

## CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 10

August 4, 2006

### TO ALL LOCAL CHAIRPERSONS:

Dear Sirs and Brothers:

As an on-going process in the General Chairman's office, we send out Circular Letters as circumstances dictate in regard to issues that are of importance to all of our Membership. We are requesting that you read these documents at your Union Meetings for the Membership's benefit and also place them on bulletin boards for those Members who cannot attend the Union Meeting. Incorporated below are issues of importance for our Membership.

#### **UP Request to Eliminate Cab Signal Tests :**

The Union Pacific has petitioned the FRA for a waiver of compliance with 49 CFR Part 236 Section 586: "Daily or after trip test". If granted, the waiver would eliminate the requirement for a daily or departure test of a locomotive cab signal system, substituting the ninety-day (90) periodic inspection.

The UTU is on record opposing the relaxation of the testing requirements of the cab signal apparatus. The UTU has requested a public hearing, if necessary, to allow comments from those employees who operate and utilize the cab signals.

I ask that each employee record any instance of a cab signal failure, and provide a written statement to the Local Chairman or Legislative representative. If the waiver request progresses to a public hearing, individuals will be requested to provide testimony and documentation regarding signal failures.

#### **Union Pacific Attacks Guarantee Rules:**

This office is receiving grievances from across the system regarding improper or no payment of guarantee. The carrier's actions are directed at pool, extra board, and regular assignment guarantees. Affected employees include trainmen, engineers, and switchmen.

The UTU does not agree with the carrier's actions. The carrier cites an arbitration award from another portion of the carrier, where employees operate under a different collective bargaining agreement. The carrier's actions are capricious and unwarranted by any provision of the former C&NW guarantee rules.

It is most important that employees file a timeslip for the proper payment of their guarantee. This office cannot handle a grievance which does not contain a timeslip on record with the

carrier. Files forwarded to this office should also include payroll data for the period in question, and a work history, if possible. We are working to correct this egregious violation of the contract. Proper submission of the claims and proper handling at the local level are most important.

*✍* **Department of Labor Seminars:**

The U.S. Department of Labor is sponsoring a series of seminars in Minnesota and Wisconsin in September. The cost is free, and the topics may be of interest to local officers and committeepersons. Attached is a flyer and registration form.

*✍* **Local Elections:**

Local elections for offices of Delegate, Alternate Delegate, and Local Committees of Adjustment are to be held this fall under the provisions of Article 57 of the Constitution. Special Circular No. 25 from the office of the President contains the necessary instructions and information. If the Local Secretary has not received Special Circular No. 25 please accord a copy.

Trusting this information will aid you in keeping our Membership informed of issues confronting us and with best personal wishes, I remain

Fraternal ly yours,



**Michael J. Reedy**  
**General Chairman, G. C. A.**

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cc: Paul Thompson, President - UTU  
Rick Marceau, Assistant President - UTU  
Dan Johnson, III - General Secretary/Treasurer - UTU  
Joe Szabo, Director Illinois State Legislative Board - UTU  
Pat Hendricks, Director Iowa State Legislative Board - UTU  
Phil Qualy, Director Minnesota State Legislative Board - UTU  
Ray Lineweber, Director Nebraska State Legislative Board - UTU  
Tom Dwyer, III, Director Wisconsin State Legislative Board - UTU