



# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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May 3, 2016

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

Brothers and Sisters:

I begin this report with mixed emotion by announcing the promotion of Assistant General Chairman Jeff Burk to an International Representative assigned to Director Bill Bohne in the Railroad Department. Jeff will relocate to the Washington DC area and begin his duties on June 1, 2016. Jeff is a trusted representative of this office and will most definitely be missed, however his assignment to the Railroad Department will benefit the Brotherhood. We all wish Jeff and his family the best.

As a reminder, the Cost Sharing Contribution under the Railroad Employees National Health and Welfare Plan will increase on July 1, 2016 to \$228.89. Please find enclosed a copy of a letter dated April 13, 2016 from CRLO Chairman R. A. Scardelletti providing information.

The last several months we have watched rail traffic decline. Attached you will find the most recent report dated April 27, 2016. We have seen force reductions on BNSF Railway and hiring freezes on other properties.

There has been very little movement in national negotiations since our last report.

Although this is not a duty of this office, as a reminder, the International Convention is in September of this year and all locals must be current on their dues. I know that the International Representatives of the districts are currently contacting the Locals for compliance.

*Our Business – Representation & Service*

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We currently have an issue on one of our larger railroads affecting our members and I feel it is important to share with all our Locals. When a member incurs an on the job injury, they are required to complete a form, including their signature, authorizing use and disclosure of medical health information. This has been reported to have happened at two locomotive shops. This form will release all medical information to the railroad company. We have consulted with legal counsel and found that our members are under no obligation to sign this form, conversely, and if in fact a member has signed the form, or has been tricked into signing the form, that member has the right to revoke the authorization. If in fact our member was to question the supervisor about signing the form and is instructed or required to sign the form, the member should write under the signature that he is signing the form under objection and due to threat of insubordination. You should always keep a copy of this form for your records. If in fact this happens, please contact your Local representative or this office with questions, or on our website, we have a list of designated legal counsel who may be contacted, which would file to have the blanket authorization revoked and a FRSA claim filed for interference. Please notify your membership accordingly.

The council staff has received information and/or conducted business on the following carriers concerning our members 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:**

In our last report we advised that we were working to amend the Labor Agreement on the DMIR property. An Agreement has been completed, approved and executed. There are a handful of claims in various stages of handling on all properties.

We have at least two issues developing in the Carrier's S & C Department on the DMIR and IC properties which we will be investigating, handling and reporting on in future reports. One issue we are currently investigating is the abuse of assignments as Senior Equipment Technician and an issue on the DMIR relative to combining of S & C work on three properties.

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## **CP/Soo:**

Currently, the coalition is scheduled to discuss the Section 6 Notices in late May. We currently have several discipline cases in the final stages of handling and those cases have been listed to a board for adjudication.

The CP recently announced that its interest in the acquisition of the NS has been suspended.

## **Gary Railroad Company:**

We have been advised that U.S. Steel is initiating some form of legal action against the Chinese dumping of steel in this country which is having a major impact on the Company. More information will be conveyed upon receipt.

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

We recently met with the Carrier and the Coalition concerning the outstanding Section 6 Notices. The Carrier had reached an agreement with another organization (not in our Coalition) and we were recently advised that this agreement failed ratification.

The company is not weathering the current storm well and one of the two mines on the upper peninsula is to be closed at the end of June.

## **NICTD:**

A recent news article concerning this property is attached concerning PTC equipment on the property.

We have been able to keep much of the Capital Work Projects in house due largely to our member's commitment and their outstanding performance. What is outsourced is contracted to other IBEW brothers and sisters through NECA associates.

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

The Labor Agreement has been codified in compliance with the terms of the recent Agreement on the property and was to be distributed to all members employed on the property. Copies of the Agreement have been distributed to the Local officers by this office.

## **Evansville and Western Railroad:**

We have also reached an agreement on this property comparable to the P & L Agreement. The Labor Agreement has been codified and the Carrier is in the process of hiring an IBEW represented employee on the property.

## **Montana Rail Link:**

The Coalition visited the property to discuss with members their concerns and suggestions for Section 6 Notices. The Notices were formulated and served on the Carrier. The parties are currently scheduling the initial meeting.

The Carrier is also looking for a Locomotive Electrician. If you have any members who may be interested, please contact this office for information.

## **BNSF Railway Company:**

On February 29, 2016, the Carrier announced a force reduction in the northern part of the U.S. operation due to the decrease in oil and coal traffic. Coal traffic has decreased

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dramatically over the prior year and we have been advised the Carrier has a large number of locomotives in storage.

We reached an agreement with the Carrier to provide for the terms and conditions to transfer a number of the furloughed employees to the southern region where positions were needed. The positions have been awarded and will begin on May 2, 2016.

We are currently in the process of handling a number of claims in various stages and have settled a few. The Local and the claimants have been notified of the settlements.

We continue to see investigation notices for various issues and I would advise our members to comply with the rules as the Carrier is enforcing rules compliance.

This past quarter we have seen a number of contracting notices in the Engineering and Telecommunications Departments. These notices have been provided to the Locals affected.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted,

Dale E. Doyle  
General Chairman

DED/aj

Attachments

**Dale Doyle's Travel First Quarter 2016:**

January 5, 2016 – St. Paul, MN – Local 886 Meeting  
January 18, 2016 – Chicago, IL – Local 533 Meeting, CN visit  
January 29-31, 2016 – Miami, FL – General Chairmen's Meeting  
February 17, 2016 – Minneapolis, MN – LSI Negotiations  
February 18, 2016 – Proctor, MN – Local 366 Meeting  
February 29 - March 1, 2016 – Belen, NM – Local 1199 Meeting  
March 8, 2016 – St. Paul, MN – Local 886 Meeting  
March 15, 2016 – Brainerd, MN – Local 783 Meeting  
March 21-22, 2016 – Lincoln, NE – Local 1022 Investigation  
March 23-24, 2016 – BNSF GCA Meeting, Local 866 Meeting and visit BNSF Training Center

**Mark Klecka's Travel First Quarter 2016:**

January 4—8, 2016 – Woodbury/Hastings, MN Office – Board Preparation  
January 18, 2016 – Chicago, IL – Local 533 Meeting  
January 27—28, 2016 – Michigan City, IN – NICTD PTC and CMO Meetings  
March 15, 2016 – Ash Grove, MO – Training J. Allred  
March 23—24, 2016 – Kansas City, MO – BNSF GCA

**Jeff Burk's Travel First Quarter 2016:**

January 19, 2016 – Barstow, CA – Local 1023 Meeting  
January 20, 2016 – Commerce, CA – Local 946 Meeting  
January 21, 2016 – Los Angeles, CA – Labor Law and Arbitration Class  
February 2-4, 2016 – Fort Worth, TX – BNSF SACP Meetings

February 9, 2016 – Temple, TX – Local 418 Meeting

February 19, 2016 – Houston, TX – Local 418 Meeting

March 1, 2016 – Belen, NM – Local 1199 Meeting

March 3, 2016 – Amarillo, TX – Local 1146 Meeting

March 23, 2016 – Kansas City, MO – BNSF GCA Meeting

**Darrell Patterson's Travel First Quarter 2016:**

January 11—14, 2016 – Fort Worth, TX – BNSF Level Agreement Meeting, Staff Meeting and Training

February 1—4, 2016 – Fort Worth, TX – BNSF SafeAlign and SACP Meeting

February 16—18, 2016 – Minneapolis, MN – LS&I Contract Negotiations

February 22, 2016 – Kansas City, KS – BNSF, Argentine Trainer Coordinator Meeting

March 9, 2016 – Oklahoma City, OK – Meeting with OKC Electrician

March 10—11, 2016 – Fort Worth, TX – BNSF SafeAlign Meeting

March 12, 2016 – North Kansas City, MO – Meeting with OKC Electrician

March 17, 2016 – Overland Park, KS – BNSF TTC Meeting

March 23, 2016 – North Kansas City, MO – BNSF GCA Meeting

March 24, 2016 – Kansas City, KS – BNSF, Argentine Local Chairman Meeting and Line-Up and TTC

**Jeff Allred's Travel First Quarter 2016:**

January 6, 2016 – Tulsa, OK – Local 778 Meeting

January 11—14, 2016 – Fort Worth, TX – Level Agreement Meeting

January 18—22, 2016 – Los Angeles, CA – Local Meetings – Arbitration Class

February 1—5, 2016 – Fort Worth, TX – SACP

February 9—11, 2016 – Birmingham, AL – Zone 8 LAT Meeting

March 2, 2016 – Tulsa, OK – Local 778 Meeting

March 17—18, 2016 – St. Louis, MO – Engineering Dept. Meeting

March 22—24, 2016 – Kansas City, MO – GCA Meeting

March 29—31, 2016 – San Bernardino, CA – Two Telecom Investigations