

Executive Vice President

Report March 2010

Submitted by Stan Wylie

Wow it is already March... Not sure where the time goes these days.

In February we did have new stewards training and I want to thank Craig Dameron and Terry Mitchell for their help. I also want to thank those who attended, Tanya Hillis, Suzanne Wylde, and Gary Scholl.

I participated in some conversations with the inside Network groups and Design groups on our ongoing disagreements over closing the vacation calendar the day before and the use of Priority time. I know a lot of members are being negatively affected by the changes the company is trying to force upon everyone. We might have made a bit of progress in some of those groups but waiting for management to get back to us on some proposals that were discussed. Of course the work groups will be notified if any agreements are reached. In the meantime I would encourage everyone to let their management team know what their thoughts are.

As everyone is aware the Local over the course of several years has changed its staffing levels and made them smaller as the membership became smaller due to retirements, center closures etc... At convention a few years ago the same mandate was put upon the International to reduce their costs by whatever means necessary. They are obligated to bring proposals to this year's convention to address it. The Secretary Treasurer has sent a couple proposals out to all the locals so we have an understanding of what they are submitting at the convention. In my opinion from what I have read and without any other proposals (they may submit more before convention) I don't think they are going far enough to address the concerns. They are suggesting combining two Vice President's positions into one which is good considering when the areas they represent are pretty small in comparison to the other VP's responsibilities. But I don't think that is all they could do in reassigning responsibilities to reduce the staff size. Another proposal is to make convention bi-annual as opposed to annual. While I agree there is cost savings with that idea it also causes other issues in regards to the appeals process now in place and that the whole convention would not have opportunity to vote on appeals except every other year. Many times the convention floor would over rule the Executive Board and the Appeals Committee on grievances being appealed to the convention for arbitration. This change would hinder that process and in the "off" years those would not have an opportunity to go to the convention floor. It would also change election cycles to every 2 years instead of the 3 years now which would give less stability and would incur additional costs as every convention would require elections.

That process is not simple and is a bit time consuming so it could take a day from the actually getting work done. Obviously meeting every other year would also require additional time to address more issues. So hopefully we will see more proposals but if anyone has thoughts on this issue and would like to discuss please let me know.

I am sure Michael and Craig have stuff in their reports regarding MV and the bargaining that is fast approaching so I won't say much except it is time for MV to become united work towards common goals and become an active part of mobilizing and bargaining. The bargaining team will work hard but the members should be active participants as well.

Not to sound like a broken record but worth repeating here. Regarding MV and "incidents" the drivers must call dispatch and report immediately without doing so really puts their job in jeopardy. The other piece of course is if involved in an incident and you are being questioned about it you can ask for a union steward under your Weingarten rights. I totally encourage folks to exercise those rights. Also if given safety points for any reason you should have a conversation with a union steward if one is not present when the company issues them to you.

Healthcare... Pay attention as President Obama has said everyone has had something to say on this issue and the time to act is now. Having further conversation will not have much effect and starting over is not an option. I urge everyone to contact their Senators and Congressman to view your thoughts and opinions.

We have submitted a proposal to rent space on Eastlake Avenue and the building owners are reviewing it. While most of us love this building here in Belltown it really is not cost effective for the membership or for what we need. Of course we will keep you posted on any progress on that front.