

Local 808

AFFILIATED WITH
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS AFL-CIO



**BUILDING MAINTENANCE, SERVICE,
AND RAILROAD WORKERS UNION**

22-43 Jackson Avenue, Long Island City, New York 11101-4310 • (718) 389-1900 • Fax (718) 389-2171

CHRIS SILVERA
Secretary-Treasurer

August 4, 2006

GLENN CONKLIN
President

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

THOMAS CASHMAN
Vice-President

I am compelled to write this letter to address some of the issues regarding bargaining with Metro North Commuter Railroad.

LIZ BONELLO
Recording Secretary

I believe that the buy back of five years of pension eligibility is a grave mistake. This buy back of pension time has triggered a company demand for medical premium co-payments by our members. This co-payment will negate all future wage increases and cause us to fall further behind the cost of living. This is an impossible future for workers who live in the most expensive region in our nation.

Trustees:
OSVALDO LOVERME
ALVIN LEE
MARIO UQUILLAS

I believe that we should only have made the conversion from 1988 and keep the co-pay door closed. I understand that this is a controversial position, but we are mortgaging the future to pay for the past. Once the door is open for some it will eventually catch all. This was known as soon as ACRE opened the door for new hires to pay. This has been further compounded by the currently failed TWU Local 100 agreement.

I am first a trade unionist and it is important that we look at these issues collectively and understand that the decisions that we make today will impact future negotiations. I am opposed to creating a lower class of railroad workers. I will not be a part of "killing the unborn."

I have continued to represent what seems to be the will of this membership and I believe that we will present you with a Collective Bargaining Agreement to vote up or down.

I believe that the conversion to a defined benefit pension is in the best interest of our members. However, we will also take in to account the demand of a significant numbers of our members who want to remain in the Vanguard Plan and ensure that they will have the right to remain in that plan.

We were in line to be granted a Presidential Emergency Board, however ACRE and the Carrier went to the National Mediation Board and lobbied successfully, and we were denied. Without the prospects of a PEB we

returned to the bargaining table and are currently negotiating the best agreement that we are able to achieve without the right to strike as a bargaining tool.

There is much talk of a medical co-payment for all MNRR employees. If this becomes a reality then we offer our members safe harbor in the Local 808 Health and Welfare Fund. This will allow you to keep your money in your pockets. This health plan is comparable to the one offered by the Carrier; superior in many ways and we are currently making plans for our members in Connecticut who are treated as "step children" by the railroad have better medical coverage than they currently enjoy.

I believe that our members will be in a significantly improved situation by joining the Local 808 Health Fund as we also have lower co-payments on prescription purchases.

Local 808 under my leadership has provided sick and personal days for our members, a greatly reduced waiting time for vacation allowances, increased pay for our structures members and we will continue to negotiate aggressively until we achieve parity with our Long Island Railroad counterparts. It is safe to say we will bring us closer to achieving this goal in this round of negotiations.

I have said in the past that we will work diligently toward ending seasonal lay-offs for our younger Trackmen and we are doing just that. We hope to be able to say at the end of this round that there will be no more lay-offs for Teamster Trackmen on this railroad.

I believe that we are close to a settlement and we will expeditiously bring this agreement before you for ratification.

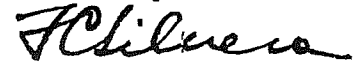
We thank you for your patience and support during this most difficult economic period particularly exacerbated by home and automobile fuel increases.

We also thank the Metro North Coalition of Unions that has displayed unwavering solidarity during this difficult round of bargaining.

We also recognize the importance of the Maintenance of Way Supervisors resoundingly rejecting the ACRE agreement.

We will keep you posted as developments occur.

Fraternally

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. Silvera", written in a cursive style.

**F. Christophe Silvera
Secretary-Treasurer**

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