

Nov. 21, 2008

By now you should have noticed the vacation bid option is active under the crewcall menu. 2009 vacations must be bid before bids close on Nov. 30. If you bid and later change your mind, you can change your selection until November 30. We are asking that engineers do not request a week of single days. Last year the carrier decided not to add these single days into the weekly allocation formula. As a result, our weekly allocation was slashed. If you want a week of single days, let Skip or Tom or me know by the end of November, and we will see that you get it.

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, the employee monthly contribution for Health and Welfare will increase from \$166.25 to \$170.96. This increase is quite a bit less than anticipated (the anticipated increase was estimated to be as high as \$192/mo). However, the eligibility audit done last year by the insurance carrier eliminated nearly 20,000 ineligible dependents from the plan, resulting in significant cost savings to the insurance company.

Check the Home Page of the website for new disability insurance information for conductors.

After meeting with Payroll last week, I learned that a new payroll system will be implemented next year. Dearborn Division is not scheduled for rollout until September or so. New to the system will be an updated tie up screen, which should be more user-friendly. The payroll helpline can be reached at 800-624-4193. Payhelp is still active through the memo system. Also a form can be filled out on the ERC, under My Pay, T&E Payroll. Payroll says they are handling almost all requests within one day.

Speaking of Payroll, NO and NU claims are now being handled directly through crewcall and verified with your work history. These claims will no longer die a slow death at the Chief Dispatchers In-box. UA claims are only valid if miles/ time are deducted from the 8 hour claim. If miles/time is not present, the computer kicks out the claim. Many claims are denied because of improper, inaccurate, or insufficient information. Writing a book in comments is not always best. State your claim and document. Payroll doesn't care what you had for breakfast that morning. If your claim fails to meet the editing criteria, a valid claim may be declined. In this case,

a note to Payhelp inquiring what information is needed or missing will often result in claim approval.

If you report to work, and your call is subsequently annulled (not just a change of symbol), Crewcall is no longer supposed to pull your screen after you have been on duty for 15 minutes or more. This has been a problem in the past with disappearing screens. Let me know if Crewcall is not adhering to this policy.

We should be in the new crew building around the first of December. I know everyone is anxiously awaiting the new facility.

Our next meeting will be at the Easy Street Café on December 9<sup>th</sup>. See the Bulletin Board for location at reporting locations or on the web page Bulletin Board.

Dave Glesser