



CREW AND MEDICAL TRANSPONDERS UNITED

USW Crew/Medical Drivers Project

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Note to Drivers: You probably have noticed we have changed the program that delivers these emails to you. As social media began to see high volumes of usage during the virus crisis, the old program was only able to successfully deliver about 10% of our lists. We believe the new system will get us back to 100%.

Negotiations Resume: PTI and UPSEU/USW Unions will resume bargaining for a successor contract on Thursday, April 2, 2020. The Parties have previously resolved a number of language and non-economic issues. The resumption of bargaining will review those tentative agreements and focus on resolving the remaining economic issues. This contract will replace the 2015 labor agreement that has been heavily contested in Arbitration and the Courts.

Wage Rate Changes: The Company has notified us that in a number of locations they are switching from mileage to hourly pay. In addition, in many of those locations they are changing wage rates and changing the difference between Yard and Over the Road rates. The company insists that the hourly conversion rates are set to at least equal prior mileage rates. As an interim action, until this is resolved, the union has requested senior DYV drivers will be allowed to shift to OTR to get the higher rates, if they choose. None of this has been negotiated or agreed to by the Union. We are grieving all these changes and will join existing grievances regarding other locations with similar changes that were done prior to these actions. We expect to address these issues as we resume successor contract negotiations.

USW Virus Advisory for Those Still Working: Here is a link to the USW Website where our Safety, Health and Environment Department has developed the following Advisory for people still working during this virus crisis. <https://www.usw.org/members/coronavirus-resources/resources/covid-19-coronavirus-facts-for-usw-members-a-guide-for-usw-locals-still-at-work>

AFL-CIO State-by-State Virus Assistance Resource: The umbrella group for most American Unions is the AFL-CIO. Here is a link to their page, where you can click on your State and see what virus benefits you may have available to you. <https://aflcio.org/covid-19/state-resources>

Virus Legislation: Congress has now passed three pieces of virus-related legislation. Two have to do with Sick Leave and Family Leave. These excluded companies with over 500 employees. The last is the CARES Act, which has significant cash and unemployment compensation benefits for workers. The USW has a resource page for you to get information from at: <https://www.usw.org/members/coronavirus-resources>

PTI Management Responses to Union Drivers Virus Questions: As we get calls, texts and emails from our drivers, there are a number of common questions that emerge. We put a second round of these questions to PTI management and here are their responses.

Union Question #1: Leave Policies: What is the current leave policy for drivers who either believe they are sick or don't feel safe continuing to drive? Include how a driver can apply for leave and if it will be paid or unpaid.

Company Response: *Drivers should contact their branch manager and explain the leave request. If they are choosing to self-quarantine or they are sick with COVID-19 they will be placed on a leave of absence. Their status will be changed to Admin Hold-Pandemic and they will need to complete and submit a Leaves Request form. Paid time off will be used for the leave and will be paid promptly. If the driver does not have paid time off they will be placed in an unpaid leave status. HR is monitoring other federal and state options for our employees and will provide guidance if applicable.*

Union Question #2: Notification of Illness: Is there a notification system when either a Crew member or a Driver is suspected or confirmed to have the virus and how do drivers get that information?

Company Response: *We have an open line of communication with all of our customers during this pandemic. They will notify us immediately if a crew member has been confirmed to have COVID-19 or are showing the symptoms as outlined by the CDC. We will follow defined processes to identify drivers who may have been exposed and require them to self-quarantine until their medical status can be verified. If drivers are feeling the symptoms as outlined by the CDC (Fever, Cough, Shortness of Breath) they should stay home and contact their branch manager immediately. We will in turn notify the customer regarding who the driver may have come in contact with so they can determine whether to self-quarantine.*

Union Question #3: Protective Gear: What personal protective equipment/measures are available for drivers? Masks, gloves, van protective barriers, etc.

Company Response: *Cleaning and disinfecting supplies have been made available in every PTI vehicle. Drivers are required to wipe down high touch points between every OTR trip and a minimum of two times per DYV shift. Keeping vehicles clean and disinfected helps protect our drivers and our customers. Social distancing within the vehicle to the degree possible is also recommended. Most of our railroad customers have implemented one crew per vehicle requirements until the pandemic subsides. This will help the ability for passengers to spread apart. Masks and gloves are not being provided at this time based on guidance from the CDC. Please review the CDC website for more information. Links to the web pages are available in the President's Letter on the driver portal website.*

Union Question #4: Cleaning Supply Shortages: What should drivers do if they need cleaning supplies?

Company Response: *Please contact your branch manager or Director immediately if you are running short on cleaning supplies. It is imperative we keep our vehicles clean and disinfected during the pandemic.*

To Receive these Updates: email us your name , company, and location at 1222@usw.org

Getting Help:

Your Location Steward should be the first stop in trying to get your union contract questions answered or if you have a problem. However, we understand that it's sometimes hard to reach a Steward. The next and quickest way to get some help is:

The Union Driver Hotline at (866)203-4960.

Email us at: 1222@usw.org.

Union Area Representative Contact Information: Here are the contact numbers for our four Union Area Representatives:

Northeast States: Jeff Kramer – Phone: (317) 691-7690

Email: jkramer@organizing.usw.org

(Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Wisconsin)

Southeast States: Darryl Turner – Phone: (205) 253-3016

Email: dturner@organizing.usw.org

(Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia)

Western States: William Strizich – Phone: (406) 870-3333

Email: wstrizich@aol.com

(Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming)

Southwestern States: Jackie Bell – Phone: (817) 343-8862

Email: jbelle@organizing.usw.org

(Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas)