
Upcoming Section Six Notices & National Negotiations

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To All IBEW Railroad Local Unions Covered Under National Bargaining:

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Our contract with the National Freight Railroads expires December 31, 2019. As such, we will be serving our Section Six Notice on the railroads shortly after November 1 of this year.

In order to prepare our Section Six Notices, we are looking for input from our local unions as to what changes you and your members would like in our agreements pertaining to wages, benefits, and work rules. So that we can do this in an orderly manner, we are requesting that you email your recommendations to your respective System Councils, and the Councils will compile your recommendations and forward them to my office. Please email your recommendations to your respective System Councils no later than August 15th so that we can start preparing the notices.

As usual, we expect this round to be as contentious as past rounds. As with previous rounds, the freight railroads continue to make record profits, and we will be demanding that you, their employees and our members, realize your fair share of those profits. They are only making their money because of your dedication and hard work.

We are presently discussing with the other Rail Labor unions the possibility of again negotiating as a coalition. We have already had a few meetings in this vein, and we will continue in our efforts for coalition bargaining as discussed during our ratification meetings last year. We believe that there is strength in unity and that with coalition bargaining our chances of obtaining a decent contract will be increased. We will proceed in the manner that we believe is in the best interests of our IBEW members, and will keep you advised as the talks progress. But regardless of how we proceed, I promise you that we will do our utmost to obtain a contract for you that is fair and equitable for our members. And as with past rounds of National Bargaining, once a tentative agreement is reached it will be our members who decide whether or not to accept it through the ratification process.

Again, please email your recommendations to your respective System Councils no later than August 15th so that we have sufficient time to prepare the notices. If you have any questions pertaining to the above, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Fraternally,

Bill Bohné, Jr.
Director – IBEW Railroad Department
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