



History

- The Railway Labor Act, also known as the RLA, is the first major piece of labor legislation.
- Passed by Congress in 1926, workers gained the right to organize, negotiate as a group, and have an established grievance procedure. At the same time, railroads had the right to keep their business from being disrupted by “wildcat” strikes. In 1936, the RLA was amended to include the airlines.

Basics

- When disputes between workers and management arise, members must work now and grieve later. A major exception would be working under unsafe conditions at management’s insistence.
- The National Mediation Board was created to supervise the mediation of contract negotiations. For workers who do not already have a union, the National Mediation Board also conducts elections in which workers can choose to have a union.
- Collective bargaining agreements don’t expire. Agreements have amendable dates instead. Until mutually negotiated changes are accepted by both parties, the existing agreement remains in effect.

Happening Now

- Both parties exchange notices of intent to change (amend) the existing contract. These notices are referred to as “Section 6” notices. We expect this to occur in the 2nd quarter of 2009.
- This date is rapidly approaching. We need everyone to start preparing their contract proposals. District 141 will be asking you to submit proposals electronically on iam141.org. Doing so will facilitate speed and ease of prioritizing. With everyone’s input District 141 will have a much stronger idea of what issues are most important to you, our membership. President and Directing General Chair, Rich Delaney, will be appointing our negotiating team. With your feedback, the negotiating team will understand what needs to be done from your perspective. “The squeaky wheel gets the oil.” If you want to make sure your voice is heard get your proposals ready.

Next

- The second part of this series will be out soon. The second part will cover how to submit your proposals. Meanwhile you can take a Contract Survey online now, and also submit a Contract Proposal(s) online or in print.