

## CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 4

March 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.

#### **Off-Track Vehicle Accident Benefit :**

Attached is a synopsis of the Off-Track Vehicle Accident Benefit provisions compiled from various National Agreements. The cover letter emphasizes that the document does not constitute a separate agreement, and is intended only as a guide. Please keep the document on file for your reference.

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

The carrier has implemented trip rates in accord with Article V, Part B, Section 2 of the August 20, 2002 National Agreement. The runs/pools implemented are Proviso - Clinton; South Pekin - Clinton; South Pekin - Proviso; Clinton - Missouri Valley; Boone - Clinton; Boone - Fremont/Council Bluffs; Des Moines - Clinton; Des Moines - Mason City; Des Moines Turnaround; Boone - Mason City; West Chicago - Clinton; Bill Turnaround. If members are experiencing any problems with the rates please document the problem and forward to this office.

#### **Illinois Walkway Regulations:**

Attached is a copy of the new regulation effective February 15, 2005, in the State of Illinois, regarding railroad walkways. Although the statute is applied only in Illinois, please review the information, in particular the advisement regarding the request for appropriate walking ballast. Whether in the state of Illinois, or not, unsafe footing should be reported.

 **Amtrak:**

The Republican administration in Washington is intent on applying "the final solution" to Amtrak, refusing to recommend adequate funding for continued operation. Any attack on Amtrak will have a substantial impact on the Railroad Retirement system. Please remember that the Railroad Retirement Board administers not only retirement benefits, but also unemployment and sickness benefits that are unique to the rail industry. Please encourage all members to contact their representatives in Washington and encourage full funding for the Amtrak system.

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