



# **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 – May, 2020

Brothers and Sisters:

Furloughs: On May 01, 2020, Linwood, NC hump/locomotive repair was shut down. Sixteen electricians were furloughed, leaving five electricians working in a line of road repair employment. I am gathering information to file an Appendix M. The Carrier will most certainly point to the 2020 car loadings as their excuse.

Covid-19: Not all shops have implemented the same protocols regarding the virus due to differing conditions at the various points. Please contact your local chairman or myself if any issues need to be addressed. Charlotte Roadway Shop Management has used Rule 12 to direct a temporary shift change to divide their mostly first shift force into a two-shift operation to gain spacing and social distancing. The division was based on seniority. The tentative plan is to follow the state of North Carolina's requirements as a guide to determine the duration of this change.

SGL/Supervisors Working: I have seen a large upturn in the number of occurrences where supervisors and/or SGL's are working with their tools. Please document time, locomotive, nature of work, etc. to furnish to your local chairman for the filing of a claim. With the PSR furloughs and cuts, this infringement upon our work cannot be allowed to become simply part of the way things are done.

Roanoke Locomotive Shop: May 18, 2020, marked the closure date of Roanoke Locomotive Shop. All 25 electricians affected made the decision not to accept positions at Juniata despite their right to follow their work with the negotiated \$30,000 lump sum (homeowners) moving reimbursement. A negotiated \$7,500 separation allowance was negotiated applicable to all crafts. I negotiated a \$25,000 separation for our IBEW membership based on circumstances unique to our work. Our members went with the separation package. Additionally, Juniata IBEW members will have a one-year furlough protection upon the yet to be determined report date of ANY craft workers relocating to Juniata from Roanoke.

SC No. 6 Executive Board: Our e-board met on May 14, 2020 via teleconference. A thorough review of financial state of the council was conducted. The council is operating close to a "break even" level, showing only a small loss to this point. It was agreed to continue current staffing and cost cutting efforts. Barring serious changes in the financial status, the current operating plan will remain in place and any shortcomings addressed at the SC No. 6 2021 Convention.

National Negotiations: For the present time, no information has been received as to when the negotiation process will resume.

Communications Workers: I have had preliminary discussions with the Carrier regarding the possibility of bring the yearly 6-million-dollar Southern microwave subcontractor contract in house. These are preliminary discussions that have not advanced to any formal negotiation. This contract has been undermining the communication workers stability for 50 years. On a separate topic, rolling rights and displacement procedures have taken center stage in several areas due to job cuts.

In Your Service,

Tom Owens  
General Chairman