

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers



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

2021 – SECOND QUARTER REPORT

ALL LOCAL UNIONS SYSTEM COUNCIL NO. 2

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

On May 26, 2021, the CN and KCS Railroads announced that they jointly filed with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) a renewed motion for approval of its voting trust that outlines the case for approval of the voting trust to advance the CN-KCS merger, that they claim will enhance competition, spur economic growth and realize the benefits of a fully end-to-end transportation network across continent. As part of the application, CN is committing to divesting KCS' 70-mile line between New Orleans and Baton Rouge, which is less than 0.7 percent of the approximately 27,000 route-miles the two companies operate. This commitment eliminates the sole area of overlap between the CN and KCS networks, making the combination an end-to-end transaction.

The Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) provides two kinds of benefits for qualified railroaders: unemployment benefits for those who become unemployed and are ready and able to work; and sickness benefits for those who are unable to work because of sickness or injury. Sickness benefits are also payable to female rail workers for periods of time when they are unable to work because of health conditions related to pregnancy, miscarriage, or childbirth. A new benefit year begins each July 1st. To qualify for normal railroad unemployment or sickness benefits in July 2021, an employee must have had railroad earnings of at least \$4,137.50 in calendar year 2020, counting no more than \$1,655 for any one month. Those who were first employed in the rail industry in 2020 must also have at least five months of creditable railroad service in 2020. Additional information can be found at www.RRB.gov or by calling the toll-free number at (1-877-772-5772).

During the week of June 14, 2021, the System Council staff and I attended

“Our Business – Representation & Service”



the 2021 System Council No. 2 Quadrennial Convention. Initially, I would like to thank all the local unions for their attendance and participation at this year's convention. I would particularly like to recognize the System Council staff for all their time and hard work which made for a successful and productive event. I would also like to thank the local unions for their support and confidence in re-electing myself and Brother's Rick Reynoso and David Starkjohann to the offices of General Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary Treasurer. This is a responsibility we don't take lightly as we look forward to working on behalf of the IBEW membership and with the System Council No. 2 local unions over the next four years. We also congratulate the following delegates who were elected from the floor of the convention to the System Council Executive Board:

Wayne Licastro	-	Local 214	Chicago, IL
Dennis Bell	-	Local 650	Salt Lake City, UT
Brian Holmes	-	Local 708	Denver, CO
Tom Modica	-	Local 807	Little Rock, AR
Jason May	-	Local 1814	Houston, TX
William Hasty	-	Local 1829	Shreveport, LA
Alex Avila	-	Local 1911	San Antonio, TX
Bob Norton	-	Local 1920	North Platte, NE

As a result of recent action taken by the delegates to the 2021 System Council No. 2 Convention, three amendments to the System Council bylaws were submitted and unanimously approved as follows:

1. Article III, Section 1 – extended the Convention “Notice” requirement from sixty (60) days to one-hundred twenty (120) days prior to convening the Convention.
 2. Article IV, Section 1 – included the Vice General Chairman as a member of the System Council No. 2 Executive Board, and reduced the members elected from the floor to the Executive Board from nine (9) to eight (8).
 3. Article IX, Section 1 – adjusted the System Council No. 2 per capita amount to (\$45.10) per month.
- One Resolution was also submitted and approved by the delegates recognizing retired System Council 2 Secretary Treasurer Randy Shell as

“Secretary Treasurer Emeritus”.

Second Quarter System Council Staff Activity

- Attended several claims conferences with Union Pacific.
- Submission and case preparation for Public Law Board 7970, Arbitrator Benn.
- Submission and Case preparation for Special Board of Adjustment 1199, Arbitrator Fagnani.
- Attended various meetings with the Union Pacific Mechanical Department.
- Continued preparation for the 2021 System Council No. 2 Quadrennial Convention.
- Completed fiscal year-end LM and 990 Reports.
- Participated in a claims conference meeting with the Kansas City Southern Railway.
- Attended and assisted with the System Council No. 2 Quadrennial Convention June 12 – 18, 2021.
- Finalized an Attachment “A” with the KCS identifying (2) cases to list with the National Mediation Board for final adjudication before Public Law Board 7160.
- Progressed fifteen subcontracting notices served by UPRR.
- Researched and progressed (4) new discipline appeals; (3) new time claims; (1) Article I claim; and (2) subcontracting claims with Union Pacific.

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

In solidarity, I remain

Fraternally yours,

Jim Wisniski
General Chairman