

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers



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November 6, 2008

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

Brothers and Sisters:

Many of you who were members of former System Council 8 or were involved with an injury knew or heard of Milton C. Bennett. Brother Bennett died on October 16, 2008 of a massive heart attack. Brother Bennett served as a General Chairman of System Council 8 and also as a representative of an FELA firm for many years. Flowers were sent to the funeral by the Council. Brother Bennett assisted the undersigned with many issues on his former properties and had a deep devotion to the members of this Organization.

As a result of the assignment of the Rail Task Force, the staff of this office has been assisting various International Representatives with Local officer training. This past quarter we have conducted training for officers of 152, 506, 794, 886, 946, 1022, 1023 and 1856.

While the election results are not complete as of this writing, specifically here in Minnesota's Senate race I am happy to report we will have a new President and hopefully a new direction for this country in January. My thanks to those of you who devoted your time to help this Organization with the campaign.

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I have also been advised that the National Cost Sharing Contribution for the Health and Welfare will increase slightly next year from \$166.25 to 170.96 beginning on January 1, 2009.

As many of you have read in recent press releases, several Carriers and Labor Organizations joined resources to fight the Department of Transportation's direct observation requirement for all employees involved in return-to-duty and follow-up testing. The agency had decided to go ahead with the direct observation requirement effective November 1, 2008, however on October 31, 2008, the U.S. Court of Appeals issued an order which stays the mandatory rule temporarily while the court considers whether to stay the rule for the duration of the litigation. Please notify the membership. I have enclosed detailed information on this issue.

Also noteworthy in this report is that Congress recently passed the Rail Safety Bill and AMTRAK Reauthorization Bill. The Rail Safety Bill includes the addition of several hundred Federal Railroad Administration Inspectors. The AMTRAK Reauthorization Bill is important, not only for AMTRAK members, but to the Railroad Retirement system.

I would again like to ask for any suggestions you may have for addition to the Council web site. I have received many favorable and positive comments on our site and commend and thank Assistant General Chairman Jeff Burk for his many hours spent keeping the site up to date and Retired Executive Board Member Greg Schulz for supplying this office with many news items that are placed on the site.

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

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

I am pleased to report that an Agreement has been obtained for and ratified by our members on the DM&I Railroad. The terms and conditions should be fully implemented by January 1, 2009.

A Public Law Board hearing was conducted in Chicago on October 21st, where two (2) IC issues were presented and argued. As soon as the Awards are rendered, the Locals and the Claimants will be so notified.

We continue to move forward with discussions on implementing Agreements for the CN/EJE acquisition with another meeting scheduled in mid November.

There have been two (2) meetings to discuss the updating of the Telecommunication Department Agreement on the IC property. We have many Agreement sections in place at this time.

Another compensation issue has been recently discovered with the application of pay on the DWP property that is being investigated by the Carrier and will be discussed with this office. We have also been approached by the Carrier about moving the DWP employees into the DMI Agreements.

Canadian Pacific/Soo Line

The acquisition of the Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern Railway by the Canadian Pacific was recently approved by the Surface Transportation Board.

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Local 886 Member Rick Miller, who is also the Local Committeeman at the Carrier's Milwaukee Work Equipment Shop and has been as long as I have worked for the Council is due to retire this quarter. I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for his many years of Carrier service and service to the Organization, as well as to this office. I wish Brother Miller the best for a long, happy and healthy retirement.

There were two (2) outstanding discipline claims argued at the Second Division in July. The Locals and Claimants were notified and when the Awards are rendered, those involved will be advised.

I have a meeting scheduled with the Shop Manager at St. Paul on November 6th to discuss several issues that were presented at a recent Local meeting recently I attended.

Elgin Joliet and Eastern

A Public Law Board hearing was conducted in late August to discuss one (1) subcontracting claim. The Award has been rendered and upon receipt of the signed signature pages from the Carrier, the Award will be forwarded to the Local.

We are working with representatives of the IAM and SMWIA on an Implementing Agreement for the Gary Railroad. This railroad will be formed as a result of the CN/EJE acquisition.

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Belt Railway of Chicago

We have had a follow up meeting with a representative of the Engineering Department in connection with the addition of a Maintenance Electrician on this property. We have been advised that a Telecommunication Department employee has been recently hired on the property.

Montana Rail Link

The Carrier and the Organizations have agreed to "status quo" concerning the issues with the health care plan and will discuss it the next round of bargaining.

Lake Superior and Ishpeming Railroad Company

With the nations' economy in the tank, the steel industry is losing momentum. Cleveland Cliffs, the parent company of LS&I, has recently announced reductions at mines in northern Minnesota and Michigan, however, as of this writing there has been no impact on our members working for this Carrier.

Evansville and Western Railroad Company

No news to report.

Paducah and Louisville Railroad Company

No news to report.

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Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District

The only outstanding issue from the last round of bargaining is the updating of the labor Agreement. The Carrier has advised that they do not desire to move forward with this project until all Organizations have obtained an Agreement during this round of bargaining.

BNSF Railway

The FMLA arbitration hearing is scheduled for November 12, 2008 in Washington.

This discussion is not new and is becoming rather redundant; but again, use the blue flags are required by Company policy. Vice General Chairman Heyland recently attended a discipline hearing for a member with over thirty (30) years of service and two (2) separate previous Blue Flag violations. The blue flags are for your protection. There is absolutely no excuse for not using them. If you do not, there are serious consequences. We have also seen a rising number of discipline issues in the Telecommunication Department.

The Topeka Shops are scheduled to begin 24/7 operations shortly. Vice General Chairman Heyland has been on at least two (2) recent conference calls with the other Shop Craft Organizations to discuss this issue.

There were several outstanding claims argued at the Second Division in July. The Locals and Claimants were notified of the hearing being conducted and when the Awards are rendered, those involved will be advised.

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Vice General Chairman Heyland and Executive Board Member Darrell Patterson have been involved with the Carrier, New York Air Brake Corporation and the FRA in the testing of the Electronic/Pneumatic air brakes in an attempt to secure the electric portion of that work for our members and it is imperative that we need to be involved in this work. We are aware that there is a definite need for training in this area and therefore each Local needs to compile a list of those members who need this type on training and submit that list to your Shop Superintendent or senior manager. Please provide a copy of that list to this office so that we can monitor the situation.

Attached please find the third 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

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Dale Doyle's Travel Third Quarter:

July 22nd through 24th, 2008 - Washington, DC - NRAB Second Division hearings

July 28th through 30th, 2008 - Chicago, Illinois - Belt Railroad (29th) - BNSF (30th)

August 1, 2008 - Superior, Wisconsin - BNSF Discipline investigation

August 6, 2008 - Waterloo, Iowa - CN Discipline investigation

August 28th and 29th, 2008 - Chicago, Illinois - CN Telecommunication Agreement Negotiations (28th) - EJE Public Law Board Hearing (29th)

September 2, 2008 - St. Paul, Minnesota - Local Union 886 Meeting

September 4, 2008 - Minneapolis, Minnesota - Local Union 506 Meeting

September 16, 2008 - St. Paul, Minnesota - Soo General Chairmen's Meeting

September 17, 2008 - Bloomington, Minnesota - BNSF General Chairmen's Meeting

September 18th and 19th, 2008 - Rochester, Minnesota - Sixth District Progress Meeting

Dale Doyle's Vacation Used Third Quarter of 2008:

July 11, 2008	1 day
July 18, 2008	1 day

Rick Heyland's Travel Third Quarter:

July 22nd through 24th, 2008 - Washington, DC - Second Division NRAB Hearing

July 28th and 29th, 2008 - Topeka, Kansas, Investigation

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August 12th and 13th, 2008 - Topeka, Kansas, Investigations

August 21st and 22nd, 2008 - Topeka, Kansas, Investigation

September 7th through 12th, 2008 - Phoenix, Arizona - Seventh District Progress Meeting

September 17 through 19th, 2008 - Chicago, Illinois - National Association of Railroad Arbitrators

September 23rd and 24th, 2008 - Topeka, Kansas, Investigations

Rick Heyland's Vacation Used Third Quarter of 2008:

September 2nd through 5th, 2008 4 days

September 30, 2008 1 day

Mark Klecka's Travel Third Quarter:

July 2, 2008 - Chicago, Illinois - 14th Street - Attendance Policy Meeting

July 23rd through 25th, 2008 - Des Moines, Iowa - Eleventh District Progress Meeting

July 29th and 30th, 2008 - Michigan City, Indiana - Local Union 2355 - Final contract meeting/ratification

August 12th and 13th, 2008 - LaCrosse, Wisconsin - SIAP

August 19th through 22nd, 2008 - Seattle, Washington - Ninth District Progress Meeting - Local Union 1769 local meeting

August 27th through 29th, 2008 - Chicago, Illinois - CN/IC EJE Implementing Agreement - Telecommunication Department Agreement

September 2nd through 4th, 2008 Missoula, Montana - MRL negotiations

September 16th through 18th, 2008 - BNSF-GCA meeting

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Mark Klecka's Vacation Used Third Quarter of 2008:

July 11, 2008	1 day
July 18, 2008	1 day
September 10, 2008	1 day
September 19, 2008	1 day
September 22, 2008	1 day

Jeff Burk's Travel Third Quarter:

July 29th and 20th, 2008 - Denver, Colorado - Local 547 meeting and Telecom Meeting

August 28th, 2008 - Chicago, Illinois - CN/IC Telcom meeting

September 9th through 11th, 2008 - Phoenix, Arizona - Seventh District Progress Meeting

September 16th through 19th, 2008 - Hastings, Minnesota - BNSF GCA meeting and office work

September 24th and 25th, 2008 - Fort Worth, Texas - BNSF Telecom Meetings

Jeff Burk's Vacation Used Third Quarter of 2008:

September 8, 2008	1 day
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