



# 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 – October, 2020

Brothers and Sisters:

Furloughs: On October 9, 2020, the Carrier furloughed 22 electricians at Moorman Yard (Bellevue). Even with other crafts being furloughed, the number of individuals affected did not rise to the necessary number to require a WARN notice. While car loadings have increased from the devastating levels seen earlier this year, the numbers are still below comparable numbers from preceding years. These low numbers effectively provide the Carrier the excuse not to provide protective benefits.

Covid-19: Numbers have remained relatively stable on the Carrier's properties. However, trends among the general population have started to show an upswing.

National Negotiations: Our group will be presenting a position regarding wages and finances in the next meeting set for November. My September report incorrectly cited the next meeting to be in October.

Communications Workers: I have successfully concluded negotiations with the Carrier regarding bringing the Southern microwave system "inhouse" from a historically subcontracted practice. For approximately 50 years, this work was performed by various subcontractors. The current yearly cost was 6-6.5 million dollars. We were facing a PSR driven management team which was considering keeping the contractor and cutting IBEW forces. We were dealing with attempted efforts to steal our work from other crafts. In addition to these challenges, we had a few members inappropriately airing demands during training calls to management. All of these dynamics affected the negotiation. Nevertheless, the agreement was finalized providing job stability, differential pay, and a modest employment position increase for necessary areas.

PLB 5332: The Board was held October 12<sup>th</sup>, 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. A second board will be set for November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 for the remaining three cases. The cases heard were:

Burns Harbor, IL – member observed by supervision arriving & leaving work early, falsification of payroll;  
Bellevue, OH – SGL lead case regarding displacement of SGL's; Chattanooga, TN – Appendix M lead case for protective benefits for furloughed members. I am awaiting the rulings

General Information: Medical delays continue to be a problem – members must do their own information coordination due to HIPPA: Covid discipline issues arising regarding members failing to comply with policies; Divisions are to be realigned...again, (Northern – Jake Bilthus, Central – Jerad Hopewell, Southern – Kevin Krull); Macon Yard to move to flat switching; Conference request for Charlotte Roadway Shop shift concerns.

In Your Service,

Tom Owens  
General Chairman