



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

BLET distributes checks from Perrien Fund in Hurricane Harvey relief effort

OVER \$91,000 DISTRIBUTED TO IMPACTED MEMBERS IN LATE DECEMBER 2017

In the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, the BLET's National Division Advisory Board approved an expansion of its Gary Perrien Fund to provide financial assistance to members living in Texas and Louisiana who had suffered losses from the storm. Thanks to the generosity of BLET members and officers, the Perrien Fund raised more than \$91,000, which was distributed to impacted members in the days before Christmas.

On December 20, 2017, the BLET's Executive Committee — consisting of National President Dennis R. Pierce, First Vice President E. Lee Pruitt, and National Secretary-Treasurer Stephen J. Bruno — mailed the checks to 17 members. "While no one can ever be made completely whole having endured such an event, it is our hope that this small token of generosity from the membership of our Brotherhood will



help in your recovery from this Disaster," they wrote.

The Gary Perrien Fund was originally established by action of the delegates at BLET's Second National Convention in 2010. Brother Gary Perrien, then an active member serving on

the Convention's Arrangements Committee, fell ill and the delegates passed the hat to assist in his recovery. In a televised report back to the convention from his hospital bed, Brother Perrien asked that the funds be used to help those more needy

than him, leading the delegates and the Advisory Board to later create the Gary Perrien Fund. Brother Perrien recovered and retired in the years following the 2010 Convention.

As part of the expansion of the Fund in August, the BLET

Advisory Board also authorized President Pierce's request that \$20,000 be transferred from the Union's General Fund to the Perrien Fund as part of the associated fund raising effort on behalf of the Union's members harmed by the storm. In the days and weeks that followed more than 70 BLET General Committees of Adjustment, State Legislative Boards, Local Divisions, and individual members made donations to more than quadruple the National Division's initial \$20,000 gift.

"I am proud of the overwhelming level of generosity shown by our members, officers, Divisions, State Legislative Boards and General Committees of Adjustment," President Pierce said. "For nearly 155 years now, our Brotherhood has thrived on the principle of members helping members and this is a shining example of what it means to be a Brotherhood."©©

DASHING THROUGH THE SNOW

Operating with BNSF power, Norfolk Southern train 380 slithers south through the rolling hills of the NS West Virginia Secondary near Arbuckle, W.Va., on February 4, 2014, following a wet snowfall the day before.

Photo: Chase Gunnoe



BLET President's Message
FELA under attack in Indiana
pg. 2

Not Guilty
Jury finds 3 railroaders innocent in Lac-Megantic disaster
pg. 3



Financial Aid
2018 BLET Scholarship Directory
pgs. 4-5


BLET PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY DENNIS R. PIERCE

ELECTIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES – FELA UNDER ATTACK IN INDIANA

This year marks the 110th anniversary of the Federal Employers' Liability Act (FELA). Congress passed FELA in 1908 for the purpose of providing compensation to railroad employees who are injured on the job. It was created at a time when working conditions were so perilous that 12,000 railroad workers were killed on the job in 1908 alone — that's over 32 fatalities per day.

Unlike state worker compensation systems, damages paid to an injured railroad worker under FELA are not capped by some one-size-fits-all chart. FELA damages are based upon the severity and permanency of an injury, and include all economic damages, plus pain and suffering.

It should come as no surprise, then, the railroads have made numerous attempts over the years to weaken or repeal FELA. If the industry was to succeed in this effort, literally millions of dollars would be transferred from the pockets of injured and deceased railroad workers and their families to the carriers' already swollen bottom lines.

In one of my messages to you two years ago, I discussed the subject of FELA and explained in detail about its history, its importance to railroaders, and how the carriers have repeatedly tried to repeal it over the years. In that piece, I warned BLET members to consider carefully when casting their votes at the ballot box and urged you all to strongly support labor-friendly candidates. Lawmakers can significantly weaken FELA with the stroke of a pen, and that is exactly what anti-worker legislators are trying to do in the State of Indiana.

In late December, BLET Indiana State Legislative Board



President Pierce (top) addresses BLET members attending the BLET Education & Training Department's training class for Secretary-Treasurer at BLET headquarters on January 23, 2018.

Chairman Brian J. Farkas alerted the National Division that an anti-worker, anti-FELA bill would be considered by the Indiana General Assembly in early 2018. As introduced, Indiana Senate Bill No. 436 (S.B. 436) would allow railroads to seek damages from third parties to offset their financial obligations in the event they are found negligent and lose a FELA case in court.

The original bill would have allowed railroads to sue the injured employee's co-workers as third parties if their negligence

contributed to the injury. Adding insult to injury, the law was crafted in such a way that corporations whose negligence causes or contributes to occupational diseases were exempt from such potential claims. In other words, workers were targeted for lawsuits while corporations were exempted. This is what happens when pro-corporation politicians act on behalf of their benefactors.

Section 5 of S.B. 436 stated that a railroad "does not have a right of action of contribution against a third party un-

der this chapter if liability in whole or in part relates to an occupational disease." In other words, Big Business — corporate manufacturers of locomotives that are excessively noisy or spew dangerous diesel fumes, and the manufacturers of tools that contribute to carpal tunnel syndrome, and the corporate manufacturers of the various toxins to which railroad workers are exposed in the workplace — all get a free pass. However, if the court determines that a railroad worker's negligence contrib-

utes to the injury or death of a co-worker, then under the proposed Indiana law, the co-worker would be subject to suit by the railroad.

Through the hard work and determination of Brother Farkas, pro-worker legislators have stepped forward and secured an amendment to the bill that would strike the language that would have allowed railroads to sue their own employees. I want to thank Brother Farkas for his work in protecting FELA and the rights of railroad workers in Indiana. Our other State Legislative Board Chairmen should take note in the event that similar legislation is introduced in their state legislatures. But the fight isn't over. The amended bill is expected to be approved by the State Senate in early to mid-February, at which time the State House of Representatives will take it up in committee.

I share this with you to reinforce the fact that elections have consequences. Like I said two years ago, lawmakers can repeal or weaken FELA with the stroke of a pen. When you consider who to vote for, one of your main concerns should be what each candidate says — and what each candidate has done — regarding FELA and similar worker protection laws.

The actions of politicians in Indiana should serve as an immediate wake up call for all BLET members. Collectively, we need to wake up and see which lawmakers are working for working class Americans and which ones are working for Big Business. This is all the more urgent as national elections will be held this Fall.

DENNIS R. PIERCE
BLET NATIONAL PRESIDENT

66 It should come as no surprise, then, the railroads have made numerous attempts over the years to weaken or repeal FELA. If the industry was to succeed in this effort, literally millions of dollars would be transferred from the pockets of injured and deceased railroad workers and their families to the carriers' already swollen bottom lines. 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 policy 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

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS MUST REPRESENT PUBLIC VIEWS

Democracy is supposed to function based on majority rule. But increasingly, elected officials are using their powers to draw legislative districts that don't accurately measure the will of the people.

There is nothing new about the process known as gerrymandering, where districts are sometimes drawn with little thought to reason. Instead, it is all about manipulating the electoral process to give an advantage to one side over the other.

The U.S. Supreme Court is currently considering a Wisconsin case that could make some headway in the discussion. In that case, state legislative districts are being contested. At the center of the argument is the "efficiency gap," a relatively new measure of partisan gerrymandering.

As The New York Times described it recently: "The efficiency gap measurement aims to summarize the effect of gerrymandering by identifying all of the wasted votes in victory and defeat for both parties. It then adds them up, finds the difference between the two sides, and divides that by the total number of votes in a state. This yields a single percentage figure: the efficiency gap. The creators of the measurement, Eric McGhee, research fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California, and Nicholas Stephanopoulos,

professor at the University of Chicago Law School, propose that a gap of 7 percent or higher should be enough to find that a state may have committed an unconstitutional partisan gerrymander."

As it stands, there are currently 13 states with at least five congressional districts that violate this standard — 12 of which give an advantage to Republicans. They make a backwards "C" shape, running from the upper Midwest through much of the East Coast and into the deep South.

Gerrymandering is jeopardizing democracy, and the public is catching on. How else, for example, does one explain a North Carolina brewery whipping up a new beer called "Purple State" to raise money to fight the problem there?

In California, an independent panel made up of citizens redrew the district lines in the Golden State for the first time in the lead up to the 2012 vote, and the result was the election of congressional members who more accurately reflect the views of the electorate there.

Now that's democracy in action.

Fraternally,

JAMES P. HOFFA
TEAMSTERS GENERAL PRESIDENT



66

Gerrymandering is jeopardizing democracy, and the public is catching on. How else, for example, does one explain a North Carolina brewery whipping up a new beer called "Purple State" to raise money to fight the problem there?

99

BLET Statement on Not-Guilty Verdict in Lac-Megantic Trial

The following is a statement from Dennis R. Pierce, National President of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) and President of the Teamsters Rail Conference.

Although it remains a travesty that criminal charges were ever filed, justice was served in the unanimous not guilty verdict issued by jurors in the Lac-Megantic trial in Sherbrooke, Quebec, on January 19, 2018.

The trial against three former employees of the Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway (MMA) began in September of 2017, and the jury deliberated for nine days prior to reaching their verdict. The trial laid bare the dangerous tendency of certain rail carriers to cut corners on safety. Leading up to the tragedy of July 5, 2013, the MMA Railway had

begun the dangerous practice of one-person train operations, and the trial exposed how employees were forced to work with equipment that contributed to the accident.

As the jurors rightly determined, blaming the workers for the Lac-Megantic catastrophe was the wrong thing to do. Railroading is a complex system of operations, and many factors go into a safe operation. Determining the root cause of this tragedy is more complex than simply blaming the workers, but that all too often is what many rail carriers and government agencies do.

Our hearts and prayers continue to be with the victims and their families who were touched by the tragedy of July 5, 2013. It is our hope they — and the three workers who were wrongly accused — can find some closure from this verdict. ©©



Train engineer Thomas Harding leaves the courtroom after hearing the verdict on Friday, January 19, 2018 in Sherbrooke, Quebec. Photo: THE CANADIAN PRESS/Ryan Remiorz

2018 BLET SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTORY

Each 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 2018 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.



The 2018 BLET Scholarship Directory is as follows:

James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund

The James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund is now accepting applications for 2018. The deadline to apply is March 31, 2018.

For the first time, the application process is completely online this year. All applications must be completed through the on-line portal found on the Fund's website: <http://www.jrhmsf.org>. Applicants must complete a brief registration process in order to access the registration area, and should use the "Key" JRHMSF to begin the process.

There are two types of scholarship applications available: Academic Scholarships, which range up to \$10,000, and Training/Vocational Scholarships, which range up to \$2,000. The details and eligibility requirements for each type of scholarship are available on the Fund's website at the link above.

In 2017, the Fund awarded \$1.4 million in scholarship awards to students in the U.S. and Canada, including 43 winners from BLET families. The BLET boasted nine winners in the \$10,000 scholarship category.

James R. Hoffa became a Teamster member in 1934 and served as General President for 14 years, and, in recognition of his tireless service to the union and its members, was honored as General President Emeritus for life. At the November 1999 General Executive Board meeting, then-General Secretary-Treasurer C. Thomas Keegel presented a res-

olution to establish the new scholarship fund. The James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund (JRHMSF) website outlines eligibility requirements and application procedures.

The James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund is an independent organization established and registered as a tax-exempt entity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Fund is established solely to provide scholarships to the child or dependent of a member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, and contributions to the Fund are deductible as charitable contributions to the extent permitted by law.

Assisting the sons, daughters and financial dependents of Teamster members with their educational goals is a tradition that we are proud to continue.

FOR GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE JAMES R. HOFFA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND, PLEASE CALL (855) 670-ISTS (4787) OR EMAIL: CONTACTUS@APPLYISTS.COM.

BLET Auxiliary and LECMPA Scholarship Programs

The BLET Auxiliary Scholarship Program provides \$1,000 scholarships to qualifying students who wish to pursue higher education. The Auxiliary also offers two \$2,500 scholarships annually in collaboration with Locomotive Engineers and Conductors Mutual Protective Association (LECMPA). The two \$2,500 scholarships are fully funded by LECMPA.

To apply for an Auxiliary Scholarship award, the applicant must be a son, daughter, stepson, or stepdaughter of a BLET Auxiliary member and a Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineer and Trainmen member (living or deceased), with each being

a member at least one year. To qualify for the LECMPA-funded scholarships, the BLET member in the family must also be a member of LECMPA for no less than one year. Children of an unmarried BLET member who has been an Associate Member of the BLET Auxiliary for at least one year are also eligible.

In addition, applicants must be accepted for admission by an accredited university, college, trade school, or institute of higher learning. Recipients are chosen on the basis of academic record, leadership, character, and personal achievement.

Important: For high school seniors entering an institute of higher learning for the first time, a copy of ACT or SAT scores and a current copy of cumulative grade point average (GPA) must accompany the application. For graduate students or students returning to an institute of higher learning, a copy of last term's (or most current) GPA must accompany the application. Applications submitted without these documents will not be considered.

The LECMPA-funded scholarships will be awarded to the two applicants who score the highest amongst those who qualify (by having one parent who is an Auxiliary member for at least one year, and one parent who is a BLET member and LECMPA member for at least one year). If an applicant meets the eligibility requirements for the LECMPA-funded scholarships but is not selected for one of the two \$2,500 scholarships, he/she will still be eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship.

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY BLET AUXILIARY SECRETARY HELEN BRAND (HVBAND51@GMAIL.COM) NO LATER THAN APRIL 1, 2018. APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THAT DATE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

APPLICATIONS, INSTRUCTIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS, AND MAILING ADDRESS FOR SUBMISSION MAY BE FOUND ON THE AUXILIARY WEBSITE AT [HTTP://WWW.BLETAUXILIARY.NET](http://WWW.BLETAUXILIARY.NET)

BLET UP-Southern Region GCA

The BLET's Union Pacific-Southern Region General Committee of Adjustment (UP-SR GCA) offers annual scholarships ranging from \$750 to \$2,000. Applicants must be the son, daughter, financial dependent or ward of a UP-SR GCA member in good standing per the BLET Bylaws starting with the 2018-2019 school year.

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS MARCH 1, 2018. THE RULES AND APPLICATION CAN BE FOUND AT [HTTP://WWW.BLETSR.ORG](http://WWW.BLETSR.ORG) OR BY CONTACTING UP-SR GCA SECRETARY-TREASURER SCOTT PIEKARSKI AT UPSRGCAST@HOTMAIL.COM.

California State Legislative Board

The BLET's CSLB will award a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating high school senior attending a college/trade/vocational school in 2018. The applicant's parent or guardian must be a member in good standing in a BLET division represented by CSLB.

Rules, applications and deadline information are available on the Board's website, www.cslb.ws. The deadline is May 1, 2018.

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 belonged to divisions chartered 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 1, 2018. Specific eligibility requirements, detailed instructions and application forms are available for download from the BLET National Division website, http://www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/Illinois_SLB_Scholarship_2018.pdf.

FOR QUESTIONS OR ASSISTANCE IN COMPLETING THE APPLICATION, CONTACT JOYCE A. PIEKARSKI, ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY, AT (630) 963-6099 OR 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 2018 is June 1, 2018.

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 AT: 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'S MOBILE APP 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 2018. Only the children or dependents 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, 2018.

FOR MORE SPECIFICS, PLEASE VISIT THE DIVISION 622 WEBSITE (WWW.BLET622.COM) AND CLICK ON "SCHOLARSHIP" OR EMAIL LTHOMAS@BLET622.COM.

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 stepchildren, 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 Jesse Taylor advises that 20 scholarships of \$1,000 each are awarded every year.

The BR&CF's 2018 scholarship program commenced on October 1, 2017, with applications due on March 1, 2018.

BR&CF MEMBERS WITH QUESTIONS MAY CONTACT LINDA GARBER AT (800) 233-7080. MEMBERS MAY OBTAIN AN APPLICATION FORM BY CALLING OUR TOLL FREE NUMBER NOTED ABOVE, OR WRITING TO 2150 LINGLESTOWN ROAD, HARRISBURG, PA 17110.

Union Plus Scholarships

Union Plus awarded approximately \$150,000 in scholarships to 106 students in the 2017 Union Plus Scholarship Program. Individual awards ranged from \$500 to \$4,000. 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. It has distributed more than \$4.2 million in scholarships to 2,800 union members and their children since 1991. Recipients are selected based on academic ability, social awareness, financial need and appreciation of labor.

The students selected for university, college, trade or technical school scholarships represent a wide sampling of backgrounds, union affiliations, goals and accomplishments. The selection process is very competitive since Union Plus receives over 5,000 applications each year. The Union Plus Scholarship Program is offered through the Union Plus Education Foundation, supported in part by contributions from the provider of the Union Plus Credit Card. You do not need to be a Union Plus Credit Card holder to apply for this scholarship.

VISIT THE UNION PLUS WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE: WWW.UNIONPLUS.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

LECMPA

job insurance is your ticket to value.

- No money down to start policy, discounts for annual and semi-annual payment
- Claim payments are deposited to your account every week
- You are paid up to your policy limit even if you sign a waiver
- Receive your full daily benefit if you are decertified and decline to exercise your seniority



LECMPA

(800) 514-0010
www.lecmpa.org



Transportation workers protecting each other since 1910

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund
2150 Linglestown Road, Harrisburg, PA 17110



A Not-For-Profit Organization Established in 1912

The BR&CF is not an insurance company

BR&CF Officers and Directors are Railroaders

160 years of railroad experience

New Members Start with 150 Days of Benefit Eligibility

Maximum of 365 days after 5 years of beneficial membership

Lowest Membership Dues in the Industry

\$50,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefit

Applicable while on duty only

Lump Sum "Retirement" Benefit

\$500 for the first 10 years of membership and \$50 for each year thereafter

Education Scholarships

20 scholarships of \$1,000 awarded each year

DAILY BENEFIT	\$100/*\$102	\$150	\$200/*\$201	\$250/*\$252
BR&CF Monthly Dues	\$38.00	\$57.00	\$76.00	\$95.00
*LE&CMPA #16 Monthly Premium	\$59.50	\$87.50	\$117.25	\$147.00
SMART - TD (UTU) Monthly Assessment	\$81.00	\$121.50	\$162.00	Not Offered

RATES ACCURATE AT TIME OF PRINTING

apply today – www.brcf.org

(Initial 2 months of membership provided at no cost)

Call the BR&CF at (800) 233-7080 if you have any questions!

43 BLET families win Hoffa scholarships in 2017, including nine \$10,000 winners

Forty-three BLET families were winners of scholarships from the James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund in 2017, including nine \$10,000 scholarship winners. The \$10,000 awards are the highest honor bestowed by the Hoffa scholarship fund.

THE NINE \$10,000 WINNERS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- **EDWIN BIRD**, son of Edwin R. Bird of BLET Division 692 (Tracy, Calif.), a Union Pacific locomotive engineer;
- **ALEXANDRIA COOPER**, daughter Anthony D. Cooper of BLET Division 37 (Norton, Va.), a Norfolk Southern locomotive engineer;
- **NOAH DAMRON**, son of William B. Damron of BLET Division 698 (Ashland, Ky.), a CSX locomotive engineer;
- **PARKER DIPAOLO**, son of D. DiPaolo of BLET Division 26 (Richmond, Va.), a CSX locomotive engineer;
- **KATHERINE AND MARIA FRASCELLA**, daughters of Joseph A. Frascella of BLET Division 382 (Buffalo, N.Y.), a CSX locomotive engineer;
- **ZOEY HALL**, daughter of Michael C. Hall of BLET Division 88 (North Platte, Neb.), a Union Pacific locomotive engineer;
- **CLARSEY HAWKINS**, daughter of Stanton Capers of BLET Division 140 (Mobile, Ala.), a CSX locomotive engineer; and
- **SAMUEL STEWART**, son of John H. Stewart of BLET Division 373 (Trenton, N.J.), a NJ Transit locomotive engineer.

THERE WERE 30 BLET WINNERS IN THE \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP CATEGORY. THEY ARE:

- **NAOMI BOYD**, daughter of Michael A. Boyd Sr. of BLET Division 140 (Mobile, Ala.), a CSX locomotive engineer;
- **EMILY CASSIDY**, daughter of Guy Cassidy of BLET Division 155 (Decatur, Ill.), a Norfolk Southern locomotive engineer;
- **MARIA CIMINILLO**, daughter of Christopher A. Kopf of BLET Division 4 (Toledo, Ohio),

a Norfolk Southern locomotive engineer;

- **CLAIRE COELHO**, daughter of Steve R. Coelho of BLET Division 158 (Sparks, Nevada), a Union Pacific locomotive engineer;
- **RYLEE CROCKETT**, daughter of Alan D. Crockett of BLET Division 777 (Argentine, Kan.), a BNSF Railway locomotive engineer;
- **MADLINE CUSHMAN**, daughter of Gregory J. Cushman of BLET Division 871 (Slaton, Texas), a BNSF Railway locomotive engineer;
- **MICHAEL DAVIS**, son of Michael H. Davis of BLET Division 332 (Montgomery, Ala.), a CSX locomotive engineer;
- **OLIVIA ELKINS**, daughter of Mark A. Elkins of BLET Division 271 (Russell, Ky.), a CSX locomotive engineer;
- **DYLAN ERNESTI**, son of Paul Yale of BLET Division 622 (Alliance, Neb.), a BNSF Railway locomotive engineer;
- **MADISON FALLER**, daughter of Charles C. Faller of BLET Division 275 (Pensacola, Fla.), a CSX locomotive engineer;
- **MASON FLOWER**, son of Keith A. Flower of BLET Division 462 (Arkansas City, Kan.), a BNSF Railway locomotive engineer;
- **TRISTON HILL**, son of T.L. Hill of BLET Division 811 (Clovis, N.M.), a BNSF Railway locomotive engineer;
- **SAMUEL JENNE**, son of Brian A. Jenne of BLET Division 811 (Clovis, N.M.), a BNSF Railway locomotive engineer;
- **JESSICA KAYDEN**, daughter of C.J. Kayden Jr. of BLET Division 542 (Detroit, Mich.), a CSX locomotive engineer;
- **ETHAN LEONARD**, son of Michael B. Leonard of BLET Division 4 (Toledo, Ohio), a Norfolk Southern locomotive engineer;
- **REILLY MCGOVERN**, daughter of J.J. Mc-

Govern IV of BLET Division 644 (Galesburg, Ill.), a BNSF Railway locomotive engineer;

- **MELISSA MEYER**, daughter of D.R. Meyer of BLET Division 497 (Jersey City, N.J.), a PATH locomotive engineer;
- **REANNA MOLL**, daughter of Christopher A. Moll of BLET Division 398 (San Bernardino, Calif.), a BNSF Railway locomotive engineer;
- **CLAIRE NICKELL**, daughter of Michael W. Coleman of BLET Division 561 (Richmond, Va.), a CSX locomotive engineer;
- **JACOB NORMAN**, son of Jesse W. Norman of BLET Division 578 (Tulsa, Okla.), a BNSF Railway locomotive engineer;
- **BLAKE PEARSON**, son of Bobby E. Pearson of BLET Division 779 (Manchester, Ga.), a CSX locomotive engineer;
- **DUSTIN POTTER**, son of Eric W. Potter of BLET Division 120 (Kansas City, Mo.), a Norfolk Southern locomotive engineer;
- **BREANNA PYE**, daughter of Michael B. Pye Jr. of BLET Division 706 (Fitzgerald, Ga.), a CSX locomotive engineer;
- **ABIGAIL REESE**, daughter of Perry E. Reese of BLET Division 508 (Fulton, Ky.), a CN/IC locomotive engineer;
- **HAYDEN ROSENKRANTZ**, son of Gary H. Rosenkrantz of BLET Division 846 (Salt Lake City, Utah), a Union Pacific locomotive engineer;
- **COLIN SCHUETZ**, son of C.A. Schuetz of BLET Division 444 (East St. Louis, Ill.), a Norfolk Southern locomotive engineer;
- **WILLIAM STONE**, son of Ted R. Stone of BLET Division 88 (North Platte, Neb.), a Union Pacific locomotive engineer;
- **ALYSSA THOMAS**, daughter of Eric D. Thomas of BLET Division 681 (Milford, Utah), a Union Pacific locomotive engineer;

• **MADISON VANGINHOVEN**, daughter of Richard C. VanGinhoven II of BLET Division 285 (Thayer, Mo.), a BNSF Railway locomotive engineer; and

• **VICTORIA VASTINE**, daughter of D.W. Vastine of BLET Division 511 (Portsmouth, Ohio), a Norfolk Southern locomotive engineer.

THERE WERE FOUR BLET WINNERS IN THE VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP CATEGORY, RANGING UP TO \$2,000:

- **SPENCER COGDILL**, son of Michael L. Cogdill of BLET Division 78 (Louisville, Ky.), a CSX locomotive engineer;
- **ISABELLA JARAMILLO**, daughter of Don L. Jaramillo of BLET Division 622 (Alliance, Neb.), a BNSF Railway locomotive engineer;
- **JOHN ETHAN JENKINSON**, son of John E. Jenkinson of BLET Division 265 (Florence, S.C.), a CSX locomotive engineer; and
- **KALEB MEYER**, son of Kevin S. Meyer of BLET Division 724 (Salem, Ill.), a Union Pacific locomotive engineer. @

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIPS:

The James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund awards scholarships annually to outstanding high school seniors. The next application deadline is March 31, 2018. 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. In 2017 the Fund awarded \$1.4 million in scholarships. For more information, please visit the James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund website (<http://www.jrhmsf.org>).

SEVENTH 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 2017

FUND BALANCE AT JANUARY 1, 2017		\$255,199
REVENUES		
EDUCATION AND TRAINING FUND DUES	\$388,795	
REIMBURSED EXPENDITURES	\$93,168	
TOTAL REVENUES		\$481,963
EXPENDITURES		
WAGES, TAXES, AND BENEFITS	\$380,385	
BUSINESS TRAVEL AND EXPENSES	\$74,783	
INFORMATION SERVICES	\$18,604	
GENERAL OFFICE EXPENSES	\$13,933	
EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE PURCHASES	\$6,501	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$494,206
NET EXPENDITURES EXCEEDING REVENUES		(\$12,242)
FUND BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 2017		\$242,957



The Power of Education



James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund

Academic and Vocational/Training Scholarships for 2018

For the sons, daughters and financial dependents of Teamster members. Academic scholarship awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 for high school seniors planning to attend a four-year college or university and Training/Vocational Program awards of up to \$2,000 for use at community colleges and trade schools.

A new and improved on-line application process can be found on the James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund's website: www.jrhmsf.org

Application deadline is March 31, 2018.
Apply today!

UPSR GCA AWARDS 15 SCHOLARSHIPS

In 2016, delegates attending the BLET Union Pacific Southern-Region (UPSR) General Committee of Adjustment's quadrennial meeting voted unanimously to establish the UPSR Scholarship Program. The program was created to help students secure much needed financial assistance to help offset the ever-rising costs of higher education.

The inaugural UPSR Scholarship Program awarded 15 students — children of members of the UPSR GCA — with financial scholarships for the 2017-2018 academic school year. The UPSR Scholarship Program is open to all children or financial dependents of members of the UPSR GCA in good standing, and are recent high school graduates or current college students.

Applicants were evaluated on financial need, scholastic achievements, and were required to submit a written essay titled, "Why Labor Unions are still important in today's world." The scholarship award amounts ranged from \$750 to \$2,000.

"On behalf of the UPSR GCA, we congratulate the Scholarship Award winners," General Chairman Dana Marlow said. "We are proud to have been able to provide some financial assistance to these students to help them reach their educational goals. We wish them the best of luck in their studies."

THE 2017-2018 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ARE:

- **Jackson Airhart**, son of Jack Airhart, Division 944 (Dallas, Texas)
- **Rhiannon Akey**, daughter of David Akey, Division 620 (Fort Worth, Texas)
- **Alyssa Cain**, daughter of Neal Cain, Division 857 (Tyler, Texas)
- **Samantha Cain**, daughter of Neal Cain, Division 857 (Tyler, Texas)
- **Mackenzie Coates**, daughter of John Coates, Division 566 (Del Rio, Texas)
- **Joshua Coursey**, son of Jesse Conger Jr., Division 944 (Dallas, Texas)
- **EmmaLeigh Elrod**, daughter of Joel Elrod, Division 524 (Van Buren, Ark.)
- **Haley Paz**, daughter of Fernando Paz, Division 620 (Fort Worth, Texas)
- **Daniel Perez**, son of Rick Perez, Division 566 (Del Rio, Texas)
- **LaChanti Phillips**, daughter of Lenard Phillips Jr., Division 531 (New Orleans, La.)
- **Courtney Piekarski**, daughter of Scott Piekarski, Division 620 (Fort Worth, Texas)
- **Kayleigh Piekarski**, daughter of Scott Piekarski, Division 620 (Fort Worth, Texas)
- **Garrett Selby**, son of Jay Selby, Division 197 (San Antonio, Texas)
- **Noah Smith**, son of Charles Smith, Division 566 (Del Rio, Texas)
- **Madison Threadgill**, daughter of Samuel Threadgill, Division 834 (Mineola, Texas)

See page 4 of this issue for information about applying for a 2018-2019 scholarship. ©©

BLET STF helps NTSB investigate Amtrak fatality in DuPont, Wash.

Three people were killed and 70 injured when Amtrak Cascades train 501 derailed on December 18, 2017, in DuPont, Washington. The BLET's Safety Task Force is assisting the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) with its official investigation.

According to the NTSB's preliminary report: "When the train derailed, it was on its first regular passenger service trip on a single main track (Lakewood subdivision) at milepost (MP) 19.86. The lead locomotive, the power car, and two passenger railcars derailed onto Interstate 5. Fourteen highway vehicles came into contact with the derailed equipment. At the time of the accident, 77 passengers, 5 Amtrak employees, and a Talgo Incorporated technician were on the train. Of these individuals, 3 passengers were killed, and 62 passengers and crewmembers were injured. Eight individuals in highway vehicles were also injured. The damage is estimated to be more than \$40.4 million."

The day after the accident, BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce issued the following statement:

"Members of the BLET's Safety Task Force are on the scene assisting the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) with the investigation into the tragic December 18 derailment of an Amtrak train in Washington State. As part of our Party Status agreement with the NTSB, the BLET does not make official comments about the details of any ongoing accident investigation, nor does BLET speculate on the events that may have contributed to such an accident during the investigation. Any current or former BLET members who choose to comment on this event do not speak for, or represent our Brotherhood or its members. All media inquiries should be directed to the NTSB, and the NTSB will handle release of details regarding this accident as the on-site investigation unfolds.

"Those who were hurt in the accident and the loved ones of those who lost their lives deserve to know what happened



NTSB engineers examine the data recorder from lead locomotive of Amtrak train 501, which derailed at DuPont, Wash., on December 18, 2017. Photo: NTSB Flickr

based upon the facts that are uncovered; sharing speculation based upon personal opinions about the events under investigation does them all a disservice.

"The BLET Safety Task Force (STF) assists federal agencies in the investigation of rail accidents, helping to determine probable causes and making safety recommendations. The STF will study this accident from the viewpoint of locomotive engineers and trainmen to help determine how the accident occurred and how to prevent similar accidents from happening in the future.

"On behalf of all men and women of the BLET, I extend our most heartfelt condolences to the victims and families of this tragedy."

On December 22, 2017, the NTSB publicly released initial details gathered from the locomotive's event data recorder and inward- and outward-facing cameras. The crew was not observed to use any personal electronic devices. According to the NTSB, "The authorized track speed

in the area of the accident was 79-mph on approach to the 30-mph curve just before the bridge. A speed board (sign) was located about 2-miles before the curve. Positive Train Control is not in service on the line the train was operating on. Sound Transit reports that PTC is currently being installed, but installation is not complete. Preliminary indications from the rear locomotive event recorder show the train was traveling at about 80-mph before a sudden reduction in brake-pipe which initiated the emergency train brakes."

Further, the NTSB determined: "In this accident, PTC would have notified the engineer of train 501 about the speed reduction for the curve; if the engineer did not take appropriate action to control the train's speed, PTC would have applied the train brakes to maintain compliance with the speed restriction and to stop the train."

The entire investigation is expected to last 12-24 months. ©©

LAWMAKERS DEMAND ACTION ON PTC

In response to Amtrak train 501's derailment in DuPont, Washington, lawmakers in Washington demanded action to ensure the timely implementation of Positive Train Control.

In late December 2017, Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Ranking Member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Michael Capuano (D-MA), Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, sent a letter to Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao requesting a detailed status update on where the railroads are in fully implementing PTC

technology and when railroads will meet the PTC implementation deadline.

On January 11, 2018, Reps. DeFazio and Capuano introduced the Positive Train Control Implementation and Financing Act, which seeks to speed up the implementation of PTC. The proposed legislation would mandate full implementation of PTC by the deadline of December 31, 2018, and would prohibit the Department of Transportation from further extending the implementation deadline. The proposed bill would also provide more than \$2.5 billion in grants to help passenger and commuter railroads meet the deadline. ©©

"BE STRONG:" INTERNATIONAL RAIL ORGANIZATIONS EXTEND SOLIDARITY, CONDOLENCES FOLLOWING AMTRAK CRASH IN WASHINGTON STATE

Three international rail worker Organizations have sent letters of solidarity, support and sympathy to the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) National Division, its members and the victims of the fatal Amtrak derailment near Tacoma, Wash., on December 18, 2017.

The 4,600 members of New Zealand's Rail & Maritime Transport Union (RMTU) sent their "sincere and heartfelt feelings of sympathy and comradeship" in a letter to BLET National President Dennis Pierce dated December 21, 2017.

Wayne Butson, General Secretary of the 4,600-member RMTU, wrote: "Our thoughts and

best wishes go out to the locomotive engineer and other members of your Union who were involved both during and following the accident and who may have been traumatised as a result. We also extend our sincere sympathy and condolence to the families of those who have been killed or injured in the train derailment. In NZ there is a saying, 'Kia Kaha,' which is Maori and when translated means 'be strong.' I close in wishing all of the many victims of this incident a strident Kia Kaha."

Also on December 21, the BLET received a similar letter from Stephen Cotton, General Secretary of the London-based International Transport Work-

ers' Foundation (ITF). "This shocking human tragedy reiterates that we can never relax on accident prevention," Brother Cotton wrote. "We stand with you in your efforts to study this accident from the viewpoint of locomotive engineers and trainmen, to determine how the accident occurred, and to prevent similar accidents from happening in the future by calling for preventative measures to be implemented. Please offer our sincere sympathy and condolences to the victims and families affected by this tragedy at this most difficult time."

The third letter comes from the Paris-based Federation CGT Des Cheminots (CGT Federation of Rail-

waymen). Laurent Brun, General Secretary, and David Gobe, ETF Railway Section, extended their sorrow and condolences to the victims and their families, and also shared their solidarity with BLET and its members. "This tragic accident unfortunately is not rare," they wrote. "We experienced 5 serious accidents in December in different countries in Europe... the lack of investment by the public authorities has a detrimental consequence on the railway men's working conditions and rail safety."

President Pierce thanked all three organizations for their thoughtfulness and solidarity during this tragedy. ©©



Locomotive Engineers And Trainmen News Brotherhood Of Locomotive Engineers And Trainmen

7061 East Pleasant Valley Road
Independence, Ohio 44131

BLET Publications Committee:

Dennis R. Pierce, National President
E. "Lee" Pruitt, First Vice President & Alternate President
Stephen J. Bruno, National Secretary-Treasurer
John P. Tolman, Vice President & National Legislative Rep.
John V. Bentley Jr., Director of Public Relations & Editor
Bill Joyce, Art Director & Associate Editor
www.ble-t.org • (216) 241-2630

COPYRIGHT 2018, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED
VOLUME 32 • NUMBER 1 • January 2018

LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS & TRAINMEN NEWS (ISSN 0898-8625)

is published monthly by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen,
7061 East Pleasant Valley Road, Independence, Ohio 44131

USPS: 0002-244 ISSN: 0898-8625

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen News — BLET Record Department,
7061 East Pleasant Valley Road, Independence, Ohio 44131.

1/18

Photo of the Month: January 2018

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD HERITAGE: Norfolk Southern's Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR) heritage unit takes a journey on its home rails as it goes under a PRR signal bridge in Rochester, Pa just outside of Conway, Pa., on June 21, 2017. **Photo:** Brother Erik S. Reinert, a member of BLET Division 74 in Harrisburg, Pa.



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 2017 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, Independence, Ohio; 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; BNSF-ATSG GCA mtg., San Diego, Calif.; Rate Setting mtg., Washington, D.C.; General Chairman's Training, Independence, Ohio; Town Hall mtg., Cleveland, Ohio; National Legislative Board mtg., Cleveland, Ohio; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland, Ohio; Town Hall mtg., Tucson, Ariz.; IBT General Executive Board mtg., Washington, D.C.; KC Hub joint mtg., Kansas City, Mo.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT E.L. (LEE) PRUITT: National Duties include but not limited to: Shortline Organizing Dept.; Trainmen's Dept.; National Publications Committee; National Legislative Board; Teamsters Rail Conference Policy Committee; PRAC; and National Negotiations; National duties, Independence, Ohio; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications, etc.; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland, Ohio; Town Hall mtg., Newark, N.J.; Town Hall mtg., Tucson, Ariz.; Holidays; Vacation; Kansas City Hub mtgs., Kansas City, Mo.

NATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER STEPHEN J. BRUNO: General supervision of Accounting Dept., Record Dept., Online Services Dept., Tax Compliance Dept.; Safety Task Force; PAC and FEC reports and filings; Implementation and training for BLET membership database/Union Track; Pension, STD, 457 plan Trustee; Division, General Committee and SLB monthly Trustee reports; Mtgs. with vendors and financial institutions; BNSF-ATSF GCA mtg., San Diego, Calif.; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland, Ohio; General Chairman's training class, Independence, Ohio; Holidays and vacation; Town Hall mtg. Independence, Ohio.

VICE PRESIDENT & NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE JOHN P. TOLMAN: Assigned to BLET Washington, DC office; General office duties, telephone and correspondence communications; BNSF-ATSF GCA mtg., San Diego, Calif.; 2017 National Legislative Board mtg., Cleveland, Ohio; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland, Ohio; Town Hall mtg., Tucson, Ariz.; Teleforum updating Teamsters on NAFTA negotiations w/ Teamsters President Hoffa & Congressman Brian Higgins, Washington, D.C.; Mtg. w/ Teamsters President Hoffa, Washington, D.C.; Mtg. w/ Senate Senior Advisors for the Joint Economic Committee, Washington, D.C.; Conference call w/ Department of Political & Legislative Action Team, Washington, D.C.; Reception in honor of MA Delegation, Washington, D.C.; Numerous receptions and office visits with members of Congress and the leadership of both the GOP and Democratic parties, Washington, D.C.

VICE PRESIDENT MARCUS J. RUEF: Vice Chairman, National Railroad Adjustment Board (NRAB); National Mediation Board (NMB) Arb. Adv. Forum; Department Head, BLET Arbitration Department; Assigned to Illinois Central, Wisconsin Central, Indiana Harbor Belt, Belt Railway of Chicago, Metra, GRR and Illinois RR; Assist GC Semenek w/ PLB 7627, CP/Soo, Chicago; Attend Div. 682 mtg., IHB, Chicago; Assist GC Reynolds w/ discipline submissions, WC, Chicago; NRAB hearing, referee Meyers DL 421, Chicago; Study DL 409, Referee Wesman, NRAB, Chicago; Assist GC Semenek at interview / Illinois IG ofc., Metra, Chicago; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland, Ohio; Study cases for PLB 7154, IC, Chicago; PLB 7154 hearing, IC, Chicago; NRAB hearing, DL 409 Referee Wesman, Chicago; Inward facing cameras; Assist GC Burns w/ discipline appeal, IHB, Chicago; Assist GC Reynolds w/ arb prep. and discipline submissions, WC, Chicago; NRAB hearing, DL 421 Referee Meyers, NRAB; Vacation; Holidays; First Division adoption session, NRAB, Chicago; NRAB hearing, DL 415 Referee Benn, Chicago; Study case materials for UP-N IFC Arb., Chicago; NRAB conference call, further discussion of Docket 48365; Assist VGC Lough w/ discipline appeal, Metra, Chicago; NRAB Labor Member caucus/ROAR, Chicago; IFC hearing/arbitration, UP-N, Chicago; Assist VP Louis and GC Sexton w/ discipline submission, LIRR, Chicago; Vacation and holidays; Various NRAB administrative matters.

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; Tacoma Belt RR, Utah RR, Longview Portland & Northern NO &

Longview Switch, Portland Terminal; On duty at home office; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications, etc.; UP-ED PLB 7283, Chicago; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland, Ohio; Division 88 Town Hall mtg.; Town Hall mtg. in Tucson, Ariz.; UP-WR, Portland & Western Section 6 negotiations and tele-conference; UP-WL modernization agreement negotiations, Phoenix, Ariz.; UP-WL PLB 7721, Chicago; UP-ED PLB 5604, Estero, Fla.; UP-SR PLB 7332, Chicago.

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.; Paperwork assisting GTW GCA; PLB w/ GC Best, Chicago; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland, Ohio; Holidays; Conference call w/ CSXT General Chairman; IFC program; Local Chairmen mtg.; CSX medical quarterly update; Conference call, GTW awards; BLET-CSXT 401(k) semi annual review; LCAT 2 problems conference call.

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; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications, etc.; BNSF-ATSF triennial meeting, GC Holdcraft, San Diego, Calif.; National Legislative Board mtg., Cleveland, Ohio; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland, Ohio; Town Hall mtg. at Tucson, Ariz.; Holidays and vacation; PLB 7477, assist GC Holdcraft, Chicago; Division 383 mtg. and retirement dinner for Eddie Trujillo, assist GC Holdcraft, Barstow, Calif.; Christy Mosser celebration of life and funeral, Lubbock, Texas.

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.; MidSouth and Illinois Midland issues, assist GC Craddock; KCS issues, assist GC Spradlin; DM&E and Soo issues, assist GC Semenek; PLB 7666, assist GC Semenek, Chicago; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland, Ohio; Tex-Mex issues, assist GC Heise; Springfield Terminal/D&H issues, assist GC Moore; Division 569 mtg., assist GC Spradlin, Poteau, Okla.; Mtg. w/ CP Rail management, assist GC Semenek, Chicago; WLE contract issues, assist GC Fannon; Louisville & Indiana issues, assist GC Hogan; St. Lawrence & Atlantic negotiations, assist GC Moore, Portland, Maine; Huron & Eastern issues, assist GC Ladrig; PLB 7627, assist GC Semenek, Chicago; Cedar Creek RR issues, assist GC Craddock; Mtg. w/ Tex Mex, re: international crews at Laredo, Texas, Kansas City, Mo.; I&M issues, assist GC Craddock.

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; RSAC/RSIA Fatigue Management Group; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications; Vice President duties; On duty at home office; BNSF-ATSF GCA mtg., San Diego, Calif.; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland, Ohio; Holidays; PLB 7574 and NS GC mtgs., assisting GCs Wallace, Dehart and Fannon, Norfolk, Va.; NS Southern GCA mtg., assist GC Wallace, Asheville, N.C.; SBA 1063, assist GC Dehart, Chicago.

VICE PRESIDENT JAMES P. LOUIS: Assigned Amtrak; Long Island Rail Road; New York & Atlantic; Metro North; New Jersey Transit; PATH; SEPTA; Metra; Union Railroad; National Division Department Head, Education & Training Dept.; National Division Department Head, Internal Organizing, Mobilizing & Strategic Planning Dept.; Union Track mtgs. and training; Education & Training issues; BLET Regional Meeting planning; Town Hall mtg., Newark, N.J.; LIRR retirement dinner, Long Island, N.Y.; General Chairman class, Independence, Ohio; Mobilization release & follow-up; SBA 940, assist GC Brown, NJ Transit, Boston; Caltrain contract talks, assist GC Kenny; NY&A contract review, assist GC Sexton; Holidays and vacation; Investigation prep. and hearing, WNYP, Olean, N.Y.; Arbitration review, assist GC Sexton, LIRR; WNYP contract issues, Rathbun; Division 269 monthly mtg., assist GC Sexton, Long Island, N.Y.; NY&A contract presentation, assist GC Sexton, Long Island, N.Y.; Arbitration review, assist GC Brown, NJ Transit; Assist GC Sexton w/ LIRR PLB, Queens, N.Y.

Railroad Retirement and Unemployment Insurance Taxes in 2018

The amounts of compensation subject to railroad retirement tier I and tier II payroll taxes will increase in 2018, while the tax rates on employers and employees will stay the same. In addition, unemployment insurance contribution rates paid by railroad employers will continue to include a 1.5 percent surcharge in 2018.

Tier I and Medicare Tax — The railroad retirement tier I payroll tax rate on covered rail employers and employees for 2018 remains at 7.65 percent. The railroad retirement tier I tax rate is the same as the social security tax, and for withholding and reporting purposes is divided into 6.20 percent for retirement and 1.45 percent for Medicare hospital insurance. The maximum amount of an employee's earnings subject to the 6.20 percent rate increases from \$127,200 to \$128,400 in 2018, with no maximum

on earnings subject to the 1.45 percent Medicare rate.

An additional Medicare payroll tax of 0.9 percent applies to an individual's income exceeding \$200,000, or \$250,000 for a married couple filing a joint tax return. While employers will begin withholding the additional Medicare tax as soon as an individual's wages exceed the \$200,000 threshold, the final amount owed or refunded will be calculated as part of the individual's Federal income tax return.

Tier II Tax — The railroad retirement tier II tax rates in 2018 will remain at 4.9 percent for employees and 13.1 percent for employers. The maximum amount of earnings subject to railroad retirement tier II taxes in 2018 will increase from \$94,500 to \$95,400. Since 2004, tier II tax rates are based on an average account benefits ratio

reflecting railroad retirement fund levels. Depending on this ratio, the tier II tax rate for employees can be between 0 percent and 4.9 percent, while the tier II rate for employers can range between 8.2 percent and 22.1 percent.

Unemployment Insurance Contributions — Employers, but not employees, pay railroad unemployment insurance contributions, which are experience-rated by employer. The Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act also provides for a surcharge in the event the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Account balance falls below an indexed threshold amount. The accrual balance of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Account was \$97.7 million on June 30, 2017. Since the balance is less than the indexed threshold of \$146.3 million, a 1.5 percent surcharge will be added to the basic contribution rates

for 2018, but will not increase the maximum 12 percent rate. There was also a surcharge of 1.5 percent in 2015, 2016 and 2017, with no surcharge in 2013 and 2014.

As a result, the unemployment insurance contribution rates (including the 1.5 percent surcharge) on railroad employers in 2018 will range from the minimum rate of 2.15 percent to the maximum of 12 percent on monthly compensation up to \$1,560, up from \$1,545 in 2017.

In 2018, the minimum rate of 2.15 percent will apply to 78 percent of covered employers, with 7 percent paying the maximum rate of 12 percent. New employers will pay an unemployment insurance contribution rate of 1.97 percent, which represents the average rate paid by all employers in the period 2014-2016. @