



# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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Darrell Patterson  
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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.

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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





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Darrell Patterson  
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Jeff Allred  
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August 3, 2016

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

Brothers and Sisters:

As we are deep into the election cycle, I urge each of you to consider and support the candidates that support working people and specifically the interests of our membership in the Rail Industry. There are many issues in our business that have political overtones, the transportation of coal, the Railroad Retirement System and the National Mediation Board and to break that down even further, the funding of arbitration cases. Fortunately, over the past quarter, we have seen funding for a number of cases.

I know this is starting to sound repetitive, but we have nothing to report as concerns movement in any of our outstanding Section Six notices.

Over this past quarter, we have received a number of calls pertaining to Railroad unemployment and sickness benefits. Printed and attached for the Local's information is a document with questions and answers from the RRB website which I hope will be benefit to the Local.

Attached is an overview of a recent court decision involving a FRSA case in which BNSF challenged the "punitive damages" awarded in the case.

The Council staff has received information and/or conducted business on the following Carriers under the jurisdiction of this office:

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

No news to report.

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

We recently received a PLB award for one of our members on the IC property. As soon as the paperwork is finalized, the Claimant and Local will be notified of the decision. We have a few claims at various stages of handling on the property. We are also involved in an issue with our DMIR membership concerning work performed on the DMIR, DWP and WC properties with the Brotherhood of Railway Signalmen.

## **CP/Soo:**

The Carrier recently announced the retirement of Hunter Harrison, as well as his replacement. A copy of a press release is attached for your information.

We recently received a sustained award on a discipline issue at St. Paul and was able to resolve a second discipline issue before going to a board hearing.

We are not scheduled to meet again with our coalition and the Carrier to continue Section Six negotiations before late November.

## **Gary Railroad Company:**

No news to report.

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

We have a Section Six meeting scheduled for mid-September with our coalition.

## **NICTD:**

No news to report.

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

No news to report.

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Second Quarter Report  
August 3, 2016  
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## **Evansville and Western Railroad:**

We were advised that the Carrier had hired an IBEW represented employee on the property, however he resigned within a short period of time. The Carrier is seeking an employee, if any of our furloughed members are interested, please contact this office.

## **Montana Rail Link:**

We currently have dates to discuss Section Six notices scheduled through October.

## **BNSF Railway Company:**

We are hearing that the Carrier is recalling Electricians or Apprentices at Alliance with traffic increasing, specifically with coal and grain as of this writing.

We have completed three Letters of Understanding with two of the Locals involved notified. We are to meet with the Carrier in early August to continue discussions on our local Section Six issues.

In early August, approximately 12 discipline cases will be presented to a referee as the funding has finally been allocated. There have been a few discipline awards rendered this past quarter and the claimants notified.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted,

Dale E. Doyle  
General Chairman

DED/aj

Attachments



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Darrell Patterson  
Asst. General Chairman

Jeff Allred  
Asst. General Chairman

October 28, 2016

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

Brothers and Sisters:

I have attached a copy of the October 1, 2016 AAR Freight Traffic Report. The report discloses that freight traffic is down 4% compared to the same week in 2015. The significance of this report is that at the negotiations conducted on September 27, 2016, it was reported there are currently approximately 30,000 rail workers unemployed. I have also attached for your information a copy of Director Bohne's report on the September 27th Section 6 meeting.

As you have undoubtedly seen in the news, there have been a number of incidents on various carriers in the headlines. On September 15th, the Washington Post printed an article entitled "Number of U. S. Railroad Workers Testing Positive for Drug Use Sky Rockets". This is a very serious safety issue for all. A copy of that Article is also attached.

I have also attached a copy of a DOL administrative review board decision relative to an FRSA violation.

As announced in a previous report, Assistant General Chairman Jeff Burk accepted a position as International Representative in the Railroad Department. There have been several of our members, local officers, who are qualified and have previously expressed interest in a council position and I am pleased to advise that Local Executive Board Member/Local 418 Chairman Brad Carothers will begin duties as an Assistant General Chairman on November 1, 2016.

The Council staff has received information and/or conducted business on the following Carriers under the jurisdiction of this office:

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

No news to report

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

We have been involved in issues this past quarter on these properties: An investigation in Superior in August, two claims initiated in Memphis area, a reduction of force in Centralia, Illinois and several contracting notices.

## **CP/Soo:**

We are currently handling two discipline claims and one contracting claim.

## **Gary Railroad Company:**

No news to report.

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

We met with our Section Six coalition in September on the property. The Carrier provided some details on the USW Agreement for the mine workers. The Agreement was at that time in the process of ratification and was subsequently ratified. A copy of the news release providing information on the USW Agreement is attached for your information.

The empire mine has now ceased production and the remaining ore is being shipped which is expected to be completed by year end. The exact impact of this closure on our members on this property or the CN property is unknown at this time.

## **NICTD:**

A news release is attached providing information on the south shore development project. The U. S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration has given the West Lake Corridor extension the green light to move to the development stage.

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

No news to report.

## **Evansville and Western Railroad:**

A new member has been employed on the property and we are currently discussing his status with the Carrier.

## **Montana Rail Link:**

Section Six negotiations continue with the Carrier and our coalition.

## **BNSF Railway Company:**

In early August, we attended an arbitration hearing in which twelve cases were argued. We are waiting the awards on these claims. There have also been awards rendered by a Public Law Board and those awards have been distributed.

We continue to see a number of discipline hearings at various locations. We are also handling a number of claims as a result of the discipline assessed.

We continue to receive a number of contracting notices from the Telecom Department which are expeditiously forwarded to the Local's involved.

There are currently two issues which we are collecting information to process claims in the Engineering Department. Noon lunch reimbursement and travel time compensation. Once we get the information gathered, a determination on how to proceed will be made.

We are meeting with the Carrier, Trainer Coordinators and our committee members relative to the Level Agreement in mid-October.

We have completed negotiations on our Attachment D's (local issues) which were served with our Section 6 notices. The final drafts are currently being reviewed by this office, highlights include a job abandonment resolution, change in the procedure for the handling of discipline claims, a second week of vacation day at a time and a four day/ten hours a day agreement for Engineering Department Electricians.

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Third Quarter Report  
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The Carrier advised they are re-acquiring the Carlsbad Line in New Mexico and the Timber Rock Line in South Texas. A conference call was conducted on Monday, October 17 with several of the shop craft representatives.

We have also executed an agreement for a change in starting times for our members in Houston.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted,

Dale E. Doyle  
General Chairman/Secretary Treasurer

DED/aj

Attachments



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Darrell Patterson  
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Asst. General Chairman

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.

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# *International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers*

Fourth Quarter Report  
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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.