environmental and transportation initiatives and we have a Vice President who is a long-time champion of Amtrak.

TCU is heartened by Amtrak President Joe Boardman's commitment to work with us to make sure that the second back pay installment is paid on time, and Amtrak's agreement to reduce copays for certain health care providers. TCU is working closely with the new Amtrak administration to secure adequate funding and begin the process of reversing years of neglect by getting stimulus funds for equipment repair, shop expansion and revitalization and other needed projects. For the first time in memory we have a chance to change the debate over Amtrak from sur-

vival to expansion.

TCU is also gearing up for the opening of national freight negotiations at the end of 2009. TCU is hopeful that a strong stimulus package will begin to reverse recessionary pressures, and TCU will fight for a strong



The new Secretary of Labor, Representative Hilda Solis, center, pledges to be an advocate for America's working families. Joining Solis are, from left, TCU Assistant National Legislative Director Tony Padilla and TCU International Representative Ron Kloos.

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.

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, 2009 in most cases by a minimum of \$2.20.

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. For further information, see the TCU website www.tcuunion.org.

contract under any economic circumstances. Having labor-friendly appointments to the National Mediation Board will be a welcomed change.

In July, 2009 the 33rd Regular TCU Convention will celebrate our Union's historic 110th anniversary. The official call to delegates has been released, posted on the website and preparations have begun. Each delegate will represent his or her local and will have the opportunity to be a part of the decisions this convention will make, including the election of Grand Lodge officers.

2009 brings with it many exciting possibilities. With a working family-friendly Obama administration, increased Amtrak funding and union-friendly government appointments, we can look forward to the changes TCU and its members hope to achieve.