



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 – January, 2022

Brothers and Sisters:

Covid Shot, OSHA & Federal Mandate: The U.S. Supreme Court issued a ruling that blocks the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) federal mandate requiring COVID-19 vaccination and testing for workers at companies with at least 100 employees. A restraining order remains in effect regarding the Executive Order placing requirements upon federal subcontractors to have their forces vaccinated. CSXT has suspended its vaccination/testing policy. NS remains under the restraining order while the Executive Order/Mandate works through the judicial system

National Negotiations: The latest round of bargaining was held the week of January 17, 2022. Prior to the conference, the freight General Chairmen met with the Railroad Department. The overall consensus was the need to forge ahead and not delay in advancing our member's concerns. As a result of the bargaining round, the IBEW and all the other members of the Collective Bargaining Unit have requested for a mediator to be assigned under the guidelines of the Railway Labor Act. With this step, both parties will be obligated to this stage until the mediator declares an impasse.

Active Claims: 16 new NS cases were opened this month. Six new CSXT cases were opened this month. Conrail had two new cases. In addition to normal calls and information requests, the Council is now currently handling 84 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.

CSXT Contracting Notice: The carrier served a notice for lighting, wiring, and panel upgrades at ten buildings spread across eight states. I contested the notification due to the vagueness of the information (only building numbers were provided). When supplied with the actual locations, I was successful in obtaining a portion of the work for LU 1984.

LU 2273 Contracting Notice: This notice is still being conferenced. With the assistance of LU 2273, I have challenged the Carrier's costing of the blower motor rebuilds. Due to the large reuse and refurbished parts involved, the Carrier is now being forced to claim that their pricing of material only applies to new components being used.

Travel: Atlanta, GA – over a three-day span, I met with Labor Relations regarding subcontracting; met with ATCS regarding jobs; and represented a LU 311 Communications member for an investigation. VC Spotswood met with LU 813 members during a shop walk-through.

Baltimore Curtis Bay Explosion: CSXT had a large explosion in the coal loading facility this month. No findings have been released yet. There were no injuries despite the magnitude of the explosion. From the members I have spoken with, it seems that there may have been some type of propane explosion. OSHA is investigating and questioning members for fact-finding regarding the incident.

NS Medical Delay: The return-to-work delays are unacceptable from the medical department. In the course of my handling of these issues, it has come to light that often the Health Services response goes to the member's work email. Of course, a member who is off from work does not get the responses. The Carrier does not make the process clear or user-friendly. I am currently working to create a document that will reflect the current documents required by NS. I will make this document accessible on our website.

In Your Service,

Tom Owens
General Chairman