

# Line Equipment/Signals Emergency Bulletin

## Arbitrator Okays Uniforms for REM's Hrycyszyn's Parting Gift



On February 21, 2013, after many years of TWU Local 100 opposition, Arbitrator Richard Adleman issued a verbal decision that the New York City Transit Authority had the right to issue uniforms to Revenue Equipment Maintainers despite their many safety concerns. This policy, the brainchild of our dearly departed Chief Electrical Officer Theodore Hrycyszyn, was designed *to get REMs to fill the customer service void created by the elimination of hundreds of Station Agents.*

Arbitrator Adleman, despite his July 22, 2011 stipulation, rendered his bench decision although Maureen Cox, 'safety expert', had not performed any site visits to observe field equipment. Although TWU Local 100 still maintains that these uniforms are unnecessary and a hindrance to the performance of Revenue

Equipment Maintainer duties, unfortunately, **all legal avenues have now been exhausted, and we must now comply with this new uniform policy.**

- **When performing this new customer service function, in the interest of safety, you should cease all work and give your undivided attention to the customer.**
- **Do not talk to customers while atop of or footing ladders. Secure all equipment and tools before turning your attention toward a customer enquiring about fare collection matters or service changes.**
- **The same applies to customers reporting criminal activity or unsafe conditions.**
- **Should a supervisor order you to continue to perform work while addressing the concerns of a customer, cease all work and demand a Safety Dispute Resolution form and call your union representative.**
- **Make sure to account for all such interruptions of maintenance and repair work in your logs.**
- **If you have allergies to polyester, please go to your doctor and bring a note into work. Request an alternative fabric from management.**
- **Please check the size and fit of your uniform and inform management if you need a replacement.**

You may remember that our departed Brother, **Pete Foley**, was a staunch opponent of these uniforms. Pete believed that transit workers in our title do not need a uniform that poses an arc flash hazard around electrical equipment and creates the appearance of being an armed Collection Agent. **Pete** was of the opinion that this would put our members in grave danger. As usual, management is bent on *implementing an incredibly stupid and dangerous policy conceived by a now-discredited former manager.*

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