



DISTRICT 19 NEWSLETTER

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Working Together Was Key For A Successful 2008

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Another year is coming to a close and as we look back over 2008, it has been a pretty good year. We have worked together to resolve many disputes and we have settled several Agreements while making progress on others. The main Agreements settled were the Amtrak and National Freights, with Amtrak involving (8) years of negotiations and game playing by Amtrak that ended with a favorable PEB ruling in December 2007 and ratification by the membership in 2008. The Freight Agreement was hard fought also with improvements made, but not to the level we desired. However, I hope that more Rail Unions can work together in the next bargaining session and hold a stronger position in an effort to obtain what our members deserve.

I firmly believe that even with our faults, District 19 is the best Transportation District in the IAMAW and it is truly attributed to all of us working together as a TEAM. I request that we all remember that communication must get better and we must realize that it takes **us all to be a UNION**, as one member, one General Chairman or one PDGC is not the Union, it is all of us together that makes a UNION and it takes all of us to be the best.

As previously mentioned, General Chairman Fred Nalley has now retired and hopefully Lynn has not kicked him out of the house into the cold yet. The Executive Board approved the appointment of Tommy Trent to the vacant General Chairman position and he is working hard and doing an excellent job for our District. Brother Trent's promotion created a vacancy in the District Executive Board; therefore, I am pleased to announce that Brother Arthur (Art) Lawhorn, Jr. of Local Lodge 696 has been appointed to fill the Executive Board position in Region 4. Additionally, Brother Stephen O'Brian of Local Lodge 1639 has retired from NS and the Executive Board of District 19. We want to take this opportunity to thank Brother O'Brian for his many years of ser-

vice to our Organization and wish him and his family the best during his retirement. Further, we welcome Brother Stephen Gibbons of Local Lodge 1639 as our newest Executive Board Member in Region 5.

In closing, I want to sincerely thank each member of District Lodge 19 and their families for the cooperation and support that you give us each day as we attempt to provide you with the best representation in the rail industry and to be the best District Lodge in the Transportation Department of the IAMAW. Further, I want to thank each person on the District Staff and the Executive Board for a job well done this year, as your dedication, support and cooperation have excelled in helping us obtain our goal of improving our District and serving our membership in the highest degree. I sincerely hope each of you and your families have a wonderful holiday season and that you are blessed by God with a very Merry Christmas!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

CONGRATULATIONS JAMES COKER

While attending the Grand Lodge Convention, Retired District Lodge 19 General Chairman and present President of Local Lodge 1, James Coker; signed up for a drawing conducted by the "UNION SPORTSMEN'S ALLIANCE" known as the Gun-A-Month Program. He was notified by the Alliance that he was the winner for October 2008 and that a USA made Beretta Sako A7, blue synthetic, 300 Winchester Short rifle was being shipped to him.

It appears that James was a lucky person as he should be and it further shows that it pays to be a UNION Member and a member of the UNION SPORTSMEN'S ALLIANCE, which is sponsored by several Unions, including the IAM & AW. So, congratulations James and please be very careful with your new toy!