

BLET members ratify Union Pacific contract

By a nearly 4-to-1 margin, members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) ratified a new on-property collective bargaining agreement with the Union Pacific Railroad.

Ballots were counted on April 16 and the final tally was 79% in favor of the proposal and 21% against.

The agreement runs through the end of 2014 and governs nearly 9,000 locomotive engineers who operate Union Pacific freight trains over its 31,900-mile, 23-state route system.

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce thanked BLET members for participating in the voting process.

"I am proud of our Union Pacific members for a better than 50% turnout because our Brotherhood's voice is louder with each additional member who speaks," said President Pierce.

He also thanked the negotiating team for their hard work at the bargaining table, including: Union Pacific General Chairmen Jim Dayton (Western Region), Warren Dent (Southern Region), Bill Hannah (Western Lines), Bruce MacArthur (Northern Region), Ronnie Rhodes (Central Region), and Mike Young (Eastern District); National Vice President Mike Twombly; and First Vice President Lee Pruitt. @@

MEMBERS AFFECTED BY THIS AGREEMENT MAY VIEW A SYNOPSIS AND THE TEXT OF THE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT AT:
WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/
2012_BLET_UPRR_TA_SYNOPSIS.PDF



BLET marks 149th anniversary

As the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) marked its 149th anniversary on May 8, National President Dennis R. Pierce announced the formation of a special committee to help the Organization celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2013.

"Our Brotherhood will celebrate its 150th anniversary on May 8, 2013, and set yet another benchmark for the North American labor movement," President Pierce said. "In an effort to ensure that our observance of this historic event is truly memorable, I am establishing the BLET's 150th Anniversary Planning Committee. The committee will work as a group to prepare our



celebration and will be comprised of members and officers, active and retired, who will plan, coordinate and execute a very special commemoration of our Brotherhood's major milestone. I am confident that our team's effort will

produce a celebration that all BLET members will point to with pride."

The BLET is the oldest labor union in the United States, founded as the Brotherhood of the Footboard on May 8, 1863 in Marshall,

Mich. In 1864, delegates changed the name of the organization to Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (BLE), the name it held for 140 years. In 2004, the BLE merged with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and became BLET. The BLET is the founding member of the Teamsters Rail Conference. Today, the union represents 55,000 hard working professional locomotive engineers and trainmen throughout the United States.

President Pierce said details regarding the 150th anniversary celebration will be announced as plans become finalized over the next several months. @@



BLET launches new membership card program

As part of its "Proud to be American, Proud to be Union" campaign, the National Division of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) has launched a major overhaul of its membership card program. Active and retired members will begin

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BLET PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY DENNIS R. PIERCE

WILL YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

The theme of my President's Message for many months has been to urge all BLET members to participate in their future by becoming more active in their Union. With all that confronts us in our battle for fair treatment and workplace justice, it is imperative that we are all working together to make our Union a strong and vibrant Brotherhood. Our strength does not lie in the efforts of just a few; rather, our strength is in our numbers, our participation and our solidarity.

This month I am making a more specific request. Later this year, the BLET will hold its triennial Local Division elections. Nominations for all Division offices will take place at your Division's regular September meeting, with elections in December and new terms of office beginning in January of 2013. I ask that each and every member take an interest in your Local Division election and even consider running for office if there are opportunities for you to make a difference.

I bring this up now for a reason. Although the Union is more than any single officer, it is imperative to our survival as an Organization that our Local Divisions have strong and dedicated officers in all key leadership roles. These selfless Brothers and Sisters are the foundation upon which our entire Union is built.

I first heard my "call to serve" in 1991, when I ran for my first Union office. Without really knowing fully what I was in for, I ran for Local Chairman of my Division in the fall of 1991. The election was a three-way race, which ended up in a tie after the first count, requiring a run-off election. I won that run-off, but



From left: Kansas City Southern General Chairman Sam Parker; Division 527 member William J. "Billy" Martin; and National President Dennis Pierce. President Pierce congratulated Brother Martin upon his pending retirement and thanked him for his many years of service to the Brotherhood as Local Chairman of Division 527 and Division 930.

I have never forgotten that I was only one vote away in that first ballot count from not having been — and maybe never being — my Division's Local Chairman.

I must also add that although the politics that accompany any election can be divisive, I still consider both of my opponents in my first Union election to be Brothers and friends. In fact, I was recently back in Lincoln, Nebraska, and had the opportunity to have lunch with one of my opponents in my first

election. This Brother now serves his Division as Legislative Representative and is a strong advocate for his members. In serving as a Division officer, he proudly contributes to our Union and its membership and I thank him for his service. This Brother is a testament to the fact that True Democracy thrives when we accept the will of the membership in any vote taken and unite to go forward as a group.

I share this personal story

On The Right Track

Election manual coming soon

The 2012 edition of "On the Right Track," the procedural manual that outlines the rules for Local Division nominations and elections, is currently under production by the BLET National Division and will be available soon.

Be sure to monitor www.ble-t.org for the latest news

with you for a reason; your Union needs you to be involved now more than ever. We are continually confronted with attacks on all sides. Whether it be the carriers' relentless attacks on our contracts, their attendance policies and blame the worker programs, or attacks from worker-hating right wing politicians, one thing is clear — we are in the fight of our lives. We are fighting to protect and preserve our way of life, and the very middle class upon which this country relies.

From our "Proud to be American, Proud to be Union" campaign to our ongoing effort to mobilize our membership, our efforts have one key aim — a proud and united membership, galvanized in support of our common purpose. Our solidarity is our best hope to prevail in this war on the BLET and on all working class Americans.

At the recent Teamsters Unity Conference, I was honored to hear Bob Bouvier, President of Teamsters Canada, address the members present. In his remarks, President Bouvier invoked the memory of President John F. Kennedy's call to service in his 1961 Inauguration speech. As most of us recall, President Kennedy said, "Ask not what your country can do for you — but ask what you can do for your

country." President Bouvier issued the same challenge to the members present at the Unity Conference and I echo that challenge here. Our Union is not a fee-for-service business, it is a collective of involved members working with other members to try and make a difference for everyone.

When Local Division elections are held this fall, you will all have the opportunity to join in our struggle. You can answer the call as a candidate for office, starting your career as an alternate to a seasoned officer, or just making sure that someone is there at the September meeting to nominate and second candidate nominations. Take an interest in the activities and business of your Local Division and support your Division officers. When and where you can, offer your time to assist your Local Division and you, too, can be part of our group effort to improve the lives of our membership and their families. Join me by joining the long and proud list of members who have served the membership as officers and active members over our 150-year history.

Fraternally,

DENNIS R. PIERCE
BLET NATIONAL PRESIDENT

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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

PREDATORY CAPITALISM

There's nothing funny about a factory closing, unless you're Mitt Romney.

While campaigning in Wisconsin recently, he shared a "humorous" story about his father closing an auto plant and laying off workers in Michigan.

He was criticized for being "out of touch." But I think the problem with Mitt Romney is that he doesn't believe working families should have good jobs at good wages.

That's a frightening thought. Right now, the last thing America needs is a president who doesn't understand that a vibrant economy requires a vibrant middle class.

Throughout his business career, Romney made his fortune from companies he helped destroy. Under his leadership at Bain Capital, com-

panies stopped making things and workers bought fewer things — because they lost their jobs.

Romney founded Bain, a vulture capital firm, in 1984. While there he made hundreds of millions of dollars. He devised a system of buying a company, slashing costs, firing workers and halting investment and modernization. It didn't matter to him if a company failed because he pulled out plenty of cash, early and often.

In 1992, Bain bought a hanging file folder company in Indiana called SCM. On July 5, 1994, security guards surrounded the building and told all 258 union workers they were fired. They could reapply for their jobs at lower wages. Some did. Eventually the workers were forced to strike.

Bain closed the plant.

Teamsters are all too familiar with vulture capitalists like Mitt Romney. We have watched as inept managers cut costs, laid off workers and halted investment while helping themselves to boatloads of cash. Then when the company fails, they blame the union — just as Romney blames unions for the recession.

This is not the "free market." This is not "free enterprise." This is playing by rigged rules and pretending to play fair.

It's predatory capitalism and it's destroying our economy.

Fraternally,

James P. Hoffa

JAMES P. HOFFA
TEAMSTERS GENERAL
PRESIDENT



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BLET legal action protects members from invasion of privacy

BNSF rescinds challenged medical information rule

On March 23, the National Division of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen filed a Charge of Discrimination with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) against BNSF Railway over the carrier's requirement that its workers provide information pertaining to off-duty medical procedures and non-work-related medical issues. Less than a week later, on March 29, BNSF informed the BLET that it was reversing its decision to implement the highly-invasive medical information rule.

Earlier this year, the BLET and nine other rail unions protested the rule directly to the company. When BNSF refused to reconsider and actually implemented the rule, the unions filed uniform charges of systemic discrimination with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on behalf of affected members.

"Apparently, the specter of having to come up with a legal justification for its challenged action brought the carrier to its senses," BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce said. "I want to thank our officers, as well as General Counsel Mike Wolley and his partner Margo Pave, for stepping up in defense of BLET members, for forcing that BNSF to reconsider its ill-advised actions. This

"Locomotive engineers and trainmen already are among the most highly-regulated workers in the nation," President Pierce said. "This blatant invasion of privacy is just one more attack in the War on Workers being waged by Corporate America."

— DENNIS PIERCE

shows the power we have when rail labor unions work together toward a common goal, and I am proud to have been part of the coalition that fought for this victory."

The EEOC Charge alleged BNSF's company-wide medical reporting policy would have violated the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and may violate other federal statutes. President Pierce characterized the rule as an invasion of privacy.

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vacy is just one more attack in the War on Workers being waged by Corporate America."

The policy would have required all employees to notify the carrier of medical conditions and/or events that occurred or are diagnosed while they are away from work. Employees would have been required to report medical events or conditions even if there was no reasonable basis for believing the condition or event would have had any impact on the employee's ability to perform his/her job, and even if the employee's own doctor had placed no limitations on the employee's job activities.

The highly personal medical information that the railroad sought to ob-

tain under the policy included: doctor's notes, diagnostic test results, and hospital discharge summaries — all of which the carrier has no right to obtain. The Charge noted that this medical information could reveal a disability that is neither job-related nor relevant to any carrier interest, is likely to result in the carrier improperly obtaining genetic information, and discriminates against women affected by pregnancy and/or related medical conditions.

The National Division's actions were taken in conjunction with the filing of similar EEOC discrimination charges by other rail labor unions, including: American Train Dispatchers Association; Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen; International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; National Conference of Firemen & Oilers — SEIU; Sheet Metal Workers International Association; Transportation-Communications International Union; and United Transportation Union. @

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enter your email address to begin receiving the most current news from the BLET National Division.

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

Peek reelected NS-Eastern Lines General Chairman

Kevin S. Peek was reelected to his first full term as General Chairman of the Norfolk Southern – Eastern Lines General Committee of Adjustment at the Committee's quadrennial meeting in Roanoke, Va., March 17-22, 2012.

Brother Peek is a Norfolk Southern locomotive engineer and member of Division 456 (Norfolk, Va.). He has held continuous BLET membership for nearly 31 years, having joined the Brotherhood on October 1, 1981.

He was elected to the office of 1st Vice General Chairman at the Committee's quadrennial meeting in 2008, and assumed the General Chairman's office

following the elevation of Willard E. Knight to the BLET Advisory Board on April 24, 2009.

Also elected were: 1st Vice General Chairman L. Randy Fannon Jr. (Division 37, Norton, Va.); 2nd Vice General Chairman W. Jason Kent (Division 301, Roanoke, Va.); Secretary-Treasurer Donnie L. Young (Division 301, Roanoke, Va.); and Alternate Secretary-Treasurer Gary A. Myers (Division 301, Roanoke, Va.). Brother Young was reelected by acclamation.

Representatives from the BLET National Division attended the quadrennial meeting, including: National President Dennis R. Pierce; National

Secretary-Treasurer William C. Walpert; Vice President & National Legislative Representative John P. Tolman; Vice President Marcus J. Ruef; Vice President Willard E. Knight; Special Representative and Coordinator of Education & Training Ken N. Kroeger; Director of Benefits A. Dan Cook, III; and Assistant Director of Arbitration Doug Davidson.

"I have every confidence that these elected officers will bring pride to our organization through their professional representation of the members they serve," President Pierce said. "I congratulate Brother Kevin and all these Brothers, and I thank them for their dedication to our Brotherhood."

Working jointly, the BLET Education & Training Department and the BLET Arbitration Department conducted a workshop for the delegates regarding locomotive engineer certification.

The delegates also discussed the on-property agreement and handled general committee business during closed sessions.

The Norfolk Southern – Eastern Lines General Committee of Adjustment represents more than 800 members from 11 Divisions in three different states (Ohio, West Virginia and Virginia). The GCA is comprised primarily of the former N&W territory and also includes three former Conrail Divisions. ©©

Remember in November

An update on the Paul Ryan budget

In April, BLET members received a post card from the Teamsters Rail Conference advising of an attack on Railroad Retirement Tier 1 benefits outlined in Representative Paul Ryan (R-WI) budget resolution.

The measure would have devastating effects on the retirement security of both active and retired members. The House of Representatives passed it on March 29 by a vote of 228-191, with 10 Republicans joining all Democrats in voting against it.

The BLET National Division is focusing its lobbying efforts to prevent passage of the measure in the U.S. Senate. Thus far our efforts have been successful, as the Ryan Budget has not been introduced.

This is a fluid situation and events are unfolding rapidly. Since publication of the post card, supporters of the resolution have circulated rumors that Rep. Ryan and Republicans have removed the offending language from it. The truth of the matter is that Rep. Ryan has not deleted or abandoned his proposal regarding Railroad Retirement. The budget resolution plan and accompanying Report were adopted by the House and were officially filed, so it is something that cannot be "taken out."

"Rumors that references to Railroad Retirement tier 1 benefits have been removed from Ryan's budget are simply just that — rumors," BLET

National President Dennis R. Pierce said. "Our benefits are under attack from those who do not fully understand the Railroad Retirement system, and these rumors are nothing but a diversionary tactic. Rest assured, the National Division is continuing to fight this unwarranted and outrageous attack on our retirement security."

Updates can be found on the National Division website, www.ble-t.org/ryanbudget. ©©

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Ryan Budget, H. Con. Res. 121 (70 pages): www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/H.Con.Res.112eh.pdf

Resolution, House Report (H.Rep.) No. 112-421, with offending language regarding Railroad Retirement Tier 1 benefits on Page 101 (230 pages): www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/H.Rep.112-421.pdf

See how your member of Congress voted on the Ryan Budget: clerk.house.gov/evs/2012/roll151.xml

Association of American Railroads letter to Rep. Paul Ryan, stating that cuts to Railroad Retirement Tier 1 benefits would not result in any savings to Federal government: www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/AAR_Letter_Ryan_Budget.pdf

BLET members ratify new contract at Great Western Rwy. of Colorado

Members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) have unanimously ratified a new collective bargaining agreement with the Great Western Railway of Colorado (GWR).

The three-year agreement runs through February 15, 2015, and includes a lump sum allowance that is retroactive to July 1, 2008. The agreement provides members with a two percent general wage increase each year through 2014. In addition, the BLET secured numerous work rule improvements.

The negotiating team consisted of National Vice President Mike Priester, BNSF (former ATSF) General Chairman Alan Holdcraft, and Division 256 Local Chairman Robert Bichon.

Maintaining their health and welfare plan was a priority for the BLET members working at the short line railroad based in Loveland, Colo. Brother Holdcraft said: "The problems associated with these negotiations were not new. Management was adamant in their need to cancel the current health and welfare plan and replace it with a High Deductible Health Plan that would have significantly increased costs for our members. The current health and welfare plan is among the best in the industry and is far superior to most short line employees' plans. This was not a road we were willing to travel."

After four years of negotiations, and with the assistance of Mediator Jack Kane, the BLET was able to reach a

tentative agreement that preserved the current health and welfare plan. It was ratified by a 15-0 vote of the GWR membership.

Employees at GWR first voted to join the Brotherhood in October of 2003, and they ratified their first Union contract on November 1, 2004. The new agreement outlines an important scope rule and contains other provisions that govern: seniority, bidding and the assigning of positions; grievance and arbitration procedures; hearings and discipline; holidays; paid time off; and numerous work rule improvements. "These are changes that our members both wanted and needed," Brother Holdcraft said.

"I was assisted by Vice President Mike Priester, whose skill and guidance were invaluable," Holdcraft said. "GWR Local Chairman Robert Bichon also assisted in the negotiating sessions and offered valuable insight into the day-to-day workings of this railroad."

There are currently 15 hardworking GWR employees who belong to BLET Division 256. The GWR is headquartered in Loveland, Colo. BLET crews operate over 80 miles of track and interchange with BNSF at Fort Collins, Longmont and Loveland, Colo. They interchange with UP at Fort Collins, Kelim and Milliken, Colo. Currently, GWR's customers include Anheuser-Busch, Vestas, Front Range Ethanol, Eastman Kodak, Owens-Illinois, AllWeather Wood, Universal Forest Products, Amalgamated Sugar, and Wedron Silica. ©©



BLET members join major pro-worker rally in Phoenix



John Tolman, BLET Vice President and National Legislative Representative, addressing a group of 1,000 in Phoenix, Ariz.

More than 50 BLET members, led by Vice President & National Legislative Representative John Tolman, joined over 1,000 of their fellow union members at a pro-worker rally in Phoenix, Ariz., as part of the Arizona AFL-CIO's Day of Action on March 1, 2012.

Vice President Tolman delivered a speech on behalf of the BLET at the rally, which was organized to protest several anti-union bills pending before the Arizona state legislature.

Nick Johnson, Chairman of the BLET's Arizona State Legislative Board, and Sereena Hogan, Vice President & National Legislative Representative of the BLET Auxiliary, helped organize the BLET's participation in the rally. Members from all four BLET Divisions in Arizona participated — Division 123 (Phoenix), Division 647 (Phoenix), Division 28 (Tucson) and Division 134 (Winslow).

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce thanked Brother Tolman and all BLET members and their families who participated in the rally.

"I am proud of our Arizona-based BLET members for stepping up to fight for the rights of all workers," he said "and for reinforcing our core message that an injury to one is an injury to all."

In addition to the rally, BLET members and representatives from other unions met with dozens of state legislators at the Capitol regarding bills SB1484, SB1485, SB1486, and SB1487. These are

all anti-union and anti-worker bills that are similar to legislation passed in Wisconsin, Ohio, and other states. The BLET members lobbied at the Capitol and were joined by members of nearly all the state AFL-CIO unions.

"It was great to see so many members of the BLET in attendance," Vice President Tolman said. "Although these issues do not currently affect our membership, this is a war against all workers and we chose to act in support of our Brothers and Sisters in the labor movement."

In his remarks to the crowd of over 1,000 unionists, Vice President Tolman said that while these bills are mostly about public sector unions now, they will eventually affect all union members — including BLET members — because we are a part of a broader campaign to erode union rights and the middle class.

"Our mothers and fathers and grandfathers and grandmothers worked hard to get where we are today in the labor movement," Vice President Tolman said. "It is your right and obligation to fight to protect the labor movement. There are people here today that this won't affect, but they are going across the board. Educate your neighbors, your friends, your children. Never forget this is about your children and grandchildren. We need to preserve the labor movement so they can live in a middle class in America. They need good schools, good medical services, and the opportunity to get a good job." ©©

A VIDEO FROM THE RALLY, INCLUDING HIGHLIGHTS FROM VICE PRESIDENT TOLMAN'S REMARKS AND FROM OTHER SPEAKERS, IS AVAILABLE AT:
WWW.HUFFINGTONPOST.COM/PAMELA-POWERS-HANNLEY/1000-ARIZONA-UNIONISTS-RA_B_1324469.HTML



Medco Health Solutions, Express Scripts announce merger

Express Scripts recently finalized its merger with Medco Health Solutions, the prescription drug provider to many BLET members.

The combined company will be Express Scripts and will continue to provide pharmacy services to BLET members without changes to the plan or network.

For the immediate future, a number of items will remain the same:

- Your medication packaging/labels will remain the same.
- You will continue to make your payments to the same company you always have.
- You will not need to change retail pharmacies or alter your home delivery

orders in any way.

- You will continue to use the same address. This includes returns.
 - You can continue to call the number currently listed on your benefit card for refills or for any pharmacy-related questions.
 - You will continue to use the same website and mobile app you have always used.
 - There are currently no foreseen changes for BLET members regarding the merger of these two drug companies.
- Any questions or concerns regarding this matter should be directed to your prescription drug provider, whose number can be found on the back of your prescription ID card. ©©

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 <—

receiving new, union-made membership identification cards at their homes in the coming weeks.

The cards are attached to unique 4x6-inch plastic post cards, which are being shipped from Cleveland via First Class mail later this month. Members should detach the card from the mailer, along the perforations, and keep it with them at all times so that they can show with pride that they are members of the BLET.

The card is union-made and printed in the U.S.A. The cards are the same size as a standard credit card for easy storage in your wallet. Also, they are made of a thick, high quality plastic — similar to a hotel room key — so they are durable and should last a long time. The cards will reflect each member's length of membership, as well as their name and Division number.

"The cards are a part of the National Division's campaign this year to mobilize, energize, and reinvigorate our members while strengthening their ties to our union," BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce said. "It is also a way of thanking our retired members who led the way for so many years."

It should be noted that the National Division



sion is only sending cards to members for whom the union has a verified mailing address. Active or retired members who do not receive a card as of May 25, 2012, should contact their division Secretary-Treasurer to provide an up-to-date mailing address, which the Secretary-Treasurer can then update as part of the regular membership reporting process. These members also are asked to provide their telephone number and email address. Members can also register at www.ble-t.org and — after logging in to the Members' Area — may update their own mailing address and contact information.

On the heels of the new membership cards, the National Division will also be announcing a new line of BLET logo gear. "Our goal is to get as many members as possible to proudly wear their union colors wherever they go, to demonstrate their pride in being American and being a union member," President Pierce said. ©©

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BLET State Legislative Board Chairmen talk safety, politics at 27th annual meeting

The BLET's National Association of State Legislative Board Chairmen (NASLBC) focused on railroad safety issues and the upcoming 2012 elections at their 27th annual meeting, which concluded on March 20.

The NASLBC has met annually since 1975 to hear from each BLET State Legislative Chairmen about railroad related safety and health issues as well as their state's political climate.

Deborah A.P. Hersman, Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), and Dennis R. Pierce, National President of the BLET, were the keynote speakers.

Timothy L. Smith, chairman of the NASLBC, chaired the meeting and also made a presentation to the group regarding critical incident stress debriefing.

NASLBC members also heard from additional distinguished speakers, including; First Vice President E. Lee Pruitt; National Secretary-Treasurer William C. Walpert; Vice President & National Legislative Representative John P. Tolman; Vice President Stephen J. Bruno; BLET Director of Regulatory Affairs Vincent G. Verna; FRA Deputy Associate Administrator for Regulatory and Legislative Operations Ron Hynes; Railroad Retirement Board Labor Member Walter A. Barrows; BLET Auxiliary President Anita Caruso; and BLET Auxiliary Vice President & National Legislative Representative Sereena Hogan.

NTSB Chairman Hersman has worked closely with the BLET on numerous accident investigations in recent years. Dur-



Members, staff, officers and guests attending the NASLBC's 27th annual meeting in New Orleans.

ing her presentation, she outlined several accidents that the NTSB is currently investigating and spoke about her concerns regarding distraction — both while operating a train and driving a car.

"The distractions in our society have increased," Hersman said. "It used to be that you were focused on driving first and were occasionally distracted, but now we are seeing the opportunities for distractions increasing."

She also praised the BLET Safety Task Force for its work in conjunction with the NTSB during rail accident investigations.

National President Pierce spoke to the State Chairmen about the Brotherhood's "Proud to be American, Proud to be Union" campaign, which is the BLET's response to the ongoing War on Workers.

"A large portion of society has been brainwashed to believe that labor unions

are a huge part of the problem of this country," President Pierce said. "Our Proud to be American, Proud to be Union campaign is a part of changing that misconception. We need to actively demonstrate to our neighbors and families that we are not the problem. In most cases, our unions and a strong middle class are what this country needs to pull out of our recent economic slump."

He also discussed various other issues of importance to BLET members and concluded his presentation by asking the State Chairmen to continue their work to educate BLET members on the importance of unions and the pocket-book issues of the 2012 elections.

Safety was also a focus of NASLBC Chairman Smith's report. Brother Smith, who also serves as Chairman of the BLET's California State Legislative Board, showed



President Dennis Pierce



First Vice President Lee Pruitt



National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert

a video regarding critical incident stress during his presentation. The NASLBC plans to distribute copies of the video in order to educate members of the public regarding this important issue.

The NASLBC will meet next year in Detroit, Mich., in conjunction with the celebration of the Brotherhood's 150th anniversary. @

UP-Central Region GCA meets with NMB in Cleveland



Led by National President Dennis R. Pierce, the BLET National Division coordinated a joint meeting in March between representatives of the National Mediation Board and the Brotherhood's Union Pacific-Central Region General Committee of Adjustment.

Along with President Pierce, representing the National Division were: Marcus Ruef, National Vice President and Arbitration Director; and Doug Davidson, Assistant Director of Arbitration.

In addition, BLET General Chairman Ronnie E. Rhodes and 1st Vice Chairman Kyle Bagby traveled to Cleve-

land to represent their GCA at the meeting. Harry Hogland, NMB Member, Daniel Rainey, NMB Chief of Staff, and Roland Watkins, NMB Director of Arbitration, represented the NMB.

The purpose of the meeting was to sort out numerous outstanding claims and grievances filed by UP-Central Region BLET members.

Seated, from left: President Pierce and NMB Member Hoglander. **Standing, from left:** Chief of Staff Rainey; 1st Vice Chairman Bagby; General Chairman Rhodes; NMB Director of Arbitration Watkins; Vice President Ruef; and BLET Assistant Director of Arbitration Davidson.

National Division hosts regional meeting Secretary-Treasurers



In mid-March, the BLET National Division hosted the Secretary-Treasurers of the four BLET regional meetings in Cleveland for a series of meetings and training sessions.

The Secretary-Treasurers were brought up to speed regarding Bylaws changes made by delegates to the BLET's Second National Convention in 2010. Also, the Secretary-Treasurers received training regarding the Brotherhood's new Federal Employers' Liability Act (FELA) counsel program.

Seated, from left: Chuck Warder, Southeastern Meeting Association (SMA) Sec-

retary-Treasurer (Division 190, Huntington, W.Va.); Norman Baker, Southwestern Convention Meeting (SWCM) Secretary-Treasurer (Division 585, North Little Rock, Ark.); Jim Thompson, International Western Convention (IWC) Secretary-Treasurer (Division 115, Cheyenne, Wyo.); and Jim Brown, Eastern Union Meeting Association (EUMA) Secretary-Treasurer (Division 269, Long Island, N.Y.). **Standing, from left:** Lee Pruitt, First Vice President; Dennis Pierce, National President; Bill Walpert, National Secretary-Treasurer and Director of Education & Training Department; and Ken Kroeger, Special Representative and Coordinator of Education & Training Dept.

2012

Calendar & Events

June 8, 2012

U.S. Railroad Retirement Board Informational Conferences

BILLINGS, MONT. AND MANSFIELD, MASS.

The Railroad Retirement Board will hold free informational conferences to BLET officers throughout 2012. Registration begins at 8 a.m. The program begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 12:15 p.m. In Billings at the Hilton Garden Inn of Billings, 2465 Grant Rd. In Mansfield, Mass., at the Holiday Inn Mansfield, 31 Hampshire St.

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. Contact Brother Karper: ekarper@sma2012.com.

June 15, 2012

U.S. Railroad Retirement Board Informational Conferences

PORTLAND, ORE. AND TINLEY PARK, ILL.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. The program begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 12:15 p.m. In Portland at the Hilton Garden Inn Portland Airport, 12048 NE Airport Way. In Tinley Park at the Tinley Park Convention Center, 18451 Convention Center Dr.

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. This training course is also available on August 17-18, 2012. For more information or to register online, please visit: 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; or Brother Kenner: kennerdb@yahoo.com.

August 19-24, 2012

74th annual Eastern Union Meeting Association (EUMA)

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.

Hosted by Arrangements Chairman Matt Kranyak (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). Contact Brother Kranyak: mcmkranyak@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). Contact Brother Sweeny: jrsweeny@coastal-link.net.

BLET members complete Secretary-Treasurer training

Several BLET members completed intensive training at the BLET Education & Training Department's Secretary-Treasurer Compliance Workshop in Jacksonville, Fla., March 4-8, 2012.

The workshop helped the Secretary-Treasurers learn to prepare to properly file their annual Department of Labor reports. They also received training regarding how to use the BLET National Division's web-based reporting system while learning proper record keeping techniques and minute-taking procedures.

>>>> Front row, from left: Duwane Richardson, Secretary-Treasurer, Division 491 (Kansas City, Mo.); Brian Finney, Alternate S-T, Division 71 (Philadelphia, Pa.); and Robert Justice II, Alternate S-T, Division 482 (Washington, D.C.). **Second row:** Jeff Ewbank, S-T, Division 647 (Phoenix, Ariz.); Brian Eaton, S-T, Division 130 (Kansas City, Kan.); and Louise Reich, Director of Records, BLET National Division. **Third row:** Walt Schmidt, Director of Online Service, BLET National Division; Dr. Elaine Reese, Director of Tax Compliance, BLET National Division; Ken Kroeger, Coordinator of Education & Training and Special Representative; and Brandon Nicholson, S-T, Division 827 (Laurel, Miss.). **Back row:** E. Lee Pruitt, First Vice-President; and William C. Walpert National Secretary-Treasurer and Director of Education & Training.



FOCUS ON VALUE

E	1
F P	2
T O P	3
B R C F	4
V A L U E	5
E D F C Z P	6
F E L O P Z D	7
D E F P O T E C	8
L E F O D P C T	9
F D P L T C E O	10
P R Z O L C F T D	11



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Photo of the Month: April 2012



FRESH SNOW ON THE GROUND as BNSF train B-PHXWSP1-13A pauses on the BNSF Transcon at Darling Ariz., east of Flagstaff. **Photo courtesy:** Stephen Schott, BLET Division 134 (Winslow, Ariz.)



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.

General Chairman Workshop, April 1-6, 2012



Several BLET officers completed a week of training at the BLET Education & Training Department's workshop for General Chairmen in Roselle, Ill., April 1-6, 2012.

Among other topics, the workshop focused on the preparation of submissions for arbitration and general business correspondence. Additionally, the workshop was expanded by one day to include an in depth review of the Railway Labor Act.

Workshop attendees are as follows:

Front row, from left: P.M. Semenek, CP Rail/U.S. GCA General Chairman; Chuck G. Vesely, CP Rail/U.S. GCA 1st Vice Chairman; Rodney Cutlip, Norfolk Southern-Northern Lines GCA 1st Vice Chairman; Matt Kronyak, Conrail (SAA/CSX-Northern District) GCA Vice Chairman; Teresa L. Bryant, Local Chairman, Division 30 (Atlanta), CSX-Western Lines; Jerry Sturdivant, Local Chairman, Division 110 (Ludlow, Ky.); Joe Cummins, Union Pacific-Northern Region GCA 3rd Vice Chairman; and Bill Walpert, National Secretary-Treasurer and Director of Education & Training. **Back row, from left:** E. Lee Pruitt, First Vice President; J.R. "Joe" Berlin II, BNSF (former C&S/CRI&P/FWD) GCA 1st Vice Chairman; William J. Munger, Division 439 (Allston, Mass.) and Eastern Region Training Coordinator, IBT Training and Development Dept.; Thomas Miller, Metra GCA Vice General Chairman; Marcus J. Ruef, Vice President and Director of Arbitration; Doug Davidson, Assistant Director of Arbitration; Ken Kroeger, Coordinator of Education & Training and Special Representative; W.J. "Jason" Kent, Norfolk Southern-Eastern Lines GCA 2nd Vice Chairman; and Richard E. Crow, Union Pacific-Northern Region GCA 2nd Vice Chairman.

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Advisory Board February 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; Secretary-Treasurer Workshop, Jacksonville, Fla.; Advisory Board meetings and CRLO meetings, Hollywood, Fla.; UP negotiations, Phoenix, Ariz.; Massachusetts State Legislative Board, Boston, Mass.; Pacific Harbor Lines negotiations, Austin, Texas.

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; National duties, Cleveland; Advisory Board mtgs. and CRLO mtgs., Hollywood, Fla.; UPRR negotiations, Phoenix, Ariz.; PHL negotiations, assisting GC Hannah, Austin, Texas; Positive Train Control conference, Orlando, Fla.

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); Advisory Board mtgs. and CRLO mtgs., Hollywood, Fla.; Secretary-Treasurer workshop, St. Louis, Mo.; NRRIT conference call; Mtg. w/ BMWED, Detroit, Mich.

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; Advisory Board mtgs. and CRLO mtgs., Hollywood, Fla.; Massachusetts State Legislative Board mtg., Boston; Passenger Hours of Service conference, Boston; Weekly DRIVE Committee and legislative mtgs., IBT, Washington, D.C.; General President Hoffa press conference on Mexican truck issue, Capitol Hill; FRA conference call on electronic device distraction, Washington, D.C.; Hearings, receptions and various mtgs. with U.S. Representatives, Washington, D.C.

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; NRAB hearings w/ Referee Miller, Chicago; Assist GC Reynolds with Duluth issues, WC; Advisory Board mtgs. and CRLO mtgs., Hollywood, Fla.; Pokegama combined XB issues, WC; Referee hearings prep; Referee Benn hearings, NRAB, Chicago; Assist GC Whitchurch, IC, Chicago; Assist GC Hobbs, Gary Rwy., Chicago; Docket 47398 study and prep, NRAB; Assist GC Hobbs w/ EJ&E/GRR interchange issue; Assist GC Whitchurch w/ negotiations, IC, Chicago; Assist GC Reynolds w/ negotiations, WC, 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; Advisory Board mtgs. and CRLO mtgs., Hollywood, Fla.; Tacoma Rail contract negotiations, Tacoma, Wash.; Union Pacific negotiations, Phoenix, Ariz.; Mediation case No. A-13610, Pacific Harbor Lines negotiations, Austin, Texas.

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.; Advisory Board mtgs. and CRLO mtgs., Hollywood, Fla.; Conference call w/ GC Ben Martin and President Pierce; NS VP Mobley retirement, Norfolk, Va.; Assist VGC Bill Thompson w/ New York Dock claims, Norfolk, Va.; Wheeling & Lake Erie negotiations w/ GC Linsey, Columbus, Ohio.

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.; Advisory Board mtgs. and CRLO mtgs., Hollywood, Fla.; Mtgs. with BNSF General Chairmen and J. Fleps, Fort Worth; PLB 7092 (Simon) w/ GC Gibbons, Las Vegas; Prepare for PLB w/ GC Brown, Amarillo, Texas.

VICE PRESIDENT COLE W. DAVIS: Assigned to: Kansas City Southern (MidSouth Rail, SouthRail, Gateway Western, Illinois & Midland), Texas Mexican Rwy.; CP Rail System/US (Indiana Southern, Iowa, Chicago & Eastern, Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern); Springfield Terminal (St. Lawrence & Atlantic, Montreal, Maine & Atlantic, Delaware & Hudson), Cedar River, Louisville & Indiana, Huron & Eastern; General office duties, telephone, correspondence communications, etc.; GC Whitchurch and GC Parker, Section Four notice, Memphis, Tenn.; Advisory Board mtgs. and CRLO mtgs., Hollywood, Fla.; CP Rail arbitration prep., GC Semenek; CP Rail issues and mtgs., GC Semenek, Bloomingdale, Ill.; NS VP Mobley retirement, Norfolk, Va.; Massachusetts State Legislative Board mtg., Boston; Huron & Eastern discipline case, GC Lorenz; Cedar River RR contract negotiations, GC Whitchurch, Bloomingdale, Ill.

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.; SEPT 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.;