

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 17, 2016  
**Subject:** National Negotiations Update

Sisters and Brothers,

As I made you aware in previous emails, negotiations and mediation are moving along at a snail's pace. Also as I advised earlier, health care is the big elephant in the room.

All of the Rail Labor Unions are looking at different ways to work through this issue. On May 4th, 2016 all of the three Rail Labor coalitions - which are comprised of all of the Rail Labor Unions - met to discuss innovative approaches to addressing the Health and Welfare issues (due to this meeting the NMB cancelled our May mediation sessions). System Council 16 General Chairman Dale Doyle and I attended on behalf of the IBEW.

While I'm not at liberty to discuss the specifics of the meeting, I must say that it went very well and most Rail Labor Unions seem to be in agreement to a different approach. Unfortunately, 3 Rail Labor Chiefs were unable to attend. However/ they did have representatives at the meeting who all seemed to like the ideas presented, but their International Presidents still must give their approval. So presently we are awaiting their Oks to move forward.

Once all Rail Labor unions are on board with this different approach, we will notify the railroads and the NMB and negotiations/mediation will resume. If all can't agree with this new approach, then we will resume mediation where we left *off*, with the NMB scheduling additional mediation sessions. But hopefully all of Rail Labor will be in agreement and we can all begin moving in the same direction with the Health and Welfare issues.

I will continue to keep you apprised as the situation progresses. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this difficult process. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Fraternally,

Bill Bohne, Jr.  
Director - IBEW Railroad Department  
202-728-6016