

New Agreement

Continued from front cover.....

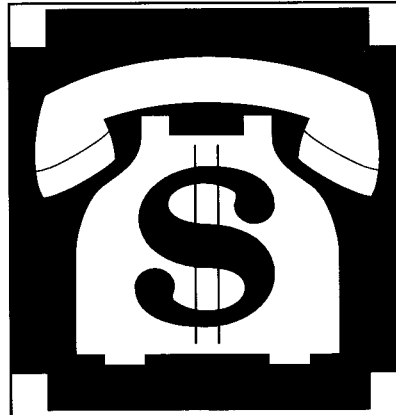
ACRE is very proud of this agreement. It not only improves the benefits and wages of active employees but also secures the quality of life for all future retirees. Considering the outside forces that came into play during this round of bargaining, most notably the Transit Authority, the Long Island Rail Road, industry standards, our own demographics, and the overall condition of the economy, this agreement stands as a monumental achievement. We are now in the process of getting the various pieces implemented and have received numerous commitments from our members who now wish to retire under the new agreement.

All the members of this organization should be proud of the way they conducted themselves during this round of bargaining. Meetings were held, questions were raised, and everyone was given ample opportunity to express their opinions. Everyone's voice was heard, both dissenters and supporters alike before anyone was required to cast a vote. The democratic process is often taken for granted but it remains the most effective way to resolve issues.

Once again we thank you for your continued support and congratulate you for your active participation in the process. Δ

Yardmasters/ Assistant Stationmasters

Due to an outstanding issue concerning a new position at Brewster the yardmaster agreement was not signed by General Chairman Bottalico until March 4th. The ballots have been mailed, they will be counted on March 22nd. Δ



\$1000

Lump Sum Payment

ACRE is setting up a process to allow members to bypass federal and state taxes by contributing their \$1000 to either their 401 or 457 Deferred Compensation Plan. During the week of April 7th to April 11th members will be able to contact Pete Paglia at the ACRE union office if they want their money deposited in their deferred plan. Beginning April 7th, you can stop in at the union office, suite 215 in the Graybar Building, call Pete Paglia at **212-599-5856**, or leave a message in voice box number 11.

If you would like a separate check you need do nothing and you will receive your money in the second pay period after April 11th.

Vision

Our new Vision Plan goes into effect on July 1, 2004. The new Vision Plan number is **30473**, the plan type is Vision Access A/B, and the group name is MTA/Metro-North Managerial. If anyone has already made use of the old plan this year, they can still take advantage of the enhanced benefits provided by the new plan after July 1st.

