

## CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 21

November 16, 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.

#### **General Wage Increase :**

In accordance with Article I of the August 20, 2002 National Agreement, as modified by Section 2 of the November 6, 2003 National Health and Welfare Agreement:

**Effective (December 1, 2004) all standard basic daily rates of pay in effect on (November 30, 2004) for employees represented by the United Transportation union shall be increased by three (3) percent, computed and applied in the same manner prescribed in Section 2(b) above.**

In accordance with the above, the daily committee rate will be \$255.58 effective December 1, 2004. The mileage reimbursement rate will remain at \$0.36 per mile, and the daily per diem remains at \$113.00.

#### **Trip Rate Negotiations:**

The carrier has served notice to establish trip rates in accord with Article V, Part B, Section 2 of the August 20, 2002 National Agreement. The runs/pools involved are Proviso - Clinton; South Pekin - Clinton/Proviso; Clinton - Missouri Valley; Boone - Clinton/Fremont/Council Bluffs; Des Moines - Clinton/Mason City/Turnaround. The initial meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2004.

#### **Training for New Employees and RCL:**

As a result of ongoing discussions between the UTU General Committees and the Union Pacific regarding RCL and training for newly hired employees, the Union Pacific has implemented certain changes to the training.

“Human factor derailment” training for new hires, consisting of three to five days of field training on the major causes of derailments in yards.

On-the-job training of new hires will, to the extent possible, be done on non-RCL assignments.

New employees will complete Conductor training prior to receiving RCL training.

Certification of RCL operators will be “skills based”. An employee demonstrating proficiency may be certified after fifteen days of training; otherwise will be given additional training.

Discussions on this matter are ongoing. The experiences of the local overview committees on training and RCL operations is welcomed. The more accurately the problems can be identified, the greater the opportunity to correct and rectify those issues. Attached is a letter from the carrier regarding the changes to training programs.

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.**

**MJR: j g**

cc: Paul Thompson, President - UTU  
Rick Marceau, Assistant President - UTU  
Dan Johnson, III - General Secretary/Treasurer - UTU