

# *International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers*

System Council No. 2



5750 Rufe Snow Drive, Ste. 137 North Richland Hills, Texas 76180 Phone/Fax 817-281-4580

Jim Wisniski  
General Chairman  
I.B.E.W. S.C. No. 2

## **2020 – FOURTH QUARTER REPORT**

### **ALL LOCAL UNIONS SYSTEM COUNCIL NO. 2**

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

It's been a challenging year for all of us due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact it has had on the railroad industry. As I'm sure many of you are aware, Congress recently passed legislation to provide some additional relief by extending benefits created by the CARES Act. The legislation provides some temporary relief from sequestration beginning ten days from enactment through thirty days after the date the Presidential declaration of emergency for COVID terminates. Thus, railroad employees will no longer have their regular unemployment and sickness benefits reduced for sequestration during the specified time-period. The temporary relief is not retroactive to any earlier period. This legislation provides for the following:

- recovery benefit of \$600 per 2-week unemployment registration period from December 26, 2020 to March 14, 2021 (amount reduced from \$1,200 per registration period in the CARES Act).
- Unemployment benefits extended for employees who have exhausted benefits, payable for claims beginning after enactment and on or before March 14, 2021. Extended benefits are not payable after April 5, 2021.
- Waiver of 7-day waiting period for unemployment and sickness benefits, extended to March 14, 2021.

The Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) will continue to update this information on its website with details regarding these benefits.

RRB Labor Member John Bragg recently announced that a Pre-Retirement Seminar presentation is currently available to view online. The program was designed to help educate those nearing retirement about the benefits available to them and what to expect during the application process. The

*“Our Business – Representation & Service”*

RRB conducted several seminars across the country annually but were forced to cancel all in-person events in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To access the video online, visit **RRB.gov/PRS** and click on **View Pre-Retirement Seminar Presentation**. Although, the entire presentation is over an hour long, you can view shorter segments of the program by selecting a seminar topic on the same web page.

During the fourth quarter, the System Council reached an agreement with UPRR establishing an IBEW Senior Certified Training Instructor as well as some revisions to the current CTI Agreement. We also finalized agreements with UPRR providing a one-time lump sum bonus for eligible employees who worked 30 days or more during the COVID-19 pandemic between March 2, 2020 through November 30, 2020.

#### Fourth Quarter System Council Staff Activity

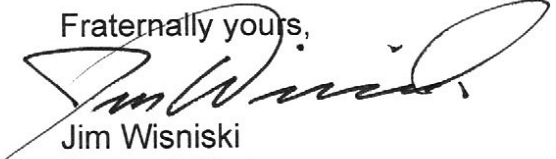
- Participated in the Union Pacific General Chairman's Association meeting.
- Participated in various meetings with the Union Pacific Mechanical Department.
- Participated in a meeting with the UPRR Engineering Department regarding recent force reductions.
- Participated in a claims conference meeting with the Kansas City Southern Railway.
- Participated in several claims conference meetings with Union Pacific Labor Relations.
- Assisted various members with the exercise of seniority regarding Union Pacific's abolishment notices.
- Attended the IBEW General Chairman's meeting.
- Participated in a Risk Reduction Program (RRP) meeting with the KCS.
- Attended the IBEW Railroad Coordinating Council meeting.
- Attended the October & December monthly meeting of Omaha LU 618.

- Participated in a Risk Reduction Program (RRP) meeting with the UPRR.
- Researched and progressed (8) new discipline appeals and (3) new time claims with Union Pacific; and (1) new time claim with the Kansas City Southern.
- Finalized an Attachment "A" with UPRR identifying (9) cases to list with the National Mediation Board for final adjudication before Public Law Board 7970.

Throughout the third quarter, the System Council staff remained busy with submission preparation, claim progressing, and assisting the local unions with day-to-day issues.

In solidarity, I remain

Fraternally yours,



Jim Wisniski  
General Chairman