

# Arbitrator Puts Amtrak On the Right Route



A recent arbitration award has won what System Division 250 General Chairman Ron Kloos calls “a great victory for us and our members” at Amtrak.

For the 30 involved mem-

*A recent arbitration victory by TCU affirmed important labor protective provisions for Amtrak workers.*

bers, this means finally being paid money due them for the abolishment of their jobs. For the unions of the Amtrak Service Workers Council (ASWC), the decision sets important precedent: “it defines a train route for purposes of applying labor protective provisions (LPPs) for all employees in the future,” says Kloos.

TCU, the Transport Workers Union and UNITE-HERE work together

through the ASWC.

The award, issued April 27, sustains both claims made by TCU following the carrier’s discontinuation of the Three Rivers train route operating between New York City and Chicago, Illinois. Amtrak staffed the Three Rivers route from the Pittsburgh, PA crew base.

The Special Board of Adjustment ruled for the union and ordered the carrier to apply the LPPs to affected members and pay them up to five years of earnings.

## Investment Trust Shows Solid Gains for Retirement Fund

The National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust (NRRIT) passed with flying colors its first Congressional oversight hearing since being created as part of the substantial improvements legislated by the Railroad Retirement and Survivors’ Act of 2001.

Key among those testifying to the Trust’s significant growth in assets before the members of the subcommittee on Railroads of the House Committee on Transportation

and Infrastructure were TCU International President Robert A. Scardelletti and his Special Assistant, International Vice President Joel M. Parker, who serves as labor member on the NRRIT. Others included Railroad Retirement Board Chairman Michael Schwartz; NRRIT management member James A. Hixson, an executive vice president at Norfolk Southern and Edward R. Hamberger, president and CEO of the Association of

American Railroads.

“The structure of the Trust has worked well,” said Scardelletti, to meet “a common goal — protecting and growing the assets...for the benefit of current and future railroad retirees, their dependents, spouses and survivors.”

Parker described how the Trust has been built since 2002. The net value of assets overseen by the Trust totaled \$28.9 billion at the end of the last quarter, March 31, 2006.



Seen here from left to right are: First row, Dist. 427 Chrnm. Chad Bailey, 937 DC Patti Smith, 105 DC Robert Scott, Local Chrnm. 6045 Billy Joe Slate, Pres. Bob Scardelletti, 6474 LC Matt Grant, and 6385 LC Homer Golden; row 2, 1351 DC Ralph Williams, 943 DC Robert Preston, 6747 DC Adam Bork, 1081 DC Lawrence Woods, 823 DC Dave Canan and Industry Relations Sr. Exec. Dir. Bill Miller; top row, 5511 DC Horace Mills, 24 DC Steve Combs, 5514 DC Jim Harris, Prog. Coord. Darwin Kubasiewicz, IVP Joel Parker and Carmen Div. GVP Alex Novakovic. Not seen are 1402 DC Vince Gibbons and 512 DC Robert Ragland.

## Joint Rail Seminar Gets Rave Reviews

A group of 19 recently-elected TCU local officers sent back rave reviews after joining their Machinists counterparts at the IAM's William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center in Placid Harbor, MD.

The TCU officers were there to hone their leadership skills at TCU-IAM's week-long Railroad Local Chairmen Seminar. The course was the first session with TCU participants since the affiliation between the two unions.

TCU representatives and Machinists attended class together to learn about issues, such as the Family and Medical Leave Act and Railroad Retirement, that

affect representatives in both groups.

During the week, participants also split into their respective unions for classes designed to address their particular needs and focused on grievance handling and representing members at disciplinary hearings.

First of Many

"This first joint seminar was a tremendous success," International President Bob Scardelletti told IAM International President Buffenbarger. "The facility is a wonderful place for learning, providing students with state-of-the-art technology. This is the first of many more such education events

for TCU leaders." Feedback from participants was "extremely positive," Scardelletti reported.

"It was a great learning experience," says District 937 Chairwoman Patti Smith of Fort Worth, Texas. "After experiencing first-hand what IAM is all about, I don't think you could have picked a better union (to partner with)," she wrote to President Scardelletti.

"The courses were well planned," wrote District 512 Chairman Robert Ragland of Omaha, Nebraska. "It was an honor to meet our new IAM brothers and sisters. There was certainly a spirit of camaraderie on campus during our stay."