



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 – August, 2020

Brothers and Sisters:

Furloughs: We are seeing a few minor furlough recalls. The Carrier has expressed the need for electricians (3-5) at Enola, Birmingham, and Norfolk. Please note that the transfer request forms filled out at the time of furlough are entered into a Carrier email system for recalls. Members choosing not to do a request form will not receive email notifications. It is important to note that members accepting a temporary transfer to another point retain their right of recall to their home point. However, they are not entitled to elect an additional temporary transfer to yet another point. Such a member is not entitled to a voluntary withdrawal from a temporary transfer assignment unless the Carrier and Organization can reach an agreement involving some extraordinary, documentable circumstances.

Covid-19: The Carrier has reported that cases affecting employees have been at a very low level. The guidelines at various points are to continue to remain in effect per supervision. Pandemic fatigue was a topic of conversation during the conference call. Pandemic fatigue can include lessened adherence to safety protocols due to frustration with the long-term nature of the safeguards. Additionally, pandemic fatigue can cause emotional issues due to being in a constant state of hyper vigilance or due to social isolation.

National Negotiations: Meetings were held via Zoom video conferencing with approximately 100 participants between the NCCC and our CBU. The bulk of the meeting addressed the NCCC responding to questions submitted by our group regarding the Carrier's previously submitted proposed Health and Welfare changes. Our group will be presenting a position regarding wages and finances in the next meeting set for October.

Communications Workers: I have entered into formal negotiations with the Carrier to eliminate the use of subcontractors for the microwave system on the Southern property. These negotiations are set against a backdrop of a department implementing force reductions due to its embrace of Precision Scheduled Railroading.

DUI issues: Whether from pandemic stress, job stress, or coincidence, we have had a least two members removed from service in relation to Rule G issues. One case involved loss of license from a personal vehicle event. Another case involved a wreck in a company vehicle. From a claim/grievance standpoint, the history of arbitration shows little merit for these cases.

Travel: represented LU 311 member at investigation in Chattanooga, TN. Case involved around incident with member working on locomotive without issued safety glasses, wearing smart watch, and not using fall protection equipment. Member was dismissed from service following investigation. Case under appeal.

In Your Service,

Tom Owens
General Chairman