

# DISTRICT 19 NEWSLETTER

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DISTRICT 19

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Directing General Chairman  
Railroad Coordinator

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Joe R. Duncan  
President Directing General Chairman  
Railroad Coordinator

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Can you believe that we are already 4 months into the New Year and 2008 is far behind us? We continue to have the normal everyday problems, however as we work together we will resolve them and many other disputes throughout the year of 2009.

I mentioned in the last Newsletter that the last Freight Agreement was hard fought and that I hoped that more Rail Unions could work together in the next bargaining session and hold a stronger position in an effort to obtain what our members deserve. Believe it or not, negotiations will begin the last of this year and I am very happy to advise you that the IAM has met with other Rail Unions and it appears that as many as nine (9) of us may be in a joint coalition. More details need to be worked out and a joint meeting should be held in the next few months to resolve the outstanding details. Additionally, all Rail Unions have met with the CRLO to formulate a Section 6 Notice on Health & Welfare to be served on the Carriers later this year and as of now it appears that all Rail Unions will be on the same page for Health and Welfare issues.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new members employed by the South Central Florida Express Railroad. We now represent most of the employees on this Carrier, including the Engineers, Conductors, Track Repair, Clerks and Shop Crafts. I would also like to sincerely thank District 19 Director of Organizing Robert Moore and General Chairman Mike Perry for the excellent job they did in organizing them. Further, I want to state that I have complete faith that General Chairman Mike Perry will negotiate them a new first agreement that they deserve.

We have made some General Chairman re-assignments. General Chairman

Brian Orwan will assume the representation duties of all Norfolk Southern, except the Charlotte Roadway Shop. General Chairman Mike Perry will continue to represent the membership he currently has, plus the South Carolina Public Belt, the South Central Florida Express and after the completion of the first agreement the North Carolina & Virginia Railroad and other special projects that I have planned for him.

General Vice President Robert Roach, Jr. has scheduled a Transportation Conference and a Principal Officers Meeting in New York from August 15 thru 20, 2009, and I would like to encourage each Rail Local Lodge to send a representative to this conference if possible.

I still 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!

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 continuing to do an excellent job for our membership, 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.



# ...news from your General Chairmen

**From the desk of: MICHAEL A. HILL**  
**Assistant President Directing**  
**General Chairman**



## **Amtrak**

### **Stimulus Bill Includes Funding for Amtrak Capital Programs**

Amtrak will receive a total of \$1.3 billion as part of the economic stimulus bill that President Obama signed on February 17<sup>th</sup> to create jobs and spur economic activity. Of that figure, \$850 million is designated for projects that supplement capital activities for the repair, rehabilitation or upgrade of Amtrak's system, assets or infrastructure and for expanding capacity, including the rehabilitation of rolling stock. Another \$450 million is dedicated to investments in security. The funds must be awarded within 30 days of enactment by the Federal Railroad Administration in the form of grants. Amtrak has identified 37 capital programs across its system that will create and preserve jobs and/or accelerate progress on Americans with Disabilities compliance,

NEC infrastructure, rolling stock, stations, maintenance facilities and yards, customer service, technology and safety. Fourteen of the programs to be funded are in the Northeast Corridor, while 23 support system-wide initiatives that benefit, or are located in, other regions of the country. A separate plan is being finalized for the \$450 million in security investments.

The capital programs must be completed within two years of enactment. Amtrak is currently seeking FRA approval of its proposed programs through the grant agreement process, and expects to have agreements in place some time in March. More information on the projects will be forthcoming.

The legislation also makes available \$8 billion to states for high-speed rail development or other rail investments, in

addition to other grants available for surface transportation projects, including rail.

## **High Speed Rail**

High-speed rail development would get \$5 billion over five years, on top of the \$8 billion already approved in a U.S. economic stimulus package, under President Obama's transportation spending plan for next year. The money would go to a state grant program. "This investment will lead to the creation of several high-speed rail corridors across the country linking regional population centers," according to a White House statement accompanying the budget outline today in Washington. The proposed Transportation Department budget including high-speed rail money for the fiscal year that begins 2010 is \$72.5 billion, a 2.8 percent increase from the \$70.5 billion proposed for the agency for this year.

In related news, on February 26th, the U.S. Department of Transportation unveiled the framework of its proposed FY2010 budget. Additional details will be available in April.

"This Administration inherited a difficult problem — a system that can no longer pay for itself," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood in a prepared statement. "We are looking at every option to solve it, but we are not going to be ready overnight."

The budget proposal does provide a broad framework that commits funds for sustainable solutions for surface transportation, for exploring options to make communities more livable through increased funding for public transit and for supporting development of a high-speed rail network

## **SEPTA**



The organization filed our Section 6 Notice to modify wages, rules, and health care on the Authority on February 2. The parties met on March 4<sup>th</sup> to review the organization's proposal and start negotiations. This was the first meeting of what will be a difficult round of negotiations based on the current economic crisis facing the country.

No progress was made during our first meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike

# ...news from your General Chairmen

**From the desk of: Robert M. Moore**  
**Assistant To President**  
**Directing General Chairman**

**Don Hall**  
**General Chairman**

**Richard Nadeau**  
**General Chairman**



The servicing representatives met with the Carrier's Labor Relations Department on February 5, 2009 to commence negotiations relative to the provisions of Side Letter #9 & #10 of the National Mediation Agreement dated October 1, 2008. The provisions of these side letters allow the parties to discuss the feasibility of cost of living adjustments relative to locality and shift differentials.

As expected the Carrier took the position that such provisions would have to be cost neutral, however we countered with the fact that the Carrier continues to make reasonable profits even in the shadow of hard economic times. The meeting concluded in the organization making specific demands for their consideration. Our next meeting is scheduled for May 6 & 7, 2009.

To date we have only been advised of force reductions in areas where mechanics are employed under the direction of the Operating Department. At least for now there are no anticipated furloughs in System Mechanical Shops, but as always that is subject to change. We would, however, advise that each individual make every effort to stay busy, dutifully report for work and display exemplary behavior. It has been noted that the Carrier will be looking in areas where savings can be made and we certainly do not want those savings to be realized due to malingering and poor behavior of Machinist employees.

At this time we have negotiated an Agreement to formulate a new Public Law Board with a tentative date of April 15, 2009 for our next hearing. Once this is all solidified we will advise all Claimants of the exact date, time and location. We have a number of cases to be heard and look forward to finalizing these disputes.

Your servicing representatives will all be present at the Local Chairman Seminar for at least part of the classes conducted at Placid Harbor. We look forward to seeing some familiar faces and encourage all Locals to send someone if possible.

We have been made aware of the Mechanical Department's attempt to directly negotiate comp time and compressed work weeks at certain locations. We must advise that such activities are a violation of the Railway Labor Act as Local representatives are not the designated bargaining agents for the organization. Anytime anyone is approached about utilizing comp time in place of overtime, working four ten hour days or adjusting starting times outside the parameters of the collective bargaining agreement they should contact their servicing General Chairman.



**Robert Moore:**

## **TOLEDO PEORIA & WESTERN RAILWAY**

The parties have successfully negotiated a settlement relative to our outstanding January 22, 2007 Section 6 Notice. The Agreement has been fully executed and sent to the members for their reference. We are pleased to have this behind us.



## **ELGIN, JOLIET & EASTERN RAILWAY**

The pending transaction between the Carrier and the Canadian National Railway has been finalized and a number of Machinists are now employed under the U.S. Canadian Nation Agreement. The remainder of the employees has been absorbed by the Gary Railroad and will continue under the same terms and conditions of the former Elgin Joliet & Eastern Railway. There were some trying times but we were able to work through many of the problems in order to make the transition as smooth as possible.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank Local Chairmen Marty Manis and Chris Cartwright for their assistance and hard work down through the years on the former EJ&E and will miss working with them. I wish you both a lasting relationship with General Chairman Dell Babcock. Keep up the good work guys.

# ...news from your General Chairmen



## **NORTHEAST ILLINOIS REGIONAL COM-MUTER RAILROAD**

We currently have a number of issues with this Carrier ranging from discipline, working conditions and adequate maintenance of shop machinery. With the able assistance of the respective Local Chairmen we are slowly working our way through these issues.

The carrier has advised that they are going to start new projects on the Carrier's updated diesel locomotive fleet to alleviate design and quality issues. In light of this there may be some openings for journeymen machinists. I urge anyone who is furloughed or otherwise looking for employment to contact me or the Carrier to explore these opportunities.

## **ORGANIZING By APDGC Bob Moore**

As indicated on the District 19 website we were successful in organizing the South Central Florida Railroad and in so doing were able to gain representation of all four classes of hourly employees. We welcome our Brothers and Sisters into the IAM family and wish them continued prosperity going forward.

I wish to extend a special and heartfelt thanks to District 19 General Chairman Mike Perry, District 166 Organizer Javier Almazan and Local Lodge 57 President Greg Thompson, who without their tireless and able assistance, this campaign would never have gotten off the ground. I wish to also thank the internal organizing committee, and you know who you are, for their assistance as well. This campaign would never have been successful without everyone coming together and exhibiting their individual courage and commitment. It was truly a pleasure working with all.

The District is currently developing another organizing lead which we are not at liberty to divulge this time. We are, however, optimistic that we can develop a relationship and thereafter conduct a successful campaign.

Negotiations continue on the North Carolina/Virginia Railroad with the date of March 26, 2009

set aside for our next round.

Bob Moore

***From the desk of:***     **Mike Perry**  
General Chairman

## **Norfolk Southern:**



By the time you receive this newsletter you should have been notified that I have been reassigned. PDGC, Brother Duncan asked if I would be agreeable to take on many new special assignments. These special assignments include Organizing, Contract Negotiations for newly organized units and many other assignments in which are necessary to grow and make this the best District within the IAM. These new assignments brings an increased work load and responsibilities and requires me to give them my undivided attention. Therefore has become necessary to rearrange some of my work load to accommodate this new work for me. Therefore, NS locations of mine, with the exception of Charlotte Roadway Shop, have been reassigned to GC Brian Orwan. I will continue to represent the Norfolk Southern members at the Charlotte Roadway Shop. I know that Brother Orwan will give you the same high level of representation as his gives his location now. Also, this is a work load increase for Brother Orwan; I asked that you work closely with him and help him as much as you can, as I know he will do the same for you.

It has been and is a great pleasure and honor to represent and work with you.

Part of my new assignment will be representing the members working for South Carolina Public Belt. I look forward to meeting and working with the members of the South Carolina Public Belt Railroad.

# ...news from your General Chairmen

## **Alabama State Dock:**

We have ratified a new agreement with Terminal Railroad Alabama State Dock.

TRSD is now in need of two Machinist. They have a posting on the Railroad Retirement Board Web Site. If You are interested in working for TRSD, in Mobile Alabama please visit their Web Site [www.asdd.com](http://www.asdd.com) for more information. You may also contact the District Office and we will direct you to the contact person at TRSD.



## **South Central Florida Express:**

I am still gathering information for negotiations. I have been working on our 1st contract proposal and have made good progress. However, I still need the job description from the members that I have requested. This is important information that I need in the preparation of our proposal. The Carrier has sent me some of the information that I have requested. There is still a lot of information that they have not sent me. I have been in contact with them and they tell me they are working on it and will get it to me as soon as they can. I have made a second written request for this information. Please realize, as I have told you in the past, that this is a long hard process. We want to have a good contact; we don't want to rush the process just to get an Agreement.

Committeeman, Juan Moron is attending the Spanish Leadership I class in early April. He will be given valuable information that he will share with you upon his return. Also, Local Chairman Mark, and your Local Lodge President, Greg will be attending the Railroad Local Chairman Seminar in late April. They will be taught many subjects that pertain to the Rail industry and will come away with a wealth of knowledge to share with you.

Remain united and strong throughout this process. Being united will bring us success at the bargaining table.

***From the desk of : Brian Orwan  
General Chairman***



## **Norfolk Southern Railway**

We had a series of meetings during the week of March 2nd with Labor Relations and the Mechanical Department, regarding our work being performed by supervisors, single agreement, the Carriers attempt to require our members to be licensed to move locomotives, welding certification/qualifications and side letters 9 & 10 of the National Agreement. Additionally, we discussed a number of grievances and discipline cases. Currently, there five cases pending for adjudication through the National Mediation Board on Public Law Board 6421 which are scheduled to be held on May 14, 2009, all claimants affected will be notified with the outcome as they progress.

As there are many concerns about furloughs during the current economic down turn, I am glad to report, that currently there are not any machinists furloughed on the Norfolk Southern system. Since January I have had many discussion with the some of the highest Officer's of the locomotive department, as there is no crystal ball, the current goal of the locomotive department is to do their best to cut expenses in other areas and keep everyone gainfully employed as they recognize the issues and problems that arise to both the employee and the Carrier as a result of furloughs.

Remember, look out for each other, as we all make mistakes, and should learn from them and others. We must consider the possible consequences of our actions prior to acting. Be a diligent union member abide by the agreement and help in the enforcement of the agreement by informing your Local Chairman of problems. Protect your job and your families livelihood by following all the established rules and procedures of the Carrier.

# ...news from your General Chairmen

Brian Orwan con't.



## New Jersey Transit –

With the election of new officers, LL 1041 lead by Local Chairman, William Crawford, and Vice Local Chairman, Charles Lombardi, the new committee has made an immediate impact by uncovering the Carrier's plan to train Carmen to perform Machinist work in the Gladstone Yard, Machinist were not employed at this outlying point. The Committee finding resulted in a new Machinist position being posted at the Gladstone Yard. The District along with the new Committee will be meeting in the middle of March 2009 at Labor Relations in Newark, NJ to continue Contract talks.



## South Carolina Public Railway

We have completed negotiations on work rules and other benefits, the new agreement was effective March 1. Currently, there two cases pending for adjudication

**From the desk of: John Lacey**  
**General Chairman**



## Metro-North Railroad –

Metro- North Railroad will be meeting with the District and LL - 1112, 226 and 753 to unveil a long awaited agenda on Welding Training. This meeting developed only after many grievance's and the persistence by Local Chairman , William Mitchell Jr. and VP , John Burns, that Machinists bidding Welding Positions were not subjected to prequalification when bidding or bumping a position per the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the IAMAW and Metro North Railroad.



## Pan Am Railway –

The announcement of the recent approval by the Surface Transportation Board on the joint control and ownership of Pam Am Southern LLC, a new rail carrier, by Norfolk Southern Railway, Inc and two of its rail carrier subsidiaries, Boston and Maine Corporation and Springfield Terminal Railway Company brings hope in a time of a failing economy. The economy has caused the closing of many paper mills in various locations in Maine. Pan Am Railway has been forced to cut back its work force to the point that remaining IAM members question the future of Pam Am Railway. The approved operating agreement states that Norfolk Southern would infuse \$87.5 million into PAS for improving infrastructure. PAS would use part of the capital to remove long-term slow orders along the Patriot Corridor and to add capacity and clearances along the line for better traffic flow. PAS would also use a portion of the capital to create new, or expand existing, transloading capacity at three locations: (1) a new intermodal and automotive facility at Mechanicville, NY; (2) an expanded intermodal facility at Ayer, MA; and (3) a new automotive facility near Ayer at San Vel.



## Massachusetts Bay Commuter Railroad –

In response to a letter from MBCR Labor Relations requesting the duly certified representative for each Organization of Massachusetts Bay Commuter Rail Labor Bargaining Coalition to acknowledging the legitimacy of each Organizations obligation, legal or otherwise, in order for MBCR to recognize or engage in negotiations with MBCRLBC. The Coalition once again served MBCR separately a Sec. 6 Notice, and also recognized Dennis Boston, BRS as spokesman for the Coalition.

# ...news from your General Chairmen

**From the Desk of: Tommy Trent  
General Chairman**

Hello everyone, I hope this issue of the newsletter finds all healthy. I would like to take this time to thank all my Brothers and Sisters out there. You do the everyday grind that helps this great country of ours keep rolling..... THANKS AGAIN! I will never forget that. Always feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or problems, I'll do my best to get you an answer. The IAM has resources second to none and they are available to all of us.



**ALSTOM- LL 2741** - The committee is staying on top of daily situations. A few items look like we might be on the way to arbitration. The most notable is accrued time, 8 hours vs. 10 hours and "a day is a day". GVP Robert Roach and his staff met with the Obama teams and were told 58.9 billion dollars was earmarked for mass transit, which includes Marta, light rail, bus, and rail passenger service. The IAM political department is doing its part for us to get our respective part of the Stimulus Package.

**SAVAGE-ORS LL 612**—I have been discussing issues with Savage H/R director. Negotiations are on track, and formal meetings are scheduled for March 25, 2009.



**UNITED IND/PROGRESS RAIL LL 498**—We have several discipline problems and other issues to deal with. I believe, if we communicate with each other we can solve a lot of these situations before they become major problems. The IAM Grand Lodge is sending an educator to visit Joliet and help us get up to speed form the upcoming contract negotiations. Please contact Jamie Evans or myself if you have any input.



**PADUCH & LOUISVILLE RR LL 123** – We got through the ice storm! Now it's time to get back to the business at hand, negotiations. We will get together in the near future to discuss the matters that have us separated, and get this worked out.

To all members I have not mentioned, you are the backbone of our organization and please keep up the trade unionism which is our foundation. Thank You.

**From the desk of: Jeff Doerr  
General Chairman**



## **Montana Rail Link**

I attended Local Lodge 169's monthly Union Meeting in Livingston Montana on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009. We discussed our upcoming negotiations and the Local Lodge is beginning the process of collecting and reviewing contract proposals. There was a good turn out at the Union meeting and some very good dialog was exchanged by all in attendance. I would like to thank the Officers and Members in attendance for the very warm welcome I received and I am looking forward to a successful round of bargaining with this proud group of Machinists!

## **Colorado and Wyoming Railway Company**

I'm happy to report that things are running very smooth in Pueblo, CO for our members. Local Chairman Jerry Vargas and this membership have done an outstanding job during some tough economic times. They keep busy and are always looking for projects that need to be done.

# ...news from your General Chairmen

John Lacey Con't

## Stockton Terminal & Eastern Railroad

Our initial bargaining session for this round of negotiations was held on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in Stockton, California. While some progress was made we still have some work to do here. We meet again with the Carrier on May, 21<sup>st</sup>. The current status of the economy was an issue the Carrier was very concerned with, but nonetheless, we stood our ground and have expressed that we expect and deserve a fair contract. With some promising economic news starting to emerge out of Washington and the Stimulus money starting to flow we believe some of the Carriers apprehensiveness should subside. Local Chairman Rusty Tupper has been a great asset during the process and I would like to thank him for his contributions, his experience and expertise will be invaluable as we proceed in the process.



## Progress Rail Services/ Rocklin, California

We had some layoffs at the Rocklin, CA facility. The first round of cuts was on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009. I flew out to ensure that our members were represented, to answer questions and to minimize these layoffs by discussing the situation with the Company and looking for alternatives that could prevent some of them. District 19 offered our assistance to the Company in anyway to help them attract more work. I must to dispel one rumor that was on the floor. Initially the Electricians took the majority of the layoffs and some rumors took root suggesting the IBEW didn't protect their members as well as the IAM did. That simply was not the case. We were fortunate that there was quite a bit of wheel work that required more machinists. There was some dissention between the IAM and IBEW on the shop floor over this, but let me assure all concerned that our IAM members were fortunate to have the extra wheel work and that's the only reason the cuts were not equally distributed amongst the crafts. We have a good relationship with the IBEW on this property and want it to continue. The membership of local 536 should be very proud of their Officers and Local Chairman John Denny who put together some very helpful information on filing for unemployment claims and other benefits.



## Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company

The ATSF agreements have been printed and if you haven't received your copy and work on the former Santa Fe line, please ask your Superintendent to order them for you. The Carrier has agreed to supply these to each member.

**From the desk of: Dell Babcock  
General Chairman**

## BNSF Railway:

BNSF advised due to the economy and business levels it had taken approximately 1200 locomotives out of service, 600 returned to lessee and 600 in storage. Accordingly, a total of 140 Mechanical Department Employees, including 38 Machinist craft Employees, would be furloughed from service by notice February 26, 2009. Based on its best estimates the BNSF does not, at least at this time, anticipate additional furloughs, however this could change based on the economy and business levels.

Negotiations resumed on February 26, 2009 with BNSF regarding Side Letters No. 9 and 10, concerning Shift Differentials and Locality Adjustments. Little progress was made, although the Carrier agreed to continue the discussions. Negotiations are scheduled to continue on March 25, 2009.

The Agreement to update and reprint the ATSF Schedule Agreement was finalized effective December 1, 2008. Copies of the new Agreement book should have been distributed to all ATSF Machinist craft Employees. This completes the process of updating both the ATSF and BN Schedule Agreements. We have had some preliminary discussions with BNSF to combine the ATSF and BN Schedule Agreements and anticipate commencing this process this year.

Public Law Board No. 6407 held a hearing on February 26, 2009 at which time 12 cases were presented. We anticipate decisions soon.

# ...news from your General Chairmen



## Soo Line Railroad

We concluded negotiations with the Carrier to apply the provisions of the September 1, 2008 National Wage Agreement. Although this process seemed unnecessarily long and difficult all issues were resolved and all back pay was paid on February 28, 2009.

The results for the Gain Sharing program for 2008 are in and the results are generally good. All Engineering Services members will receive 3.6%, except 1 who will receive 3.3%. Chicago Mechanical Services members will receive 4% and St. Paul Mechanical Services members will receive 2.15%. These payments are scheduled to be made by March 31, 2009.

The process to formulate the Gain Sharing goals for 2009 has begun and we hope to conclude these negotiations soon. As soon we reach an Agreement with the Carrier this will be provided all concerned.

Negotiations with the Soo Line are scheduled to commence on March 11, 2009 relative to Side Letters No. 9 and 10 of the October 1, 2008 National Wage Agreement regarding Shift Differentials and Locality Adjustments, respectively. We will also be discussing establishment of a supplemental pension plan.



## CN Railway

CN has completed its acquisition of the EJ&E Railway. In accordance with the Implementing Agreement all former EJ&E Machinists transferred to the CN become subject to the terms and conditions of the CN Agreement on May 1, 2009.

**From the desk of: Mark Schmidt**  
**General Chairman**



## **Kansas City Southern Railway—**

Five discipline cases are currently docketed for adjudication by Public Law Board No. 6326. The date of the hearings has not yet been finalized.

Two outstanding subcontracting issues remain unresolved and continue to be topics of discussion with the Carrier.

**From the desks of: Ron Fink**  
**and**  
**Mike Perry**  
**General Chairman**



## CSX Transportation

CSX continues show a loss of business. With that loss of business, of course, comes the need for the Carrier to cut expenses. Unfortunately, one way of cutting cost is through furloughs. Thursday April 23, the Carrier once again furloughed Machinist. We do not know when the furloughs will stop.

On April 28, 2009 we will be presenting several cases to PLB 7073 for adjudication. We were able to reach settlement, in our favor, on two of the cases we had schedule for this board. We will keep the claimants informed as this cases progress thru the Arbitration process.

The Carrier has changed their policy in the handling of Blue Flag violations. The discipline is harsh; please follow the Blue Flag Law and the Carrier Policy on Blue Flag. Do not assume, if your not sure, stop what you are doing and get help.



***From the desk of Terry Kruciak  
General Chairman***

***Traveling Roadway Mechanics and Pumprepairmen***

The first half of the year has been a very busy one. On the CSXT we started off with meeting the production mechanics in Charlotte, NC for their beginning of the year kickoff. President and Directing General Chairman Joe Duncan and myself want to thank all the Machinists who came to the meeting and took time to discuss what's on their mind and where we need to go as a District to better serve the members. I look forward to working with CSXT Engineering management to improve safety and provide a better work environment for our members.

I am still in talks with the Norfolk Southern on the Pump Repairman agreement, we will meet again at the end of March and hope to come to an agreement before summer. With the train starts down, the outlook for track work in 09 is good in all regions.

The Union Pacific Railroad and the BNSF Railway like the other major Railroads are looking to have a good production year in track maintenance. The nation stock markets are still a major player in how the year will end and where we will be at in 2010.

There is still a lot of work to do with the Engineering Departments in updating Company policy's, agreements, work place safety throughout the railroad. Senior management has been open to any improvements that can be made in these areas.

Thank you again for all your hard work, phone calls, emails and input, it is a very valuable tool for me moving our craft forward.



From the Office of:

J. Weldon Granger  
General Counsel

Since the inception of the IAM Asbestos Screening Program, our firm has provided screening and services to thousands of IAM members within the rail industry. The program was started in Altoona, Pennsylvania and worked its way across the country to provide an opportunity for those who had exposure to asbestos fiber within the work environment. Our data base continues to monitor and provide screenings to IAM members as part of the mission set by the International and District 19 over the last 25 years.

Today, many of the manufacturers that have come out of bankruptcy are paying claims to rail workers and we continue to process claims on behalf of retired and active workers. Please advise your active workers with at least 20 years of service, and retirees, that a call to our toll free number - 1-800-231-3359 - will allow them to have a screening set up in their local area. It is always a privilege to be part of such a worthy program that has benefited so many over the years.

J. Weldon Granger  
General Counsel  
District 19 - IAMAW



***One of the most important Bills for working families in years.  
The Employee Free Choice Act will enable workers to  
bargain for better wages, benefits and working conditions by restoring their right to bargain as a union. For to long,  
Companies with anti union, overpaid CEOs have kept workers  
from being organized by using threats, coercions and even firing workers for exercising their right to  
Organize their workplace.***

WELCOME TO  
DISTRICT 19

***SOUTH CENTRAL FLORIDA EXPRESS***

***BROTHERS AND SISTERS***

**International Association of Machinists  
& Aerospace Workers  
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