The BMWED/SMART-Mechanical bargaining group met with the National Carriers Conference Committee (NCCC) for mediation on September 27. The Railroads continue to demand that we accept “mainstream” health insurance that would involve massive reductions in our standard of living. Their wage and contracting-out proposals remain unchanged and unacceptable.

Our proposals remain the same – strong wage increases with retro-pay, an average increase in pay of $30,703 per member over the five-year contract, and no changes to the health insurance except a $25 increase in the emergency room co-pay. All despite our finding efficiencies to the tune of $100s of millions in yearly savings to the healthcare plan for the Railroads that require no change in benefit levels.

**The Railroads’ greed has no excuse. It is up to all of us in Rail Labor to stand strong in Solidarity - we must repel these greedy attacks on the wellbeing of our families.**

There is clearly no room for a voluntary agreement with the Railroads at this time. While we prepare for a Presidential Emergency Board (PEB), our brothers and sisters in the Signal and Operating Crafts negotiate the first week of October with the NCCC. We wish them all the best, knowing they will stand strong by continuing to hold the line against concessions for all of Rail Labor as we have done.

**Healthcare NOT Wealthcare**

www.bmwe.org