

# *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

## **2021 – FIRST QUARTER REPORT**

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

It was recently announced that the Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) and the Kansas City Southern (KCS) entered into a merger agreement, under which CP agreed to acquire KCS in a stock and cash transaction. It was noted that the two railroads would create the first rail network connecting the U.S, Mexico, and Canada, and is expected to create jobs across the combined network. However, the transaction still needs approval from the U.S. Surface Transportation Board (STB), which requires major railroad combinations to demonstrate they are operating in the public interest by enhancing competition. It's expected that the STB review would be completed by the middle of 2022. However, it was announced that the Canadian National Railroad (CN) has now made a play for the KCS with a much superior offer than the CP. As of this report it has not been announced whether the KCS is considering the CN's offer.

During the first quarter, Union Pacific announced some furlough recalls and IBEW job vacancies for the Mechanical and Telecom Departments. Also, several of UP's locomotive facilities have recalled electricians to accommodate for the Energy Management System (EMS) locomotive modifications.

During the quarter, the System Council reached an agreement with UPRR establishing an additional Adjustment Board (Public Law Board 7970) to progress the ever-increasing discipline and rules cases for final adjudication. We also finalized an agreement with UPRR establishing a Special Board of Adjustment to present our current Article I "Employee Protection" cases filed on behalf of those members who may have been adversely affected as result of the Carrier's recent facility closings and transfer of work. We also docketed nine (9) additional UPRR

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cases before PLB 7001. We anticipate Hearing dates for the summer and fall of 2021.

#### First Quarter System Council Staff Activity

- Met with UPRR and finalized Agreements to establish a Special Board of Adjustment (SBA) and Public Law Board (PLB).
- Assisted Salt Lake City Local Union 650 with a disciplinary investigation.
- Participated in the biannual Union Pacific General Chairman's Association meeting.
- Participated in various meetings with the Union Pacific Mechanical Department.
- Visited the UPRR Commerce locomotive facility and met with local management and various members of LU 889.
- Participated in a claims conference meeting with the Kansas City Southern Railway.
- Participated in several claims conference meetings with Union Pacific.
- Attended a meeting with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to discuss "Hours of Service" and manpower & related safety issues.
- Attended the monthly meeting of Omaha Local Union 618.
- Finalized an Attachment "A" with UPRR identifying (9) cases to list with the National Mediation Board for final adjudication before Public Law Board 7001.
- Progressed three subcontracting notices served by UPRR.
- Researched and progressed (6) new discipline appeals; (5) new time claims; (1) Article I claim; and (4) subcontracting claims with Union Pacific.
- Progressed (1) new claim for unsafe work practices; and (1) new discipline

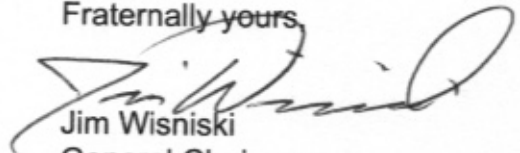
case with the Kansas City Southern.

- Finalized the System Council fiscal year reports.

Throughout the first quarter, the System Council staff continued to assist the local unions and membership with various concerns and issues.

In solidarity, I remain

Fraternally yours,



Jim Wisniski  
General Chairman