



# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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February 8, 2017

## **FOURTH QUARTER REPORT, 2016 SYSTEM COUNCIL NO 16 OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS**

Brothers and Sisters:

As we now enter a new presidential era, we will move forward with the facts at hand:

A. The National Section 6 Notice is stalled and there have not been any meetings since November 2016. A copy of a December 5, 2016 press release issued by the Coordinated Bargaining Group is attached. Director Bill Bohne provides IBEW Locals with all status reports relative to our Organization and Coalition.

B. Funding for the National Mediation Board is stalled. This office has not seen any funding of arbitration cases since the third quarter.

C. I have enclosed two articles. One titled "State Law Makers across America are Coming After Your Union and Wages", and the second article titled "White House interested in Wisconsin Union Law."

It is truly sad to report that our United Health Care representative, Charlene Payne passed away before Christmas. She was a true friend and ally of Rail Labor and helped a number of our members with insurance issues. We have not been advised as of this writing who will assume her duties.

Most agreements require seniority rosters to be posted in January of each year. I urge all Presidents, Financial Secretaries and Local Chairmen to review the rosters and cross reference with journal sheets and other local records to make sure they are correct and accurate. If errors or discrepancies are noted, please do not hesitate to contact this office for assistance.

*Our Business – Representation & Service*

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Around the December holidays we received a number of calls concerning the recognized holidays and to each call, reference was made to the terms of the National Holiday Agreement. To avoid any confusion for 2017, I have attached a copy of the list of recognized holidays issued by the NRLC.

Following is noteworthy of the Carrier's under the jurisdiction of this office:

## **Belt Railway Company of Chicago:**

No news to report.

## **CN which includes properties CCP/DMIR/DWP/EJE/IC and WC:**

We are handling a number of claims for our members and have settled a few. One claim for the reduction of force at the Centralia, Illinois Mechanical Facility is in progress.

The Carrier is looking to hire locomotive electricians at the Chicago Homewood and Proctor Locomotive shops. If there are any members interested, please contact this office for additional information.

We are currently working on an agreement for a collective assignment of members to install PTC equipment on various CN properties.

The Escanaba Ore Docks are scheduled to be closed sometime mid-year and we are currently working to obtain information for our members involved.

The Federal Railroad Administration has issued the final on FRA Regulation 243 and the Carrier has requested to meet with the shop craft representatives in mid-February.

## **CP/Soo:**

Our Section Six coalition met with the Carrier in mid-November with no movement attained.

We continue to see a number of investigations at the St. Paul Mechanical Facility and had a meeting with two other organizations in late January to discuss the shop issues with Senior Mechanical Management.

We have an April date scheduled for discussion of updating and codification of the Mechanical Department Labor Agreement.

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## **Gary Railroad Company:**

We are advised of changes in the Labor Relations Department and the local reps have been notified accordingly.

## **Lake Superior and Ishpeming Company:**

No news to report.

## **NICTD:**

We are waiting on a Carrier response to complete the codification and updating of the controlling Labor Agreement.

## **Paducah and Louisville Railway Company:**

The Carrier provided notice that there was going to be a contractor retained to install updated lighting at numerous locations at the Paducah Facility.

## **Evansville and Western Railroad:**

No news to report.

## **Montana Rail Link:**

Our coalition has been meeting with Carrier representatives monthly in an attempt to attain a favorable agreement for our members. An informational meeting is planned on the property for February to discuss current information with our membership.

## **BNSF Railway Company:**

We received a number of Second Division awards relative to outstanding claims and the members and locals involved have been or will be soon notified of the decisions.

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The Carrier has notified this office of their desire to modify the 1997 Safety Agreement. A conference call was conducted recently to discuss this matter. Details to follow as we progress this matter.

We recently completed the Attachment D (BNSF issues) of the Section Six Notices. The Agreement was approved by ratification of our members on the property and signed. We are working with the Carrier on details for implementation.

The Carrier has re-acquired the Timber Rock Line in South Texas and the Carlsbad Line in New Mexico, hiring one electrician on the Carlsbad Line and at least 4 in South Texas.

We have seen several investigations this last quarter, while the number of contracting notices received has slowed.

Aside from the attachments previously referenced, there are a couple of additional documents of interest which should be provided to the membership.

With best wishes for the new year.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted,

Dale E. Doyle  
General Chairman/Secretary Treasurer

DED/aj

Attachments



# IBEW MEDIA CENTER

## State Lawmakers across America are Coming After Your Union and Wages

December 27, 2016

**New Republican governors in Missouri and New Hampshire and an incoming GOP House majority in Kentucky mean big changes are coming for the labor community in those states. And first on the agenda for all three is right-to-work.**

In Jefferson City, Mo., Republican legislators introduced a right-to-work bill on the very first day of the filing period for the 2017 session, all but guaranteeing the legislation will make it to incoming Gov. Eric Greitens' desk as soon as January. He promised during the campaign he would sign it, unlike outgoing Gov. Jay Nixon, who stood with workers and vetoed similar bills multiple times during his tenure.

"We're not giving up the fight on this," said Missouri political coordinator Rudy Chavez, who is also president of Kansas City Local 124. "But November's elections didn't go like we'd hoped, and working people are probably going to end up paying the price for that."

Already, the Missouri AFL-CIO is petitioning citizens to have an anti-right-to-work referendum placed on the 2018 ballot, giving voters a chance to reject the near-inevitable action by the state Legislature in two years' time.

Bills attacking collection of union dues, repealing prevailing wage standards and limiting collective bargaining for public employees are expected to be proposed in the coming days, and with Republicans controlling the Missouri Senate, House and governor's mansion, there is little hope of stopping most of them.

The story is much the same in Kentucky, where a Democratic House was the last thing standing between that state and a union-targeting right-to-work law. Gov. Matt Bevin made passing right-to-work one of his top campaign priorities when he ran in 2015, and the November election of a Republican-majority House means he'll likely have his way on the issue early next year.

"We worked hard to stress the importance of these down-ballot races during the campaign," said Fourth District International Representative Don Vidourek, who also serves as Kentucky's

political coordinator. “But Republicans won big in the House, and now we expect they’re going to come after working people with everything they’ve got.”

In New Hampshire, Gov. Maggie Hassan narrowly won her race for the U.S. Senate, but incoming Republican Gov. Chris Sununu has vowed to sign a right-to-work law once the state Legislature sends it to his desk. Hassan, during both of her terms, threatened to veto the anti-union legislation whenever it came up.

But the attacks on working men and women don’t stop with right-to-work.

In Iowa and Missouri, plans are underway to push anti-collective bargaining laws similar to Gov. Scott Walker’s Act 10 that targeted public-sector unions in Wisconsin in 2011. There, public sector unions – including many at public utility companies – have been decimated, with statewide union membership dropping from 14.2 percent of workers before Act 10 to just 8.3 percent in 2015. Project labor agreements might be next on the chopping block in the Badger State, where GOP legislators recently proposed a bill ending the practice for public works projects.

In Michigan, which passed a right-to-work law in 2012 and narrowly voted for Donald Trump in November, Republican lawmakers wasted no time in passing anti-union bills that limit the ability of workers to picket employers and make it easier for companies to hire scabs to replace striking employees. The efforts, which dramatically increase fines for demonstrations deemed “an illegal mass picket” and block requirements for employers to inform potential scabs that they would be crossing a picket line, were passed on Dec. 7, just the seventh legislative day in the state since November’s election.

The situation is less dire, but still concerning in Minnesota, where Democrats lost the state Senate in November, having lost the House in 2014. That leaves Democratic Gov. Mark Dayton as the last remaining firewall against right-to-work and prevailing wage attacks in that state.

Texas Republicans have also filed a bill that would prevent government entities from collecting dues from union workers, potentially returning public sector employees there to the days before dues-checkoffs were commonplace.

“The reality of what’s unfolding in state legislatures all across the U.S. is pretty hard to stomach,” said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. “Unfortunately, we’re going to spend the next few years fighting these attacks on working people at the state and federal levels. Wouldn’t it be nice if these elected officials spent less time attacking unions and a little more time working to make the middle class accessible to even more of their constituents?”

Working people should keep an eye out for one-sided campaign finance “reforms,” experts say, that would make it harder for labor unions to participate in elections, tilting the scales even further in the direction of big business and billionaires. Also likely are attacks on education, masked as improvements, that could negatively impact union apprenticeship programs.

“All of this just means it’s more important than ever that we in the labor movement stick together to push back against efforts to silence working people,” Stephenson said. “We’re up for that fight.”

Despite the tidal wave of anti-union officials who were elected in November, there were a few signs for hope and examples of what good can come when working people stand together at the ballot box.

In New Mexico and Nevada, Democrats won back critical legislative chambers, stopping the right-to-work threat in New Mexico and ensuring plenty of labor allies in Nevada. In Virginia, voters overwhelmingly rejected enshrining right-to-work in the state’s constitution, a victory that many union activists privately worried would not come.

# Gov. Walker: White House Interested in Wisconsin Union Law

**Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker says he spoke with Vice President Mike Pence about how the White House can implement pieces of the Republican governor's contentious policy that weakened unions in the state**

| Feb. 1, 2017, at 5:47 p.m.

**AP**

By SCOTT BAUER, Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker said Wednesday that he spoke with Vice President Mike Pence about how the White House can implement on a federal level parts of the Republican governor's contentious policy that all-but eliminated collective bargaining for public sector unions in the state.

President Donald Trump has talked about wanting to weaken collective bargaining protections for federal employees, most of whom can't currently bargain over wages or benefits, to make it easier to hire and fire government workers and base pay on merit rather than tenure. Those changes would require an act of Congress.

Walker severely restricted union power in Wisconsin and is now talking with the Trump administration about "how they may take bits and pieces of what we did" with the union law and civil service reform and "apply it at the national level."

"It's something the vice president has brought up before," Walker told reporters following a speech in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. "It's certainly something we're willing to offer our assistance on, particularly if it helps not just the nation, but in turn improves our ability to be better stewards of the taxpayers here in Wisconsin."

The Wisconsin law passed in 2011 barred collective bargaining over working conditions, or pay increases greater than inflation, for most public workers while requiring them to pay more for health care and pension benefits. The fight over its passage led to protests as large as 100,000 people and Walker's recall election in 2012, which he won. Walker was the first governor in U.S. history to survive a recall attempt.

Union membership in Wisconsin has dropped 40 percent since the law passed. In 2016, only 8 percent of Wisconsin's public and private-sector workers were in a union, below the national average of 10.7 percent.



"I don't think that the model that Scott Walker has put forward is a model for success," said AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka. "That's the model that the Koch Brothers have tried to spread everywhere."

Charles and his brother David Koch operate one of the most powerful conservative groups in the nation and have supported efforts across the country to curtail union rights.

Trumka said collective bargaining is the best way to ensure workers get fair wages.

"If you're going to get workers a raise you have to give them the right to collective bargaining unless you're willing to impose a straightjacketed minimum wage on everybody," Trumka said.

During his brief run for the president in 2015, Walker proposed eliminating collective bargaining for federal employees and putting restrictions on unions that represent private-sector workers.

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich is advising Trump and has talked about the need to reform the civil service system for federal workers. Walker told The Associated Press in an interview Tuesday that Gingrich and Pence talked with him about civil service reform when Walker paid a visit to the White House on Saturday.

"They look at not only what we did with (the collective bargaining law) but even some of the civil service reforms, the two combined, so they can hire and fire based on merit and pay based on performance," Walker told AP. "Long term, this is what the vice president and Newt Gingrich and I were talking about."

Walker said if Trump truly wants to make the federal government run more like a private business he needs to "change the structure so that just like any other organization or business that operates outside of government, people are measured based on merit and rewarded based on performance."

Pence, when he was governor of Indiana, frequently sparred with public employee unions and only awarded pay increases to state workers who received positive performance reviews.