

Your IBU Negotiation Team has met with the State and both sides have offered all their proposals. As in years past, the State highlights budgetary and funding concerns and seeks to reduce overall expenses, especially travel. We well understand the State’s perspective and concerns and have integrated them into our negotiating proposals for a fair and equitable contract.

There had been discussion by the SOA regarding 2x2 assignment for all IBU members. However, that State proposal has been withdrawn. A State proposal to eliminate sick and vacation leave; consolidating them into “personal leave,” has also been withdrawn.

The IBU has proposed to remove COLD (COLD is the difference between in state and out of state wages) from our contract and replace it with a built-in wage increase tied to the Federal consumer price index (CPI). COLD would cease to be such an intense bone of contention every contract negotiations cycle and positive-percentage cost-of-living increases assist in inflation-proofing our wages. The State’s offer is to reduce COLD by 15% and pay all overtime at the out of state wage rate.

The State has offered to increase the length of vehicles traveling on pass to thirty feet, an increase of seven feet before a pass holder must pay for the extra length.

Health care is another major concern. The State’s offer, to date, is to require our members to pay 15% of the monthly premium. We do not know what that amount would be, because our self-insured employer has yet to put a definite numerical cost amount to their premium next year.

A head’s-up to all members: The State is preparing to implement a 50% meal fee for members traveling on deadhead passes. The State proposes to reinstate the ability of members traveling on deadhead passes to travel “around the horn” as we have done in decades past. Deadheading members will no longer have to avail themselves of using an annual pass to remain aboard after a work cycle on the Haines/Skagway/Haines or Prince Rupert legs of vessel travel.

The 30th Legislature’s entry into special session opens the possibility of negotiating monetary terms that would become effective July first of this year. To date, we have come to agreeable language on twenty-two rules and feel strongly that we will have a working contract that our membership will approve.

Although we are yet engaged in one of the most challenging of bargaining cycles; rest assured your committee has your best interests in mind. An injury to one is an injury to all. We take that very seriously. Thank you for your continued support. For more information please contact any of your negotiation committee members or the Regional Director at 907-790-9644 or joshua@ibu.org.

In Solidarity



Joshua Stephenson

IBU Alaska Region Negotiation Committee

Joshua Stephenson Regional Director

Siwatu McLaurin South West Rep

Earling Walli Chair

Bryan Ritter Steward Rep

Robert Arnold Purser Rep

Clark Posey Deck Rep

Mark Slichter Engine Rep