

The American Railway and Airway Supervisors Association

A DIVISION OF TCU - AFL-CIO - CLC
AMTRAK LODGE NO. 5093

Subordinate
Officials &
Professional
Employees



National
Organization

January 19, 2008



ARASA NOTES #108

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Just wanted to take a moment to wish everyone a Happy New Year and give you an update on current events.

Amtrak has finally settled with the nine unions involved in the recent PEB. These agreements will go out to the members of these unions for ratification and this avoids a strike that could have occurred on January 30th. ARASA (ME and MW) were involved in this settlement, as they have not had a raise in over eight years. Our organization, ARASA (OBS) will now go in and resume negotiations with Amtrak. We are now three years without an agreement and our International Representative Joe Derillo agrees he would like to settle our contract talks ASAP.

Regarding the (25) Manager, Service Quality positions at various locations around the country, our claim will go to a Public Law Board early summer. We remain optimistic they will agree that the work these managers are doing is the same that ARASA Supervisors have performed since the mid- 1970's. Also, effective 1/1/08, we receive an 8 cents an hour COLA increase and the reimbursable mileage rate is increased to 50.5 cents per mile.

You may have heard that we almost lost our home in the recent California wildfires. I would like to thank everyone who called and offered their support in a very difficult time. We survived with smoke damage and minor exterior damage to our home, and we are now in the process of helping our next door neighbors rebuild their homes.

Our goal for 2008 is simply to do the best job we can each day and VOTE! We recognize that these have been very trying times for all of us, but I do believe change is on the way. Meanwhile, keep the faith.

In solidarity,

Jay N. Fountain
President and General Chairman