

Pattern agreement 'unfair' for BLET members at LIRR

The BLET members at the Long Island Rail Road ratified a pattern contract settlement recently.

During the long running negotiations, three different disputes were arbitrated, one of which began in Federal Court when BLET members threatened to strike over the carrier using outside contractors to move trains in its new Arch Street Yard facility.

"We fought long and hard in an effort to negotiate an agreement that not

only recognized issues unique to our craft but compensated us for our superior skill, responsibility and productivity as well," said General Chairman Robert M. Evers. "Unfortunately, our demand for a release from mediation was denied and we ended up with the pattern settlement negotiated by another craft. During the past 10 years there has been a huge turnover in our membership due to retirements and many of these members were unfamiliar with pattern bargaining.

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"They now realize the inherent unfairness associated with this process and the consequences it has on not only our wages and benefits but also our lack of leverage at the bargaining table. However, one of the positive aspects of this settlement was our members coming together with their General Committee and participating in our Organization's democratic ratification process. I am most grateful for the as-

sistance of President Hahs, First Vice President Rodzwick, our legal counsel, both locally and nationally, and our Arbitration Department, who were with us every step of the way during our struggle for a fair and equitable agreement."

BLET members working on the New York & Atlantic Railroad also ratified an agreement recently.

"We hammered out a fair settlement that did not require us to overcome a pattern agreement," General Chairman Evers said. "In addition to a continuation of a \$20 per day longevity payment, the agreement also provides for the 'rolling in' of the Certification Allowance into the hourly rate and time and one-half for working a sixth and seventh day in the workweek.

"The New York & Atlantic Railroad truly cares about their employees, which was demonstrated during negotiations, which is in sharp contrast to having to deal with the MTA/LIRR. The percentage wage increases over the four year term of the agreement will ultimately be enhanced by the profit sharing clause should the carrier increase their business. BLET members are essentially partners in the success of the freight operating over the LIRR and have been recognized as such as a result of this agreement." •

Election Supervisor's Sixth Report to BLET Members

Candidate Nominations At The Convention: — The 27th International Convention of the IBT is scheduled to convene on June 26, 2006 and have sessions each day through Friday, June 30. Delegates at the convention nominate candidates for IBT international union office.

The **schedule for nominations** is stated in the **Supplemental Election Supervisor Rules for the 27th International IBT Convention**. Copies can be obtained at the Election Supervisor's Office at the Convention, located in the Gold Ballroom at Bally's, or by downloading them from www.ibtvote.org. The **Supplemental Rules** also govern procedures for floor nominations, floor speeches in support of nominations, campaign activity, floor demonstrations, voting procedures, and observer rights for all aspects of the nominations. The Supplemental Rules and Article III, § 5 of the *Rules for the 2005-2006 IBT International Union Delegate and Officer Election* set out all the rules that govern the nomination process.

A BLET member is eligible to run for an IBT international union office if he or she is a member in continuous good standing for a period of five (5) consecutive months between January 2006 and May 2006, with no interruptions in active membership due to suspensions, expulsions, withdrawals, transfers or failures to pay fines, and assessments during any part of that period.

To be nominated to run for IBT international office, a candidate nominated from the Convention floor must receive at least five percent (5%) of the votes cast in the secret ballot nomination vote for that office. Only delegates accredited by the Office of the Election Supervisor are eligible to cast votes in the secret ballot nomination voting. A candidate for union-wide office (General President, General Secretary-Treasurer, at-large Vice President, International Trustee) must receive at least five percent of the secret ballot nomination votes cast by all delegates. A candidate nominated from the floor for a regional Vice-President position must receive at least five percent of the secret ballot nomination votes cast by all delegates from the floor nominee's region.

Delegate Elections By The Numbers: — 614 IBT Local Unions, GCC Local Unions; BLET General Committees of Adjustment, and RMWED System Federations elected delegates to the 27th International Convention of the IBT.

RRB's Form BA-6

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RRB Internet Services account. To do this, employees can click on "Benefit Online Services (MainLine)" and then click on the "Create an account" link for directions on establishing an RRB Internet Services account. At the LIRR,