



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 – July, 2021

Brothers and Sisters:

Furloughs: Cresson Shop Closure – This Appendix M protected action required an implementing agreement to be negotiated. With 5 members on the roster, the three members working at the closing location are required to attempt to exercise seniority to place themselves. This affected the two remaining individuals on the roster who were employed at Rose. However, Rose positions require a CDL license which the Cresson workers did not possess. Because of this unique qualification scenario, only the junior member of the roster would be eligible for protective pay or separation pay. I negotiated protection for all three members to receive separation pay under the implementing agreement. Additionally, a complete summary of all furloughs related to PSR was compiled for IBEW Railroad Director Russo for his presentation to the Surface Transportation Board regarding our struggles.

PLB 5332: Approximately 12 days were spent in preparation, compiling, and printing of the ex parte submissions to be sent to the arbitrator. The arbitration was held on July 29, 2021. Five members attended the arbitration held in Knoxville, TN. VC Spotswood argued the five cases before the board. As a board member, I met with the two other board members for an executive session to review the five cases argued in open session. Additionally, the board then heard my arguments on the remaining 13 cases and reviewed the facts. The arbitrator took our arguments under advisement and will write her decisions. She agreed to expedite any cases that might return a member to service.

Local 311: In the fall of 2020, various LU members and officers of 311 approached me regarding their concerns over “force overtime.” Our solution was to begin tracking “forced” calls. This month, when the local noticed a sharp increase in “forced,” they submitted the call sheets noting the OT calls for the year. I compiled the information and contacted management. Based on our strong argument, upon investigation by upper management, the Carrier agreed with our assessment and notified my office they would be putting on 4 additional IBEW positions. Incidentally, this also resulted with 4 machinists jobs being added also.

National Negotiations: “In-person” negotiations are set to resume on August 10 – 11, 2021.

Active Claims: Fourteen new cases were opened this month. In addition to normal calls and information requests, the Council continued to handle a total of 63 previous active cases, for a total of 77 current 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.

Holiday & Vacation: Five vacation days taken. Independence Day

Travel: Three-day travel to Chicago for investigation

In Your Service,

Tom Owens
General Chairman