SMART TD Locals may hold meetings in August and September 2020

As precautions related to COVID-19 have continued to differ geographically, Transportation Division (TD) Locals are advised they may choose to hold regular monthly meetings in August and September if conditions safely allow, and if permitted in accordance with state/local guidelines. Locals choosing to hold meetings in these months should make accommodations to allow for proper social distancing, which may include meeting outdoors. Further, Locals are reminded to observe the Centers for Disease Control’s (CDC) illness prevention guidelines, which can be found at cdc.gov.

Locals not holding their meetings in August or September may continue to pay authorized expenses via the process outlined by this office in the March 17, 2020, circular. This advised officers and members seeking membership approval of expense submissions to utilize a version of a procedure that was previously available only to Local Chairpersons. For exact details and procedures, please reference the March circular. A copy of the claim form to be used can be obtained via TD Connect or by contacting this office.

Reimbursement for expenses via the five-signature claim form is only to be sought after fulfilling a legitimate duty of office, pursuing a matter as adopted and directed by the membership, or in fulfilling an assignment at the direction of an officer with authority over the matter in question. It is not for members or officers to unilaterally assign themselves duties or make purchases and then seek a disbursement from the Local or the LCA.

As a reminder, there is no mechanism available for “official” meetings to be held via video conference. Among other concerns, such meetings pose a challenge to the constitutional requirement to keep the union’s business private, and some members might not have the equipment or ability to “attend” such meetings.

Further guidance will be circulated as the situation develops.