

Transportation Communications Union/IAM

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers



Robert A. Scardelletti
National President



Subject: New Jersey Transit Strike –
Unemployment Benefits

February 10, 2016

TO ALL NEW JERSEY TRANSIT MEMBERS –
CARMEN, CLERKS AND SUPERVISORS

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Benefits available under the Railroad Retirement Unemployment Insurance Act (RUIA) for eligible New Jersey Transit members

To qualify for unemployment benefits for the current benefit year beginning July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, you must meet certain railroad earnings and creditable service months in the base calendar year 2014. If you became employed prior to calendar year 2014, you must have had at least three (3) months of creditable service and railroad earnings of \$3,600 in 2014, counting no more than \$1,440 for any month. However, if you were first employed in 2014, you must have had at least five (5) months of creditable service in addition to railroad earnings of at least \$3,600 in 2014, but no more than \$1,440 for any month.

Qualified members on an authorized strike are eligible for daily unemployment benefits after meeting a 14-day waiting period. After the initial 14-day waiting period, daily benefits are \$67.104 or \$671.04 every 10 days in each subsequent 14-day period as long as you claim every day in a benefit period.

Benefits may be reduced for any day in which other benefits you may receive such as governmental benefits which include but are not limited to social security benefits, a pension, annuity, or other retirement pay under a Federal, State, or local law (such as a railroad retirement annuity, military retirement pay, a policeman's or fireman's pension, etc.), certain workers' compensation payments, or any other social insurance payment under any law. Additionally, benefits may also be reduced for any day on which you work or otherwise earn wages, holiday pay, vacation pay, or other pay. This includes pay from full-time and part-time work in either railroad or non-railroad employment, and from self-employment. The RRB will determine benefits payable after reviewing each 14-day claim, so it is important to file benefits for each claim period.

♦ 3 Research Place ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850-3279 ♦ E-mail-scardellettir@tcunion.org ♦
Phone-301-840-8701 ♦ FAX-301-330-7664 ♦ Website-www.tcunion.org



If you receive any of the above mentioned benefits, you should discuss your entitlement to unemployment benefits with the local Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) office.

The RRB accepts unemployment applications online or by mail. To file an application and subsequent unemployment claim forms online, you must establish an online account. If you are not already registered for a RRB Internet Services Account, you should access the “Benefits Online Services Login” section on www.RRB.gov home page to initiate the request for a Password Request Code (PRC) which will be mailed to your address of record within 7-10 business days of the request. Upon receipt of the PRC, you must complete the registration process to access your online account. If you already have an RRB online account, you do not need to re-register.

It is imperative that you don't delay – REGISTER FOR ONLINE ACCESS RIGHT NOW - TODAY. The RRB sends the PRC via the U.S. Mail to the address on record and it will take several days to receive. If you want to verify the mailing address on record, you should contact the local RRB office at 1-877-772-5772. Once the PRC is received, it must be activated online, otherwise it will expire if not used within 30 days from the date of the letter. If an extension of the PRC is required, you must contact the PRC system administrator found on www.RRB.gov for assistance.

If you wish to mail a paper application, copies can be obtained either by contacting the RRB's customer service number 1-877-772-5772 or downloading from the RRB website.

Completed unemployment applications should be filed as soon as possible but no later than 30 days from the date on which you go on strike, otherwise, benefits may be lost if the application is filed late. After the initial application is filed, you will receive biweekly claims that must be completed and returned either online or by mail on or after the last day of the claim period. The RRB must receive the claim within 15 days of the end of the claim period.

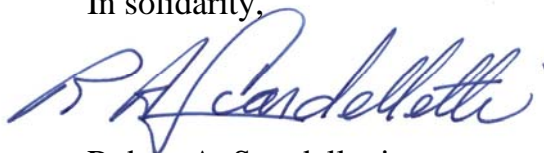
Unemployment benefits paid under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (RUIA) are considered income for Federal income tax purposes. Each year, the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) sends railroad employees Form 1099-G showing the total amount of unemployment benefits paid during the preceding calendar year. These benefits must be reported on your Federal income tax return.

You may file Form W-4v with the nearest RRB office if you want the RRB to withhold Federal income tax from your benefits. Unemployment benefits are exempt from State income taxes.

Further, all NJT members in good standing will receive strike benefits from the IAM Strike Fund. Strike benefits paid by the organization will not impact unemployment benefits payable under RUIA and do not need to be claimed. The weekly strike benefits are \$150 beginning on the 11th working day of the strike. However, benefits are not paid until the end of the third week (approximately the 21st day of the strike). You will be required to sign for and pick up your checks at the designated strike pay distribution center. More detailed information will be distributed as it becomes available.

Should you have any questions on how to file for unemployment benefits or how to register for the RRB online services, you may contact Ellen Conboy, Executive Director/National Representative, in the TCU/IAM Social Services Department, at 301-840-8746 or conboye@tcunion.org or contact a local U.S. Railroad Retirement Board office at 1-877-772-5772.

In solidarity,



Robert A. Scardelletti
National President