

conductors haven't we all been asking ourselves, "what war." It is difficult for us to understand that on all the other properties around the country the atmosphere has been so tainted, **the relationship so broken** between BLE and UTU represented employees that achieving even the smallest common goal is almost impossible. **The Internationals actually want each other to fail and actively seek ways to sabotage each other.** This is exactly what we have been saying for over a year now, **that the hostilities between the craft of engineer and conductor, going back before the UTU was even formed, have hurt members all around the country.** It is the spillover effect that is only going to get worse as the war between the Internationals escalates and escalate it will no matter what the ruling in Washington is.

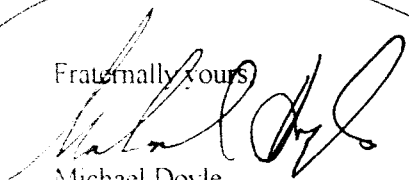
We must remember that this is the only Railroad in the United States that an association like ACRE could exist. Nowhere else do transportation employees work together for each other's benefit the way we do here. What we offer our united memberships is true leadership and a genuine concern for their benefit that transcends petty hostilities and union politics. We are presenting to all the members around the country a new way of doing things where the interests of the members are put before age old feuds. **We can only hope our going independent brings the Internationals to their senses.**

In the very near future you will likely receive a letter from the legislative arm of the BLE exclaiming the positive benefits they provide. When you do, remember that all of Rail Labor pursues many of these same legislative agendas and ACRE will not change but rather **add** to that interest. Furthermore, ACRE will not change the legislative goals of the BLE. Instead it will present us the opportunity to add our voice and in so doing insure our members interests and issues are heard. When we win the vote, ACRE will be recognized by the National Mediation Board and the Federal Railroad Administration as the legal bargaining agent for engineers on Metro-North Railroad and, as such, we will be entitled to express our views on all issues that affect our membership. Do not think for one minute that we will be frozen out of the discussion. For the first time we will be an active participant in any legislation or proposed rule that impacts us as locomotive engineers specifically or railroad employees in general.

One final and very important reminder to our members. **We ask that you carefully read the ballot instructions and make sure to PRINT and SIGN your name on the back of the RETURN ENVELOPE. failure to do so will void your ballot. And please, do not put your name on the ballot itself, this is a secret election and the NMB will void your ballot if your name appears anywhere but on the outside envelope.** Remember, it is very important to cast a vote in this representation dispute. Failure to receive 50% ballot return of the eligible voters will decertify the union for engineers at Metro-North.

You are in the unique position of being part of a new Union formed specifically to represent the interests of Transportation Employees in the Commuter Industry. You should all be very proud that you have been responsible for creating this opportunity to bring forth something that we will all look back on with pride. All we need is the courage to move forward with conviction, determination, and confidence in ourselves. We need to remember that "We have nothing to fear but fear itself." On behalf of your elected leaders I again ask you to have the courage of your convictions **and confidently mark the box for ACRE when your ballot arrives.**

Fraternally Yours


Michael Doyle
General Chairman