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June 1, 2005

To All Train Service Employees – Metro North

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Two movie titles may aptly describe what you have seen (or not seen) transpire at Metro North. According to Metro North workers I have spoken with, you have moved from a Field of Dreams to Broken Promises in the experiment known as ACRE. You were led to the mountain top and what you see are more mountains ahead. It is time for us to once again come together as Brothers and Sisters under the umbrella of UTU Local 77.

In an effort to help those that wish to once again have Local 77 hold the collective bargaining agreement for train service employees on the property, I want to set out a few promises and clarify some issues before describing the election process that will help you change union representation.

- Local 77 will remain autonomous and will be the designated bargaining agent for the men and women working in train service on Metro North.
- There will be a guarantee of seniority on a separate prior right roster for everyone working on Metro North.
- Your railroad retirement benefits, health and welfare benefits, wages, vacation rights will be seamless.
- You will receive a copy of the current agreement between you and Metro North and we will establish a system that will provide more opportunity for members to participate in the collective bargaining process.
- You will receive the new UTU Constitution as well as copies of the quarterly financial reports and activity statements of the Local; and participate in the drafting of new Bylaws for Local 77.
- You will have the ability to vote on and appeal local agreements made by your General Chairperson.
- Our representatives will continue to help represent your interests at the bargaining table, in Washington, DC, and in Albany, New York.
- The UTU International will provide the necessary resources, including hands on training for the officers and committee representatives of Local 77; and we will protect and assist the local from any outside interference.
- Each member will have the benefit of a system of checks and balances that provides for appealing disputes between the member and union officers.

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Once the election process is complete, Local 77 will elect its own officers by secret referendum ballot. Until then, Metro North Conductor Kevin O'Shea will serve as the acting General/Local Chairman for the local.

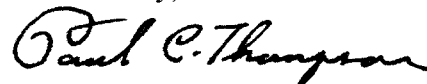
To complete the process of welcoming you back to Local 77 and to gain the certification necessary to represent your interests, it is necessary for us to complete the election process as required by the National Mediation Board (NMB). That process includes the completion and submission of the enclosed authorization card (A Card) so that we may make formal application for a representation election. Please take a minute to complete the card and return it to us in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope.

Once the UTU receives sufficient "A Cards" (50% + 1 card from eligible voters is the NMB minimum) from the train service employees at Metro North, we will deliver them to the NMB who will ensure their authenticity and order that a representation election be held. The election will be held using a telephone electronic voting (TEV) system and the secrecy of your vote is ensured by the NMB; no one will know how you voted.

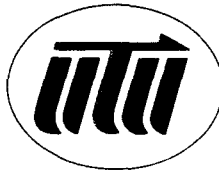
On the day and time set by the NMB, the votes are tabulated and we hope that you can celebrate a victory for UTU Local 77. Once the transition of representation occurs and the UTU is successful, we guarantee that the UTU will provide you with a standard of representation that guarantees you the rights and benefits of a contract without intimidation between you, your elected representatives and Metro North. This guarantee is mandated under our Constitution. Our UTU Constitution is an agreement between you and the union that guarantees that your contract rights will not be waived by informal or vest pocket agreements.

Let me close by informing you that the UTU has applied for membership in the AFL-CIO. We have cleaned the deck and set a new course for the future. I wish you a future of your own choosing; you can count on my personal support.

In Solidarity,



Paul C. Thompson  
International President



## ***united transportation union***

May 23, 2005

To All Train Service Employees:

The time has arrived for the restoration of a union system that will provide the necessary governmental and operational checks and balances to ensure all members rights are protected. A system offering genuine member participation governing the Local operation and a member consensus for future collective bargaining stratagems. These areas of representation have not been available to members under the ACRE format.

To achieve true reform the solution is not to attempt to fix the current operation. Over the past several years I have spoken with a number of intelligent, sincere, and earnest young train service employees that have expressed an interest in seeking office in the UTU and working to improve conditions in our craft. All newly elected, inexperienced officers will receive the necessary training from the International. Some of these individuals have already left ACRE and joined the UTU. Local 77 is in operation on Metro North. Interim officers have been appointed. Each person has left ACRE based on their principles and courage of conviction. Kevin O'Shea was requested to accept the office of Interim General Chairman. Everyone that knows Kevin is aware of his integrity and credibility, he will devote an energetic approach to the responsibilities of office. These sentiments apply to each of the interim officers of Local 77.

Removing ACRE as the Collective Bargaining Agent will send a powerful message to the MTA for our next bargaining session. We can not allow ACRE to negotiate another contract. We already have a substandard contract compared to the Long Island Railroad, it appears the Metro North coalition will do better than ACRE in this bargaining round, and the MTA Police already have received a better contract than ACRE.

We can make a change now and move forward or remain with the current representation and assume the additional risk of falling even further behind other unions in the collective bargaining arena. The choice is yours, please make an informed decision.

Sincerely,

Art May

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