

William L. Capik General Chairman

Sean D. Gerie Vice Chairman-Secretary/Treasurer

Anthony J. Mele Vice Chairman

Commuter Railroad System Division

PO BOX 127 South Amboy, NJ 08879

www.CRSD2773@aol.com

732-525-8488 FAX: 732-525-8951

October 22, 2007

Dear BMWED Member,

On September 19, 2007 the negotiating committee of the Commuter Railroad System Division along with Teamster Representative and BMWED Vice President Henry Wise Jr., reached a tentative agreement with New Jersey Transit. Enclosed for review and consideration is a copy. Also enclosed are instructions for the voting procedures to be used.

The attached tentative agreement resulted from numerous contract negotiations between the BMWED-IBT and New Jersey Transit.

The Tentative agreement provides for a \$500.00 implementation payment and **Full retroactive back time pay**, if the agreement is ratified. The amount of back pay will depend upon each individual's straight time and overtime worked. The new rates should go into effect approximately three weeks after ratification, if approved. A copy of the rates of pay for each job classification is provided along with the periods covered.

A significant improvement under the terms of the agreement is that , upon ratification, Vacation leave shall be paid on either a weekly rate equal to one-fifty second (1/52nd) of the employee's gross annual compensation earned during the previous year or will also be paid for single vacation days. Also upon ratification, employees who retire shall be eligible to receive medical coverage under the basic plan including his or her spouse beginning at age 60 at no additional cost to the retiree or spouse.

The tentative agreement further provides enhanced benefits for dental care, eye care, medical care, yearly payment for unused sick days as well as an increase in the cash severance payment for unused sick days, an increase in Supplemental Sickness Benefits, addition of grandparents and grandchildren to bereavement leave, an increase in the tool allowance , an increase in the per diem rates of pay, an increase in the meal allowance, and an increase in the "Away from home" allowance.

There will be **no retroactive payment for health and welfare coverage**. Due to the pattern that is currently in place in agreements ratified by other Organizations on New Jersey Transit, the tentative agreement will provide that, effective the first month following ratification, **employee contributions toward health care will be \$75.00 per month, with an increase to \$77.25 per month on July 1, 2008, \$79.57 per month on July 1, 2009 and \$81.95 per month on July 1, 2010.**

The voting will be done by a mail in ballot conducted by the American Arbitration Association. Copies of the tentative agreement will be mailed on or about October 26, 2007. Instructions for the voting procedure are included. **Only votes returned will be counted.**

After 38 months of negotiations, the Committee has brought to the membership a tentative agreement with many positive gains to it, one which will offer the Union and membership security until June 30, 2011. This tentative agreement has merit and warrants your approval. The out come is in the hands of the membership. Please exercise your right to vote in the ratification process.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact this office or any member of the CRSD negotiating committee.

In Solidarity,

William L. Capik
General Chairman-CRSD