

CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 1

January 6, 2004

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.

◆ 2004 Region Meeting - Des Moines, IA

Below are the voting results for the selection of the 2004 Region Meeting to be attended by the General Committee:

Regional Meeting Ballot Results

<u>Local Chairman</u>	<u>Local</u>	<u>Reno</u>	<u>Boston</u>	<u>Des Moines</u>	<u>Ballot Not Returned</u>
Steve Wilkens	17			X	
Paul Remington	228			X	
Dave Martin	257	X			
Jerome Dixon	257(E)	X			
Todd Beaubien	306(A)				X
Greg Welp	306(W)			X	
Larry Pearson	306(B)			X	
Mark Asselin	312	X			
Tim Deneen	312(E)			X	
Joe Hayes	316			X	
Bob Alba	322	X			
Jon Emery	329			X	
Randy Rardin	329(E)			X	
Jerry Kalbfell	528			X	
Al Bertolani	577	X			
Terry Reynolds	577				X
Roger Wilhelmi	597(E)	X			
Steve Staley	597(E)	X			
Mark Doyle	597(E)	X			
Dewey Rankin	650			X	
Dave Riehle	650			X	
Bill Wiebe	867y			X	
Bob Laborde	867r			X	
Rex Amundson	867(E)	X			
Mark Mueller	1253	X			
Daniel Paradise	1614				
<b>Total</b>		<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>X</u> <u>3</u>

January 6, 2004

The General Committee will attend the Des Moines, Iowa Region Meeting scheduled for August 23 - 25, 2004, at the Marriott Hotel.

◆ **Railroad Retirement 2004 Tax Rates**

Attached is a January 1, 2004 letter pertaining to the Railroad Retirement 2004 tax rates.

<u>Tier I</u>	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Max Earnings</u>	<u>Employers</u>
(6.2% +1.45%)7.65%		\$87,900.00	7.65%

Note: No maximum earnings on the 1.45% Medicare rate.

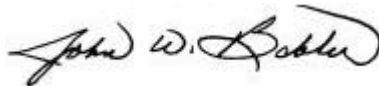
<u>Tier II</u>	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Max Earnings</u>	<u>Employers</u>
	4.90%	\$65,100.00	13.10%

◆ **BLE 2003 National Agreement - General Wage Increases**

Effective January 1, 2004, Union Pacific will implement the 4% and 2.5% general wage increases, less the January and July, 2003 C.O.L.A. increases, for locomotive engineers. Back pay and longevity bonus will be paid late January or early February, 2004.

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

Fraternally yours,



John W. Babler  
General Chairman, G. C. A.

JWB: j g

cc: Byron Boyd, Jr. President - UTU  
Paul Thompson, Assistant President - UTU  
Dan Johnson, III - General Secretary/Treasurer - UTU