

## BRS Local 130 meeting minutes from July 11, 2003

The brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen Local 130 was called to order on July 11, 2003 at 7:15 PM at the Courtyard by Marriott in Elmhurst, Illinois.

### Opening Prayer

Read by Kevin Lavin

### Roll Call of officers

Absent members were President Joe Scott and Trustee Dave Wright.

### Reading of meeting minutes

Minutes from April 11, 2003 meeting accepted.

### Reading of Bills and Itemized Statements

Paul Sclafani read bill and itemized statements.

Charlie Kocian motioned to accept itemized statements and expenses as read and Howie Merkin 2nd - Motion carried.

### Report of Local Grievance Committees:

Howie Merkin read local grievance committee report.

Charlie Kocian had a meeting with J. O'Connor about accusations toward members.

### Report of special Committee:

Dinner Dance Committee: Dinner Dance this year will be held at The Wilton Manor on the corner of Schmale Rd. and Geneva Rd. November 1st, 2003. The dinner selections will be Steak or Fish (Salmon). Cost will be free for Local 130 members and people invited by the committee. Others will pay \$50.00 per person.

### Communications:

Paul Niziolek went to a meeting with the Railroad Retirement Board. He can send information via fax or he will bring to the October meeting.

When the railroad hires new assistants, where they are FIRST assigned becomes their home station. If the railroad moves your HQ, then you are entitled to expenses. If you request to move and the request is granted, then you are NOT entitled to expenses.

BULLETINS and ASSIGNMENTS--There are several ways to get the bulletins and assignments. If there is a difference between them, then TCS is the official bulletin until further notice.

### Unfinished Business

None that wasn't already covered.

### New Business

Tim DePape spoke of the tentative agreement and there were many questions.

- Pattern Bargaining--That's the way things have been done. Once one union settles a labor agreement, the NCCC expects that the rest of the unions will settle in the same manner. We are the third union to settle (if the agreement is ratified).
- 14.5% raise for the life of the agreement--That figure is compounded (2.5% the first raise then 3.5% added to the total then 3.0% added to that total...etc.)
- The healthcare contributions are taken out of the gross (pre-tax) earnings. The average check for the lump sum back pay will be \$887.09 if you only worked straight time. Overtime

earnings will add to that and if there were any months that you didn't get paid from the railroad; you shouldn't have to pay for those months of health coverage.

- There is no "me, too" clause in the agreement, so if the next unions do better than us, then it wouldn't matter.
- General chairmen do not vote for or against the agreement. They only vote yes or no to send it to the general membership to be voted on.
- It was asked that we break down the voting to the local level so we can see which locals voted for or against the agreement to send a message to both the carriers and the union about where the problems lie. Mr. DePape said that he would check into it.
- The union leadership would like us to vote for it and avoid going to a PEB.

Howie asked for a new copy machine. There was a motion to set a cap at \$500.00 and if it ran more, he would have to get it approved by the trustees. Motion carried.

There was a question brought up about Internet expenses. Currently, the local pays for the Internet access for the officers and the question was if the local should pay for high-speed access or just pay for dial up access with the officer paying the difference. It was decided that if the officer could prove that high-speed access was necessary, then the local would cover the expense. Motion carried.

#### Report of sickness of members

Kevin Connolly is still waiting for a liver transplant. I talked to him a few days ago and he was doing fine. He also wanted me to thank all of you that contributed to his fund at the dinner dance.

Dan Louise is off due to a back injury.

Dave Kreeger is off for back surgery.

Tony Cutrano is off on leave of absence.

Ken Chronkhite is off on leave of absence.

#### Members in distress or unemployed

Mr. Chavez (Lake St.) is back from the reserves and will be returning to work.

Mr. Mayberry is in Iraq

#### Good of the union

Kevin Carter won the BRS Jacket raffle. (It's about time)

#### Adjournment

Mike Chapman motioned, Leon Ferguson seconded, and Meeting adjourned.