



CREW TRANSPORTERS UNITED

USW-UPSEU Service Agreement for PTI Workers

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Union Update: July 19, 2017

PTI/UPSEU/USW Wage Arbitration Concluded Today

Today Arbitrator Joseph Simeri officiated over an Arbitration Hearing that dealt with PTI's failure to pay the April 1, 2016 Contractual Wage Increases. The hearing was held in Indianapolis, IN. The Union was represented by Robert A. Hicks, Esq. and Richard Swanson from the law firm of Macey Swanson LLP. The Company was represented by Mark Merkle from the Law Firm of Krieg/Devault. The Hearing took 8 hours to complete. The proceeding will have a written transcript from the court reporter at the hearing.

The Union witnesses were Kevin Boyle, the President of UPSEU and Ike Gittlen from the USW. The Company's sole witness was Bradley Harrison, PTI's Vice President of Procurement and Supply.

Anyone who has been involved in this kind of judicial proceeding knows that the outcome is never certain. That said, the union does believe our attorney's did a bang up job and our testimony backed up the Union's claim that PTI violated the labor agreement and our drivers contractual rights.

The Company's basic position was that they have no obligation to any wage increase above the bare minimum wage scale in the Contract. They testified that the loss of CSX business in 2016 created a financial difficulty and they simply decided they were not going to pay the increases the Union negotiated.

The Union presented a great deal of documentation and testimony that showed the history of how wage increases were applied, going back to the first PTI/UPSEU labor agreement in the late 1990's. We also presented detailed accounts of the 2015 bargaining and its outcome. Arbitrator Simeri gave the attorney's thirty (30) days to present him with final briefs (essentially each side's final summary arguments). The Arbitrator further advised that the parties could expect his decision thirty to forty (30-40) days after he received the briefs. That means we should have his decision somewhere in late September.

As we have reminded drivers from the beginning, without a union, the contract that was negotiated on your behalf, and the dues paying members, PTI would have been able to deny its employees a wage raise without challenge. The Union appreciates your patience through this long and frustrating ordeal. Hopefully we are nearing the end of this sad episode in PTI history and we will be able to obtain justice.

In solidarity,

Ike Gittlen, Coordinator
UPSEU/USW Rail Crew Hauling Project

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