

IBEW[®] RAILROAD DEPARTMENT

**Who We Are and
What We Do**



USA & CANADA

RAILROADS COAST TO COAST

- Railroads crisscross the US and Canada and are a vital segment of our transportation systems and our economies!



Who We Represent

- **Approximately 11,700 Railroad Members in the US and Canada**
 - 6000 on the US freight railroads
 - 3300 on commuter rail
 - 1200 on AMTRAK
 - 1200 on Canada's freight railroads



What Our Members Do

- **Inspect, test and repair diesel and electric locomotives, passenger rail cars, commuter multiple unit cars, communication and signal equipment**
- **Maintain, repair and rebuild electrical components for railroad equipment**
- **Maintain overhead electrical wiring**
- **Electrical maintenance of railroad buildings and facilities**
- **Perform various supervisory functions**



Our Structure



- **120 Local Unions – Railroad Local Union Business Manager is known as the “LOCAL CHAIRMAN.”**
- **All Railroad Local Unions, with the exception of 4, belong to “System Councils.” There are 6 System Councils, 5 in the US and one in Canada.**
- **Each System Council, and the 4 independent Local Unions, is headed by a “General Chairman.”**



- **In most circumstances, each Local Union represents members from an individual railroad .**
- **Each System Council represents members exclusively on individual railroads, i.e. SC 2 – Union Pacific and Kansas City Southern, SC 6 – Norfolk Southern, and SC7 – Amtrak and most commuter railroads. In Canada, one System Council handles all railroads.**



- **Railroad Department Employees**
 - **The Railroad Department is operated by a Director, an International Representative, and a secretary.**
 - **Director – Bill Bohné**
 - **International Rep – Jim Meyer**
 - **Secretary – Pat Joyner**



Responsibilities of LUs, SCs, and IVP Districts within the Railroad Dept. Structure

- Local Unions - Responsible for enforcing the contracts on their respective properties and handling claims, grievances and discipline. Responsible for compliance with state and federal laws and regulations.
- System Councils – Responsible for negotiating and interpreting contracts on the railroads they represent. For the nation's freight railroads, the System Councils negotiate as a group with the NCCC, an organization representing most freight railroads. The Railroad Department leads the freight negotiations and assists in the other negotiations upon request.
- IVP District Int. Reps. – Responsible for ensuring compliance with IBEW Constitution, LU Bylaws, and state and federal laws and regulations.

Functions of the Railroad Department



- **Represent the IBEW on many committees, both Federal Government Committees and Labor/Management Committees**
- **Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Rail Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC)**
 - **RSAC Full Committee meets quarterly and promulgates new and revised safety rules and standards for the railroads and their employees. Rule-making done by consensus after many months of deliberations. These rules are then adopted by the FRA.**



- **RSAC Working Groups – These groups investigate the problem areas and make recommendations for rule adoption to the full RSAC Committee.**
 - **Locomotive Safety Standards**
 - **Medical Standards – Physical requirements for railroad employees covered under “hours of service” rules**



- **National Mediation Board (NMB)**
 - **NMB Section 3 Committee**
 - **Committee promulgates rules and policy for the handling of claims and grievances under the Railway Labor Act (RLA). This is a Labor/Management Committee that the NMB usually accepts recommendations from. These rules govern the procedures of the National Railroad Adjustment Board (NRAB) and Public Law Boards. (PLB). Discipline investigative hearings for employees of almost all railroads are held on railroad property.**



- **National Railroad Adjustment Board (NRAB)**
 - **Claims, grievances, and discipline cases not settled on the property are settled in accordance with the rules of the National Mediation Board either before a division of the NRAB or before a PLB. There are 4 divisions of the NRAB, on which an IBEW representative serves on 2 – the Second Division for Electrical Workers and the Third Division for Signal Workers.**



NRAB (Cont'd)

- Hearings before the NRAB & PLB are usually conducted by a three member tribunal - an IBEW representative, a railroad representative, and a neutral arbitrator selected mutually by the parties. These hearings are strictly “appellate” proceedings. Only evidence and documentation presented on the property are permitted to be considered.



NRAB (Cont'd)

- A representative of the department prepares the submissions that go to the NRAB, progresses the cases to the Board, and presents the cases before the Board. System Councils handle cases that go before PLBs. Witnesses are not permitted to testify. However, in discipline cases, under most circumstances, the arbitrators will allow the defendant to testify.



- **AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department (TTD)**
 - The department director serves as the **IBEW** representative on the **TTD Executive Committee**. The **Committee** addresses basically political and legislative issues for all types of transportation – rail, air, bus, trucking, and shipping.



TTD (cont'd)

- The Rail Labor arm of the TTD is known as the “Rail Labor Division (RLD). The Department Director also serves as the IBEW representative on this committee. This committee addresses bargaining, legislative and political issues parochial to Rail Labor.



- **Cooperating Rail Labor Organizations (CRLO)**

- This group is made up of a representative of each of the 14 Rail Labor Organizations. These representatives serve on the Labor/Management Railroad Health and Welfare Committee and subcommittees which control the national railroads health benefit plans (the Labor Organizations are joint policy holders along with the railroads).



CRLO (cont'd)

- **Additionally, the CRLO has 3 representatives on the Railroad Retirement Investment Trust Fund which oversees much of YOUR Railroad Retirement Tier 2 money.**



- **Negotiating Activities**

- As stated earlier, the Department heads up the negotiations on the national freight railroads and also assists the various System Councils in negotiations with other railroads.

- **Legal Activities**

- The Railroad Department has what is known as the Railroad Coordinating Council (RRCC), a council that handles railroad legal matters. This Council is self-funded by dues from our System Councils. We assist the RRCC attorneys in legal matters.



- **Lobbying**

- **In conjunction with the IBEW Political/Legislative Department, we spend quite a bit of time lobbying our Congressmen and Senators on legislative issues relevant to the railroads including, but not limited to: Railroad Retirement, Rail Safety and Security, freight rail tax issues, and Amtrak funding. Most of this lobbying is also done in conjunction with the TTD, RLD, and the CRLO.**



● ORGANIZING

Upon request, we assist with any and all organizing being done by railroad locals or with railroad companies. This is very important because organizing under the Railway Labor Act (RLA) is a bit different than organizing under the NLRA.

- While most railroads in the US are organized, we are always looking to organize non-union companies doing railroad work!



What We Can Do For You



- **We, working in concert with your General Chairmen and designated International Representatives, are here to help you with whatever your needs are. From organizing to bargaining, legal issues to handling claims, grievances and discipline, the Railroad Department has the knowledge and expertise to steer you in the right direction.**



- Let us put our more than 60 years of experience in the railroad business to work for you!

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- IR Jim Meyer – 202-728-6018

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**We are here to serve you
and look forward to
working with you for the
betterment of our
members!**



Help us take the IBEW Railroad Department from the past...



...into the future



**Thank you
for your time.**

