

ANTHONY SIMON
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October 6, 2023

Re: SMART Contract Negotiations

Dear Sisters & Brothers:

As information, General Chairperson Anthony Simon has been actively negotiating with the MTA Bargaining Team, and in contact with the appropriate New York State leadership, to secure a current contract for our members.

SMART, the largest Union on our property, along with the TCU, second largest, as well as other Organizations who have remained united with us, are at the table currently to negotiate a deal. Every day that goes by without wage increases or benefit improvements is another day that your family has to manage with less. There are times to dig in and wait, and times to take a deal based on industry pattern and MTA funding. Over the years we have led the way to achieve some of the highest wages in the industry, along with a secured guaranteed pension plan in addition to a Railroad Retirement pension and premier healthcare benefits.

Please know all the facts when other labor organizations share wage increases achieved by other unions. Higher percentage of wage increases based on considerably lower rates of pay will result in less increase. Additionally, the entire package of wages, pension and health & welfare all need to weigh in. Most of the rail unions used in comparison do NOT have guaranteed pension plans and rely only on railroad retirement and deferred compensation plans. Know all the facts, not just the headlines.

Rest assured that the same leaders are actively bargaining with the high level MTA staff and government officials that always have succeeded in the past. We will, again, lead the way and do the work needed to deliver a realistic high valued deal.

Fraternally yours,

The SMART General Committee