

National Freight Railroad Bargaining Begins

For the approximately 5,500 IBEW members working for the National Freight Railroads the negotiation process for a new contract began on November 18, 2009, when President Hill served the IBEW's Section Six Notice (the Notice) on the National Carriers Conference Committee (NCCC), the group representing the National Freight Railroads. As a result, negotiations with the NCCC have been scheduled for January 19, 2010, in Washington, DC.

Prior to the Notice being served, the IBEW agreed to be part of a bargaining coalition of Rail Labor Unions consisting of the American Train Dispatchers Association (ATDA), the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), the Transportation Communication Workers Union (TCU), the TCU Brotherhood of Railroad Carmen (BRC), and the Transportation Workers Union (TWU). This coalition is the same as the one the IBEW participated in during the last round of National Bargaining and will operate under the same rules.

Your IBEW Negotiating Committee, consisting of Railroad Department Director Bill Bohne and the System Council General Chairmen, is looking forward to meeting with the NCCC. Due to the changes in the political climate in Washington, we are hopeful that the process will move at a bit faster pace this round than last. You can rest assured that we will do our utmost to secure a contract that meets your needs in the shortest time possible.

The IBEW Section Six Notice (attached) represents many hours of hard work between the General Chairman and their staffs and IBEW Railroad Department staff, and addresses the items and issues presented for inclusion by the local unions on behalf of the membership. The Section Six Notice the NCCC (railroads) served on us is also attached for your review.

We will continue to keep you informed of any noteworthy progress.