

BRS Local 130 meeting minutes from January 9, 2004

The brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen Local 130 was called to order on January 9, 2004 at 7:20 PM at the Holiday Inn Rolling Meadows in Rolling Meadows, Illinois.

12 members were present.

Opening Prayer

Read by Tim Valentine

Roll Call of officers

There were no officers absent.

Reading of meeting minutes

Minutes from October 10, 2003 meeting read by Tom Humenik. Motion to accept minutes as read by Howie Merkin-Seconded by Paul Niziolek. 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 Charlie Kocian-Seconded by Joe Scott. Motion carried.

Report of Local Grievance Committees:

Howie Merkin and Charlie Kocian read the reports of the local grievance committees.

There was a claim filed for a manager troubleshooting a track circuit at Mayfair plant.

Razniewski's claim for personal expenses went to Grand Lodge

Weber's claim for junior man called for OT went to Grand Lodge

Two claims for DSF working for Gibbons went to appeal

Parenti's claim about the Qualifications Exam was filed

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

Acosta's claim for unjust treatment was filed

Louise's claim for carrier misapplying LOA rules was filed

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. There was a minor discrepancy. The local financial secretary had a total of \$7,628.96 and the difference will be settled A.S.A.P.

Communications:

There was a discussion about setting up Email accounts for the officers on the Website so all of them would have the same domain to make it easier for the membership to remember. Tom Humenik is going to look into it and see how many accounts are possible.

There is a letter out from the U.P. saying that we need to use the compensated time off before using the Family Leave. We are pretty sure they can do that. If you are going on a leave of absence, fill out the UP's form for leave from the Website (www.UPRR.com) do not use the Family medical leave act unless you have to. Per our agreement, we do not have to use our vacation for sick leave. We can take a leave of absence for as long as we need.

Unfinished Business

None that wasn't already discussed.

New Business

Charlie - Mr. Butler's crew will be abolished and there are only two jobs open so there may be a furlough. Charlie has asked Mr. Glasser to talk to labor relations about it because there are Zone gangs from Texas and Nebraska working in Iowa on crossing projects and by agreement they cannot have foreign Zone gangs in Zone 5 while there is anyone furloughed.

We are not afforded protection from the contractor's agreement because there were never contractors in zone 5.

Howie - If you are injured, the carrier will ask you to sign a HIPAA form saying that you already signed one. DON'T SIGN IT!! If they are trying to intimidate you, call your local Chairman immediately! If fact, the Local Chairman should be the first person you call. This form will release your medical information to the railroad. We are not covered under workman's Compensation; we are covered under the Federal Employers liability Act (FELA). If you don't have one of the orange cards, get one!!

Do not rush or "pencil whip" FRA reports. Fill out a "late FRA form and give it to your Manager and Local Chairman.

Paul - The railroad is trying to commingle brush cutting having section trim brush along the right of way including signal-related brush. That is our work, so watch your territories.

Report of sickness of members

Webster coming back Feb. 1st.

Pete Smith is off

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.

Members in distress or unemployed

None reported

Good of the union

Paul talked to Greg Larson who said that he will back us in writing in the section six notice to give us extra pay in Commuter Ops.

Section six notices are being sent out in November 2004.

Us as members need to put suggestions out for changes in the agreement. These changes need to be in with the section six notice.

Joe Called Walt Barrows about local 130 by-laws. They call for 2 local chairmen and we voted 3 in. There was a discussion about the United Healthcare and Advocate negotiations. If your doctor's hospital pulled out of United Healthcare, your Doctor may still be part of the program, but there may be a problem with in-patient procedures. This is the way Hospitals and Doctors

negotiate their contracts with the insurance company. Mr. Pickett is also talking to other rail unions to give us an opportunity to switch to Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

The BLE went with the Teamsters and the BMW is thinking about it. Just so we know, the only change that the members will see is that the BLE will no longer exist. The only benefit the BLE members will have is that there will be another entity managing the union. The members will pay a fee to the Teamsters on top of their union dues. Don't get the impression that if the Teamsters strike that we will, also. All railroad unions are under the Railway Labor Act.

Tom Humenik won the BRS Jacket raffle.

Closing Prayer

Closing Prayer read by Tim Valentine

Adjournment

Tim Valentine motioned for adjournment.

Paul Niziolek seconded, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas A. Humenik
Recording secretary BRS local 130