



SYSTEM COUNCIL NO. 6

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

Tom Owens
General Chairman

Shannon Spotswood
Vice Chairman

Mike Stacks
Secretary-Treasurer

General Chairman's Report – January, 2019

Brothers and Sisters:

With previous communications, you may have already had a chance to review our latest round of Arbitration Awards. If not, please do so. I am inserting part of a previous communication regarding arbitration decisions:

“I wanted to share some basic information to aid you in deciding on what to file and help you educate your membership. The standard for the arbitrator's decisions is much lower than what everyone gathers from watching court TV shows.

Criminal Court – “beyond a reasonable doubt”

Civil Court – “preponderance of the evidence”

Public Law Board – “what would a reasonable person believe”

We actually lost three cases (171-173) due to standard regarding the particular evidence of each case. In a criminal or civil case, the questionable evidence used by the Carrier would likely have caused their position to collapse. With the “reasonable person” standard, the weight of prior discipline and personal conduct lead to dismissals being upheld because a “reasonable person” can conclude that the Carrier was justified due to the “whole picture” despite the questionable part. I would argue against the questionable evidence ten times out of ten times but each case will stand or fall on the member's past and present conduct.”

I have been struggling with secondary issues unrelated to the surgery. I would like to thank everyone for their assistance during my recovery.

Pipefitters – I contacted the SMART General Chairman regarding their signing of a ratio agreement. I was informed that they did sign a system wide agreement to ensure a ratio of the work force in exchange for giving up the right to file any scope work violations and subcontracting violations. While their ratio agreement has certain escape clauses, it does now put an organization on the property with language that is directly related to a Universal Mechanic, a job position which is detrimental to and opposed by the IBEW. Due to the pipefitter's smaller numbers and the historical Mechanical Department position of cutting their jobs first, they made the decision to attempt to guarantee a minimal number of jobs.

January 1-7: Holiday; SC6 financials & reports; Coordinated Shop Craft Coalition meeting schedule; Processed claim settlement letters; Reviewed and authorized CPA paperwork for SC6 Financial Review; Resolved member issue of Aetna underpayment; Resolved member benefits issue with Carrier ERC; Handled member

dismissal for “no show” at work with no response to Carrier or Local; Comm. cell phone modem issue; LU 2269 claim processing

January 8-14: Linetending Conference with PLB listing; Electrician claims conference; NS General Chairman’s Association call; LU 1863 by-law processing with 10th District; PLB 5332 Case Decision Conference; LU 2271 member compliance with instructions issue; LU 2271 LC conference; Communications Student Maintainer issue over application; LU 312 Print issue; Comm. cell phone modem issue; LU 311 member benefits issue; LU 2273 vacation rule application question

January 15-21: LU 2273 member seniority issue; IO call addressing LU 1142 member’s misinformation to RR Department; LU member 2172 seniority dispute; Coordinated LR request with LU 1865 mishandling of vacation schedule; C&S Department notification of subcontracting Pittsburgh Division Communication project; Assisted LU 2172 in claim filing review; Notified Labor Relations of C&S Seniority Roster errors; Scheduled McDonough, Bellevue, and Norfolk trips/meetings; PLB 5332 Board Decision signing; LU 2273 member seniority issue; LU 2169 Letter of Counseling issue; Communication subcontracting claim

January 22-31: IBEW General Chairman Association call; NS General Chairman Association letter; Communication subcontracting claim; Cornerstone Insurance call regarding insurance program development for IBEW Norfolk Southern members specifically; LU 311 member seniority issue; LU 312 Print issue; LU 312 member response regarding print issue; LU 1865 member “show cause” issue; LU 813 subcontracting blower motors issue; Letter of Understanding negotiations addressing Communication Division Wide Maintainer; Travel to Roanoke (Sunday); Radio Shop walk thru; NS General Chairman Association meeting; Travel to Knoxville; LU 2172 member seniority issue; LU 813 subcontracting appeal

In Your Service,

Tom Owens
General Chairman