



The Results are in!

2016 National Negotiations Survey Report

In March, 2015 the Brotherhood's Communication Action Team (CAT) began visiting railroad worksites around the country. The CAT focused on gathering member input with a Contract Survey. With National Negotiations in their very early stages, the BMWED leadership wanted to know your perspective on what issues are most important.

After twelve months of energetic member engagement, the CAT has brought the Survey process to an end. We are thrilled to report that we've gathered over 9,000 Surveys from every corner of the country. Please review the following numbers:

- **Worksites visited: 780**
- **Surveys collected: 9,202**
- **Survey results:**
 - **Health care as the #1 issue: 53%**
 - **Wages as #1 issue: 24%**
 - **Additional paid time off as #1: 9%**
 - **Safety as #1 issue: 6%**
 - **Travel pay as #1: 4%**
 - **No response: 4%**

In addition to the results above, members selected Health Care as a #2 issue on 23% of surveys, while Wages as a #2 issue received 39%. Since our last report in September, 2015 these two issues have held steady as the primary concerns of our membership. As a result, we will be focusing our energies on these issues at the negotiating table, and on the job thru the CAT.

(It is also important to note that hundreds of members wrote notes on the Surveys about their concerns regarding Contractors on the property. Needless to say, this is a deep concern of leadership on all levels, and is being addressed by Federation officers.)

The CAT is currently preparing for the next phase in its work. In the coming weeks we will launch a full-scale education and action program around defending our health care. The Carriers' attacks on our healthcare benefits promise to be vicious in this round of bargaining. To defend what we have – which has been the overwhelming feedback of members in the Surveys – we'll have to tool up and prepare.

As 2016 progresses, the 540 Front Line Communicators who make up the CAT will be working with the Internal Organizers to get the word out about the next phase. We'll begin with conversations about how we've won the benefits we have, and who our enemies are who want to take them away. By early summer we anticipate a day of national unity where we show the Carriers that the BMWED is united on the issue of healthcare.

If you are interested in joining the CAT's organizing, 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.

We encourage all members to print this Report out and share it with coworkers. Please contact us if you have any questions. Thank you.