

## BRS Local 130 meeting minutes from April 16th, 2004

The brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen Local 130 was called to order on April 16, 2004 at 7:10 PM at the Holiday Inn Rolling Meadows in Rolling Meadows, Illinois.

16 members and 2 guests were present. The guests were Jim Glasser (Vice General Chairman- North) and Donald Eddie (BRS counsel)

### Opening Prayer

Read by Dan Louise

### Roll Call of officers

Tim Valentine and Dan Krieger were absent.

### Reading of meeting minutes

Tom Humenik forgot to bring the minutes from the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. A motion was made by Howie Merkin to forgo the reading of the minutes and seconded by Charlie Kocian. Motion carried.

### Reading of Bills and Itemized Statements

Paul Scanafani read bills and itemized Statements.

Motion to accept bills and Itemized statements as read made by Tom Jones-seconded by Tom Humenik. Motion carried.

### Report of Local Grievance Committees:

Howie Merkin filed 3 claims

1-Norwood for truck driver's pay

1-Scott for maintainer from adjacent territory working instead of maintainer assigned to that territory.

1-2 signal inspectors pulled off snow duty and replaced them with assistants

Charlie had 1 claim for Mayberry going to second denial

Paul has a claim for Weber. It's decision time.

Razniewski's claim for personal expenses received at Grand Lodge

Two claims for DSF working for Gibbons settled.

Valentine's claim about brush Cutting had its second denial.

### Report of special Committee:

Dinner Dance Committee: 172 invitations went out. 47 members attended with or without guests.

Total in attendance was 92 (includes 5 new people that have not attended yet). We gave away 59 door prizes. Total \$2,101.24 in donations of which \$1,601.24 went for door prizes. \$500.00 went back to the local. Total expense was 6578.96.

### Communications:

There was a letter from John MacArthur about the General Committee meeting that will be held July 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> at the Riveara Hotel in Las Vegas.

Jim Glasser talked about a letter from John MacArthur about zone gangs. The rule says that you will get paid \$9.00 for every 25 miles you drive to the starting point. There were some problems getting some mileage pay, so there was a claim filed and we prevailed. This seemed to get some managers upset and they decided that zone gangs were too expensive, so there is a rumor that the zone gangs are going to be abolished. We believe that this isn't going to happen because the mismanagement of the placement of these gangs is costing the company more than the claims filed. Check appendix "O"

There was also a question about using a company truck for lunch. Issues like this come up every once in a while and it will probably die out.

There is first draft of adding a "Safety Signal Forman" position. There would be 3 for each zone and Zone gang rules would apply. These are in the early part of negotiations right now. Don't sign the top line of the DOT Physical. This is the one that allows the clinic to release your medical information to the company.

If you already signed something like this, there is a form on the Website the revokes that authorization

Mr. Donald Eddie spoke to the membership about the statute of limitations. You have 3 years to file a claim against the railroad and 2 years to file against a contractor.

The accident report is the most important thing you fill out after an accident. When filling out the report, it's very important that you outline exactly what caused you to have the accident. Be specific, if there was a piece of equipment involved, get the equipment number. If there are hazards that shouldn't be there, get a witness or picture of it. This form could shape your future! Medical attention is always first, but the form must be filled out in a reasonable time. You may request a union representative to be with you. The managers also can not be in the examining room with you. You also do not have to fill out the part of the form that releases your medical information to the company.

There are new FELA cards with updated addresses and phone numbers. The old ones are Orange and the new ones are yellow.

**Do Not let your manager fill out accident forms!!**

#### Unfinished Business

None that wasn't already discussed.

#### New Business

Howie Merkin made a motion for Tom Jones to chairman the dinner dance committee. Jenette Spencer seconded. Motion carried. Tom then asked Paul Niziolek for assistance and Paul accepted. Discussion followed. Because of the local's finances, several ways to cut costs were discussed. Dan Louise made a motion for the committee to get some options together and discuss them at the July meeting. Charlie Kocian seconded. Motion Carried.

Charlie made a motion to postpone the July meeting to July 23<sup>rd</sup> due to the General Committee meeting being held on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Howie Merkin seconded. Motion carried.

Paul Niziolek made a motion to have the next meeting near Midway Airport. Jenette Spencer seconded. Motion Carried. Heated discussion followed.

#### Report of sickness of members

Kevin Connolly is still waiting for a liver transplant.

Dan Louise is off due to a back injury.

George Kreegier is off.

Stony Omaye is off with a broken ankle.

Lou Stein is off with a heart problem.

Bob Stypek is back in the hospital after a relapse of his illness.

R.H.Talbert Jr. is off with Diabetes complications.

Kenny Molbeck is off due to blood clots.

Ed Roiniotis is off due to an Aneurysm.

Wayne Gibbons is off due to bypass surgery.

Members in distress or unemployed  
None reported

Good of the union

There was a discussion about the bylaws and the need for three local chairmen. The bylaws call for two, there was a vote before the last election and the local wanted three (one for each line). There was a discussion for other ways to cut the budget. Paul Niziolek suggested that he would be willing to forgo the extra \$100.00 per quarter and just get his dues paid. Howie and Charlie agreed and it was decided that the local chairmen would only get their dues and expenses paid each quarter. It was also decided to stop the coat away at each meeting and to get rid of the food and beverage at the meetings unless a guest can pay for it. We are keeping the two drink tickets for now. The official motion was made by Dan Louise to eliminate the jacket and food at the meetings and keep the drink tickets at this time. Seconded by Don Carlson. Motion carried.

There was a discussion about which two of the three Local Chairmen were going to go to the General Committee meeting in July. There was a vote held and it turns out that Paul Niziolek and Charlie Kocian are going to represent Local 130.

There have been letters sent out about the up and coming section six notice. Some of the things listed are:

- Commuter pay rates need to be equal to Metra's
- Truck driving positions should be entitled to \$0.45/ hour all the time including maintainers.
- Longevity pay-\$0.20 for every 5 years.
- Skill pay rolled into the base rate
- System seniority
- Leader maintainer positions brought back
- Off territory allowance.

There is a section on the website message board.

Closing Prayer

Closing Prayer read by Dan Louise

Adjournment

Tim Valentine motioned for adjournment.  
Paul Niziolek seconded, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas A. Humenik  
Recording secretary BRS local 130