

CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 14

December 15, 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.

2005/2006 Holiday Observance :

The Christmas Eve - Christmas Day holidays will be observed on December 25 and 26, 2005. The New Years Eve - New Years Day holidays will be observed on January 1 and 2, 2006. Attached is a letter from International President Paul Thompson which explains that the holiday observance will coincide with the day observed by the State or Nation.

The attached Agreement dated November 10, 1976, advises that the qualifying days for holidays are the "work-day" (for regularly assigned employees) or the "calendar day" (for extra employees) prior and subsequent to the observed holiday. Please advise your members of the observed holiday dates, and the qualifying requirements.

Also attached is a list of paid holidays for year 2006.

Vacations for Armed Forces Members:

Employees who are on active duty with the armed Forces and who are qualified for vacation for 2006 should have their vacation held in abeyance until they return to active service. If the employees are receiving make-whole payments from the Union Pacific they may request vacation payment in lieu of the make-whole. An employee who returns to active service during the year should have vacation scheduled as near as possible to what their seniority would have entitled them to hold.

~~✍~~ **COLA Increase January 1st:**

On January 1, 2006, all basic daily rates of pay will increase 31 cents hourly, or \$2.48 daily. This increase is effective for all train and engine service employees covered by the 2002 UTU National Agreement. Also on January 1, 2006, the employee healthcare cost sharing payment will increase \$25.85 per month.

The General Committee office will be closed Monday, December 26, 2005, and Monday, January 2, 2006, in observance of the holidays. We will be open during normal hours on all other days over the holiday season. The officers and staff wish all of you a Merry Christmas, and a safe and prosperous New Year.

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, International President - UTU
Rick Marceau, Assistant President - UTU
Dan Johnson, III - General Secretary/Treasurer - UTU
Joe Szabo, Director Illinois State Legislative Board - UTU
Pat Hendricks, Director Iowa State Legislative Board - UTU
Phil Qualy, Director Minnesota State Legislative Board - UTU
Ray Lineweber, Director Nebraska State Legislative Board - UTU
Tom Dwyer, III, Director Wisconsin State Legislative Board - UTU