



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 – November, 2019

Brothers and Sisters:

Travel: McDonough, GA – student class; Cincinnati, OH – membership meeting; Norfolk, VA – communication claim conference; Washington, DC – IO meeting over FRA/RSAC PTC certification

Furloughs: November 5 the Carrier furloughed members at Juniata, Chicago, Kansas City, Croxton, Chattanooga, Linwood, Norfolk, Bellevue, and Macon. The furlough affected 65 members. The total system membership affected totals 250.

Board Cases: The Board is still on schedule for December 03, 2019 involving LU 1142 Jones – injury with conflicting statements; LU 2273 Snyder – medical delay in return to work; LU 1142 et al – linetending subcontracting; LU 311 Brown – sleeping dismissal; LU 813 Slusser – verbal threat; LU 2172 Trautwein – insubordinate, failure to follow instructions; LU 2269 Clements – inappropriate bulletin board posting, false statement; LU 1142 Wilson – wrongful termination. As required by the PLB 5332 agreement, the submissions presenting our summary arguments were submitted to the Arbitrator and Carrier.

Insurance: New coverage benefits are available through an IBEW negotiated Supplemental Disability and Life Insurance plan. The System Council No. 6 was heavily involved with the formulation of this endeavor. Our members should have received enrollment forms by mail. The Supplemental Disability will extend benefits for up to five years after Aetna coverage ends. Additionally, the life insurance benefit does not require medical information for coverage.

Charlotte Roadway Shop: The Carrier is testing a type of “timeclock” that uses the member’s thumb on a scanner to sign in and out of work. It is similar to what certain hospitals are currently doing at check-in for a medical procedure. Local 312 and my office have made inquiries as to the security of the system’s information.

Norfolk Claim Conference: I have negotiated an update to the Communication START Policy. The existing policy had not been updated since inception. The rolling period on the old policy for deferred time/start counts was still set at three years. The update dropped the period to two years to match the IBEW Mechanical timeframe and makes the policy timeframe consistent for all the membership.

PTC Certification: I met with other General Chairman in DC to address the issue of protecting IBEW interests in the area of PTC work. Specifically, to submit information to RSAC regarding our involvement on locomotives and trackside in PTC work to insure we are not excluded in any PTC certification requirements by the wording

of any FRA requirement that might designate PTC work to the BRS. A brief history of RSAC – “In 1996, FRA established the Railroad Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC) to develop new regulatory standards, through a collaborative process, with all segments of the rail community working together to fashion mutually satisfactory solutions on safety regulatory issues. The Committee shall seek agreement on the facts and data underlying any real or perceived safety problems; identify cost effective solutions based on the agreed-upon facts; and identify regulatory options where necessary to implement those solutions. In determining whether regulations are necessary, the Committee shall take into account section 1(a) of Executive Order 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review).”

Transfer Requests: Furloughed members and possibly interested working members should fill out a transfer request and submit it via the new email system. It is my understanding that if a member marks “any” as the transfer point requested, he or she will receive email notifications for all available points when offered. If the member receives such notification, there is a 24-hour response window if interested in applying. A non-response to a position does not remove the member from future notifications.

Section 6 Notices: The finalized notice has not yet been distributed.

In Your Service,

Tom Owens
General Chairman