



## **Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters**

### **BMWED BARGAINING COMMITTEES MEET IN NASHVILLE**

January 23, 2012

Southfield, MI - The BMWED National Bargaining Committees met last Thursday in Nashville, TN, to discuss the status of current negotiations with the nation's Class I Railroads. BMWED continues to bargain with Burlington Northern Santa Fe, Union Pacific, CSX, Norfolk Southern, Kansas City Southern, and Canadian Pacific Railway, over away-from-home expenses for employees required to travel in the service of the railroads. These expense reimbursements have not been adjusted since January 1, 2005.

A mandatory 30 day cooling off period scheduled to end December 6, 2011, went into effect after a Presidential Emergency Board made recommendations for a settlement intended to avert a national rail strike, or lock-out. BMWED rejected those recommendations and on November 22, 2011, BMWED President Freddie N. Simpson advised the NCCC that the BMWED intended to extend the cooling off period in order to continue negotiations with the rail carriers, and spare the country a national rail strike during the holiday season.

The BMWED reached agreement for a 60 day extension of the cooling off period with the National Carriers' Conference Committee (NCCC) on December 1, 2011. The current cooling off period will expire at 12:01AM, February 8, 2012.

"I remain optimistic that we will reach agreement with the carriers prior to the deadline," said BMWED President Freddie Simpson.

"We are working hard to resolve the remaining issue but do not concede our legal right to exercise self-help if that is the course of action necessary to obtain a fair resolution for our members."

The BMWED represents 35,000 men and women who build, maintain, and repair the nation's railroad tracks, bridges, buildings and equipment.