



# 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, 2020

Brothers and Sisters:

Furloughs: Engineering Line of Road Electricians suffered one furlough (out of four positions) on the Southern region. I have been working with our member and the Carrier for his consideration for other positions. I have been involved with researching the impact of furlough upon members who were actively deployed on military leave. The Carrier's position is that the furlough insurance coverage would be the method according to GA-23000.

Military Leave: I have discovered that some of our military brothers and sisters are not taking advantage of existing benefits during active deployment. Prior to deployment, a member should contact the Carrier's Human Resource Department to receive additional compensation while on deployment. This must be done prior to deployment.

Covid-19: The Carrier, along with the rest of the country, are anticipating an upswing in the number of cases due to the upcoming holidays. Covid procedures will remain in place as the "new normal". Carriers across the country will be taking a firmer position on violations of Covid safety protocols. On the November 18, 2020, Covid conference call, the Carrier reported 61 off (20 positive, 16 awaiting results, 19 quarantined, and 6 with flu-like symptoms).

National Negotiations: The meeting was held on November 17, 2020. The Carriers presented additional information regarding their assertion that rail workers are highly paid compared to other industries; technology has been the driver in production increases (not fewer workers doing more); and previous "huge" wage increases cannot be the norm. The next meeting is to be planned in January, 2021, with a date to be set then.

Active Claims: In addition to normal calls and information requests, the Council opened 20 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.

PLB 5332: The Additional Board was held November 6th, 2020. Due to the delay in extending the federal budget, the NMB only allowed the arbitrator to write decisions for the first three cases in October. The three

cases heard were 186-187 (late/conflicting injury reporting, sleeping, failure to protect assignment). I am still awaiting the October board decisions.

Go Team: The Carrier will be reactivating the Go Team concept in anticipation of winter weather and possible man power shortages. Members should be cautious in their decisions due to the Covid pandemic.

Vacation/Illness: Vacation was taken the week of Thanksgiving. Additionally, I have been quarantined with Covid-19 during the month.

In Your Service,

Tom Owens  
General Chairman