

# **General Chairman's Report November** **2017**

## **Stephen J. Burkert - General Chairman**

The time in between last month's meeting and today has been extremely busy. Phil Murphy is the new Governor Elect after sending a very loud message that change is coming to NJ. I along with Ron Sabol NJSLD have been meeting with Phil or his staff continually during the past year, including election night in Asbury Park. We have constantly made him aware of issue at NJ Transit and how those decisions are affecting our Members. In October I attended an event in Kenilworth NJ where Phil Murphy spoke to SMART members about what the future will look like after he is sworn in as the new Governor.

Ron Sabol, your NJSLD, was just announced by Phil Murphy to be on the Infrastructure and Transportation Transition Team, congratulations! This is a direct result of your PAC money at work for you the members. It is the first time that I can remember where our Union has a direct involvement in the creation of a new strategy for a government agency.

I spoke at NJ Transit's October Board of Directors meeting about the abuse of the TVM tickets for Senior/Disabled tickets and how much revenue the Carrier is losing everyday by this theft of service. I also spoke on the matter of **OPEN DOOR POLICY** and how unsafe it is for passengers and crews alike. Forcing crews to open all 8-9-10 car trains for passenger counts that are around 100 is inherently unsafe. The issue of all open cars not actually fitting on platforms, passengers missing their station stops by closed doors not on platforms or the shortage of crews is going to be discussed. I will be meeting with the Carrier in the near future to further discuss these issues.

There has been a lot of discussions concerning the 1155 reports. Im asking all crews to complete them as required both weekday and weekend. Please notify me at [sburkert@utulocal60.com](mailto:sburkert@utulocal60.com)

if the 1155 machines at your terminals are not operating as intended. Please list all mechanical issues and train delays on the reports. If there was a delay, a brief explanation would be helpful, since the crews are constantly being blamed for delays as "Crew Error." I also urge you to list any safety concerns on your 1155 about your equipment, platforms, stations or terminals.

I want to thank all of the Members who worked the Steeplechase in October. The event went off without any mishaps and the Carrier has spoken very highly of the performance of train crews.

The GAS MILEAGE issue was a very intense matter.

There is a new computer system that covers all departments at NJ Transit. The new computer system was cut in and there were complications. I called for an emergency meeting and sat down with the Carrier. I dealt not only with the GM Lavell, DGM Sincaglia but also DGM Slack in charge of IT department and the CFO of NJT Livarcik. It took all of the departments participating to find the solution to the problem.

The mileage checks are on the way to members. I have already told the Carrier ALL checks are subject to review. If any Member has an issue with the checks they receive or, DO NOT receive, please email me full details at

[sburkert@utulocal60.com](mailto:sburkert@utulocal60.com)

Conductor Training Program students from 2015,2016 and 2017. I have filed claims on your behalf and have had numerous meetings concerning DH, gas mileage and Certification allowance while you were qualifying on physical characteristics and OJT. Officer Scott Spratt has been tasked with investigating all of the days involved to make sure the members affected receive proper compensation. One issue he has encountered is the lack of information from the affected Members on what days they worked and those details. I was always taught to keep accurate records, in full detail, of every day I worked for NJ Transit or even now, as your General Chairman. The lack of information has delayed the process. I bring this up because it is not limited to just the CTP students.

There have been hundreds of times I requested information from Members to help them in some way with an issue with the Carrier and there is no information to provide. I urge all Members to please keep a record of all days that they work with on/off duty times, DH allowance, gas miles, covered service or not, or any reference to an Unusual occurrence. The information in your own daily log is there to help you and myself in the future. Payroll, claims or HOS are only a few issues it will clear up.

Last week, three members and I attended a Special Board of Adjustment hearing at NJT HQs. I presented each Member's case to an arbitrator from the National Mediation Board. This is the final appeal on the Member's cases as per our Collective Bargaining Agreement. It will be approximately 120 days before the results are known.

This past week I, along with Ron Sabol, were invited to a meeting with Congressman Pascrell. The Congressman is very interested in our Members and how things are going at NJT. He was heavily involved during both of our PEB hearings and then subsequent contract negotiations offering his assistance. I had the chance to explain issues on overcrowding, understaffing and serious safety concerns to him directly. He was very concerned to learn that NJT is running 8/9/10 car trains with only 2 or even 1 crew member. He was astounded to hear passenger counts at 2000+ with such limited crew staffing. He pledged his full support, as always, in our future. His guidance in any future legislation concerning staffing on our trains, the NJ Residency requirements or safety issues will be greatly appreciated.

### **Pink Mileage Amnesty Update**

If any member submitted mileage on the Pink forms and has not been paid or was only paid a partial amount please contact me at

[sburkert@utulocal60.com](mailto:sburkert@utulocal60.com)

If you do not contact me at this time with the proper information, this program will be considered closed and there will be no further recourse to reclaim your money.

### **FLAG HOS INFORMATION**

I ask any members who were denied the right to work when NJ Transit changed their HOS policy during 2017 to please gather the dates, job symbols and lost earnings. I have filed a grievance on your behalf for lost earnings, I need the emails from Members now on the days that were lost due to taking the 24 or 48.

### **On the Job Injury Form**

Please go to our Local 60 webpage,

**Utulocal60.com**

and download this form to have on your person. This is the form the doctor or hospital will need for billing with an "ON THE JOB INJURY". The form is very important and should be with you at all times while you are on duty.

## **Local 60 Member Alert Notification**

I encourage **ALL** members to sign up for this alert system. If there is urgent news that I feel our members should be made aware of immediately I will use this system to alert you via text and email, similar to a reverse 911 system used at schools for weather disruptions or emergencies.

Please sign up in the following manner.

**Text to number 313131.**

In body of message use the keyword; **SMARTTD60**  
( this will assign you to our account)

Please include the following information in the text.

**Name, Emp# and Email**

## **Sleep Apnea Members Positive or Negative**

I have consulted with designated SMART TD Legal Counsel on this matter and they require the following information to be provided in an email to me.

Name/employee number/home address/phone number/Job title/ date taken OOS, date returned to service/whether positive or negative/date of diagnosis/seniority date/rate of pay at time and please list all medical expenses.

Please email asap to [sburkert@utulocal60.com](mailto:sburkert@utulocal60.com)

### **Uniforms Issues**

Please email if you are having any issues either with the uniform or with the uniform company itself, This & That Uniforms. Send all related emails to our Local 60 Website: <http://utulocal60.com/members-tools/uniform-feedback/>

If you need to order your 2017 uniform:

<http://www.njtuniforms.com/>

### **C3RS PROGRAM**

Members who have reported incidents and have received a confirmation number please contact Darren Donald at 973-261-0946 or [DDonald@njtransit.com](mailto:DDonald@njtransit.com)

### **Safety Hotline**

Please call **877-806-8283** with any safety concerns. This would include crew shortages that make your train unsafe for you or your passengers. If you want a response please leave a return number so they will be able contact you. If you think it is an unsafe condition report it.

### **Question on Mandatory Rest**

If the crew caller informs you that you must take 24 or 48 rest and you disagree call Bill Nadansky at 973-491-7753. Bill has all of the work records and will discuss it with you.

### **Penalty Slips**

The time slip is printed across the top “**Penalty**”. You fill out two copies and get them **both** time stamped at the receivers office. If your claim is denied, get your denial and stamped time card to office, I will progress the claim.

I need a copy of your denials to progress the claims.

Please fax to office **973-527-7020**.

### **Missed Transportation Forms**

Any member of a crew should fill out this form if a complete lift is not made. The form should indicate whether any TC jobs were blanked which caused the missed collection. Please give a copy of the form to an union officer or place it in our L-60 mailboxes. I have not received a lot of these forms in the office and need them to address this issue properly. Recent meetings with Carrier has shed some light on the magnitude of this issue. Please continue to get copies to the Union.

### **Ticket Collection**

Please work to meet on all trains in an attempt to collect all fares. Please cancel all revenue tickets that you collect immediately and have your \$100.00 working fund on your person while on duty.

## **Cellphones**

Use of a personal cell phone or electronic device while on duty could incur a penalty of **60** days actual and potential monetary fines against **you** from the FRA. This list includes phones, tablets and smart watches. It could cost your employment, please turn off your electronics.

## **Assaults & UOR**

Please fax all copies of reports concerning members being assaulted to me asap. The Carrier does not automatically notify me of an assaulted member or incident while at work. Please protect yourself and send me all paperwork as soon as it is possible. Please fax UOR copy to Chief Dispatcher at end of shift. If you receive notice of a court date or a subpoena please email me so I can contact the NJTPD about having the officer appear with you in court.

**Fax 973-527-7020/ EMAIL [sburkert@utulocal60.com](mailto:sburkert@utulocal60.com)**

Also important documents are on our Local 60 website at:  
<http://utulocal60.com/2017/03/06/important-documents-for-members-who-are-assaulted>

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## **Address Changes**

Members as a reminder if your mailing address changes please notify the Carrier and the Union office. If we need

to mail out notices or ballots we need your correct address. email [emitchell@utulocal60.com](mailto:emitchell@utulocal60.com)

### **FMLA Issues**

Please email Roshonda Brown at [rbrown@utulocal60.com](mailto:rbrown@utulocal60.com)

or

Cookie Doyle at [cdoyle@utulocal60.com](mailto:cdoyle@utulocal60.com)

### **Payroll Issues**

Please submit electronically on Local 60 site:

<http://utulocal60.com/payroll-shortage-form-2/>

Please have your pay stub with payout sheet and any copies of your time cards ready for them to assist you in payment. Please double check exactly what you are missing, and give a clear information on what you're shortage is about. If you were ordered to do extra work, it would be helpful to have the name of the person.

### **Certification Cards**

Please inform supervision if the back of your FRA Certification cards are incorrect as far as hearing and vision, they must replace them. You must carry the actual

card on your person while you are working on the property.

### **L-60 Safety Teams**

The Safety teams have documented dozens of members safety concerns already this year. Crew shortages on trains, health concerns in terminals, yard defects and equipment malfunctions to name a few. I urge you to contact the the members listed below and give them the opportunity to have the problems corrected so we can operate in a safer workplace. Please email your safety concerns to the corresponding members.

#### **Newark Division**

Atlantic City- Ernie Rivello - [erivello@utulocal60.com](mailto:erivello@utulocal60.com)  
Raritan - Marc Sussman- [msussman@utulocal60.com](mailto:msussman@utulocal60.com)  
LB/BH - Jimmy Jackson- [jjackson@utulocal60.com](mailto:jjackson@utulocal60.com)  
NEC/MMC - Marinella Giovaniello-  
[mgiovaniello@utulocal60.com](mailto:mgiovaniello@utulocal60.com)

#### **Hoboken Division**

James Tufano - [jtufano@utulocal60.com](mailto:jtufano@utulocal60.com)  
Carl Schab - [cschab@utulocal60.com](mailto:cschab@utulocal60.com)

James Lewis - [jlewis@utulocal60.com](mailto:jlewis@utulocal60.com)

Vinnie Owes - [vowes@utulocal60.com](mailto:vowes@utulocal60.com)

**WORK UNION / LIVE BETTER**

**Thank You  
Stephen J. Burkert  
General Chairman**



