

Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015

Subject: National Negotiations

Sisters and Brothers,

The last meeting for National Negotiations was held on Tuesday September 15, 2015 in Crystal City, VA. This was our 5th meeting to date.

As I have advised you previously, it seems like the Railroads' main concern is reducing their Health and Welfare costs and containing future Health and Welfare cost increases. One of their main concerns is the Health and Welfare "Cadillac Tax" which will go into effect in 2018. While we don't believe it will affect our plan for quite a few years, the railroads believe otherwise. In past meetings our discussions centered on how to move forward, and a subcommittee was formed to look into various Health and Welfare issues. At this meeting we gave the railroads a wage proposal, and also advised them of a couple of minor modifications to the Health and Welfare that we may be agreeable to in an effort to help contain costs, none of which would have much, if any, impact on your benefits or costs. Of course anything we would be willing to do in the area of Health and Welfare would depend on the wage increases the railroads would be agreeable to.

Needless to say, our coalition is not very happy at the pace at which these negotiations are proceeding, and we are beginning to discuss our options. Following our presentation, the railroads said they would take our proposal under advisement

and respond to us at our next bargaining session scheduled for October 6th and 7th.

I will again update you following those sessions.

Any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Fraternally,

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