

# LODGE MEETINGS

## THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDING

In the past several years your National Division and System Officers have developed numerous ways for you to access important information relating to your present and future employment rights along with all of the negotiated benefits available to you. We should currently be the most informed union members in history for many reasons. We have web sites we can access from the Teamsters, The BMWED and your own Unified System Division with links to all of our insurance, employment (RRB) benefits, legislative issues relating to our employment, etc. We receive newsletters like this one from the Teamsters, National Division and your Unified System Division. There are numerous telephone numbers and e-mail addresses you can utilize to speak with your representatives and your union officers have on occasion been able to get permission to personally visit the job sites to meet with you although we recently have been denied that access in many locations.

However, one of the most important responsibilities we have as members, who together make up this critically important organization, is to ATTEND LOCAL LODGE MEETINGS. At local lodge meetings brothers and sisters have a chance to share valuable information with each other and their representative(s) about issues arising at different locations and different gangs with different managers or supervisors that may at some point be a threat to your job. By attending local lodge meetings we learn about what benefits we have only because we are a union and what the Carriers are attempting to do to limit or take away those benefits as well as what each of us can do to protect our benefits and agreement rights. The Carrier does not want you to know about your Collective Bargaining Agreement or your rights under that Agreement! In fact, the Carriers meet regularly in an attempt to find ways to erode your Collective Bargaining Agreement and your rights. IT ONLY MAKES SENSE THAT WE MEET AND GET INVOLVED IN PROTECTING OUR FUTURES SO PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO ATTEND YOUR LOCAL LODGE MEETINGS!!! You work hard to earn a pay check and a portion of your paycheck is invested as dues in your union so please get involved by attending your local lodge meetings. Someone recently said "paying union dues without being involved or attending meetings is like paying for cable television without owning a television set". Your union needs your experience and input!

*ATTENTION SYSTEM GANG EMPLOYEES!!! If you are currently assigned to a Consolidated System Gang you may find yourself travelling all over the Western United States. If you are interested in attending a Local Lodge meeting near you while you are working far away from your own Local Lodge please review the Lodge Map in this section for the Lodge nearest you. The Local Lodge Officers are listed at each location and they would be glad to share with you their meeting schedule.*