

CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 3

February 4, 2005

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.

Pool Trainmen - First Out :

In accordance with Article III, Section V, B of the Memorandum Agreements effective November 1, 2003, the carrier has served notice to implement the following:

Pool service employees requesting compensated time off will be authorized to be off for a period of twenty four (24) hours, for each day authorized (1 day = 24 hours; 2 days = 48 hours). The hours will begin at the time the employee was authorized to be off by the Carrier official designated to handle makeoff requests. Pool service employees will be automatically returned to their respective slot on the board at the end of the authorized time off. If their turn is called during the period of time they were authorized to be off, the position will be filled by an extra board employee, and the incumbent will be placed firstout on the pool board after the expiration of the authorized time off. Employees returning from one or more weeks of vacation will be placed first-out on the board at 0600 hours, on the first day following the vacation period.

In accordance with the above, on February 16, 2005, the carrier will implement the provision of the Memorandum Agreements.

February 4, 2005

✍ **Trip Rate Negotiations:**

The UTU International office has informed me that the agreed upon date that post-1985 employees will be eligible for the National Pay Elements is March 1, 2005. Please refer to my letter dated January 20, 2005 (U-11-05). The effective date is now March 1st, rather than February 21st, as previously advised. Please inform your members.

✍ **FRA Advisory-Position of Switches :**

The Federal Railroad Administration has released twelve (12) Questions and Answers regarding the safety advisory issued concerning positive measures to ensure that main track switches are lined back in non-signaled territory. All employees must be aware that this issue is attracting intense scrutiny at this time.

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

Attachments