

General Chairman's Report

September 2025

International President Ferguson:

- Attended Local 60 union meeting and addressed members' questions/concerns.
- Question raised: possibility of using electronic voting for elections.
- Response:
 - Department of Labor requires secrecy of ballots; current regulations prevent electronic voting for officer elections.
 - Both Local 60 and the international support electronic voting, but a secure, DOL-approved vendor must be identified first.
 - Electronic voting is now allowed for contract ratification votes.

“Me Too” Agreement:

- SMART International Leadership Meeting held in August (Manhattan).
- Met with International attorney and economist to discuss “Me Too.”
- Shared new information on issues/concerns the economist was not aware of.
- Additional data being compiled; follow-up scheduled for September.

Mobile Validation Devices (MVDs):

- Carrier introducing new Android-based MVDs.
- Features:
 - Improved scanning range.
 - Future ability to accept Apple Pay and Google Pay.
 - Compatibility with upcoming NJT Fare Card.
- Union priorities:
 - Ensure timely deployment of devices to protect jobs and revenue collection.
 - Requested “Failed to Meet” & “Missed Transportation” reporting functions be included.
- Pilot program begins Monday.

Grief Counseling:

- Officers assisted in providing grief counseling for the passing of Brother Al “FU” Furquan Ferguson.
- Appreciation extended to all who supported members during this difficult time.

Misinformation:

- Officers must not provide inaccurate information to members.
- Incorrect information can harm the entire membership.
- If unsure, officers should contact local chairperson or the president for clarification.

Benefits Department:

- Members with benefits issues should contact:
 - **Matt Schmidt**, Director of Rail Medical Benefits
 - Email: MJSchmidt@njtransit.com
- Note: Previous contact handling these matters is no longer in the department.

Interventions / Member Relations:

- Members are not required to like one another but must respect one another.
- Union has successfully mediated conflicts by bringing parties together.
- Reminder: Respect fosters a healthier workplace environment.

On-the-Job Training (OJT):

- Members must report to their assigned mentor when on OJT.
- Absence without notice requires notifying both Training Department and mentor.
- Submitting a timecard without reporting is considered theft of services.

Revenue Collection & Passenger Assaults:

- Members are reminded to:
 - Collect revenue and fulfill service obligations.
 - Use common sense when encountering hostile passengers.
 - Avoid arguments; let police handle escalated situations.
 - Safety first—allow law enforcement to do their jobs.

Railmen for Children:

- Recent golf outing fundraiser was a major success.
- Event supports a meaningful cause; proud that Local 60 contributed.
- Special thanks to Brother Free and Brother Spratt for their dedication and effort in organizing.