



## NCFO MEMBERSHIP RATIFIES NEW NATIONAL AGREEMENT

**Ashland, Kentucky, December 13, 2017** — Members of the *National Conference of Firemen & Oilers, SEIU* (NCFO) have ratified a new collective bargaining agreement with the National Carrier's Conference Committee (NCCC), the bargaining agent for the nation's major railroads. The Agreement was reached as a result of the NCFO's participation with five other unions in what became known as the Coordinated Bargaining Group.

The approved contract will have an effective date of December 1, 2017, with implementation of new pay rates and healthcare plan modifications planned for January 1, 2018. Employees' monthly healthcare contributions will remain frozen at \$228.89 for the life of the contract.

The term of the agreement is for five years, from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2019. In addition to a 3% increase previously negotiated and already implemented on January 1, 2015, the contract provides for full retroactive pay of 2% from July 1, 2016 and another 2% from July 1, 2017, until implementation of the new rates. Thereafter, affected members will receive additional boosts in wage rates of 2.5% on July 1, 2018, and 3% on July 1, 2019.

The ratified contract will cover NCFO members employed by BNSF, CSX, Norfolk Southern, Kansas City Southern, Union Pacific and numerous smaller carriers.

***"This round of bargaining, just like what is taking place in Washington, was totally unpredictable. We went from possible tentative agreement, prior to the 2016 Presidential Election, to a stalemate after the election, to an agreement in the final days of bargaining",*** said NCFO President John Thacker. ***"I would like to thank our partners from the Coordinated Bargaining Group for their solidarity with the members of the NCFO,"*** Thacker added.

The NCFO joined forces with five other unions to form the Coordinated Bargaining Group. The other unions in the CBG are the American Train Dispatchers Association; the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (a Division of the Rail Conference of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters); the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen; the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers, and Helpers and the Sheet Metal Air Rail Transportation, Transportation Division.

*The NCFO is an affiliate of 32BJ SEIU, [the Service Employees International Union](#), which has 2.1 million members dedicated to raising industry standards, making life better for working families and our communities, and building a fair economy.*