

Greetings,

Effective July 1, 2022, I assumed the position of President General Chairman Directing President of District 19. This is truly an honor and an incredible responsibility. My first concern will be to ensure all decisions are based on what is best for the membership and fiscally responsible for District 19.

Brother Perry left the District in better financial shape and I wish him well in his retirement and thank him for all he has done for the membership. Mike served during very difficult times in the Rail industry but always provided steady leadership and never backed away from the hard decisions.

Recently the District had a first electronic strike authorization vote which was supported by an overwhelming 99.4% voting in support of the authorization. I wish to thank all who voted and made it a great success.

I believe that President Biden will establish a Presidential Emergency Board to make recommendations for the National Freight agreement. I can assure you that we continue to work with all rail unions, and we will fight to get the best possible outcome we can achieve. I will continue to update the membership as the process is drawing near a conclusion.

Most of the Railroads we service are recalling our members with many refusing recall. The Railroads continue to struggle to retain current employees due to their unwillingness to negotiate agreements that value their employees. Most are struggling to hire new employees due to insufficient pay and lack of time off. Incentive hiring bonuses are being offered for new hires while the essential workers who worked through the pandemic and showed up every day get nothing but forced overtime and unrealistic demands from the management.

I believe there is a lot of uncertainty in the future and the District's leadership must remain steadfast and remember that we must be better and make sure that this is a membership-driven District. Due to all the past furloughs, resignations, and retirements, District 19 has had to reduce staff and for the first time in many years, the staff fits the size of the membership.

I can assure you that this staff will continue to find new ways to be better cost-effective and ensure that the memberships money is taken care of so we don't make the same financial mistakes of the past.

District Lodge 19's - Ninth Quadrennial Convention will convene on August 22, 2022, at the Loews Ventana Canyon Resort in Tucson, AZ. We are currently finalizing all the details to ensure that we have a very successful convention. I look forward to seeing the Executive Board and delegates soon.

Kyle K. Loos