



# BROTHERHOOD OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS & TRAINMEN

GENERAL COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT  
Canadian National - Wisconsin Central Ltd  
*Including former DM&IR, DWP and EJ&E Railways*

## General Chairman's Report - March 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This is a condensed synopsis of the General Committee's activities for the month of March 2016.

### CORRESPONDENCE

- With Local Chairmen, BLET National, and Labor Relations regarding various time claims, contract interpretations and discipline issues.
- With CN Labor Relations regarding Inward Facing Cameras, Attachment "C", voluntary furloughs, Off Track Vehicle Accident Benefits, borrow outs on the Cedar River Railroad and excessive discipline.
- With BLET National Division concerning Inward Facing Cameras, rollouts at Kirk Yard.
- With CN General Managers regarding voluntary furloughs and discipline issues.
- Discuss issues of mutual concern with IC GC Craddock, CP GC Semenek, BN GC Holdcraft and UP GC Crow.
- Also received 238 phone calls in the month of March 2016 discussing various issues with Labor Relations, Timekeeping, Managers, Local Chairmen and Members.

### Handled various issues regarding, but not limited to:

- General Office Duties: Telephone and Correspondence Communications
- Contract issues
- Members held out of service for medical reasons
- Inward Facing Cameras
- Red light violations
- Seniority Roster issues

- Attachment "C" issues
- The Hartford, Lincoln Financial, MetLife and AFLAC Insurance
- Remote Control Issues – Kirk Yard
- Job abolishment's/Regular assignments
- Critical Incidents
- Prior Rights issues
- Engineer familiarization trips
- Borrow outs on the Cedar River Railroad
- Off Track Vehicle Accident Benefits
- Roll Out Issues – Kirk Yard
- National Health & Welfare Plan assistance
- Western General Chairman Association
- Discipline Issues
- Mobilization
- FMLA Assistance
- Legislative Issues – Michigan
- Legislative Issues – Wisconsin
- Legislative Issues – Indiana
- Legislative Issues – Illinois
- Legislative Issues – Minnesota
- GCA Meeting
- BLET Auxiliary
- GCA Website – ongoing maintenance

**DISCIPLINE:**

In March 2016, this office received two new discipline cases from the Local Chairmen of the following Division:

- Division 163 – 1
- Division 174 – 1

In March 2016, this office submitted 6 discipline appeals to Labor Relations for the following Divisions:

- Division 163 – 1
- Division 173 – 1
- Division 188 – 2
- Division 520 – 2

In March 2016, this office scheduled 6 discipline appeals for conference to Labor Relations for the following Divisions:

- Division 163 – 3
- Division 188 – 2
- Division 520 – 1

In March 2016, Divisions 173 and 188 each had 1 investigation that resulted in no discipline assessed and the Claimants were compensated 1 days' pay for attending the investigation.

In March 2016, a dismissed Member from Division 520 was reinstated back to service on a last chance waiver.

Labor Relations further declined to two discipline appeals from Division 188. These discipline appeals will be pursued in accordance of Article 30 (2)(D) of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

#### **ARBITRATION:**

In March 2016, this office requested for 33 hearings before the First Division of the National Railroad Adjustment Board with a Referee present for the purpose of considering evidence that has been submitted, hearing argument, and rendering an award in these cases for the following Divisions:

- Division 163 – 4
- Division 173 – 5
- Division 174 – 3
- Division 185 – 2
- Division 188 – 10
- Division 209 – 1
- Division 520 – 8

The following Dockets requested for hearings before the Division with a Referee present that were scheduled to be held at the headquarters of the First Division of the National Railroad Adjustment Board, Thursday, March 17, 2016 have been postponed until Thursday, May 26, 2016. The reason for postponement was that funding was not approved by the National Mediation Board.

Case NRAB-00001-140233  
Docket No. 48226

Case NRAB-00001-140234  
Docket No. 48227

Case NRAB-00001-140235  
Docket No. 48228

Case NRAB-00001-140236

Docket No. 48229

**TIME CLAIMS:**

In March 2016, this office received 19 new time claims from the Local Chairmen of the following Division:

- Division 163 – 5
- Division 173 – 6
- Division 188 – 6
- Division 209 – 2

In March 2016, this office appealed 20 Step 3 time claims to Labor Relations for the following Divisions:

- Division 163 – 5
- Division 173 – 4
- Division 188 – 10
- Division 209 – 1

In March 2016, this office scheduled 22 time claims to conference at next LMRC for the following Divisions:

- Division 163 – 17
- Division 188 – 5

In March of 2016, 1 claim was paid for \$195.19 for a deadhead shortage at the Step 3 level appeal to Labor Relations for a Member of Division 188.

In March 2016, this office resolved a dispute with the Carrier for a Member of Division 188 pertaining to Article 23 (4) – Off Track Vehicle Benefits. As a result of the resolution, the Member received \$25,530.80 in retroactive back pay.

I strongly urge all members when submitting time claims to enter them in CATS as shown in GCA Time Claim Guide that was distributed to the membership. If you did not receive a copy of the GCA Time Claim Guide or have any questions on submitting time claims, please contact your Local Chairman.

The CN-WC General Committee of Adjustments convened for its Quadrennial meeting in Green Bay, Wisconsin on March 30-31, 2016. John W. Reynolds, Division 209 (Green Bay, WI) was reelected by acclamation as General Chairman. Also elected were: Vice General Chairman Eric A. Hau, Division 173 (Fond du Lac, Wisc.), reelected by acclamation; 1st Alternate Vice General Chairman Jason T. Alexander, Division 184 (Schiller Park, Ill.); 2nd Alternate Vice General Chairman Steven L. Moerke, Division 188 (Superior, Wisc.), elected by acclamation; Secretary-Treasurer Eugene Shy Ziegler, Division 173 (Fond du Lac, Wisc.), reelected by acclamation; and Alternate Secretary-Treasurer Tim J. Foster, Division 173 (Fond du Lac, Wisc.), reelected by acclamation.

Elected to serve as Trustees of the Committee were: Chuck M. Schulz, Division 175 (Neenah, Wisc.); Mike D. Ostertag, Division 209 (Green Bay, Wisc.); and Jason T. Alexander, Division 184 (Schiller Park, Ill.).

BLET National Division officers in attendance were: National President Dennis R. Pierce; First Vice President E. Lee Pruitt; Vice President and National Legislative Representative John P. Tolman; and National Vice President Marcus J. Ruef. Also representing the National Division was Special Representative Paul T. Aird, the BLET's Director of Organizing and Director of Mobilization-Western Region. Additionally, Sereena Hogan, National President of the BLET Auxiliary, also was in attendance and addressed the body.

Five BLET State Legislative Board Chairmen were in attendance: David K. Brown, Minnesota; Paul S. Piekarski, Illinois; Brian J. Farkas, Indiana; Chuck M. Schulz, Wisconsin; and B.J. Trumble, Michigan. General Chairman Dick Crow, Union Pacific-Northern Region, was also in attendance.

Delegates went over new and old business and reviewed their by-laws, concluding all business in an orderly and professional fashion.

I would like to acknowledge the retirements of the following Members:

- Curt Dotts – Division 175
- Jerome Schneider – Division 175

## **SUPPORT BLET-PAC!**

Cutting Amtrak funding, loss of job protection, repeal of rail safety regulations, repeal of the Federal Employees Liability Act and the possible loss of our Railroad Retirement system are just a few reasons why... WE MUST FIGHT BACK!

With more than a century of experience, we know that we must forcefully advocate our interests if we want to protect our profession, our families and the millions of Americans we serve.

History shows that we are strongest when our members back BLET's legislative and political action programs. And, like it or not, collective bargaining in the rail industry is vitally linked to legislation – just look at the events of 1991 and 1992 when Congress became a key player in our bargaining disputes and denied railroad workers our right to strike. And Congress continues to introduce legislation that abrogates our negotiated contracts.

Anti-rail labor interests routinely spend massive sums of money to elect hostile candidates, and to encourage anti-rail labor legislation and regulations. A strong and effective BLET-PAC is needed to fight for us and to promote BLET's interests in the political process.

BLET-Pac gives us the power in the political processes to:

- ◆ Elect politicians who will respond to our interests.
- ◆ Influence legislation and regulations to take into account our concerns.
- ◆ Stop those who try to take away our jobs, harm rail safety, or infringe upon our rights as workers.
- ◆ Give BLET-PAC the power to fight for us in Washington and state capitols across the nation.

Support BLET-PAC!

- ◆ Fight to protect your job, improve your standard of living, and influence rail labor policies.

- ◆ Help ensure that candidates responsive to the needs of engineers and trainmen get elected to office at the state and federal levels.
- ◆ Take pride and participate in the BLET-PAC as we fight for our union and meet our challenges head on now, and into this century.

**MEETINGS - IN TOWN MEETINGS**

3/3/2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Met with FVC Hau, GST Ziegler and Division 185 LC Casey concerning CBA issues and up-coming GCA meeting.</li> </ul>
3/10/2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Met with FVC Hau &amp; Division 209 LC Ostertag concerning discipline issues and up-coming GCA meeting.</li> </ul>
3/13/2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend Division 209 meeting.</li> </ul>
3/14/2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Met with Member of Division 209 concerning borrow outs on the Cedar River Railroad.</li> </ul>
3/23/2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Met with FVC Hau concerning discipline issues and up-coming GCA meeting.</li> </ul>
3/28/2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Met with FVC Hau concerning discipline issues and up-coming GCA meeting.</li> </ul>
3/29/2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Met with FVC Hau, GST Ziegler, Division 185 LC Casey and Division 188 LC Moerke concerning the GCA By-Laws.</li> </ul>
3/30-2016- 3/31/2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Met with GCA for the CN-WC GCA Quadrennial Meeting.</li> </ul>

**MEETINGS – OUT OF TOWN MEETINGS**

3/15/2016-3/17/2016	Chicago, IL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Met with BLET VP Ruef concerning discipline appeals and CBA issues.</li> </ul>
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Fraternally yours,

*John Reynolds*

John Reynolds  
General Chairman, CN-WC BLET