

General Chairman's Report

September 2024

- Health Care: Blue Cross/Blue Shield as the administrator has been extended through 12/12. (unofficially). The ultimate goal is for the Carrier to maintain Blue Cross/Blue Shield as the administrator throughout the life of our Agreement. The Board of Directors has not approved Aetna's bid (lowest) to become the administrator. I will be attending the September's Board of Directors meeting to follow up on my address at the July's Board of Directors meeting about this very topic. I ask any member that can attend this Board of Directors meeting to show up and support our cause.
- Mentors: Whether you mentor in the Yard, Flag, or Passenger Service, members must mentor the student properly. The mentor should go over all required paperwork, instruct the student on how to perform the duties the proper way and by rule. Mentors need to instruct students how to work to meet, how to throw switches, how to take tracks and service etc. All mentors should fill out evaluation sheets honestly. The Organization will be posting the evaluation sheets on our website to ensure the mentors have the proper sheets. Mentors need to stress to the student that regardless of what type of service you're working in the students (as well as the mentor) must be in proper uniform. It is our stance, that the mentor will set the standard for the student going forward. Be mindful that every member should come down to their trains on time, receive a proper job briefing and work as directed by the Conductor, while in proper uniform whether you're a mentor or not. Our members must understand collecting revenue is not just part of our job duties, but it is job protection! Remember Ticket Collectors are technically not part of our Agreement. We do not want to become PATH where turnstile are used, so protect our crafts, by doing your job diligently, and professionally.
- Assaults: Members as reminder if a member foresees an altercation in any fashion, please use your MVD to record audio, or video. Do not put the MVD in the persons face but hold the MVD near your body and record. Be mindful every coach does not have a camera. There are plenty of altercations that occur where we do not have the initial interaction. I also ask that all member's ask passengers that witness any altercation for their information and ask them to make a complaint to NJ Transit on what they observed. Secondly, please do not chase or apprehend anyone fleeing, let the police do their jobs, as hard as I know that could be.
- Comply 365: Officers have been out on the property explaining to everyone on the use of our books on the phone. We need everyone to login. The more participation the quicker members will not be required to carry their books.

- Mileage Submission: Mileage will be submitted electronically. We are finally in the testing phase which will last a few weeks. Once the feedback is received, and after the issues are addressed, we will have the capability to submit our mileage electronically.
- Cell Phones: The FRA constantly are on the property. They do not have to announce themselves. We have another member that was caught using their personal cell phone by the FRA. The FRA will levy a suspension and possible fine, over and beyond what the Carrier penalty for such a violation is.
- International Election: The Delegates at the Smart General Convention re-elected General President Coleman, President Ferguson and their entire team to another term. I was able to speak personally to President Ferguson about our assault issues. Assaults were a major topic of the convention whether it was a convention speaker that was an invited guest, international officers speaking on what reports they are receiving from their General Chairman from bus or rail, or conversations with other GCA Officers on their experiences and how it's being addressed on their property. We all share the same angst.
- Uniforms: The Organization and Carrier are both in agreement that the uniform allotment must be increased. Members will still be able to buy what they choose, but as members still can't order both passenger and yard uniforms.
- Flexible Spending Account: Members outstanding balance from the Carriers switch from TASC to WEX. Any member that feels the amount transferred isn't correct than please get that information to your local chairperson as soon as possible.