



DAILY NEWS UPDATES  
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# Locomotive

ENGINEERS & TRAINMEN NEWS



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PUBLISHED BY THE BLET, A DIVISION OF THE RAIL CONFERENCE, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

## Disaster Relief

**Teamsters offer assistance in five states**

**T**he International Brotherhood of Teamsters is offering assistance as many BLET members rebuild their homes and lives after devastating storms destroyed homes and property in the southeastern United States in April.

The Teamsters Disaster Relief Fund is currently accepting applications for financial assistance from members in specific storm-ravaged counties in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee. See below for specific list of counties.

"The Teamsters are all about people helping people," BLET National President Dennis Pierce said. "Members who suffered property loss or damage as a result of these storms can seek help from the Teamsters. It's just one of many services offered by the BLET and IBT."

In early May, Teamster "Disaster Alert Notices" and "Request for Help" forms for each state were circulated to the BLET membership via [www.ble-t.org](http://www.ble-t.org).

If you have experienced a loss due to extreme weather, please download and fill out the appropriate forms, or call the Teamsters Disaster Relief Fund office in Washington at (202) 624-8971.

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**PATH OF DESTRUCTION:** FEMA photos show devastation caused by storms that rocked several states in the south. The Teamsters are offering Disaster Relief assistance to help members rebuild their lives.



## Long Island to host BLET for annual EUMA



Members can see old float bridges once used by the Long Island Rail Road.

**A**rrangements Chairman Jim Brown and the members of BLET Division 269 are inviting all BLET members to Long Island, N.Y., for the Eastern Union Meeting Association's 73rd annual convention, August 2-7, 2011.

"There is so much to do on Long Island that we couldn't get it all in during your stay this year," Brother Brown said. "From Montauk at the very east end of Long Island to New York City, you will not have enough time in the five days while attending EUMA to see it all."

BLET members and guests will stay at the Hyatt Regency Long Island, and hotel reservations should be made online though the EUMA's website, [www.euma2011.org](http://www.euma2011.org).

The members of Division 269 have organized many educational opportunities for attendees, including: Passenger Hours of Service workshop with the Federal Railroad Administration; Hazardous materials handling workshop; Local Chairman/mock arbitration workshop; Secretary-Treasurer workshop; and Mobilization workshop.

Entertainment options are plentiful. The EUMA kicks off with a traditional Long Island clambake and welcome reception on August 2. The annual golf outing is on August 4. A trip to the Tanger Outlet Center, aquarium, or Splish Splash Water park are options for non-golfers.

On August 5, EUMA attendees will enjoy the scholarship awards banquet.

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### Western General Chairman

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

# RAIL CONFERENCE AND THE WAR ON WORKERS

Since becoming President of the Teamsters Rail Conference last summer, I have studied, discussed and considered various ways that the efforts of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen and the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division can be coordinated under the Rail Conference umbrella to provide our members with more effective and more efficient representation.

Our great Brotherhoods already collaborate on numerous significant efforts, from collective bargaining as part of the Rail Labor Bargaining Coalition, to legislative efforts in partnership with the Teamsters Government Affairs Department, to development and enforcement of rail safety regulations along with the rest of Rail Labor. The past year has seen coordination of our work in support of high-speed passenger rail transportation through the Conference's Passenger Rail Advisory Committee, as well as the exploration of possible joint training efforts.

My goal as Rail Conference President is to unleash the focused power of the Conference — and with it the IBT as a whole — to make a difference for the men and women who belong to the BLET and the BMWED. I am fortunate to have BMWED President Freddie Simpson as a partner in these efforts, and to be supported by a Policy Committee comprised of some of the smartest, most dedicated and hardest working officers in all of Rail Labor.

This year — above and beyond the fights that consume our day-to-day work lives — we are facing a challenge to our very existence that hasn't

**Freddie Simpson**, BMWED President, and Dennis Pierce lead the Rail Conference in the fight to protect rail workers' rights.



confronted us in generations.

Ronald Reagan's 1981 firing of nearly 12,000 members of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization was a defining moment for anyone who is in a union leadership position. Labor's failure to mount an effective response opened the door to a relentless attack on workers and the organizations that represent them that has lasted more than a generation.

The percentage of the workforce represented by a union has plummeted from 23% to less than 12% since PATCO. This period also has seen the largest upward transfer of wealth in American history. Over the 22-year period from 1989 through the end of last year, worker compensation

grew less than 20% — less than one percent per year — while worker productivity increased by more than 60%. At the same time, the ratio of average CEO compensation to average worker pay skyrocketed from 42:1 in 1980 to 263:1 in 2009, and corporate tax revenues as a percentage of gross domestic product fell from about 2% in 1981 to below 1% in 2009.

As a result, the wealthiest 5% of Americans today control 72% of America's financial wealth, while the poorest 80% — including you and me — control only 7%. The richest 400 Americans have more combined wealth than the poorer half of all Americans; these 400 have more wealth than over 150 million Americans combined.

Since last November's elections, the war on workers has been elevated to a level not seen in nearly a century, and is being fought on many fronts. This is truly a class war being waged by the union of capital — corporate America — and their political henchmen against workers and the labor unions that represent them. The battle getting the most attention from the media these days is the attack on public workers, especially at the state government level, where there is a propaganda war that tries to pit taxpayer against police officer, fireman and teacher.

The members of the Teamsters Rail Conference are not immune from this onslaught. In addition to the carriers trying to gut our health care cov-

erage, overturn key portions of the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008, and eviscerate FRA safety regulations, they have unleashed their legislative arm in an effort to deny our very rights to organize and operate.

Earlier this year the House of Representatives passed a transportation authorization bill that included a provision to deny railroad and airline workers the right to choose their representatives by majority vote; instead all non-votes would be counted as "no" votes as a matter of law. An effort by Representative Steve LaTourette, who bucked Republican leadership by proposing an amendment to strip this portion of the bill, failed on an almost straight party-line vote. Then, Republican Senator Jim DeMint introduced S. 504, which would strip from the Railway Labor Act the legal right to enter into union shop agreements and dues deduction agreements.

Between now and Election Day 2012 the Rail Conference will carry out a plan to preserve the rights won by our forefathers at the point of a bayonet, and we will implement a plan to drive from office those agents of the union of capital who would turn the clock on our wages, benefits, working conditions and human rights back to where it was when our Brotherhoods were infants. As part of the Teamsters Rail Conference each BLET member will have an important role to fulfill if our plans are to be realized, and I hope each and every one of you answers the call when it comes.

Fraternally,

**DENNIS R. PIERCE**  
BLET NATIONAL PRESIDENT

66 The wealthiest 5% of Americans today control 72% of America's financial wealth, while the poorest 80% — including you and me — control only 7%. The richest 400 Americans have more combined wealth than the poorer half of all Americans; these 400 have more wealth than over 150 million Americans combined. 99

## 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

# FREE TRADE'S DEVASTATING IMPACT

Congress will soon be voting on whether to send good American jobs with good American benefits to countries with cheap labor and no benefits.

These so-called "free-trade agreements" with South Korea, Panama and Colombia will be sent to Capitol Hill for approval. What politicians are calling "free trade" is actually freedom for CEOs to trade our jobs for more big salaries and bonuses.

You'd think politicians would learn something from our experience with job-killing trade deals. We've seen with our own eyes the disappearance of auto plants that used to have 6,000 workers running three shifts and manufactur-

ing companies that employed thousands more. We've struggled with the devastation of our cities and the communities left without hope for their kids.

I'm concerned about the trade deal with South Korea because it's likely to have an impact very similar to NAFTA. According to a recent study by the Economic Policy Institute (EPI), the two industries hurt most by NAFTA are computers and electronic parts and motor vehicles and automotive parts. Those are the same two industries that are being harmed already by South Korea. A trade deal would worsen our growing trade deficit with that country and cost 159,000 U.S. jobs in seven years, according to EPI.

Many of our cities were built by businesses that hired American workers and needed a well-trained American workforce. And they were built by the hard work of our parents and grandparents, and the strength in numbers that came from unions that represented them.

Let's send a message to Capitol Hill – show us you stand with American workers and vote against these job-killing trade deals. We need to keep and grow jobs here in America!

Faternally,

*James P. Hoffa*

**JAMES P. HOFFA**  
TEAMSTERS GENERAL  
PRESIDENT



66 What politicians are calling 'free trade' is actually freedom for CEOs to trade our jobs for big salaries and bonuses. 99

## DISASTER RELIEF

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Forms are currently archived on the BLET website at [www.ble-t.org/disaster](http://www.ble-t.org/disaster).

Deadline for application (including all requested documentation) in all states except Missouri is June 20, 2011. The deadline for Missouri is June 27, 2011.

### ALABAMA COUNTIES:

Autauga, Bibb, Blount, Calhoun, Cherokee, Choctaw, Cullman, DeKalb, Elmore, Etowah, Fayette, Franklin, Greene, Hale, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marengo, Marion, Marshall, Saint Clair, Sumter, Tallapoosa, Tuscaloosa, Walker and Washington.

### GEORGIA COUNTIES:

Bartow, Catoosa, Coweta, Dade, Floyd, Greene, Lamar, Meriwether, Monroe, Morgan, Pickens, Polk, Rabun, Spalding, Troup and Walker.

### MISSISSIPPI COUNTIES:

Chickasaw, Choctaw, Clarke, Greene, Hinds, Jasper, Kemper, Lafayette, Monroe, Neshoba and Webster Counties.

### MISSOURI COUNTIES:

Butler, Cape Girardeau, Howell, Jasper, McDonald, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pulaski, Ripley, Saint Louis, Scott, Stoddard, Stone and Taney.

### TENNESSEE COUNTIES:

Bradley, Greene, Hamilton and Washington.

### BLET EDITOR'S NOTE:

Additional Teamster Disaster Relief Fund opportunities will likely be issued after this publication goes to press, especially in light of tornado damage in Missouri and Mississippi River flooding. Members are advised to monitor the BLET website for current updates. All current Disaster Relief Fund notices are archived at: [www.ble-t.org/disaster](http://www.ble-t.org/disaster). @@

## TEAMSTERS OFFER AID TO HELP MEMBERS HIT HARD BY STORMS



## SIGN UP FOR BLET NEWS FLASHES!

**REGISTER AT [WWW.BLE-T.ORG](http://WWW.BLE-T.ORG) TO GET BROTHERHOOD NEWS EMAILED TO YOU**

Stay up-to-date with the latest Brotherhood news by going to the BLET website and signing up to receive BLET News Flash alerts via email.

The News Flash alerts are news articles from the BLET National Division website that are sent automatically emailed to you.

**TO REGISTER, JUST GO TO [WWW.BLE-T.ORG](http://WWW.BLE-T.ORG).** In the lower right hand corner of the page, you will find an area to

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.



# SLBC Dimond reelected by acclamation in Wisconsin

**W**isconsin State Legislative Board Chairman Tony Dimond of BLET Division 176 (Adams, Wisc.) was reelected to his second full term at the Board's quadrennial meetings in Madison, Wisc., from April 5-6, 2011.

Also re-elected at the meeting were First Vice Chairman Paul Aird of BLET Division 173 (Fond Du Lac); Secretary-Treasurer Paul Dinauer of BLET Division 882 (Milwaukee); Chaplain Mike Corrigan of BLET Division 174 (Stevens Point); and Audit Committee members Richard Hemmingson of BLET Division 241 (Altoona, Wisc.) and Mike Oster-tag of BLET Division 209 (Green Bay). Newly elected were Second Vice Chairman Adam Makurat of BLET Division 405 (Milwaukee) and Audit Committee member Justin Johnson of BLET Division 253 (Portage).

"I'm very proud to have been re-elected to serve the Brotherhood and the members in Wisconsin," Chairman Dimond said. "I have been fortunate to serve over the years with many great individuals and I look forward to serving with this board and any others who wish to put forth the time to serve their fellow members."

National President Dennis Pierce attended the meeting, thanked all of the members for their activism during the recent legislative battle in Wisconsin, and urged them to keep fighting.

"The BLET members in Wisconsin joined all of labor to fight the attack on the public employees in the state," President Pierce said. "It is important to keep this activism and involvement going as we move forward to other states – and other elections in the coming months and years."

Vice President & National Legislative Representative John Tolman updated the delegates both on the current BLET's legislative agenda and the status of the battles in other states. Also attending the meeting were Ohio State Legislative Board Chairman Tim Hanely, who served as parliamentarian; Iowa State Legislative Board Chairman Jeff Kurtz; Sereena Hogan, BLET Auxiliary Vice President & National Legislative Representative; and BLET Education & Training Coordinator Ken Kroeger, who put on a training program for the delegates and several guests from the Iowa State Legislative Board.

The Wisconsin State Legislative Board represents 536 members in 13 Divisions. ©©



**Front row, from left:** Ken Kroeger, Paul Aird, Dennis Pierce, Anthony Dimond, Sereena Hogan and John Tolman. **Second row:** Mike Oster-tag, Mike Corrigan, Josh Weatherford, and Lee Rushenberg. **Third row:** Justin Johnson, Jim Laidlaw, and Adam Makurat. **Back row:** Paul Dinauer, Jason Deroo, James White, and Richard Hemmingson.

# John Reynolds reelected by acclamation as Wisconsin Central General Chairman

**W**isconsin Central General Chairman John W. Reynolds was reelected by acclamation at the General Committee's quadrennial meeting in Green Bay, Wisc., from May 9-12, 2011.

It is the third time that Brother Reynolds has won reelection by acclamation. He is a member of BLET Division 209 in Green Bay, Wisc., and has been a BLET member since Sept. 1, 1997.

Also elected by acclamation were: 1st Vice General Chairman Eric Hau of BLET Division 173 (Fon du Lac, Wisc.); and 2nd Vice General Chairman Scott Reinke of BLET Division 188 (Superior, Wisc.).

Also elected were: 3rd Vice General Chairman Jason Alexander of BLET Division 184 (Schiller Park, Ill.); Secretary-Treasurer Eugene "Shy" Ziegler of BLET Division 173 (Fon du Lac, Wisc.); and Alternate Sec.-Treas. Tim Foster of BLET Division 173 (Fon du Lac, Wisc.).

Wisconsin State Senator Dave Hansen was the featured speaker. Senator Hansen, a former Green Bay Department of



President Pierce presents a BLET watch to GC John Reynolds.

Public Works employee and a 20-year Teamster member, was one of the "Wisconsin 14." He joined 13 other Democratic State Senators in leaving the state earlier this year in the fight to protect union workers' collective bargaining rights. They left the state so that Governor Scott Walker would not have the necessary quorum to pass his anti-worker legislation.

Representing the National Division was BLET National President Dennis Pierce; First Vice President Lee Pruitt;

National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert; Vice President & National Legislative Representative John Tolman; and Vice President Marcus Ruef.

President Pierce congratulated Brother Reynolds on winning election and thanked the newly-elected officers of the General Committee for their commitment to the Brotherhood. "Having served alongside Brother Reynolds as a General Chairman, I am well aware of his dedication to his membership. I look forward to working with Brother John and the team that the CN/WC General Committee has assembled in session," President Pierce said.

In addition to their regular duties, the delegates participated in a hands-on Arbitration Workshop sponsored by the BLET Education & Training Department. NST Walpert, Director of Education and Training, and Vice President Ruef, Director of Arbitration, led the workshop, along with Ken Kroeger, Coordinator of Education & Training, and Doug Davidson, Assistant Director of Arbitration.

Additional invited guests included Da-

vid Brown, Chairman of the Minnesota State Legislative Board; Paul Aird, First Vice Chairman of the Wisconsin State Legislative Board; and Gina Forman, BLET Auxiliary National 1st Vice President and National Outreach Coordinator.

Members of the GCA recognized outgoing S-T John Fenlaciki. Brother Fenlaciki had served as S-T of the WC GCA since its inception in 1997. The delegation presented Brother Fenlaciki with a plaque and thanked him for his many years of selfless and dedicated service to the Wisconsin Central GCA. Brother Reynolds also recognized outgoing 1st Vice General Chairman John Woyak for his hard work and help over the years. Brother Woyak was an original GCA officer who began serving immediately the BLET organized the WC property in 1997.

The Wisconsin Central operates over approximately 2,850 miles of track and trackage rights. The BLET organized the WC property in 1997, and the railroad was purchased by CN in 2001 for \$1.2 billion. ©©

# Bruno tells House "Hands off safety regulations"

**B**LET National Vice President and Interim Director of Regulatory Affairs Stephen Bruno testified on April 7 before the U.S. House of Representatives Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials at a hearing titled, "Railroad and Hazardous Materials Transportation Programs: Reforms and Improvements to Reduce Regulatory Burdens."

The focus of the hearing was on reducing regulatory "burdens" on the railroads in order to increase profitability, which apparently is a main goal in the upcoming Surface Transportation Reauthorization.

In his testimony, Vice President Bruno pointedly explained that the BLET's belief that the best regulations are crafted with the input of stakeholders in the regulatory process and should not unilaterally be changed by Congress at the behest of the railroads.

"The BLET believes although Congress has a place in broadly defining areas of safety that must be addressed as a matter of public policy, regulation is best written in a fashion that allows for those with a stake in the rules to have a hand in their creation and amendment," Bruno said.

He also drew the Subcommittee's at-

tention to positive train control and the hypocrisy of the railroads' position on the technology.

"PTC is a safety overlay that will significantly reduce human factor related accidents and prevent loss of life," Bruno said. "The railroads' suggestion that they will implement other alternative safety practices and devices which will provide an equivalent level of safety is a disingenuous statement. These technologies have been available for decades and they are now only proposing to install them to avoid the PTC mandate. If the PTC mandate is removed, the railroads' incentive to install these alternatives is likewise removed."

In closing, Bruno urged the Subcommittee to consider taking up the BLET's technical corrections to the hours of service portion of the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008.

BLET National President Dennis Pierce thanked Vice President Bruno for representing the Brotherhood at the hearing. "More now than ever before, it is critical that rail labor's voice is heard in the nation's Capitol. BLET will continue to be there at every opportunity to insure that our memberships' concerns and issues are properly represented before Congress and any other involved regulatory body." ©©



## SLBC Briggs reelected to third term in Texas

**T**he Texas State Legislative Board held its 13th quadrennial convention from April 5-6 in Austin, Texas. Texas State Legislative Board Chairman Terry Briggs of BLET Division 530 (Commerce, Texas) was reelected to his third full term, after being elevated to the position in 2001.

Also reelected at the meeting was Catarino Garcia of Division 566 (Del Rio, Texas) as First Vice Chairman. Elected during the meeting were Gary Pedigo (Division 177, Denison) as Second Vice Chairman; Scott Piekarski (Division 187, Fort Worth) as Secretary-Treasurer; Ben Wright (Division 189, Fort Worth) as Alternate Second Vice Chairman; Jeromie Jones (Division 591, Delhart) as Alternate Secretary-Treasurer; and Ben Strot (Division 206, Temple), Luis Martinez (Division 22, El Paso) and Juan Garza (Division 244, Laredo) to the Audit Committee.

"In the next four years, I will work hard to inspire our younger members to take an ever more active role in preparation for the day that they will become the leaders of our great Brotherhood," Chairman Briggs said. "I would also like to thank James Ussery and Tom Keith for their long service to the board, and hope that the newly elected members can serve the board as admirably as they did."

National President Dennis Pierce attended the meeting, along with First Vice President E. Lee Pruitt, National Secretary-Treasurer William Walpert, and Vice President & National Leg-

islative Representative John Tolman. President Pierce and the other National Division officers spoke to the group about developments at the National Division and the continuing war on the middle class in this country.

"I would like to congratulate Terry on his re-election," President Pierce said. "He and the rest of the members of the board serve the state of Texas admirably, and I look forward to continuing to work with all of them into the future."

Also attending the meeting were Terry Todd, Arkansas State Legislative Board Chairman; Arlin Todd, Louisiana State Legislative Board Chairman; Don Douglass, Oklahoma State Legislative Board Chairman; Warren Dent, General Chairman UP Southern Region; Bill Hannah, General Chairman UP Western Lines; Jim Bradford, BLET Special Representative; Ken Kroeger, BLET Coordinator of Education & Training; Sereena Hogan, BLET Auxiliary Vice President & National Legislative Representative; and Mark Robb, Brotherhoods Relief and Compensation Fund.

As part of the Board's meeting, the 36 delegates, their family members and several guests attended a rally at the Texas State Capitol in Austin to support public employees and a balanced approach to solving the budget shortfall in that state. The rally drew an estimated 6,000 people from across the state.

The Texas State Legislative Board represents 3,077 total active and 1,230 retired members in 42 Divisions. ©©



Delegates from the Texas State Legislative Board meeting at a "War on Workers" rally in Austin.



Terry Briggs addresses delegates prior to the rally.



President Pierce, VP & NLR Tolman, and NST Walpert



Chairman Briggs leads the way.

## GC Jim Louis reelected reelected by acclamation at Conrail/CSXT Northern District GCA meeting

**T**he Conrail SAA/CSXT Northern District General Committee of Adjustment reelected Jim P. Louis by acclamation to his first full term as General Chairman at quadrennial meetings in Buffalo, N.Y., on May 18.

Brother Louis is a member of BLET Division 421 (Buffalo, N.Y.), and he joined the BLET in 1987. He began serving as General Chairman following the retirement of former GC Tom Roberts on February 28, 2009.

Matt Kronyak, Division 235 (Union City, N.J.), was elected to serve as Alternate General Chairman.

Elected by acclamation to fill out the GCA were: Vice General Chairman Pat Driscoll (Division 382, Buffalo, N.Y.); Alternate Vice General Chairman Brian Baginski (Division 601, Newark, N.J.); Secretary-Treasurer Greg Lund (Local Division 421, Buffalo, N.Y.); and Alternate Secretary-Treasurer Bill Nasca (Division 421, Buffalo, N.Y.).

In attendance from the National Division was: National President Dennis Pierce; First Vice President Lee Pruitt; National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert; Vice President & National Legislative Representative John Tolman; and Vice President Gil Gore.

Delegates handled a variety of issues during the long, two-day work sessions.



Delegates, officers and guests at the Conrail SAA/CSXT Northern District General Committee of Adjustment quadrennial meeting in Buffalo, N.Y., on May 17.

In addition to their regular duties, the delegates participated in a hands-on Arbitration Workshop sponsored by the BLET Education & Training Department. NST Walpert, Director of the Education and Training Department, led the

workshop, along with Ken Kroeger, Coordinator of the Education & Training Department, and Doug Davidson, Assistant Director of Arbitration.

Other BLET guests in attendance included: General Chairman Bob Lin-

sey (Norfolk Southern-Northern Lines); State Legislative Board Chairman Ken Kertesz (Pennsylvania); State Legislative Board Chairman Tim Hanely (Ohio); and State Legislative Board Chairman Dave Kearsing (New York).

President Pierce addressed the delegates regarding the progress of national negotiations, Positive Train Control, on-duty cell phone usage, cab security, and a number of other issues.

"Congratulations to General Chairman Louis and all General Committee officers elected during this session," President Pierce said. "The Conrail GCA delegates should be commended for elected a hard working and dedicated team of leaders. I have every confidence that Brother Louis and his team will continue to do an excellent job of representing their membership."

Brother Louis stands ready to serve the BLET National Division as Alternate National Vice President No. 3. He was elected by acclamation to that position at the BLET's Second National Convention in Reno, Nevada, in October of 2010.

The General Committee is comprised of 15 different BLET Local Divisions on two properties (Conrail Shared Assets and CSXT Northern District) and represents approximately 700 members in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Massachusetts and New Jersey. ©©



## LONG ISLAND TO HOST EUMA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

On August 6, EUMA will conclude with a luxurious Manhattan dinner cruise.

A convention agenda, as well as registration forms for the convention and golf outing, are available on the BLET website, [www.ble-t.org/info/meetings/euma](http://www.ble-t.org/info/meetings/euma).

For more specific convention details, including hotel registration information, members should visit the EUMA

2011 website, [www.euma2011.org](http://www.euma2011.org).

For more information, please email Arrangements Chairman Jim Brown at [loco542@optonline.net](mailto:loco542@optonline.net), or call (631) 905-9802; or

For information about the golf tournament, please email Co-Chairman Scott Decker at [sddecker44@optonline.net](mailto:sddecker44@optonline.net), or call (631) 786-8085; or

For information about the workshops, please email Co-Chairman John Bove, [jbove@optonline.net](mailto:jbove@optonline.net), or call (631) 532-5321. ©©



Hyatt Regency Long Island, site of the 2011 EUMA



Golf outing, August 4



Aquarium trip, August 4



Splash splash water park, August 4



Beautiful beaches and lighthouses



Tanger Outlet Mall, August 4

## In the Line of Duty

# TOM ANDERSON

**BROTHER TOM ANDERSON, PRESIDENT OF BLET DIVISION 642**, was one of two rail workers killed in the line of duty on April 17 in a rear-end collision



involving two BNSF Railway freight trains in McPherson, Iowa.

According to preliminary reports from the NTSB, a BNSF freight train collided with a BNSF maintenance

train. Two locomotives and multiple cars derailed as a result of the accident.

Brother Anderson, 48, joined the BLET on January 1, 2000.

Also killed in the accident was UTU conductor Patricia Hyatt.

"On behalf of the BLET National Division I extend my deepest sympathies

to the families of all those involved in this tragedy," BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce said.

Anderson is the third BLET member killed in 2011. On February 8, 2011, Stanley L. Watts, Secretary-Treasurer of BLET Division 354, was killed in a Norfolk Southern switching accident in Kankakee, Ill. On March 23, 2011, Thomas J. Kenny of BLET Division 238 was killed when his off-duty transport vehicle was hit by a BNSF freight train near Longview, Wash.

BLET National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert, who leads the BLET's Safety Task Force, said STF Coordinator Carl Fields traveled to McPherson, Iowa, to assist the NTSB in its investigation of the tragedy. McPherson is about 35 miles southeast of Council Bluffs, Iowa. More details are pending in the ongoing investigation. ©©

# CHRISTOPHER L. CARTER

**A VETERAN BLET MEMBER DROWNED** on his way to work on May 1 when his car was swept away by swiftly rising floodwaters in Mayflower, Ark.

Brother Christopher L. Carter, 57, was a member of BLET Division 858 in Pine Bluff, Ark. A Union Pacific engineer, Brother Carter had been a BLET member for more than 36 years, first joining the Brotherhood on February 1, 1975.

According to Division 858 Local Chairman Jay Callaway, Brother Carter was on his way to work for the Union Pacific Railroad when the accident happened.

It was reported that Brother Carter had contacted his wife, who is a Conway Police Department Officer, after landing in the ditch at approximately 1:22 a.m. and that he had requested assistance. Investigators suspect that Brother Carter's vehicle may have hydroplaned and left the roadway before coming to rest in the ditch between the roadway and the railroad tracks.

Due to the torrential rains that came through Faulkner County and the Mayflower area, water levels rose so quickly that when first responders arrived, Carter's Ford Explorer was completely submerged. According to statements by the first responders, investigators believe the water was between five and six feet above the roadway when they were searching for Carter.

When the water receded, the vehicle was located and Brother Carter was found in the back seat area. He

was pronounced dead at the scene at 5:59 a.m.

The Coroner has ruled the death accidental from drowning as a result of area flooding.

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce extended heartfelt sympathies to Brother Carter's family and friends. He said it shows that locomotive engineers not only face danger daily in the performance of their duties, but on the way to and from work as well.

"Brother Carter was a professional locomotive engineer who was answering the call of duty when tragedy struck," President Pierce said. "This terrible accident shows the dangers that locomotive engineers face in reporting to work at any given time and in any given weather conditions.

"On behalf on the BLET National Division and all men and women of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, I extend our most heartfelt condolences to the Carter family."

Survivors include his wife, Sharen René Burgess Carter, who he married April 21, 1989 in Texarkana, Texas; sons, Christopher Chase Carter and Cody Wayne Hensley; brother, Ardell Carter and wife, Lynn; sisters, Phyllis Carter, Suzette Rice and husband, Phillip, and Renee Rowe and husband, James; grandson, Christopher Aiden Carter; and many nieces and nephews.

Memorials are requested to the American Red Cross of Faulkner County, 1301 Museum Road, Conway, Ark. 72032. ©©



## Safety Task Force Hotline

**(800)306-5414**

Report major accidents when they happen



2011

## Calendar & Events

**June 17, 2011**

**U.S. Railroad Retirement Board  
Informational Conferences**

**LAKEWOOD, COLO.**

The Railroad Retirement Board offers free informational conferences to BLET officers throughout the year. Registration for all conferences begins at 8 a.m. The programs begin promptly at 8:30 a.m. and end at 12:30 p.m. The Board will be in Lakewood, Colo., at the Holiday Inn Lakewood, 7390 W. Hampden Ave.

**June 12-17, 2011**

**84th annual Southeastern  
Meeting Association**

**ASHEVILLE, N.C.**

DoubleTree Biltmore Hotel  
Contact host chairman Dewey Brown by phone or email: (828) 683-9371 or drbrown.blet267@yahoo.com

**June 27-July 1, 2011**

**International Brotherhood  
of Teamsters 28th International  
Convention**

At the Bally's/Paris Convention Center is Las Vegas, Nevada.

**August 2-7, 2011**

**73rd annual Eastern Union  
Meeting Association**

**LONG ISLAND, N.Y.**

Hyatt Regency Long Island, Hauppauge, N.Y.  
Contact host chairman Jim Brown by email: loco542@optonline.net  
Website: www.euma2011.org

**August 21-27, 2011**

**71st annual International  
Western Convention**

**SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIF.**

Embassy Suites Hotel-San Luis Obispo  
Contact host chairman Mike Galvani by phone or email: (805) 927-2967 or SLOBLE664@wildblue.net

**August 26-28, 2011**

**Teamsters Women's Conference**

Join Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa and General Secretary-Treasurer Tom Keegel for the 2011 Teamsters Women's Conference at the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers. For questions, contact the Teamsters Training and Development Department, (202) 624-8117, or visit [www.teamsters.org/women](http://www.teamsters.org/women). The deadline for hotel reservations is July 28, 2011.

**September 18-22, 2011**

**76th annual Southwestern  
Convention Meeting**

**EL PASO, TEXAS**

Camino Real Hotel  
Contact host chairman Larry Schneider by phone or email: (915) 581-1373 or [schneiderman@elp.rr.com](mailto:schneiderman@elp.rr.com)  
Website: [www.bletswcm.org](http://www.bletswcm.org)

# WGCA elects officers

The annual meeting of the BLET Western General Chairmen's Association (WGCA) concluded in Las Vegas on April 20 with the election of officers.

Elected to one-year terms at the three-day meeting were: Chairman Pat Williams (General Chairman, BNSF-former Santa Fe); Vice-Chairman Mike Young (General Chairman, Union Pacific, Eastern District); and Secretary-Treasurer Rick Gibbons (General Chairman, BNSF-former STL-SF).

Also elected as members of the Executive Committee were Matt Wilson (General Chairman, BNSF-MRL) and John Reynolds (General Chairman, CN-Wisconsin Central). Warren Dent (General Chairman, Union Pacific-Southern Region) was elected as the Alternate Secretary-Treasurer.

"We had a very successful meeting, and I can tell you that the presentations and discussions we had were beneficial to our attendees and in the end will help them better serve their respective memberships on the various properties," Chairman Williams said.

The Association's membership includes the General Chairmen from the Western portion of the United States and meets for the purpose of discussing a wide-range of issues. They heard informational presentations from the Railroad Retirement Board, the Federal Railroad Administration, and BLET Designated Counsel.

BLE National President Dennis Pierce, First Vice President Lee Pruitt, National Secretary Treasurer Bill Walpert, and Vice President & National Legislative Representative John Tolman all appeared before the group and made detailed reports.

President Pierce congratulated all officers on their election and thanked them for the opportunity to address the body. @@



WGCA Chairman Pat Williams (seated) and First Vice President Lee Pruitt



National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert



From left: VP Marcus Ruef, President Dennis Pierce and VP Gil Gore



President Pierce addresses the assembled General Chairmen



GC Matt Wilson and 1st VGC Steve Bratka (BNSF/MRL GCA); and 1st VGC Mark Chenchar and GC Mike Young (UP-Eastern District GCA)



GC Bruce MacArthur and 1st VGC Mike Elsberry (UP-Northern Region GCA)

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**Photo of the Month: May 2011**

**AMTRAK'S "BLOODY NOSE"** P42 #156 at the Cleveland, Ohio, Amtrak station. **Photo:** Brent Lane



**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.

## Confer appointed BLET Special Rep, Director of Organizing

**K**ent N. Confer, a member of BLET Division 623 (McCook, Neb.), has been appointed as a Special Representative and Director of Organizing by BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce. He will also continue to serve as the BLET's National Mobilization Coordinator for the Western United States.

Brother Confer hired out on the Burlington Northern in 1973 and earned promotion to locomotive engineer in 1979. He has held continuous membership in Division 623 since joining the Brotherhood on May 1, 1979.

"Kent has our full support at the National Division and I am sure he will be an asset to the Organization in his new position just as he has been in the past," President Pierce said.

In his new position, Brother Confer will be responsible for coordinating all organizing efforts for the BLET National Division. He will also coordinate all BLET mobilization efforts west of the Mississippi River and will handle other duties as assigned by the National President.

Brother Confer was elected Secretary-Treasurer of his Division in 1980, later winning elections to serve as Division President and Local Chairman. He has also represented Division 623 as Delegate to six BLET national conventions and served as 1st Alternate Vice General Chairman on the BNSF/MRL General Committee of Adjustment.

Known across the BNSF system for his dedication to safety, Brother Confer has served on the BNSF System Cab Committee since 1995, and has held the position of Labor Co-Chairman since 2007. He was also appointed BLET Safety Coordinator in 2002, a position he held until April 1, 2011.

He has been a member of the BLET's National Mobilization Team since 1997, and has served as BNSF/MRL GCA Coordinator and BNSF System Coordinator.

Brother Confer and his wife Anne have been married for 38 years. The couple has three adult children and two grandchildren (with two more grandkids on the way). ☺☺



President Pierce and Kent Confer

## Advisory Board March 2011 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; Labor rally, Columbus, Ohio; Division 1 mtg., Detroit, Mich.; Division 6 mtg., Boone, Iowa; Division 687 mtg., Sioux City, Iowa; Division 3 mtg., Cleveland; Testify before House Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials hearing on federal regulatory overreach in the railroad industry; implementing the Rail Safety Act, Washington, D.C.; Union Pacific on-property negotiations, Dallas, Texas; Local Chairman training, Champaign, Ill.; Rail Labor Bargaining Coalition mtgs., Washington, D.C.

**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; and National Negotiations; Union Pacific GCA mtg. and Division 716 mtg., Las Vegas; UPRR on-property negotiations, Las Vegas and Dallas, Texas; Article IX hearing, Cleveland; Hoffa Scholarship banquet, Chicago; National negotiations, Washington, D.C.

**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; Secretary-Treasurers class, Atlanta, Ga.; Secretary-Treasurers class, Vancouver, Wash.; Hoffa scholarship banquet, Chicago, Ill.; Local Chairman's class, University of Illinois, Champaign, Ill.; Short Term Disability trustees mtg., Washington, D.C.

**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; RSAC dark territory working group mtg., Falls Church, Va.; American Train Dispatchers Assoc. (ATDA) convention, Las Vegas; NTSB meeting on fatigue, Wash. DC; Ports campaign mtg., Wash. DC; Transportation & Infrastructure stakeholders hearing, Chairman Mica, Wash. DC; AHSRA 4th annual T&I convention, Wash. DC; Rep. Gabrielle Giffords (D-AZ) reception, hosted by IBT, Wash. DC; Met w/ various Congressmen on FMLA, HOS, and high speed rail lobbying effort on The Hill, Wash. DC; Participated in Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC) conference call; Hosted reception for DCCC Chairman Con. Steve Israel; Numerous receptions, meet & greets, for various U.S. Representatives, Wash. DC.

**VICE PRESIDENT MARCUS J. RUEF:** Vice Chairman, full NRAB; Labor Member, 1st Division; Labor Member, National Mediation Board Arbitration Advisory Forum; Director of Arbitration Dept; Assigned to Illinois Central; Wisconsin Central; Grand Trunk Western; Duluth Missabe & Iron Range; Elgin, Joliet & Eastern; Indiana Harbor Belt; and Belt Railway of Chicago; Quarterly mtg. w/ all CN's U.S. general chairmen, Chicago; GTW Section 6 talks, Chicago; Assist GC Kaulins w/ case, BRC; NRAB adoption session, Chicago; NMB arbitration advisory forum, Chicago; Assist GC Reynolds w/ various rules issues for arbitration, WC, Chicago; Assist GC Karakian w/ health care dispute and various rules issues for arbitration; General office duties; Prepare memorandum on CN NYD issue in Duluth, Minn.; Local Chairman Workshop, Urbana, Ill.; Assist EJ&E GC Hobbs, Chicago; Assist GC Whitchurch w/ IC negotiations, Memphis, Tenn.

**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 NO, Longview Switching; Utah Railway negotiations, Salt Lake City, Utah; Advisory Board mtg., Hollywood, Fla.; Portland & Western contract negotiations, Salem, Ore.; Pacific Harbor Lines negotiations, Houston, 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; General office duties, paperwork, correspondence, telephone calls; Standing bid mtg./labor-management mtg., NS, Norfolk, Va.; NS annual safety mtg., Norfolk, Va.; National negotiations, Washington, D.C.

**VICE PRESIDENT GIL GORE:** Assigned to all CSX; Union Pacific-Southern Region GCA special assignment; CSXT mediated overtime/ side letter 20 dispute; Conference call w/ GC Tony Smith; Work w/ GCAs on DRC issues; Article 19 hearing, Cleveland; Manchester ID negotiations, CSXT; PLB 7353 w/ GC Matt Thornton, CSXT, Chicago; Conference call CSXT LR, DRC issues; General office duties, paperwork, correspondence, telephone calls.

**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; Conference call w/ GC Hannah & Teamsters, re: Organizing in LA/Long Beach areas; Austin Western contract negotiations w/ GC Wilson, Tulsa, Okla.; Panhandle Northern contract negotiations w/ GC Williams, Dallas/Fort Worth; Public Law Board 7441 w/ GC Williams, Great Western RR, Denver; MRL contract negotiations w/ GC Wilson, Missoula, Mont.

**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; Work on PLB 7084 and conference call w/ GC, Tex/Mex; Conference call w/ CP-ST-NS general chairmen; Safety meeting w/ GCs, NS, Norfolk, Va.; Annual safety mtg., NS, Norfolk, Va.; Prep. for KCS mtgs. w/ GC Whitchurch and Mid South negotiations, Kansas City, Mo.; Work on DM&E and IC&E agreements; I&M RR tentative agreement w/ GC Whitchurch, Springfield, Ill.; Upcoming negotiations w/ KCS, GC Parker; Upcoming negotiations on SLA RR, GC Moore; Codification of agreements, 3 KCS committees, Kansas City, Mo.; Mtg. w KCS GC Parker, Pittsburg, Kan.

**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; Update ongoing projects and agreements, LIRR, B&S, CP Metra, Philadelphia; Regulatory work, re: RSLA technical corrections, dark territory, Washington, D.C.; Regulatory work, re: LSS comments, Washington, D.C.; Regulatory work, re: Fatigue website and LSS comments, Washington, D.C.; Stabenow fundraiser, IBT, Washington, D.C.; Legislative and regulatory work, T&I committee, dark territory, Washington, D.C.; Office duties, filing, paperwork, telephone, email correspondence, etc.