



united transportation union

Local 77

May 6, 2005

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

When ACRE was formed, our trusted leaders told us that it would be to our advantage not to send money to an international union; instead, we should keep that money here for the benefit of the membership. Believing in our new ACRE leaders, we left our international union and went into an association. Soon after, ACRE made an arrangement with the carrier to accept company money.

How did we make out? ACRE pays out almost all of our dues money towards officer's salaries, collects money from the company, then the same officers represent us at contract negotiations! Any criticism of this arrangement, any concerns for our own brothers and sisters, is met with brow beating spin-doctors.

I find it interesting that ACRE continues to talk about the UTU and how ACRE is better than the UTU. I also find it interesting, that the top officers of the UTU were removed from office by the members of the union through a process under the UTU constitution. What is more interesting, is that the UTU officers were found guilty of taking money from lawyers and are serving time, while our ACRE officers continue to take money from the company on paid union time.

Can things get worse? I am going to do my best to see that things get better. It will take some time to recover from this experience, but we must make the change. **Changing ACRE's leadership will not solve our problems. Our problem is ACRE itself.** ACRE is not our union. We need the UTU.

Meanwhile, our union brothers and sisters in the Rail Labor Coalition have been "boxed in" by ACRE's unholy alliance with the company. The Coalition will not allow their members to consider the ACRE agreement. I have already made contact with the Rail Labor Coalition and it is my hope that we will move away from ACRE join the UTU and once again be an independent union representing Conductors and Assistant Conductors on Metro North.

Fraternally yours,

Kevin A. O'Shea
Interim General Chairperson