



June 11, 2018

Mr. William Kirkpatrick, Recording Financial Secretary  
Railroad Signalmen AFL-CIO, Local Lodge 183  
5 Allegheny Court  
Park Forest, IL 60466

Case Number: 310-6012600  
LM Number: 015940

Dear Mr. Kirkpatrick:

This office has recently completed an audit of Railroad Signalmen Local Lodge 183 under the Compliance Audit Program (CAP) to determine your organization's compliance with the provisions of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 (LMRDA). As discussed during the exit interview with you on June 6, 2018, the following problems were disclosed during the CAP. The matters listed below are not an exhaustive list of all possible problem areas since the audit conducted was limited in scope.

#### Recordkeeping Violations

Title II of the LMRDA establishes certain reporting and recordkeeping requirements. Section 206 requires, among other things, that labor organizations maintain adequate records for at least five years by which each receipt and disbursement of funds, as well as all account balances, can be verified, explained, and clarified. As a general rule, labor organizations must maintain all records used or received in the course of union business.

For disbursements, this includes not only original bills, invoices, receipts, vouchers, and applicable resolutions, but also documentation showing the nature of the union business requiring the disbursement, the goods or services received, and the identity of the recipient(s) of the goods or services. In most instances, this documentation requirement can be satisfied with a sufficiently descriptive expense receipt or invoice. If an expense receipt is not sufficiently descriptive, a union officer or employee should write a note on it providing the additional information. For money it receives, the labor organization must keep at least one record showing the date, amount, purpose, and source of that money. The labor organization must also retain bank records for all accounts.

The audit of Local Lodge 183's 2016 records revealed the following recordkeeping violations:

1. Officer Expenses

Local Lodge 183 did not retain adequate supporting documentation for at least nine expense reimbursements to union officers totaling at least \$339.00. For example, the union did not retain adequate backup documentation for a payment to Recording Financial

Secretary William Kirkpatrick for a Chicago Federation of Labor event for \$150.00 on a reimbursement request dated August 31, 2016.

As noted above, labor organizations must retain original receipts, bills, and vouchers for all disbursements. The president and treasurer (or corresponding principal officers) of your union, who are required to sign your union's LM report, are responsible for properly maintaining union records.

2. Receipt Dates not Recorded

Entries in Local Lodge 183's receipts journal reflect the date the union deposited money, but not the date money was received. Union receipts records must show the date of receipt. The date of receipt is required to verify, explain, or clarify amounts required to be reported in Statement B (Receipts and Disbursements) of the LM-3. The LM-3 instructions for Statement B state that the labor organization must record receipts when it actually receives money and disbursements when it actually pays out money. Failure to record the date money was received could result in the union reporting some receipts for a different year than when it actually received them.

Based on your assurance that Local Lodge 183 will retain adequate documentation in the future, OLMS will take no further enforcement action at this time regarding the above violations.

Reporting Violations

The audit disclosed a violation of LMRDA Section 201(b), which requires labor organizations to file annual financial reports accurately disclosing their financial condition and operations. The Labor Organization Annual Report (Form LM-3) filed by Local Lodge 183 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, was deficient in the following areas:

1. Statement B (Receipts and Disbursements)

The OLMS audit determined that Local Lodge 183 had approximately \$197,155 in receipts during 2016, but only reported \$190,178 in Item 44 (Total Receipts). The OLMS audit also determined that Local Lodge 183 had approximately \$186,361 in disbursements during 2016, but only reported \$179,327 in Item 55 (Total Disbursements). Therefore, the amounts reported in Item 44 and Item 55 were under-reported by approximately \$7,000 each. You advised OLMS that your computer crashed in August of 2016 and the union's accountant attempted to reconstruct the union's receipts and disbursements journals to prepare the LM report, but you were unsure why these amounts were not correctly reported.

2. Disbursements to Officers

Local Lodge 183 did not include some reimbursements to officers totaling at least \$2,000 in the amounts reported Item 24 (All Officers and Disbursements to Officers). It appears the union erroneously reported these payments in Item 54 (Other Disbursements).

The union must report most direct disbursements to Local Lodge 183 officers and some indirect disbursements made on behalf of its officers in Item 24. A "direct disbursement" to an officer is a payment made to an officer in the form of cash, property, goods, services, or other things of value. See the instructions for Item 24 for a discussion of certain direct disbursements to officers that do not have to be reported in Item 24. An "indirect disbursement" to an officer is a payment to another party (including a credit card company) for cash, property, goods, services, or other things of value received by or on behalf of an officer. However, indirect disbursements for temporary lodging (such as a union check issued to a hotel) or for transportation by a public carrier (such as an airline) for an officer traveling on union business should be reported in Item 48 (Office and Administrative Expense).

3. Failure to File Bylaws

The audit disclosed a violation of LMRDA Section 201(a), which requires that a union submit a copy of its revised constitution and bylaws with its LM report when it makes changes to its constitution or bylaws. Local Lodge 183 amended its constitution and bylaws in July 2009, but did not file a copy with its LM report for that year.

Local Lodge 183 has now filed a copy of its constitution and bylaws.

I am not requiring that Local Lodge 183 file an amended LM report for 2016 to correct the deficient items, but Local Lodge 183 has agreed to properly report the deficient items on all future reports it files with OLMS.

I want to extend my personal appreciation to the Railroad Signalmen Local Lodge 183 for the cooperation and courtesy extended during this compliance audit. I strongly recommend that you make sure this letter and the compliance assistance materials provided to you are passed on to future officers. If we can provide any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



Investigator

cc: Mr. Alexandro Burgos, President