

Date: August 29, 2002  
From: Jim Ekberg

Dear Fellow Member:

Attached is another letter which I had sent to Mike Doyle back in December 2000 concerning Section 6 notices. This letter was also personally handed to Dick Gunderman. As usual I received no response. I do not know about you but I see a pattern developing here. Letters get sent to Mike and no reply comes back. Then Mike claims that I am the one who is at fault for not calling, going to see him or attending union meetings. I guess that when one takes the time to sit down and write letters it does't count for anything.

Once again this letter is to only show that I have taken the time to get involved and voice my concerns. It does not matter if you agree with all, some or none of what I have written. Only that I am given the courtesy as a fellow engineer to express my points of view.

With regards to my statements on vacations. There is a perception around here that if a person speaks their mind they will not get their vacation changed. Is this the makings of a Democratic, user friendly organization? In my opinion our current leadership does not want to change the system. This situation does have an adverse effect on our members and it's perception can be a very powerful tool. Remember our current officers have been in power for over ten years now under different headings. Has anything ever been done or attempted in changing the way we do our vacation picks? How many times have you heard the old line "don't worry kid your day will come, we have been doing it this way since I hired out." Where are all the good jobs which existed 30, 20, even 10 years ago? Most were broken up or disappeared when the senior engineer retired. Try marking off today. Metro-North has a whole department tracking our every move. When are we going to break the cycle of looking at what is only best for me as the individual and start looking towards a future of what is best for the membership as a whole.

Yes, seniority does count and should count for something. But some type of happy medium must be found with relationship to our earnings, work performed within the runs and vacation time. We all have families and deserve to be able to spend some quality time with them.

The only information which I have received from ACRE to date has been a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws.

Here is some more information-you decide.