



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, 2021

Brothers and Sisters:

Covid Shot & Federal Mandate: NS and CONRAIL are the carriers under System Council 6 jurisdiction that have declared as federal contractors subject to the mandate. CSXT has made only their in-house questionnaire regarding Covid shot status mandatory. Our legal counsel has advised that the language being implemented does appear legal. The carriers can operate under the reasoning that this is being required by the federal government. The OSHA mandate, a separate issue, has been but on hold by the federal court. The Executive Order is still on track with a January 18, 2022 effective date. The carriers will not define what “disciplinary” action is being faced ultimately by the membership. The airline unions, which operate under the Railway Labor Act, were unsuccessful in obtaining a stay in court against the Executive Order. Some other rail unions are in the process of litigation. As information, their legal representatives are in regular contact and discussions with our IBEW legal representatives.

Atlanta Senator meeting: I met with U.S. Senator Warnoke regarding infrastructure delays involving railroads and safety concerns. LU 632 President David Blake accompanied me at the meeting.

PLB 5332: I am in receipt of the completed pending arbitrations. 189 Conway – sleeping DENIED; 190 Conway – improper performance rail camera DENIED; 191 Decatur – blue flag SUSTAINED; 192 Decatur – false statements in investigation DENIED; 193 Atlanta – sleeping SUSTAINED; 194 Juniata – felony charges off duty for theft, controlled substance DENIED; 195 Juniata – excessive absenteeism DENIED; 196 Juniata – felony charges unlawful restraint, threats DENIED; 197 Atlanta – failure to protect assignment SUSTAINED; 198 Norfolk – derail, failure to follow instructions SUSTAINED; 199 Juniata – cell phone RESOLVED; 200 Bellevue – abandoning assignment, falsifying payroll SUSTAINED; 201 Chicago – abandoning assignment DENIED; 202 Bellevue – failure to run departure test, falsifying document DENIED; 203 Bellevue – failure to complete camera modification, falsifying document DENIED; 204 Decatur – absenteeism, false statements DENIED; 205 Chattanooga – repetitive disregard PPE, fall protection DENIED; 206 Kansas City – improper performance of duty DENIED.

PLB 7809: Board held for five cases filed under System Council 9.

National Negotiations: The next round of bargaining is set for the week of January 17, 2022. The latest rounds seem to have produced no significant movement.

CSXT DP Modification: I have concluded the negotiations of this notice. I was able to obtain the following: Commitment that the maintenance and repair of the DP LXA units will continue to be IBEW; Training on the work; Carrier will fill six positions at Selkirk, NY and one position at Evansville, IN.

CONRAIL: The Carrier has taken the position that they are a federal contractor under the Executive Order.

Florida East Coast: Assisted General Chairman regarding processing of claims and structure of his system.

Active Claims: 10 new NS cases were opened this month. 14 new CSXT cases were opened this month. . The Covid mandate topic in an across all railroads issue. In addition to normal calls and information requests, the Council is now currently handling 148 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.

Travel: Macon, Georgia – NS investigation for member refusal to work forced OT; Atlanta, GA – met with Georgia U. S. Senator Warnoke regarding rail issues; Decatur, IL – VC Spotswood – NS investigation for member conduct unbecoming

In Your Service,

Tom Owens
General Chairman