

Freddie N. Simpson  
Acting President



Perry K. Geller, Sr.  
Acting Secretary-Treasurer

## Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes

*Affiliated with the AFL-CIO and C.L.C.*

Affil.  
IBT

September 16, 2003

All Grand Lodge and System Officers  
in the United States and Canada

**RECEIVED BY  
DONALD I. TREDENT**

SEP 19 2003

VICE CHAIRMAN  
B. M. W. E.

Dear Sirs and Brothers,

I wish to inform you that by unanimous vote of the Grand Lodge Officers on Monday, September 8, 2003, BMWE will be entering into merger negotiations with International Brotherhood of Teamsters. The United Steelworkers of America and International Union of Operating Engineers were also visited and considered by the Grand Lodge Officers before deciding to move forward with Teamsters.

The first order of business will be to jointly prepare a survey to be provided BMWE members for the purpose of determining how they feel about merging with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and to give the Teamsters a reasonable idea of the possibility for a favorable referendum. It is understood that no one can be assured of the possibility of a merger until an agreement is negotiated and forwarded to the members for their determination. In other words, the devil is in the detail. While the survey is being prepared we will simultaneously begin to lay the ground work for commencing negotiations in the event a favorable survey is completed.

I look forward to harmonious and productive discussions regarding this matter, and will update you periodically as negotiations progress.

Fraternally yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Freddie N. Simpson".

Freddie N. Simpson  
Acting President

cc: Mr. Perry K. Geller, Sr.  
Grand Lodge Appointees  
Mr. James P. Hoffa, General President  
International Brotherhood of Teamsters

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