



News Release

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Contact: John Thacker: 202-962-0981

NCFO Reaches Tentative Agreement with Freight Railroads

NCFO has reached tentative agreement on a new, six-year contract with the nation's freight railroads on November 17.

The deal, which the NCFO freight-rail membership must approve by mail ballot before it can take effect, provides compounded wage increases of 20.1 percent and an additional one percent lump-sum payment upon ratification.

The tentative agreement—which runs January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2015—freezes employee contributions to health insurance premiums at the current \$200 per month level through June, 2016. This will enhance the take-home pay of members throughout the agreement.

The railroads hoped to make their June 2 agreement with the United Transportation Union (UTU) the “pattern agreement” that all other railroad unions would have to accept.

But, NCFO, its partners in the Rail Labor Bargaining Coalition (RLBC) and another coalition of five rail unions jointly—and successfully—called on President Obama to appoint a President Emergency Board (PEB). Through October PEB hearings and subsequent bargaining, NCFO and its coalition partners were able to win wage and other improvements—including delay in implementation of a new system of co-payments and deductibles for those using medical services within the established healthcare network.

The union also negotiated establishment of flexible medical spending accounts, so that NCFO members can reduce their federal income taxes by setting aside wages to pay for medical costs.

“Given the very tough and volatile economic situation in the country and the very unstable political situation in Washington caused by the takeover of the House of Representatives by anti-union extremists last year, our railroad members come out of these negotiations in pretty good shape,” says NCFO President John Thacker.

Ratification packets with full details of the proposed settlement will be mailed to NCFO freight railroad members within the next two weeks.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF
FIREMEN & OILERS
DISTRICT OF LOCAL
32BJ/SEIU

JOHN R. THACKER
NCFO DISTRICT PRESIDENT

DEAN DEVITA
NCFO DISTRICT SECRETARY-TREASURER

EXECUTIVE BOARD

JIM LARREAU
MIKE MOSES
MICHAEL WILLIAMS

1023 15TH STREET, NW
10TH FLOOR
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

TEL: 202.962.0981
FAX: 202.872.1222
WWW.NCFO.ORG

