

General Chairman's Report

April 2022

Good morning. First, I would like to thank all of our members of Smart-TD Local 60 for their dedication, patience, and professionalism shown throughout these past two years. The Covid-19 pandemic brought on difficult times for all of us. We all have lost family and friends. Members have lost close loved ones without the ability to truly say goodbye and without understanding why. Covid-19 over the past two years caused increased stress levels of our members and I'm sure most Essential Workers. The pandemic caused extreme mental health issues, as well as increased drug and alcohol use, which in certain cases resulted in suicide. Our members could not work because they were deemed "High Risk" as a result of either they, or a family member having an underlying medical condition that would make them more vulnerable to contract Covid-19 than most. If these members ignored this designation their action or lack thereof could have resulted in severe illness and ultimately death. These members had to stay home and we must not forget their sacrifice. Once again to all our Smart-TD Local 60 brothers and sisters that have (and it's ongoing taken) the abuse whether it was verbal or physical just for showing up and doing your job on that particular day. We will continue to make sure our concerns are heard and addressed. We have and will continue to work with the Carrier and Trenton on how to make NJ Transit safer for our members. Please let us never forget our brother Joe Hansen who we unfortunately lost to the Covid-19 virus early during the outbreak of the pandemic, as well as a good friend of Smart-TD Local 60 Mr. Ray Kenny, VP of Rail.

We all see ridership increasing immensely daily. Whether it's because of the rise in gas prices, tourists, commuters, and companies feeling safe and at ease to open up, because of the better understanding we have of the virus after these two years. With April 18th approaching rapidly, it's with our hopes the TSA lifts the mask mandate for all transportation workers, so we can get back to a sense of normalcy. Now it's time for us to remain diligent and professional. Let's up our game, and make sure we continue to remain the Union that leads from the front, that leads by example, and sets the bar high for our standards. This begins with your General Chairman and Officers and to all of you. Let's keep our standards high, walk and work with pride, and demand the respect our craft deserves.

Secondly, I would like to congratulate Local Chairwoman of LCA-B (Local Committee of Adjustment of NY Pass) Sister Rashonda Brown for her appointment to the NJ Transit Board of Directors by Governor Murphy. Sister Brown will bring her knowledge, wisdom and understanding via working as a Conductor and Assistant Conductor (Still works the Extra List), as well as her knowledge and ongoing education as a Union Rep). Sister Brown's diversity, and enthusiasm also adds something that has been missing from NJ Transits Board of Directors. This appointment is a win for both the Organization and the Carrier.

- NY Penn Station: During April 2022 Board of Directors meeting, the Carrier will be submitting a proposal with cost and specifications for a new Rest Facility for NY. This would not be a hotel. First, the proposal must be voted on and approved by the Board of Directors. Once the board votes, and if approved we'll have better details to share.
- Bolo: We've made a request to the Carrier to add the "be on the lookout" notifications to our MVD's. This will assist our members to assist NJTPD, and to assist one another. • The Carrier is working with the Chief of Police of NJTPD to implement the new legislation passed by the voting bodies in Trenton and the Governor. There will be language, procedures, and guidelines with teeth

to it, in order for the Carrier to ban a person that assaults our members and continually threatens our members.

- The Carrier also met with the Chief of Police of NJTPD along with the assistance of the I.T. department to demonstrate how the Carrier created an app to alert the police “live” when an incident I.e. an assault is actually happening. This app will be installed on our MVD’s. All parties were pleased and on the same page. The implementation of this project will commence in the very near future.
- Chief Trainmaster Keith Arnold has been assigned to address the electronic scooters and bikes in Hoboken Terminal. Any questions and concerns please reach out to him as well as your local committee and myself. Mr. Arnold is the immediate contact.
- Absenteeism: Brothers and Sisters, as I stated things are slowly coming back to normal. Please read the attendance policy and adhere to it. There’s not much any officer can do for any member that has excessive absenteeism. This is being monitored heavily.
- Uniforms: Please all members wear your uniforms properly, which includes hats. I’ve been told the uniform company has sent out new or replacement hats. If you haven’t and need one, please reach out to your local officers, and or the Action (T&T) Uniform company.
- Open Door Policy. NYPS brothers and sisters, if all doors on the train are to be open as prescribed by rule, then open all of the doors. Members are being re-instructed, but any subsequent violation members are being written up.
- If any member has a legitimate concern about a manager being unprofessional, or threatening to one’s well-being please reach out to NJ Transit Human Resource Department.
KRoseme@njtransit.com.
- Once again with the Carrier and Union working together our officers will be out next week making sure there aren’t any questions on the use of the MVD’s, if a member has been out of service and needs training on the MVD’s this can be done at this time, as well as making sure our members are using them. I must say the number not used is very minuscule. We are over 90% of daily usage by our members. Thanks to all of you for the due diligence.
- I would like to thank brother J.R. Schneider for attending Congresswoman Miki Sherrill support rally, in my absence. The Congresswoman knows us well and continues to fight on the behalf of not just Smart-TD Local 60, but for citizens of NJ. The support we give will carry us a long way into the future.
- Lastly, let's congratulate the retirement of our brother Furquan Ferguson. He put his work in and he’s leaving on a well-deserved high note. The turnout at the Skyline Diner was huge and it was well deserved for a good brother.