

Teamsters Hall
01-11-2016 0900

Open meeting without due form.

Motion to suspend reading of previous minutes by, B McCoy, seconded by D Carman Jr, unanimous.

BLE 183 Report:

RE01:27 turns on, calls for 27.1

RE10:24 turns on, calls for 23.2

BLE 699 Report :

12 turns on, calls for 12.2

Vacation Reminder – If you bid out of a week you don't have, or bid into a week not up for bid, you will be passed over on your bid.

Legislative:

None

New Members:

None

Financial Report:

\$11,907.47 ending balance 01/11/16 and 108 members.

Motion to accept financial report by J Sichta, seconded by D O'Brien, unanimous.

Unfinished Business:

Due to long waiting periods for yard vans at N Platte, we have put a complaint form out on the web page. You will need to record the time you called YOS for pick up and the time you get to the yard office. These will be forwarded to GC Geisler. We are looking for excessive times 20-30+ minutes.

The new contract is in the early stages of negotiation. It could take 1-2 years to be finalized.

New Business:

Everyone will be required to go to a two-day MAP class in the next 3-6 months. This will be a familiarization for the new discipline policy and will be paid.

We discussed the relieving of trains from the NCRC at Grand Island and Central City. There have been problems with not having proper paperwork, CCS not done, DPUs not inspected.

We discussed MAPs critical incident. We recommend you check it out on the UP website.

We discussed managers demanding work to be done without the proper paperwork on some locals. If you have a problem with this, contact LC Brooner.

To activate a prearranged layoff, you must be in OK status. To cancel it, you have to do so 48+ hours prior to the day.

The company is leaning toward going back to one in every three years rule exams.

Superintendent Torres is being transferred to San Antonio. Our new superintendent will be Paul Hinton, from the Twin Cities.

LC Brooner has recently had a case involving IFCs. Remember, they are not our friends and will catch EVERYTHING you do in the cab. As of now, they can only be used in cases involving a PI, EEO violation or a collision. Also remember, cell phone detectors are paired with the cameras. They will record any data sent, received, texting, voice transmissions, etc. You cannot simply leave your phone in airplane mode. Our advice is to place phone into airplane mode and turn off.

Sick:

BLET699

none

BLET183

K Kinney R Schrack
R Skalberg C Colley
J Pyka D Pietryga
R Gibler R Murray

Motion to suspend reading the minutes by B McCoy, seconded by D Carman, Jr, unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05

Teamsters Hall
02-08-2016 0900

Open meeting without due form.

Motion to suspend reading of previous minutes by, D Carman, Jr, seconded by W Keefer, 8-1.

BLE 183 Report:

RE01:28 turns on, calls for 29.79

RE10:25 turns on, calls for 24.7

BLE 699 Report :

12.2 turns on, calls for 12

Legislative:

The Nebraska State Legislative Board triennial meeting is coming up. If you have any FRA related questions, you can email them to J Sweeney and he will present them.

There was a discussion about the violating hours of service in an emergency (i.e. snow). If you are on the main line, you are required to violate. If you're not on the main line, the carrier can not force you to violate.

New Members:

None

Financial Report:

\$11,867.07 ending balance 02/08/16 and 103 members.

Motion to accept financial report by D Carman, Jr, seconded by S Johnson, unanimous.

Unfinished Business:

The motion to give B McCoy an extra \$1/month per member passed 22-1. Goes into effect March 2016.

New Business:

CBSU has a new superintendent, Paul Hinton.

There was a discussion about the securement rule which requires the removal of a reverser on a tied down train which is not a key train. LC Brooner is going to clarify this with management.

Remember to log off your EMS system at the conclusion of your trip. One more thing that management is taking exception to.

If your Fuelmaster card expires and there is still money on it, you can contact CitiBank. You won't lose the money.

The form that is used for reporting long van waits at N Platte, can also be used for occurrences at Mo. Valley. Find this form on the BLET183 website.

To their advantage, the carrier has made sure there is an agreement for tying up in alternate locations

due to bad weather. They are not as concerned to establish an agreement for employees who can not make it work to be able to lay off due to bad weather. GC Geisler is looking into it.

We discussed trains being brought into Fremont from Boone that are low on fuel. LC Brooner is checking into Boone's policy on reporting fuel levels.

We discussed why the carrier can't post a list of dates for employees rule exams. Concerning the rules exams, the carrier is keeping their two on/one off policy.

Sick:

BLET699

none

BLET183

K Kinney	R Schrack
R Skalberg	C Colley
J Pyka	D Pietryga
R Gibler	R Murray

Motion to suspend reading the minutes by J Sweeney, seconded by J Sichta, unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10

Teamsters Hall
03-14-2016 0900

Open meeting without due form.

Motion to suspend reading of previous minutes by, B McCoy, seconded by D Carman, Jr, Unanimous.

BLE 183 Report:

RE01:28 turns on, calls for 27

RE10:22 turns on, calls for 22.45

BLE 699 Report :

No Report

Legislative:

There has been a proposal to change the number of hours to qualify for FMLA from 1250 hours to 504 hours.

As a reminder, email any FRA questions to John Sweeney by April 3rd, to bring up at the triennial legislative meeting.

New Members:

Rob Kennedy – Motion to accept B McCoy, seconded J Nourse, 10-2.

Financial Report:

\$11,724.02 ending balance 03/14/16 and 103 members.

Motion to accept financial report by D Carman, Jr, seconded by B McCoy, unanimous.

Unfinished Business:

Concerning prearranged layoffs: the company is having problems with employees putting in for prearranged layoff and not taking the days and not canceling the request. There has been talk about discontinuing prearranged layoffs for those who abuse this option. Discussion about changing the time window for canceling from 48 hours to 24 hours.

New Business:

There was discussion on yard engineers laying off on their assigned days and then working rest days. LC Brooner is checking the agreement.

From GC Geisler - Concerning electronic devices: smart watches, or similar devices are subject to the same conditions as other electronic devices. He would recommend that Fitbits and similar devices be turned off and stowed. Also, it has come to our attention that managers are able to download IFC footage to their laptop when there is probable cause.

There was an incident where a manager in the cab of a locomotive used his cell phone while the crew was in a red zone. The carrier's position is that this is allowed. We feel that this is a distraction and all movement, activity should be stopped. There will be a discussion with the FRA.

There are many new YOS's and drivers at N Platte. Expect some delays while they are learning.

There was a motion made by T Brooner, seconded by D O'Brien to donate \$525 to Dennis Lindsey to help with his brother's funeral expenses. Unanimous.

We discussed the matching of funds of up to \$300 by the law firm of Hunegs, LeNeave and Kvas for a big screen TV to be given away in a drawing around Christmas time to members attending five or more monthly meeting throughout the remainder of the year.

We are establishing a new calling tree for members. The captains will be B Young, J Sichta, S Johnson, W Keefer and D Carman, Jr.

There was a motion made by T Brooner, seconded by J Sichta to have business cards made up for Legislative Rep J Sweeney. Unanimous.

We discussed using crews off of work trains, south trains, etc. to relieve crews short on time. There is no recourse if the carrier decides to do this.

New Superintendent expressed his desire to move pools to Mo Valley. There will be a lot of discussion concerning feasibility, etc. before this actually takes place.

Sick:

BLET699

none

BLET183

R Schrack T Caudillo

R Skalberg C Colley

J Pyka D Pietryga

R Gibler

Motion to suspend reading the minutes by W Keefer, seconded by J Sichta, unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20

Teamsters Hall
04-11-2016 0900

Open meeting without due form.

Motion to suspend reading of previous minutes by, D Shultz, seconded by B McCoy, Unanimous.

BLE 183 Report:

RE01:25 turns on, calls for 25-27

RE10:20 turns on, calls for 19.97-21.58

BLE 699 Report :

No Report

Legislative:

None

New Members:

None

Financial Report:

\$10,484.11 ending balance 04/11/16 and 104 members.

Motion to accept financial report by B McCoy, seconded by J Sichta, unanimous.

Unfinished Business:

Concerning the moving of the Sioux City pool from Fremont to Co Bluffs – some of the concerns expressed by the BLE/UTU: more vans needed, more overtime might occur, extra board manpower, etc. These were discussed with Superintendent Hinton and he agreed to hold off until more discussion on the April 20th meeting.

Yard engineers must work their assigned days before they can work their rest days (called before extra board).

New Business:

Sadie Hawkins moves are taking more time to implement since Terry or Brian have to actually talk to a caller. If you wait until you're first out and a train is prompted, you might be called before your move is actually implemented.

Summer Safety Spike is taking place May 1st – 15th. There will probably be more managers out testing, etc. looking for more critical rules incidents. Pay attention!

At the Oscar track in No Platte, there is now a clearance point, which trains must be cut west of when setting out bad orders.

The company is playing games with the manpower on extra boards again. We are trying to get this resolved.

There have been numerous problems with yard vans and van dispatching at No Platte. Make sure you're reporting excessive wait times on the BLET website.

Concerning the construction going on at the Oak Tree Inn in No Platte – if you can't get a room away from the construction, and the noise is disrupting your rest, contact CMS and explain the situation.

We need to appoint three trustees and three alternate trustees to review monthly financial reports.

A motion was made to raise monthly dues by \$3.00 since our local is just breaking even every month, by R Smith, seconded by B McCoy. We will vote on this over the next 3-month period.

The GCA is coming in August. Discussion was held on general wage increase, health and welfare concerns, etc.

From LC Brooner, concerning the regulating of the RE10 and RE01 pools:

The company was asked to regulate the boards by starts instead of miles. When we voted to raise miles, it was to reflect eight turns per month on the RE10 pool and seven turns per month on the RE01 pool. Every Thursday, the boards will be regulated on the previous 20 days.

There has been a lot of misinformation spread about the starts on each pool. Hopefully this will clarify LC Brooner's position. If you have questions, you can contact him.

Sick:

BLET699

none

BLET183

R Schrack J Pizinger
R Skalberg C Colley
J Pyka D Pietryga
R Gibler

Motion to suspend reading the minutes by A Montes, seconded by D Shultz, unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40

Teamsters Hall
05-09-2016 0900

Open meeting without due form.

Motion to suspend reading of previous minutes by, W Keefer, seconded by J Sichta, 7-2.

BLE 183 Report:

RE01:28 turns on, calls for 27.4-29.4

RE10:21 turns on, calls for 20.6-22.26

On 5/7/16, there was a mass dropping of turns on the RE01 board due to the company's failure to keep manpower on the extra boards and not getting the RE02 crews to Council Bluffs in a timely manner.

LC Brooner is in the process of adjusting the boards.

BLE 699 Report :

No Report

Legislative:

The NSLB is changing from a triennial meeting to a quadrennial meeting. The state legislative board is upping the amount given to each local to \$500. The dues for members will increase from \$6 to \$9 per month. The company was fined due to FRA hours of service claims put in by a member, if you have a claim or questions concerning a claim contact Brother Sweeney.

New Members:

None

Financial Report:

\$12,230.11 ending balance 05/09/16 and 102 members.

Last month, there was a motion made to raise dues by \$3, but due to the unforeseen raise in the NSLB dues, an amending motion was made to raise dues by \$5 to cover the dues increase, while still having \$2 going to the local. This will be voted on over the next three meetings.

Motion made by T Brooner, seconded by J Mimick, Unanimous.

Motion to accept financial report by D Carman, Jr, seconded by J Sichta, Unanimous.

Unfinished Business:

A superintendent bulletin has come out stating that all crews reporting a tie up on the CB service unit NX001 must tie up on a computer terminal in the CB yard office. DO NOT use Quick60 tie up unless you are out of time. This pertains to the RE02 and RT02 as well.

Trip Optimizer is now active on the Columbus Sub. If you're not trained on TO, put this in your EMS report.

Three trustees have been appointed by President Call: J Sweeney, J Sichta and E Abboud. Alternates are D Zahnnow, with two more to be appointed. Trustees will be responsible for overview of monthly financial reports.

Yard engineers must work their assigned days before requesting to work rest days.

Still no news on the carrier moving the Sioux City pool to Council Bluffs from Fremont.

New Business:

Cell phones must be turned off and stowed even in yard offices unless you are downloading rules.

There is still construction occurring at the Oak Tree Inn in No Platte. GC Geisler stated that if there are rooms available, you must take one even if it's near the construction. LC Brooner suggests that if you are not able to get your rest due to the construction, call CMS and explain the situation.

The carrier has been trading crews on trains due to crews being short on time outside a terminal. It appears there is nothing in the agreements to prevent this, although a possible time claim will be posted on the BLET website.

The company continues to not let dogcatch crews know if they are zone or non-zone. Be sure you are putting in a claim if being held over an hour.

In the yard, if you are being denied a meal period, between 4.5 and 6 hours on duty, contact LC Brooner. This is in our agreements and the company is required to allow a meal period. If you are denied a meal period after requesting it, you don't have to work over 6 hours. After 10 hours, you are entitled to a second meal period.

If you are told to tie another train down because the crew ran out of time, you must do a proper securement of your own train first.

In Council Bluffs, if light power is being tied down, and will be used within two hours, breakers and the battery knife switch can be left on. Over two hours, all breakers and knife switches must be opened.

If you are having any concerns about the new format of track bulletins, please report this to the Safety Hotline.

LC Brooner is looking into putting a stop to the Total Safety Culture (which we have no desire to be part of) messages/propaganda being put out by some of the managers.

Sick:

BLET699

none

BLET183

R Schrack C Colley

R Skalberg

J Pyka

T Caudillo

Motion to suspend reading the minutes by J Sweeney, seconded by W Keefer, unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45

Teamsters Hall
06-13-2016 0900

Open meeting without due form.

Motion to suspend reading of previous minutes by, D Carman, Jr, seconded by D Shultz, Unanimous.

BLE 183 Report:

RE01:27 turns on, calls for 27.32

RE10:22 turns on, calls for 23.39

BLE 699 Report :

No Report

Legislative:

None

New Members:

None

Financial Report:

\$12,063.76 ending balance 06/13/16 and 103 members.

In April, there was a motion made to raise dues by \$3, but due to the unforeseen raise in the NSLB dues, an amending motion was made to raise dues by \$5 to cover the dues increase, while still having \$2 going to the local. This will be voted on over the next three meetings.

Motion made by T Brooner, seconded by J Mimick, Unanimous.

Motion to accept financial report by D Shultz, seconded by W Keefer, Unanimous.

BLET183 would like to thank the generous donors to our annual golf tournament: Cornerstone and LECMPA \$700, Nebraska Legislative Board \$500, Bremseth Law Firm \$200, Hunegs, LeNeave & Kvas Law Firm \$500.

Unfinished Business:

Construction still going on at N Platte Oak Tree Inn. If you can not get a room at least three rooms away from the construction, you can request to use another lodging facility. If you are having any trouble with the Oak Tree, let LC Brooner know.

If you are called for a make whole, be sure to tell the caller to instruct the manager to drop your turn. You can send LC Brooner a text when accepting a make whole and he will make sure the turn is dropped.

Again – DO NOT run your lunch period on a yard job.

Due to the lack of manpower on all boards, attendance issues are again becoming prevalent.

GC Geisler is looking into the denial of driving mile claims within the OMC. We recommend, if possible, take a van.

Do not have your cell phone on in a yard office/crew room.

National is looking into discrepancies within the MAPS program and the resulting unfair punishment. As of May 1st, you have the right to a hearing when charged with a MAPS conference.

New Business:

No new info on contract negotiations, guessing it will still be a ways off.

There has been word that some coal sets are being brought back.

When filling out the EMS form on the computer, it is a good idea to keep the entry number. Apparently, some managers are requesting this for some unknown reason.

If you are having family issues, please look into EAP, FMLA or talk to your manager. This could help prevent attendance issues if you are laying off due to family issues.

As a reminder: first district engineers do not run trains to or from Lincoln. Do not accept make wholes working this district. These jobs are covered out of Marysville.

The Fall City sub will be shut down for the next 20-21 days. There will be reroutes. No Nebraska City coal trains.

Scott Johnson and Dan Shultz were named as alternate trustees by President Call.

Trustees: J Sweeney, J Sichta, E Abboud

Alternate Trustees: D Zahnow, S Johnson, D Shultz

Sick:

BLET699

none

BLET183

R Schrack C Colley

R Skalberg J Bena

J Pyka R Gibler

T Caudillo

Motion to suspend reading the minutes by W Keefer, seconded by D Shultz, unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10

Teamsters Hall
07-11-2016 0900

Open meeting without due form.

Motion to suspend reading of previous minutes by, D Carman, Jr, seconded by D Shultz, 7-1.

BLE 183 Report:

RE01:30 turns on, calls for 29.69-31.89

RE10:28 turns on, calls for 27.4-29.6

Added three turns on each pool due to increase in business.

BLE 699 Report :

12 turns on, calls for 12.15

Legislative:

NTSB is still investigating the BNSF train accident in Panhandle, TX. It looks like it could have been caused by fatigue, so remember to stop if you're too tired.

New Members:

None

Financial Report:

\$12,249.10 ending balance 07/11/16 and 102 members.

The results of dues increase vote: 16 for, 0 against. It should take effect in August 2016.

Motion to accept financial report by D Shultz, seconded by J Sweeney, Unanimous.

Unfinished Business:

Oak Tree rooms are still an issue. Remember, if you can't get a room at least three rooms away from construction, you can stay at another motel. A N Platte lodging info sheet will be posted on our website.

As a reminder: No Cell Phones are allowed in yard offices.

Still working on getting weeds removed in the CB yard.

New Business:

Some members have reported a Fuelmaster payment/tax withholding on a separate June 29th pay stub. This looks to be a dummy payment. LC Brooner is looking into it.

There has been a noticeable lopsidedness in DHing between first and second districts on both pools. LC Brooner is looking into it.

We discussed train lineup on the long pool concerning grain and coal trains that keep dropping back. We also discussed getting extra grain yard jobs put on yard lineups.

We discussed getting a side letter posted with CMS on proper calling procedures. We are looking for consistency in using the NX039 XE01 for yard jobs at NX001. Not using them sometimes and calling

make wholes at other times.

Something we have been pushing for: LC Brooner is now getting weekly updates on employees who are “on the bubble” concerning attendance. Hopefully, this will help identify those in trouble before disciplinary action is taken. Management is not bending on any discipline cases.

It looks like there will be some changes in yard jobs, i.e. cutting jobs, changing to remote, making three-day jobs.

For a switch point test, managers are supposed to use two flags.

Once again, managers at N Platte, don't know their own rules and have removed the yellow clearance markings on main line two at the Oscar.

Sick:

BLET699

none

BLET183

R Schrack C Colley
R Skalberg J Pyka
R Gibler M Elske

Motion to suspend reading the minutes by B McCoy, seconded by J Sweeney, unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20

Teamsters Hall
08-08-2016 0900

Open meeting without due form.

Motion to suspend reading of previous minutes by, J Sweeney, seconded by E Abboud, Unanimous.

BLE 183 Report:

RE01:27 turns on, calls for 27.43

RE10:27 turns on, calls for 27.02

BLE 699 Report:

12 turns on, calls for 11

Legislative:

We are in need of more members to donate to the PAC fund. This money goes to a good cause with direct results. Contact Brother Sweeney for more information.

New Members:

Mike Brown – motion to accept, D Heiman, seconded by J Sichta, 4 votes for, 0 against, 1 abstain.

Financial Report:

\$12,028.13 ending balance 08/08/16 and 102 members.

Motion to accept financial report by J Sichta, seconded by D Zahnnow, Unanimous.

Unfinished Business:

We discussed the continuing unsanitary conditions of the iceboxes on units. And also the way ice is loaded into them. Brother Sweeney is bringing this up to Brother Pfeifer.

Discussed the dead bird issue in the East Run Thru.

New Business:

More discussion in the never ending saga of the N Platte Oak Tree Inn - Phones were off for days, some members were not informed of this when they checked in. Still crews waiting for rooms, had one member with a 2 ½ hour wait. This is unacceptable but has been going on for years with no resolution.

We discussed the CB yard working a crew all the way up to their 12 hours on duty and then wanting them to tie the train down with 5 minutes left to work. The crew had to wait over an hour for another crew to secure their train for them.

We discussed UTUE officers moving turns in pools that they do not regulate. This will be brought up with LC Brooner.

We discussed the recent slow-order test performed by N Platte management, which involved several of our crews. This was mitigated to a MAPS conference.

Watch your radio procedures. Recently, a crew was pulled off of their train because they allegedly failed to repeat directions over the radio.

The BLET dinner is scheduled for October 13th. There will be more details coming. We hope you all can attend.

Sick:

BLET699

none

BLET183

R Schrack C Colley

R Skalberg J Pyka

M Elske

Motion to suspend reading the minutes by E Abboud, seconded by D Zahnnow, unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35

**We would like to thank Jeffrey Chod of Chod Law, LLC for his discussion concerning workers and their rights in dealing with Union Pacific. It was very informative. Please contact Matt McCollough if you would like Jeff's contact information.

Teamsters Hall
09-12-2016 0900

Open meeting without due form.

Motion to suspend reading of previous minutes by, W Keefer, B McCoy, 5-1.

BLE 183 Report:

RE01:27 turns on, calls for 27.8-29.9

RE10:29 turns on, calls for 27.4-29.6

BLE 699 Report :

11 turns on, calls for 11.4-12.96

If you have any questions concerning the regulating of miles, please contact LC Brooner. Also, extra board miles are regulated by national agreement, not on pool miles.

Legislative:

Still need more PAC contributors. Contact Brother Sweeney.

Be safe and be aware of automatic downloads.

GC Geisler was elected to another term. We have a new General Sec/Treas, Pat Neelan. Congratulations to Brother McCoy on his appointment to 2nd Vice General Chairman.

New Members:

None

Financial Report:

\$12,274.72 ending balance 09/12/16 and 102 members.

Motion to accept financial report by D Carman Jr, seconded by B McCoy, Unanimous.

Unfinished Business:

Discussed the holding or moving of turns by officers for GC business.

New Business:

Open Enrollment for the FSA begins October 1st. You can find more information on the BLET183 website.

The BLET annual dinner will be held on October 13th. Any questions, contact D Carman Jr.

We recently had a member putting power away in the West hump. He ran out of time before power could be shoved behind the clearance cones. He informed the West hump Yardmaster about the situation and was given no further instructions. They left their secured power and were transported to the yard office. N Platte managers tried to discipline the crew for leaving the power beyond the cones. The case was eventually dropped, but as a reminder, management are watching your every move.

LC Brooner is looking to see if you can go past cones when throwing a switch as long as you're in the

clear. There seems to be some discrepancy on this.

We had a member decertified for going 51 mph past an approach signal. Auto scan was triggered when the member went into full service. The train was stopped before the following red signal.

J Pizinger, B Banark and R Sandel are retiring. Best wishes to our Brothers.

More “unrest” at the Oak Tree Inn. A member was told by the front desk staff that no railroaders are to be put in the new rooms even if vacant and no other rooms are available. LC Brooner is in discussion with GC Geisler concerning our never ending woes. It seems the La Quinta Inn would not accept CLC cards. Looking into this.

Still having problems with train lineups. A lot of ghost trains being pushed back and not being called.

Supposedly, the carrier is getting more MOPs and doing away with MTOs.

Driving miles are being paid again in the OMC. Be sure to put in a claim.

Discussed the many trains on the NX039 pool that require full crews that automatically go to 1st District crews. Dropping down to get crews when they are not expecting to go to work.

Sick:

BLET699

none

BLET183

R Schrack C Colley

R Skalberg C Benisek

M Elske

Motion to suspend reading the minutes by B McCoy, seconded by D Carman Jr, Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20

Teamsters Hall
10-10-2016 0900

Open meeting without due form.

Motion to suspend reading of previous minutes by, D Carman Jr, R Murray, 6-3.

BLE 183 Report:

RE01: 27 turns on, calls for 25.76 - 27.67

RE10: 30 turns on, calls for 28.39 - 30.68

BLE 699 Report :

RE58: 10 turns on, calls for 6.8 - 9.73

Legislative:

None

New Members:

None

Financial Report:

\$12,457.63 ending balance 10/10/16 and 101 members.

A motion was made to send Nicole Meintzen \$500 due to the recent death of her husband. Motion made by T Brooner, seconded by D Heiman, Unanimous.

Motion to accept financial report by D Carman Jr, seconded by B McCoy, Unanimous.

Unfinished Business:

There is a lot of testing going on in N Platte, watch yourself.

Hopefully, there will be some staff changes at the Oak Tree Inn in N Platte in the near future.

New Business:

Do not put derogatory comments on declined heat tickets. Timekeeping is taking exception to these comments.

Concerning bereavement leave – If you have a close relative not covered by bereavement leave, and need to take time off/attend funeral, let a manager know. They may be able to approve the time off.

Attendance is improving since the company is giving more information out – such as who is close to being disciplined. If a manager calls you, concerning attendance, be sure to call him back. Once a discipline letter is sent, there will be no more negotiations.

GC Geisler wanted to put out this example of how IFCs can affect us:

In California, a crew hit a person walking in the middle of the track and didn't even realize it. The body was discovered by a passing train. The tape was pulled from the IFC and it showed the engineer asleep and the conductor on his phone at the time of the incident. The crew could be facing criminal charges.

Concerning pre-arranged layoffs – Remember to activate or decline your pre-arranged days off. The company has stated that a person may be pulled out of the program if they habitually do not activate or decline these days. Also, declining days that are not needed could benefit your fellow employees by opening days up.

At the November meeting, nominations for Trustees and Alternate Trustees will be taken.

We discussed letting members take single-day vacations on holiday weeks. Brother McCoy thinks this might benefit us.

There seems to be some “ghost” tests on people's FTX screens. If you see something questionable, contact LC Brooner.

Labor relations has stated that there will be no hardship transfers.

We discussed the shortage of vans in Council Bluffs during the weekends.

The company is supposedly looking into putting a utility man back on in Council Bluffs.

Brother Lyons and management discussed concerns about the CBVP/CBSX not making first OS times. There is a possibility of moving the pool back to CB.

A motion was made to reimburse Dana Carman Jr \$28.20 for postage costs for the annual dinner. Motion made by D Heiman, seconded by J Mimick, 10-1.

Sick:

BLET699

none

BLET183

R Schrack C Colley

R Skalberg C Benisek

M Elske

Motion to suspend reading the minutes by B Herbert, seconded by R Murray, 8-2

Meeting adjourned at 10:35

Teamsters Hall
11-14-2016 0900

Open meeting without due form.

Motion to suspend reading of previous minutes by, D Carman Jr, D Shultz, Unanimous.

BLE 183 Report:

RE01: 27 turns on, calls for 26.07-28

RE10: 26 turns on, calls for 24.9-26.9

BLE 699 Report :

RE58: 10 turns on, calls for 10.47-11.36

Legislative:

Still trying to get something done with the unsanitary conditions at the new coal tracks in N Platte. The next step will be to contact OSHA.

New Members:

Randy Richards – Motion to accept, D Carman Jr, second J Sweeney, Voted in 13-3.

Financial Report:

\$10,302.41 ending balance 11/14/16 and 102 members.

Motion to accept financial report by J Sichta, D Shultz, Unanimous.

Unfinished Business:

Securement – Take time and do it right! We've recently had two disciplinary cases concerning securement. One case was not cutting power in as a leader when left in a track. The second case was where the independent brake was not set up after securement test. Management pulled the tapes.

Concerning attendance – the list that the company is supplying us with members in jeopardy is paying off. We have gone from 14 members on the list, down to five, with one discipline case.

New Business:

We recently had an incident where the Senior MOP threatened to pull two switchmen out of service for insubordination because they didn't empty their pockets when told to. Management can not do this without probable cause. If you have any similar problems, contact LC Brooner who will go after them for harassment.

Be aware of your call times. There was an incident where an engineer took a make-whole at 12:44 for a 15:30 yard job. They then called the next engineer for a 14:16 road job.

Remember, if your train is not on the exempt list in your track warrants, you can not disable trip optimizer or automatic leader systems and you are under the FCS50 Rule.

LC Brooner is looking into discrepancies on notch requirements for coal/grain trains west of GI. East of GI, you can run notch 8 on both leader and DPU.

Brother McCoy wanted to inform members that under the Weingarten Rights, you have the right to have a Union representative present when being questioned by management that could in any way lead to being disciplined or terminated. If you request representation, and are denied, you can refuse to answer any questions. Information about the Weingarten Rights can be found on the BLET website.

We're trying to make it as easy as possible to file time claims on the BLET website. We have fill-in-the-blank time claims that can be generated off of the website. LC Brooner or Brother McCoy will need your permission to access your payroll, or you can mail the information to them.

Oak Tree Inn – having problems with room cleanliness, eg. mold, dog hair, bed bugs, etc. Send pictures, room number and any information to LC Brooner and he will forward it to GC Geisler.

Concerning vacations – If you have a week of single-day vacation, use the days up, and that week would then come open, you can not put in a bid on it.

Open enrollment for Cornerstone Insurance was this month. It would be advisable to contact them to be sure all your information is correct, e.g. plans, payment, etc.

We voted on Trustees and Alternate Trustees.

Trustees:

J Sweeney – won by acclamation

J Sichta – won by acclamation

E Abboud – won by acclamation

Alternate Trustees:

D Zahnnow – won by acclamation

S Johnson – won by acclamation

D Shultz – won by acclamation

Sick:

BLET699

none

BLET183

R Schrack J Austin

R Skalberg

M Elske

Motion to suspend reading the minutes by D Heiman, seconded by J Sweeney, Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05

Teamsters Hall
12-12-2016 0900

Open meeting without due form.

Motion to suspend reading of previous minutes by, J Sweeney, D Shultz, 16-1.

We were privileged to have GC Geisler attend our December meeting and discuss some relevant topics.

- The contract negotiations broke down and unions filed a petition to go to a PEB board, no time frame as yet. Some of the points in the contract are: rest, pay for length of train, pay for cameras, pay for EMS, extra week of vacation, 18-24 hours undisturbed rest.
- Taking short crew pay to arbitration.
- Taking camera claims to arbitration.
- We discussed the switch flag tests that management is administering. The best advice is to walk the route in front of movement when lining switches.
- We are still having members violate cell phone policies. We feel the carrier might work with us if the violations lessen.
- The carrier is still changing rules on the attendance policy, ex. Extra holidays, etc. We have won two cases concerning the Burn Clause.
- The union has taken the MAPS policy to Federal Court concerning three decert policy and Rule 1.6.
- We discussed the carrier's color-blind test.
- Pushing to have sleep apnea fall under the standards of airline pilots.
- Trying to find a work/rest cycle that the carrier will agree on.
- We discussed a program that IT is working on to pinpoint a window when you are going to be called for work, ex. A four-hour window.
- We discussed Oak Tree Inn in NP, concerning various issues, ex. Cleanliness, vans, selection of rooms. Suggest taking video or pictures of any problems, along with the room number. Contact LC Brooner.
- We discussed Form B foreman working past assigned times, keeping boards up past the hour window and putting crews into unsafe situations.

BLE 183 Report:

RE01: 25 turns on, calls for 24.72-26.56

RE10: 26 turns on, calls for 25.2-27.58

BLE 699 Report :

RE58: 10 turns on, calls for 10.43-11.21

If you are being cut off a board and are first out, LC Brooner will probably let you work your turn, otherwise your turn will be cut. Do not wait until the last minute for Sadie Hawkins moves, or they may not get done in time.

Legislative:

Still working on unsanitary conditions on the East Run Through in NP.

New Members:

NONE

Financial Report:

\$9,968.73 ending balance 12/12/16 and 101 members.

Motion to accept financial report by D Shultz, J Sichte, Unanimous.

Unfinished Business:

Once again reminding members that if you have a single-day week of vacation, and use them up, you can not rebid that week if it would come open for bid.

We are having good results with the time claim section on the BLET183 website.

Remember, there is no 72-hour rule to sign for discipline. Some managers still do not understand this. Contact LC Brooner if you're having a problem.

If your train is not on the exception list in the track warrants concerning FCS 50, you must run at FCS 50 – no exceptions, PERIOD.

New Business:

The Superintendent asked LC Brooner to consider the BLET getting back into TSC. After discussion, we believe there would be no benefit for us and is just a look-good program for management who continuously put money over safety.

We discussed the implementation of a yard extra board for engineers. LC Brooner feels that this would pull men off of higher-paying road boards to fill a lower-paying yard board and doesn't see any real benefit.

GC Geisler and LC Brooner will be having a meeting with CMS concerning correct calling procedures. Hopefully we can get them to live up to the agreements.

We had a problem with a RCX van taking a crew to Mo Valley that was full of supplies for the Mo Valley depot and no room for crew members luggage. Also brought up concerns of RCX vans being over the GVW.

With winter upon us, we discussed the carrier requiring crews to violate their 12 hours on duty in an emergency. If you feel that you are unsafe to work past the 12 hour limit, let the dispatcher know. Also, this only pertains to road operations. Once you enter a yard, you can no longer violate your 12 hour limit and must be relieved prior to yarding train.

Remember pool turns are A to B only. If you are told to pick up power and backtrack to put a train together, ex. Columbus to Doulom, let LC Brooner know.

We discussed putting a tradeout pad at 20th Street.

We discussed Z-trains out of Chicago not being CS tested.

We are having problems with inconsistent calls for engineers off the extra board to fill vacancies in Grand Island.

Remember, if you are bumped, you have 48 hours to place yourself and go to work.

We had our third vote concerning the motion to allow bidding of single-day vacations on holiday weeks. Motion passed, 25-0.

Congratulations to D Shultz on winning the TV from the BLET183 and Hunegs, LeNeave & Kvas Law Firm.

Sick:

BLET699

none

BLET183

R Schrack J Austin

R Skalberg K Fler

M Elske

Motion to suspend reading the minutes by J Sweeney, seconded by D Zahnnow, Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05