2019 – FOURTH QUARTER REPORT

ALL LOCAL UNIONS
SYSTEM COUNCIL NO. 2

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

As indicated in my Third Quarter report, a new voluntary insurance plan became available for all IBEW Railroad Department members, which provides Long Term Disability (LTD), and Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D), along with the option for $200,000 of preapproved Life Insurance. Open Enrollment in the new Railroad Group Disability and Life Insurance plan was scheduled to end November 30, 2019. However, Cornerstone Benefits has extended the Open Enrollment until Friday January 31, 2020. For more information, visit www.ibewrail-insurance.com or call 224 770-5312.

On November 1, 2019, the Nations Freight Rail Carrier’s represented by the National Carriers Conference Committee (NCCC) served Section 6 notice with the various Rail labor Organizations involved in upcoming freight rail negotiations. Leaders of 10 rail unions, including the IBEW, announced on November 1st, that their organizations would be participating in coordinated bargaining in the current round of national negotiations. Jointly, the Coordinated Bargaining Coalition unions represent more than 105,000 railroad workers and comprise over 80% of the workforce who will be impacted by this round of negotiations. The unions involved with the Coordinating Bargaining Coalition include:

- American Train Dispatchers Association (ATDA)
- Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen/Teamsters Rail Conference (BLET)
- Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen (BRS)
- International Association of Machinists (IAM)
- International Brotherhood of Boilermakers (IBB)
- National Conference of Firemen & Oilers/SEIO (NCFO)

“Our Business – Representation & Service”
• International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)
• Transport Workers Union of America (TWU)
• Transportation Communications Union/IAM (TCU)
• Transportation Division of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail & Transportation Workers (SMART-TD)

On the date of December 12, 2019, IBEW President Lonnie Stephenson served notice pursuant to Section 6 of the Railway Labor Act, with the Freight Rail Carrier’s represented by the NCCC, with the desire to revise and supplement all existing agreements governing rates of pay, rules, working conditions, and health and welfare benefits. Direct negotiations are currently being scheduled and expected to commence in February 2020. As I receive information regarding the negotiating process, I will continue to provide you with any updates which can be found at [www.ibewsc2.org](http://www.ibewsc2.org).

Union Pacific continued to implement its Precision Scheduled Railroading principles during the fourth quarter. On October 17, 2019, UP filed a WARN notice advising that positions would be abolished at its Neff mechanical locomotive facility in Kansas City, Missouri, affecting approximately ninety (90) employees, of which twenty (20) IBEW members were furloughed. With exception of several outlying point locations, the Carrier continues to reduce its workforce through attrition and have not begun recalling any IBEW positions. As of the end of the fourth quarter, IBEW furloughs stand at approximately (425) positions, not including those positions lost through attrition. The System Council continues ongoing discussions with the Carrier regarding any and all options of increasing forces at the various locations and departments, with the primary objective of recalling our furloughed brothers and sisters.

On the date of November 6, 2019, the System Council presented cases for arbitration before Public Law Board 7001, concerning disputes with Union Pacific. I will notify the Claimants and applicable local union as soon as the awards are issued.

October 2019

• AGC Starkjohann met to conference subcontracting claims with UPRR.
• AGC Starkjohann assisted Chicago Local 214 with a disciplinary investigation.
• The System Council staff and I attended the annual IBEW Rail
Department meeting.

- VGC Reynoso and I attended the UP Shopcraft Coalition meeting along with the various craft Chaimen and Union Pacific's Mechanical and Labor Relations personnel.

- VGC Reynoso, AGC Shell & I attended the IBEW General Chairmen and Coordinating Council meeting.

- VGC Reynoso and I attended the UP General Chairmen Association meeting.

November 2019

- AGC Shell met with the officers of Chicago Local 214 and assisted with a disciplinary investigation.

- VGC Reynoso, AGC Shell & I attended arbitration and presented cases before PLB 7001.

- AGC Starkjohann attended a training class for union officers relating to duties for Secretary-Treasurer.

- AGC Starkjohann attended the monthly meeting for Omaha Local 618.

December 2019

- AGC Starkjohann attended a UPRR conference regarding CBT Safety training requirements for 2020.

- AGC Shell met with the officers of Fort Wort Local 942 and assisted with a disciplinary investigation.

- AGC Shell and I met to finalize the 2019 year-end financial reports.

- The System Council staff and I finalized submissions submitted to the Second Division of the National Railroad Adjustment Board.
• AGC Starkjohann attended Local Union Financial Secretary training with the IBEW Eleventh District Rep.

Throughout the fourth quarter, the System Council staff continued to handle various claims and disputes, as well as assist the local unions with ongoing matters of concern.

In solidarity, I remain

Fraternally yours,

Jim Wisniski
General Chairman