

TCU / ARASA 5101 Lodge Meeting

Date: August 22, 2017

- President Dennis Deyo opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and with the Association prayer, and called the meeting to order.
- Recording Secretary Jerry Johnson conducted roll call. Present were Local and District Officers, General Chairman, Senior Staff and other members. A motion to waive the reading of the minutes was made by Steve Woithon and seconded by Shamaree Buhlig. Motion passed.
- FST Shane Lindsey gave the Financial Report. VP Bo Brown made the motion to accept the report and pay the bills. Brother John Benson seconded. Motion carried.
- VG Escal Thornton gave his report on claims, appeals and discipline.
- VG Alan Harris gave his report on claims, appeals and discipline. Brother John Benson was recognized and provided an update on an alleged critical rule violation.
- VG Shamaree Buhlig gave her report on claims, appeals and discipline. Sister Buhlig brought up the “3-D” initiative being pushed on the locomotive side and stressed that everyone should make the necessary effort to comply with the expectations regarding downloads, defects and daily inspections. Management leadership is implying that there is no excuse for not meeting that expectation even regarding turn power in the yard where Transportation refuses to cooperate.
- TCU National Rep. Hirschbein reported on upcoming arbitrations. Oct. 11 will be the first date and will be for arbitration of 17 dismissal cases. There are more docketed cases awaiting funding and even more that have neither been docketed nor funded for an estimated total of 35 dismissal cases. Nov. 10th is the date for arbitration the overtime dispute in Chicago. There is nothing new to report on national negotiations. Brother Hirschbein stated it is critical for all members to be informed that FTX testing is an area where members are being disciplined with 6 members currently out of service for falsifying FTXs. The charges range from “backdating” FTXs so they fall within the measured month, to performing audits by going out to the crafts to see if they remember having an FTX performed with a Foreman on a certain date and charging the Foreman with “Dishonesty” if the craft member can’t remember the FTX being performed. Brother Hirschbein stated the importance on making sure the tests are accurate and of getting a witness if someone refuses to sign for the FTX. Do this no matter how long it takes! Brother Hirschbein also made reference to the situation on the CSX – down to 35 members on that property – and events on the UPRR where they are cutting 750 jobs (500 management and 250 non-management positions) – ARASA will be affected.

Brother John Benson was recognized for a question about management pulling people out of service for alleged FTX discrepancies. Brother Hirschbein responded.

- General Chairman Mark Sellers gave his report on charges, investigations, dismissals, and meetings with the Carrier. Brother Sellers also discussed furloughs. Any furloughs must be reported to the General Chairman, the appropriate Vice-General, and the FST.

Brother Sellers disclosed that, according to senior Mechanical Dept. leadership, any FTXs without valid signatures by the craft will be looked into by management and that members must not fail to get a witness to observe the refusal and sign the FTX form stating that fact. Another area of concern discussed was the 3D initiative: if any aspect of the 3D process is not permitted then an e-mail needs to be sent to the management team

noting the failure and unit number as a matter of professionalism. These steps are necessary to avoid any Rule 27 conversations. Another aspect of conversation with Mech. Dept. leadership regarded 1.6 charges – all 1.6 charges will go to investigation. No application for leniency will be entertained until a transcript of the investigation has been produced. This information needs to be communicated to the membership.

Brother Mike Arias was recognized with a question about FTX “no signs”. Brother Sellers clarified and restated that Mr. Givens expressed concern for getting the test done not how long it takes – get a witness for signature refusals regardless of how long it takes.

Brother John Benson was recognized and asked if foremen were required to get a signature for FTX then why are the crafts not required to sign. Brother Sellers responded that he and Mr. Givens spoke about that and that Mr. Givens will not force shop craft employees to sign.

Brother Steve Woithon was recognized with a question and Brother Sellers responded.

Brother Bob Tainsh was recognized with a question and Brother Sellers responded.

Brother Jeff Powers was recognized for comments about the craft lead men situation in Fort Worth Locomotive. Brothers Sellers and Hirschbein replied.

- President Deyo made the formal announcement that our new Benefits Specialist is Brother Shane Pitts.

- New Business:

Brother Jason Gottsch was recognized to discuss 3D issues at their shop. Brothers Deyo and Sellers responded. Brother Sellers reiterated that documentation is key when Transportation uses locomotives which do not meet 3D criteria. Each instance needs to be well documented including the name of the Transportation Manager and e-mailed to your manager, Slattery, and Givens.

Brother Ray Montoya had a question about the Rule 3e letter which went out. Brother Sellers responded in detail. Brother Steve Woithon had an add-on question.

VP Bo Brown was recognized and discussed the need for Withdrawal Cards.

Brother Brown also made a motion that any member who bids off Locomotive side to Car side, or vice-versa , then they will have to relinquish their seniority on the side they bid away from.

Brother Jeff Powers seconded the motion.

Brother Hirschbein requested clarification and related it to our CBA, citing Rule 12.

Brother Powers withdrew his second.

Brother Bob Tainsh seconded the original motion and then rescinded it stating that he misunderstood.

President Deyo again sought a second for the motion. A second was not submitted so the motion could not go forward.

President Deyo asked if there was any other new business. None was submitted.

- Brother Bob Tainsh moved to adjourn and Brother Steve Woithon seconded. Motion passed and Pres. Deyo adjourned the meeting at 8:22pm CT.

Total attendance in meeting = 36

The next regular Lodge Meeting will be held on Sept. 26, 2017 at 7 P.M. CST.

The number is 1-800-719-7514, the conference number is 514438. You will need to give your name for introduction.

It is important to have the correct mailing address for members on file so that they can receive union correspondence. If your mailing address has changed in the last year, please forward address changes to your Local or District Chairman.

TCU sends weekly updates through email called Flash News. The items of most importance are posted on the Lodge web site. If a member would like to subscribe to Flash News and receive the emails, contact Kevin Gifford at giffordk@tcunion.org.

Contact your District or Local Chairman for details on any items that you are interested in.