



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 – March, 2022

Brothers and Sisters:

FRA Drug/Alcohol & Mechanical: In addition to any drug and alcohol rules, requirements, and collective bargaining agreements you may be subject to today, the revised Part 219 mandates reasonable suspicion drug and alcohol testing and authorizes reasonable cause testing when MECH employees are involved in a FRA-reportable train accident or incident as defined in 49 CFR Part 225 or when directly involved in certain railroad or FRA rule violations. The rule also mandates random drug and alcohol testing of MECH employees. Carrier's FRA random testing program adheres to FRA requirements and therefore sets the initial minimum annual random testing rates for MECH employees at 50 percent for drugs and 25 percent for alcohol. Federal regulations require Carrier's to check the drug and alcohol testing record of MECH employees for the two-year period before an employee's date of hire prior to allowing employees to perform regulated service. The preemployment screening requirements can be found at 49 CFR § 40.25. Review 49 CFR Part 40 and Part 219, <https://railroads.dot.gov/> (click on Railroad Safety, then Divisions, then **Drug and Alcohol Program**).

National Negotiations: Negotiations are scheduled for March 30 & 31 with mediation present. It is expected this first meeting will be a general framing of the issues with the mediator as well as scheduling upcoming meetings. We will be pushing for a rapid meeting pace.

Active Claims: 13 new NS cases were opened this month. 31 new CSXT cases were opened this month. In addition to normal calls and information requests, the Council is now currently handling 95 active cases. Any issue that involves disciplines/claims advanced to the Council, letter responses, medical delay documentation, RRB benefit issues, health insurance issues, etc., generate a case file with the Council.

Travel: Chattanooga – LU 774 Cincinnati officer meeting, LU 549 Huntington officer meeting: VC Spotswood – LU 2269 Harrisburg shop tour/officer meeting, LU 2273 Juniata shop tour/officer meeting, LU 813 Roanoke shop tour

NS DC to AC Conversion Subcontracting: Without any informational notice, the Carrier continued the subcontracting of these conversions from the 2015 letter. I requested an immediate conference for the IBEW, as well as all affected shopcrafts (I serve as the General Chairmen for the NS Shopcraft Coalition). The Carrier apologized for the lack of communication but feels that no notification is required for the continuation. It is their intent to in-house 75 locomotives over the three-year project, leaving 258 locomotives to be subcontracted. I have pushed for a more competitive disbursement of the locomotives as the crafts meet the project goals. I am awaiting response.

CSX Subcontracting Air Brake System Overhall: I received notification of what the Carrier deems an “on-going” upgrade of air brake systems at numerous locations. After distributing the notice to the listed points, I received feedback from one local, LU 1984. At conference, the Carrier inquired further about IBEW involvement with the project. I was able to gain IBEW participation in the project based on the facility electrician’s work load and additional projects.

Vacation: Week of March 7 – 4 days only

LU 1047: At conference, negotiated 2 hours overtime each for two members due to another craft performing IBEW work.

Operation RedBlock: We will not be participating in this additional Drug/Alcohol program at this time.

In Your Service,

Tom Owens
General Chairman