

Signalmen Approve National Agreement

November 28, 2017, FRONT ROYAL, VIRGINIA — Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen President Dan Pickett announced that the union's members ratified the National Agreement. The Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen (BRS) represents more than 8,000 members affected by the new agreement.

The BRS negotiated in this round of bargaining as a member of the Coordinated Bargaining Group (CBG), which represented more than 85,000 railroad workers, comprising 58% of the workforce. The CBG represents six rail unions: ATDA, BLET/IBT, IBB, NCFO/SEIU, SMART-Transportation Division, and BRS.

“This round of bargaining brought its unique challenges, going from an arms-reach of an agreement back to square one following the 2016 presidential elections. As mediation was starting to stalemate, in the final hours we were able to get the Carriers to shift some of their positions and come to an agreement we felt was fair for our brothers and sisters. Although, we desired to see no changes in healthcare, we understood that such a position is difficult in today's culture; however, we were able to freeze the employee's monthly health and welfare contribution. A key to this agreement was taking the damaging work rule proposals off the table while securing real wage increases.” stated President Pickett. “Joining the CBG coalition proved to be an effective strategy for our members in this round of bargaining, and I am proud that our organization was a member.”

The newly ratified agreement resolves issues such as wages and health and welfare benefits. It includes expansion of the Managed Medical Care Program and health insurance cost containment provisions. The agreement contains no work rule changes.

Pickett added, “I must state that I am pleased that the interference in our ratification process by the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees proved ineffective. Our members asked the questions, understood the issues, and were not misled by the BMWED propaganda machine. Union effectiveness is not measured by YouTube videos; it is measured by how you represent your members. The actions of the officers of this renegade union should come under close scrutiny by its members. We once worked very closely with the BMWED leadership; those days are over.”

Members can find more information regarding the National Agreement on our website at www.brs.org.