BLET organizes MMA shortline

Maine, Montreal & Atlantic is second shortline organized in 2006; 70 new members

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen won its sec-

New England Central members OK first BLET contract

BLET members have approved a

BLET organizes MMA shortline

Huron & Eastern workers vote BLET

Approximately 30 operating

early 30 operating

See Huron & Eastern, Page 8
Jim Ong, Ohio State Legislative Board Chairman

BLET Ohio State Legislative Board Chairman J.F. “Jim” Ong died on April 15 after a four month battle with can-
cer. Brother Ong was 62 years old.

He is survived by his wife, Carol; three children, J.J. Ong; Jennifer Ong and Heather Lutz; three grandchildren, Harris Ong, Mallory Ong and Ben Worley; two brothers, John Ong and Joe Ong; various in-laws; and numerous nieces and neph-
evews.

Brother Ong was just re-
elected Chairman of Ohio State Legislative Board on April 11. He joined the Brotherhood on Dec. 1, 1975, and
was a member of Division 292 in Beach City, Ohio. He began serving on the Ohio State Legislative Board in 1978.

“On the behalf of the officers, staff
and members of the BLET, I extend our
deepest condolences to Jim’s family,”
said BLET National President Don M. Hahs. “His proximity to our headquar-
ters in Cleveland allowed him to visit us often. The staff and officers enjoyed his visits and
remain grateful for his hard work and devotion to the Broth-
erhood.

Brother Ong was a valuable asset to our organiza-
tion and he will be greatly missed.

“Jim was loved by all who knew
him. He worked tirelessly for the
members in the state of Ohio. He
was involved in all of the major legisla-
tive and election campaigns that the
Brotherhood worked on.”

Brother Ong was the last fireman
ever hired by the Penn Central Rail-
road. He later earned promotion to lo-
comootive engineer at the Penn Central.
Later, as a Conrail engineer, he worked
in terminals throughout the system,
coming from Grand Central Terminal
in New York to Indianapolis in the West.
He later worked for the Wheeling &
Lake Erie in Ohio.

As Chairman of the BLET’s Ohio State Legislative Board, Brother Ong served as chief lobbyist in the state,
with his office located in Columbus. He
was a member of the BLET’s National
Association of State Legislative Board
Chairmen and served as vice chairman
for the 17-state Northeast Region.

He was responsible for coordinating legis-
lative efforts among the states in that
region.

In addition to his work for the
BLET, he was involved in the National
Association of Veteran Railroad Em-
ployees and the Masons. For the past
25 years, he and his wife have operated
the Northview Residential Care facility
in Dennison, Ohio.

According to his family, Jim will be
remembered as a loving husband, fa-
ther and grandfather. His knack to
solve problems and make everyone
laugh will be missed. He was well-
known for his storytelling ability and
was always quick with a joke and will-
ning to lend a helping hand.

Donations in memory of Brother
Ong can be made to the American Dia-
etics Association, Northeast Ohio Of-
lice (1815 W Market Street, Suite 108,
Akron, Ohio 44313).

Dorothy Cassidy, wife of former
BLET International VP Joe Cassidy

Dorothy Cassidy, the wife of former
BLE International Vice-President Joe
Cassidy Jr., passed away suddenly and
unexpectedly on May 11.

Dorothy Cassidy is also the mother
of New York State Legislative Board
Secretary Kelly Cassidy.

“On behalf of the entire Brother-
hood, I extend deepest condolences to
Joe and Kelly Cassidy, as well as their
entire family,” said BLET National
President Don M. Hahs. “This is par-

cularly sad news considering the sud-

denness of Dorothy’s passing,” which
comes so soon after their retirement.”

Dorothy retired in August of 2002
while Joe retired in November of 2002.
The couple married in 1972, the year
before Joe won his first elected office
with the BLET. Joe hired out with
the Long Island Railroad in 1970 and
served as General Chairman of the
LIRR General Committee of Adjust-
ment from 1982-1991. He was elected
International Vice-President of the BLE
in 1991, winning reelection in 1996 and

In addition to Kelly, the couple has
two other children, Joe III and John.

Cards of condolence may be sent
to:
Brother Joseph Cassidy
24 Pell Terrace
Garden City, NY 11530

Sister Kelly Cassidy
745 South Sixth Street
Lindenhurst, NY 11757

Change to Win’s ‘Make Work Pay!’
campaign to target overpaid CEOs

Did you know that while
the average CEO is earning
$5,430 an hour, a hard-working
janitor makes as little as $7 an
hour?

Change to Win is starting
a national movement to change
that.

Millions of Americans are
working their hearts out every-
day but still falling short of the
basics of the American Dream — a
paycheck that can support a
family, affordable health care,
retirement security, a voice on
the job and a chance
to give their kids an education and
a better future.

In early May, Change to
Win launched Make Work Pay!,
the nation’s biggest effort ever
to unite the more than 50 mil-
lion workers providing the vi-
tal services that our communi-
ties depend on. These are the
people who heal the sick and
comfort our elderly, harvest
and serve our food, and clean
and protect our offices and
homes.

Change to Win, a federa-
tion of seven unions represent-
ing six million working people,
is working with community
groups, people of faith and
public officials to build an un-
precedented movement to en-
sure that our lowest-paid
workers join the middle-class
and share in the American
Dream.

In the weeks and months
ahead, Change to Win will pro-
vide simple and exciting oppor-
tunities to make a difference.
Together, we can pressure
overpaid CEOs and unaccount-
able corporations, and force
changes to working conditions,
laws and policies in every cor-
nor of the country.

Change to Win has also made
available its CEO pay cal-
culator — the results may
shock you! To learn more about
this campaign go to:
http://www.changetowin.org/
MWP/index.htm
The National Labor College (NLC) is offering a special radioactive materials training course to railroad workers at the George Meany Center during the week of July 10.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the number of rail shipments involving radioactive materials is expected to increase in coming years. Beginning as early as 2007, the DOE is expected to begin a 38-year project to transport spent nuclear fuel and high level radioactive waste from DOE sites to storage and disposal facilities. With the increase in rail shipments comes the increased risk for rail incidents involving radioactive materials.

This year, the Rail Workers Hazmat Training Program was awarded funding to provide training to rail workers to increase their knowledge of the transportation of radioactive materials. To meet this training need, during the week of July 10, 2006, the Rail Program will conduct a 3-1/2 day hazmat awareness and security training course combined with a radiological transportation train the trainer course.

The 10-hour hazmat awareness and security training course will be followed by a two-day DOE-sponsored Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (MERRTT) train the trainer course. All training will be conducted on the George Meany Campus of the National Labor College in Silver Spring, Md.

The program will begin on Monday, July 10, at 7 p.m., and end by 3 p.m. on Thursday, July 13. Funding for this course will cover overnight room accommodations and three meals a day at NLC. Limited scholarships are available to cover travel expenses and provide stipends for participants unable to secure paid time off from the railroad, or other sources. Call Carol Rodgers at the Hazmat office (301-439-2440) for more information on scholarships.

Since space for this course is limited, completed registration forms should be faxed, mailed or e-mailed to the Hazmat office as soon as possible. Interested rail workers may also call the Hazmat office to register by phone, or register online: http://www.hazmatgmc.org.

Editorial: Bearding the lion

(BLET Editor’s Note: The following editorial appeared on the UTC’s website on April 27. The BLET strongly concurs with its message.)

You have heard the story of the lion, which went hunting with the fox, the jackal and the wolf.

Together, through teamwork, they caught a deer; but the lion claimed it all for himself. Indeed, the “lion’s share” means grabbing it all.

Lion’s share defines the strategy of the railroads – they want every crumb off the bargaining table, and are willing to tell any lie or make any false promise to achieve their goal.

The carriers’ greed is running amok this round of negotiations because, in the words of BNSF CEO Matt Rose, they sense a “perfect storm.”

Higher fuel prices favor railroads over trucks, reduced track capacity allows railroads to engage in monopoly pricing, and their anti-labor friends control the White House, National Mediation Board, House of Representatives and the Senate.

If ever there was a reason for each of us to register to vote and vote for labor-friendly candidates in November, this is it. We cannot stop there. Each of us must walk the extra mile to convince family, neighbors and friends to do the same.

The lion can only be tamed by breaking up Matt Rose’s perfect storm.

We must elect labor-friendly lawmakers in November lest we find ourselves in a Presidential Emergency Board next year facing, without protection from Congress, the lion demanding it all. •
Haney new Ohio Legislative Chairman

The Ohio State Legislative Board held its 13th Quadrennial Convention and celebrated its 50th anniversary the week of April 10. Many will remember the meeting with sadness as it was the last one attended by the late Jim Ong. At the meeting, Brother Ong was re-elected to the position of Chairman. However, he died of cancer four days later.

Tim R. Haney was elected Vice-Chairman and will succeed Brother Ong as Chairman. Also elected were: Timothy T. Price, 2nd Vice Chairman; Michael J. Alford, Alternate Secretary-Treasurer; and Randy Stewart, Alternate Secretary-Treasurer.

In addition to celebrating the Board’s 50 years of tradition, the delegates viewed presentations titled, “The Possible Future of Positive Train Control,” “FRA Underreporting,” “Safe Rails Secure America,” “Remote Control Operations,” “Lodging Concerns,” and “Family and Medical Leave Act and Railroad Retirement.” John Tolman, BLET National Division Chief of Staff, Greg Powell, Michigan State Legislative Board Chairman, and Ken Kertesz, Pennsylvania State Legislative Board Chairman, conducted the presentations.

Michel reelected Legislative Chairman in NJ

Ken Michel was re-elected to the position of Chairman of the New Jersey State Legislative Board at its Quadrennial Meeting on March 29 at the Newark Sheraton Airport Hotel in Newark, N.J. The Honorable John Wisniewski, Chairman of the New Jersey Assembly Transportation Committee, spoke to the BLET delegates regarding current transportation issues impacting the state.

Other guests included: John Collins, New York State Legislative Board Chairman; George Newman, Massachusetts State Legislative Board Chairman; and John Tolman, BLET National Division Chief of Staff.

In addition to Chairman Michel, other election results are as follows: Jim Chappelle (Division 53) was elected 1st Vice Chairman; Brian Baginski (Division 157) was elected 2nd Vice Chairman; and Mike Luteran (Division 601) was elected Secretary-Treasurer.

A special presentation was made to Ed Michael, who retired as Secretary-Treasurer after serving the Board for more than 20 years.

Kelley elected new Missouri State Legislative Board Chairman

Brian P. Kelley of BLET Division 502 (Kansas City, Mo.) was elected Chairman of the Missouri State Legislative Board at the Board’s triennial meeting in Jefferson City, Mo., on May 8.

Kelley was elected to fill the office vacated by Chairman Mickey Gage, who will retire on May 31.

Also elected were 1st Vice Chairman Ted W. Stauffer of Division 75 (Kansas City, Mo.); 2nd Vice Chairman Steve C. Gillett of Division 107 (St. Joseph, Mo.); and Alternate Secret-Treasurer Dan M. Schroeder, Division 48 (St. Louis, Mo.).

Tim L. Morgan of Division 96 (Mo) was re-elected to the office of Secretary-Treasurer.

“BLET members in Missouri can rest assured that their legislative affairs will be in good hands with Chairman Kelley and the rest of the Board,” said BLET National President Don Hahs. “I also wish to congratulate Mickey Gage on his upcoming retirement and to thank him for his many years of dedicated service to the Brotherhood.”

California State Legislative Board reelects Tim Smith as Chairman

Tim Smith of BLET Division 415 was reelected Chairman of the BLET’s California State Legislative Board on May 2 at the Board’s Fifth Quadrennial Session in San Diego. Smith was re-elected by acclamation.

Smith will serve a four-year term in accordance with the Board’s bylaws. Also reelected by acclamation were: First Vice-Chairman Darrell N. Azenen (Division 692); Second Vice-Chairman D.D. “Diz” Francisco (Division 739); and Secretary-Treasurer Mike G. Holt (Division 800). Alternate Secretary-Treasurer Robert B. Frank (Division 819) was elected by acclamation.

BLET National President Don M. Hahn, First Vice-President Ed Rodziewicz, and National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert attended the meeting and addressed delegates regarding affairs of the National Division, including national contract negotiations and organizing, among other items. NST Walpert provided delegates with a report on the financial status of the Brotherhood. BLET National Vice-President Lee Pruitt addressed the delegates as well.

On hand to show support for the Brotherhood’s legislative arm were leaders of the Brotherhood’s protective arm: General Chairman Bill Hannah (Union Pacific-Western Lines) and General Chairman Pat Williams (BNSF-former ATSF).

Chuck Mack, Vice President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, and Al Settje, Regional Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration (Region 7), were also on hand to address the delegates.

Seated, from left: Brian Baginski, 2nd Vice Chairman; Ken Michel, Chairman; Jim Chappelle, 1st Vice Chairman, and Mike Luteran, S-T.

Standing, from left: Robert Stiglic, Div. 497 (PATH); Pat Norton, Div. 157; Charlie Larsen, Div. 171 (NJIT); Brian Simon, Div. 226 (NS); and Steve Key, Div 272 (NJIT).

Present but not pictured: Dave Hamilton, Div. 235 (ESIT); Bob Daniels, Div. 373 (NJIT); Jim Godumski Div. 372 (NJIT); John Perrin, Div. 307 (ER); and Steve Waits, Div. 311 (NYS&W).

A retirement celebration was held for Gage, who served as Chairman of the Missouri State Legislative Board since 1998. Brother Gage was also Secretary-Treasurer of the Board from 1990-1998. Delegates attending the meeting presented Gage with a plaque commemorating his years of service to BLET members in Missouri.

President Hahs addressed the delegates, giving them a state of the union speech and an update on national contract negotiations. National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert gave delegates a presentation on the BLET’s financial situation, and National Legislative Representative Raymond Holmes gave delegates an update on current national legislative matters. Special Representative Jim Bradford also attended the meeting.

Kelley and the other officers of the Missouri State Legislative Board will begin their terms of office on June 1.
Embracing the future, one member at a time

By Onita Wayland
International President
Grand International Auxiliary

Over 118 years ago, the GIA to BLE came about as a result of a recognized need to organize the large groups of road wives, which met informally around Dad's schedule. Just as these small groups recognize the need to meet with other members with one another in their own geographical area, our founders foresaw the benefit of joining together as one organization in support of their fellow engineers' wives, and of the BLE.

The movement gained strength and flourished for the first 90 years, or so, but as times changed, so did the membership of the GIA. More spouses began working, and children's activities went from music lessons and sandlot baseball to increased involvement in school activities and a myriad of sports, resulting in a decrease in time for family activities which had also to be worked around Dad's schedule. The GIA recognized the need to adapt to changing lifestyles and society's changing times. We have succeeded in this endeavor resulting in our members being more aware of the vital roles spouses play in shaping not only the working environment of our spouses, but also our ability to effectuate changes through our elected representatives.

The unfortunate aspect of our metamorphosis is that the word is not spreading as quickly as we would hope. Through various calls to arms from the BLET against unjust Carrier practices, and by way of alerts informing us of important legislation coming before Congress that directly affects our lives and the working conditions of our spouses, we have made a difference. If our ranks and networks increase and strengthen across the country, we can do even more. In the interest of our own lives and the continued prosperity and safety of those who make those record carrier profits possible, we all need to be involved. Everyone is "crazy" busy these days, but the minimal amount of time it takes to make a difference is well worth it.

As I prepare to turn over the reins of the organization, I reflect back to what I consider an innovative and pivotal era in our history. I have overseen the continued change and improvement of the GIA started by my predecessors. We have helped expand upon our mission and purpose of the GIA to BLE for its support during my tenure as International President, and feel strongly about the role BLET spouses can play. We can springboard for change in the future — going forward, not backward. On a final note, we do not want to forget our history and heritage, but we must embrace the future, and it is time we continue to move forward.

The book also contains humorous quotes, a section on railroadse, railroaders' stories, and great tips on eating healthy while working on the railroad. All proceeds, except postage and handling, benefit the GIA. Each book is $15. There is a charge of $5 shipping and handling for U.S. orders (Hawaii, Alaska and international orders should e-mail the GIA for shipping costs.) Please make your check or money order payable to the Northeast Corridor Railroad and send it along with your name and address to:

Onita Wayland
1301 McLennan
Mart, TX 76664

ocwayland@aol.com or

Becky Schneider
515 West Redd Road
El Paso, Texas 79932-1909
beckygia1@earthlink.net

BLET, UTU join in support of N.Y. legislation

Legislation has been introduced in the New York State legislature to prohibit union officers of the Association of Commuter Rail Employees (ACRE) from receiving salaries from outside funds. ACRE represents train and engine service employees on Metro North, who previously were represented by the BLET and the UTU.

ACRE is also increasingly seeking to represent train and engine service employees on Amtrak in Connecticut where service is provided by the Connecticut DOT under contract with Amtrak. And ACRE is looking to represent locomotive engineers on New Jersey Transit.

ACRE has all the markings of a company union as its officers are paid by the employer. The BLET and the UTU jointly are asking members in New York State to contact their state senator to vote "YES" on Senate Bill No. 4722, and their state assemblyman to vote "YES" on Assembly Bill No. A-9923, each of which would stop ACRE from using employer funds to pay union officer salaries.

A cookbook containing recipes submitted by railroaders for railroaders is now available through the BLET's spousal group, the Grand International Auxiliary (GIA). Titled “Main Line Cooking,” the cookbook is being sold as a fund-raiser for the GIA. The book is chock-full of delicious recipes submitted by BLET/GIA members and their families from all parts of the United States and Canada. It contains more than 300 recipes and is bound in a hardback three ring binder (7” x 9 1/4”) that opens easily for adding or removing recipes. This book will make an excellent addition to your cooking library as well as a great gift idea for young and old alike,” said Onita Wayland, International President of the GIA.

Selling of ‘Main Line Cooking’ to benefit GIA

The book also contains humorous quotes, a section on railroadse, railroaders’ stories, and great tips on eating healthy while working on the railroad. All proceeds, except postage and handling, benefit the GIA. Each book is $15. There is a charge of $5 shipping and handling for U.S. orders (Hawaii, Alaska and international orders should e-mail the GIA for shipping costs.) Please make your check or money order payable to the Northeast Corridor Railroad and send it along with your name and address to:

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BLET NEWS

Page 5
Each year, the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board prepares a “Certificate of Service Months and Compensation” (Form BA-6) for every railroad employee who received creditable railroad compensation in the previous calendar year. The forms will be mailed to all active railroad employees by the Board during the first half of June. While every effort has been made to compile and keep current the addresses of all active railroad employees, employees for whom compensation was reported in 2005, but who have not received Form BA-6 by July 1, need a replacement, should contact the nearest Board field office.

Form BA-6 provides employees with a record of their railroad retirement service and compensation. While the form has no cash value, the information shown is used to determine whether an employee qualifies for benefits and the amount of those benefits. It is important that employees review their Form BA-6 to see whether their own records of service months and creditable compensation agree with the figures shown on the form. In checking the 2005 compensation total, employees should be aware that annual earnings up to $80,000 were creditable for railroad retirement purposes in that year, and that $80,000 is the maximum amount shown on the form. To assist employees in reviewing their service credits, the form also shows service credited on a month-by-month basis for 2004, 2003, and 2002, when the creditable compensation maximums were $78,900, $87,000, and $84,900, respectively. In addition, the form identifies the employers reporting the employee’s 2005 service and compensation.

Besides the months of service reported by employers, Form BA-6 shows the number of any additional service months deemed by the Board. December service months may be credited under certain conditions for an employee who did not work in all 12 months of the year. Creditable service months exceeding monthly prorations of the creditable tier II earnings maximum for the year; however, the total of reported and deemed service months may never exceed 12 in a calendar year; and no service months, reported or deemed, can be credited after retirement, severance payments, the section designated “Taxable Amount,” show the amounts of any separation pay shown. If the last four digits of an employer’s social security number are shown, his or her birth date shown as 99-99, and the sex code shows as U (unknown), it means the Board is verifying his or her social security number with the Social Security Administration. Otherwise, if the personal identification information is incorrect or incomplete (generally cases where the employee’s surname has more than 10 letters and the form shows only the first five digits (e.g. rail or letters correct, the employee should contact the nearest Board field office. The field office can then correct the Board’s records. This is important in order to prevent identity or security-related problems that could arise if the employee wants to use certain Internet services available on the Board’s Web site. Employees can request that printouts of their individual railroad retirement service records of service months and compensation be mailed to them. A PIN Password is not required to use this service. It can be accessed simply by visiting the Board’s Web site at www.rrb.gov, clicking on “Benefit Online Services (MainLine),” and selecting the “Request Service & Compensation History” option. Employees may also view their railroad retirement service and compensation records, get estimates of their future annuities, apply for, as well as claim, railroad unemployment benefits, and access their individual railroad unemployment insurance account statements, through the Board’s Web site. However, to use these additional online services, an employee must first get a PIN/Password and then establish an

BLET members to vote on ‘one member, one vote’ initiative; ballots due June 17

Between now and June 17, BLET members will vote on an initiative that could drastically change the way the organization elects its top officials. The petition calls for the direct election of National Division officers (one member, one vote) in accordance with the current system of election by delegates at a National Convention. A sufficient number of petitions were received in accordance with the BLET Bylaws to make it mandatory for the National President to circulate a ballot calling for a vote of the active membership on the issue. Approximately 37,000 ballots were mailed to all active BLET members on April 20. Members will have until June 17 to return the ballots. In recent weeks, a number of BLET local division officers, general chairmen and national officers have received unsolicited letters from the Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU) endorsing this referendum. However, John F. Murphy, Director of the Teamsters Rail Conference, issued a letter to BLET officers on April 19, informing them that TDU has no official status in the Union and speaks only for itself. “We have received inquiries concerning the standing of the TDU within the International Brotherhood of Teamsters,” Murphy wrote. “The referendum concerning direct election of BLET officers is an issue that must be decided by the members of the BLET. The International Union has not expressed any position on the referendum, one way or the other.” A copy Murphy’s letter is available on the BLET website. Members needing a replacement ballot must contact Tonya of the BLET National Division at (216) 241-

See BLET’s Form BA-6, Page 7
Pattern agreement ‘unfair’ for BLET members at LIRR

The BLET members at the Long Island Rail Road ratified a pattern contract settlement recently.

During the long running negotiations, three different disputes were arbitrated, one of which began in Federal Court when BLET members threatened to strike over the carrier using outside contractors to move trains in its new Arch Street Yard facility.

“We fought long and hard in an effort to negotiate an agreement that not only recognized issues unique to our craft but compensated us for our superior skill, responsibility and productivity as well,” said General Chairman Robert M. Evers. “Unfortunately, our demand for a release from mediation was denied and we ended up with the pattern settlement negotiated by another craft. During the past 10 years there has been a huge turnover in our membership due to retirements and many of these members were unfamiliar with pattern bargaining.

“They now realize the inherent unfairness associated with this process and the consequences it has on not only our wages and benefits but also our lack of leverage at the bargaining table. However, one of the positive aspects of this settlement was that our members coming together with their General Committee and participating in our Organization’s democratic ratification process. I am most grateful for the assistance of President Hahs, First Vice President Rodzwicz, our legal counsel, and our Arbitration Department, who were with us every step of the way during our struggle for a fair and equitable agreement,” BLET members working on the New York & Atlantic Railroad also ratified an agreement recently.

“We hammered out a fair settlement that did not require us to overcome a pattern agreement,” General Chairman Evers said. “In addition to a continuation of a $20 per day longevity payment, the agreement also provides for the ‘rolling in’ of the Certification Allowance into the hourly rate and time and one-half for working a sixth and seventh day in the workweek.

“The New York & Atlantic Railroad truly cares about their employees, which was demonstrated during negotiations, which is in sharp contrast to having to deal with the MTA/LIRR. The percentage wage increases over the four years of the agreement will ultimately be enhanced by the profit sharing clause should the carrier increase their business. BLET members are essentially partners in the success of the freight operating over the LIRR and have been recognized as such as a result of this agreement.”

Election Supervisor’s Sixth Report to BLET Members

Candidate Nominations At The Convention: — The 27th International Convention of the IIBT is scheduled to convene on June 26, 2006 and have sessions each day through Friday, June 30. Delegates at the convention nominate candidates for IIBT international union office.

The schedule for nominations is stated in the Supplemental Election Supervisor Rules for the 27th International IIBT Convention. Copies can be obtained at the Election Supervisor’s Office at the Convention, located in the Gold Ballroom at Bally’s, or by downloading them from www.ibtvote.org. The Supplemental Rules also govern procedures for floor nominations, floor speeches in support of nominations, campaign activity, floor demonstrations, voting procedures, and observer rights for all aspects of the nominations. The Supplemental Rules and Article III, § 5 of the Rules for the 2005-2006 IIBT International Union Delegate and Officer Election set out all the rules that govern the nomination process.

A BLET member is eligible to run for an IIBT international union office if he she is a member in continuous good standing for a period of five (5) consecutive months between January 2006 and May 2006, with no interruptions in active membership due to suspensions, expulsions, withdrawals, transfers or failures to pay fines, and assessments during any part of that period.

To be nominated to run for IIBT international office, a candidate nominated from the Convention floor must receive at least five percent (5%) of the votes cast in the secret ballot nomination vote for that office. Only delegates accredited by the Office of the Election Supervisor are eligible to cast votes in the secret ballot nomination voting. A candidate for union-wide office (General President, General Secretary-Treasurer, at-large Vice President, International Trustee) must receive at least five percent of the secret ballot nomination votes cast by all delegates. A candidate nominated from the floor for a regional Vice-President position must receive at least five percent of the secret ballot nomination votes cast by all delegates from the floor nominee’s region.

Delegate Elections By The Numbers: — 614 IIBT Local Unions, GCC Local Unions, BLET General Committees of Adjustment, and BMWED System Federations elected delegates to the 27th International Convention of the IIBT. almost all of these elections were conducted since January 1, 2006. There were 152 contested elections for Convention delegate, the other delegates were nominated without opposition. Here is the breakdown of delegates expected to attend the Convention:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Delegate Type</th>
<th># of Delegates</th>
<th># of Alternate Delegates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IBT Locals</td>
<td>1,583</td>
<td>985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCC Locals</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMWED SFs</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLET GCAs</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1,798</td>
<td>1,154</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These are the figures available at the time this publication went to press, before accreditation was completed. The final number of accredited delegates and the number of alternates remaining at the end of accreditation may be different than stated here.

General Election Dates: — If any of the IIBT international offices are contested after the nominating Convention, the Office of the Election Supervisor will conduct the general election. We expect that ballots would be mailed after the Convention for details about the date, time and location of the candidate forum.

Candidate Forum: — If the office of IIBT General President is contested after the nominating Convention, the candidates for that office (or, if they choose, their General Secretary Treasurer running mates) must participate in a candidate forum where they will have an opportunity to address issues affecting the IIBT and its members. The forum will be recorded and the recording will be made available for distribution to members. Check www.ibtvote.org after the Convention for details about the date, time and location of the candidate forum.

Richard W. Mark
Election Supervisor

Continued from Page 6

RRB’s Form BA-6

Continued from Page 6

RRB Internet Services account. To do this, employees can click on “Benefit Online Services (MainLine)” and then click on the “Create an account” link for directions on establishing an RRB Internet Services account. At that time, to ensure security, they must apply for a Password Request Code, which they will receive by mail in about 7 to 10 days.

If the employee’s name was incomplete on Form BA-6, and he or she has not yet contacted a Board field office to correct it, the employee should enter his or her first and middle initials and his or her surname just as it appears on the Form BA-6 or a previously furnished printout of service and compensation, along with the other requested information.

For most employees, the address and phone number of the Board office serving their area are provided on the form. Addresses and phone numbers for all Board offices are available by calling the RRB Help Line at (800) 808-0772 or by checking www.rrb.gov. Most Board offices are open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, expect on Federal holidays.

Any other discrepancies in Form BA-6 should be reported promptly in writing to: Protest Unit-CESC, U.S. Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2002. The employees must include their social security number in the letter. Form BA-6 also explains what other documentation and information should be provided. The law limits to four years the period during which corrections can be made.
A message from Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa

Workplace safety for all

Last year, many working men and women throughout the United States, including Teamster members, were killed and injured on the job due to unsafe conditions.

Thirty-six years ago, Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act, promising every worker the right to a safe job. Decades of struggle by workers and their Unions have resulted in significant improvements in working conditions. Unions have won laws and protections that have made workplaces safer for all workers. Union contracts have also given workers a voice on the job.

Nonetheless, the toll of workplace injuries, illnesses and deaths remains enormous. Hundreds of thousands of workers are injured or killed every year and railway incidents continue to be a leading cause of on-the-job fatalities.

Some groups of workers are particularly at risk, suffering very high rates of job injuries and fatalities. Hispanic and immigrant workers, who often work in the most dangerous jobs and are exploited by employers, have no union protections and are afraid to speak out. Many public sector workers are exploited by employers, have no union protections and are afraid to exercise their legal rights.

I look forward to seeing you at our convention on June 26.

Fraternally,

James P. Hoffa
General President

MAY 2006 CALENDAR & EVENTS

JUNE 4-9, 2006... 77th Annual BLET-GIA Southeastern Meeting (SMA)
Hosted by SMA Chairman T.L. Reed and the members of BLET Division 19 and Division 205. The 77th annual SMA will be held at the Chattanooga Marriott at the Convention Center in Chattanooga, Tenn. See www.blet.org or March 2006 newsletter for registration form and other details.

JUNE 12-16, 2006... 68th Annual BLET-GIA Eastern Union Meeting (EUUA)
Hosted by EUUA Arrangements Chairman R.J. Chapter and the members of BLET Division 157, the 68th annual EUUA will be held at the Tropicana Casino & Resort on the Boardwalk in Atlantic City, N.J. See www.blet.org or March 2006 newsletter for registration form and other details.

JUNE 19-22, 2006... BLET National Division Convention, Las Vegas, Nevada
The First National Convention of the BLET National Division will be held at the Bally’s in Las Vegas.

JUNE 24-30, 2006... 27th Teamsters International Convention, Las Vegas, Nevada
The 27th International Convention of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters will be held at the Bally’s Paris in Las Vegas.

JULY 18-23, 2006... 66th Annual BLET-GIA International Western Convention (IWC)
Hosted by S.Y. Railbark and the members of BLET Division 94, the 66th annual IWC will be held at the Holiday Inn Rapid City–Rushmore Plaza in Rapid City, S.D. See www.blet.org or March 2006 newsletter for registration form and other details.

AUGUST 20-24, 2006... 71st Annual BLET-GIA Southwestern Convention (SWCM)
Hosted by A.L. Williams and the members of BLET Divisions 182, 279, 355, 855 and GIA Auxiliary 37, the 71st annual SWCM will be held at The Peabody Little Rock in Little Rock, Ark. Make reservations by calling 1-800-Bookby (or 1-800-399-7700). For more details, contact A.L. Williams by e-mail: ALWINS@bighug.net or Joyce Norman Baker at (513) 831-8558.

Advisory Board March Activity

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

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