

CLOCK TICKING AT AMTRAK



AFTER NEARLY 8 YEARS, WE ARE NOW ON A FAST TRACK TO RESOLVE THIS DISPUTE

The NMB's October 31, 2007 notice releasing us from mediation has started the clock ticking towards a series of events -- including our ability to strike as early as December 1, 2007 -- unless a voluntary agreement is reached, or a Presidential Emergency Board is established during the current 30 day cooling-off period.

The release arrived in response to our rejection of the NMB's proffer of arbitration. Most importantly, the release gives us the opportunity to vigorously fight for the long overdue contract settlement TWU members deserve. Our fight will be a difficult one that may very well end up before a Bush-appointed Presidential Emergency Board comprised of anti-union members. Rest assured, we are focused on doing our level best to achieve justice for our Amtrak members covered by the Joint Council of Carmen.

In anticipation of being released our preparations commenced several weeks ago and are well underway. We will put on the strongest possible case to demonstrate that Amtrak workers are professionals who, under extremely difficult circumstances have continued to keep Amtrak service operating safely, and deserve a fair retroactive wage settlement.

Our goal is to achieve full retroactive wage settlements. Likewise, we stand firm in our opposition to Amtrak's long list of radical concessionary work rule demands. Our resolve is shared with our bargaining partners (TCU-IBEW-IAM) and all of Rail Labor, which has forged a close working relationship to achieve our goal of justice for Amtrak workers.

As the process moves forward over the next several weeks there is a good possibility that our fight will end up before Congress. If this does occur, we need to be prepared to send a strong message that **AMTRAK WORKERS DESERVE A FAIR CONTRACT SETTLEMENT**. In preparing for this stage of our fight, we must emphasize that the **MEMBERSHIP'S VOICE IS CRITICAL IN GETTING THIS MESSAGE OUT AT THE APPROPRIATE POINT IN OUR FIGHT.**

We assure you that TWU is focused on the fight ahead, and working in a unified effort with our bargaining partners and all of Rail Labor to achieve a fair contract settlement for our members on Amtrak. Although it has never been our desire to strike Amtrak and inconvenience the riding public, in the end, if that's what it takes, we are prepared to do so.

Fraternally,

Gary Maslanka **James C. Little**
Director Railroad Division International President



Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO

WHAT HAPPENS NOW THAT WE HAVE BEEN RELEASED?

- The NMB's notice releasing the parties from mediation has triggered a 30 day cooling off period. Unless a voluntary agreement is made or an Emergency Board is established, we would be free to strike at 12:01 AM on December 1, 2007.
- Although there is no means in which to be certain, we expect that some time during the current 30 day cooling off period a Presidential Emergency Board will be established.
- If an Emergency Board is established it will have 30 days to investigate and issue its non-binding recommendations for settlement of the dispute.
- Once the Emergency Board reports to the President it triggers a second 30 day cooling off period for the parties to consider the recommendations,
- If no agreement is reached, the parties are free to engage in self-help at the end of the second 30 day cooling off period. (Unions are free to strike and company can lockout workers or impose terms of employment).

FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS ARE POSSIBLE

The NMB, in addition to releasing the parties from mediation issued a second notice scheduling further voluntary negotiating sessions over the next few weeks. Although we will participate in these sessions, based on experience to this point, we are not optimistic that a settlement will be reached.



Here's the truth:

Amtrak has refused to budge an inch or bargain in good faith.

They continue to insist upon:

- NO BACK PAY
- UNJUSTIFIED, RADICAL WORK RULE DEMANDS.

Amtrak refuses to recognize that Amtrak workers are the backbone of the railroad, and have been denied a fair contract settlement over a record-breaking 8 years.

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Go to www.twu.org and click on Railroad Division Membership Update Button, or Return Completed for to:
Transport Workers Union of America (RRD) AFL-CIO
1700 Broadway (2nd Floor)
New York, NY 10019-5905

HOW WE ARRIVED AT THIS POINT

- Since negotiations commenced Amtrak has demanded radical work rule reforms, including a so-called Team Concept (Composite Mechanic), and removing any prohibitions on contracting-out work, giving them the outright ability to contract-out any work they desired to. On an overall basis, Amtrak's long list of work rule demands completely gut the current agreement.
- Throughout negotiations Amtrak has stood firm on their position that Amtrak workers would not receive back wages.
- Since negotiations commenced Amtrak has not been willing to bargain seriously and has not demonstrated any justification for their demands. After nearly 8 years they have yet to withdraw any of their radical work rule demands, in fact as time went on they have added additional radical demands.
- In summary, Amtrak's unjustified radical work rule demands and refusal to pay back wages owed to our members is completely unacceptable.

JCC NOT ALONE IN THIS FIGHT

- In addition to the JCC Council (TWU/TCU) other shop craft unions released were the IAM, IBEW, and NCFO. Also released were the ATDA, BMW, BRS, ARASA (MofE) and ARASA (MofW).
- The JCC (TWU/TCU), as always, has been bargaining together since this round of bargaining commenced. In May of 2006 the IAM, and IBEW joined together in a partnership with the JCC and have been bargaining together.
- The BMW, BRS, ATDA, and NCFO are bargaining together as the Passenger Rail Labor Bargaining Coalition.