**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 (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!