

SYSTEM COUNCIL No.16

# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers



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Asst. General Chairman

JEFF BURK  
Asst. General Chairman

August 8, 2008

**SECOND QUARTER REPORT, 2008  
SYSTEM COUNCIL NO. 16 OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS**

Brothers and Sisters:

In connection with the audit conducted by Aetna of dependents of railroad employees covered by the National Health and Welfare Plans, the dependents of non-responding employees were terminated from coverage on July 1, 2008. I have been advised that there was one (1) employee on the EJ&E; two (2) employees on NICTD and twenty-five (25) BNSF employees who are members of this Organization and impacted as a result of failing to provide the necessary information.

The Railroad Department meeting was held in Miami, Florida in June. This meeting provided members in attendance with very important information for railroad Locals. I urge each Local to participate in these meetings for the benefit of the Local membership.

I have enclosed an informational brochure from the firm of Hoey and Farina relative to the Federal Rail Safety Act. Please review this document for informational purposes and retain for future reference.

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

*Our Business - Representation & Service*

# *International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers*

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## **Canadian National/IC-CCP-WC-DMIR-DWP**

There have not been any issues reported to this office concerning the implementation of wages or health and welfare plans on the IC property. We assume the transition was smooth, however if there are any issues, please do not hesitate to contact this office and provide specific details for further investigation.

We had scheduled a meeting on July 30, 2008 to begin discussions on the amending and updating of the Telecommunication Department Labor Agreement, however due to scheduling conflicts, the initial meeting will be held in late August in the Carrier's Chicago offices.

A tentative Agreement was presented to our members on the DM&IR property and soundly rejected. The Carrier was so notified and we are scheduled to discuss this issue the first week of August.

We have several outstanding issues, including discipline investigations scheduled at various locations on the IC and WC properties which the Council staff and Local representatives are currently handling.

A second meeting will also be held in Chicago in late August to discuss an Implementing Agreement for the CN/EJ&E acquisition. I have been advised that the Machinists, Carmen and Sheet Metal Workers have an Agreement in place.

## **Canadian Pacific/Soo Line**

There were a few issues with the implementation of wages with Telecommunication Department employees as a result of the recently ratified Agreement. I believe all issues have been addressed and rectified.

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The Carrier has recently hired several Electricians which will become members of this Organization at Milwaukee and St. Paul.

We have not received any news for several weeks concerning CP's acquisition of the DM&E.

## **Elgin Joliet and Eastern**

We have a claim scheduled for arbitration in late August.

As I reported in the CN news, we are scheduled to discuss the Implementing Agreement in late August for the CN/EJE acquisition. We have posted a great number of news articles concerning this acquisition on the Council web site and as I observe from those articles, there is a lot of opposition to this proposal.

## **Belt Railway of Chicago**

On July 29<sup>th</sup>, the undersigned and Local 794 representatives met with the Carrier to discuss issues with vacant positions and pending retirements on the property. A follow up session will be held following an investigation of the issues presented by the Carrier.

If anyone knows of a Telecommunication Department employee seeking a position, the Belt is currently seeking a qualified applicant. Details of the position are posted on our web site.

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## **Montana Rail Link**

A meeting is scheduled with the Carrier and other General Chairmen in early September to discuss the outstanding issues with the Carrier's application of the health care plan.

There was also an issue presented to this office with the Carrier failing to provide employees copies of personal injury reports at the time the report was filed. I believe this issue has been corrected and our members notified accordingly.

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

No news to report.

## **Evansville and Western Railroad Company**

No news to report.

## **Paducah and Louisville Railroad Company**

No news to report.

## **Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District**

We have reached an Agreement with the Carrier for our members on this property. The Agreement was approved by the International office to submit to the membership for ratification. The Agreement was approved by a vote of 37 for 2 against. The final documents have been signed and copies will be provided to the Local officers.

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## **BNSF Railway**

Over the past several months, I have received several calls from supervisors at various locations on this property seeking information on representation by a Labor Organization. The American Railway and Airway Supervisors Association represents these employees and I have obtained a contact which I will immediately forward to anyone requesting. I have spoke to the representative assigned and the Organization will meet with one or all as requested.

It is my understanding that the panel of Arbitrators has been selected for the resolution of the FMLA dispute.

The profit sharing proposal presented to the membership was soundly defeated. The Carrier was so notified.

Again, and as a result of several issues, I cannot emphasize the importance of the use of blue flags. The number of issues and resulting disciplinary hearings we have seen cause grave concern to this office. There was recently a member dismissed from Carrier service for violation of the blue flag rules. The blue flags are for your protection. There is absolutely no excuse for not using them. If you do not, there are serious consequences.

Another issue I wish to discuss is the Workplace Observation/Alternative Discipline Agreement. This matter has been discussed numerous times with the Locals and it has been conveyed to this office that the membership in the Mechanical Department is opposed to such Agreement, however recent developments as well as comments from some Locals are causing this office to take a second look at this issue.

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It appears that the Carrier is retaliating against our members for not participating in the program by the number of discipline issues presented to this office. I have also been advised that some of our Locals are now seeing this and asking why we are not participating in the program. We have been advised that at least three (3) of our members are actively supporting the benefits of the WPO's, irregardless of the position taken by the membership.

As a result of these issues and numerous Carrier requests, we have agreed to meet with the CMO's, and Labor Relations the first week of October in Kansas City to attend a safety meeting and discuss the proposal and issues we have. We will continue to keep you advised of developments.

Attached please find the first quarter travel, vacation and financial reports. There is a large amount of news regularly posted on our web site that is of an interest to our members.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted,

Dale E. Doyle  
General Chairman

DED/dgw (OPEIU)

Attachments

**Dale Doyle's Travel Second Quarter:**

April 1, 2008 - Chicago, Illinois - DM&I Negotiations

April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 - Washington, DC - Organizing Meeting  
MISCOR Corporation

April 18, 2008 - Eagan, Minnesota - Railroad Retirement Board  
Meeting

April 22<sup>nd</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008 - Alliance, Nebraska - Local 547  
Meeting - Telecom Meetings

April 30, 2008 - Chicago, Illinois - CN/EJE Merger Discussions

May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008 - Topeka, Kansas - Local 959 - Topeka Shop  
Issues

May 8, 2008 - Minneapolis, Minnesota - CP/Soo 401(K) Meeting

May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 - Chicago, Illinois - Local 794 Meeting

May 21, 2008 - Bloomington, Minnesota - Meeting With Metro Sales -  
Copier

May 28, 2008 - Duluth, Minnesota - Local 366 - DM&I/CN Contract  
Ratification Vote

June 2, 2008 - Minneapolis, MN - CP/Soo Payroll Issues - Contract

June 10, 2008 - Minneapolis, MN - CP/Soo 401(K) Meeting

June 15<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008 - Miami, Florida - Rail Progress  
Meeting

June 21<sup>st</sup> through 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008 - Charleston, SC - Pawley's Island,  
South Carolina - 10<sup>th</sup> District Progress Meeting Training  
Session - System Council 9 Meeting

**Dale Doyle's Vacation Used Second Quarter of 2008:**

April 4, 2008	1 day
May 23, 2008	1 day

**Rick Heyland's Travel Second Quarter:**

April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 - Washington, DC - Meeting - MISCOR Corporation

April 21<sup>st</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 - Kansas City, Kansas - BNSF ECP Committee Meeting

May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008 - Topeka, Kansas - Meeting - Seven (7) Day Operation

May 14, 2008 - Galesburg, Illinois - Local Union 547 Meeting

May 15, 2008 - Galesburg, Illinois - WPO Meeting

May 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 - Chicago, Illinois - RELCO Meeting

June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008 - Topeka, Kansas - Meeting - Seven (7) Day Operations

June 24<sup>th</sup> through 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008 - Charleston, South Carolina - Officer Training - Progress Meeting and System Council 9 Meeting

**Rick Heyland's Vacation Used Second Quarter of 2008:**

June 23, 2008 1 day

**Mark Klecka's Travel Second Quarter:**

April 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 - Michigan City, Indiana - NICTD Contract Negotiations

April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008 - Spokane, Washington - Telecom Meeting - System Electrician Meeting

April 28<sup>th</sup> through 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008 - Michigan City, Indiana - NICTD Contract Negotiations

May 1, 2008 - Chicago (Corwith), Illinois - Investigation

May 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008 - Chicago (Corwith), Illinois - Investigation

May 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008 - Vancouver, Washington - Investigation

June 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008 - Springfield, Missouri - Investigation

June 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008 - Chicago (Corwith), Illinois - Three  
(3) Investigations

June 15<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 - Miami, Florida - Rail Progress  
Meeting

**Mark Klecka's Vacation Used Second Quarter of 2008:**

April 18, 2008	1 day
May 2, 2008	1 day
May 16, 2008	1 day
May 19 <sup>th</sup> through 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	6 days
June 3, 2008	1 day

**Jeff Burk's Travel Second Quarter:**

May 1, 2008 - Houston, Texas - SIAP

May 22, 2008 - Glendive, Montana - Investigation

May 29, 2008 - Tulsa, Oklahoma - Local Union 778 Meeting

June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008 - Cheyenne, Wyoming - IBEW Eighth District  
Progress Meeting

June 16<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008 - Miami Beach, Florida - IBEW Railroad  
Progress Meeting

**Jeff Burk's Vacation Used Second Quarter of 2008:**

May 16, 2008	1 day
May 19, 2008	1 day
June 25 <sup>th</sup> through 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	3 days