

SYSTEM COUNCIL No.16

# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers



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April 26, 2010

**FIRST QUARTER REPORT, 2010  
SYSTEM COUNCIL NO 16 OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS**

Brothers and Sisters:

The first quarter has been extremely busy with a number of issues being addressed by the Council staff.

The 2011 System Council 16 Convention has been scheduled the week of June 12, 2011 and will be held at the Crown Plaza - Riverwalk Hotel in San Antonio, Texas. Details will be forthcoming.

Section Six negotiations for a National Agreement have been conducted twice, once in January and again in April. The January session was basically a review of the Coalition's notices and the April meeting predominately the Carrier's issues with the cost of health care and economic issues our country is facing.

We are hearing of issues with our members in the Mechanical Department on two (2) properties (BNSF and CP/Soo) having issues with bulbs easily breaking during changeouts. If any Local members on any of the properties under the jurisdiction of this office is experiencing similar or identical issues, please report the facts to this office and if you can obtain the manufacturer of the bulb and where the bulb was made, this will certainly aid in our investigation and addressing of this problem. Any information you may have or obtain, please forward to this office in writing so we can build a thorough record.

*Our Business - Representation & Service*

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This past quarter the Council staff has conducted business or obtained information relative to the following Carrier's affecting our Local members:

## **Belt Railway Company of Chicago**

An Agreement for the establishment of seniority of two (2) or more employees hired on the same date, same shift has been approved, adopted and forwarded to the Local representative.

## **Canadian National IC-CCP-WC-DM&I-DWP-EJE**

The Section Six notices have been submitted to the Carrier and receipt acknowledged. We are awaiting scheduling of the initial conference and will be working with representatives of System Councils 7 and 9 who have jurisdiction on other CN properties.

Vice General Chairman Heyland attended a meeting in Centralia, Illinois on March 24, 2010. The Carrier announced a force reduction at the Car Shop that resulted in the furlough of one (1) of our members at that location.

An Agreement was reached for an updated Mechanic in Charge Agreement on the DM&I property. The Agreement has been approved, adopted and forwarded to the Local membership.

We are continuing to work towards completion of the updating and amending of the Communication Department Agreement on the IC property.

Four (4) claims were arbitrated in mid April for members employed by the IC Communication Department. As soon as the Awards are rendered, the Claimants will be notified. We have initiated and continue to handle a number of claims on the CN properties.

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## **Canadian Pacific/Soo**

We have reported the past two (2) quarters about an issue with "regulatory blood testing", which was an issue with Minnesota State law. Counsel for the parties were able to reach a settlement. The Local officers have been notified of the resolution.

We have been advised that our members have received the "gainsharing" checks for 2009 and this office is currently reviewing the 2010 goals.

We assisted with an investigation at the St. Paul Facility in February and a claim has been initiated.

In early January, a meeting was held at the St. Paul Shop with the Local Chairman in attendance to discuss issues with the Shop Manager.

## **Gary Railroad**

No news to report

## **Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District**

There was a force reduction effecting our members this quarter with a total of four (4) members initially furloughed. The furloughs were a result of a number of combined economic issues.

The Local has notified this office of their interest in connection with the Carrier to initiate the IBEW Code of Excellence Program.

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## **Evansville and Western Railroad Company**

No news to report.

## **Lake Superior and Ishpeming Railroad Company**

The first coalition meeting was held to discuss the Section Six notices with the Carrier on March 5, 2010. We are scheduled to meet again on May 27, 2010.

## **Paducah and Louisville Railway Company**

The proposed agreement to settle the Section Six notices was rejected by our members on the property. Following further discussions with our members and the Carrier, there has been no movement and we are currently reviewing our options.

We continue to handle a claim for the vacating of a position on the property.

## **Montana Rail Link**

We have received notice of a second round of furloughs on the property effecting several of our members. As I understand, local business is down on the property and the problems with the rebuild of the Mullan tunnel on the west end of the property are direct causes of the furloughs.

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## **BNSF Railway Company**

We have a large number of discipline cases at two (2) separate expedited Boards awaiting decisions. There has been a delay in these decisions due primarily to NMB funding. We are also waiting on several Second Division Awards to be rendered.

The Carrier has made a proposal to establish Rapid Responder positions in Wyoming and Nebraska similar to the Trans Con Responder Agreement. We are currently gathering information as the Carrier is attempting to schedule a meeting to discuss the proposal.

In February, we met with Telecom management in Kansas City to discuss several important issues relative to our Telecom membership. The members were advised of the information conveyed in a separate letter.

We are continuing to hear that our members are being recalled from furlough in the Mechanical Department. The Lincoln, Nebraska Diesel Facility recently realigned a few positions as a result of a transfer of locomotives to Alliance, Nebraska.

In a recent BNSF newsletter titled Railway, there was a page that ask "Got Questions About Agreements, Benefits and More?" ASK LR@BNSF.com. I would just note that there could be issues or questions presented that the Carrier and the Organizations have a varying or different opinion. The reason I bring this to your attention is the fact, whether it is new managers, new Local members, or whoever, we have seen particular rule or rules of an Agreement read, interpreted and applied differently than in the past. Thus for all concerned it is important to know what the past practice is. The Shop Craft organizations have all experienced issues like this with such matters. You are also encouraged to contact a Council representative.

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To the point of being redundant, I again would like to remind our Local members and officers to urge compliance with the Carrier rules. We are seeing strict compliance, numerous investigations and discipline assessed.

Attached to this is the quarterly travel and financial reports, as well as other important documents.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted,

Dale E. Doyle  
General Chairman

DED/dgw (OPEIU)

Attachments

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

- January 3<sup>rd</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 - Guernsey, Wyoming; Alliance, Nebraska; and Glendive, Montana - Investigations
- January 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010 - Washington, DC - National negotiations
- January 21, 2010 - St. Paul, Minnesota - Meeting at St. Paul Shop - CP Shop Manager/Local chairman
- January 25<sup>th</sup> through 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010 - Miami, Florida - General Chairmen/Railroad Department meeting
- February 4, 2010 - Kansas City, Kansas - BNSF Telecom meeting
- February 12, 2010 - St. Paul, Minnesota - CP/Soo discipline investigation
- March 2, 2010 - St. Paul, Minnesota - Local 886 meeting
- March 4, 2010 - Minneapolis, Minnesota - Local 506 meeting
- March 5, 2010 - Minneapolis, Minnesota - LS&I Section 6 negotiations
- March 10, 2010 - St. Paul, Minnesota - CP/Soo General Chairmen's Association meeting
- March 11, 2010 - Minneapolis, Minnesota - CP/Soo 401(K) meeting
- March 15<sup>th</sup> through 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010 - Kansas City, Kansas and Topeka, Kansas - Local 866 officer meeting - Local 959 visit - BNSF General Chairmen's Association meeting

## **Rick Heyland's Travel First Quarter:**

- March 24, 2010 - Centralia, Illinois - CN meeting

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

- January 11<sup>th</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 - Denver, Colorado/Guernsey, Wyoming - Investigation

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January 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 - Michigan City, Indiana - Organization and management meeting - Wages and concessions

January 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010 - Michigan City, Indiana - Local Union 2355 meeting - Management meeting - Wages and concessions

February 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010 - Kansas City, Kansas - Telecom management meeting

February 8<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010 - Hastings, Minnesota - Staff meeting

February 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 - Aurora, Illinois - Volkert SIAP

March 16<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010 - Kansas City, Missouri - Local Union 866 meeting - BNSF General Chairmen's Meeting

March 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010 - Chesterton, Indiana - Claims Conference NICTD Labor Relations

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

January 12, 2010 - Stockton, California - BNSF Telecom investigation

February 4, 2010 - Kansas City, Kansas - BNSF Telecom meeting

February 8<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 - Hastings, Minnesota - Staff meeting

February 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 - Fort Worth, Texas - BNSF SACP meetings

March 17, 2010 - Kansas City, Missouri - BNSF General Chairmen's Association meeting

March 23<sup>rd</sup> through 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010 - Hastings, Minnesota - Office work