

General Chairman's Report

October 2023

Drug & Alcohol: Members there has been a spike in positive results for **illegal** substances this year, especially on Random Drug Test. Members, please remember we cannot ingest marijuana, because **it's** legal **in the** state of N.J. We **are** guided by federal regulations. If any member needs any assistance from **the** Union for any type of substance abuse issue, reach out to me or an officer to **assist you** on getting the professional help one may need.

Attendance: Members please be mindful when Marking Off Personal Business. The Carrier requires a member off for more than 5 days without permission to **provide a reason** why they are off **without** permission. **The** Carrier continues to look at all attendance issues and this is the main one now. Members need to understand the Attendance Policy **is** just **that, a policy** and can be changed at the Carriers discretion at any time. This is not a Contractual issue.

Train Riding. The Carrier has begun having their Sr. Trainmasters, Chief Trainmasters and Assistant Superintendents riding trains to make sure everyone is on their assigned trains and to ensure they are performing their duties. Members should be prepared and understand that **if the** member doesn't complete **their** assignment "Jump Short", or doesn't come at all, the Carrier is writing that member up, and discipline **is** steep without much negotiation. Members not working the train is very prevalent on the weekends. These actions put more strain **on your fellow co-workers that** are coming to work and performing their duties. Please be reminded, when a member jumps short or doesn't show up at all and submits a **timecard** for earnings of the assignment, the Carrier considers that action "stealing time". Stealing leads to termination.

Remitting: Members must remit their cash fare every day. This includes when. cash is not collected. Everyone knows the ways to **remit** their funds collected. The policy for collecting tickets and turning them in to the Ticket Agents has been reinstated for some time now and is in the Division Notice. There **isn't any** excuse for not remitting **for** several consecutive months without reason. Please read the

policy if a member doesn't understand how the policy works.

Secaucus Station: Secaucus remains a place for members to use to get rest. Members can no longer catch their westbound go **home** train from Secaucus. Members must continue to work **their** assignments as advertised.

NY Penn Station: We continually find ways to work with the Carrier on the HVAC issue in Penn Station. There aren't any concrete solutions to this issue. Amtrak's B&B department must dedicate their time, because this falls under Amtrak's responsibility. This issue may not be fully corrected until the station repairs are completed.

Assaults: Brother and Sisters please utilize the new assault link installed on our website. The more documentation the better.

FLA Deduction: All funds taken out of members checks' erroneously and not returned should please post as much under **our** payroll link on our website.

Mileage: We are aware that mileage is around **4** months behind. I've addressed this several times over the last few weeks with the VP of Rail and the DGM. They are dedicating more clerks to address this. Please start submitting Penalty Claims regarding Mileage. We'll **post a** sample Penalty Timecard on our website. Phase IV of Integrify (**Mileage Electronic**), is still a work in progress, but should be effective before the end of the year.

Hoboken Terminal: Work to upgrade and clean up the Men and Female locker room and rest facility has been approved, which includes the funding for the project. We are just waiting for a date for the work to commence. When this date is confirmed, we will share all details of work being performed with an actual start date.

TSA Training: Brother and Sisters **the** TSA Training is federally mandated; this **isn't** NJ Transit mandated. Members are paid 2 1/2 hours for the approximately 1- hour training. This test is considered Covered Service and Hours of Service cannot be violated. We made a request **to** the Carrier to allow our members **the** ability to do as much via their MVD. The restriction would have to be lifted.

Comply 365: Books are on our phones is getting closer and closer to becoming a reality. I received a date, but to be on the safe side, let's look at the beginning of the new year. If having **our** books on the phone happens earlier than that would be a plus.

Mobile Validation Device: Members, please use your MVD to collect tickets, whether it slows you down or **not**. Members are compensated for using the MVD. We can't show we need more assignments when we're not proving as much by collecting revenue. I would like to thank Brother Kienan for keeping me updated on passenger travel on certain days and MVD issues. This helps.

Critical Incidents: Members are entitled to request EAP at any **time**. Members will only be compensated by the Carrier if the request is based on a Critical Incident. If a trespasser is struck and all the members on the train run up to see the incident and request EAP, will not be compensated by the Carrier. The Conductor will provide instruction to the train crew on what duties the Conductor would like the crew to perform.

Please have a **great** month going forward. Any issues or concerns **please** reach out to your respective LCA Officers, and Local Officers.

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Jerome