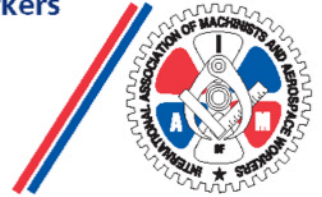


Transportation Communications Union/IAM

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers



Robert A. Scardelletti
National President



Subject: **National Negotiations Update**

November 13, 2017

TO: All Local Chairpersons With Members Under the National Agreement

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

In Flash News over the weekend, we provided an update on National Negotiations as well as a Press Release from the CBG. Today I'm providing a link to the BLE&T website where you can read their ratification material. I urge you to do so. Their material is sound and well-reasoned. (Click here <https://www.ble-t.org/agreement/>).

At the Local Chairpersons' Conference in September, you were able to see TCU's last proposal and the Carriers' last proposal. The TA is far better than the Carriers' last proposal to us, and I did say that to reach an agreement we would have to move from our last proposal. The CBG TA is now in the hands of their membership -- 85,000 rail workers will now decide. While we are not part of the TA, as I previously told you, if ratified it will set the pattern.

The TA is a hard fought agreement by six rail unions. It provides good wage increases, keeps our health care as one of the best there is, freezes the monthly health and welfare contribution at its present rate of \$228.89 per month for the duration of the Agreement and avoids any work rule changes. Those are the goals I set for us, and the ones I talked about with you at our meeting.

In one month we'll be three years into negotiations. TCU and its coalition partners (IAM, TWU, and IBEW) negotiated very hard and left no stone unturned in our effort to reach an agreement. During the last three years we kept the CBG and BMWU coalitions informed on all our positions. As a result, everything in the TA was discussed by our coalition.

Last week on November 8, we met again and got very close with subsequent meetings to be scheduled. We're working hard to reach an agreement.




Over the weekend in our Flash News, I commented on the BMW's rhetoric. It's sad that the BMW has resorted to those divisive tactics -- name calling and innuendos. BMW has walked away from negotiations and are now looking to engage the Congress one way or another to write their agreement.

As I told you at our meeting, I do not see that as a viable option for us. A Republican appointed Presidential Emergency Board (PEB) would never rule in favor of Labor. A national rail strike would surely bring about the intervention from the Republican majority in Congress. Any effort to engage the Congress either through a PEB or national rail strike would place our entire agreements in the hands of the Republican majority. It could well be disastrous. This is not the time for that.

If you have any questions, just send me an email and I will endeavor to get you an answer. I will continue to keep you informed.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "R. A. Scardelletti". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and "A".

Robert A. Scardelletti
National President

cc: Executive Council
Carmen Division Officers
National Representatives
Assistant National Representatives
All Other Local Lodge Officers