



DAILY NEWS UPDATES  
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# Locomotive

## ENGINEERS & TRAINMEN NEWS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY  
2015

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 1

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

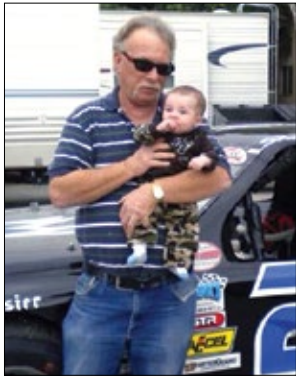
### IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

## Metrolink locomotive engineer Glenn W. Steele

**B**LET member Glenn W. Steele, 62, passed away on March 3 from injuries suffered in a Metrolink collision on February 24, 2015.

"It is with great sadness that the BLET National Division reports this tragic news to our membership," BLET National President Dennis Pierce said. "Brother Steele was a highly-trained and professional locomotive engineer who was dedicated to his craft and his Brotherhood, and to his family whom he loved. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Steele family during this difficult time."

Brother Steele, BLET Division 20 (Los Angeles), was working as a locomotive engineer for Metrolink on February 24, 2015, when his train collided with an abandoned heavy-duty pickup truck on the tracks near Oxnard, Calif. Brother Steele was in critical condition for more than a week following the crash. His heart stopped twice while receiving med-

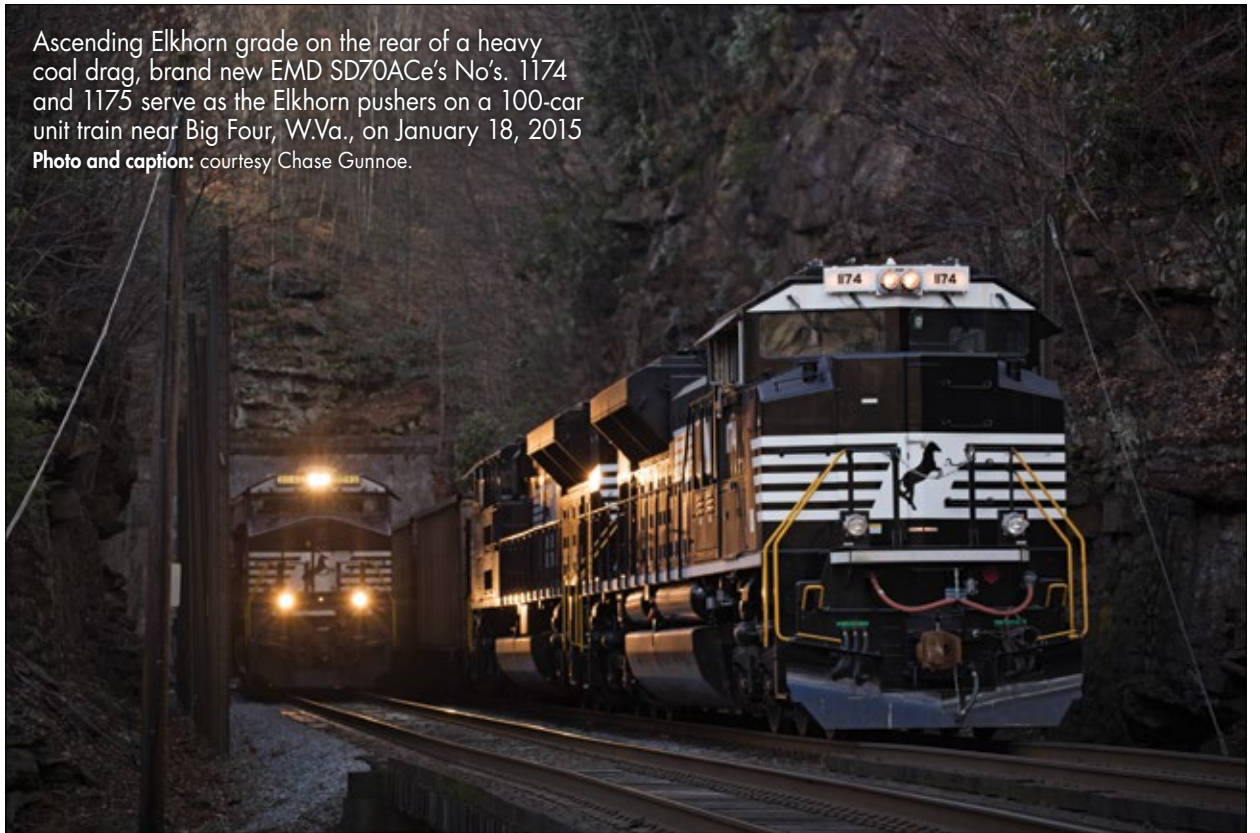


ical treatment during that time. The train's conductor and Steele's student engineer, also a BLET member, sustained injuries but were released after receiving treatment.

Brother Steele is survived by his wife, three children, and one grandchild. He first joined the BLET nearly 42 years ago, effective October 1, 1973.

BLET Division 20 has established an assistance fund for the Steele family to help with expenses during their tragic time of need. Donations can be made through the following link: [www.gofundme.com/nbytn0](http://www.gofundme.com/nbytn0) @

Ascending Elkhorn grade on the rear of a heavy coal drag, brand new EMD SD70ACe's No's. 1174 and 1175 serve as the Elkhorn pushers on a 100-car unit train near Big Four, W.Va., on January 18, 2015  
Photo and caption: courtesy Chase Gunnoe.



## BLET MEMBERS RATIFY CONTRACT WITH NORFOLK SOUTHERN

**M**embers of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen have ratified a new collective bargaining agreement with Norfolk Southern (NS).

Ballots were counted on January 29, 2015, and the agreement governs rates of pay and work rules for roughly 4,500 locomotive engineers. Health and welfare benefits for NS locomotive engineers will

be bargained nationally starting this year.

BLET National President thanked all members of the negotiating team, including Vice President Rick Gibbons and General Chairmen D.L. Dehart, NS-Northern Lines, K.S. Peek, NS-Eastern Lines, and M.L. Wallace, NS-Southern Lines.

"These Brothers deserve thanks for their hard work and determination throughout these contract negotiations," President

Pierce said. "I also thank our members for supporting the negotiating team throughout the process and for taking the time to vote; I am particularly pleased that nearly 63% of our NS members took this duty of BLET membership so seriously. This contract will help maintain the quality of life our members have earned through their professionalism, hard work and dedication to the craft." @

## BLET Advisory Board installed

**O**n January 1, 2015, a new Advisory Board began its four-year term of office for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET). National President Dennis R. Pierce convened the Advisory Board on January 1 to administer the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Oath of Office to all newly elected Officers. The BLET National Division term of office began on January 1, 2015, and runs through December 31, 2018.

"The Oath is an integral part of any new officer assuming his or her new responsibilities," said President Pierce. "The Oath serves as a reminder to all who hold office in our great union that we are but caretakers when it states that it is 'the members who put me here and it is the members whom I will serve.'"

Newly installed officers include National Secretary-Treasurer Stephen J. Bruno, Vice President James P. Louis, Trustee David P. Estes, Trustee Mark L. Wallace and Trustee Matt O. Wilson.

"These fine Brothers are all part of a

strong and united Advisory Board," Pierce said, "and I am confident that they, along with the full Advisory Board, will represent our membership to the best of their ability."

President Pierce also announced that effective January 1, 2015, National Secretary-Treasurer Bruno became Department Head of BLET's Passenger Department and Vice President Louis became Department Head of BLET's Education and Training Department, and BLET's Department of Internal Organizing, Mobilizing and Strategic Planning.

The Advisory Board is composed of the 14 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. Delegates at the BLET's Third National Convention in 2014 established three new Trustee Positions to audit the books of the National Division. @



**Seated, from left:** Vice President Marchs Ruef; First Vice President Lee Pruitt; National President Dennis Pierce; National Secretary-Treasurer Steve Bruno; and Vice President and National Legislative Representative John Tolman. **Standing, from left:** Trustee Dave Estes; Vice President Mike Priester; Vice President Cole Gore; Trustee Mark Wallace; Trustee Matt Wilson; Vice President Cole Davis; Vice President Jim Louis; Vice President Rick Gibbons; and Vice President Mike Twombly.



**BLET President's Message**  
Fighting fatigue **pg. 2**



**2015 BLET Scholarship Directory**  
Financial aid is available for children of BLET members **pg. 6-7**

**Education & Training Fund**  
Fourth annual report on BLET Education & Training Fund **pg. 5**







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

# FIGHTING FATIGUE

Getting accurate train lineups, eliminating Carrier harassment would go a long way

**BLET Editor's Note:** The following is a letter from BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce to Christopher A. Hart, Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, addressing an NTSB safety recommendation regarding railroad worker fatigue.

March 25, 2015

The Honorable  
Christopher A. Hart  
Acting Chairman  
National Transportation  
Safety Board  
Washington, DC 20594

Re: Safety Recommendation  
R-14-71

Dear Acting Chairman Hart:

This acknowledges receipt of your November 24, 2014 letter, which advises of the Board's November 19, 2014 adoption of a report titled *Organizational Factors in Metro-North Railroad Accidents*, in which the results of five (5) investigations involving Metro-North Railroad were discussed. Your letter notes that, as a result of this investigation, the Board, among other things, issued seventeen (17) new safety recommendations, including the following, which was directed to the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen:

### R-14-71

Collaborate to develop a model national labor agreement that supports effective programs for addressing sleep disorders and other medical conditions among safety-sensitive train operating personnel.

Your letter also requested that we respond within ninety (90) days detailing the actions we



President Pierce addresses the delegates during BLET's Third National Convention

have taken or intend to take to implement it.

As you know, collective bargaining agreements in the railroad industry are negotiated under the terms and conditions of the Railway Labor Act at both the national and the local level. BLET has long been an advocate for voluntary collective bargaining agreement solutions to the issues that confront the railroad industry. Although BLET is also willing to seek collectively bargained solutions in response to your recommendation, I must note that history clearly shows that only those issues that both the unions and the railroads show an interest in bargaining over result in voluntary labor agreements.

I must also add that truly addressing fatigue in the railroad industry will take much more than a labor agreement

that addresses sleep disorders or medical conditions. The vast majority of the locomotive engineers who are governed by national agreements work in "unassigned" freight service. This type of service generally has no set on-duty times, but instead requires engineers and conductors to be "on call," thus requiring them to report for duty for up to twelve hours of covered service with as little as an hour and a half's notice. The only hope that an engineer so assigned has to obtain proper rest is built on their Carrier's willingness to provide meaningful and accurate train lineups, which are at best only predictions as to when they will be called. The result is that time and time again, engineers are called at all hours of the day without sufficient notice to allow them to obtain proper rest

prior to reporting for work, all by no fault of their own. I share this just to make clear that a labor agreement addressing sleep apnea, for example, will hardly address fatigue if an engineer so diagnosed has no predictability as to when he should don a CPAP machine to obtain better rest.

Further, NTSB's own reports have shown that these variable work schedules result in unpredictable and inconsistent patterns of awake and asleep time, which are well-known to be disruptive to normal human circadian rhythms. NTSB has also found that "fatigue induced performance degradation" all too often contributes to or directly causes catastrophic accidents. (See RAR1402) It is clear to me that there is more to addressing the fatigue that plagues the railroad industry than just address-

ing sleep disorders.

Perhaps even more disturbing is that many Class 1 Carriers do not allow locomotive engineers and conductors who are caught without proper rest due to a bad lineup to refuse that call, or "lay off" for that trip, due to being fatigued. Instead, fatigued engineers and conductors are routinely threatened with violations of their Carrier's attendance policies and disciplinary actions, if they lay off fatigued. These Carrier actions and policies all but force engineers and conductors to work fatigued, risking their safety and that of the general public, under threat of losing their employment. These actions by the Carriers should concern all who have a true interest in railroad safety.

Nevertheless, and as I have stated, the BLET National Division is open to development of a labor agreement to address NTSB's recommendation. However it is critical that NTSB is aware of the broader ramifications of fatigue in the industry and what it will take to actually make meaningful improvements. To that end, the BLET National Division has made BLET's General Chairmen aware of Safety Recommendation R-14-71, and will make available to them the resources and assistance necessary for them to pursue such agreements in their respective jurisdictions should the railroads with which they bargain evince an interest in addressing the subject at that level.

Trusting the Board will find this response satisfactory, I remain

Sincerely,

**DENNIS R. PIERCE**  
BLET NATIONAL PRESIDENT

66 Perhaps even more disturbing is that many Class 1 Carriers do not allow locomotive engineers and conductors who are caught without proper rest due to a bad lineup to refuse that call, or "lay off" for that trip, due to being fatigued. 99

## 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. ©©**





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

# FAST TRACK WILL HURT WORKING AMERICANS

**F**or years, big business has pushed for fast-track trade promotion authority so it can get secret trade deals it helps craft like the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) enacted. Congressional leaders want to move on fast track, and soon. That means those standing up for the interests of hardworking Americans must step up their efforts. After all, not everyone is aware of the consequences that a quick up-or-down vote on the 12-nation Pacific Rim trade deal will bring. It will devastate not only wage earners, but their families as well.

The Teamsters and our fair-trade friends have seen the damage fast track and bad trade deals like the TPP can do. Millions of middle-class jobs nationwide have been lost, and they are not coming back. It is time for all of our elected leaders to do everything

within their power to support and expand the nation's middle class. It is for exactly this reason that the President and free trade supporters in Congress need to change their position on fast track.

The good news is there is a strong bipartisan collection of lawmakers who, like the Teamsters, have made it clear fast track does not lead to fair trade. Repeatedly, they have written the U.S. Trade Representative, held press conferences and spoken out publicly about speeding trade deals through Congress. Fast track will hurt hardworking Americans by shipping their jobs overseas and endangering their health with unsafe imported food and products.

With Congress set to consider fast track soon, there is no time to waste in letting both the public and elected officials know about the dangers of unfair trade.

Less jobs, lower pay, less worker protections and unsafe food and products isn't good for anyone — except big business.

American workers are facing turbulent times. Corporations are trying to ship U.S. jobs overseas in an attempt to lower the wages they pay. Having seen the costs with the implementation of NAFTA, the Teamsters and their allies cannot let that happen. This nation doesn't need any more free trade agreements; it needs fair trade agreements. But that will only happen if pro-worker advocates stand up to the big business bullies and demand that lawmakers say no to fast track and bad trade agreements like the TPP.

Fraternally,

**JAMES P. HOFFA**  
TEAMSTERS GENERAL  
PRESIDENT



66 It is time for all of our elected leaders to do everything within their power to support and expand the nation's middle class. It is for exactly this reason that the President and free trade supporters in Congress need to change their position on fast track. 99

## BLET urges FRA to deny SEPTA's request for extension of safety waiver

**T**he Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) held a public hearing on February 10 to review SEPTA's waiver of federally mandated safety rules.

The hearing was triggered by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen's opposition to a safety waiver that allows SEPTA to stretch workdays at the expense of rest time for locomotive engineers. The BLET has called on the FRA to reject the waiver. Testimony by employees and union representatives at the hearing documented practices that forced engineers to work on-call, with unpredictable schedules and phone calls from the railroad during periods designated for sleep. Interrupted sleep has a direct and negative effect on fatigue and thus safety. Currently many SEPTA engineers work 14-hour days and 6-day workweeks. Most other regional commuter railroads work engineers on 5-day a week schedule with shorter workdays.

"Public safety is at risk; the tragedies at Metro-North should cause SEPTA and other transit agencies to review safety practices," said BLET National Secretary-Treasurer Steve Bruno. "The FRA has reprimanded Metro-North for placing its rail schedule over safety considerations. We believe the February 10 hearing showed that SEPTA is also making unsafe choices."

Last March, the FRA issued a sharply

worded report on Metro-North, saying the New York commuter railroad had weakened safety standards while pushing to keep trains running on time. The report followed a fatal accident involving an engineer falling asleep on a Metro-North train that derailed in the Bronx.

"Safety has to come first," said Bruno. "There's no margin of error when it comes to running a railroad the right way. We've seen terrible accidents due to sleep deprivation on Metro-North and other railroads, and we want to do everything possible to make sure that doesn't happen here."

In a recent letter to the FRA, BLET National President Dennis Pierce stated that since receiving a safety waiver in October, 2012, SEPTA has systematically reduced "the number of locomotive engineer assignments while simultaneously increasing the number of trains and route miles in the public schedule."

"The FRA publishes minimum safety standards. The waiver allows SEPTA to conduct its operation below those minimum standards," Bruno said. "Forcing engineers to operate trains with insufficient rest creates a known — and preventable — risk to passengers and crews members. When the FRA examines the record, we believe they'll agree with us that SEPTA needs more compliance — not less — with federal safety rules." @





# TCRC strikes CP Rail in Canada

President Pierce blasts CP for unsafe rail practices and threatening employees

**D**ennis Pierce, National President of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen and President of the Teamsters Rail Conference (U.S.), blasted Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) on February 15 for its growing culture of threats and intimidation toward its employees in the U.S. and Canada. Pierce commented following CP's issuance of a letter to the BLET representatives on its U.S. operations, Soo Line and the Delaware & Hudson.

In those notices, CP threatened its U.S.-based locomotive engineers who work into Canada with disciplinary action, even termination, if they refuse to cross picket lines manned by their legally striking Canadian Brothers and Sisters belonging to Teamsters Canada Rail Conference (TCRC). The TCRC members conducted a one-day nationwide strike throughout Canada on February 15.

"TCRC President Doug Finnson and I have been in continuous communication, and it is clear that CP is incapable of bargaining in good faith with TCRC," said Pierce. "In a further display of its contempt for Rail Labor, CP is for the first time threatening to force its U.S.-based union-represented engineers to



**On the line:** Members of the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference Canadian Pacific-West General Committee of Adjustment (Calgary) on the picket lines, February 15, 2015.

cross Canadian picket lines, even though other options are available. We are receiving reports that CP is forcing U.S.-based train crews to operate trains with hazardous commodities over Canadian territories they are not familiar with, and to perform other duties of striking TCRC-represented employees. This blatant disregard for the safety of BLET's membership and the general public must stop."

Pierce called upon CP's Board of Directors to rein in the current management team at Canadian Pacific. "The cur-

rent management team has completely changed the culture at CP into one of constant confrontation with its employees and their unions. CP may be able to hide behind Canadian law as it applies to U.S. citizens by forcing U.S. Teamsters to cross picket lines under threat of losing their jobs, but rest assured that those engineers will never forget what they are being forced to do. Actions like this on CP's part will only solidify and strengthen the resolve of all rail labor in their dealings with CP," said Pierce.

"CP subsidiaries Soo Line and Dela-

ware & Hudson have just begun contract negotiations on the U.S. side, and this type of foolish provocation is not helpful," Pierce continued. "CP is grossly out of touch with the real world if it thinks that attempts to threaten and intimidate Teamsters in the U.S. and in Canada will benefit the railroad in the long run."

Faced with the threat of government-imposed back-to-work legislation, TCRC members ended their strike on February 16 as they agreed to binding arbitration to settle the dispute. @@

"In a further display of its contempt for Rail Labor, CP is for the first time threatening to force its U.S.-based union-represented engineers to cross Canadian picket lines, even though other options are available."

Photo: Steve Morovek, Vice Local Chairman, TCRC Division 76 (Winnipeg)

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## BLET members ratify new contract with Long Island Rail Road

**O**n February 22, members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) ratified a new collective bargaining agreement with the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) by a 71 percent majority.

The agreement governs rates of pay, health and welfare and pension benefits, and work rules for over 400 locomotive engineers.

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce thanked all members of the negotiating team, including LIRR General Chairman Kevin J. Sexton, former General Chairman M. J. Quinn, Vice President James P. Louis and National Secre-

tary-Treasurer Stephen J. Bruno.

"An impressive 86 percent of our Long Island Rail Road members took the time to participate and make their voices heard on this proposed agreement," President Pierce said. "I am particularly pleased that such a high percentage of members took their duty as a BLET member so seriously. I thank all those who participated in the process, and I thank the members of our negotiating committee for their dedication. This contract will help to maintain and improve the quality of life that our members have earned through their years of hard work, dedication, and professionalism." @@





# BLET statement regarding sleep apnea testing for MTA employees

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen Division 269/Long Island Rail Road General Committee of Adjustment issued the following statement regarding MTA's decision to unilaterally test locomotive engineers for sleep apnea.

The BLET is not surprised that the MTA is unilaterally implementing new health requirements for its locomotive engineers. We unequivocally support safe railroad operations for MTA employees and the public. However, developing a program that compels employees to submit themselves for sleep apnea testing, or medical tests of any type, without first discussing the matter with the employees being tested, or their Union Representatives, is not just foolish but also counterproductive. Providing a safe railroad operation and maintaining professional labor relations are not mutually exclusive ideas. In fact, we believe both are necessary to produce the safest possible public transportation system.

The employees and their Union Representatives have personal knowledge of the issues responsible for provoking fatigue. That insight can and should be considered when implementing any safety enhancements. Therefore, we urge the MTA to meet with the employees' Representatives and reach a comprehensive and effective means of enhancing safety for the public without trampling on the rights of its dedicated employees. @@

## 2014 BLET BYLAWS AVAILABLE ONLINE

An electronic copy of the 2014 edition of the BLET Bylaws, along with a 9-page matrix listing changes from the 2010 edition, are now available in the Members Area of the Brotherhood's website.

The Bylaws and the matrix are available for download and printing as a PDF, and reflect changes approved by delegates to the BLET's Third National Convention, which was held in September-October of 2014.

The BLET National Division is providing an electronic copy of the Bylaws to the membership while the document is being printed. The Bylaws provide that the National Division will furnish a hard copy to each member, without cost, upon request from the division Secretary-Treasurer. @@

The Bylaws are available at:  
[www.ble-t.org/members/bylaws](http://www.ble-t.org/members/bylaws)

## FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT ON BLET EDUCATION & TRAINING FUND

When delegates attending the BLET's Second National Convention in Reno, Nevada, established a dedicated fund for Education and Training in October of 2010, they stipulated that an accounting of funds be published in the first issue of the BLET's newsletter each year.

Specifically, members pay \$1 per month to fund and maintain a BLET Education and Training Department. Section 7 (g) — National Division Rules of the BLET

Bylaws (Pg. 27) reads as follows: "All members in active service, including those holding official positions with the carrier and those employed exclusively by the BLET, shall pay \$1.00 per month dues to establish and maintain an education and training fund, subject to the provisions of Section 29 — National Division Rules. Funds received from such dues shall be used for education and training classes and/or workshops for officers and members of the BLET." @@

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING FUND BALANCE REPORT FOR 2014

FUND BALANCE AT JANUARY 1, 2014			-\$105,199
<b>REVENUES</b>			
EDUCATION AND TRAINING FUND DUES	\$398,035		
REIMBURSED EXPENDITURES	115,947		
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>		\$513,982	
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
WAGES, TAXES, AND BENEFITS	336,634		
BUSINESS TRAVEL	115,509		
MEETING EXPENSES	11,242		
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		463,385	
<b>NET EXPENDITURES EXCEEDING REVENUES</b>			\$50,597
<b>FUND BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 2014</b>			<b>-\$54,602</b>

## SIGN UP FOR BLET NEWS FLASHES!

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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](http://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.



## Good News - Increased Daily Benefits Now Available

\$250 per day in "Held Out of Service" membership benefits costs \$95/month.

A \$220 membership is also offered at \$83.<sup>60</sup>/month.

Protect your income when disciplined for eligible occurrences with a BR&CF membership. Speak with a local BR&CF member or visit our web site at [www.brcf.org](http://www.brcf.org) to apply for membership. Current members may apply to increase... but don't delay. **Act Now.**



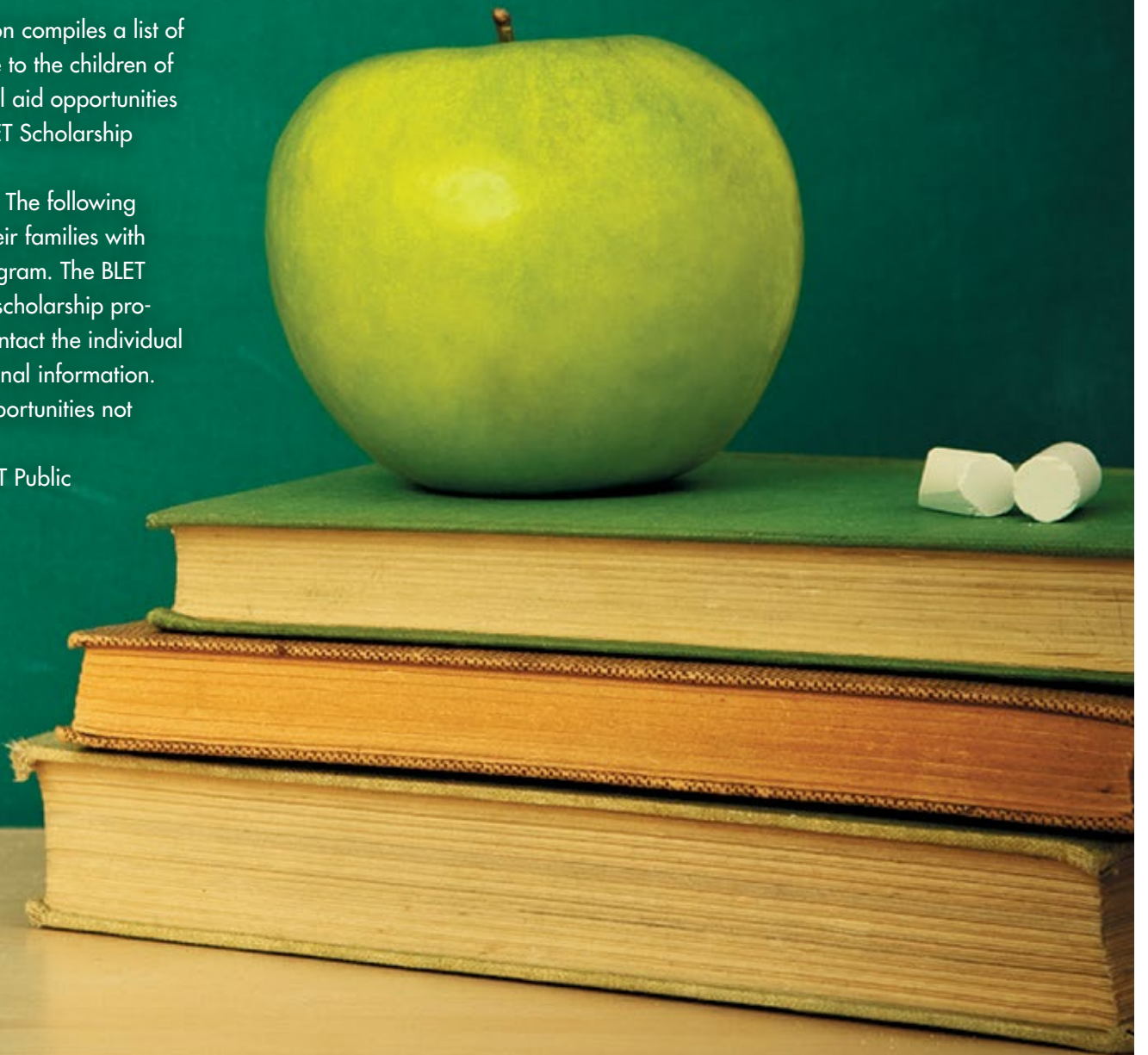


# 2015 BLET SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTORY

**E**ach year, the BLET National Division compiles a list of scholarship opportunities available to the children of BLET members. Numerous financial aid opportunities are published here in the 2015 BLET Scholarship Directory.

The scholarship opportunities vary widely. The following comprehensive list provides members and their families with contact information for each scholarship program. The BLET National Division does not maintain its own scholarship program, so interested parties 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](mailto:Bentley@ble-t.org).



## THE 2015 BLET SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTORY IS AS FOLLOWS:

### James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship

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

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.

One category of awards totals \$10,000 each. These four-year scholarships are disbursed at the rate of \$2,500 per year and are renewable annually. Other 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.

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. The JRH Scholarship Fund has established some guidelines to be used by students when deciding whether or not to apply for this program. Applicants should: 1. Rank in the top 15 percent of their high school class; 2. Have, or expect to have, excellent SAT or ACT scores; and 3. Demonstrate financial need.

**A FULL LIST OF SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE TEAMSTER WEBSITE.**

**IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CONTACT: JAMES R. HOFFA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND, 25 LOUISIANA AVENUE, NW, WASHINGTON,**

DC 20001, PHONE: (202) 624-8735, EMAIL: [SCHOLARSHIP@TEAMSTER.ORG](mailto:SCHOLARSHIP@TEAMSTER.ORG).

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

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

There is some good news for those applying for a BLET Auxiliary Scholarship this year. Beginning in 2015, the requirement of Auxiliary membership has been reduced from two years to just one year in order for their children to qualify for a BLET Auxiliary scholarship. Under the new guidelines, applicants must have one parent who has been a member of the BLET Auxiliary for at least one year, and the other parent must be a member

of the BLET for at least one year. Children of unmarried BLET members with at least one year of membership in the BLET and at least one year of membership as an associate member of the BLET Auxiliary are also eligible.

The BLET Auxiliary also administers the scholarship program for the International Western Convention (IWC). Scholarships (\$1,000) are available for the children, stepchildren, and grandchildren of BLET members whose Division is a member in good standing of the IWC. The BLET divisions that are eligible to participate in the IWC are located in the following states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Auxiliary membership is not a requirement to apply for an IWC scholarship. In some cases applicants may qualify for both the BLET



Auxiliary Scholarship Program and the IWC Scholarship Program.

In order to qualify for either scholarship program, an applicant must be accepted or enrolled in an accredited university, college, or institution of higher learning. Recipients are chosen on the basis of academic record, leadership, character, and personal achievement. If the applicant is a graduate student or returning to college as a sophomore, junior, or senior, he or she must have a 3.0 grade point average or better to be considered.

Scholarship applications must be received by April 1, 2015, in order to be accepted. Late applications will not be considered. These requirements apply to both the BLET Auxiliary scholarships and the IWC scholarships.

Application forms with detailed instructions attached are available for download at: [www.bletauxiliary.net](http://www.bletauxiliary.net). Applicants must carefully follow all instructions in order to ensure that the application will qualify for acceptance and consideration by the BLET Auxiliary Scholarship Committee.

**MAIL COMPLETED FORMS TO:**

LAWANA POSS  
BLET AUXILIARY NATIONAL SECRETARY  
1394 BYWOOD COURT  
SUWANEE, GA 30024

## Eastern Union Meeting Association (EUMA)

The Eastern Union Meeting Association awards several scholarships 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 T. 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 2015 EUMA scholarship application and dues deadline is July 7, 2015. Send completed applications to: Pat Driscoll, EUMA Secretary-Treasurer, Conrail SAA/CSXT Northern District, GCA, 2852 Delaware Ave., Suite #200, Kenmore, NY 14217. For more details, contact Brother Driscoll at: (716) 876-2303 or [driscollblt1@verizon.net](mailto:driscollblt1@verizon.net).

**APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE BLET WEBSITE:** [WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/EUMA\\_SCHOLARSHIP\\_APP\\_0113.PDF](http://WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/EUMA_SCHOLARSHIP_APP_0113.PDF)

## Southwestern Convention Meeting (SWCM)

The Southwestern Convention Meeting (SWCM) awards approximately three dozen scholarships annually based on academic achievement and financial need, granting 34 awards in 2014 totaling \$28,500.

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, 2015.

The 2015 convention begins on September 13, and Divisions must have paid their annual SWCM convention dues for applicants from their Division to be eligible. For more information, please visit the SWCM website: [bletsbcm.org/swcm-scholarships.html](http://bletsbcm.org/swcm-scholarships.html)

The SWCM Scholarship Committee provides two application forms — one for incoming freshmen and one for current college students. Be sure to use the correct form when applying as incorrect applications will not be accepted.

**DOWNLOAD APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS HERE:** [WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/SWCMSCHE.ASP](http://WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/SWCMSCHE.ASP)

**APPLICATION FORM FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN (HERE):** [WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/2015\\_INCOMING\\_FRESHMAN\\_APP.PDF](http://WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/2015_INCOMING_FRESHMAN_APP.PDF)

**APPLICATION FORM FOR CURRENT COLLEGE STUDENTS (HERE):** [WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/2015\\_COLLEGE\\_STUDENT\\_APP.PDF](http://WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/2015_COLLEGE_STUDENT_APP.PDF)

## Southeastern Meeting Association (SMA)

The Southeastern Meeting Association (SMA) Scholarship Committee awards 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. No fax or electronic copies of the application will be accepted.

SMA scholarship winners are usually selected and announced at the SMA's annual business meeting held during the convention. This year's SMA will be June 14-19 in Atlanta, Ga. Please see your division officers for an application or for more details. Deadline this year is June 1, 2015.

**APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE HERE:** [WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/SMA\\_2015\\_SCHOLARSHIP\\_APP.PDF](http://WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/SMA_2015_SCHOLARSHIP_APP.PDF)

## California State Legislative Board

The BLET's CSLB will again be awarding a scholarship to a graduating high school senior who will attend college/ trade/ vocational school in 2015. The applicant's parent or guardian must be a member in good standing in a BLET division represented by CSLB.

Last year, the Board awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. Rules, applications and deadline information are available on the Board's website: [www.cslb.ws](http://www.cslb.ws). The deadline is May 1, 2015.

**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.

## Illinois State Legislative Board

The BLET's Illinois State Legislative Board is currently accepting applications for its Don Little Memorial Scholarship Fund, which was established in 2013.

One \$1,000 and two \$500 scholarships will be awarded to applicants whose parent or guardian is a BLET member in good standing with a BLET Local Division represented by the Illinois State Legislative Board. Applicants must be 26 years of age or younger.

Brother Don Little was a locomotive engineer with Metra commuter rail

in Chicago and a proud member of BLET Division 294 (Bensenville, Ill.) for 35 years. Brother Little served for more than 10 years on the Executive Committee of the Illinois State Legislative Board and always had a dream of establishing a scholarship program for the family members of fellow Brothers and Sisters who worked in Illinois. Unfortunately, Brother Little passed away before his dream was realized.

In 2013, Paul Piekarski (Chairman of the Illinois State Legislative Board), Timothy Dunn (former Secretary-Treasurer of the Board), and several others helped make Brother Little's dream a reality.

Scholarship applications and all accompanying documents must be received by May 31, 2015. Specific eligibility requirements, detailed instructions and application forms (PDF [www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/Illinois\\_SLB\\_Scholarship\\_2015.pdf](http://www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/Illinois_SLB_Scholarship_2015.pdf)) are available for download from the BLET National Division website.

**FOR QUESTIONS OR ASSISTANCE IN COMPLETING THE APPLICATION,** CONTACT JOYCE A. PIEKARSKI, ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY, AT (630) 963-6099 OR [JOYCE.PIEKARSKI@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JOYCE.PIEKARSKI@GMAIL.COM).

## Wyoming State Legislative Board

The BLET's Wyoming State Legislative Board (WYSLB) is again offering a scholarship program for the upcoming school year. First offered for the 2014 academic year, the scholarship deadline for 2015 is June 1, 2015.

Wyoming State Legislative Board Chairman Cory Runion said the Board will award either two \$1,000 scholarships, or, in the event of a single applicant, one \$1,000 scholarship each year to an immediate family member of a BLET member in good standing and holding membership in a Division chartered within the state of Wyoming. The scholarships will be awarded based on the application, along with the requested documentation, by the WYSLB scholarship committee.

Scholarship applications and all accompanying documents must be received by June 1 of each year. Specific eligibility requirements, detailed instructions and application forms (PDF) are available for download from the BLET National Division website, or can be requested from your Division Legislative Representative. Currently, the BLET has nine Divisions chartered in Wyoming — Division 31 (Bill); Division 207 (Casper); Divisions 44, 103 and 115 (Cheyenne); Division 94 (Gillette); Division 869 (Greybull); Division 142 (Rawlins); and Division 624 (Sheridan).

**FOR QUESTIONS OF ASSISTANCE IN COMPLETING THE APPLICATION PLEASE CONTACT YOUR DIVISION LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE.**

**INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORM AVAILABLE HERE:** [WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/WYO\\_SLB\\_SCHOLARSHIP\\_APP.PDF](http://WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/WYO_SLB_SCHOLARSHIP_APP.PDF)

## 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 WEBSITE ([WWW.BLET269.COM](http://WWW.BLET269.COM)) OR CONTACT DIVISION PRESIDENT JOHN A. KAVANAUGH JR. AT (631) 813-2234.**

## BLET Division 622

BLET Division 622 (Alliance, Neb.) will award two \$500 scholarships in 2015. Only the children of Division 622 members are eligible to apply. Scholarship winners will be chosen at random during a Division meeting in August. Applications must be received by July 31, 2015. For more specifics, please visit the Division 622 website and click on "scholarships:" [www.ble622.com](http://www.ble622.com).

**APPLICATION AND INSTRUCTIONS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FROM THE NATIONAL DIVISION WEBSITE:** [WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/DIV\\_622\\_SCHOLARSHIP\\_APP\\_2015.PDF](http://WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/DIV_622_SCHOLARSHIP_APP_2015.PDF)

## BR&CF Scholarship Program

The Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (BR&CF) 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," are eligible. 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.

The 2016 program begins October 1, 2015, with a deadline of March 1, 2016.

**BR&CF MEMBERS WITH QUESTIONS MAY CONTACT LINDA GARBER 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).**

## Union Plus Scholarships

Union Plus awarded 116 students a total of \$150,000 in scholarships (ranging from \$500 to \$4,000) in the 2014 Union Plus Scholarship Program. The deadline is January 31 each year.

Rising education costs are making it difficult for many union families to afford the cost of tuition. That's one reason Union Plus, which provides important consumer benefits to union members and retirees, offers a unique scholarship program that in just over two decades has awarded over \$3.6 million in education funding to more than 2,400 union members, spouses and dependent children. Recipients are selected based on academic ability, social awareness, financial need and appreciation of labor.

In addition to the scholarships, Union Plus offers discounts of 15 to 60 percent on college and graduate school test preparation courses from The Princeton Review. Discounts are available for classroom, online and private tutoring for the SAT, ACT, GMAT, LSAT, GRE and MCAT as well as college affordability and admissions online courses. Free online practice tests are also available. Visit [UnionPlus.org/CollegePrep](http://UnionPlus.org/CollegePrep) or call (888) 243-7737.

**VISIT THE UNION PLUS WEBSITE ([WWW.UNIONPLUS.ORG/COLLEGE-EDUCATION-FINANCING/UNION-PLUS-SCHOLARSHIP](http://WWW.UNIONPLUS.ORG/COLLEGE-EDUCATION-FINANCING/UNION-PLUS-SCHOLARSHIP)) TO LEARN MORE AND APPLY FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.**





## Locomotive Engineers And Trainmen News Brotherhood Of Locomotive Engineers And Trainmen

1370 Ontario Street, Mezzanine  
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### Photo of the Month: January/February

**MERIDIAN SPEEDWAY:** This Kansas City Southern Shreveport-to-Birmingham mixed freight train has just arrived at Meridian where it will be handed off to a Norfolk Southern crew for the remainder of its journey to Birmingham, Ala. Running as NS 340 from here on out, this daily mixed freight is one of many KCS-to-NS hand-off trains that utilize the famed Meridian Speedway, a 320-mile link between Meridian and Shreveport, Miss. Photo courtesy: Frank Orona



**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 contribute 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.

## Advisory Board November & December 2014 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; 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; LIRR retirement dinner dance, Long Island, N.Y.; National Legislative Board mtg., Advisory Board mtg. and General Chairmen mtg., Fort Worth, Texas; Vacation; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; IBT General Executive Board mtg., Washington, D.C.; UP Hub Town Hall mtg., Kansas City, Kan.; Secretary-Treasurer workshop, 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; PRAC; and National Negotiations; Inward Facing Cameras mtg., RSAC, Omaha, Neb.; Advisory Board and related mtgs., Fort Worth, Texas; New York Dock negotiations, UPRR, Fort Worth, Texas; Holidays; Vacation; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; New York Dock negotiations, UPRR, Houston; Inward Facing Cameras mtg., RSAC, Washington, D.C.; Secretary-Treasurer workshop, Cleveland.

**NATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER WILLIAM C. WALPERT:** General supervision of accounting dept., records dept., online services dept., tax compliance dept.; Education & Training Dept.; Internal Organizing, Mobilizing & Strategic Planning Dept.; Meetings with vendors and financial institutions; Advanced Local Chairman Workshop, Cleveland; Publications Committee; Teamsters Rail Conference Policy Committee; Trustee, National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust (NRRIT); NRRIT mtg., Washington, D.C.; Holiday; Vacation; Advisory Board and related mtgs., Fort Worth, Texas; Secretary-Treasurer Workshop, Cleveland; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland.

**VICE PRESIDENT & NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE JOHN P. TOLMAN:** Assigned to BLET Washington, DC office; General office duties, telephone and correspondence communications; Coordinate content of NLO website; Weekly PAC committee and legislative mtgs.; Mass. get out the vote mtgs.; Election Day, Plymouth, Mass.; National Legislative Board and Advisory Board mtgs., Fort Worth, Texas; General Chairman mtg., Fort Worth, Texas; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; Mtg. w/ Operation Lifesaver President & CEO Joyce Rose, Washington, D.C.; Mtg. w/ Senator Moran, Washington, D.C.; CSX-NS reception, Washington, D.C.; Inward Facing Camera mtg., RSAC working group, Washington, D.C.; Full Rail Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC) mtg., Washington, D.C.; Marine Engineers Beneficial Association (MEBA) reception, Washington, D.C.; Various meetings and functions with Representatives and Senators.

**VICE PRESIDENT MARCUS J. RUEF:** Vice Chairman, full NRAB; Labor Member, 1st Division; Labor Member, National Mediation Board Arbitration Advisory Forum; Director of BLET Arbitration Dept; Assigned to Illinois Central; Wisconsin Central; Indiana Harbor Belt; Belt Railway of Chicago; Metra; GRR; and IRR; Advanced Local Chairman workshop, Cleveland; LIRR Division 269 retirement/Dinner Dance, Long Island, N.Y.; Advisory Board mtg. and General Chairman mtg., Fort Worth, Texas; Assist GC Semenek, Chicago; Assist VGC Sipich, IHB, claims conference prep., Chicago; Assist GC Balonek w/ discipline case, Metra, Chicago; NRAB 1st Division adoption session, Chicago; Holiday; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; Assist GC Graves/ w/ mtg., re-interchange issue, BRC, Chicago; Vacation; Assist GC Balonek and GC Craddock with Claims Conference.

**VICE PRESIDENT MIKE TWOMBLY:** Assigned to all Union Pacific GCAs (Eastern District, Northern Region (former C&NW), Western Lines (Pacific Harbor Lines), Western Region (Portland & Western), Central Region, Southern Region; On duty at home office; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications, etc.; Union Pacific-Southern Region and Western Region conference, Omaha; Inward facing camera mtg. w/ all UPRR General Chairmen, Omaha, Neb.; LIRR retirement dinner dance, Long Island, N.Y.; Advisory Board mtg., General Chairmen mtg., and Legislative Board mtg., Fort Worth, Texas; UP-Southern Region New York Dock Section 4 negotiations,

Hurst, Texas; UP-Eastern District PLB 7109, Kansas City, Mo.; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; UP-Southern Region New York Dock Section 4 mtg., Spring, Texas; UP-Southern Region PLB 7158, Estero, Fla.; UP-Southern Region and UP-Western Region conference, Phoenix, Ariz.

**VICE PRESIDENT GIL GORE:** Assigned to all CSX; Grand Trunk Western; Union Pacific-Southern Region GCA special assignment; Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) issues, CSXT; General office duties, paperwork, correspondence, emails, telephone calls, etc.; BLET Advisory Board mtg., Fort Worth; Numerous CSXT ratification conference calls; PLB 7652 executive session; CSXT contract mtgs. in Toledo, Ohio, Pittsburgh, Pa, Hamlet, S.C., and Richmond, Va.; Holidays; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; Various conference calls, including GC Lyons, new attendance policy for T&E and TTR.

**VICE PRESIDENT MICHAEL D. PRIESTER:** Assigned to all BNSF (former ATSF, former C&S, CRI&P, FWD, former STL-SF, BNSF/MRL), Panhandle Northern, Missouri & North Arkansas, Montana Rail Link, Great Western; Texas Pacific; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications, etc.; BLET Advisory Board mtg., National Legislative Board mtg., and General Chairmen mtg., Fort Worth, Texas; BNSF General Chairmen mtg., Section 6 notice, Fort Worth; Holiday; BNSF mtg. w/ Labor Relations and GC Wilson, Minneapolis; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; PLB 7682 w/ GC Holdcraft, BNSF, Ft. Myers, Fla.; Division 863 mtg. w/ GC Holdcraft, San Angelo; Division 518 special mtg. w/ GC Wilson, Seattle; Assist Special Rep Dave Ditzel, Bozeman, Mont.

**VICE PRESIDENT COLE W. DAVIS:** Assigned to: Kansas City Southern (MidSouth Rail, SouthRail, Gateway Western, Illinois & Midland), Texas Mexican Rwy.; CP Rail System/US (Indiana Southern, Iowa, Chicago & Eastern, Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern); Springfield Terminal (St. Lawrence & Atlantic, Delaware & Hudson), Cedar River, Louisville & Indiana, Huron & Eastern; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications, etc.; CP RR & DM&E issues, assisting GC Semenek; KCS issues, assisting GC Parker; Mid South issues, assisting GC Craddock; Springfield Terminal issues and Delaware & Hudson issues, assisting GC Moore; Huron & Eastern agreement, GC Ladrig; LIRR retirement dinner dance, Long Island, N.Y.; BLET Advisory Board mtg., Fort Worth; TexMex issues, assisting GC Rodriguez; Louisville & Indiana issues; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; Indiana Southern negotiations w/ GC Semenek, Indianapolis, Ind.; PLB 6884 w/ GC Parker, Ft. Myers, Fla.; Mtgs. w/ KCS and GC Parker, Ft. Myers, Fla.; CP RR contract preparations w/ GC Semenek.

**VICE PRESIDENT STEPHEN J. BRUNO:** Assigned to various Rail Safety Advisory Committees (RSAC); Regulatory duties as assigned by the President; Amtrak; Long Island Rail Road; New York & Atlantic; Metro North; New Jersey Transit; PATH; SEPTA; Metra; Union Railroad; Birmingham Southern; Internal reports, telephone calls, correspondence, email, general office duties, etc.; Vacation; BLET Advisory Board mtg., National Legislative Board mtg., and General Chairmen mtg., Fort Worth, Texas; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; Advanced Local Chairman workshop, Cleveland; Secretary-Treasurer workshop, Cleveland; Development of BLET Database, NST training, Building search committee; LIRR retirement dinner, Long Island, N.Y.; Mtgs. w/ NST Walpert, re: transfer, training; Mtgs. and conference calls with building architects and structural engineers, re: site visits, fit plan, plan development, property condition assessment, environmental site assessment.

**VICE PRESIDENT R.C. (RICK) GIBBONS:** 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; Ohio Central; RSAC/RSIA Fatigue Management Group; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications; IORY negotiations w/ GC Chip Cole, Columbus, Ohio; LIRR retirement dinner dance, Long Island, N.Y.; Advisory Board mtg., Fort Worth; SBA 1063, Assist GC Dehart, Chicago; Holidays; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; PLB 7574 w/ GC Wallace, NS, Ft. Myers, Fla.; NS negotiations, assisting all NS GCs, Norfolk, Va.

## FINAL SMA SLATED FOR GEORGIA IN JUNE

Chair Teresa Bryant, Scott Frederick and the members of BLET Division 30 (Atlanta) have the honor of hosting the final Southeastern Meeting Association (SMA) this year at Lake Lanier Islands in Buford, Ga.

Delegates to the Third National Convention in 2014 voted to change the BLET's regional meeting structure so that there will be only two regional meetings per year beginning in 2016. As a result, the 88th SMA later this year will be the final SMA. Sister Bryant, Brother Frederick and the members of the Arrangements Committee are planning an SMA that you will not want to miss.

Guests will stay at the Lanier Islands Legacy Lodge in Buford, Ga. Hotel reservations must be made online through the hotel's website by April 30, 2015, and early-bird convention registration is May 1, 2015. Additional information, registration forms and other details can be found on the National Division's website, [www.ble-t.org/sma](http://www.ble-t.org/sma).

"The attractions at Lake Lanier are too many to list,

but include horseback riding, boating, golfing, a water park and beach area," Brother Frederick said. "I am looking forward to seeing each of you for some food, fun, fellowship and learning." @@@

