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National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert to retire

VP BRUNO NAMED HEAD OF BLET SAFETY TASK FORCE

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce announced on May 5 that Vice President Stephen J. Bruno has been appointed Chairman of the BLET Safety Task Force (STF), effective May 1, 2014. Outgoing Chairman and BLET National Secretary-Treasurer William C. Walpert has announced that he will retire effective January 1, 2015.

"Brother Walpert has been a stalwart leader of our Brotherhood for so many years and it will be difficult to replace his vast level of institutional knowledge," President Pierce said. "I have every confidence that Brother Bruno, a dedicated Brotherhood officer and staunch safety advocate for our members, will do his utmost in his new role as Chairman of our Safety Task Force."

Brother Walpert has served the BLET as National Secretary-Treasurer since 2004. He served as General Secretary-Treasurer of the BLE from 2001-2004, and was elected International Vice President in 1996. His retirement follows a railroad career that began in 1973 as a fireman for the St. Louis & San Francisco Railroad in Fort Worth, Texas. He has held continuous membership in the BLET since November 1, 1973, and is a member of Division 604 (Madill, Okla.).

Brother Bruno was elected National Vice President by acclamation in 2010. He is a member of BLET Division 71 in Philadelphia, and is a certified locomotive engineer for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA). Immediately prior to his election as Vice President, Brother Bruno served the BLET as the Director of Regulatory



Members of the Safety Task Force present Brother Walpert with a brass bell commemorating his years of service.
From left: NST Walpert, VP Bruno, Assistant Coordinator Scott G. Palmer and Coordinator Carl W. Fields.

Affairs. During his years of service to the Brotherhood, he served four terms as General Chairman of the SEPTA General Committee of Adjustment. He also served five terms as local chairman of Division 71.

"The STF gives the Brotherhood a formal means of presenting the locomotive engineer's perspective during investigations of railroad accidents," Vice President Bruno said. "The STF is an integral part of the BLET and plays a vital role in our efforts to make the workplace safer for all railroaders. I am honored to have

the privilege of leading this group of dedicated members who are called upon to perform their duties at the most difficult times and circumstances we can encounter in our careers."

As Chairman of the Safety Task Force, Vice President Bruno will work hand-in-hand with Brother Carl W. Fields, who remains Coordinator of the STF, and also Brother Scott G. Palmer, Assistant Coordinator.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to have worked under Bill Walpert since

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BLET TAKING STRIKE VOTE AT SEPTA

As this issue of the *Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen News* goes to press, preparations were underway to poll members to authorize a strike in the event one becomes necessary to attain the Organization's bargaining goals at SEPTA.

The BLET has been bargaining for a new contract for approximately 220 locomotive engineers at SEPTA since July of 2009. The dispute has been in National Mediation Board (NMB)-sponsored mediation since April of 2010. The NMB released the BLET from mediation with SEPTA and the BLET formally accepted the NMB's proffer of arbitration on May 3. However, SEPTA officials declined that proffer, triggering a 30-day cooling off period that expires at 12:01 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time on June 14, 2014. At that point self-help is available to the parties.

It is possible that the NMB would notify President Obama that the dispute threatens substantially to interrupt interstate commerce to a degree such as to deprive that section of the country of essential transportation services, and that President Obama will create a Presidential Emergency Board (PEB) to investigate the dispute and issue a report and recommendations for settlement. The President is required to appoint a PEB if requested by the Governor of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, or Delaware, or by SEPTA. The creation of a PEB would postpone any strike or lock out by the parties.

Authorization does not mean a strike will occur.

BLET has been working with the IBEW to achieve fair settlements for the members of both organizations. National President Pierce urged all BLET members to vote in the strike authorization process. "While we anticipate that President Obama will appoint a Presidential Emergency Board, we must be prepared for all eventualities," he said. "We have taken the position that binding arbitration would have been the fastest way to resolve this dispute without interrupting vital transportation services to the citizens in the Philadelphia metropolitan area, but in this case SEPTA declined to go that route. Now is the time for all BLET members to deliver a unified message to SEPTA." ©

Minneapolis to host BLET for 74th annual IWC

Minneapolis, Minn., will be the host city for members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen attending the 74th annual International Western Convention (IWC) from June 29-July 3, 2014.

Event Chairman Dave Brown, Chairman of the Minnesota State Legislative Board and Legislative Representative of BLET Division 517 (St. Paul, Minn.), is confident the temperature will be above freezing and there will be no ice fishing at this year's IWC.

Brother Brown and the key members of his Arrangements Committee — Cheri Brown, BLET Auxiliary Member-At-Large, Kevin Foley, Local Chairman of Division 517, and Mark Anderson, Legislative Representative of Division 333 — are planning an IWC filled with educational opportunities and leisure time activities.

Guests will stay at the Minneapolis Hilton (1001 Marquette Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55403) and reservations can be made online or by calling (612) 376-1000 or (866) 256 2678. Be sure to ask for the BLET group rate when making

your reservations by phone. The room rate is \$135 per night, plus tax, if reserved prior to June 6, 2014. The \$135 room rate is good three days prior and three days after the event, but rooms are subject to availability.

Brother Brown advises that Minneapolis has the largest fireworks display west of the Mississippi River for those who wish to extend their stay through the July 4 holiday.

Members can begin to register on-site as early as June 29. Registration continues on June 30, which is the day of the annual IWC golf tournament,

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Minneapolis skyline at dusk. Photo: Meet Minneapolis



BLET President's Message

Together, we built our union and our Middle Class **pg. 2**

Two-Person Crews

BLET, SMART-TD seek legislation on the state level **pg. 4**



St. Louis Town Hall

Division 42 hosts informational meeting **pg. 6**




BLET PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY DENNIS R. PIERCE

TOGETHER, WE BUILT OUR UNION AND OUR MIDDLE CLASS

There has been much political discussion lately about individualism. There is strong advocacy by Corporate America and right-wing politicians arguing that we as Americans would be better off as loners, and that we were somehow able to achieve the standard of living we enjoy today because each American has acted on their own.

Brothers and Sisters, I can tell you that nothing is further from the truth. When our great Brotherhood was founded 151 years ago, it was because of unity and solidarity — not individualism — that our movement was able to get off the ground. In 1863, the Michigan Central Railroad was the only way to move freight and passengers between two of the nation's most prosperous cities — Detroit and Chicago.

When 13 locomotive engineers marched into the superintendent's office in Marshall, Michigan, and demanded an adjustment of their grievances, those engineers did not act alone. If one engineer had approached the superintendent, he likely would have been sent away or fired on the spot. But that group of 13 locomotive engineers, who eventually founded our great Brotherhood, spoke for all locomotive engineers working on the entire Michigan Central between Detroit and Chicago. Over 151 years later, the collective action of those 13 labor pioneers has had a profoundly positive and lasting influence upon the lives of generations of locomotive engineers.

This history calls to mind the words of Elizabeth Warren



Town Hall Meeting: President Pierce with Chaderick J. Black, Local Chairman of BLET Division 724 (Salem, Ill.), at a Town Hall Meeting hosted by BLET Division 42 in St. Louis, Mo. Among other items, he discussed the importance of the upcoming elections in November. Even though it is called a "mid-term" election by some, it is just as relevant as the Presidential election every four years, he said.

regarding fair taxation, spoken in 2012 before her election to the United States Senate:

"There is nobody in this country who got rich on his own. Nobody. You built a factory out there — good for you. But I want to be clear. You moved your goods to market on the roads the rest of us paid for. You hired workers the rest of us paid to educate. You were safe in your factory because of police forces and fire forces that the rest of us paid for. You didn't have to worry that marauding bands would come and seize everything at your factory...

Now look. You built a factory and it turned into something terrific or a great idea — God Bless! Keep a Big Hunk of it. But part of the underlying social contract is you take a hunk of that and pay forward for the next kid who comes along."

But today, some political pundits would have you believe that you would be better off without a union. There are constant attacks on organized labor today and attempts to shred the social contracts that all Americans hold sacred, and upon which the American Dream is built.

If you are a frequent reader

of my columns, then you may have picked up on the fact that I often single out U.S. Congressman Paul Ryan (R-WI). That's because he tends to stand against every issue that I support. It seems like year after year he has railroad workers in his crosshairs. A few years ago, his budget proposal recommended slashing our Railroad Retirement benefits. His budget proposal for the current fiscal year recommends such a deep cut to Amtrak funding that the National Association of Railroad Passengers described it as murder.

Another target in his yearly budget is Social Security. This is a particularly sensitive topic for many, including myself, and not just because I have parents who rely on Social Security benefits. I find it incredibly hypocritical of the Congressman to propose these cuts when he himself benefitted from them. According to media reports, Ryan was 16 years old when his father died. The future Congressman received Social Security survivor benefits for two years, which he reportedly saved to pay for his college tuition. This story touched me on a deeply personal level, as I financed my college education in much the same way. It also makes me incredibly angry that he would be selfish enough to seek to deny that same benefit to others.

So the argument that we are better off as individuals is errant, if not duplicitous and dishonest. The message being delivered by the other side is not one we should trust. Business and special interest groups — the folks who don't have your best interests in mind — are crafting these messages. Their goal is not to make us stronger and not for the benefit of working families or union members. Rather, it is to further empower the strongest union of all: the union of capital that is called the corporation. We as union members must be mindful of such misleading and damaging notions. As with our Founding Fathers 151 years ago, we can better achieve our goals by working together in unity.

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

WORKING FAMILIES — NOT JUST LARGE CORPORATIONS — NEED TO PROFIT FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The growing disparity in incomes between the “haves” and the “have nots” is a real problem for America, and one that is being felt in many corners of this country. And it is an issue policymakers are going to have to get a handle on if they want to ensure the U.S. retains the values that have made this nation great.

It may not surprise some people to discover that thriving cities such as New York, San Francisco, Boston, Washington and Seattle are experiencing a growing divide when it comes to income as home prices and rents soar there. But reports also show it is a problem in less obvious places and has been for decades. In fact, in four states — Alaska, Michigan, Nevada and Wyoming — all of the income

gains between 1979 and 2007 went to those in the top one percent, while the rest saw incomes drop.

“The lopsided growth in U.S. incomes observed between 1979 and 2007 resulted in a rise in every state in the top 1 percent’s share of income,” the report stated. “This rise in income inequality represents a sharp reversal of the patterns of income growth that prevailed in the half century following the beginning of the Great Depression; the share of income held by the top 1 percent declined in every state but one between 1928 and 1979.”

Given this, you would think that lawmakers at all levels would be looking for a way to reverse the trend. But the stats just don’t back that up. In fact, it is the nation’s largest corporations who

have and continued to receive big handouts. Even the company owned by the anti-government Koch Brothers got into the act, taking in some \$88 million in government handouts.

Some cities seem to be realizing the error of their ways and are now reaching out to regular people. It’s a small step, but meaningful just the same.

Lawmakers can’t continue to turn their back on hard-working Americans while embracing the most fortunate. It’s not good policy and is not the principles on which this country was built.

Fraternally,

JAMES P. HOFFA
TEAMSTERS GENERAL
PRESIDENT



66 It may not surprise some people to discover that thriving cities such as New York, San Francisco, Boston, Washington and Seattle are experiencing a growing divide when it comes to income as home prices and rents soar there. 99

2014 IWC IN MINNEAPOLIS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to be held at the Prestwick Golf Course. It was recently rated as the third best golf course in the Twin Cities. Minnesota has over 575 golf courses and was the first state to host all USGA championships. It is also home to the Champions Tour – 3M Championship, and will host the Ryder Cup in 2016.

Also on June 30 is a trip to the world-famous Mall of America. The Mall of America boasts over 540 stores and is large enough to fit seven Yankee Stadiums inside its vast complex. A special Beatles exhibit will be on display at the Midwest Music Museum during the 2014 IWC. Mall attractions of special interest to children include the Nickelodeon Universe Amusement Park, the Sea Life Aquarium and the Barbie Dreamhouse. A welcome reception concludes the day’s events.

The convention gets into full swing on July 1 with the opening ceremonies in the morning. The afternoon includes a BLET closed meeting and a meeting for the BLET Auxiliary. Members will enjoy a dinner cruise featuring a live Dixieland band in the evening.

Six educational workshops are currently on the tentative agenda for July 2, including training for Secretary-Treasurers, Legislative Representatives and Local Chairmen. There are also workshops regarding hazardous materials awareness, the BLET national mobilization network, and an OSHA whistleblower seminar.

The 2014 IWC concludes with a banquet the evening of July 2. Brother Brown has made arrangements for enjoyable entertainment during the banquet.

With over 60 museums and theaters



The Minnesota Twins have a home game at Target Field during the 2014 IWC (above), and other activities include a Mississippi River dinner cruise, countless restaurants and museums throughout the Twin Cities, and the world-famous Mall of America. **Photos:** Meet Minneapolis



to choose from, the city of Minneapolis is considered by many to be the cultural capital of the Midwest. The IWC team is organizing trips to several of the city’s top museums and cultural centers, including the Minnesota Children’s Museum and the James J. Hill House, builder of the Great Northern Railway.

“We are looking forward to hosting this year’s IWC and welcoming everyone to Minnesota,” says Chairman Dave Brown. “We have many important educational opportunities and fun activities planned for members and families, and there is always plenty to see and do in the Twin Cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis.”

The early registration deadline is June 22. For registration forms, please visit the BLET National Division website: www.ble-t.org/iwc. ©©



BLET, SMART-TD to seek two-person crew laws on the state level

As part of an ongoing effort to secure a law mandating a minimum of two crew members in the cab of all locomotives, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) and the Transportation Division of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART-TD) have provided their State Legislative Boards with model legislation to secure minimum crew size laws on the state level.

The state-lobbying campaign was developed jointly by the two Unions.

"Significant research and work has gone into developing language that both minimizes the potential for a federal preemption challenge and maximizes the likelihood that the legisla-

"Significant research and work has gone into developing language that both minimizes the potential for a federal preemption challenge and maximizes the likelihood that the legislation will survive any such challenge." — PRESIDENT PIERCE

tion will survive any such challenge," wrote BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce and SMART-TD President John Previsich in a cover letter introducing the model legislation to BLET and SMART local officers. "Therefore, when proposing legislation on this subject it is imperative that you do not deviate from the model."

Among other items, the legislation stipulates that any person who willfully violates the two-person crew law would be subject to financial penalties.

Crew size has become a hot button is-

sue following the 2013 oil train derailment and explosion in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec. While an official cause has not been determined, the train in question was operated by a single employee.

"We urge BLET and SMART Transportation Division officers to work with their counterparts in moving legislation forward on this issue of paramount importance to the members we represent," President Pierce and President Previsich wrote.

On the national level, the Safe Freight Act (H.R. 3040) is currently making its

way through the U.S. House of Representatives. Representatives Michael Michaud (D-ME) and Chellie Pingree (D-ME) introduced the legislation on August 2, 2013, in the aftermath of the Lac-Mégantic tragedy, and the bill currently has 74 co-sponsors.

H.R. 3040 would require that "no freight train or light engine used in connection with the movement of freight may be operated unless it has a crew consisting of at least 2 individuals, one of whom is certified under regulations promulgated by the Federal Railroad Administration as a locomotive engineer pursuant to section 20135, and the other of whom is certified under regulations promulgated by the Federal Railroad Administration as a conductor pursuant to section 20163." @@

Tim Smith reelected to fifth term as Chairman of California State Legislative Board

Timothy L. Smith was elected to his fifth term as Chairman of the California State Legislative Board during the Board's 7th Quadrennial Session in Santa Barbara, Calif., during the week of April 28.

A member of BLET Division 415 in Roseville, Calif., Brother Smith is a Union Pacific locomotive engineer. He first joined the Brotherhood on June 1, 1975.

Also elected during the quadrennial session were: 1st Vice Chairman Ryan K. Snow, Division 126 (Bakersfield, Calif.); Sean H. Morgan, Second Vice Chairman (and Alternate Secretary-Treasurer), Division 144 (Oakland, Calif.); and Secretary-Treasurer Scott A. Long, Division 415 (Roseville, Calif.). Brother Snow and Brother Long were both elected by acclamation.

The delegates elected the following members to serve on the Board's Executive Committee: Bruce D. Bishop (Chairman), Division 415 (Bakersfield, Calif.); Ulises Flotte, Division 20 (Los Angeles, Calif.); Josh S. Faulkner, Division 739 (Bakersfield, Calif.); and John B. Mobley, Division 398 (San Bernardino, Calif.).

The following were elected to serve on the Rules Committee: Chris T. Ranford (Chairman), Division 56 (West Colton, Calif.); Chris K. Jackson, Division 553 (Calwa City, Calif.); Martin L. Martinez, Division 5 (Los Angeles, Calif.); Alfredo Ortiz, Division 214 (Long Beach, Calif.); and Ulises Flotte, Division 20.

Three members were elected to serve



Members, officers and guests attending the quadrennial session of the California State Legislative Board in Santa Barbara on May 2, 2014.

on the Board's Audit Committee: John Mobley (Chairman), Division 398 (San Bernardino, Calif.); Josh Faulkner, Division 739 (Bakersfield, Calif.); and Chris D. Camara, Division 283 (Oakland, Calif.).

Two long-serving officers retired from the California State Legislative Board and did not see reelection: 1st Vice Chairman Darrell Azarcon and Secretary-Treasurer Mike Holt. While Brother Holt has already retired from the railroad, Brother Azarcon is plan-

ning to retire this summer. Each received an engraved BLET 150th Anniversary mantle clock in recognition of their service to the Brotherhood, along with other gifts.

Representing the BLET National Division at the meeting were: National President Dennis R. Pierce; First Vice President E. Lee Pruitt; National Secretary-Treasurer William C. Walpert; and Vice President & National Legislative Representative John P. Tolman.

"I congratulate Brother Tim Smith



From left: Outgoing 1st Vice Chairman Darrell Azarcon, Chairman Tim Smith and newly-elected 1st Vice Chairman Ryan Snow.

and all members and officers of the California State Legislative Board," President Pierce said. "Brother Tim provides great veteran leadership to our Brothers and Sisters living in California and I know he will continue doing an excellent job. I also want to thank outgoing Board members Darrell Azarcon and Mike Holt for their years of service and dedication to the BLET."

Special guests included: General Chairman D. W. (Bill) Hannah, Union Pacific-Western Lines General Committee of Adjustment; and General Chairman J. A. (Alan) Holdcraft, BNSF (former ATSF) General Committee of Adjustment.

The BLET's California State Legislative Board represents nearly 3,000 active and retired members in 20 different Divisions. @@

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD TO HOST INFORMATIONAL CONFERENCES IN 2014

The U.S. Railroad Retirement Board will host a series of informational conferences throughout 2014. The dates and locations of additional conferences will be announced as that information is made available.

Space at these informational conferences is limited and attendance is primarily reserved for

elected union officials. However, BLET members planning to retire soon are encouraged to call their local Railroad Retirement Board Field Office to inquire about attendance (<http://www.rrb.gov/field/field.asp>).

Registration for all informational conferences begins at 8 a.m. All programs begin promptly at 8:30 a.m. and end at 12:15 p.m.

JUNE 2014

JUNE 6, Billings, Mont.
Hilton Garden Inn, 2465 Grant Rd.

JUNE 6, Indianapolis, Ind.
LaQuinta Inn & Suites, 5120 Victory Dr. (I-465 and South Emerson Dr.)

JUNE 13, Tinley Park, Ill.
Tinley Park Convention Center,
18451 Convention Center Dr.

JUNE 20, Portland, Ore.
Comfort Suites, 12010 NE Airport Way

JUNE 20, Barboursville, W.Va.
Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, 3551 U.S. Route 60 E

B.J. Trumble reelected Chairman of Michigan Legislative Board

BJ. Trumble was re-elected by acclamation to his first full term as Chairman of the Michigan State Legislative Board at its Third Quadrennial meeting in Flint, Mich., on March 22.

A CN/Grand Trunk Western locomotive engineer, Brother Trumble is a member of BLET Division 33 in Battle Creek, Mich. He has held continuous membership in the Brotherhood since July 1, 1997. Brother Trumble was elected 1st Vice Chairman at the Board's Second Quadrennial meeting in 2010, and moved up to Chairman following the retirement of Gregory D. Powell, the Board's founding Chairman, on August 1, 2012.

Also elected by acclamation during the meeting were: 1st Vice Chairman Jason Girven, Division 1 (Detroit, Mich.); 2nd Vice Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer Andy J. Goulet, Division 304 (Saginaw, Mich.); and Alternate Secretary-Treasurer Scott J. Hockin, Division 286 (Grand Rapids, Mich.). Elected by acclamation to the Board's Auditing



Cutline cutline: Seated, from left: Greg Powell, founding Chairman of the Michigan State Legislative Board; 1st Vice Chairman Jason Girven, Div. 1; Secretary-Treasurer & 2nd Vice Chairman Andy Goulet, Div. 304; Vice President & National Legislative Representative John Tolman; Michigan State Legislative Board Chairman B.J. Trumble; Minnesota State Legislative Board Chairman Dave Brown; and Ohio State Legislative Board Chairman Tim Hanely, Chairman. Standing, from left: Chris King III, Div. 831; Ed Donnelly III, Div. 542; Scott Hockin, Div. 286; Mike Tindol, Div. 2; Brian Peacock, Div. 850; Willard Watts, Div. 327; Ron Black, Div. 19; and Matt Lashley, Div. 122

Committee were: Brother Girven; Chris D. King III, Division 831 (Detroit, Mich.); and Matthew M. Lashley, Division 122 (Port Huron, Mich.).

Representing the National Di-

vision at the meeting was John P. Tolman, BLET Vice President & National Legislative Representative. Other special guests included: David K. Brown, Chairman of the Minnesota State

Legislative Board; and Timothy R. Hanely, Chairman of the Ohio State Legislative Board. Retired members Greg Powell, Division 920 (Pontiac, Mich.) and Dave Fernald, Division 2 (Jackson,

Mich.), were also in attendance. Brother Powell and Brother Fernald are two of the founding members of the Michigan State Legislative Board, which was established on February 28, 2002.

"I thank Brother B.J. Trumble and all members of the Michigan State Legislative Board for their selfless service to our Brotherhood," said BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce, who expressed regret that he could not personally attend the meeting. "I know that they will have plenty on their plate during this upcoming election cycle, and I have every confidence they will do an excellent job of representing the interests of our members in the proud state of Michigan. It is also my pleasure to recognize retired Brothers Greg Powell and Dave Fernald. I thank them for their years of dedicated service to the Brotherhood and extend best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement."

The BLET's Michigan State Legislative Board represents more than 1,000 active and retired members from 14 different BLET Divisions. @@

Brian Kelley elected to third term as Chairman of Missouri Legislative Board

Brian P. Kelley was re-elected by acclamation to his third full term as Chairman of the Missouri State Legislative Board at its quadrennial meeting in Jefferson City, Mo., on May 5.

Brother Kelley is a BNSF locomotive engineer and member of Division 502 in Kansas City, Mo. He has held continuous membership in the BLET since November 1, 1994. Brother Kelley became Chairman following the retirement of Mickey Gage and was previously elected Chairman in 2006 and 2010.

Also elected by acclamation during the meeting were: 1st Vice Chairman Ted W. Stauffer, Division 75 (Kansas City, Mo.); 2nd Vice Chairman Steven C. Gillett, Division 107 (St. Joseph, Mo.); Secretary-Treasurer Tim L. Morgan, Division 86 (Moberly, Mo.); and Alternate Secretary-Treasurer William D. Honeycutt, Division 285 (Thayer, Mo.).

Elected by acclamation to the Executive Committee were: Calvin L. Groose, Division 609 (Jefferson City, Mo.); and Brian J. Young, Division 48 (St. Louis, Mo.).

The following Brothers were elected by acclamation to serve on the Auditing Committee: James W. Weishuhn, Division 442 (Dexter City, Mo.); Steven



Officers and members of the Missouri State Legislative Board following their quadrennial meeting on May 6, 2014.

C. Gillett, Division 107 (St. Joseph, Mo.); and Michael A. McGill, Division 42 (St. Louis, Mo.).

The meeting began on Sunday, May 4, with a welcome reception. Delegates conducted all business on Monday, May 5, which included updating their bylaws, resolutions, policies and conducting officer elections.

During the day on May 5, delegates heard from BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce and BLET Vice President

& National Legislative Representative John P. Tolman. Both officers addressed the delegates by telephone due to a scheduling conflict.

"I offer my sincere congratulations to Brother Kelley and all members of the Missouri State Legislative Board and thank them for their commitment to the Brotherhood," President Pierce said. "I know they have their work cut out for them in Missouri's challenging political atmosphere but I have ev-

ery confidence that they are up to the task."

Missouri's Secretary of State Jason Kander addressed the delegates on May 5 and spoke on a variety of subjects including alleged voter fraud, early voting, and a new system his office has implemented to make the voter registration process easier.

The BLET Missouri State Legislative Board represents more than 2,000 active and retired members in 22 different Divisions. @@

NST WALPERT TO RETIRE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I took over as Coordinator of the Safety Task Force in 2010," Brother Fields said. "Under his leadership, Brother Walpert helped to expand the Safety Task Force from eight to 23 Primary Investigators, giving us the ability to better respond to incidents more quickly throughout the country. He will be truly missed. On behalf of all STF investigators, I look forward to working with Brother Bruno."

At a special meeting during the week of April 21, members of the STF presented Brother Walpert with a commemorative brass bell and other gifts as thanks for his years of leadership.

Founded 25 years ago in 1989, the BLET Safety Task Force assists federal agencies in the investigation of rail accidents, helping to determine probable causes and making safety recommendations. STF investigators study all aspects of rail accidents, including operations and human factors, signal systems, and track structures.

"Our Safety Task Force studies accidents from the viewpoint of locomotive engineers and trainmen to help determine how particular accidents occur and how to prevent similar accidents from happening in the future," President Pierce said. "I cannot overstate how important that is, especially in an industry that is more focused on financial balance sheets than employee safety. If we don't look out for our own safety, who will?" @@

Division 42 hosts Town Hall meeting in St. Louis

BLET Division 42 hosted a Town Hall Meeting on April 16 in St. Louis, providing an opportunity for members to get informed, ask questions and voice concerns.

Guest speakers included BLET National Division President Dennis R. Pierce; First Vice President E. Lee Pruitt; National Secretary-Treasurer William C. Walpert; National Vice President Stephen J. Bruno; and Union Pacific-Central Region General Chairman Ronnie Rhodes.

The Town Hall meeting was well-attended by all BLET Division members working in Union Pacific's St. Louis Hub, as well as members working for other railroads in the St. Louis area. ©©



TEAMSTERS RAIL CONFERENCE OFFICERS REELECTED



From left: Rail Conference Vice President E. Lee Pruitt; Rail Conference President Dennis R. Pierce; and Rail Conference Secretary-Treasurer Perry K. Gellar Sr.

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce was reelected to the office of President of the Teamsters Rail Conference at the Rail Conference's Quadrennial Convention in Las Vegas on May 4, 2014.

Also reelected were BLET First Vice President Lee Pruitt, who will continue serving as Vice President of the Rail Conference, and BMWED National Secretary-Treasurer Perry K. Gellar, Sr., who was reelected to the office of Rail Conference Secretary-Treasurer.

"Brother Pruitt, Brother Gellar and I are all honored to continue serving the Teamsters Rail Conference, and look forward to advancing the causes of the BLET and BMWED membership," President Pierce said.

The BLET and BMWED also announced their represen-

tatives to serve on the Rail Conference Policy Committee, and they are: Dennis Pierce, Lee Pruitt, Bill Walpert, and John Tolman from the BLET; and Fred Simpson, Perry Gellar, Roger Sanchez and David Joynt representing BMWED.

BMWED President Freddie Simpson offered, "Both BMWED Vice Presidents David Tanner and Randy Cook will be retiring later this year and chose not to seek reappointment to the Rail Conference Policy Committee. They have served as Policy Committee members since 2005 with great distinction and will be missed. I look forward to continuing to work with President Pierce and the newly appointed committee members on behalf of our Teamster Brothers and Sisters."

Teamsters General President

Jim Hoffa, General Secretary-Treasurer Ken Hall and Vice President and Rail Conference Director John Murphy all attended the meeting and addressed the delegates.

As Rail Conference President, Pierce is the principal officer of the group and is responsible for conducting its day-to-day affairs. He also presides over meetings of the Rail Conference Policy Committee and all meetings of the Conference.

The Teamsters Rail Conference represents more than 70,000 rail workers employed as locomotive engineers, trainmen and maintenance of way workers across the United States as members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen and Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division. ©©

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EDUCATION & TRAINING

BLET officers complete workshops

In March, dozens of BLET officers successfully completed training workshops conducted by the BLET Education & Training Department.

On March 14, 14 officers received diplomas for graduating from the Brotherhood's Secretary-Treasurer workshop. And two weeks later, 22 officers successfully completed the Local Chairman workshop. Both classes were held in Cleveland, Ohio.

Congratulations to these hard working graduates and thank you for your dedication to our Brotherhood. ☺☺



Local Chairman workshop graduates in the office of BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce, March 28, 2014.



Graduates of the Secretary-Treasurer Workshop on March 14, 2014.

WELCOME ABOARD!

The BLET National Division is proud to welcome its newest employee. Jessica Coleman is an Administrative Assistant to the President's Staff at BLET National Division headquarters in Cleveland, Ohio. Jessica provides administrative support to various National Division staffers, primarily including the Director of Benefits and the Short Term Disability Liaison. She was hired as a full-time employee effective March 31, 2014. Welcome aboard, Jessica! ☺☺



2014

Calendar & Events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

BLET REGIONAL MEETINGS

June 15-19, 2014

**87th Annual Southeastern
Meeting Association (SMA)**

SAVANNAH, GA.

Arrangements Chairman D.C. Dickey, Local Chairman of Division 646, welcomes all BLET members to beautiful Savannah, Ga., for the 2014 SMA. At the Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort & Spa.

June 29-July 3, 2014

**74th Annual International
Western Convention (IWC)**

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Arrangements Chairman David K. Brown, Chairman of the Minnesota State Legislative Board and Legislative Rep. of Division 517, will host the 2014 IWC at the Hilton Minneapolis. See page 1.

August 4-8, 2014

**76th Annual Eastern Union
Meeting Association (EUMA)**

CLEVELAND, OHIO

Arrangements Chairman Patrick Redmond, Local Chairman of Division 607, and Co-Chair James R. Blum, Legislative Rep. of Division 526, welcome all BLET members to Cleveland for the 2014 EUMA. Guests will stay at the newly-renovated Westin Downtown Cleveland, within easy walking distance of BLET National Division headquarters. More details to come!

September 7-11, 2014

**79th Annual Southwestern
Convention Meeting (SWCM)**

ST. LOUIS, MO.

Arrangements Chairman Dave W. Grimes, Local Chairman of Division 42, will host the 2014 SWCM at the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark Hotel. For more information, visit the SWCM website: bletsbcm.org.



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5/14

Photo of the Month: April/May 2014

CSX POWER: CSX locomotive 890 slowly makes its way through Fairhope, Pa., on a rain soaked evening on Sept.21, 2013. Photo: courtesy Ben Sutton



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

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

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

Advisory Board February & March 2014 Activity

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

NATIONAL PRESIDENT DENNIS R. PIERCE: National Division Office, Cleveland; General supervision of BLET activities; General office duties; Correspondence and telephone communications; Supervision of Office Administration; General Supervision of Special Representatives; President, Teamsters Rail Conference; Policy Committee, Teamsters Rail Conference; Advisory Board mtg., Rail Conference Policy Committee mtg., Regional Meeting Association host Divisions mtg., Miami, Fla.; Lobbying, Washington, D.C.; BLET Education & Training LM-2 class, San Diego; Advisory Board conference call; Vacation; Joint mtgs. SMART TD, BNSF, Fort Worth, Texas; Local Chairman class, Cleveland; BLET Short Term Disability mtg., Cleveland; BLET 401k trustee mtg., Cleveland.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT E.L. (LEE) PRUITT: National Duties include but not limited to: Director, Passenger Dept.; Shortline Organizing Dept.; Trainmen's Dept.; National Publications Committee; National Legislative Board; Teamsters Rail Conference Policy Committee; PRAC; and National Negotiations; CRLO winter mtgs., Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; National duties, Cleveland; NYD negotiations, Estero, Fla. and Omaha, Neb.

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); CRLO winter mtgs., Miami Beach, Fla.; Advisory Board mtg., Miami Beach, Fla.; LM-2 workshop, San Diego, Calif.; NRRIT mtg., Washington, D.C.; Secretary-Treasurer workshop, Cleveland; Local Chairman workshop, Cleveland.

VICE PRESIDENT & NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE JOHN P. TOLMAN: Assigned to BLET Washington, DC office; General office duties, telephone and correspondence communications; Coordinate content of NLO website; Weekly PAC committee and legislative mtgs.; Attended IBT Political Coordinators Monthly mtg.; Mtg. w/ NTSB Chair Debbie Hersman, Washington, D.C.; Mtg. w/ International Association of Firefighters General President Harold Schaitberger, Washington, D.C.; Mtg. w/ Representatives Peters, Turner, Fleischmann, Rahall, Denham, Senator Blumenthal and several other Representatives, Washington, D.C.; Mtg. of International Subcommittee on Mexican Border Rail Crossings, Washington, D.C.; U.S. High Speed Rail summit, Washington, D.C.; Events for Rick Weiland, Representatives Rahall and Brown, Washington, D.C.; Testified before House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials hearing on Oversight of Passenger and Freight Rail Safety, Washington, D.C.; Mtg. w/ House T&I Committee, Washington, D.C.; Mtg. w/ House Railroad Subcommittee, Wash., D.C.; Mtg. w/ many Representatives and Senators, Wash., D.C.; Mtg. w/ Senate Commerce Committee staff, Wash., D.C.; Mtgs. w/ Sinn Fein, Wash., D.C.; Luncheon w/ BNSF, Wash., D.C.; American Ireland Fund, Wash., D.C.; Michigan State Legislative Board triennial mtg., Mich.; Various receptions and meetings with members of U.S. House of Representatives and Senate.

VICE PRESIDENT MARCUS J. RUEF: Vice Chairman, full NRAB; Labor Member, 1st Division; Labor Member, National Mediation Board Arbitration Advisory Forum; Director of BLET Arbitration Dept; Assigned to Illinois Central; Wisconsin Central; Indiana Harbor Belt; and Belt Railway of Chicago; Advisory Board mtg., Miami Beach, Fla.; Assist GC Craddock w/ PLB arrangements; Conference call, re: E&T workshop planning; Assist GC Reynolds w/ prep. and Section 6 mediation, Baltimore; Study dockets for referee hearings; First Division adoption session, Chicago; Assist GC Reynolds prep. for First Division hearings; Referee Simon, WC and IC DL; Assist GC Craddock w/ arbitration prep., Chicago; Circular development, Chicago; Assist LC Hobbs w/ ND inquiry; Study/critique proposed PLB establishment agreement; Assist GC Kaulins w/ disciplinary issues, Chicago; ROAR and NRAB labor members' caucus mtgs., Chicago; Advisory Board conference call; NRAB administrative issues; Prepare dissent to docket 47980; NMB arbitration advisory forum, Chicago; Assist GC Cundari w/ claims issues, IHB, Chicago; Assist 3rd Division NRAB; Local Chairman workshop, Cleveland; Assist GC Rhodes w/ rules issue research.

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE TWOMBLY: Assigned to all Union Pacific GCAs (Eastern District, Northern Region (former C&NW), Western Lines (Pacific Harbor Lines), Western Region (Portland & Western), Central Region, Southern Region; On duty at home office; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications, etc.; Advisory Board mtgs. and CRLO winter mtgs., Miami, Fla.; UP-Northern District work stabilization agreement negotiations, Chicago; Vacation; Tacoma Rail conference, Tacoma, Wash.; UP-Southern Region PLB 7158 and New York Dock, Section 4, Houston Hub negotiations, Estero, Fla.

VICE PRESIDENT GIL GORE: Assigned to all CSX; Grand Trunk Western; Union Pacific-Southern Region GCA special assignment; Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) issues, CSXT; General office duties, paperwork, correspondence, emails, telephone calls, etc.; CRLO winter mtgs., Miami, Fla.; DRC arbitration, Boston, Mass.; Pre-SSA discussion, CSX, New Orleans; Inward facing cameras conference call; Talleyrand negotiations, Jacksonville; Mtg. w/ David Ingoldsby, CSX, Jacksonville; Executive session, PLB 7655 Cases 1-10; Crew management center mtg. Mark Mayo, Jacksonville, Fla.; Winter Have extra board discussions; BLET Winter Haven extra board notice conference call; SSA negotiations and DRC arbitration conference call w/ CSX GCs; Advisory Board conference call; On-property Section 6 document review; SSA negotiations, Jacksonville; PLB w/ GC Louis, St. Simons Island, Ga.

VICE PRESIDENT MICHAEL D. PRIESTER: Assigned to all BNSF (former ATSF, former C&S, CRI&P, FWD, former STL-SF, BNSF/MRL), Panhandle Northern, Missouri & North Arkansas, Montana Rail Link, Great Western; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications, etc.; Advisory Board and CRLO winter mtgs., Miami, Fla.; Mtg. w/ BNSF labor relations and GC Wilson, Seattle; Division 238 mtg. and Division 518 mtg. w/ GC Wilson, Seattle/Pasco, Wash.; Division 402 mtg. w/ GC Wilson, Pasco, Wash.; Texas Pacific negotiations w/ GC Holdcraft, San Angelo, Texas; Division 703 mtg. w/ GC Brown, Teague, Texas; Mtg. w/ BNSF labor relations and GC Brown, Fort Worth; Safety Coordinators mtg w/ BNSF GCs, Fort Worth; BNSF General Chairmen's mtg., Fort Worth; Vacation; Advisory Board conference call; Mtg. w/ BNSF labor relations and GC Wilson, Kansas City; BNSF Safety Summit w/ GCs Wilson, Holdcraft and Thurman, Fort Worth, Texas; Conference call w/ GC Holdcraft and Texas Pacific; Division 195 mtg. w/ GC Wilson, Billings, Mont.

VICE PRESIDENT COLE W. DAVIS: Assigned to: Kansas City Southern (MidSouth Rail, South-Rail, 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, email, correspondence communications, etc.; Advisory Board and CRLO winter mtgs., Miami, Fla.; Indiana Southern contract discussions, GC Semenek; KCS issues, GC Parker, Louisville & Indiana issues, GC Hartill; Tex Mex issues, GC Rodriguez; Springfield Terminal and D&H issues, GC Moore; Mid South issues, GC Craddock; CP Rail issues and DM&E issues, GC Semenek; CP Rail contract negotiations, GC Semenek, Chicago; Indiana Southern contract discussions w/ GC Semenek and I&O Rwy., Indianapolis, Ind.; Huron & Eastern agreement w/ GC Latrig, Vassar and Detroit, Mich., Wheeling & Lake Erie issues, GC Dehart; Louisville & Indiana negotiations w/ GC Hartill, Louisville, Ky.; PLB 7627 w/ GC Semenek, Chicago; Louisville & Indiana Division 273 mtg., re: Tentative contract, Scottsborough, Ind.

VICE PRESIDENT STEPHEN J. BRUNO: Assigned to various Rail Safety Advisory Committees (RSAC); Regulatory duties as assigned by the President; Amtrak; Long Island Rail Road; New York & Atlantic; Metro North; New Jersey Transit; PATH; SEPTA; Metra; Union Railroad; Birmingham Southern; Internal reports, telephone calls, correspondence, email, general office duties, etc.; Advisory Board and CRLO winter mtgs., Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; LIRR assistance, Philadelphia; Preliminary mtg., Fatigue Summit, Washington, D.C.; Membership database proposal analysis, Cleveland; LM-2 workshop, San Diego; Town Hall mtgs., re: Contract negotiations, Metra, Chicago; LIRR contract negotiation assistance, Hapague, N.Y.; Metra Town Hall mtg., re: contract negotiations, Chicago; Mtg. w/ BRS, re: Pattern common interest in contract negotiations, Metra, Chicago; Railway Age Boardman award, Chicago; Vacation; SEPTA contract negotiations and planning, Philadelphia; Mtg. w/ NMB re: Proffer of Arbitration and contract dispute at SEPTA, Washington, D.C.; LIRR negotiations, New York.

VICE PRESIDENT R.C. (RICK) GIBBONS: Assigned to: All Norfolk Southern General Committees; Wheeling & Lake Erie; Chicago, Fort Wayne & Eastern; New York, Susquehanna & Western; New England Central; Connecticut Southern; Western New York & Pennsylvania; Indiana & Ohio; Ohio Central; RSAC/RSIA Fatigue Management Group; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications; Advisory Board and CRLO winter mtgs., Miami, Fla.; LM-2 workshop, San Diego, Calif.; PLB hearings and mtg. w/ GCs, PLB 7663, 7668, 7669, 7670 and 7671, Ft. Myers, Fla.; IO Rwy. negotiations; NS annual safety expo, mtg. w/ GCs Wallace, Peek and Dehart, Atlanta, Ga.; SBA 1063 w/ GC Dehart (NS-Northern), Boston, Mass.

BLET ACHIEVES MILESTONE 151ST ANNIVERSARY

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen proudly celebrated its 151st anniversary on May 8. The union was founded as the Brotherhood of the Footboard on May 8, 1863 in Marshall, Mich. In 1864, the union changed its name to Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (BLE), the name it retained for 140 years until merging with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters on Jan. 1, 2004, when it became BLET.

The organization was formed in the early 1860s when locomotive engineers on the Michigan Central Railroad became discouraged with pay cuts and the dismissal of their firemen. During that time, locomotive engineers at the Michigan Central were



being paid at the rate of \$60 a month on the condition that they ran at least 2,500 miles each month, regardless of the time consumed.

The BLET was the first labor organization to obtain contracts with railroads. Among the

earliest was an agreement with the former New York Central in 1875. Today, the BLET has dozens of contracts with railroads large and small, and represents locomotive engineers on 98 percent of rail trackage in the United States.

The Brotherhood has always been proud to support America's soldiers and their families. Born in the midst of the Civil War, our union's membership has been comprised of veterans of every major military conflict since, up to and including the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Today, the BLET represents more than 50,000 active and retired members throughout the United States. @