



CREW TRANSPORTERS UNITED

USW-UPSEU Service Agreement for PTI Workers

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Text Signup in Cell Phone Messenger - To: 47486 – Message: uswupseu - Send

USW Union Update for PTI Drivers

November 28, 2018

Bargaining: The Union and Company last met for formal negotiations in mid-October. The company is preparing an economic (money) proposal. In addition, the Union is awaiting a number of pieces of information necessary to resolve some outstanding issues as well as have the data we need to analyze the company's economic proposal. Once the company provides its economic proposal, the union has its own to propose. As we have said from the beginning of these negotiations, the 2016-17 unpaid wages must be resolved to reach agreement on a new contract.

Federal Court Suit Regarding Past Wages: The Union, as of this Update, has not received a decision from the Judge, nor any indication of when he might hand one down.

Coordination with the Drivers Alliance: As reported before, we have been working closely with the United Electrical Workers (UE) and the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (S.M.A.R.T). Union and our United Public Service Employees Union (UPSEU) service agreement partners. All of us are now in contract negotiations. We estimate that between us we represent some 65% of all the drivers in the Rail Crew Hauling industry. The UE started discussions first at Renzenberger/Halcon, they are the "lead" contract at that company. The four unions (UE, SMART, UPSEU and the USW) are coordinating some of our key contract proposals so that we can move toward a standard driver contract that works for drivers at all locations. That will not happen in one contract, but progress is being made.

Button and Sticker Campaign: We are getting a supply of buttons and stickers out to Stewards and drivers in our coordinated campaign to demonstrate driver unity and build support for a fair contract with Railroaders. In coordination with the public campaign, we've developed a web site that has information about our struggle and a petition of support. The web site is: <https://www.supportcrewdrivers.com/> . Make sure you visit and sign the petition.

Legal Changes: A number of states are increasing their minimum wages this year and New Jersey had enacted a mandatory sick day/personal days. The Federal Minimum Wage remains unchanged at \$7.25

States above the Federal minimum wage levels in UPSEU/USW locations are
Arkansas \$8.50; Colorado \$9.89; Delaware \$8.75; Florida \$8.46; Illinois \$8.25;
Massachusetts \$12.00; Montana \$8.50; New Jersey \$8.85; New York \$11.10 (but
variable by county); Ohio \$8.55; Oregon \$10.75; South Dakota \$9.10; Washington \$12.00;
and West Virginia \$8.75. The states of Missouri \$8.60; Minnesota \$9.86; Nevada \$8.25;
and Arizona \$9 as a result of the November 6th voters' approval of ballot measures. Voting
Matters.

States that have automatic annual increases with automatic increase by legislative formulas in USW locations: Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon and Washington.

Cities that have their own Minimum Wage laws in USW locations: Birmingham, Alabama; Chicago, Illinois; Cook County, Illinois; Minneapolis, Minnesota; New York City, New York; Portland Urban Growth Boundary, Oregon; SeaTac, Washington; Seattle, Washington; and Tacoma, Washington.

These rates come from the U.S. Department of Labor information.

Lose, Lose, Lose Situation: The bottom line is that continuing to try to hold driver wages down is a loser for drivers, the rail crew Hauling companies and the railroads. The driver turnover is getting worse, the crew hauling companies are having a difficult time attracting new drivers, and the driver shortages combined with inexperienced drivers keeps the railroads from getting their crews where they need to be in a timely way. This can't go on and something has to give. These negotiations may well be that breaking point. We will see.

Stewards are Key: The UPSEU/USW Partnership has one full time coordinator, four area representatives and a network of location stewards. We depend on this staff to organize people into the union, make sure the contract is followed, and deal with the ever changing work situation regarding Railroad bids on equipment needs, driver schedules, and even what company will be awarded bids to what locations. This is a nationwide union with 5,000 drivers and over 200 locations to service. Dues have been kept low to respect the wages drivers earn. The only way this all works well if we have someone at each location that is willing to serve as a Steward. They are the union's eyes and ears and an important way to resolve issues quickly at the location level. If you don't have a Steward at your location, or are interested in becoming a Steward to add to the Steward you have, please contact your area representative at the end of this Update to apply.

Unity is our Weapon: In a complex world, where those with wealth and power want us to believe that their agenda can't be changed, our most effective response is our own solidarity and common purpose. History is full of examples of how people stuck together and brought about major change. The continuous war against unions is because unions bring people together and teach us how to use our collective power to counter corporate and money power. It has never been easy. It is hard to keep lots of people focused on common goals. It is easier to divide and instill fear. But time after time people have succeeded and unions have defended the interests of working families, minorities, and the seemingly powerless. The recent victories that increased the minimum wage, the teachers' actions that raised wages and school funding, and fights over the "right to work for less" legislation are proof that solidarity works in today's world. The effort to improve the circumstances of rail crew drivers is exactly that kind of fight. Believing in each other is our greatest strength. It is also the path to a better life for us and our families. In the words of an old union slogan, we urge each driver to work every day to find that which unites us rather than that which divides us.

Hang in There and Support Your Union

To Receive these Updates, email us your name , company, and location at 1222@usw.org

Getting Help: Your Location Steward should be the first step in trying to get your union contract questions answered or if you have a problem. However, we understand that it's sometimes hard to reach a Steward. The next and quickest way to get some help is:

The Union Driver Hotline at (866)203-4960.

Email us at: 1222@usw.org.

Union Area Representative Contact Information: Here are the contact numbers for our four Union Area Representatives:

Northeast States: Jeff Kramer – Phone: (317) 691-7690

Email: jkramer@organizing.usw.org

(Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island)

Southeast States: Darryl Turner – Phone: (205) 253-3016

Email: dturner@organizing.usw.org

(Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia)

Western States: Vicki Fuston – Phone: (509) 205-9608

Email: vickifuston@gmail.com

(Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming)

Southwestern States: Jackie Bell – Phone: (817) 343-8862

Email: jbelle@organizing.usw.org

(Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas)

Please Share this UPdate with Your Co-Workers

CONTACT USW/UPSEU

USW-UPSEU Contract Issue Hotline - 1-866-203-4960 –

Fax: 1-412-562-2318 - Email: 1222@usw.org