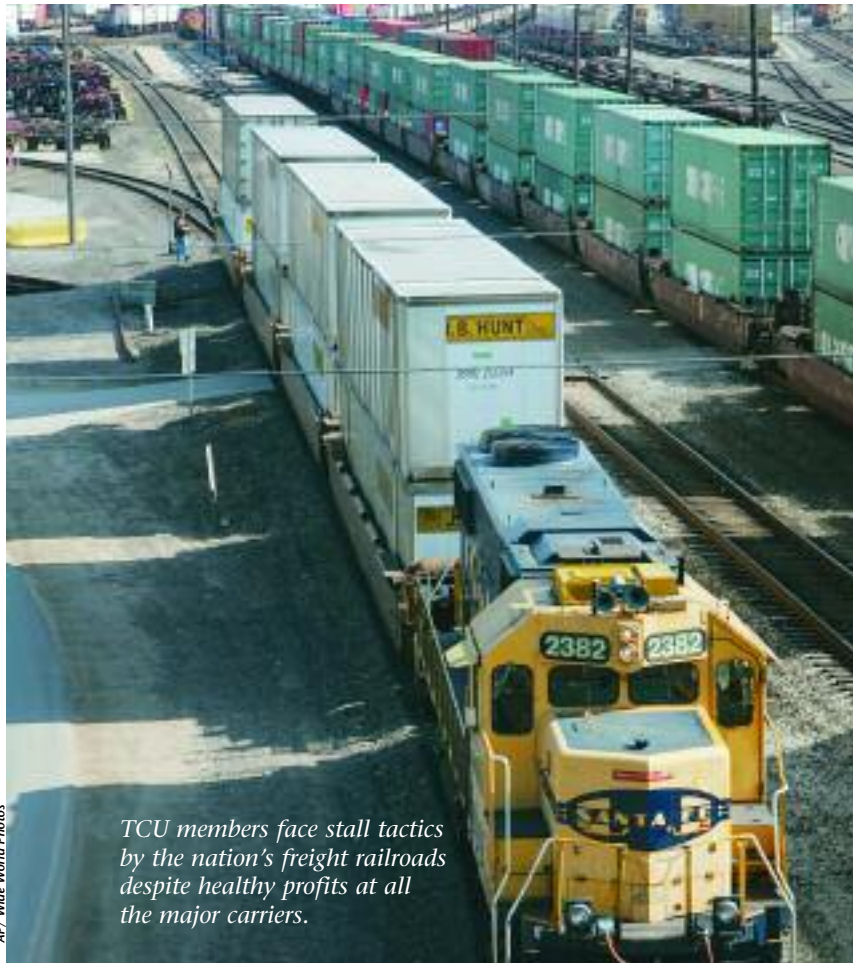


Freight Negotiations Stalled



AP/Wide World Photos

TCU members face stall tactics by the nation's freight railroads despite healthy profits at all the major carriers.

TCU Carmen and Clerical negotiations with the nation's freight railroads are at a standstill.

"Despite enjoying record profits, the freight railroads are demanding major concessions at the bargaining table and refusing to offer meaningful wage increases," reports TCU President Robert Scardelletti.

Negotiations with the carriers represented by the National Carriers' Conference Committee (NCCC) began January 1,

2005. The NCCC includes the four largest freight railroads: Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF), CSX, Norfolk Southern and Union Pacific, all of which are thriving economically.

Healthy Carriers

BNSF reported a 24 percent jump in net income for the fourth quarter of 2005. In the same period, CSX's net income tripled. Norfolk Southern and Union Pacific are enjoying similar robust results.

Yet at the bargaining table the carriers are acting like an industry experiencing financial troubles. Their demands include the elimination of all negotiated limits on contracting out, the obliteration of job protective agreements, and a tripling of the amount that employees now contribute for health insurance.

"The carriers' actions at the bargaining table are disgraceful," says President Scardelletti. "They show a complete disdain for their workers, whose hard work and productivity have been the major reason for the industry's revival."

A Matter of Politics

"It is no secret that the carriers' hardline bargaining strategy owes more to the current political climate than to economic reality," President Scardelletti adds. "They believe they have a direct line to President Bush and the Republican Congress and that they can use that political strength to achieve a concessionary contract. I have news for them – that strategy is a recipe for disaster.

"We will do whatever it takes to make sure that our members get their fair share of the carriers' record economic performance."



Supervisors Division President Joe Derillo, left, presents the 2005 ARASA award to Lodge 5092 member Amadeo Pirelli.

Pirelli Named 2005 ARASA President's Award Winner

The winner of the annual ARASA President's Award for 2005 is Amadeo "Mouse" Pirelli of Lodge 5092. Supervisors Division President Joe Derillo presented the award at a ceremony in Philadelphia last December.

The ARASA President's Award recognizes "that member who has quietly and diligently performed his or her job and has actively worked on behalf of other union brothers and sisters," says Derillo.

Pirelli, an ARASA member since 1980, works at Amtrak as a track supervisor in the Maintenance of Way Department. General Chairman Steve Tomlinson nominated Pirelli because of his "willingness to get involved" to benefit the union and its membership.

Log On to a New Look

TCU members will see a new look and more updates at www.tcuunion.org after the TCU's website is linked to the IAM's system this spring.

TCU members can also sign up for *iMail*, the IAM's e-mail news service. Go to www.goiam.org and click on 'iMail' to subscribe.

TCU Member Bulletin Board

About TCU's Constitution

TCU makes its *Constitution of the Grand Lodge, Statutes for the Government of Lodges and Districts, and Protective Laws* available to members in two ways: the document can be downloaded directly from TCU's website at www.TCUunion.org or, to get a bound version, members should send a written request to International Secretary-Treasurer H. W. Randolph, Jr., at TCU, 3 Research Place, Rockville, MD 20850.

About Grievances - Duty of Members

The Laws of TCU contain specific provisions for the filing and progression of grievances. Grievances must be presented in writing by the aggrieved employee, giving all known facts to the Local/District Chairman-Delegate (Article 1, Section 11(a) of the Protective Laws).

The Laws of TCU also provide adequate methods for internal appeals on grievance matters. Most contracts contain strict time limitations on filing and progressing grievances.

Each and every member has an individual responsibility and duty to properly file and appeal grievance matters under the Laws of this Union. For further information all members should consult the Laws of this Union.

About Payment of Dues

The attention of our members is called to Article 6, Section 1(a) of the Lodge and District Statutes which provide that

members owing two months' dues will be AUTOMATICALLY SUSPENDED at 12 o'clock midnight on the last day of the second month WITHOUT NOTICE. Here is the complete text of Article 6, Section 1(a) for lodges and districts:

About Suspension

Article 6, Section 1(a). Dues and assessments are due and payable on the first day of each calendar month. A member owes two months' dues and assessments on the first day of the second month, which means that two months' dues and assessments, and not a portion thereof, must be paid on or before midnight of the last day of that month or the member will be automatically suspended.

It is the responsibility of every member to know when dues and assessments are payable and pay them to an authorized representative of his Lodge (or the General Secretary-Treasurer for Districts) within the time limits specified in this Article.

No demand for payment of such dues or assessments or notice of nonpayment thereof or delinquency is necessary or required. A member who fails to pay his dues and assessments within the time limits specified in this Article is automatically suspended at 12 o'clock midnight of the last day of the second month for which he owes dues and assessments.

Note: Any individual paying an agency fee will be treated in the same manner as above set forth.

TCU April Dues Increase Per Constitution
Pursuant with Article 26, Section 2(b) of the TCU Grand Lodge Constitution, dues will be increased effective April 1, 2006 by \$0.40.

Note: These notices, policies and procedures apply only to members of the Transportation Communications Union (TCU) and all Constitutional references are to the TCU Grand Lodge Constitution.