

BRS Local 130 meeting minutes from July 23rd, 2004

The brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen Local 130 was called to order on July 23rd, 2004 at 7:10 PM at the Courtyard by Marriott in Elmhurst, Illinois.

11 members were in attendance and the guest was Frank Petro of the Petro and Petro law firm. Mr. Henry DePaepe served as local president.

Opening Prayer

Read by Paul Niziolek

Roll Call of officers

Tim Valentine and Joe Scott were absent.

Reading of meeting minutes

Tom Humenik read the meeting minutes from April 16, 2004. A motion was made by Howie Merkin to accept minutes as read. 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 Charlie Kocian-seconded by Tom Jones. Motion carried.

Report of Local Grievance Committees:

There were no new claims filed. Howie did have three claims that went up to the second level

Report of special Committee:

Cost cutting measures for the dinner dance were discussed and it was decided that local 130 members would continue to be free and their guests would pay 50%. BRS members outside the local would pay 50% and their guests would pay full price.

Communications:

Charlie Kocian had two letters of agreement

The first dealt with employees transferring from Signal to another craft and seniority retention.

The agreement says that an employee returning from another craft before their probationary period is finished may only displace a permanent position.

The second letter concerns carrier issues about computer based training. Employees that utilize CBT on their own time may take paid time off in lieu of getting paid for their time. It further agreed that this time would be granted in the same manner of personal leave days. If the time is not used by the end of the year, they will be paid for the days.

Unfinished Business

None that wasn't already discussed.

New Business

There was a report made about the goings on at the General Committee meeting in Las Vegas.

The new General Chairman is Grover Pankey.

Howie Merkin was chosen to be the Assistant vice General Chairman – North.

There were quite a few local section six priorities:

- Bring back Leader Maintainers
- Truck drivers working a CDL required job would get an extra hour of OT pay every day for doing CDL required paperwork and an increase of \$2.00/hour.
- Minimum trouble call would be 5 hrs.
- On-call pay (standby time) for covering and 5 hrs OT minimum per call
- All vacation time could be broken up into separate days and holidays could be bridged and you only need to work the day before OR the day after to qualify for the holiday.

- Bereavement leave would include Brother/Sister-in-law and grandchildren (national level).
- Personal days would be one for every three years of service.
- Displacement would be for any material increase for ALL classes
- Travel gangs would get hotel rooms with microwaves and refrigerators.
- Carrier pays for any move during a session (rule 36).
- \$10.00/hour increase for all employees that are required to sign FRA forms.
- Commuter pay rate equal to METRA
- Double time for OT.
- Skill pay rolled into base rates.
- Double time for being off territory.
- Holiday pay qualified if you work on the actual holiday.
- Before contracting and Sub-contracting, all jobs must be filled on the system.
- Carrier matches 401(k) contributions.
- Employees on active military duty would be paid the difference (like jury duty).
- Tie travel gang mileage to COLA
- California asked for increase of \$200.00 to stipend.
- Get hotel CRC cards that are the same as management cards (there are currently 3 different classes of cards).

REMEMBER: these are only things we are asking for.

There was a discussion about getting supplemental accident insurance for the members. This would cost us \$2.55/month for coverage at work only and \$10.00 to \$20.00/month for coverage 24/7. This would cover us against uninsured/underinsured motorist and gives a benefit of \$3,000,000.00 per accident. Accidental death and dismemberment benefits of \$500,000.00 and pay of \$550.00/ week (maximum) or 70% of your pay. This would also be paid on top of any other insurance.

The UP is going to get rid of the signal shop in Sedalia. They are hammering out the details and the biggest concern is Railroad Retirement. It sounds like the person taking over will do something to keep the employees under Railroad Retirement.

Report of sickness of members

Kevin Connolly is still waiting for a liver transplant.

Dan Louise is off due to a back injury.

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.

Dave Berndt is still off due to a head injury.

Wayne Gibbons is off due to bypass surgery.

Members in distress or unemployed

None reported

Good of the union

Frank Petro of the law firm Petro and Petro talked about asbestos and filling out the UP accident report. 27 Local 130 members were tested because of the asbestos incident at CY tower. That

terminal board is almost all asbestos. There are two maladies associated with asbestos exposure. The first is Asbestosis, which is an inflammation of the inner lining of the lungs and is considered an occupational illness (like Carpal Tunnel). The other is Mesothelioma, which is a type of lung cancer. If you were exposed at all, get checked. At least then there is a record of concern if either of these things happens in the future.

Mr. Petro also talked about filling out a UP accident report of personal injury or occupational illness.

Be precise on location and time. Don't let claims agents and managers sweet-talk or intimidate you. They work for the railroad! When it comes to the actual explanation, the less specific you are the better. Months later, they will try to fry you for whatever you say. The forms ask the same question several times trying to trip you up. If you are injured, call your union representative or the law firm to help you fill out the accident report. Go to your doctor and tell him everything. He will make the connection between your injury and what happened.

There was a discussion about the location of the next meeting and it will be on the South side. There was a question brought up about renting a VFW or similar hall. It would be cheaper and the bar is already in place. Other locals do it and they seem to like it that way. Paul will look into it.

Tom Jones asked for and received a check for the dinner dance committee to use.

Closing Prayer

Closing Prayer read by Paul Niziolek

Adjournment

Howie Merkin motioned for adjournment.

Charlie Kocian seconded, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas A. Humenik
Recording secretary BRS local 130