

## Ballots mailed in tentative BLET-Union Pacific agreement

**O**n March 2, the BLET announced it had reached a tentative on-property contract agreement with the Union Pacific Railroad. The tentative agreement follows two years of intense negotiations between the BLET General Committees and Union Pacific. The tentative contract governs rates of pay and work rules for nearly 9,000 locomotive engineers.

Ballots were mailed on March 26 to BLET members employed by the UP regarding the tentative on-property agreement. TrueBallot, Inc., conducted on-line and telephone voting through April 16, and balloting was ongoing at press time. Members can find balloting results at [www.ble-t.org](http://www.ble-t.org).

Members who are eligible and have not received a ratification packet by Friday, March 30 should call the National Division (216) 241-2630, extension 222. When connected with the extension, please leave the following information:

- your name, address and phone number;
- the division to which you belong;
- the date you were promoted to engineer;
- your date of birth;
- your Social Security number; and
- an e-mail address if you would like your ballot and voting instructions e-mailed to you.

E-mail requests for ballots will not be accepted because personal information is required to verify eligibility before a ballot can be issued.

National President Dennis R. Pierce urged all eligible members to participate in the ratification process. "The BLET is a participatory democracy and membership is not a spectator sport," he said. "Every member who is eligible to vote has a responsibility to become educated on the issues and a duty to cast their vote." @@

Union Pacific locomotive 7480 passes through California's Cajon Pass on July 23, 2011.



AFFECTED MEMBERS CAN VIEW A COPY OF THE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT AND A SYNOPSIS AT:  
[WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/2012\\_BLET\\_UPRR\\_TA\\_SYNOPSIS.PDF](http://WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/2012_BLET_UPRR_TA_SYNOPSIS.PDF)

## NTSB issues safety recommendation on restricted speed after five rear-end collisions in 2011

**I**n the wake of five rear-end collisions in 2011, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has issued safety recommendations regarding the operation of freight trains at restricted speed. Two BLET members were killed in those accidents.

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce defended operating crews in a March 2 letter to NTSB Chairman Deborah A.P. Hersman. He encouraged the NTSB to consider other contributing factors instead of focusing solely on restricted speed during their ongoing investigations.

President Pierce also advised NTSB of carrier operating practices that put crews in jeopardy by placing profits ahead of safety. Also, he identified ways in which carrier officers harass and intimidate BLET members who operate "too slowly" at restricted speed — a dangerous prac-



tice that runs counter to the NTSB's safety recommendations.

### CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

According to preliminary investigations into the five accidents, the NTSB blamed crew members for going too fast

and failing to operate their trains at the required restricted speed.

In his March 2 letter, President Pierce set the record straight. While thanking the NTSB for taking a proactive approach to rail safety, he advised the NTSB of other significant factors — as determined by

the BLET's Safety Task Force — that likely contributed to the accidents. He urged the NTSB to consider other factors rather than focusing on the single issue of restricted speed.

"The NTSB, the Federal Railroad Administration, and the railroad industry should keep in mind that railroading is a complex system of operations and simply laying blame at the feet of operating employees will not get to the root cause of these accidents nor will it prevent similar accidents in the future," President Pierce wrote. "Indeed, everyone can — and should — go much further than simply conducting additional and burdensome compliance tests on operating crews."

Regarding other contributing factors, President Pierce wrote: "(I)t should be noted that three of the five accidents oc-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 →

**BLET President's Message** Listening to the Message from the Field **pg 2**



**Disaster Relief Assistance** Teamsters offer financial help to members in Indiana, Kentucky **pg 4**



**Lauzon Reelected** Massachusetts SLB concludes quadrennial meeting **pg 6**





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

# LISTENING TO THE MESSAGE FROM THE FIELD

If you have followed my monthly messages, you know that increasing membership involvement in our union is one of my top priorities. I truly believe we are a stronger Brotherhood when all of us participate in the activities and endeavors of our union.

Rather than just preaching participation, I am following through on my commitment to be out in the field, meeting with BLET members and officers when and where I can. This month I want to share with you a sampling of those visits, because the valuable information that I receive from being in the field drives our agenda going forward.

So far this year I have been honored to attend two General Committee meetings. In January I attended the meeting of the Union Pacific Central Region GCA in Little Rock, Ark. In addition to addressing the group and answering all questions that they had about the National Division's efforts, I worked with General Chairmen Ronnie Rhodes and his Bylaws Committee to ensure that Bylaws restructuring their General Committee were approved for immediate implementation by the delegates in session. In March, I was similarly honored to attend the quadrennial meeting of the Norfolk Southern Eastern Lines GCA in Roanoke, Va. I had never met with the delegates to this General Committee, but our time together in Roanoke made clear that these fine Brothers left the meeting united in their efforts to represent our members on Norfolk Southern. Although General Chairman Kevin Peek was unable to attend due to a family emergency, he was reelected by acclamation in a showing of his strong leadership.

In January I had the pleasure of visiting Fargo, N.D. to attend the quadrennial meeting of the North Dakota State Legislative Board, addressing the officers and members present and answering questions about the important issues confronting the National Division. That meeting was a bittersweet visit, as our long-serving North Dakota State



**Change to Win Lobby Day in Lincoln, Neb.** BLET members from Divisions throughout the State and officers of the Nebraska State Legislative Board came together for the Change to Win Lobby Day in Lincoln, Neb. BLET National President Dennis Pierce joined them and addressed representatives of all the Change to Win Unions who were in attendance.

Legislative Board Chairman — and my dear friend — Mike Muscha retired at the meeting. While I am more than confident that newly-elected State Chairman Charles Weick will pick up where Brother Muscha left off, Mike will truly be missed throughout our Brotherhood.

I also had the opportunity to meet and visit with Ryan Taylor, the Democratic nominee in this year's gubernatorial election in North Dakota. Vice President and National Legislative Representative John Tolman and I quizzed Mr. Taylor on where he stands on the issues important to working class Americans. We learned first-hand about the issues most important to our North Dakota members, and were able to learn in detail how Taylor would work to address those issues if elected. Although North Dakota is flush with revenue generated from the ever growing production from oil sand fields, there are politicians who want to give those new revenues to corporate America rather than invest in the state's infrastructure or schools, items that are important to working class Americans. This is just one more example of how important it is that we as working class union members cast our votes in November for candidates who will support the agenda of the working class.

While in Fargo, Special Representative Rick Olson and I also visited the BNSF Yard Office and met with crews going on and off duty there. Our members were invited to attend the State Legislative Board meeting, but family obligations and carrier attendance policies frequently prevent members from attending union meetings, so I took the meeting to them. Not only did I get the opportunity to meet with local BLET and UTU members, I also took the opportunity to drop in on local management and let them know that the BLET National Division was in the building. This not only allowed me to hear directly from the membership on their current issues, but it also put local management on notice that the National Division was on the property, asking for our members' input.

In February, I travelled to Boston, Mass. for the quadrennial meeting of the Massachusetts State Legislative Board, where Chairman Dan Lauzon was reelected by acclamation. I was proud to see the strong relationships that Brother Dan has fostered with elected federal and state government officials on the BLET's behalf. As part of Brother Dan's outreach, I had the opportunity to meet Elizabeth Warren, who is running for the U.S. Senate. Ms. Warren has long

been a strong advocate for working class Americans and it was uplifting to hear her address the group with her ideas on what needs to be done to change the anti-worker bias in Washington.

In March, I traveled to Lincoln, Neb., to attend the annual Change to Win Lobby Day meetings. I was privileged to address representatives of all the Change to Win Unions in attendance, as well as a large group of BLET members from Divisions across the State and officers of the Nebraska State Legislative Board. It was inspiring to see the coalition building being done at the State level, and I left that meeting taking comfort in the fact that our Nebraska members will be going to the Statehouse with our message in support of working class Americans.

Interspersed among these visits with BLET members and officers, I also accepted invitations to join our bargaining teams on Union Pacific, Pacific Harbor Lines, and the Western New York and Pennsylvania Railroad, in support of their efforts to obtain fair contracts for our members on those properties. Part of our mission is to assist our General Chairmen in their efforts on each property, and it is vital that each and every railroad in this country know that the National Division stands behind the officers

charged with negotiating contracts on their property.

Most recently, First Vice President Lee Pruitt, National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert, Vice President and National Legislative Representative John Tolman, Special Representative Rick Olson and I attended the regular monthly meeting of BLET Division 517 in Minneapolis. After regular business was concluded, Division 517's officers and members graciously opened their doors to all area BLET members, and this Town Hall meeting enabled us to report on National Division activities, while addressing the questions and concerns of the members present from BNSF, Canadian National, Union Pacific and Amtrak. While in Minneapolis, we also attend the retirement banquet for former IBT General Secretary-Treasurer Tom Keegel. It was inspiring to hear Brother Keegel's co-workers, union brothers and sisters, and his family recount Tom's contributions to the IBT and all working class Americans. Brother Tom will truly be missed, and his determination and willingness to fight for working class Americans provides an example for us all.

The feedback we receive directly from BLET members and officers is critical to the National Division, because it enables us to address what is important to our members as you have told it to us, face to face. The four regional meetings that will be held this summer give every BLET member the chance to participate in our internal discussion. Please check the dates and location of the meeting in your region, and make every effort to join us (see Calendar & Events on Page 7 of this issue for dates and locations). Officers from the National Division will be on hand to provide you with the opportunity to join us in fellowship and helping to make our union stronger by shaping the BLET's agenda. I hope to see at one of those regional meetings.

Fraternally,

**DENNIS R. PIERCE**  
BLET NATIONAL PRESIDENT

## BLET NATIONAL DIVISION ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





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

# MICHIGAN: TAKING THE RIGHT STEP WITH A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROTECTING WORKERS' RIGHT TO ORGANIZE

**T**here has been only one era in the U.S. when working-class wages rose by as much as the incomes of professionals and managers: 1947 to 1973.

That was the only time when more than 25 percent of U.S. workers belonged to a union. Those were the golden years when Detroit's unionized workers gave the city the greatest concentration of home ownership in the country.

The working families who built Michigan's middle class now want to rebuild it.

Recently, they began to collect signatures to change the state constitution to protect collective bargaining rights. The amendment would guarantee the right to form, join or help labor organizations and to bargain collectively with a public



or private employer. It's the right step and the right time.

Supporters of the amendment need to collect 300,000 signatures by July to put it on the November ballot.

I'm sure they'll succeed because so many Michiganders are falling out of the middle

class. Working people in Michigan will sign the petition because they so desperately need to protect their wages, their benefits and their voice in the workplace.

They'll sign because they've seen CEOs arbitrarily move plants to Mexico or China when

their workers don't have the protection of a union contract. They'll sign because they know workers who don't belong to a union have absolutely no say when the CEO slashes wages or benefits. And they'll sign because CEOs can unilaterally fire non-union American workers just to make the quarterly earnings statement look better.

Non-union workers will sign because most of them would join a union if they could. Without constitutional protection for collective bargaining, workers are at the mercy of politicians who owe their election to CEOs and Wall Street billionaires.

Meanwhile, our elected representatives cut \$1.8 billion in taxes to the multinationals least in need of tax relief: banks, insurers and oil companies.

These corporate giveaways

and political attacks on unions do nothing to create good jobs that support a family. What they do is enrich the 1 percent and make it easier to replace our once-strong middle class with non-union, low-wage workers.

A constitutional amendment to protect the right to organize will help small businesses, local communities, government workers and just about any Michigander who depends on a paycheck to live.

Because it isn't a rising tide that lifts all boats – it's a union tide. @

Fraternally,

*James P. Hoffa*

**JAMES P. HOFFA**  
TEAMSTERS GENERAL  
PRESIDENT

66 These corporate giveaways and political attacks on unions do nothing to create good jobs that support a family. What they do is enrich the 1 percent and make it easier to replace our once-strong middle class with non-union, low-wage workers. 99

## Advisory Board revises FELA counsel program

**T**he Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen's Advisory Board has adopted revisions to the Union's program that provides assistance to BLET members injured on the job, who may be entitled to damages pursuant to the Federal Employers' Liability Act (FELA).

For nearly 30 years, the BLET has maintained a list of experienced personal injury lawyers so that the Union's members would have available to them competent, principled legal counsel to assist in the handling of their claims for personal injuries incurred during the course of their railroad employment. This list, commonly known as BLET's Designated Legal Counsel (DLC), was created and maintained as part of the Union's mission to "advance the working conditions, wages, benefits, job security, and quality of life for its present and future members and their families."

In 2010, the Advisory Board revised its criteria for becoming a DLC, developed various Rules of Conduct with which DLCs would be expected to comport themselves insofar as it relates to their DLC status, and issued a formal Protocol to that effect. Now, after two years of experience administering that Protocol, the Advisory Board has decided that the National Division will discontinue formally designating attorneys and instead will refer its members to the directory of the Academy of Rail Labor Attorneys

(ARLA), an organization made up exclusively of lawyers who represent injured employees under the FELA.

By relinquishing the role of designator and referring employees to the ARLA directory, BLET is expanding the number of attorneys available to its members requiring legal representation. ARLA maintains its own Constitution which, along with the rules of conduct and ethics issued by the states in which ARLA attorneys practice law, as-

sure BLET members, as well as BLET can, that the attorneys they choose to represent them will maintain the standards required by ARLA. Furthermore, this change relieves BLET from expending considerable time and resources necessary to administer the Protocol and the frequent controversies associated therewith.

The BLET has issued a set of inquiries (see sidebar) that it recommends injured BLET members should use when decid-

ing which personal injury attorney will best represent their interests. The Union is convinced that with answers to these inquiries in hand, and the confidence that attorneys who belong to ARLA offer the knowledge of the industry that is essential to effectively presenting injured employees' claims, BLET members will be able to continue to receive the high quality of representation they previously have received under the formal DLC Program.

National President Dennis R. Pierce thanked the Advisory Board for its willingness to make the difficult decisions necessary to advance the interests of BLET's membership. "This was not an easy decision for the Board to make," said Pierce, "especially because the long-standing existence of the program may have created certain expectations among BLET members and some attorneys. The BLET membership elected this Board with the anticipation that they would lead on key issues. Time and time again, this Board has done just that on the key issues of importance to our membership."

"Ultimately, our program is intended to provide reliable assistance to our membership through a totally transparent process," Pierce added. "That goal is what guided the Advisory Board's decision and I applaud them for making a tough call."

Additional information concerning the ARLA directory will be published in an upcoming News Flash. @

### REVISED FELA PROGRAM PDF DOWNLOADS

Recommendations for BLET Members  
When Selecting A Personal Injury Lawyer (2 pages)  
[www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/BLET\\_member\\_recommendations.pdf](http://www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/BLET_member_recommendations.pdf)

Code of Compliance for BLET Officers and Employees  
Concerning Relationships with Employers and Legal  
Counsel Representing or Seeking to Represent Injured  
BLET Members, Revised February 29, 2012 (2 pages)  
[www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/Code\\_of\\_Compliance\\_Legal\\_Counsel.pdf](http://www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/Code_of_Compliance_Legal_Counsel.pdf)

Resolution Regarding 2012 Revision to  
BLET FELA Counsel Program (2 pages)  
[www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/FELA\\_Counsel\\_Resolution\\_2012.pdf](http://www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/FELA_Counsel_Resolution_2012.pdf)

Statement Regarding 2012 Revision to  
BLET FELA Counsel Program (1 page)  
[www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/FELA\\_Counsel\\_Statement\\_2012.pdf](http://www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/FELA_Counsel_Statement_2012.pdf)

**"By relinquishing the role of designator and referring employees to the ARLA directory, BLET is expanding the number of attorneys available to its members requiring legal representation." — DENNIS PIERCE**



## TEAMSTERS OFFER DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

### INDIANA

The Teamsters Disaster Relief Fund is accepting applications for assistance from members who live in Indiana after severe storms caused major damage to homes and property from February 29 to March 3, 2012.

Available from the BLET website are Teamster "Disaster Relief Alert Notices" and "request for help" forms. If you live in the affected area and experienced a loss due to this FEMA-declared major disaster, please download and fill out the

forms. For questions, contact the Teamsters Disaster Relief Fund office at (202) 624-8971.

Members living in Indiana's Clark, Jefferson, Ripley, Scott, Warrick and Washington counties are eligible to apply.

#### DOWNLOAD FORMS HERE:

[WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/IN\\_DISASTER\\_RELIEF\\_031212.PDF](http://WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/IN_DISASTER_RELIEF_031212.PDF)

**THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION IS APRIL 23, 2012.**



**Indiana:** A series of tornadoes struck the area on March 2, killed 13 people and left hundreds homeless. **Photo:** Gene Romano/FEMA

### KENTUCKY

The Teamsters Disaster Relief Fund is accepting applications for assistance from members who live in Kentucky after severe storms caused major damage to homes and property on February 29, 2012.

Available from the BLET website are Teamster "Disaster Relief Alert Notices" and "request for help" forms. If you live in the affected area and experienced a loss due to this FEMA-declared major disaster, please download and fill out the

forms. For questions, contact the Teamsters Disaster Relief Fund office at (202) 624-8971.

Members living in Kentucky's Johnson, Kenton, Laurel, Lawrence, Menifee, Morgan and Peldleton counties are eligible to apply.

#### DOWNLOAD FORMS HERE:

[WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/KY\\_DISASTER\\_RELIEF\\_030712.PDF](http://WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/KY_DISASTER_RELIEF_030712.PDF)

**THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION IS APRIL 23, 2012.**



**Kentucky:** Many residents were displaced when a tornado completely destroyed this apartment complex. **Photo:** Tim Burkitt/FEMA

**HELP SPREAD THE WORD** To help increase awareness of this valuable benefit, members who live and work in the affected areas are asked to print and post these Disaster Relief Notices at their places of work. Previous notices are archived on the National Division's website, [www.ble-t.org/disaster](http://www.ble-t.org/disaster). Also, members are advised that the BLET National Division does not administer this program. Questions regarding the application process, pending applications or other inquiries should be directed to the Teamsters Human Rights Commission at (202) 624-8971.

### NTSB RECOMMENDATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

curred during the circadian trough, and the crew involved in the Red Oak accident was operating into the direction of a rising sun. Any experienced locomotive engineer or trainman can tell you that these particular operating environments pose an identifiable risk when operating at restricted speed."

#### CARRIER HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION

President Pierce also took rail carriers to task for implementing operating practices that run counter to the NTSB's safety recommendations. For example, he noted a CSX plan to increase the maximum authorized speed from 15 mph to 20 mph for restricted speed operations.

He was also critical of front line rail managers for pressuring locomotive engineers to run trains faster while operating at restricted speed. Specifically, President Pierce advised NTSB of a BLET member employed by Norfolk Southern who is fighting to get his job back after being dismissed for allegedly operating "too slowly" while traveling at restricted speed.

"Individual railroads should halt current obscene practices that favor operational expediency over safety," President Pierce wrote.

#### PROTECTING MEMBERS

To better protect BLET members, operating crews, and the traveling public, President Pierce suggested the FRA could get involved by issuing an Emergency Order to revise the definition of restricted speed.

In addition, he advised NTSB that the BLET may pursue a Petition for Rulemaking with FRA later this year that would amend the definition of restricted speed and reduce the authorized maximum speed for heavy tonnage trains to 10 mph.

President Pierce also said he is asking all subordinate BLET bodies to provide his office with information regarding practices that encourage crews to push the restricted speed envelope, and carrier harassment of BLET members when they elect to operate conservatively while traveling at restricted speed.

#### NTSB SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

Of the five safety recommendations issued by NTSB on January 12, one specifically targeted the BLET and United Transportation Union (UTU). The NTSB recommended that the unions: "Emphasize to your members the importance of operating their trains in accordance with restricted speed operating rules."

Also, the NTSB asked the unions to: "Urge your members to work with their employers to identify the potential for similar occurrences and to take appropriate mitigating actions."

In addition to BLET and UTU, the NTSB issued related recommendations to the Association of American Railroads, the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association.

#### ACCIDENT DETAILS; TWO BLET MEMBERS KILLED

The five accidents that prompted NTSB to issue its safety recommendations are as follows: Red Oak, Iowa, April 17, 2011; Low Moor, Va., May 21, 2011; Mineral Springs, N.C., May 24, 2011; DeWitt, N.Y., July 6, 2011; and DeKalb, Ind., August 19, 2011.

The accidents in Red Oak and Mineral Springs resulted in crew member fatalities and are still under investigation by the NTSB and the BLET Safety Task Force. The following is a summary of those accidents based on information available at this time:

• **THE RED OAK, IOWA**, accident occurred on April 17, 2011, at approxi-

mately 6:55 a.m. CDT, when an eastbound BNSF coal train collided with the rear of a standing BNSF maintenance-of-way equipment train, with an impact speed of about 23 mph. The coal train had passed a red automatic block signal about 2 miles before the point of collision, which required the engineer to operate the train at restricted speed, not to exceed 20 mph. Mist was reported in the area at the time of the accident. The locomotive cab of the coal train was damaged and engulfed in a subsequent fire. Killed in the collision were Division 642 President Tom Anderson, 48, and his conductor.

• **THE LOW MOOR, VA.**, accident occurred at approximately 11:38 a.m. EDT on May 21, 2011. An eastbound CSX freight train collided with a stopped CSX freight train at a speed of 13 mph, about 170 miles west of Richmond, Virginia. No injuries as a result of the collision were reported, and a locomotive and one car derailed. The striking train was operating under a restricting signal indication, with a maximum authorized speed of 15 mph. However, it also was on descending a grade and had reached a speed of 21 mph prior to the accident.

• **THE MINERAL SPRINGS, N.C.**, accident occurred on May 24, 2011, at approximately 3:35 a.m. EDT, when one northbound CSX freight train struck the rear of another CSX freight train. The striking train was traveling about 48 mph at the time of the collision and subsequent fire, which killed 35-year old James G. Hadden, a member of Division 498, and his Conductor. The engineer and the conductor of the struck train also sustained minor injuries.

• **THE DEWITT, N.Y.**, accident occurred at 12:45 p.m. EDT on July 6, 2011, when one eastbound CSX freight train struck the rear of another CSX freight train. Both crewmembers on the striking train were transported to a local hospital, where they received medical attention

and were released. This accident also led to the evacuation of the surrounding area, including several businesses, as well as the closure of nearby roads due to the large amount of diesel fuel that was spilled by the lead locomotive of the striking train.

• **THE DEKALB, IND.**, accident occurred on August 19, 2011, at 5:44 a.m. CDT, when a westbound Norfolk Southern freight train struck the rear of a standing Norfolk Southern freight train. There were no injuries, but both tracks of the main line were blocked, delaying other freight traffic and scheduled Amtrak passenger service.

#### BLET ACTIONS

President Pierce advised the NTSB that he would be making BLET members aware of the rear-end collisions and the need to re-focus on operating at restricted speed. He assured NTSB that members would comply in a professional manner.

"I fully agree that operating trains in strict accordance with restricted speed operating rules is a job-saver and a life-saver," he wrote. "BLET members work in one of the most safety-critical environments in the world, and their increased focus on restricted speed operations in light of these accidents is part of the professional performance of their duties that we intend to stress."

In addition to postings on the National Division website, the BLET has advised all General Committees of Adjustment and State Legislative Boards in writing regarding the details of the accidents as well as the NTSB safety recommendations. @@

#### IMPORTANT LINK

**BLET INFORMATION PROVIDED TO GCAs AND SLBs (INCLUDING NTSB'S SAFETY RECOMMENDATION R-11-10):** [WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/GC\\_SLB\\_NTSB\\_RESTRICTED\\_SPEED.PDF](http://WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/GC_SLB_NTSB_RESTRICTED_SPEED.PDF)



## New Railroad Information Depot website opened in mid-March

**M**any BLET members can now enjoy one-stop shopping when it comes to finding information about their health and welfare benefits online.

The newly redesigned Railroad Information Depot ([www.rrinfodepot.com](http://www.rrinfodepot.com)) opened in mid-March. It provides all railroad employees with a central point of access to most all of their benefit providers, for the majority of H&W benefits that are provided for under that National agreement.

Those already familiar with the existing Railroad Information Depot website will find that the new website contains not only all the prior available information, but much, much more. The content is being upgraded and enhanced, and the look of the web site is undergoing a dramatic makeover. The intent is to provide Railroad employees with a one-stop information center that addresses many of their benefit needs, regardless of the company administering benefits.

Each of the following benefit administrators now have a homepage at the Railroad Information Depot: Aetna; Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield; United Healthcare; Medco; MetLife; and VSP.

The new and improved Railroad Information Depot website also contains the following information:

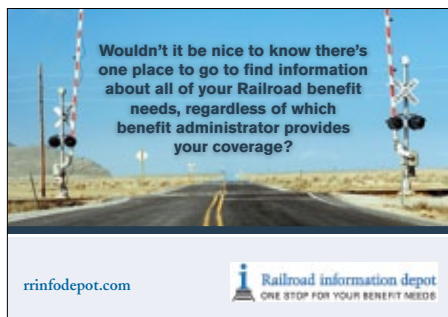
- Alerts and important dates highlighted (for example, the annual open enrollment period);
- Current topics of interest and news regarding specific health issues;
- On-line access to each of the Summary Plan Descriptions, also known as SPDs, (i.e., employee plan booklets);
- Information regarding medical care, mental health and substance abuse, disease



management, wellness programs, pharmacy, dental, life, vision, and supplemental sickness benefits, regardless of the benefit administrator;

- Links to network providers, helpful tools and educational materials, contact information, and various forms railroad workers may need;
- Dedicated retirement section that provides information and links to assist with the transition into retirement; and
- Railroad Enrollment Services information to ensure that you understand who is eligible for coverage under your Plan and the documentation that is required. ☺

**BLET MEMBERS SHOULD ALSO BE ON THE LOOK OUT FOR A POSTCARD COMING IN THE MAIL SOON ANNOUNCING THE LAUNCH OF THIS NEW RESOURCE: [WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/RR\\_DEPOT\\_POST\\_CARD.PDF](http://WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/RR_DEPOT_POST_CARD.PDF)**



## Health care mobile phone apps now available for rail workers

**I**f you are an employee covered under the Railroad Employees National Health and Welfare Plan or the National Railway Carriers and United Transportation Union Health and Welfare Plan ("National Railroad Plans"), your health information is now always accessible with mobile solutions.

Smart phone apps are now available for iPhone, Blackberry and Droid platforms. You can download these apps just like any other application for your device.

**You can find the online tools on any Internet browser by logging into or registering for access to the following secure member sites:**

- Aetna: [www.aetna.com](http://www.aetna.com) (select Aetna Navigator Member Log In or, for new members, "Register;" Use the same process for computer or mobile

device);

- Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield: [www.highmarkbcbs.com](http://www.highmarkbcbs.com) (visit the "Choose Providers" tab and download the application with a registration code you can obtain on the Highmark website)
- United Healthcare: [www.myuhc.com](http://www.myuhc.com) (visit [myuhc.com](http://myuhc.com) on your mobile device and use your same username and password you already use to login to [myuhc.com](http://myuhc.com) on your computer); and
- Medco: [www.medco.com](http://www.medco.com) (pharmacy mobile app).

**Members can use these apps to help:**

- Obtain your ID card information (pull up your member number and other pertinent information, even print a temporary medical ID card);
- Get cost and quality data for certain providers

and services (member transparency tools can help you make more informed choices);

- Access claims information, popular tools and Explanations of Benefits;
- Find providers in your area, call them, and get directions right from your phone;
- Check your benefits and coverage information; and
- Contact member services by phone or email.

Information and tools are also available on secure Internet sites, which can be accessed by any personal computer via a unique and secure user ID and password. These sites have been optimized for viewing on your smart phone's mobile browser.

New features, tools, and information are frequently being added. ☺

## Daily Headlines

**Each business day, the BLET's Public Relations Department updates the BLET website with news from around the railroad industry and the world of organized labor. Below are highlights of news stories from the past 30 days. To read the complete article, visit [www.ble-t.org](http://www.ble-t.org).**

**FEBRUARY 13:** CN's Board of Directors voted to cancel former CEO Hunter Harrison's future pension payments and other benefits. Harrison is a leading candidate to take the reins at rival Canadian Pacific Railway. (*Wall Street Journal*)

**FEBRUARY 13:** The U.S. Department of Transportation would receive a budget of \$74 billion under President Obama's spending plan. (*DOT press release*)

**FEBRUARY 14:** The National Transportation Safety Board issued its final report on a fatal CN derailment near Rockford, Ill., which occurred on June 19, 2009. The NTSB faulted CN for failing to notify the train crew of a washout, which NTSB said CN knew about for an hour prior to the derailment. (*Chicago Tribune*)

**FEBRUARY 15:** President Obama included \$47 billion for high-speed rail development in his \$3.8 trillion federal budget. (*The Hill*)

**FEBRUARY 16:** U.S. railroads originated 279,501 carloads for the week ended February 11, up 1.7 percent over the same week of 2011. (*AAR press release*)

**FEBRUARY 17:** A decline in coal shipments for major U.S. railroads may be offset by deliveries of natural gas drilling commodities, such as fracking sand. (*Bloomberg News*)

**FEBRUARY 17:** CN said it would spend C\$1.75 billion on capital improvements in 2012. (*CN press release*)

**FEBRUARY 21:** About 15,000 people die each year while crossing the tracks of India's mammoth rail network. (*Washington Post*)

**FEBRUARY 21:** Unions in Indiana are countering the right-to-work bill passed on February 1 by launching a new voter education campaign to unseat anti-labor legislators in November's election. (*Post-Tribune*)

**FEBRUARY 21:** Corporations are generating increased profits but wage growth for the American worker has stagnated, lagging behind the price of goods and services. (*Bloomberg News*)

**FEBRUARY 22:** The U.S. Department of Transportation announced it would lend \$54.6 million to Kansas City Southern for the purchase of 30 new General Electric locomotives. As a mandate of the loan, the locomotives are made in the U.S.A. (*DOT press release*)

**FEBRUARY 22:** As of mid-January 2012, the number of train and engine service employees on U.S. Class I railroads dipped 0.2 percent to 64,240. (*Progressive Railroading*)

**FEBRUARY 23:** Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported a decline in weekly rail traffic for the week ending February 18, 2012, with U.S. railroads originating 281,989 carloads, down 5.2 percent compared with the same week last year. Intermodal volume for the week totaled 221,003 trailers and containers, down 5.6 percent compared with the same week last year. (*AAR press release*)

**FEBRUARY 24:** SEPTA said it would spend \$100 million to meet the federal government's mandate to install Positive Train Control by Dec. 31, 2015. (*Philadelphia Inquirer*)

**FEBRUARY 24:** Reports emerge that House Republicans would scale back their controversial transportation spending bill due to overwhelming opposition. (*Journal of Commerce*)

**FEBRUARY 24:** After Indiana passed anti-union Right-to-Work legislation on February 1, reports surface that the most influential Republican in Indiana's House of Representatives works as union-busting attorney. ([www.weparty-patriots.com](http://www.weparty-patriots.com))

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# Lauzon reelected Massachusetts State Legislative Board Chairman

**D**aniel J. Lauzon was reelected by acclamation to his first full term as Chairman of the BLET Massachusetts State Legislative Board at its quadrennial meeting in Boston on February 23.

Brother Lauzon, a member of BLET Division 57 (Boston, Mass.), joined the Brotherhood on January 1, 1978. He was elected to serve as 1st Vice Chairman at the quadrennial meeting in 2008, and began serving as Chairman following the retirement of George Newman in early 2011.

The following officers were also elected by acclamation: 1st Vice Chairman P.C. Chaput (Division 57, Boston); 2nd Vice Chairman Tom F. Hebert Jr. (Division 312, Boston); Secretary-Treasurer Joseph R. DeBartolomao (Division 112, Greenfield, Mass.); and Alternate Secretary-Treasurer Michael A. Musshorn (Division 439, Allston, Mass.).

Kevin J. Moore, BLET Division 191 (Lunenburg, Mass.), was elected to serve on the Auditing Committee, along with Brothers Hebert and Musshorn.

Representing the BLET National Division at the quadrennial meeting were: National President Dennis R. Pierce; National Secretary-Treasurer William C. Walpert; Vice President & National Legislative Representative John P. Tolman; Vice President Cole W. Davis; Vice President Stephen J. Bruno; Assistant to



President Pierce with U.S. Senate Candidate Elizabeth Warren and Dan Lauzon at the quadrennial meeting of the Massachusetts State Legislative Board on February 23, 2012.

the National President Tom Pontolillo; Special Representative & Coordinator of Education & Training Department Ken Kroeger; and Director of Regulatory Affairs Vince Verna.

"I offer my sincere congratulations to Brother Lauzon and all members of the Massachusetts State Legislative Board," President Pierce said. "I thank them for their commitment to the Brotherhood and I have every confidence they will do an excellent job of

protecting the interests of their members at the State Capitol."

Other BLET State Legislative Board Chairmen in attendance were: Terry Briggs (Texas); Tim Hanely (Ohio); Dave Kearsing (New York); and Ken Kertesz (Pennsylvania).

Other dignitaries and guest speakers who attended the meeting included: Harry Hoglander of the National Mediation Board; Steve Tolman, President of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO; Congressman

Bill Keating; and Congressman Mike Capuano; and Mark Robb of the North American Railway Foundation (NARF). AFL-CIO President Tolman is the brother of BLET Vice President & National Legislative Representative John Tolman.

The body also enjoyed a visit with U.S. Senate candidate Elizabeth Warren. The BLET's Massachusetts State Legislative Board also invited several guests to its meet-and-greet with Warren, including: FRA Region 1 Administrator Les Fiorenzo; Congressman John Tierney; UTU National Legislative Director James Stem; and UTU Massachusetts State Legislative Director George Casey.

While delegates conducted business during the morning of February 23, a delegation of BLET members and officers, led by National President Pierce, visited the John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center in Cambridge, Mass. There, the BLET delegation received learned about the Volpe Center's Sustained Attention Training program. Retired BLET Division 57 members George Newman and Richard (Pie) Duggan are deeply involved in the study, which uses a state of the art locomotive simulator to study locomotive engineer distraction.

Later that evening, members of the Massachusetts State Legislative Board presented Brother Newman with a commemorative drawing in thanks of his many years of service to the Brotherhood. @



Vice President John Tolman and Elizabeth Warren



Ken Kertesz, George Newman, Dan Lauzon and President Pierce



NMB Member Harry Hoglander addressing delegates



Dan Lauzon, Chairman of the Massachusetts State Legislative Board



Meeting was held in the board room at Teamsters Local 25



Seated: Tim Hanely. Standing: George Newman, Ken Kertesz and Dan Lauzon



From left: Vince Verna, Cole Davis, Terry Briggs and President Pierce



Touring the Volpe Center in Cambridge, Mass.

## Condolences for families of fallen Brothers at VIA Rail

**B**LET National President Dennis R. Pierce has extended condolences to the families of the three VIA Rail locomotive engineers who were killed in the line of duty on February 26, 2012.

Brothers Ken Simmonds, Peter Snarr and Patrick Robinson were members of Teamsters Canada Rail Conference Division 747. They sustained fatal injuries when VIA Rail train 92 derailed near Aldershot, Ontario. Forty-six passengers were injured in the derailment. The cause of

the accident is still under investigation.

"On behalf of the BLET National Division, I extend deepest and most heartfelt sympathies to the families of Brother Simmonds, Snarr and Robinson," President Pierce said. "This is a tragic loss for our railroad family."

Brother Simmonds and Brother Snarr belonged to BLE Division 70 prior to the BLE's merger with the Teamsters in 2004, which saw the union's Canadian membership transfer to Teamsters Canada, while membership in the United States

became an affiliate of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Any BLET Divisions, General Committees of Adjustment, State Legislative Boards or individual members who wish to express their sympathies may do so at the following website, which was established by the active and retired employees of VIA Rail: <http://viatrain92.com>

There is also a benefit fund for the families of the three fallen Brothers. Those wishing to make a donation may do so by making checks payable to "TCRC-Di-

vision 747" and mail them to:

TCRC Division 747  
 c/o J. David Filman, President  
 529 Sherin Drive  
 Oakville, ON  
 L6L 4K1

More information is available online at: <http://division747.ca/?p=2280>

Brother Filman advises that anyone wishing to mail sympathy cards to the individual families should send them to his attention at the office above, and he will handle distribution. @



2012

## Calendar & Events

**May 1-5 and May 8-12, 2012**  
**Hazmat Training Workshop**  
**National Labor College**  
**SILVER SPRING, MD.**

The Hazardous Materials Transportation/Chemical Emergency Response training course addresses OSHA and DOT required training for the safe handling of hazardous materials. The course covers procedures and different levels of response and worker protection in a hazardous materials or emergency release. Course also covers weapons of mass destruction awareness. Federal funding for this course covers transportation, lodging and meals for training participants. For more information or to register online, please visit: [www.hazmatgmc.org](http://www.hazmatgmc.org).

**June 24-29, 2012**  
**85th annual Southeastern Meeting Association (SMA)**  
**WALT DISNEY WORLD, ORLANDO, FLA.**

Chairman Earl Karper (Division 35) and Vice Chairman Mike Tanner (Division 769) are hosting the 2012 SMA at Disney. For details, visit [www.SMA2012.com](http://www.SMA2012.com). Contact Brother Karper: [ekarper@sma2012.com](mailto:ekarper@sma2012.com).

**July 15-16, 2012**  
**Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (MERTT)**  
**NATIONAL LABOR COLLEGE,**  
**SILVER SPRING, MD.**

The amount and variety of radioactive material shipped by rail is expected to increase in coming years. With the increase in rail shipments comes the increased risk for rail incidents. A federal grant covers the cost of rail worker training to increase their knowledge of the transportation of radioactive materials, and covers the cost of transportation, lodging and meals on the campus of the George Meany Center, National Labor College. This training course is also available on August 17-18, 2012. or more information or to register online, please visit: [www.hazmatgmc.org](http://www.hazmatgmc.org).

**July 29-August 1, 2012**  
**72nd annual International Western Convention (IWC)**  
**CROWN PLAZA HOTEL, BILLINGS, MONT.**

Hosted by Arrangements Chairman Craig Gilchrist (Montana State Legislative Board Chairman, BLET Division 298) and Co-Chair D.B. Kenner (Division 195). At the Crown Plaza Billings (27 North 27th St., Billings, Mont. 59101, phone: (406) 252-7400). Contact Brother Gilchrist: [blecag@nemontel.net](mailto:blecag@nemontel.net); or Brother Kenner: [kennerdb@yahoo.com](mailto:kennerdb@yahoo.com).

**August 19-24, 2012**  
**74th annual Eastern Union Meeting Association (EUMA)**  
**ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.**

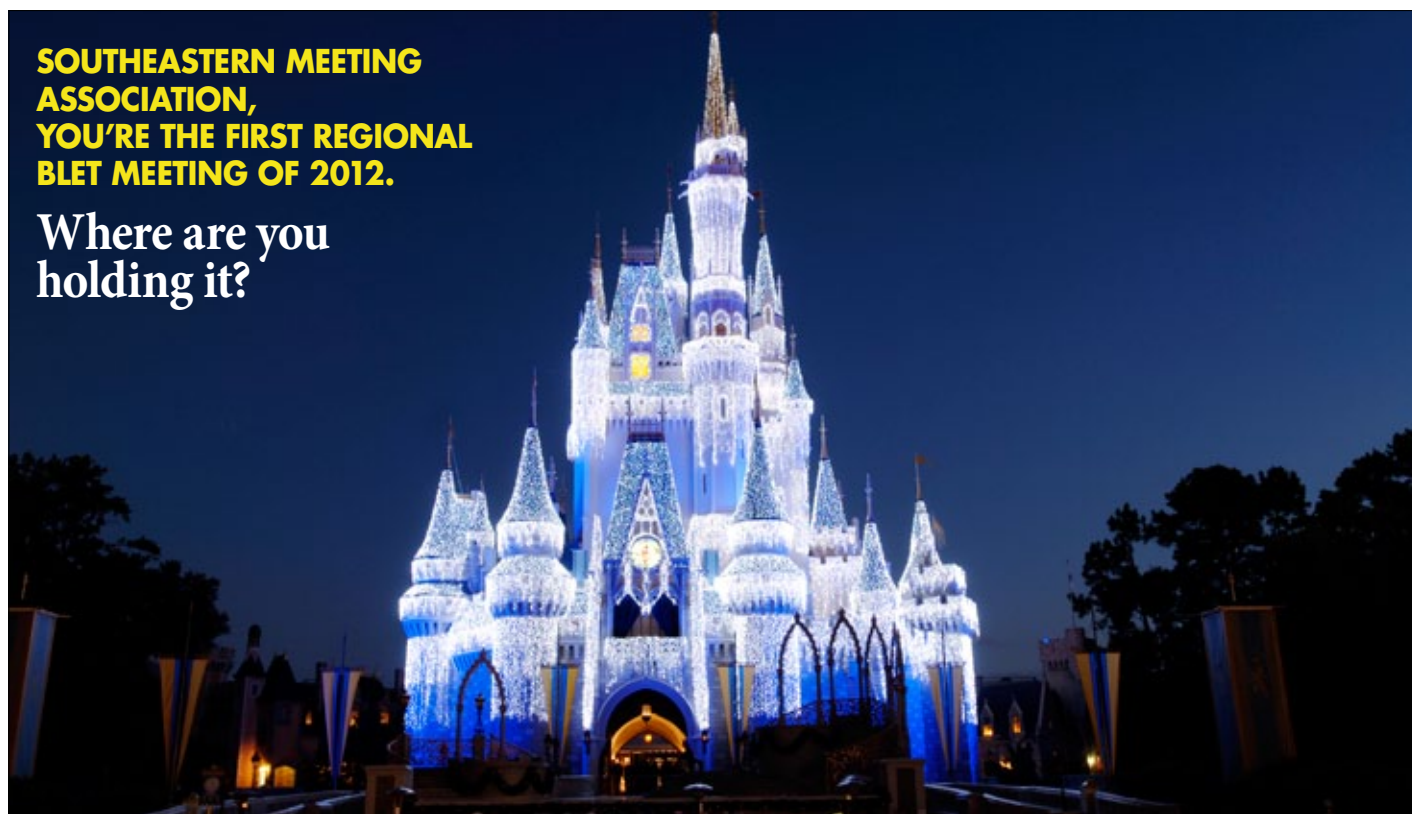
Hosted by Arrangements Chairman Matt Kronyak (New Jersey State Legislative Board Chairman and Division 231 Local Chairman), the 2012 EUMA will be at Bally's (Park Place and the Boardwalk (1900 Pacific Ave.), Atlantic City, NJ 08401, phone: (800) 345-7253, [www.ballysac.com](http://www.ballysac.com)). Contact Brother Kronyak: [mcmkronyak@aol.com](mailto:mcmkronyak@aol.com) or (201) 978-6436.

**September 9-13, 2012**  
**77th annual Southwestern Convention Meeting (SWCM)**  
**GALVESTON, TEXAS**

Hosted by Arrangements Chairman Jack Sweeny, Division 776 Local Chairman), the 2012 SWCM will be at the Moody Gardens Hotel (Seven Hope Blvd., Galveston, Texas 77554, phone: (888) 388-8484, [www.moodygardenshotel.com](http://www.moodygardenshotel.com)). Contact Brother Sweeny: [jrsweeny@coastal-link.net](mailto:jrsweeny@coastal-link.net).

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For more information and to register, go online to [www.SMA2012.com](http://www.SMA2012.com)



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**Photo of the Month: March 2012**

**MONTANA RAIL LINK'S** Laurel to Missoula manifest with MRL 4302, 325, and a five pack of SD70ACe helpers on the rear climbing the grade westward out of Helena, Montana between Birdseye and Austin. **Photo:** Robert Forsstrom



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

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

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

## Lund appointed Director of Research

Gregory W. Lund, a member of BLET Division 421 (Buffalo, N.Y.), was appointed Director of Research and Assistant to the Office Administrator by BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce effective March 1, 2012.

Brother Lund started his railroad career in March of 1979 as a Tower Operator on Conrail at Buffalo, N.Y. He moved into engine service in 1989 and earned promotion to locomotive engineer for Conrail later that same year. He first joined the Brotherhood on February 1, 1991.

"Greg has broad union experience, having served our union in administrative, financial, representational and legislative roles," Pierce said. "His union experience, along with his efforts to see that railroad operating rules are applied fairly to our membership make him a valuable addition to the President's Staff in Cleveland."



Brother Lund with President Pierce

Brother Lund has been actively involved in the Brotherhood since 1993, serving as Vice President and President of Division 421, while also handling claims for his Division throughout the years. Immediately prior to his appointment to the National Division staff, he served as Legislative Representative of Division 421, Secretary-Treasurer of the CSX-Northern District/Conrail SAA GCA, and as Secretary-Treasurer of the New York State Legislative Board. He also served on the Arrangements Committee during BLET National Conventions in 2006 and 2010.

Lund worked as a Designated Supervisor of Locomotive Engineers, certifying the skills performance of other locomotive engineers, in 2005, and has been involved with Critical Incident Response Teams for 15 years. He has been an Operation Red Block Team Captain for 10 years and has been a member of a joint CSX/BLET/UTU program to clarify operating rules for the past two years. He was recently appointed to the FRA's "SOFA" (Switching Operations Fatality Analysis) Working Group, and to a Railroad Safety Advisory Committee Working Group studying electronic device distraction.

As a Director of Research and Assistant to the Office Administrator, he will provide assistance on collective bargaining matters, and will assist in administration and in oversight of the day-to-day operations of the National Division office. He will also provide various support services for all levels of the Organization, as assigned by the National President.

Brother Lund and his wife, Margaret, have three children (Michele, 23, Madeline, 23, and Zachary, 12) and one grandchild (Sofia, 18 months). ☺

## Advisory Board January 2012 Activity

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

**NATIONAL PRESIDENT DENNIS R. PIERCE:** National Division Office, Cleveland; General supervision of BLET activities; General office duties; Correspondence and telephone communications; Supervision of Office Administration; General Supervision of Special Representatives; President, Teamsters Rail Conference; Policy Committee, Teamsters Rail Conference; Union Pacific Central GCA meeting, Little Rock, Ark.; UP negotiations, Fort Worth, Texas; North Dakota State Legislative Board mtg., Fargo, N.D.; Secretary-Treasurer workshop, Jacksonville, Fla.

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT E.L. "LEE" PRUITT:** National Duties include but not limited to: Director, Passenger Dept.; Shortline Organizing Dept.; Trainmen's Dept.; National Publications Committee; National Legislative Board; Teamsters Rail Conference Policy Committee; PRAC; and National Negotiations; UP Central GCA mtg., Little Rock, Ark.; UP negotiations, Dallas, Texas and Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; ID run negotiations, El Paso, Texas; National Division duties, Cleveland.

**NATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER WILLIAM C. WALPERT:** General supervision of accounting dept., records dept., online services dept., tax compliance dept.; Education & Training Dept.; Internal Organizing, Mobilizing & Strategic Planning Dept.; Safety Task Force; Meetings with vendors and financial institutions; Publications Committee; Teamsters Rail Conference Policy Committee; Trustee, National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust (NRRIT); UP Central GCA mtg., Little Rock, Ark.; Mobilization mtgs., Cleveland; NRRIT mtgs., Washington, D.C.; Secretary-Treasurer LM-2 Workshop, Jacksonville, Fla.

**VICE PRESIDENT & NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE JOHN P. TOLMAN:** Assigned to BLET Washington, DC office; BLET Security Officer; General office duties, telephone, correspondence communications; Coordinate content of NLO website; AAR reception, Washington, DC; Weekly DRIVE committee and Legislative mtgs., IBT, Washington, DC; Rep. James Oberstar retirement luncheon, DNC, Washington, DC; Mtgs. w/ Maryland legislators; DOT round table discussion w/ all transportation administrators; IBT Political Coordinators mtg.; Rep. John L. Mica press conference and rollout of Transportation Reauthorization under the American Energy & Infrastructure Jobs Act, Washington, DC; ST reauthorization rail title conference call; North Dakota State Legislative Board mtg., Fargo, N.D.; Hearings, receptions and various mtgs. with US Representatives, Washington, DC.

**VICE PRESIDENT MARCUS J. RUEF:** Vice Chairman, full NRAB; Labor Member, 1st Division; Labor Member, National Mediation Board Arbitration Advisory Forum; Director of Arbitration Dept; Assigned to Illinois Central; Wisconsin Central; Grand Trunk Western; Duluth Missabe & Iron Range; Elgin, Joliet & Eastern; Indiana Harbor Belt; and Belt Railway of Chicago; Holiday; Assist GC Linsey w/ arbitration research; Duluth issues and Chicago Terminal issues conference calls, WC; Assist GC Kaulins, BRC; Various NRAB administrative matters, review award proposals, etc.; WC conference call; Assist GC Reynolds w/ grievance mediation, WC, Chicago; Division 184 mtg., Chicago; Assist GC Reynolds w/ position letters, WC, Chicago; Claims conference w/ GC Hobbs, EJ&E, Chicago.

**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, Eastern Idaho), Central Region, Southern Region (New Orleans & Gulf Coast); Tacoma Belt RR; Utah RR; and Longview Portland & Northern and Longview Switching; UP Central Region GCA mtg., Little Rock, Ark.; UP negotiations, Fort Worth, Texas and Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Portland & Western negotiations, Salem, Ore.; UP-Western Lines Article IX IDR negotiations, El Paso, Texas; Eastern Idaho negotiations, Burley, Idaho.

**VICE PRESIDENT WILLARD E. KNIGHT:** Assigned to: All Norfolk Southern General Committees; Wheeling & Lake Erie; Chicago, Fort Wayne & Eastern; New York, Susquehanna & Western; New England Central; Connecticut Southern; Western New York & Pennsylvania; Indiana & Ohio; Ohio Central; Grand Trunk Western; General office duties, telephone, correspondence communications, prepare for PLBs, etc.; Mtg. w/ GC Linsey, VGC Cutlip, Cleveland; GTW negotiations, Cleveland; PLB 7159, PLB 7238, Norfolk, Va.; New England Central management mtg. w/ GC Martin, Clifton Park, N.Y.

**VICE PRESIDENT GIL GORE:** Assigned to all CSX; Union Pacific-Southern Region GCA special assignment; Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) issues, CSXT; General office duties, paperwork, correspondence, telephone calls, etc.; Work on multiple ID notices w/ GC Tony Smith, CSX; Prepare for upcoming DRC; Work on Article 30 response to CSX for GCs; Mtg. w/ Bill Wheelock, Matt Thornton, IRR negotiations, Jacksonville, Fla.; Mtg. w/ management of IRR, negotiations; Talleyrand RR employees mtg., Jacksonville; Mtg. w/ Talleyrand management, Jacksonville; Finalize Article 30 response; Flow back agreement cancellation and Portsmouth extra board issues, conference call w/ GC Tony Smith, CSX.

**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, Austin Western RR, Great Western; General office duties, telephone, correspondence communications, etc.; Vacation; Great Western RR contract mediations w/ GC Holdcraft, Denver, Colo.; North Dakota State Legislative Board mtg., w/ SLBC Mike Muscha, Fargo, N.D.

**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, Montreal, Maine & Atlantic, Delaware & Hudson), Cedar River, Louisville & Indiana, Huron & Eastern; General office duties, telephone, correspondence communications, etc.; Prep for Section Four notice, GC Whitchurch and GC Parker; Huron & Eastern negotiations, GC Lorenz, Vassar, Mich.; CP Rail issues, GC Semenek; Mtgs. w/ GC Parker and GC Whitchurch, Section 4 Notice, KCS; Tex/Mex issues, GC Rodriguez; Prep. for CP pending arbitration, GC Semenek; North Dakota State Legislative Board mtg., SLBC Mike Muscha, Fargo, N.D.; Arbitration Board and mediation, Springfield Terminal, GC Moore, Boston, Mass.; Huron & Eastern discipline case, GC Lorenz.

**VICE PRESIDENT STEPHEN J. BRUNO:** Assigned to various Rail Safety Advisory Committees (RSAC); Regulatory duties as assigned by the President; Amtrak; Long Island Rail Road; New York & Atlantic; Metro North; New Jersey Transit; PATH; SEPTA; Metra; Union Railroad; Birmingham Southern; Telephone calls, correspondence, general office duties, etc.; RRP & SSPP RSAC Working Group mtgs., Philadelphia and Boston; Watco takeover, B&S, Birmingham, Ala.; SEPTA contract negotiations, NMB Case No. 13559, Philadelphia; Passenger Hours of Service presentation/ crew facilities, Metra, Chicago; Technical corrections Rail Safety Improvement Act/ Hours of Service, Philadelphia; Mtg. w/ AFL-CIO and DOT, Washington, D.C.