

Union Drivers' Journal

Organizing Crew Transporters for a Better Life On and Off the Job

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PTI 2016 Wage Dispute: As previously reported, PTI has taken the unusual and desperate step of appealing the 2016 PTI Wage Arbitration Decision to Federal Court. We will use lawyers from the firm that won the Arbitration for us in Indianapolis and our own USW Legal Staff to countersue for payment and interest. We also have appealed the 2017 PTI Denial of a Wage Increase to Arbitration, which had been held pending the outcome of the 2016 case. You can read the Arbitrators Decision at: (click on link) https://www.local1222.org/index.cfm?zone=/unionactive/view_page.cfm&page=PTI

2018 Negotiations: The PTI Contract expires on March 31, 2018 and the company and the union will be negotiating a replacement agreement. It doesn't seem likely that the Federal Court action will be complete by then. The negotiations give us another path to requiring the Company to pay the 2016-17 wages they owe drivers. The Union has already notified the Company that the starting point for the 2018 negotiations is to fully compensate drivers for denied wages in 2016-2017.

Solidarity is Critical: In any contract negotiations, the Company will decide how hard they stick to their position by how much they believe their workforce will stand together. One key way any Company judges our strength is by looking at how many drivers belong to the Union. If they feel drivers are determined to support and defend the union's bargaining goals, the Company will be reasonable. If, on the other hand, they sense weakness, the Company will try to walk over you like an entryway rug. This is a reality. Your Stewards and Union Representatives are going to ask non-members to show support by joining. If you are a non-member, you can make a huge difference by joining. If you are already a member, it is important that you talk with and urge non-members to sign up. YOU are the Union.

Membership numbers count! PTI Driver Sign Up Is Easy

Text Signup: "Send To:" [47486](https://www.local1222.org) and" Message:"[joinpti](https://www.local1222.org). Then answer the prompted questions.

Online Signup: Go to <http://local1222.org/> and click on "Online Membership Application" in the lower left column.

Thanks for your Emails: Since the Arbitration victory, we have received many emails supporting the Union's efforts and thanking the union for its work on behalf of drivers. When drivers found out the Company was going to Federal Court, we received another round of

emails backing our pursuit of the Company in Court and pledging 100% support. It's been a long three years since the UPSEU/USW partnership began ramping up our representation of Rail Crew and Medical Drivers. These letters show that appreciation and recognition of the work that's been done on behalf of drivers. However, we have a fight ahead of us with PTI and the reality is that all drivers have to join the fight. If you are not a member, now's the time to join. If you are a member, start talking to the non-members and be persistent. Renzenberger's contract expires at the end of the year. So this applies to all our drivers.

Kendleton Drivers say Union YES: The driver family that the USW and our UPSEU partnership covers is growing. Railcrew Xpress drivers in Kendleton, TX voted to have the USW represent them in a National Labor Relations Board election held October 31st. This will be our second contract with RCX along with Dupo, IL. We will be sitting down with drivers to get at their issues and setting negotiations dates shortly.

Renzenberger Gets BNSF Units: BNSF Railroad rebid ten PTI locations in the Pacific Northwest and awarded them to Renzenberger/Hallcon. These sites began transitioning to the new company in October and will be completed by early December. We are having real success in signing the drivers at these locations and hope to have them under a contract that preserves their wages, working conditions, benefits and prior seniority by the beginning of the year. If you are a driver who is or will shortly become a Renzenberger/Hallcon employee, make sure to call our Regional Organizing/Service Representative Vicki Fuston at (509) 205-9608. One of our key goals is to make these transfers of locations by the Railroad as seamless as possible for the drivers involved.

Railcrew Xpress Gets BNSF Units: BNSF Railroad also switched Iowa sites at Creston, Burlington, and Ottumwa. Railcrew was also awarded the Sandpoint, ID location. If you are a driver who is or will shortly become a Railcrew Express employee, make sure to call our Regional Organizing/Service Representative Jeff Kramer at (317) 691-7690.

Healthcare Open Enrollment: It is that time of the year again to decide what, if any healthcare coverage you want to purchase. All three Companies have benefit plans to offer and you have the option of participating in the Obamacare "Exchanges". Congress may possibly change its provisions. However those changes will not likely be seen until 2018. That means you will need to show coverage to avoid a tax penalty. You can look at Obamacare offerings at <https://www.healthcare.gov/>. The Company will be sending eligible driver's information and contact numbers for its plans. Find out if you can drop or change your coverage during the year if the law changes and you no longer want that coverage.

Renzenberger Contract Finalized: Renzenberger/Hallcon and the USW have now finalized the contract. We will have copies available to drivers shortly and hope to put it on a website where you can download it. Stewards and Supervisors will be provided copies. Give us a couple of weeks to work all this out before emailing and asking for your copy. The USW believes every member should have a copy and understand its provisions.

Bereavement Pay: We're seeing some drivers get caught short when someone close to them dies and they take off for the funeral. Both the PTI and Renzenberger contracts provide

for paid time off for certain specified relatives. Additional provisions provide for unpaid time off for an expanded list of relatives. Make sure you check with your Steward or the Company if you are taking bereavement leave, to be clear if it is paid or unpaid coverage.

Staff Training: In our continuing effort to enhance and improve the union service drivers receive; the USW hosted our five Rail Crew and Medical Driver Regional Driver Organizers/Service Representatives for a week of training and strategy building at the USW International Union Headquarters in Pittsburgh, PA. A number of USW Departments worked with your Representatives to develop and sharpen their skills, understanding, and ways to make the Project more successful. We return them to the field better equipped to work with our Stewards and Drivers. This is another of the continuing ways the union is investing in building power with you and your coworkers.



(Pictured Left to Right: Front – Vicki Fuston (Western U.S.), Jackie Bell (Tx, La, Ar), Back- Ike Gittlen (USW Coordinator), Rich Zimmerman (USW Local Union 7234 Coordinator), Darryl Turner (South and Lower Middle Atlantic), and Jeff Kramer (Northeast and Midwest).

At the end of the Day, the UNION is YOU

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