



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

Freddie N. Simpson
President

David D. Joynt
Secretary-Treasurer

July 2, 2021

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF CONVENTION CALL TO ESTABLISH SINGLE JOINT PROTECTIVE BOARD FOR BNSF RAILWAY EMPLOYER

October 6 – 7, 2021

**DoubleTree by Hilton Denver Airport
6900 Tower Road
Denver, CO 80249**

Dear Brothers and Sisters of BNSF Railway:

There are approximately 6,700 members on BNSF Railway (BNSF) and under our present structure; the members are divided into five System Federations with different dues structures, each with their own bylaws and General Chairpersons. The job of the System Federations under our Bylaws is to enforce the collective bargaining agreements, negotiate agreements, and generally work to improve the working conditions of the members.

Thirty years ago the System Federations made sense with one System per major railroad but the changes in railroad management has made the current system ridiculous and it does not allow for the most effective representation possible. BNSF workers should pay for one General Chairperson and not five. BNSF workers should speak with one voice to management and not five. Correcting this problem will improve the representation of the membership by our Union.

Therefore, I am going to exercise my authority under Article XIX, Section 1 of the Bylaws of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Division of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and call for a founding Convention of all of the Local Lodges on BNSF to form a new single system to represent BNSF BMWED members. At this founding Convention, the delegates from the Local Lodges on BNSF will elect new officers and adopt new bylaws to organize all BNSF workers under a single banner. This will result in a more efficient use of dues and more strength when dealing with BNSF management. Dues money currently in the accounts of the current systems to which BNSF members belong will be transferred to the new system's account on a per capita basis.

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The founding Convention will be presided over by Chairman Bruce Glover and Co-Chairman David D. Joynt, and will be held:

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Each Local Lodge is entitled to send a delegate to this founding meeting. To be elected delegate you will need to have 24 months' continuous good standing and to be a member of the Local Lodge. All members in good standing of the Local Lodge will receive 15 days' notice of the time and place for this delegate election. The delegate election must be by secret ballot. Local Lodge Secretary Treasurers and Presidents will be sent information about how to conduct the election and credential forms to provide to the delegate to present to the founding Convention. This is obviously a very important meeting which will formally establish the officers and bylaws for the new System Federation, however; if a delegate is not elected by a Local Lodge between now and October 6, 2021, that Local Lodge will not be represented when the new System Federation is formed but will be governed by the new System Federation. Note that if **your Local Lodge does not have adequate funds available to cover the cost of sending a delegate to the founding Convention, National Division will cover the expenditures your Local Lodge cannot cover, and withhold such funds from the quarterly dues remittance for your Local Lodge until the expenditures are recovered by National Division, as is consistent with the current practice at National Division.**

Please do not consider this as a criticism of the current System Federation officers representing BNSF workers. It has been my experience that all of them are dedicated to their work and work very hard to serve the membership. I would expect that many of the current officers will be running for office in the new System Federation on these merits. However, the current design of five systems is not efficient and does not provide the most effective representation possible for BNSF workers. The purpose of establishing this new single system for BNSF workers is to correct a flaw in our structure that has festered for a long time and is not the fault of any single individual. It does however need to be fixed without further delay.

Again, this is a very important meeting and we urge you to attend your Local Lodge's election for delegate for the purposes of establishing the new System Division or Federation.

Sincerely and fraternally,



Freddie N. Simpson
President