



## ***united transportation union***

June 6, 2005

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

By now you have received your "A" cards. Please follow the instructions and mail them to Cleveland. It's the most important decision you will make regarding your future with the MTA. It is apparent that ACRE is designed by the MTA to have ACRE's leadership retire with the pockets bulging and to burn your bridge behind them.

ACRE has come out with their intimidation guns blazing. The UTU has at least six (6) cases of younger members complaining that they have been instructed to bring their "A" cards to the ACRE office to prove their loyalty to ACRE. Fine! Bring your "A" cards up there, give them the "Thumbs Up" and get an additional "A" card from the UTU, mail it to Cleveland, and have ACRE answer for their actions. By law, the "A" cards are confidential.

ACRE's vile slogans that prompted us to open the medical cost for new co-workers were: "We don't represent people that don't work here." "We don't represent the unborn". Of course, when our new Brothers and Sisters hire out, everybody is totally screwed! The company doesn't have regular overtime jobs for us out of the goodness of their hearts. It's cheaper for the Carrier to pay one employee's overtime than to pay two employees full benefits. We now have a state pension based on the amount of overtime you make during your last 10 years and at the same time, attack the new hire's benefits! How long do think regular overtime jobs will be around? About as long as it takes to get the next contract done, then the company can "lower the boom". It's a mess for us, a bonanza for the company, and a reprehensible way for ACRE to perform.

Finally, I'd like to address the members who were fortunate enough to have their own sons, daughters, or loved ones hired out. You are the ones that can convey to these younger members of the dire situation we all face with ACRE. You are the ones that can discuss with them (in private conversation) what they should do for their own future and the future of their own families. I'll say it again. By law, the "A" cards are completely confidential. Urge them to unite with their fellow Conductors and Assistant Conductors and go back into an International Union. Urge them to force ACRE to stand up and defend the indefensible.

Fraternally yours

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Dear Members of UTU Local 77 and ACRE:

ACRE believes it can serve two masters. ACRE contends it can achieve objectivity sitting at the bargaining table and receiving income from the hardworking employees of Metro North while simultaneously receiving payment from Metro North management sitting across the table. They have attempted to sell this concept to the ACRE members. ACRE members must find it difficult to believe that in spite of ACRE officers receiving sizable salaries, pensions and benefits from Metro North Management, these officers can believe that they are not compromised and management does not feel that ACRE has an obligation to return the favor to Metro North's management. History has revealed various examples of people that have participated in conflict of interest activity. The final result of these actions usually did not cast these individuals in a favorable light.

When the former UTU officers believed that they could take money from others, and it wasn't from management or the members but only lawyers, the UTU membership couldn't wait. It cleaned its own house and removed those officers before the law could put them away. I am not saying that what the officers of ACRE are doing is illegal. That is a decision for someone else. But I believe it is wrong, the US Government believes it is wrong and did cut off any federal matching funds (Omnibus Bill). It appears that the State of New York is examining the situation and they may also cut off funding for such payments. The questions is do you believe that it is wrong?

When ACRE was formed many promises were made, but have they been fulfilled? Has this independent organization achieved any of the Long Island contracts? How is it viewed by the Labor Coalition, who sits at the table across from Metro North management and receives no payment from its masters? Just think about the money that is pouring in to the ACRE/MTA scheme. There is no money going out monthly to support an International union that has done things, such as improving your Railroad Retirement. There is no money going to a state legislative program in New York, led by Sam Nasca, a very well-known and respected leader. No, all this money goes into ACRE and you mix with that payment from Metro North management and most of this money from your dues ends up in the pockets of whom? Has this money delivered you better representation and has it brought you better contracts? Only you can answer that question.



The UTU spent over a million dollars to improve Railroad Retirement. While other pension programs are having their benefits cut and the age requirements raised, Railroad Retirement did just the opposite and found more money for the surviving widows. What did ACRE contribute to this vast improvement? A little lip service and nothing else. I can assure you that with the exception of a few photo opportunities, ACRE has no presence in your Nation's capital. ACRE has not made a presence outside of the Metro North service area. ACRE is neither respected nor disrespected. They are just unheard of. No matter what the issue, I can assure you that outside of their limited service area, no one here knows who they are. No one has dignified ACRE's existence. They have trouble justifying their existence. Don't the members of ACRE deserve more for their money?

A few years ago, before ACRE separated from the UTU, the officers of Local 77 approached this International Union about an income tax problem that the people in Connecticut were having when they had to unfairly pay New York State income taxes. This International Union got an amendment passed that saved many of those Connecticut residents thousands of dollars. This state income tax change was made when the International Union went to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, who happened to be from Texas, and the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, who was from Washington State. Neither had any voters in CT but the International Union had voters in Washington State and Texas. When are the ACRE members going to need friends outside of the Metro North service area again? I can assure you that a small group like ACRE would not have known what to do or even who to see, much less possess the influence to get it done. What will happen tomorrow to Metro North employees that are represented by ACRE? The answer to all the problems of the Metro North employees cannot be found just in the Metro North service area. Many issues affecting railroad employees across the country are addressed in the Legislative arena in Washington DC - far beyond ACRE's limited capacity.

The train service personnel at Metro North are now in the unique position to decide their fate. The UTU International responded in the past, when our assistance was requested. The International's resources will again be available to UTU Local 77 representing Conductors and Assistant Conductors. It is your future and I believe the best opportunity to protect that future is with the UTU. Sign the "A" card and mail it to the International.

Fraternally yours,



James Brunkenhoefer  
National Legislative Director