



The Results are in!

2020 National Negotiations Survey Report

Contract Negotiations with the Class 1 Freight Carriers begin in January 2020. Starting in January 2019, the BMWED initiated a membership survey through the Internal Organizers, the Front Line Communicators, and System and Local Officers.

After nine months of energetic member engagement, the Survey process has come to an end. We are excited to report there have been over 7,800 surveys completed from every corner of the country with the following results:

Q1. Production is more important than my Safety to the Railroad.

- Agree 42.00%
- Disagree 44.00%
- No Opinion 14.00%

Q2. My employment on the railroad is stable.

- Agree 39.00%
- Disagree 43.00%
- No Opinion 18.00%

Q3. There is more contracting out of BMWED work than when I started on the railroad.

- Agree 80.00%
- Disagree 6.00%
- No Opinion 14.00%

Q4. My overall financial position has improved since the new National agreement went into effect June 1, 2018.

- Agree 19.00%
- Disagree 51.00%
- No Opinion 30.00%

Q5. Healthcare costs are a point of financial stress in my life.

- Agree 71.00%
- Disagree 12.00%
- No Opinion 17.00%

Q6. To get better healthcare benefits, I would change doctors.

- Agree 43.00%
- Disagree 31.00%
- No Opinion 26.00%

We also asked for feedback on work rules that need changing. Though responses varied some, railroad by railroad, the following issues were raised broadly on all railroads: Improving travel expenses (per diem, mileage, etc.); Removing contractors from the property; Winning more Paid Time Off (vacation, sick days, paid family leave); Getting rid of Critical Rules; Improving safety rules and making them more sensible (e.g. Face shield when spiking).

In addition, survey respondents made it very clear the membership is willing to fight for a fair contract in this round of bargaining by taking different actions such as picketing their employer and going on strike if necessary.

Your feedback has been crucial for your System Division and National Division Officers as they prepare bargaining proposals for negotiations with the Carriers. We appreciate your participation to help frame our negotiations strategy by sharing your concerns and ideas.

As the BMWED prepares for the next round of bargaining we will look at every opportunity to force the railroads to negotiate a fair contract and to share the great wealth you create for their shareholders. While we anticipate another very difficult round of negotiations, we know the resolve of our Brotherhood is strong, and with your help and Solidarity we will overcome the greed of the Carriers and the political headwinds we currently face.

One part of the upcoming negotiations will be coordinated through our Internal Organizers, or the Communication Action Team (CAT). If you are interested in joining the CAT, please reach out to your General Chairperson or the CAT Internal Organizing Coordinator and let them know you are interested in more information. The CAT Coordinator is Carey Dall and he can be reached by email at cdall@bmwe.org.