

National Freight Railroads Bargaining Update

December 8, 2017

Tentative Agreement Reached with Railroads

Ratification Process to Begin

Today the IBEW, along with the other Rail Labor organizations in our bargaining coalition (the IAM, the BRC Division of the TCU, the TCU, and the TWU), reached tentative agreements with the railroads involved in National bargaining. Our agreement basically mirrors the agreements reached by the Rail Labor unions in the Coordinated Bargaining Group earlier this fall and which were overwhelmingly ratified by four of those six unions, including the BLE-T, the UTU, the BRS, and the ATDA. The Fireman and Oilers agreement ratification process is not yet complete, and the Boilermakers and Blacksmiths ratification failed. That being said, the largest Rail Labor unions, representing a majority of the Rail Labor workforce on the nation's freight railroads, have ratified agreements.

“The last three years of negotiations have been very difficult to say the least,” stated IBEW President Lonnie Stephenson. “We struggled at the bargaining table with the railroads, as did the CBG unions, to get an agreement that is in the best interests of our members. I believe the tentative agreement reached today, considering the alternatives – including the political atmosphere in Washington today and a Trump-appointed Presidential Emergency Board (PEB), is an agreement that would be in the best interests of the membership to ratify.”

Ratification packages, including complete copies of the tentative agreement, will be mailed to all members covered under National handling by the end of December, with a target date of late January/early February 2018 to complete the process. Once the ratification packages are mailed out, we will post the entire agreement on our website along with a detailed analysis of it.