Referendum proposed by Local 129

In accordance with Article I, Section 130 and 133, we, the members of Local 129, propose amendments by referendum to the Constitution of the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen.

Be it therefore resolved that copies of these proposed amendments will be prepared in duplicate, one copy to be deposited with the Grand Board of Trustees and one to be forwarded to the Secretary-Treasurer, on January 2, 2019, with the expectation that they will be published in the next edition of The Signalman’s Journal.

The proposed amendments endorsed by Local 129 and to be submitted are as follows:

WHEREAS, it is the expectation of the members of the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen that the offices of the regional Vice Presidents will be staffed only by those people who can best represent the interests of the members; and

WHEREAS, the current policy of the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen limits applicants to the offices of the regional Vice Presidents to only those members who reside in the vicinity of Front Royal, VA; and

WHEREAS, forcing all regional Vice Presidents to locate to Front Royal, VA, is not always cost effective and not always in the best interests of the members; and

WHEREAS, the General Committees and their members who are under the assignment of a regional Vice President would benefit from having greater access to the Vice President if his headquarters were allowed to be within the geographic boundaries of the area he represents; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen does not grant the members' General Committees the ability to request that their respective regional Vice President's headquarters be located in the geographic area which he represents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that a limited authority be given to the affected members being represented by their General Committees to permit their regional Vice President the option of maintaining a headquarters within the same geographic boundaries as those members; and

RESOLVED, that, in the interest of maintaining a cost to the members comparable or less than those currently incurred, any headquarters outside of Front Royal, VA, will be limited to the residence of the regional Vice President and no additional office space or office facility outside of this headquarters will be funded by the members or the Brotherhood; and

RESOLVED, that in these instances the determination for the need for clerical help would be most safely determined with the added oversight of the Grand Executive Council; and

RESOLVED, that the Constitution of the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen be amended to reflect the desire of the members; to wit:

Article I, Section 8, of the BRS Constitution currently reads:

Sec. 8. The headquarters of the regional Vice Presidents shall be at locations designated by the Grand Executive Council and, when so established, shall not be changed except upon approval of the Grand Executive Council. Such approval may be overridden by unanimous vote of the Grand Board of Trustees. Each full-time Grand Lodge officer shall reside within a reasonable commuting distance of his headquarters. The headquarters of members of the Grand Board of Trustees shall be at their respective homes. (7/2010)

Amend Article I, Section 8, of the BRS Constitution to read as follows:

Sec. 8. The headquarters of the regional Vice Presidents shall be at locations designated by the Grand Executive Council and, when so established, shall not be changed except upon approval of the Grand Executive Council. Such approval may be overridden by unanimous vote of the Grand Board of Trustees. Exception: If a regional Vice President requests a home office as his headquarters and if such request is approved by a majority of the General Chairmen under his/her jurisdiction, a Vice President may utilize a home office within in his/her assigned authority boundaries. Each full-time Grand
Lodge officer shall reside within a reasonable commuting distance of his headquarters. The headquarters of members of the Grand Board of Trustees shall be at their respective homes.

Article I, Section 85, of the BRS Constitution currently reads:

Clerical Help

Sec. 85. The President and Secretary-Treasurer shall employ the clerical force necessary at Grand Lodge Headquarters. A clerical employee required by a Vice President away from Headquarters shall be employed by that Vice President, subject to the approval of the President and Secretary-Treasurer. Clerical employees shall be paid salaries which have been approved by the Grand Board of Trustees. All such employees must be members of a labor union affiliated with the AFL-CIO. (7/2010)

Amend Article I, Section 85, of the BRS Constitution to read as follows:

Clerical Help.

Sec. 85. The President and Secretary-Treasurer shall employ the clerical force necessary at Grand Lodge Headquarters. If the Grand Executive Council determines a clerical employee is required by a Vice President away from Headquarters, such clerical employee shall be employed by that Vice President. Clerical employees shall be paid salaries which have been approved by the Grand Board of Trustees. All such employees must be members of a labor union affiliated with the AFL-CIO.

In addition, each General Committee shall be entitled to one voting representative for 500 Members; and shall be entitled to one additional voting representative for each additional 500 Members (or major fraction thereof). Representatives to be based upon the number of Members in good standing as of January 1st of each year, that each General Committee represents. Each General Chairman will notify the President of any changes in their representatives on the General Committee Executive Board.

Amend Article I, Section 32, of the BRS Constitution by striking the words "General Chairmen" from Article I, Section 32, and replace them with the words "General Committee Executive Board" so that the amended Article I, Section 32, reads as follows:

Sec. 32. In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, either by death, resignation, removal, or suspension, or any other cause, the Secretary-Treasurer shall assume charge of the office and immediately convene the Grand Executive Council and the General Committee Executive Board, which shall by a majority vote, secret ballot, elect a successor to fill the unexpired term.

Amend Article I, Section 33, of the BRS Constitution by striking the words "General Chairmen" from Article I, Section 33, and replace them with the words "General Committee Executive Board" so that the amended Article I, Section 33, reads as follows:

Sec. 33. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Secretary-Treasurer either by death, resignation, removal, or suspension, or any other cause, the President shall immediately convene the Grand Executive Council and the General Committee Executive Board, which shall by a majority vote, secret ballot, elect a successor to fill the unexpired term.

Amend Article I, Section 35, of the BRS Constitution by striking the words "General Chairmen" from Article I, Section 35, and replace them with the words "General Committee Executive Board" so that the amended Article I, Section 35, reads as follows:

Sec. 35. In the event of a vacancy in the office of a Vice President or a member of the Grand Board of Trustees, the President shall assume charge of the office and immediately
convene the Grand Executive Council and the General Committee Executive Board, which shall by a majority vote, secret ballot, elect a successor to fill the unexpired term.

Amend Article I, Section 67, of the BRS Constitution by striking the original text of Article I, Section 67, and replacing it with a new Article I, Section 67 which reads as follows:

Sec. 67. The Committee on Laws shall be composed of six members, two members of which shall be members of the Grand Executive Council, two members of which shall be members of the Board of Trustees, and two members of which shall be elected from among the General Committee Executive Board of the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen. (The General Committee Executive Board will select their members by majority vote, secret ballot election at the last regularly scheduled meeting preceding the Convention and whenever vacancies occur. Alternates will also be elected at this meeting and whenever vacancies occur.) The Committee on Laws shall meet within 90 days prior to the Convention to consider all proposed amendments to the Constitution and Ritual which have been submitted in accordance with provisions of Article I, Section 131. The Committee may recommend changes, additions, and alterations in the Constitution and Ritual to the Convention. It shall consider all resolutions and recommended changes in the laws of the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen and report its findings and recommendations to the Convention for approval. The Chairman of the Grand Board of Trustees shall act as Chairman of the Committee on Laws.