

## NATIONAL BARGAINING UPDATE

November 8, 2010

Representatives of the Rail Labor Bargaining Coalition (RLBC), which includes Teamster Rail Conference members BMWED and BLET, and the National Carriers' Conference Committee (NCCC) met on November 3 and 4, 2010 to continue bargaining over their respective Section 6 notices. The current focus of bargaining concerns issues related to the health insurance benefits members and their families receive under the July 1, 2007 National Agreement. While discussions continue, no definitive agreements were made on any health insurance issues.

The RLBC and NCCC have additional bargaining sessions scheduled for December 3, 2010 and January 6 and 7 and February 9 and 10, 2011. At press time, neither party had invoked the services of the National Mediation Board (NMB) as both sides remain hopeful of reaching a voluntary agreement without government intervention.

While the RLBC remains in private bargaining with the NCCC, the bargaining coalition comprised of TCU, IAM, IBEW, TWU and ATDA are engaged in bargaining under the supervision of the NMB. Health insurance issues comprise a large part of those talks as well.

The remaining union, the UTU, also remains outside of the mediation process.

Under the Railway Labor Act (RLA), Section 6 notices are resolved one of three ways. First, through voluntary negotiations and agreements. Second, through mediation conducted by the NMB. Finally, through self-help after the parties have been released from mediation by the NMB. A strike cannot occur until the NMB has released the parties from mediation and they have observed a 30 day "cooling off" period. While the TCU coalition already has entered mediation, there is no assurance that the TCU coalition will obtain a release either before the RLBC or UTU if those organizations also enter mediation.

For breaking news on bargaining, please check [www.bmwe.org](http://www.bmwe.org) on a regular basis.