



DAILY NEWS UPDATES  
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# Locomotive

ENGINEERS & TRAINMEN NEWS



JANUARY 2011  
VOLUME 25, ISSUE 1

PUBLISHED BY THE BLET, A DIVISION OF THE RAIL CONFERENCE, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

The BLET recognizes the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its monthly newsletter. **pg 5**



## CSXT members ratify pair of agreements

**B**LET members from two of the four general committees of adjustment on CSX Transportation ratified two tentative collective bargaining agreements on January 10. They represent more than 40% of BLET engineers working for the Class I railroad.

BLET members from the Northern District GCA voted by an overwhelming 82% to 18% margin to transition from the modified former Conrail Agreement to the CSXT Single System Agreement, with a majority of eligible members approving the change. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4** →

## BLET National Division Officers sworn in

ON JANUARY 1, 2011, A NEW ADVISORY BOARD BEGAN ITS FOUR YEAR TERM OF OFFICE FOR THE BROTHERHOOD OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS AND TRAINMEN. NATIONAL DIVISION PRESIDENT DENNIS PIERCE INSTALLED THE NEW ADVISORY BOARD; AND AS PART OF THAT PROCESS, ALL ADVISORY BOARD OFFICERS TOOK THE FOLLOWING INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS OATH OF OFFICE.

"I, \_\_\_\_\_, do sincerely promise, upon my honor as a trade unionist and a Teamster, that I will faithfully use all of my energies and abilities to perform the duties of my office, for the ensuing term, as prescribed by the Constitution and Bylaws of this Union. As an officer of this great Union, I will, at all times, act solely in the interests of the members, devote the resources of our Union to furthering their needs and goals, work to maintain a union that is free of corruption, to preserve and strengthen democratic principles in our Union, and to protect the members' interests in all dealings with employers. I will never forget that it is

the members who put me here, and it is the members whom I will serve. I further promise that I will faithfully comply with and enforce the Constitution and laws of the International Union and Bylaws of this Union, that I will, at all times, by example, promote harmony and preserve the dignity of this Union. I also promise that at the close of my official term, I will promptly deliver any money or property of this Union in my possession to my successor in office."

The installation of the new Advisory Board completes the BLET's first ever rank and file election of National Division Officers. As the first National President to be elected by the rank and file

membership in the BLET's 147 year history, National President Pierce took particular pride in the part of the Oath that states, "I will never forget that it is the members who put me here, and it is the members whom I will serve."

The Advisory Board is composed of the 11 highest-ranking elected officers in the Organization, and is the chief policy making body of the BLET between conventions. The Board has the authority to make decisions and perform acts and duties on behalf of the National Division that are not in conflict with or otherwise provided for in the IBT Constitution, the Rail Conference Bylaws, or the BLET Bylaws.

In addition to **President Pierce**, the BLET Advisory Board members include: First Vice President **E. "Lee" Pruitt**; National Secretary-Treasurer **William**

**C. Walpert**; Vice President & National Legislative Representative **John Tolman**; Vice President & Arbitration Director **Marcus Ruef**; Vice President **Mike Twombly**; Vice President **Willard Knight**; Vice President **Gil Gore**; Vice President **Steve Bruno**; Vice President **Cole Davis**; and Vice President **Mike Priester**.

President Pierce said, "I want to again offer my thanks to all members who took the time to vote in our recent election. There is no doubt that there is much work to be done. I am confident that the members through their actions have assembled an Advisory Board that is dedicated to the task at hand, that being working in the best interests of the membership. The democratic process has served its purpose and our mission now is to unite all members in our common cause as we move forward." @@

**SEE NEW BLET ADVISORY BOARD PHOTO GALLERY, PG 2**



### Hours of Service

BLET wins key clarification from FRA **pg 3**



### Conductor Certification

BLET seeks to improve proposed regulations **pg 4**

### Financial Aid

2011 BLET scholarship directory **pgs 6-7**

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## BLET PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY DENNIS R. PIERCE

# IMPLEMENTING THE AGENDA

**M**y last message stressed the importance for all of us to set goals for 2011. We face many hurdles in this New Year, but the BLET is taking the steps needed to insure that the membership's needs come first and foremost.

With the swearing in of three new National Vice Presidents, who joined the Advisory Board on January 1, 2011, all Advisory Board assignments were thoroughly reviewed, and revised assignments were issued in early January, 2011. First Vice President Lee Pruitt notified all Advisory Board officers and General Chairmen of the new assignments, and I am confident that our General Committees will all receive the assistance they need from the National Division.

In addition, a thorough review of the National Division's Executive Department was concluded shortly after the first of the year. On January 15, 2011, new Executive Committee assignments were published, and these assignments insure that all officers on the BLET Executive Committee share in the responsibility of managing the National Division's day-to-day operations.

We also are taking steps, in conjunction with the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division, to strengthen the Teamsters Rail Conference so that it becomes the focal point of joint efforts by the two unions. The Rail Conference will continue to play a key role in our representational activities, as well as our legislative and regulatory work. Also, the Passenger Rail Advisory Committee will be the vehicle for advocating for more high-speed passenger and com-



On December 15, several BLET members toured National Division headquarters and visited with President Pierce in his office while they were in Cleveland to attend the Education & Training Department's workshop for Secretary-Treasurers.

muter rail projects, and to defend existing projects from attack by anti-rail forces.

Another core item on our agenda is to increase our outreach and contact with BLET members in the field. During the fall, First Vice President Pruitt and I — along with Vice President & National Legislative Representative John Tolman and assigned Vice President Marcus Ruef — visited a number of locations on the Northeast Corridor where our passenger and commuter members work. I also took advantage of this visit to ride the head end of several commuter and passenger trains, including Amtrak's Acela Express.

While the primary purpose of the trip was to sit down with SEPTA management in an effort to resolve a dispute over cab configuration on new equipment, we also used the time to familiarize ourselves with the various passenger and commuter operations on the Corridor, and to interact face-to-face with

several dozen members. This trip was the first time since creation of the Passenger Department that the Executive Committee has been in the field to hear from our members.

I found our interaction with those Brothers and Sisters significant in several ways. We had an opportunity to tell them, in detail, the things we're working on that are of specific interest to them, such as the passenger/commuter Hours of Service regulations. We were able to hear — first-hand and unfiltered — their personal satisfactions, dissatisfactions and concerns. And, most importantly, we were able to have a dialogue about how the BLET in general, and the National Division in particular, can better meet the needs of these members.

Another key piece of our agenda for 2011 is to continue to get out in the field, and that will be the job of everyone on the Advisory Board. Our Passenger Department trip was just one segment of a plan to attend

Division meetings we're invited to whenever our schedules permit. That direct contact with the membership will be a cornerstone of my administration in the New Year.

Also at the top of our agenda is bringing our national negotiations to a successful conclusion, which means an agreement that fairly compensates BLET members for their continuing contribution to several years of record carrier profits. Earlier this month, after more than a year of no real progress at the table, the Rail Labor Bargaining Coalition — with whom we're bargaining on health and welfare issues — invoked the services of the National Mediation Board.

I expect that our wage/rules bargaining will shortly be in mediation, as well, because the carriers have been unwilling to engage in focused economic talks until paths to a health and welfare settlement can be identified. Several years of excessive increases in medical costs nationally have complicated nego-

tiations in a way we haven't seen in 20 years. But we can't — and won't — sit idly by while our members receive no wage increases and the largest Class I carriers reap billion dollar annual profits.

We're also moving forward with resolving disputes over the carriers' implementation of changes to the Hours of Service laws made by the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008. This has been particularly challenging because so many different agreements are involved, but an arbitration plan and structure is in the works that will allow us to move forward in defense of our earnings and working conditions.

All of these agenda elements involve a common thread: being active and involved, which extends to every BLET member. In order for us to win the best possible outcome, we all need to pull together and work together toward our common goal; and everyone has a role to play in our struggles.

Defense of what we have and the fight to improve conditions begins with the members. It is the members who initiate the claim/grievance process to enforce our collective bargaining agreements. It is the members who provide month to month direction to our Local Divisions.

And it is the members, responding to calls to mobilize, that give us the strength of numbers to influence legislation and bargaining. Please be sure your BLET agenda for 2011 includes being more active in your union.

Fraternally,

**DENNIS R. PIERCE**  
BLET NATIONAL PRESIDENT

**BLET  
ADVISORY  
BOARD**  
Effective  
January 1, 2011



**Dennis R. Pierce**  
NATIONAL  
PRESIDENT



**E.L. "Lee" Pruitt**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
& ALTERNATE PRESIDENT



**William C. Walpert**  
NATIONAL  
SECRETARY-TREASURER



**John P. Tolman**  
VICE PRESIDENT  
& NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE  
REPRESENTATIVE



**Marcus J. Ruef**  
VICE PRESIDENT  
& DIRECTOR  
OF ARBITRATION



**Mike Twombly**  
VICE PRESIDENT



**Willard E. Knight**  
VICE PRESIDENT



**Gil Gore**  
VICE PRESIDENT



**Steve Bruno**  
VICE PRESIDENT



**Cole Davis**  
VICE PRESIDENT



**Mike Priester**  
VICE PRESIDENT



**GENERAL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** BY JAMES P. HOFFA

# HIGH-SPEED RAIL AND U.S. SAFETY INSPECTIONS

A network of high-speed rail lines connecting cities in densely populated corridors would be a tremendous benefit to our nation. Not only would its construction bring economic development and the creation of thousands of new jobs, but once completed, we would also see improvements in our air quality, reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, congestion relief on our highways and greater mobility for people currently underserved by other forms of transportation.

It is this kind of commitment to keeping jobs in this country and the larger picture that characterizes the best of the American spirit. It is a challenge that the country is finally willing to take on to prevent the further erosion of jobs.

Outsourcing to foreign countries of mechanical safety inspections and testing is a topic that both our Teamsters Rail Conference and Freight Division have in common. I know that as a Conference, you opposed the proposal by Burlington Northern Santa Fe to have brake tests and mechanical inspections done in Mexico. One of your main concerns was that their tests would not meet U.S. standards, despite the company's claims. We have vigorously tried to block Mexican trucks

from access to the U.S. There is evidence that shows that Mexican trucks do not meet our federal safety standards nor do their drivers know the U.S. rules of the road.

Whether it is by encouraging high speed rail projects or opposing safety inspections that take place outside of U.S. borders, we, as brother and sister Teamsters, will continue fighting for the rights of working men and women and their families.

In closing I want to congratulate all the members of the BLET for electing a fine team of officers last month during your first rank and file election. The importance of direct elections by the membership cannot be understated. Since our convention in 1991 our members have exercised their right to vote and we believe it has empowered each of them to take a proactive role in their union.

Fraternally,

**JAMES P. HOFFA**  
TEAMSTERS GENERAL PRESIDENT



# BLET secures favorable HOS interpretation

The BLET has successfully secured an important clarification from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) concerning an interpretation of a key provision of an amendment to the Hours of Service (HOS) laws made by the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008.

The provision is contained in 49 U.S.C. Section 21103(e), which states that "a railroad carrier, and its officers and agents, shall not communicate with [a] train employee by telephone, by pager, or in any other manner that could reasonably be expected to disrupt the employee's rest" during statutory off-duty periods of 10 or more consecutive hours and interim periods of release of 4 or more but less than 10 consecutive hours.

Interim interpretations issued by FRA in the summer of 2009 stated that communications initiated by an employee do not constitute disruptions, and this interpretation was communicated to the BLET membership by numerous means. However, after receiving conflicting advice from a now retired official in the FRA's national office one region of the FRA advised a BLET general committee officer last summer that calls made by employees during their statutory off-duty period



for the purpose of ascertaining when their next duty tour would begin constituted an "interruption" of the off-duty period, necessitating that it be restarted. The railroad involved then posted a notice to this effect and began refusing such calls.

Last November, after being unable to resolve this dispute informally, Vice President Steve Bruno, who was Director of Regulatory Affairs at the time, wrote the FRA to formally request that the agency affirm its prior interpretation. Bruno pointed out that the statu-

tory language clearly did not include such a call from an employee as a disruption, reminded FRA that our understanding of the law was uniformly shared by the Railroad Safety Advisory Committee Working Group that had revised the 49 C.F.R. Part 228 HOS recordkeeping requirements, and noted that someone's "ability to manage rest is enhanced considerably by the predictability of knowing when they are scheduled to report for duty or when they should expect the assignment phone call."

On January 12 FRA Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety and Chief Safety Officer Jo Strang acknowledged that the "interim interpretations are silent on whether there are any limits to the matters that may be discussed [during an employee-initiated communication], and do not specifically address whether ... an employee is permitted to contact the railroad carrier to establish a report-for-duty time [during a statutory off-duty period or period of interim release]." FRA also stated that further clarification of this subject is being considered as FRA moves toward adopting final interpretations, and that no enforcement action would be taken against railroads that accept and respond to such inquiries from their operating employees. @@

## COPIES OF THE CORRESPONDENCE CAN BE FOUND HERE:

**November 2, 2010 BLET letter to FRA:** [www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/Bruno\\_strang.pdf](http://www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/Bruno_strang.pdf)

**January 12, 2011 FRA letter to BLET:** [www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/Bruno\\_letter\\_ble.pdf](http://www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/Bruno_letter_ble.pdf)

# BLET National Division Electronic Communications Policy

Official communications between BLET members and the National Division require a hard copy of the correspondence, bearing a signature, being received by the National President to be considered an "official communication." This is to provide that the actual question(s) are addressed, and ensures that when official

interpretations are made they have reference to a specific request and can be used in future correspondence.

The volume of e-mails received makes it impossible for the National President to answer all unofficial communications. Therefore, it is the policy of the BLET that e-mails addressed to the National President will be reviewed and forwarded to

the appropriate officer or staff for a timely response; however, an e-mail message is not considered an official communication.

Moreover, anonymous e-mails and e-mails that do not provide sufficient information concerning the sender to enable National Division staff to confirm the sender's membership status will not receive any reply or acknowledgement. This poli-

cy is intended to allow the National President to be aware of the opinions and suggestions of the membership, while at the same time providing a timely response to the member's unofficial communication, if a response is necessary, without needlessly expending limited BLET resources.

**ADOPTED AT CLEVELAND, OHIO ON JULY 22, 2010. @@**



# BLET points to history in urging changes to proposed conductor certification rule

**W**ith federal regulations requiring the certification of conductors scheduled to take effect at the beginning of next year, the BLET has filed comments with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) strongly urging that the agency pay attention to the lessons of more than 20 years of locomotive engineer certification.

In a submission filed jointly with the United Transportation Union (UTU) on January 10, the two unions — who represent virtually all organized operating employees on the nation's railroads — commented extensively on FRA's proposed conductor certification regulation.

The unions pointed out that FRA's original 1989 Notice of Proposed Rule-making regarding locomotive engineer certification acknowledged a long history of unfair treatment by the carriers, and the agency committed itself to the "elimination of disparate treatment of locomotive engineers." To attain that goal, FRA promulgated a regulation that provided railroads with only "limited authority to deny or revoke a person's certificate."

Despite these clear statements, FRA was forced to overhaul Part 240 three times — in 1993, again in 1998 and, most recently, in 2009 — because of the carriers' abuses of the "limited authority" granted to them. In FRA's words, these amendments were necessary because carriers had "decertified employees where FRA had not anticipated such actions," had used tests for which "the true purpose was not to monitor compliance but



to make it inappropriately difficult for an engineer to pass," and fabricated a loophole to terminate certification, and an engineer's employment, without any Part 240 or collective bargaining agreement due process.

As part of the FRA's Railroad Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC) consideration of conductor certification and possible corresponding changes to the locomotive engineer certification regulation, the BLET and the UTU were successful in persuading FRA to propose clearer and stronger protections for conductors. Specifically, the proposed conductor certification rule includes the following improvements, which are superior to the present locomotive engineer certification rule:

- **A requirement** that railroads serve a copy of their certification program submissions, resubmissions and material

modifications on the president of each labor organization that represents conductors, with the right of those unions to comment to FRA on the proposals.

- **A requirement** that someone facing a revocation hearing be provided in advance with the written information the carrier plans to present at the hearing, as well as a list of witnesses called to testify at the hearing.

- **An extension** of certification that is set to expire when a state motor vehicle agency fails to provide driver information that was timely requested.

- **A grace period** for annual compliance testing when someone has not worked in the craft for an extended period of time, such as during an economic downturn, so as not to interrupt their return to certified service.

The main focus of the unions' comments was to urge FRA to improve due

process at the on-property level, and to streamline the dispute resolution process, which currently can take several years in an engineer certification appeal. Stricter procedural controls were outlined, along with stiffer sanctions when a railroad violates the regulation's due process requirements.

The BLET and the UTU also proposed a far less cumbersome appeal process, which would feature a more balanced on-property hearing record and the right for the proposed Operating Crew Review Board to hold a de novo hearing as part of the agency's final action. The unions also recommended that FRA impose civil penalties on certification program administrators for violations of the regulation committed by a railroad.

BLET National President Dennis Pierce was cautiously optimistic about the evolution of the proposed rule. "We have tried to incorporate the lessons of two decades of struggle over fair treatment for locomotive engineers to protect all conductors, and the BLET and UTU participants in the RSAC process did an excellent job in that respect," Pierce said.

"We strongly urge the FRA not to overlook the sorry history of Part 240 in drafting its final rule, and we anticipate that the many new safeguards proposed by FRA will promptly be extended to certified locomotive engineers," Pierce added. ©

**A copy of the BLET/UTU joint comments can be found here:**  
[www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/BLET\\_UTU\\_cond\\_cert.pdf](http://www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/BLET_UTU_cond_cert.pdf)

## CSXT MEMBERS RATIFY PAIR OF AGREEMENTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Transitional Single System Agreement (or TSSA) includes many new work rules and benefits. Those benefits include a new compensation system that combines a Performance Bonus Plan, general wage increases and a signing bonus.

The TSSA also resolves this GCA's outstanding wage and rule Section 6 Notice for the current round of bargaining.

Those members from the Northern District GCA and members from the Northern Lines GCA also ratified an agreement that implements a New York Dock notice served by the Carrier in 2009 to create the Northern Mid-Atlantic Seniority District (NMAD). The NMAD Implementing Agreement was approved by a 69% to 31% margin and:

- **preserves existing prior rights seniority** for all employees working in the Northern, Eastern and Western Districts;
- **provides expanded work opportunities** in the Northern, Eastern and Western Districts using NMAD seniority;
- **preserves seniority zones** limiting the force assignment of Locomotive Engineers;
- **provides for movement** between seniority districts and zones that were restricted before; and

- **provides New York Dock protective benefits** for displaced Locomotive Engineers with a connection to this transaction.

BLET National President Dennis Pierce praised those involved for their efforts. "I want to congratulate General Chairmen Rick Finamore and Jim Louis and their teams, as well as Vice President Gil Gore, for their hard work for more than a year to bring these negotiations to a successful conclusion," Pierce said.

President Pierce also thanked those members who took the time to vote on their future. As in all internal votes held in the past year, the Mobilization Network was once again activated to "Get out the Vote." Pierce added, "Just over 50% of the membership voted on the TSSA; that level of participation is in large part due to the strength of the Mobilization Network, which is a grass roots effort driven entirely by member involvement."

Pierce also thanked Vice President Gore and the General Chairmen for their efforts to go out on the property and meet with the membership to discuss the proposed agreements. "Attendance at Division meetings by National Division officers has been one of the cornerstones of my administration since the day I took office. As I have often said, the best way for the National Division to hear and un-

derstand the concerns of the membership is face to face at a union meeting. The reasons for the National Division to attend Division meetings are many; the turnout in this vote confirms the impor-

tance of this policy," Pierce said.

These agreements become effective as soon as administratively possible and will cover more than 2,100 BLET members. ©

"Just over 50% of the membership voted on the TSSA; that level of participation is in large part due to the strength of the mobilization network, which is a grass roots effort driven entirely by member involvement."

— Dennis R. Pierce

## Transportation Workers protecting each other since 1910



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2011

## Calendar & Events

**February 13-17, 2011****BLET Education and Training Department Legislative Representative Workshop**  
**TEAMSTER BLDG., WASHINGTON D.C.**

For details, please contact Ken Kroeger, Coordinator of the BLET Education & Training Department, at (216) 272-0986 or kroeger@ble-t.org.

**February 27-March 2, 2011****BLET Education and Training Department Secretary-Treasurer Workshop**  
**ATLANTA, GA.**

For details, please contact Ken Kroeger, Coordinator of the BLET Education & Training Department, at (216) 272-0986 or kroeger@ble-t.org.

**March 13-16, 2011****BLET Education and Training Department Secretary-Treasurer Workshop**  
**VANCOUVER, WASH.**

For details, please contact Ken Kroeger, Coordinator of the BLET Education & Training Department, at (216) 272-0986 or kroeger@ble-t.org.

**March 20-24, 2011****BLET Education and Training Department Local Chairman Workshop**  
**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-CHAMPAIGN**

For details, please contact Ken Kroeger, Coordinator of the BLET Education & Training Department, at (216) 272-0986 or kroeger@ble-t.org.

**June 12-17, 2011****84th annual Southeastern Meeting Association**  
**ASHEVILLE, N.C.**

DoubleTree Biltmore Hotel  
Contact host chairman Dewey Brown by phone or email: (828) 683-9371 or drbrown.blet267@yahoo.com.

**August 2-7, 2011****73rd annual Eastern Union Meeting Association**  
**LONG ISLAND, N.Y.**

Hyatt Regency Long Island, Hauppauge, N.Y.  
Contact host chairman Jim Brown by email: loco542@optonline.net

**August 21-27, 2011****71st annual International Western Convention**  
**SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIF.**

Embassy Suites Hotel-San Luis Obispo  
Contact host chairman Mike Galvani by phone or email: (805) 927-2967 or SLOBLE664@wildblue.net.

**September 18-22, 2011****76th annual Southwestern Convention Meeting**  
**EL PASO, TEXAS**

Camino Real Hotel  
Contact host chairman Larry Schneider by phone or email: (915) 581-1373 or schneiderman@elp.rr.com.

# 25 years and going strong

It is with great pride that the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen recognizes the 25th anniversary of its monthly newsletter.

Concerned with maintaining the best possible communications and serving the varied needs of all BLET members and friends, delegates to the Fourth Quinquennial Convention in 1986 approved major changes in the format and schedule of Brotherhood publications. It is the same format and schedule members enjoy today — a quarterly magazine and a monthly newsletter.

Volume 1, issue 1 of the monthly newsletter was published January 1, 1987. Today known as the "Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen News," the aim of the BLET's monthly newsletter is to provide members with timely information on developments that may affect them — in the areas of collective bargaining or legislation, for example.

Volume 1, issue 1 of the Locomotive Engineers Journal was published in January of 1967. It was published each month from 1967 to the end of 1959, when it was replaced by a tabloid-sized newspaper. The Journal was resurrected in 1987 and published quarterly until 2005, when it was replaced for a brief period by the Rail Teamster magazine. The quarterly Journal was re-launched in the Fall of 2010.

In keeping with past tradition, today's Journal is published quarterly and carries in-depth articles, membership profiles, and other feature articles.

"For the past 25 years this monthly publication has been an important link in the Brotherhood's chain of communication," BLET National President Dennis Pierce said. "BLET members enjoy the best publications in the industry, if not all of organized labor, and I am proud to recognize this 25-year milestone." @@



Through the years:  
BLET newsletter covers over the last 25 years



## BLET Publications Timeline

**JANUARY 1867-DECEMBER 1959**  
Locomotive Engineers Journal (monthly magazine)**1957-1987**  
The Locomotive Engineer**1987-2011**  
Locomotive Engineer Newsletter/Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen Newsletter**1987-2005**  
Locomotive Engineers Journal (re-launched-quarterly magazine)**2005-2008**  
Rail Teamster magazine**RELAUNCHED IN 2010**  
Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen Journal (quarterly magazine)

## BLET Western General Chairman's Association to meet in April

The annual meeting of the BLET Western General Chairman's Association (WGCA) will be held April 18-21 at the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas, the Association's new Chairman Pat Williams announced.

April 18 will be a travel day, with full business sessions taking place on April 19-20, Chairman Williams said. There will be a half-day session on April 21 in the event that business takes longer than usual.

"This meeting will allow for some important and valuable networking between our members. It always allows for our group to interact with officers of the National Division and exchange information about the handling of matters on their respective properties, which I feel

**Pat Williams****Rick Gibbons**

benefits our membership in that the best ideas come to the top this way," Chairman Williams said.

Rick Gibbons, Secretary-Treasurer of the WGCA, said information will be sent to Association members and other interested parties in the near future regarding

hotel registration information and the program agenda.

Brother Williams, who is the General Chairman of the BNSF (ATSF) General Committee of Adjustment, became WGCA Chairman on January 1, 2011, following the swearing in of former Chairman Michael Priester as a BLET National Vice President.

Brother Gibbons is the General Chairman of the BNSF (STL-SF) General Committee of Adjustment.

BLET National President Dennis Pierce, who served as Chairman of the WGCA for several years, said that he is planning to represent the National Division at this important meeting, along with First Vice President Lee Pruitt and National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert. @@

## Safety Task Force Hotline

**(800)306-5414**

Report major accidents when they happen



# BLET Scholarship >>Directory

**E**ach year, the National Division compiles a list of scholarship opportunities available to the children of BLET members. Numerous financial aid opportunities are published here in the 2011 BLET Scholarship Directory.

The scholarship opportunities vary widely. The following comprehensive list provides members with contact information for each scholarship program. The BLET National Division does not maintain its own scholarship program, so members are advised to contact the individual scholarship providers listed below for additional information.

Those aware of additional scholarship opportunities not included in this Directory are urged to contact the BLET Public Relations Department at: Bentley@ble-t.org.



## James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship

**DEADLINE FOR HOFFA SCHOLARSHIP IS MARCH 31**

The James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund awards scholarships annually to outstanding high school seniors. The deadline for this year's program is March 31, 2011.

Recipients are selected by an impartial committee of university admissions and financial aid directors based on academic achievement, SAT/ACT scores, character, potential and financial need. The Teamsters consider all applicants without regard to race, religion, gender, disability, or any other legally protected status.

Thirty-one of the awards total \$10,000 each. These four-year scholarships are disbursed at the rate of \$2,500 per year and are renewable annually.

Sixty-nine of the awards are one-time \$1,000 grants. These scholarships are disbursed to the college or university at the beginning of the recipient's freshman year.

Eligibility requirements and application procedures are the same for all awards.

All applicants must comply with the following eligibility and application criteria. Each applicant must:

1. Be the son, daughter or grandchild of an active, retired, disabled, deceased or laid-off Teamster member who has or had at least twelve months of consecutive membership in good standing in the Teamsters Union;
2. Be in his/her last year of high school and may not apply if he/she has already graduated from high school;
3. Be in the top 15% of his/her high school class;
4. Plan to submit excellent SAT or ACT scores for evaluation (U.S. only);
5. Plan to attend an accredited four-year college or university. Those who plan to attend non-academic or certificate programs or community college,

may not apply.

**If you need additional assistance, please contact:**

**James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund**

**25 Louisiana Avenue, NW**

**Washington, DC 20001**

**Phone: (202) 624-8735**

**E-Mail: scholarship@teamster.org**

Due to the highly competitive nature of the program and the large number of applicants, students should visit the Teamster website and carefully consider the criteria before submitting an application.

**FOR APPLICATION FORMS AND ONLINE ASSISTANCE, PLEASE VISIT:**  
[WWW.TEAMSTER.ORG/CONTENT/SCHOLARSHIPS](http://WWW.TEAMSTER.ORG/CONTENT/SCHOLARSHIPS)

## BLET Auxiliary and International Western Convention (IWC) Scholarships

The BLET Auxiliary and International Western Convention (IWC) offers \$1,000 scholarships annually to help the children of BLET and Auxiliary members realize their goals in life.

This year we have two additional scholarships to award to children of members of both the Auxiliary and BLET, the Leona A. Louis Memorial Scholarship and the John O. and Brenda Casteel Scholarship.

There are two very strict guidelines that must be met in order to be eligible for Auxiliary scholarships. First, the applicant must be a son or daughter of both an Auxiliary and BLET member (living or deceased), with each being a member for two years. Second, the applicant must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an accredited university or college.

In addition to its own scholarship program, the Auxiliary is administering four scholarships for the International Western Convention (IWC) for calendar year 2011. This joint scholarship program is for children of members participating in

the IWC and covers Divisions, Auxiliaries and Members-at-Large in the following states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Auxiliary membership is not a requirement to apply for the four separate IWC scholarships. If applicants are not awarded one of these scholarships and a parent is not a member of the Auxiliary, then they are not considered eligible for any Auxiliary scholarships.

If the applicant is a graduate student or returning to school as a sophomore, junior or senior, he or she must have a 3.0 grade point average or better to be considered. The applicant must also be accepted to an accredited school. The deadline for all Auxiliary administered scholarships is April 1, 2011. Late applications will not be considered. **Auxiliary application forms are online at: [www.bletauxiliary.net](http://www.bletauxiliary.net)**, or you can link from the BLET Website under "Departments." In addition to the application, the Auxiliary website provides scholarship applicants with more detailed instructions on the application process.

Please remember that the applicant's parents must be a member of the BLET and Auxiliary in order to apply for one of our scholarships. If your parent belongs to the Southeastern Meeting Association (SMA), Eastern Union Meeting (EUMA) or the Southwestern Convention Meeting (SWCM) and they are not a member of the BLET Auxiliary, you are not eligible to apply for any BLET Auxiliary scholarships. However, Auxiliary membership is not a requirement to apply for the four separate IWC scholarships detailed above.

Mail completed forms to: Linda D. Maher, National Secretary, 29215 West Miller Road, Willoughby Hills, Ohio 44092. **For details or clarification of eligibility**, email Sister Maher at biddykai@aol.com or sissy62756@mac.com

## Eastern Union Meeting Association (EUMA)

The Eastern Union Meeting Association awards several scholarship each year, ranging in value from \$1,000 to \$2,000, including memorial scholarships honoring the memories and accomplishments of Brothers Robert F. Donoghue, Robert W. Godwin and Robert Pentland. The scholarships are awarded based on academic excellence and financial need. Only children of BLET members (living or deceased) belonging to divisions participating in the EUMA are eligible to apply. Division must be square on the books for the child to qualify. States represented in EUMA are Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Washington D.C., and West Virginia.

The 2011 EUMA deadline is June 30, 2011. Send completed applications to:

**Jim Louis, EUMA Vice Chairman**  
**257 Forbes Ave.**  
**Tonawanda, NY 14150**

**APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE BLET WEBSITE:**  
[WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/EUMASCH.PDF](http://WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/EUMASCH.PDF)

## Southwestern Convention Meeting (SWCM)

The Southwestern Convention Meeting (SWCM) awards approximately two dozen scholarships annually based on academic achievement and financial need.

Applicants must be the child of an active, retired or deceased BLET member whose division belongs to the Southwestern Convention Meeting. Applicants must be accepted for admission to an accredited college, university or institution of higher learning. Only divisions belonging to the SWCM are eligible.

SWCM application forms can be filled out on your computer screen with the interactive PDF form available on the BLET website. Deadline is August 1, 2011. The



2011 convention begins on September 18. Divisions must have paid their annual SWCM convention dues for applicants from their Division to be eligible.

**CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD  
INTERACTIVE PDF APPLICATION FORM:**  
[WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PDF/SWCMAPP.PDF](http://WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PDF/SWCMAPP.PDF)

**CLICK HERE FOR APPLICATION  
INSTRUCTIONS:**  
[WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/SWCMSCH.ASP](http://WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/SWCMSCH.ASP)

**Southeastern Meeting  
Association (SMA)**

The Southeastern Meeting Association (SMA) Scholarship Committee awards the Geiger-Brendle Scholarships each year to the children of active or retired BLET members whose divisions participate in the SMA.

Please check with your division secretary-treasurer to ensure that your division participates. In general, the SMA includes divisions located in states east of the Mississippi River, and south of the Ohio River and the Mason-Dixon Line. Also, Divisions must be current with their SMA dues in order for the applicant to be eligible.

The SMA scholarship application deadline varies from year to year, and winners are usually selected and announced at the SMA's annual business meeting held during the convention. This year's SMA will be June 13-18. Please see your division officers for an application or for more details. Deadline this year is June 9, 2011.

**APPLICATIONS ARE ONLINE AT:**  
[WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/  
SMA\\_2011\\_SCHOLARS.PDF](http://WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/SMA_2011_SCHOLARS.PDF)

**California State  
Legislative Board**

The BLET's CSLB will again be awarding a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating high school senior who will attend college/trade/vocational school. Applicant's parent or guardian must be a member in good standing in a BLET division represented by CSLB-BLET.

Last year, the Board awarded one \$1,000 scholarship and two \$500 scholarships. Applications and deadline information are available on the Board's website: [www.calslb.net/scholarship.html](http://www.calslb.net/scholarship.html)

All applications should be mailed to the CSLB home office address:

**California State Legislative Board,  
BLET/IBT  
610 Auburn Ravine Rd.,  
Suite C, Auburn, CA 95603**

**BLET Division 269**

BLET Division 269 (Jamaica, Long Island, N.Y.) offers two \$500 scholarships to the children of BLET members who are already enrolled in college. Participation is limited to members of Division 269 only.

Winners are picked at random at the division's Christmas party. For details, watch your Division 269 newsletter or contact Division President Scott Decker at (631) 813-2234.

**BRCF Scholarship Program**

The Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund is pleased to provide opportunities for the sons and daughters of BR&CF members to participate in the Luther G. Smith Scholarship Program.

Children, including adopted and step-children, of BR&CF members who are in "Good and Regular Standing." Applicants must be 27 years of age or younger. Applicants may be current high school students who have applied for admission

as full-time students in accredited post-secondary schools or may be attending or enrolled as full-time students in accredited post-secondary schools.

International President J.M. Robb advises that 20 scholarships of \$1,000 each are awarded every year.

BR&CF members with questions may contact Nita Saultz at (800) 233-7080.

Members may obtain an application form by calling or writing to 2150 Linglestown Road, Harrisburg, PA 17110 or emailing [brcf@brcf.org](mailto:brcf@brcf.org). The deadline for receipt of applications is March 1, 2011.

**Our Brothers Keeper  
Foundation (OBKF)**

Thanks to the generosity of hundreds of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, a new scholarship opportunity is available to family members of seriously injured railroad workers from the Our Brothers Keeper Foundation (OBKF).

OBKF is planning to award four \$1,000 scholarships in 2011 to family members of seriously injured railroad workers. One winner will be awarded a scholarship from each of the four geographic regions represented by the BLET regional meetings — Eastern Union Meeting Association, Southeastern Meeting Association, International Western Convention, and

Southwestern Convention Meeting.

OBKF is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization that provides consultation, referral and financial assistance to aid employees of the railroad industry and their families in times of hardship arising from accidents and injuries that occur within the scope of the worker's railroad employment.

In 2006, Class I railroads reported almost 300 Category I & II casualties. These are on-the-job deaths or injuries so serious that they frequently result in permanent disabilities to railroad workers. These workers and their families are often left without the resources needed to cover everyday living expenses, much less provide tuition for family members who need, or would like, to further their education. OBKF is hoping to assist these families realize the goal of achieving higher education.

In terms of basic eligibility requirements, applicants must:

» Be a spouse, daughter or son of a seriously injured railroad worker;

» Complete all sections of the application form and mail it to the designated address, no less than thirty (30) days prior to starting date for the BLET Regional Meeting territory in which the injured worker is employed; and

» Provide all supporting documents required by the application form, includ-

ing proof of enrollment in an accredited college, technical, or trade school.

Additional information is provided on the application form, which is available on the BLET's web site.

The deadline for each scholarship is 30 days prior to the start of the BLET regional meetings:

» Southeastern Meeting Association (SMA) begins June 12, and the OBKF deadline is May 12;

» Eastern Union Meeting Association (EUMA) begins August 2, and the OBKF deadline is July 2;

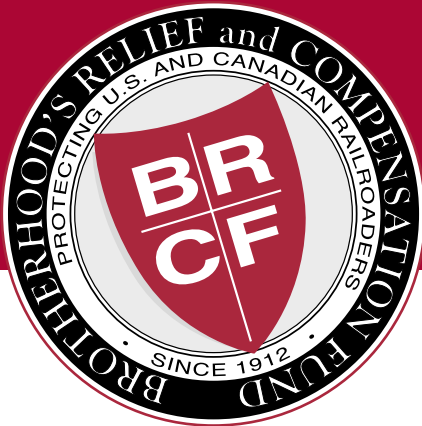
» International Western Convention (IWC) begins August 21, and the OBKF deadline is July 21; and

» Southwestern Convention Meeting (SWCM) begins September 18, and the OBKF deadline is August 18.

Since the majority of the support for OBKF's outreach efforts currently comes from engineers and train service employees, family members of these crafts will be given preference. All scholarship applications will be carefully reviewed. Scholarship awards are to be based on need and fulfillment of applicant requirements.

**A COPY OF THE OBKF APPLICATION  
FORM IS AVAILABLE HERE:**  
[WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/  
OBKFSCHOLARSHIP.PDF](http://WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/OBKFSCHOLARSHIP.PDF)

**BROTHERHOOD'S RELIEF &  
COMPENSATION FUND**



**Announces  
Lower Monthly  
Membership Dues**

**Effective January 1, 2011**

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS PER DAY	OLD DUES RATE 1 Month	NEW DUES RATE 1 Month	NEW DUES RATE 6 MONTHS	NEW DUES RATE 12 MONTHS
\$ 80	\$36.00	\$30.40	\$182.40	\$364.80
\$100	\$45.00	\$38.00	\$228.00	\$456.00
\$120	\$54.00	\$45.60	\$273.60	\$547.20
\$150	\$67.50	\$57.00	\$342.00	\$684.00
\$180	\$81.00	\$68.40	\$410.40	\$820.80
\$200	\$90.00	\$76.00	\$456.00	\$912.00

We are committed to keeping your membership dues rate affordable with the *lowest monthly dues rate in the industry*. The Fund is healthy, strong and successful. You will share in our success. It is another reason why the BR&CF is the very best job income protection!

Are you interested in joining us? Talk to local BR&CF members or contact us toll free at **800 233-7080**, Monday through Friday, 8 A.M. to 4:15 P.M., Eastern time, or visit our web site at **[www.brcf.org](http://www.brcf.org)** for more information.





## Locomotive Engineers And Trainmen News

### Brotherhood Of Locomotive Engineers And Trainmen

A Division Of The Rail Conference,  
International Brotherhood Of Teamsters

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# Railroad retirement tax reduced for 2011

Among the items included in the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010, which was signed into law by President Obama on December 17, is a temporary employee payroll tax cut.

This provision, found in Section 601 of the legislation, reduces the employee Social Security tax rate from 6.2% to 4.2% for 2011 earnings subject to the tax, which will be levied on the first \$106,800 of earnings next year.

Because Railroad Retirement Tier 1 taxes and annuities are based on Social Security, the Tier 1 tax rate for railroad workers will be cut by the same amount, meaning that take-home pay for railroad workers will be increased by 2% of gross earnings next year, up to the cap.

The shortfall in funding for Tier 1 benefits created by this tax cut will be made up from general federal revenues, pursuant to Section 601(e)(2) of the legislation, which states as follows:

"There are hereby appropriated to the Social Security Equivalent Benefit Account established under section 15A(a) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 (45 U.S.C. 231n-1(a)) amounts equal to the reduction in revenues to the Treasury by reason of the application of subsection (a) (2). Amounts appropriated by the preceding sentence shall be transferred

from the general fund at such times and in such manner as to replicate to the extent possible the transfers which would have occurred to such Account had such amendments not been enacted."

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce expressed concern about how the Congress decided to make up the shortfall. "Since its inception Railroad Retirement has been successfully defended from Congressional attack, in part, because all Railroad Retirement funds have historically been contributed by railroad workers and railroad employers only, with no non-railroad taxpayer money being used to fund our retirement system" Pierce said. "That complete funding independence has been broken by enactment of this law."

"While every BLET member benefits from a two percent increase in take-home pay, what is happening here is that this money is not coming from the carriers' record profits. Instead, 2% of our own money that is designated for our retirement is being given to us now, and essentially is being paid for by American taxpayers," Pierce added. "There are powerful forces who would like nothing better than to destroy Railroad Retirement and Social Security, and I am concerned that this 'tax cut' may make their goal easier to achieve." @

## NEWS FLASH!

### REGISTER AT WWW.BLE-T.ORG TO GET BROTHERHOOD NEWS EMAILED TO YOU

Stay up-to-date with the latest Brotherhood news by going to the BLET website and signing up to receive BLET News Flash alerts via email.

The News Flash alerts are news articles from the BLET National Division website that are automatically emailed to you.



TO REGISTER, JUST GO TO WWW.BLE-T.ORG. In the lower right hand corner of the page, you will find an area to enter your email address to begin receiving the most current news from the BLET National Division.

It is a great way to keep informed on the most recent issues impacting your job, your contract and your Brotherhood.

## Advisory Board December 2010 Activity

In accordance with the BLET Bylaws, summaries of BLET Advisory Board members' activities are published monthly:

**NATIONAL PRESIDENT DENNIS R. PIERCE:** National Division Office, Cleveland, OH; General supervision of BLET activities; General office duties; Correspondence and telephone communications; Supervision of Office Administration; General Supervision of Special Representatives; President, Teamsters Rail Conference; Policy Committee, Teamsters Rail Conference; Rail Labor Bargaining Coalition mtgs., Washington, D.C.; Division 75 mtg., Kansas City, Mo.; Rail Labor Chiefs' mtg., Washington, D.C.; National Legislative Board mtg., Fort Worth, Texas; Union Pacific CEO mtg., Omaha, Neb.; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland.

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT E.L. "LEE" PRUITT:** National Duties include but not limited to: Director, Passenger Dept.; Shortline Organizing Dept.; Trainmen's Dept.; National Publications Committee; National Legislative Board; Teamsters Rail Conference Policy Committee; and National Negotiations; National negotiations, Washington, D.C.; National Legislative Board mtg., Fort Worth, Texas; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; Mtg. w/ BLET President Pierce and UPRR CEO Jim Young; Advisory Board conference call.

**NATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER WILLIAM C. WALPERT:** General supervision of accounting dept., records dept., online services dept., IT Dept., tax compliance dept.; public relations dept.; Education & Training Dept.; Internal Organizing, Mobilizing & Strategic Planning Dept.; Safety Task Force; Meetings with vendors and financial institutions; Standard Building operations oversight; National Legislative Board mtg., Ft. Worth, Texas; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; Vacation; Secretary-Treasurer Workshop, Cleveland.

**VICE PRESIDENT MERLE W. GEIGER JR.:** Assigned to: Kansas City Southern; Texas Mexican Railway; MidSouth Rail; SouthRail; Gateway Western; CP Rail System/US (CP/DME/ICE); Indiana Southern RR; Utah RR; Panhandle Northern RR; Great Western RR; Indiana Harbor Belt; and Belt RR of Chicago; Advisory Board mtgs., Cleveland; Advisory Board conference call; Research, correspondence and general office duties; Vacation; Holidays.

**VICE PRESIDENT STEPHEN D. SPEAGLE:** Assigned to Burlington Northern Santa Fe, Montana Rail Link, Pacific Harbor Line, Missouri & Northern Arkansas (M&NA); Public Law Board w/ GC Matt Wilson, MRL, Reno, Nevada; Article IX notice, BNSF and GC Pat Williams, Ontario, Calif.; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; Vacation.

**VICE PRESIDENT & NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE JOHN P. TOLMAN:** Assigned to BLET Washington, DC office; BLET Security Officer; General office duties, telephone, correspondence communications; Coordinate content of NLO website; National Legislative Board annual mtg., Fort Worth, Texas; Annual holiday mtg. hosted by CSX and Norfolk Southern, Washington, D.C.; T&I Committee hearing and Oberstar event, Washington, D.C.; Division 57 mtg., George Newman reception, and mtg. w/ managers of MBCR, Boston, Mass.; Attended National Division holiday luncheon, Cleveland; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; Receptions for various U.S. Representatives, Washington, D.C.

**VICE PRESIDENT MARCUS J. RUEF:** Labor member-NRAB, Vice Chairman, First Division; Director of Arbitration Dept; Assigned to Amtrak; Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA); Long Island Railroad (LIRR); New York & Atlantic (NYAL); New Jersey Transit (NJT); PATH; Metra; NRAB administrative issues; Assist GC Quinn w/ work jurisdiction issue, LIRR; Assist VP Moates w/ submission for PLB 7451, CSX(W); Vacation; Division 607 Christmas party, Cleveland; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; Assist GC Louis w/ arbitration issues, CSX/CR, Cleveland; Assist VGC Linsey w/ arbitration issues, NS/WLE, Cleveland; Vacation; Holidays.

**VICE PRESIDENT MIKE TWOMBLY:** Assigned to Delaware & Hudson; Springfield Terminal; St. Lawrence & Atlantic; Montreal, Maine & Atlantic; Union RR; Birmingham Southern; Huron & Eastern; Duluth, Missabe & Iron Range; DM&IR-Two Harbors; South Buffalo Rwy; Iowa, Chicago & Eastern; Indiana & Ohio; Indiana & Southern; Louisville & Indiana; Meridian Southern; Talleyrand Terminal RR; CN/GTW negotiations, Cleveland; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; Mediation negotiations w/ DMIR, Minneapolis, Minn.

**VICE PRESIDENT WILLARD E. KNIGHT:** Assigned to: All Norfolk Southern General Committees; Wheeling & Lake Erie; Chicago, Fort Wayne & Eastern; New York, Susquehanna & Western; New England Central; Connecticut Southern; Western New York & Pennsylvania; Indiana & Ohio; General office duties; National negotiations, Washington, D.C.; Assist GC Cole Davis prepare Section 6 notices, CF&E RR, Moberly, Mo.; Assist Vice General Chairman Thompson w/ final preparation of New York Dock cases, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Advisory Board conference call; General office duties.

**VICE PRESIDENT GIL GORE:** Assigned to all CSX; Union Pacific-Southern Region GCA special assignment; UP on-property negotiations; Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC), CSXT; Assist CSX GC w/ DRC and other issues; Ratification trip for TSSA and NMA implementing agreement, mtgs. in Philadelphia, Boston, Albany, Buffalo, Cleveland; Mtg. w/ GC Louis, Buffalo; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; PLB assistance and mtgs. w/ GC Matt Thornton, Etowah, Tenn.; Advisory Board conference call; Holidays.

**VICE PRESIDENT DON MOATES:** Assigned to UP-Western Lines; UP-Western Region; UP-Central Region; UP-Southern Region; UP-Eastern District; UP-Northern Region; Indiana Rail Road; Terminal Rwy.-Alabama State Docks; New Orleans & Gulf Coast; Longview Switching Co.; Eastern Idaho RR; Portland & Western; Assist GC Matt Thornton w/ negotiations, Indiana RR, Terra Haute, Ind.; Discipline cases at First Division w/ Arbitrator Barry Simon, re: Terminal RR, Alabama State Docks and Indiana RR Chicago; PLB 7451, Chicago; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland.

### Photo of the Month: January 2011



**UNION PACIFIC LOCOMOTIVE 9669** heads down the western slope of Donner Pass in a fresh deep blanket of snow.

Photo taken on the Roseville Subdivision near Yuba Pass, Calif., in February of 2001. Photo: courtesy Ray Lewis



**Are you a photographer?** The National Division's Public Relations Department, which produces the Newsletter each month, has received numerous inquiries lately from BLET members volunteering to contrib-

ute their images to the "Photo of the Month" section of the Newsletter. If you'd like to submit a photo for consideration, you may call Editor John Bentley at (216) 241-2630, ext. 248, or you can email: Bentley@ble-t.org.

Please note only high resolution images can be used. Members are also encouraged to review their employer's policies regarding the use of cameras and other electronic devices while on duty.