

## CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 10

June 24, 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.

#### **COLA Wage Increase :**

In accordance with Article III, Part B, Section 1 of the August 20, 2002 National Agreement:

**A cost-of-living allowance shall be payable in the manner set forth in and subject to the provisions of this part... The first such cost-of-living allowance shall be payable effective July 1, 2005...**

In accordance with the above, on July 1, 2005 the daily rates of pay will increase \$1.20; hourly pro-rata rates will increase \$0.15. Rates for miles operated in excess of the basic day will increase proportionately.

#### **Representation Dispute Involving Train & Engine Service Employees:**

The Initial Position Statement of United Transportation Union addressed to the National Mediation Board is attached for your review. The position of the UTU is based on the "community of interest" that exists between the employees of both crafts, the ebb and flow between crafts, and the mandatory progression since 1985 of train service employees to engine service.

The National Mediation Board has previously held, at the request of the Teamsters organization, that it is proper to group employees for collective bargaining purposes. A person need only examine the previous national contract settlements to determine that the negotiations, although separate, are so nearly identical as to be indistinguishable.

The National Mediation Board will schedule hearings on the UTU's request. Additional information will be sent as it becomes available.

*✍* **Lodging Issues - Clinton, Iowa:**

This office has been informed that on recent occasions the carrier has instructed employees to obtain lodging at the Travel Inn at Clinton, Iowa. This facility is not approved by the Organization, and is not recognized as an overflow facility. The approved lodging facilities in Clinton are the Best Western, Super Eight, and Motel 6 (west wing only).

The shortage of available rooms is unexplained by the carrier. If an employee is instructed to take lodging at other than an approved lodging facility, the employee should comply under protest, and submit a penalty claim for a basic day, including the name of the carrier manager involved. Also list the times held at the unapproved facility, and room number. The employee should also communicate the information to the local chairperson or other union officer. Only if the union representatives are made aware of the issue can it be addressed.

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