



# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS AND AEROSPACE WORKERS DISTRICT LODGE NO. 19

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November 6, 2009

Subject: National Negotiations

TO: ALL DISTRICT LODGE 19 LOCAL'S SUBJECT TO NATIONAL FREIGHT AGREEMENT

FROM: JOE R. DUNCAN/Pres. Dir. Gen. Chairman/Railroad Coordinator

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

I want to take this opportunity to up date you on our status on our upcoming negotiations.

I have previously advised you over the last few months on our attempt to establish a large coalition of non-operating Craft Unions for the purpose of negotiating as a coalition in national bargaining on Common economic and health and welfare issues.

I reported to you in our last District 19 newsletter that we had a "Gentlemen Agreement" between 9 to 10 Rail Unions and it appeared that for the first time in a long time rail labor would have its house in order and work together for the common good of all our membership. In fact, we had worked closely with them on preparing our common Section 6 Notice. Additionally, I felt very good about having all the Shop Craft Unions together while we addressed the issues very important to our respectful membership.

We had a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 29, 2009 in Washington, DC with all participating unions to finalize the common notice. However, when the meeting was opened for business, the unions who bargained the last round as the Rail Labor Bargaining Coalition informed the rest of us that they had decided to reconstitute their former coalition. Some of the reasons stated for their short noticed decision were that they wanted to have a paid Washington, DC attorney to be their spokes person, which would in short cause the Crafts to give up their right to represent themselves individually and that they felt that the proposed Section 6 Notices we had worked on jointly (yes – them too) was requesting too much and contained several things that they felt were not obtainable.

It was my position that the membership pays us to speak for them and that we should not waste our members dues money on attorneys unless necessary. It is our job to speak for our members and negotiate the agreement and I firmly believe that we should not subcontract out our duties to attorneys. Additionally, our Section 6 Notice was prepared based on common sense and the desires of our membership. For example our members are very concerned about the employee contribution to health and welfare, therefore our notice reflects those concerns by requesting no employee contribution. Can this be obtained, you never know until you try and I for one do not believe that if you think it is unobtainable like the other group, you should forget your members concerns and not try. Thus, it is in our Section 6 Notice for no employee contributions.

I am very disappointed that especially the two shop crafts unions and the Firemen & Oilers did not join forces with us in trying to obtain the best agreement possible for our membership. However, I am extremely proud that the IAM&AW, along with the TCU, IBEW, TWU and the ATDA decided that we wanted to personally represent our membership to the highest degree and would not give up our rights to represent and speak for our membership to an attorney.

Therefore, we have a strong coalition of IAM&AW, TCU, IBEW, TWU and ATDA and we are now finalizing our common Section 6 Notices on economics and health & welfare. We plan to serve our respective Notices on or about November 16, 2009. Further, we have already contacted the NCCC and scheduled the first National Bargaining session for 10:00 am on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 in Washington, DC.

Additionally, I am attaching a copy of the Carriers Section 6 Notice for your review. You will note it is very short, but after reading and especially between the lines, you could find it very deadly to rail workers.

When we serve our Section 6 Notice on or about November 16, 2009, we will send each Local Lodge a copy and place on the District 19 web site for your review and at that time I will comment on the notice and the survey that the membership returned to us.

I want to thank each and every member for your support and cooperation as we move forward into this very important round of negotiations.



cc: R. Roach, Jr.  
S. Pantoja  
Dist. 19 Staff