BLET helps grant a special wish

CSX helps BLET give 13-year-old with cancer one of ‘the best days of his life’

Josh Mills had a day to remember on February 23, thanks to the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen and CSX.

Josh, 13, was made an “Honorary Locomotive Engineer” by the BLET and was given a behind the scenes tour of the CSX rail yard in Flint, Mich. He also enjoyed an authentic railroad lunch served in a vintage cook car and even got to meet a CSX railroad police officer along with his dog, Max.

Josh and his father Tony were extended these unique courtesies by CSX and the BLET in hopes of giving the family some special memories that will last a lifetime.

At just 13 years old, Josh has spent the last six months battling a cancerous brain tumor.

Josh the “Trainiac”

Joshua Mills loves trains. “I call him a trainiac because he’s such a maniac about trains,” said his father, Tony.

Josh has studied railroad history as well as modern day railroading. He knows specific facts, such as when the transcontinental railroad was completed, and he can also identify various diesel locomotives based on knowledge gained from the Microsoft Train Simulator game (which he plays on a regular basis). Josh also spends a lot of time in his basement with his dad working on his HO scale model train.

In early November, Josh complained of a severe headache that wouldn’t go away. He was forced to come home from school early one day because the headache was so severe that it caused vomiting and double vision.

Doctors at the University of Michigan Hospital noticed that his left eye wasn’t moving in conjunction with his right eye, and upon further examination, they found a brain tumor about the size of a tennis ball.

Josh was with his father Tony and mother Alanna when doctors gave them the news. Tony said he and Alanna were beside themselves when they heard the news, but were heartened by Josh’s brave reaction.

Josh Mills, 13, enjoys the view from the engineer’s seat of a locomotive in the CSX rail yard in Flint, Mich., on February 23. Josh suffers from a rare form of cancer and has endured a 13-hour surgery to remove the tumor as well as ongoing chemo treatments. Thanks in part to the generosity of CSX, the BLET was able to put together a trip to the CSX yard in Josh’s hometown of Flint, Mich., to help give Josh and his family a day to remember.

See Josh Mills, Page 2

Hours of Service survey coming

Goal is to reduce fatigue, improve scheduling; Membership input needed

Train and engine service employees will get a chance this spring to help their union and the Federal Railroad Administration better understand their work schedule-related fatigue issues. The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen and the United Transportation Union are cooperating with the FRA in this project.

“We need to develop a better understanding of the work/rest schedules and sleep patterns of operating crews and to evaluate the relationship between these schedules and fatigue,” says BLET National President Don Hahs.

“One we have data that allows us to identify fatigue-related problems specific to operating crafts, we will be able to work toward reducing the risk of fatigue-related accidents and incidents and improving the quality of life for our members.”

According to Grady Cothen, the Federal Railroad Administration’s Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety, “A great deal has been learned about the effects fatigue has on human performance. However, when it comes to the railroad industry, more research is needed since only minimal data exists regarding other collective bargaining goals that must be addressed and won in the next bargaining round,” said Amtrak General Chairman Mark Kenny.

“However, this tentative agreement stands as a monumental step toward equalizing the eight years of inequity and frustration BLET Members, and all Amtrak employees have been forced to confront on a daily basis.”

A copy of the tentative agreement and associated documents are on the Amtrak General Committee website: http://bletamt.org. Ballots on the tentative agreement are due by March 28.

Tentative contract at Amtrak

The BLET and Amtrak have reached tentative agreement covering 1,300 passenger engineers who operate trains over Amtrak’s 21,000-mile, 46-state system.

The new contract is based exclusively on the recommendations of Presidential Emergency Board 242 and is typically identical to agreements reached by nine other unions earlier this year. It provides for wage improvements amounting to a 34.7 percent increase over the hourly rate in effect at the end of the last agreement, 100 percent retroactive pay, and no work rules changes.

“There are still numerous
BLET helps 13-year-old cancer patient

Josh Mills
Continued from Page 1

“He just said, ‘Him, my first tumor,’” Tony said.

The tumor, called glioblastoma multiforme, was not a solid mass that could easily be removed. Tony said it was the most aggressive type of brain tumor and compared it to painting poured over the brain — a spreading mass that would be difficult to remove.

Doctors rushed to perform emergency surgery and warned that it could cause paralysis, blindness and even brain damage. But when Josh emerged from nearly seven hours of surgery, he was hungry and ready to sit up.

“I know I’ve witnessed a true miracle,” Tony said. “There’s no other way to explain it.”

The surgery was followed by several weeks of chemotherapy treatments, and Josh bears a large scar from the surgery.

Reaching out to the BLET

It was against this backdrop that Josh’s uncle, Charles Nichols, e-mailed the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen.

“My nephew, who is 13, is a lover of trains and railroading,” Nichols wrote. “About one week ago, he was rushed to the University of Michigan Hospital after a tumor in his brain was discovered. The tumor was removed, but unfortunately, it is cancerous. Do you know of a locomotive school that I could contact that would give my nephew an honorary degree as a locomotive engineer? I am sure that this would bring some joy to my young nephew.”

The request touched the hearts of many BLET officers and staff, including BLET National President Don Hahs. President Hahs instructed his staff to not just accommodate the request, but to give the young man and his family a special day that would cherish forever.

The Mills family lives in Swartz Creek, Mich., just a few miles from the CSX yard in Flint. The idea emerged to see if CSX would be willing to host Josh and his dad for a visit.

It was decided that if the Mills were to visit the rail yard, then safety would be of the utmost importance. As a result, calls were made to Larry James, a member of BLET Division 284 who resides in Parkersburg, W.Va., and is the BLET System SENSE Coordinator at CSX.

Brother James took the request to the highest levels at CSX. Once it was assured that the BLET would adhere to the strictest of safety standards, and after stressing that the visit would be a special occasion only for these circumstances, Tony L. Ingram, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at CSX, granted approval for the visit.

A Day To Remember

Accommodations were made to host Josh and his father on February 23. When Josh and his father Tony arrived at the CSX yard office in Flint, they were both presented with striped CSX locomotive engineer caps by Bud Morse, SENSE Safety Coordinator on CSX’s Chicago Division and a member of BLET Division 567 in Toledo, Ohio. As Josh put on the cap, the large scar left by the surgery to remove the tumor was visible, going from his right ear to the middle of his head.

Brother Morse also presented Josh with a specially engraved CSX pocket watch.

John Bentley of the BLET National Division Public Relations Department presented Josh with a certificate naming him an “Honorary Locomotive Engineer.” The certificate was mounted on a plaque and was signed by President Hahs, First Vice President Ed Rodzowicz and National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert. The National Division also gave Josh a BLET History Book along with a North American railroad atlas and a field guide to diesel locomotives.

Dan Elesone, a CSX K9 officer and 33-year railroad veteran, introduced Josh to his dog Max inside the yard office. A German Shepherd born and trained in Czechoslovakia, Max weighs about 80 pounds and only understands commands in German or Czech. Max performed several “sit” and “stay” commands for Josh while Elesone explained the duties of railroad police and K9 officers. Later, Elesone took Josh for a ride in his police car and helped Josh write out a ticket to his dad for “making him do his homework.”

Next on the agenda was lunch. Brother Morse said members of the BLET and United Transportation Union have a good working relationship in the Flint area. When Morse discussed the special visit for Josh during a safety meeting, UTU members volunteered to help.

“These are all family men with children of their own,” Brother Morse said. “When it comes to something like helping Josh, everyone really comes together.”

Ken Lewis, the UTU safety chairperson for the area, volunteered to fire up the railroad’s old cook car. The car, used during World War II to feed soldiers traveling the country on troop trains, has been in the Flint yard for many years. Lewis said the car was originally built for the Pere Marquette Railroad and has been used recently for safety committee meetings.

On behalf of the UTU, Lewis presented Josh with a railroad lantern, binoculars, hats, and several other train-themed gifts.

Due to cold temperatures, UTU volunteers began manning the cook car on February 22, so that it would be warm enough for Josh’s visit on February 23. The volunteers started a fire in the cook car’s wood-burning stove and tended to it all day and all night. The stove is the cook car’s only heat source, and it is also where UTU volunteers prepared a lunch of hamburgers and hot dogs for Josh and his dad.

“Not very many people can say they’ve eaten lunch in an authentic railroad cook car,” Brother Morse said. “But we are all so glad for the day — a tour inside of an actual locomotive. Josh and his dad

See Josh Mills, Page 3
Register to vote in fall elections!

Registering to vote is now easier than ever for BLET members thanks to a new online service provided by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Clicking the link provided will allow members to input their relevant personal information and mail their voter registration information to their local board of elections.

Josh Mills
Continued from Page 2

were given safety glasses, ear plugs and gloves before entering the rail yard.

Josh was familiar with many of the controls because of his knowledge of the Microsoft Train Simulator game. He was allowed to sit in the engineer’s seat where he was shown the throttle, speedometer, and other aspects of the engineer’s control panel. Josh enjoyed blowing the locomotive’s horn.

Others who helped make Josh’s special day such a success were: CSX Trainmaster Mike Lakel, Dave Norman, Local Chairman of Division 304 in Saginaw, Mich.; UTU Member Carl Bunzo, and UTU member Dick Berdt, who volunteered as the chef in the cook car.

After The Visit

Following Josh’s special day on February 23, he was scheduled to begin another round of five chemotherapy treatments from February 25 through February 29. Another five days of treatments are scheduled for March. The new chemo will be twice as powerful as the treatments he received following his November surgery.

Josh’s dad Tony expressed profound thanks to Tony Ingram and CSX for their willingness to open their train yard, and their hearts, to help grant Josh a special day.

He was also extremely grateful to the BLET for the courtesies extended to his son. ‘Josh had a day he will never forget,’ Tony said. ‘You guys are first class. Things like this go a long way toward keeping faith in human kindness. Thank you for giving Josh one of the best days of his life.’

Above: UTU volunteer Dick Berdt mans the cook car’s wood burning stove. Right: Josh behind the throttle.

Railroad Retirement annuitants must file a 2007 tax return to receive stimulus payments

(EDITOR’S NOTE: The U.S. Railroad Retirement Board issued the following on March 7.)

Starting in May the U.S. Treasury will begin sending economic stimulus payments, often referred to as rebates, to more than 130 million individuals.

Most taxpayers do not need to take any extra steps to receive these payments. However, some railroad retirement annuitants, social security beneficiaries, and recipients of certain veterans’ benefits, who might not otherwise need to file a 2007 tax return, must do so to receive the stimulus payment. The return must show at least $3,000 in qualifying income.

Qualifying income includes social security benefits, the Social Security Equivalency Benefit (SSEB) portion of a railroad retirement tier I benefit, certain veterans’ benefits and earned income, such as wages and net earnings from self-employment that are includible in income. For people filing joint tax returns, only a total of $3,000 of qualifying income from both spouses is required.

To figure their qualifying income, annuitants who would not otherwise file a 2007 tax return should add together the following amounts:

• The SSEB portion of tier I benefits or special guaranty amounts reported in Box 5 of the 2007 Form RR-1099, which annuitants would have received in January 2008. (Do not include amounts reported on Form RRH-1098-B.)
• Social security benefits reported in Box 5 of the 2007 Form SSA-1099, which would have been received in January 2008.
• Veterans’ benefits received in 2007, including veterans’ disability compensation, disability pensions, or survivors’ benefits received from the Department of Veterans Affairs.
• Wages reported on Form W-2.
• Net earnings from self-employment that are includible in income.

A Form 1040A illustration on the IRS Web site (www.irs.gov) shows the limited number of lines that need to be filled out by recipients of social security, railroad retirement and veterans’ benefits who are not required to file an income tax return but are doing so to receive a stimulus payment. The key line for reporting 2007 benefits is Line 14a of Form 1040A.

The IRS has advised that while this line only mentions social security, railroad retirement annuitants should use this line even if their only benefits were railroad retirement or veterans’ benefits. In addition, taxpayers in these groups should write the words “Stimulus Payment” at the top of the Form 1040A.

The IRS is also reminding taxpayers with social security, railroad retirement or veterans’ benefits who have already filed but did not report their qualifying benefits on either Line 14a of Form 1040A (or Line 29a of Form 1040) that they may need to file an amended return in some situations to receive a larger stimulus payment. Taxpayers who already have filed but did not report these benefits can file an amended return by using Form 1040X.

Extensive and detailed information on the stimulus payments is available on the IRS Web site and annuitants are strongly encouraged to visit the site.

Individuals who need to file a return this year to receive a stimulus payment may be able to take advantage of thousands of free tax preparation sites nationwide for low-income and elderly taxpayers.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program provides help to low and moderate income taxpayers. Call 1-800-906-9887 to locate the nearest VITA site.

The Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Program provides free tax help to people age 60 and older. As part of the IRS-sponsored TCE Program, AARP offers the Tax-Aide counseling program at more than 7,000 sites nationwide during the filing season. To find an AARP Tax-Aide site call 1-888-227-7669 or visit the AARP Web site at www.aarp.org. •
Newman reelected by acclamation in Mass.

George Newman was reelected by acclamation as Chairman of the BLET Massachusetts State Legislative Board at quadrennial meetings on February 21. Brother Newman is a member of BLET Division 57 in Boston and he joined the BLE on August 1, 1984. Dan Lauzon, Division 57 (Boston), was elected by acclamation to continue as 1st Vice Chairman; A.J. Murphy, Division 57 (Boston) was elected by acclamation as 2nd Vice Chairman; Joe Dellattolomato, Division 112 (Greenfield, Mass.), was elected by acclamation as Secretary-Treasurer; Steve King, Division 312 (Boston), was elected by acclamation as Alternate Secretary-Treasurer; and Tom Hebert, Division 439 (Allston, Mass.), was elected by acclamation as Alternate Second Vice Chairman.

Board Secretary Walter J. Nutter, long time Secretary-Treasurer of the Board, declined to be nominated again as he is planning to retire before the current four-year term expires. Brother Nutter, a member of BLET Division 57 (Boston), has served the Board as an Alternate ST and ST since its inception in 1991.

The delegates enjoyed informative presentations from a number of distinguished speakers. U.S. Congressman John Tierney (D-MA, Sixth District) spoke about the challenges labor faces on Capitol Hill and the importance of the upcoming elections. He said it is important to elect a labor-friendly candidate because the President makes so many decisions that impact labor. As an example, he said the next President will be able to appoint labor-friendly judges to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Also elected were: 1st Vice Chairman Joe Rinehuso, Division 219 (Shreveport, La.), 2nd Vice Chairman Steve Haris, Division 630 (LaFayette, La.), Secretary — alternate elected to the Treasurers Corp., La.); Alternate Secretary-Treasurer Steve Prator, Jr., Division 599 (Shreveport, La.); and Chaplain David Stockinger, Division 420 (Baton Rouge, La.).

In attendance were: BLET National Vice President and National Legislative Representative John Todd, BLET Auxiliary National President Becky Schneider, Arkansas State Legislative Board Chair- man Terry Todd; and Texas State Legislative Board Chairman Terry Briggs. Guest speakers included: Roosevelt Smalley, President of the Shreveport/Bossier City AFL-CIO, and Tari Bradford, liaison for U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu of Louisiana.

Representatives of BLET Designated Legal Counsel attended the meeting, including: Robert M. Tramuto of Jones and Granger; Tim Windsor and Fred Weaver of Rathmann and O’Brien; B.J. May and Chris Starks for Hubbell, Peak, O’Neal, Napier and Beach.

The Louisiana State Legislative Board encompasses 13 BLET Divisions from six different railroads (CN, Union Pacific, BNSF Railway, Kansas City Southern, Amtrak and Mid-South) and represents approximately 950 active and retired members.

Todd reelected by acclamation in La.

Brother Arlin S. Todd was reelected by acclamation to the office of Chairman of the Louisiana State Legislative Board at quadrennial meetings in Shreveport, La. on February 21.

Brother Todd is a member of BLET Division 914 (Baton Rouge, La.) and joined the Brotherhood in May of 1974. This is his second term as Chairman of the Louisiana State Legislative Board.

Also elected were: 1st Vice Chairman Joe Rinehuso, Division 219 (Shreveport, La.); 2nd Vice Chairman Steve Haris, Division 630 (LaFayette, La.); Secretary — alternate elected to the Treasurers Corp., La.); Alternate Secretary-Treasurer Steve Prator, Jr., Division 599 (Shreveport, La.); and Chaplain David Stockinger, Division 420 (Baton Rouge, La.).

In attendance were: BLET National Vice President and National Legislative Representative John Todd, BLET Auxiliary National President Becky Schneider, Arkansas State Legislative Board Chair- man Terry Todd; and Texas State Legislative Board Chairman Terry Briggs. Guest speakers included: Roosevelt Smalley, President of the Shreveport/Bossier City AFL-CIO, and Tari Bradford, liaison for U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu of Louisiana.

Div. 385 organizes fundraiser for 4-year-old son of BLET member

Members of BLET Division 385 in Toledo, Ohio, are organizing a fundraiser to help a member with his son’s mounting medical expenses.

J.E. Swoap of Division 385 and his wife Karlyn have four children, includ- ing their youngest, Ty who suffers from Treacher Collins Syndrome, a condition that causes facial deformities, breathing problems, hearing problems, and a host of other related issues.

In his four years, Ty has undergone 13 surgeries, including operations to open breathing passages and jawbone recon- struction. Ty has no treatment for his condition.

According to Brother J.T. Falk, a member of Division 385 and co-organizer of the event, Division 385 has cre- ated a website for people to learn more about Ty and Treacher Collins Syn- drome, http://www.TySwoap.com. Tickets for the fundraiser must be purchased by April 4, and are available through the TySwoap.com website. Members who would like to help but cannot attend the fundraiser can make donations through any Key Bank branch to the Ty Sweep Benefit ac- count. A flyer for the event is available for download at: http://www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/TySwoapFlier.pdf •

BLET NEWS

Newman reelected by acclamation in Mass.
Register early for 70th annual EUMA in Huron, Ohio

A welcome letter from 2008 EUMA Arrangements Chairman Rodney Cutlip

EUMA 2008 is fast approaching and getting closer every day. The convention, July 6 through July 11, 2008, is going to be one of the premier events of the year for BLET officers, members and their families. This year’s EUMA is being held along the shores of Lake Erie in Huron, Ohio, at the Sawmill Creek Resort. The resort has 240 rooms and so far we have booked 135 of those rooms—so they are going fast! This resort features an 18 hole Tom Fazio championship golf course; charter fishing originating from its marina; restaurants; shops; indoor/ outdoor pools; exercise room; and tennis courts. Nearby is Cedar Point Amusement Park, water parks, wineries, the Lake Erie Islands, Maritime Museums and quaint lakefront towns. Cedar Point is known worldwide as the roller coaster capital of the world. Come and discover a world of personal service and hospitality at the No. 1 convention center within a few hours drive or flight to the heart of the Midwest. Thus far we have trips planned for Cedar Point, a Toledo Mud Hens minor league baseball game, a golf outing and a charter fishing trip for the outdoorsmen. We are currently in the process of planning other activities including a hayride for kids and other kid activities based on participation.

EUMA 2008 Registration Form

70th annual EUMA • July 6-11, 2008
The Lodge at Sawmill Creek Resort • Huron, Ohio
Hosted by BLET Division 385 in conjunction with Division 4

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Chairman Rodney Cutlip and Co-Chairman Timothy DuBois report that reservations for The Lodge at Sawmill Creek can be made by calling (800) SAWMILL or by visiting www.EUMA2008.com, which will have a link to The Lodge’s website.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Name:
Address: 
City: State: Zip Code: 
Home Phone: Cell Phone: 
Division: BLET Title: E-mail: 
I plan to attend the following workshops:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workshop Type</th>
<th>Attendees</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Signal Diagnostics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary-Treasurer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Chairman &amp; Arbitration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Traumatic Stress</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuclear Rep</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Railroad Administration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Labor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>__________________</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Register before May 1 and you will be entered into a drawing to win a Sawmill Creek 5 night stay!!!

We will also be giving someone a 4-some and 18 holes of golf, including a golf cart!!!

Total Amount Enclosed: 

*Registration for the 2008 EUMA is limited to the first 250 who register!

Please mail this form, along with check or money order payable to “EUMA 2008” to:
EUMA 2008, P.O. Box 13178, Toledo, OH 43613

For additional information: Contact EUMA Arrangements Chairman Rodney Cutlip, (419) 215-9683 or Co-Chairman Timothy DuBois, (419) 250-1846, or visit www.EUMA2008.com.

Anyone needing transportation to and from Cleveland Hopkins International Airport... please let us know!!!

There is a CEDAR POINT trip on Wednesday... more details to come.

Also, a FISHING CHARTER and much more activities for you and your family are currently in the planning stages!!!

EUMA guests who visit Cedar Point will be able to enjoy a ride on the famous Cedar Point & Lake Erie Railroad. This 2-4-0 coal fired steam locomotive, nicknamed Myron H., was originally built in 1922 by the Vulcan Iron Works in Wilkes Barre, Pa. Myron H. is used locomotive today for all operations at Cedar Point. Image courtesy Cedar Point Amusement Park/Resort.
A message from Teamsters General President James P. Hoffa

The last time voters had a chance to send the country in a new direction it didn’t work out so well. With the economy in shambles, a continuing jobs exodus and a president who remains shamelessly ignorant to the woes of working families, George Bush led us down the wrong fork in the path. The 2008 presidential election is our opportunity to choose a new direction, a new path.

Barack Obama is the one candidate who is best suited to lead our country in such a direction. After polling our membership and surveying our regional and local leaders, the 1.4 million member Teamsters Union is proud to endorse Senator Obama in his bid to become president of the United States.

This endorsement begins a partnership to change America. Together, we will reinvent the political process of the United States.

For more details: contact Brother Popwell at: (205) 755-8741 (home); (334) 391-5347 or email: <popwell1@yahoo.com>.

UnitedHealthcare announces changes

GA-23111

Continued from Page 7

If you are interested in enrolling under any of the new benefit plans, please contact UnitedHealthcare at 800-842-5252. One of United Healthcare’s customer care professionals will provide you with the following:

• Additional information and an enrollment form
• Certificate of Coverage (this document describes each benefit plan in detail)
• Answers to any other questions you may have

Please refer to the color chart specifying details of the services provided by these new plans is available here: http://www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/GA-23111A-B-C.pdf
UnitedHealthcare announces open enrollment, new plans under GA 23-111

In mid-March, UnitedHealthcare announced that for the upcoming open enrollment for 2008, three new benefit plans are available under GA-23111. These new benefit plans, called Plans A, B and C, provide new options with different costs and plan designs allowing individuals to select the plan best suited for their needs.

These changes should be of particular interest to former railroad employees and their eligible dependents who are not yet eligible for Medicare.

Special Enrollment Period — April and May 2008

Due to the addition of these new plans, a special two month open enrollment period is being offered for this year only. The open enrollment period will begin April 1st and run through May 31st with the coverage you select effective June 1, 2008. After this 2008 enrollment period, the next open enrollment will be May 10. (Note that this 2008 expanded enrollment period also applies to other Plans under GA-23111 such as Plan E and Plan F)

Plan Design of Plans A, B, and C

Some of the services provided by these new plans are outlined below. Please review the accompanying chart for more details (due to space limitations, the chart is reproduced on the BLET website — see link below).

• Physician office visits and certain medical services
• Discount savings program - Rx & other health and wellness purchases
• Inpatient hospital services
• Inpatient & outpatient mental health services and substance abuse services
• Surgical procedures
• Outpatient rehabilitation services
• Durable medical equipment
• Other health and wellness purchases
• Medical services
• Inpatient & outpatient mental health services and substance abuse services

Monthly Cost for each of the following areas:

• Plan A - $250
• Plan B - $350
• Plan C - $400

Average Deductible
• Annual Out-of-Pocket Maximum
• Percentage of Eligible Expenses Covered
• Monthly Cost

You pay a separate monthly cost for yourself and for your dependents. The monthly cost for your dependents is the same regardless of which Plan you select. While all of the benefits offered by UnitedHealthcare are comprehensive, some limits apply. These new options can help you place the plan that is right for you.

While all of the benefits offered by each plan are the same, they differ in the following areas:

• Annual Deductible
• Annual Out-of-Pocket Maximum
• Percentage of Eligible Expenses Covered
• Monthly Cost

You pay a separate monthly cost for yourself and for your dependents. The monthly cost for your dependents is the same regardless of which Plan you select. While all of the benefits offered by UnitedHealthcare are comprehensive, some limits apply. These new options can help you place the plan that is right for you.
In Memoriam

BLET Director of Research

Dennis C. Simmerman 1949-2008

Dennis C. Simmerman, BLET’s Di-
rector of Research and Assistant to the
President, passed away on March 7 af-
ter a brief cancer battle.

He is survived by his wife, Bobbie;
sons Andrew and Brett (Carissa); a
grandson, Blake Charles; and many
cousins, nieces and nephews.

“As Director of Research, Brother
Simmerman played a major role in each
and every round of national contract
negotiations since 1983,” said President
Hahs. “Those who knew him cannot find
words to express our profound sense
of loss and sadness. He was a devoted
husband, father and family man. He
was a proud locomotive engineer and
a proud Brotherhood employee.”

“My heart goes out to his wife Bobbie
and the Simmerman family. It is with the
entire BLET family that I express our
sympathies to the entire Simmerman family,”
President Hahs said.

Brother Simmerman, 58, began his
railroad career in 1972 when he began
working as a fireman in Superior, Wis.,
employed by the Soo Line Railroad.
He quickly earned promotion to locomotive engineer in 1974.

His interest in working for the wel-
fare of fellow railroad workers began in
1975 when he joined the Brotherhood as
a member of the Soo Line Local 1661,
Superior, Wis. He immediately became an
active member and was soon elected to
local chairman. In 1977, he was elected
General Chairman of the Soo Line Gen-
eral Committee of Adjustment, where
he served until he was appointed in
1981 to the BLET’s National Office, an
assistant to the Director of Research.

He served the Brotherhood as Di-
rector of Research and Assistant to the
President. John F. Sysmsa. While
continuing to serve as Director of Re-
search, Brother Simmerman was elected
to the position of Fourth Alternate Vice Presi-
dent, eventually moving up the ranks to
First Vice-President in 1988.

In his work as Director of Research, Brother Simmerman was a member of all BLET National Wage/Budget Commit-
tees since 1983 and played a major role in formulating contract issues and ne-
gotiating strategies. He also served on the Labor Research Advisory Com-
nittee for the BLET National Office.

Prior to his railroad career, Brother
Simmerman served in the U.S. Army
from August 1970 to February 1972, during which time he was a personal
aide to Major General Kenneth Bayer at Colorado Springs, Colo.

He graduated from the University of
Wisconsin at Superior in 1977 with a
Bachelor of Science degree with ma-
jors in pre-law and history.

Brother Simmerman was born De-
ceember 16, 1949 in Milwaukee, Wis. He
was a volunteer at a suburban Clevel-
dand hospital where his wife Bobbie is
the Director of Community Outreach.
He had served as president of his
church council and enjoyed sailing, golf,
tennis, skiing and fishing.

During his battle with cancer, Brother Simmerman expressed many
times how fortunate he felt to have the
health care benefits that enabled him
to receive the treatments he needed.
It was his wish that an Indigent Care Fund be set up through Southwest
General Hospital, where he received care.

The fund has the potential to give end-
of-life care to those who do not have
the ability to pay for it. Donations in the
name of Dennis Simmerman can be made
to the Southwest Hospice Indi-
care Fund, 18629 Drake Rd., Strongsville, 44136.

Cards and other expressions of
sympathy may be sent to the
Simmerman family at: 20200 Collen
Court, Strongsville, OH 44149.

BLET In-Fight: 65th Annual Western Convention, Miami, Miami Beach, Fla. - BLET President John F. Sysmsa

BLET News

In accordance with the BLET Bylaws, summaries of BLET Advisory Board activities are published monthly.

National President Dan M. Hahs—National Division office General supervision of BLET activities; General division office National

Sytsma goes on to say, “The 1996 election of
David Golway as Director of Research and Assistant to
President was a critical moment in the history of the
BLET’s Research Department. Brother Simmerman’s
ability to recognize and capitalize on the opportunities
presented by new technologies and the Internet,
enabled the BLET to take the lead in railroad research.

He was a leader in the development of research and
technology applications that are now standard in
the BLET and provide an in-depth understanding of
railroad labor issues. Brother Simmerman was
a leader in the development of the BLET’s
EUMA2008 conference and its role in
advancing railroad research.

He was a leader in the development of research and
technology applications that are now standard in
the BLET and provide an in-depth understanding of
railroad labor issues. Brother Simmerman was
a leader in the development of the BLET’s
EUMA2008 conference and its role in
advancing railroad research.

He was a leader in the development of research and
technology applications that are now standard in
the BLET and provide an in-depth understanding of
railroad labor issues. Brother Simmerman was
a leader in the development of the BLET’s
EUMA2008 conference and its role in
advancing railroad research.

He was a leader in the development of research and
technology applications that are now standard in
the BLET and provide an in-depth understanding of
railroad labor issues. Brother Simmerman was
a leader in the development of the BLET’s
EUMA2008 conference and its role in
advancing railroad research.