

CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 13

December 7, 2006

TO ALL LOCAL SECRETARIES OR SECRETARY/TREASURERS:

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.

LOCAL ELECTIONS RESULTS

Pursuant to Article 57, lines 108-111 of the UTU Constitution, we quote therefrom:

“Locals must, following each election of officers or succession to office, promptly notify the General Secretary and Treasurer, interested General Chairpersons, and State, District, and Provincial Legislative Boards of the names and addresses of the new officers.” (Underscoring ours.)

This Office requests that you notify this office of the election results for your Local, so that we may update our records. This is essential if a change in the office of Local Chairman has occurred; we must update our records to reflect changes in the 604/804 insurance policies.

RAILROADS ATTACK DISABLED EMPLOYEES

On October 26, 2006, the UTU website carried the attached article concerning the Association of American Railroads opposition to proposed legislation, which would raise the earnings cap for disabled railroad employees. Enclosed for your review is the letter written by Edward Hamberger on behalf of the rail carriers, addressed to Senators Enzi and Kennedy, and copied to all members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. Please read this letter carefully. You will recognize that the carriers are attacking not only the proposed increase in the earnings cap, but are attacking the disability provisions of the Railroad Retirement system. At the same time as they attack those who are disabled and unable to work, the carriers steadfastly resist any attempts to improve work scheduling or the working environment. While promoting practices that cause fatigue, resulting in accidents, injuries and impaired health, and refusing to establish reasonable working conditions, including basic necessities such as time for employees to

obtain nourishment during their work hours, the carriers attempt to undermine the system that cares for those employees who are broken by their callous disregard.

~~ES~~ **TIMEKEEPING SHORTAGE INQUIRY SYSTEM**

Attached is an e-mail from the senior Director - Timekeeping Operations regarding the web-based shortage/inquiry system. The document contains instructions for accessing the Timekeeping Service Center. If Local Chairmen or members utilize this system realize that an e-mail or telephone call does not substitute for the submission of a time claim or the appeal of a declination.

~~ES~~ **VACATION PAY - SINGLE DAYS**

The carrier has advised that effective January 1, 2007, the weekly compensation for single-day weeks of vacation will be paid as follows:

Yard service - 1/52 of previous years earnings or five (5) days pay at rate of last job worked, whichever is greater.

Road service - 1/52 of previous years earnings or (6) days pay at rate of last job worked, whichever is greater.

The above does not alter the provisions of Article VI of the May 16, 2005 Memorandum Agreement in effect on Western Seniority District No. 6; nor of the provisions of Article VIII of the November 1, 2003 Memorandum Agreements in effect on all other Seniority Districts.

Thanking you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter, I remain

Fraternally yours,



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

MJR:jg

Attachments

cc: Paul Thompson, International 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
Tim Deneen, Director Wisconsin State Legislative Board - UTU