

Presidential Emergency Board 242 Considers Bargaining Issues at Amtrak

As the year was winding down, action in negotiations at Amtrak was picking up for TCU Carmen and ARASA Maintenance of Way and Maintenance of Equipment supervisors, as well as for members of the IAM and several other unions.

At press time, President Bush had named the five members of Presidential

Emergency Board (PEB) 242 and hearings were being held December 11-13 in Washington, DC.

"We have a first-rate team of experts who will present the strongest arguments for the fair contract terms our members at Amtrak deserve," says TCU International President Robert A. Scardelletti. "It's really a very straightforward case: Amtrak workers should be treated

like the professional rail workers they are, and rewarded for the excellent service they provide in the face of enormous obstacles."

The Board must report to President Bush with non-binding recommendations for settlement by year-end, unless the PEB requests a time-limit extension (usually for another 30 days) as has happened in the past. When the report is issued, the par-



ties then will observe an additional 30-day cooling-off period to review the PEB report.

Throughout this period, unless agreement is reached, the status quo must be maintained. But, if there is no agreement at the end of this time, then—after eight years—the unions can go on strike (and Amtrak can unilaterally impose its contract changes).

Ready for the Test

A strike is a last resort, but, if need be, “This union will be ready for the test,” says President Scardelletti. In earlier preparation, TCU assembled a strike team, printed signs and planned for picket lines. The designated Strike Coordinator is Russell Oathout (an International Vice President as of January 1).

Oathout would work closely with Carmen Division General President Richard Johnson and ARASA Division International Representative Joseph Derillo.

TCU clerical members at Amtrak, though not on strike themselves, would support their union brothers and sisters (see Resolution 17). Leading them in their respective jurisdictions would be Unit 250 International Representative Ron Kloos and Unit 86 Assistant International Representative Larry Jones.

Whatever happens, “I have no doubt that all TCU members will stand together in solidarity,” says Scardelletti.

Resolution 17

The following is the policy for honoring bona fide picket lines for members of the Transportation Communications International Union (TCU). The Resolution can be found on page 144 of TCU’s Constitution and Bylaws.

WHEREAS, Previous TCU Conventions have recognized the time honored tradition within the trade labor union movement that picket lines will be respected; and,

WHEREAS, This unity and solidarity has enabled TCU members, and members of other unions, as well, to secure and maintain decent working conditions, wage standards, adequate health and welfare coverage, etc.; and

WHEREAS, This Union and its members have recognized this obligation to honor picket lines of our own and sister unions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That TCU and its members do hereby declare that the policy of our Union is and will be to honor bona fide picket lines established by TCU or any other union and the members shall not cross or knowingly work for any firm or company where employees are on strike or locked out; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That in the event any unit of TCU commences a strike, all members working for the struck property will be considered on strike and shall, upon commencement of the strike, leave the employer’s premises; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That in the event another union commences a strike while a member is at work or employees represented by another union are locked out while a member is at work, the member shall complete his normal shift only and shall not continue working beyond the normal end of his shift; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That any member who fails to abide by this established policy will be subject to being charged with violation of the policies and laws of our Union and tried in accordance with Article 10 of the Statutes for the Government of Lodges or Article 10 of the Government of Districts; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, This Convention recommends that a member so charged and found guilty, if fined, the fine should be an amount not less than the amount earned by the member for each and every day the member performed service during such picketing, strike or lockout.