

March 26, 2008

ARASA NOTES #109

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

For the last twenty five years I have represented ARASA supervisors in several roles, the last twenty as your General Chairman. It has been my honor to represent such a fine group of professional men and women. The union has been very good to me and my family; we have made many lifelong friends who we will never forget.

The time has come for a change; I have accepted an official position with Amtrak and am resigning as your General Chairman and from the ARASA Advisory Board. Over the years I have passed on various opportunities however I felt the time had come for me to explore new challenges and for new leadership to guide our organization.

After consulting with all three District Chairmen and our FST, District Chairman Larry Vollten has been appointed President and General Chairman of ARASA Lodge 5093. Larry is a very strong leader who will work very hard to represent Lodge 5093. Nan Clark, who is a past FST and District Chair, will be the new Eastern District Chairperson. Nan is working in Raleigh, NC as an Operations Supervisor and brings great enthusiasm to everything she does.

The last few weeks have been productive; a new contract should be ready to go out in the next couple of weeks for ratification. I am confident that you will be very pleased with the contract, which will include back pay from 2005 to 2008. Your new General Chairman, Larry Vollten and our International Representative Joe Derillo will be providing you with details very soon. I just sent the 2008 ARASA Seniority Roster to Labor Relations; it should be out for your review very soon. And finally, the claim regarding the MSQ positions should be heard at a PLB in the next few months; the International representative who is handling this case, Gary Campbell, is excellent and is very hopeful for a positive result.

Thanks go out to all Lodge officers; special thanks to Joe Derillo, our terrific IR, our FST Julie Byrne, who has worked tirelessly for our organization for many years, RCS Ken Ross and to District Chairmen JC Collins, Frank Lapp and Field Rep David Jones for their work and support. I wish all of you and Lodge 5093 the very best,

Warm regards,

Jay N. Fountain