



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 – February, 2021

Brothers and Sisters:

IBEW PSR Conference: On February 3, I participated in a virtual strategy meeting with the IO and other General Chairman regarding an IBEW lobbying effort to educate Congress on the true risks of PSR in our industry. On February 4, the virtual strategy meeting was expanded to include representatives from our locals to share point specific issues caused by PSR. The information is being compiled for presentation to Congress at a future date.

Furlough: We have placed approximately 5 furloughed members at various points in the system this month.

PLB 5332: We are awaiting funding from the National Mediation Board for an arbitrator to hear our cases.

Covid-19: February has seen a decline in the cases being tracked by the Carrier. Toward the end of the month, a significant decline has been observed. Two Covid conference calls were held this month. I participated in one START handling involving Covid for a member. The member, frustrated after one day of no response from medical, chose to express his dissatisfaction via texting profanity containing complaints about supervision to his supervisor – 15 days deferred.

Medical Delays: Due to the increasing delays, I have requested a meeting with NS medical, Labor Relations and the Shop Craft Coalition, to address the issue. The meeting is set for March 10, 2021. I have been sending example cases of the issues to the Director of Labor Relations and also the Manager of Medical Services. PLEASE NOTE: In these discussions, it has come to light that the best submission of information and updates is by personal email. The Carrier's system captures the email for future responses and is proving to be quicker than attempting to communicate by telephone. Also, the messages left by telephone are digitally transcribed by the system into an email to the case worker. So, any errors due to background noise, accents, etc. can introduce flaws in the transcription of a member's voice message.

National Negotiations: Our collective bargaining unit present labor's desired changes to the Health & Welfare plan. The next meetings are set for March 24 & 25 and April 28 & 29.

Active Claims: In addition to normal calls and information requests, the Council opened 10 trackable 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.

PSR: I participated in a virtual meeting with Mechanical manager Jason Eddy regarding issues across the system regarding PSR. I have raised concerns regarding crossing of craft lines, excessive vacation relief positions, forced overtime, and manpower shortages. Some of the point specific issues

Travel: Elkhart (VC) to represent member charged with sleeping on duty; Birmingham to represent member charged with improper performance of duty

System Council 6 Convention: Convention Call notices were sent to our local unions. The convention is scheduled for June 8 & 9, 2021 at DreamMore Resort (Dollywood), Pigeon Forge, TN. We are still planning on an in-person convention but will have certain vendors participating by virtual conferencing.

In Your Service,

Tom Owens
General Chairman