



Daily news updates
www.ble-t.org

Locomotive

ENGINEERS & TRAINMEN NEWS

JUNE
2010

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

>> NEW BLET LEADERSHIP



Sorrow announces retirement

"MY TENURE HAS BEEN THE MOST FULFILLING AND REWARDING PERIOD OF MY BROTHERHOOD CAREER."

BLET National President Paul T. Sorrow submitted a letter to National Secretary-Treasurer William C. Walpert on June 2, advising that he is resigning the Presidency effective July 1, 2010, in order to retire. President Sorrow's letter also stated the following:

"I have always known that my time would come, and trusted that I would have the wisdom to recognize this before anyone else. The pace of the past couple of months has taken a significant toll on me physically. Considering the even greater demands of the coming months that will be placed upon the National President by virtue of my in-depth involvement in the regional meetings and the upcoming Quadrennial Convention, I have concluded, with the advice of my physician, that now is the appropriate time for me to depart.

"My tenure has been the most fulfilling and rewarding period of my Brotherhood career. Having taken office during one of the darkest and most tumultuous periods in our history, I am proud of the way our officers at every level of the Organization joined hands to work together and focus on the tasks ahead.

"I also consider myself fortunate that the Advisory Board quickly united behind me and acted swiftly to bring about several important internal reforms, from increasing the transparency and accountability of our Designated Legal Counsel program, to approving the use of outside auditors on a quarterly basis

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

1ST VP DENNIS R. PIERCE TO ASSUME BLET PRESIDENCY

First Vice President and Alternate President Dennis R. Pierce will become National President of North America's senior rail labor organization on July 1, following the retirement of incumbent President Paul T. Sorrow.

Pierce, 51, will be the 23rd President in the BLET's 147-year history.

On June 2, President Sorrow announced that he would retire effective July 1, pulling the pin on a railroad career that spanned 45 years and included 38 years of service to the Brotherhood.

Sorrow expressed his support for First Vice President Pierce.

"I have every confidence that Alternate President, Brother Dennis Pierce, has the intelligence, the energy, the strength and the ability to build on our recent achievements and lead our Brotherhood to a brighter future, and I turn the throttle over to him with no reservations," Sorrow said.

"I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT DENNIS PIERCE, HAS THE INTELLIGENCE, ENERGY, STRENGTH AND ABILITY TO LEAD OUR BROTHERHOOD TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE." — PAUL SORROW



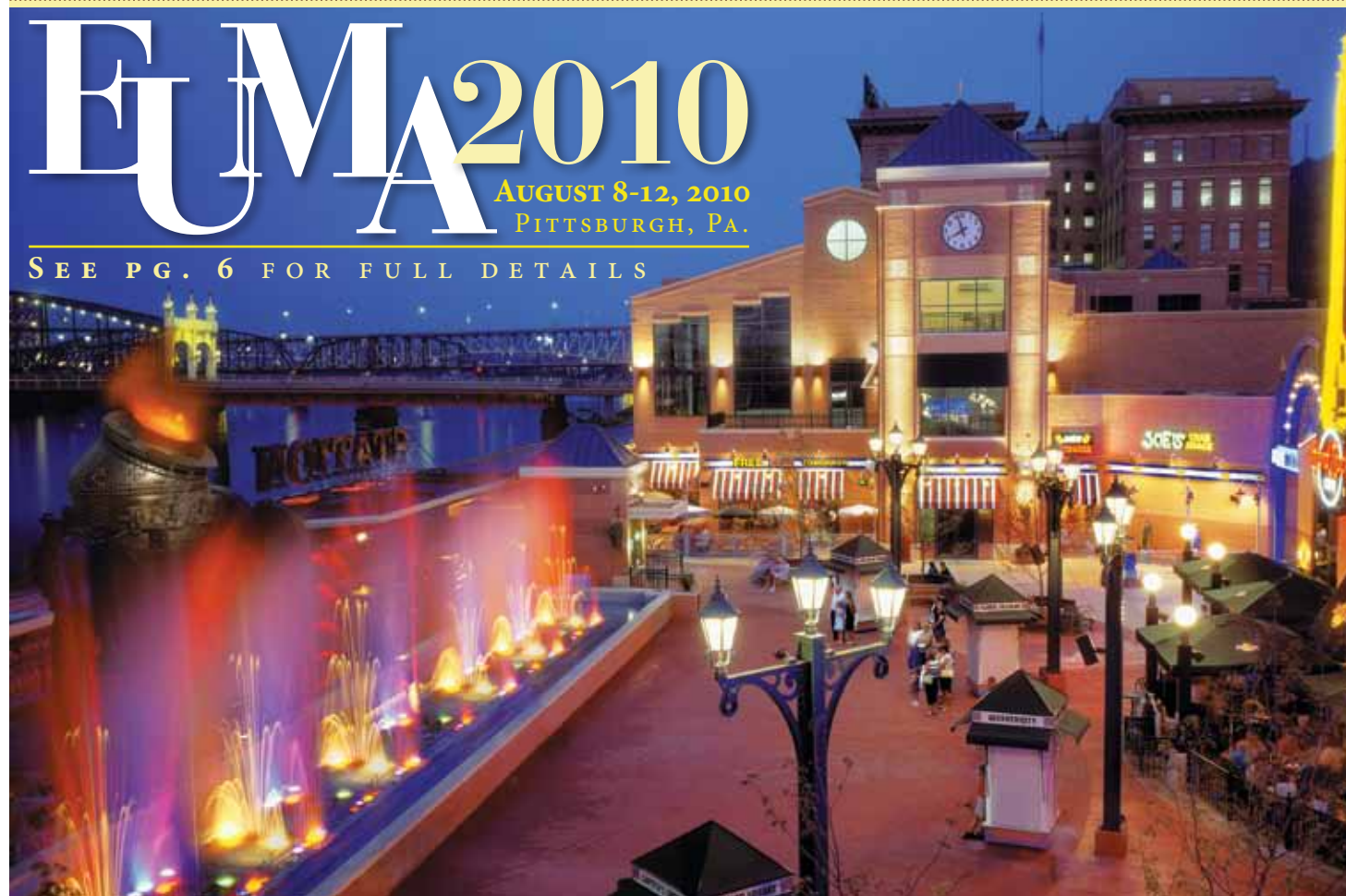
DENNIS R. PIERCE

Pierce was elected to Brotherhood's second-highest office by the BLET Advisory Board on Dec. 17, 2009. Prior to that, he served the union as a Vice President assigned to CSX, CN and BNSF.

He was elected First Alternate Vice President at the BLET's First Quadrennial Convention in 2006, and was promoted to the office of Vice President on April 8, 2008. He is a member of Division 687 in Sioux City, Iowa.

Pierce began his railroad career in 1977 as a Burlington Northern maintenance of way employee in Lincoln, Neb. In 1979, he transferred to a clerical position with BN. In 1980, he transferred again to the firemen's craft and earned promotion to locomotive engineer in 1981. He joined the Brotherhood on April 1, 1981.

Pierce started as a union officer at the grassroots level, working his way up through all of the levels of the Organization. He first served as Local Chairman for his Division and then as a Vice General Chairman and ultimately as General Chairman of his property's General Committee before elevating to the Advisory Board in 2008. @@



EUMA 2010
AUGUST 8-12, 2010
PITTSBURGH, PA.

SEE PG. 6 FOR FULL DETAILS



147 Years and Counting

America's senior rail labor organization reaches another milestone **pg 2**

Contract talks

The latest round of national bargaining is under way **pg 3**

Election Winners

Brian Kelley, Terry Todd, Matt Kronyak and Tim Hanely **pg 3-6**

REGISTER FOR NEWS FLASH EMAIL ALERTS AT: WWW.BLE-T.ORG



BLET PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PUSHING ROCKS UP HILLS

Whenever I meet someone for the first time and they ask me what I do for a living, I'm tempted to tell them that I push rocks up hills. Why do I view my work that way? Well, because it seems that most of the time I have to overcome powerful counter-forces and inertia in order to succeed at what I've been elected to do.

In fact, an argument could be made that most BLET members regularly push rocks up hills to advance their interests as locomotive engineers and trainmen. Officers and activists do it almost constantly.

Some rocks are bigger than others, and some hills are steeper and longer than others. About the only thing we can count on is that the rocks seldom are pebbles, and the ground is almost never flat.

The most powerful counter-force we must overcome, of course, is the railroad industry. But the hills the carriers place in our path are not only of their own creation. Of the major industrialized nations throughout the world, the United States has the most anti-labor history and the most deeply embedded anti-labor culture. Even today, we have by far the smallest percentage of the working population represented by unions of all advanced nations.

When the Sherman Anti-Trust Act was signed into law in 1890, the first group it was enforced against was labor unions. The BLE's legal status in those days was an unlawful conspiracy in restraint of trade. This meant that every struggle engaged in by BLE officers and members could easily lead to dismissal and "black-listing" from the industry because of their "outlaw" conduct.

Anti-labor and anti-worker bias continues to infect government at every level, and is rampant in our judicial system. If you think that's an overstatement, try to identify the last time we succeeded in convincing a court that a carrier's outrageous abuses constituted a major dispute, giving us the right to strike under the Railway Labor Act. And, speaking of strikes, do you know the last time loco-



"Officers at all levels of our Brotherhood work extraordinarily hard to push their rocks up the hill each and every day."

motive engineers struck for more than a handful of hours without Congress intervening? It was in May of 1946.

You may find it hard to believe, but in some ways the playing field was less uneven back then. For example, in 1948 the voting age population in the U.S. was just under 95 million, and there were almost 1½ million railroad workers. Rail workers made up nearly 1.56% of the voting age population. Add spouses, adult relatives and friends to that number — and remember that railroad workers were clustered in cities and railroad towns — and it is clear that the Brothers and Sisters who preceded us comprised a powerful voting bloc.

By 2002 the size of the railroad workforce declined by over 85%, while the voting age population grew more than 127%. Instead of over 1½% of the electorate, railroad workers represented barely over one-tenth of one percent. Our voting strength declined almost 94% in the span of just two generations. That power was further diluted as we joined our fellow

Americans in the move from cities and railroad towns to surrounding suburbs.

When you understand that our voice commands much less attention today, and remember that American business is just as anti-union now as it was in the past, you realize that the hills we face today almost always fall into one of two categories: steep and steeper. On top of this, we have to deal with inertia, which is the resistance of an object to a change in its state of motion.

Two types of inertia impact how successful we are pushing the rock up the hill. One is a function of the size of the rock, how steep the hill is, and the amount of friction the ground provides. The bigger the rock, the steeper the hill, the slipperier the ground ... the harder it is for us to succeed. The struggle to push the rock up the hill becomes easier only when greater and greater force is applied.

It's easier for two people to push a rock up a hill than it is for one, and it's easier for three people to push a rock up a hill than it is for two. But that's where the oth-

er type of inertia comes into play — the inertia of apathy among a portion of the membership. Too many Brothers and Sisters sit on the sidelines and do little more than complain when the rock does not go up the hill far enough or fast enough.

Our Officers at all levels of our Brotherhood work extraordinarily hard to push their rocks up the hill each and every day. Far too often, though, they are alone in their struggle. Too many time claims are not submitted and too many defects go unreported. This makes pushing the rocks of contract enforcement and safety up the hill more difficult than it needs to be. Overcoming the inertia of apathy makes it easier to push rocks up hills because greater activity by the membership applies more force in the struggle.

That being said, more than sheer numbers are required to get all the way to the top of the hill. To exert the maximum amount of force, everyone must be pushing at the same time and in the same direction. If you were in the military, you know that marching across a bridge requires that everyone breaks cadence, because marching in lockstep could create a force strong enough to bring down the bridge. However, when we all push together on that rock in lockstep, we generate more than enough force to overcome the inertia that tries to keep the rock from moving forward. And the BLET's mobilization system is an effective way to do that.

Our Brotherhood's history is filled with examples of how the interests of our members were advanced by everyone pushing together. Our greatest accomplishments were not the result of one or two leaders exerting superhuman strength ... they came about because huge numbers of members came off the bench, got into the game, and all pushed together. We face many challenges together in the coming months and years, and we can only prevail if we push those rocks up the hill together.

PAUL SORROW

BLET marked 147th anniversary on May 8

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) marked its 147th anniversary in May. The union was founded as the Brotherhood of the Footboard on May 8, 1863 in Marshall, Mich.

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.

"When 12 brave men gathered in secret at the home of William D. Robinson in Marshall, Michigan, to create the Brotherhood of the Footboard, the world was a very different place than it is today," BLET National President Paul Sorrow said. "They had to meet in secret because there was no right to organize or to bargain collectively. There was

no limit on the number of hours a locomotive engineer could be required to work, no railroad retirement system, no health insurance and no FELA."

When the success of these Brothers became known, it was decided to extend the movement to all railroads in the surrounding vicinity. A call for a general meeting was then issued — to be held in Detroit on May 5, 1863.

The Detroit convention marked a new epoch in the organization of American railroad employees. It brought together engineers from the Michigan Central, Michigan Southern & Northern Indiana, Detroit & Milwaukee, Grand Trunk, and Michigan Southern. Together, the 12 delegates present drafted a constitution, which combined democratic control with efficient central administration, thus solving the fundamental prob-



lem that had wrecked many previous labor organizations. After three days of deliberations and plans for the future, the delegates on May 8 joined hands and obligated themselves to abide by

The William Mason, a 4-4-0 type wood burning locomotive, was typical of the locomotives in use at the time the Brotherhood was founded in 1863.

(Photo: BLET Archives)

the constitution, forming the pioneer division of the Brotherhood of the Footboard.

This division, No. 1 in Detroit, still maintains its proud position as first on the roster of over 500 divisions of the BLET.

By August 1, 1863, 10 divisions had been formed. The constitution of the new organization provided that when five divisions were organized a delegate from each should be chosen to come together to create a grand division. So on August 18th, at Detroit, the Grand National Division of the Brotherhood of the Footboard was formed. William D.

Robinson was elected Grand Chief Engineer.

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 earliest leaders of our Brotherhood undertook great personal risk, and they and their families made great sacrifices for the good of the Order," President Sorrow said. "Today, our members still benefit from the sacrifices made by our Founding Fathers."

Today, the BLET is the founding member of the Teamsters Rail Conference. The union represents nearly 40,000 active members throughout the United States, and remains one of the largest and most influential railroad unions in the nation. @@



BLET national bargaining under way

Another round of bargaining began in 2009 to improve agreements governing BLET members throughout the nation. Negotiations for a new National Agreement have begun, and contract talks will begin later this year on Amtrak and U.S. railroads owned by Canadian National Railway.

The national bargaining process began last November, when General Chairmen on most Class I railroads and several Class II and Class III served notice on the carriers to revise, amend, and extend current agreements. Identical notices were served to increase rates of pay and improve work rules and various working conditions, and to improve health and welfare benefits. In addition, railroad-specific notices were served to improve local rules and working conditions.

However, the BLET is in a somewhat different bargaining posture in this round, as compared to past rounds of bargaining. Wage settlements already have been reached with BNSF Railway, most of CSX Transportation, and Norfolk Southern. Also, BLET General Committees on Union Pacific Railroad are negotiating rates of pay, rules and working conditions on-property rather than

nationally. Health and welfare bargaining for all four carriers is being conducted nationally.

In the round of bargaining that produced the 2007 National Agreement, the BLET fully participated in the Rail Labor Bargaining Coalition (RLBC), along with six other unions. However, this year the BLET's participation in the RLBC is limited to health and welfare issues.

In explaining this shift in bargaining strategy, National President Paul Sorrow said, "It's natural for us to bargain as part of the RLBC on health and welfare issues because the Railroad Employees' National Health and Welfare Plan provides a uniform set of benefits to all covered railroad workers and it makes perfect sense to pool our resources to achieve our common health and welfare goals."

"At the same time, though, since we have an overarching interest in preserving a minimum two-person crew on all trains and dealing with the impact of technology that will be implemented over the next ten years, it is not appropriate for us to be a part of RLBC in this round when it comes to rates of pay and working conditions," Sorrow added.

The composition of the BLET's National Wage Committee is dictated by the

BLET Bylaws, and includes: President Sorrow as the Chairman; First Vice President Dennis Pierce; Vice President Lee Pruitt; NS General Chairmen Cole Davis representing the Eastern General Chairmen's Association; CSXT General Chairman Don Moates representing the Southeastern General Chairmen's Association; and CP General Chairman Mike Priester representing the Western General Chairmen's Association. Director of Benefits Dan Cook and Assistant to the President and Director of Research Tom Pontolillo have been assigned as staff support for the Committee.

Bargaining is subject to the Railway Labor Act, which prohibits the carriers from changing rates of pay, rules and working conditions during negotiations. If the parties fail to reach an agreement, either side can invoke the services of the National Mediation Board, and reaching an impasse in mediation can lead to the creation of a Presidential Emergency Board and a settlement imposed by Congress. @@

SECTION 6 NOTICES ARE AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING ON THE BLET WEBSITE:
[HTTP://WWW.BLE-T.ORG/NEGOTIATIONS2009](http://www.ble-t.org/NEGOTIATIONS2009)

SORROW ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 <=>

to review and examine all National Division expenses, to overhauling the process for reimbursing officers for legitimate expenses incurred at their home stations. I firmly believe our internal governance has been significantly strengthened by these actions.

"Over my entire career I have always left everything on the field, and I have certainly done so as National President. That being said I could not in good conscience continue in office, only to risk not being able to give it my all in the fall, when so many important decisions about our future must be made. Although I have not accomplished all of my goals, the key internal reforms enacted during my Presidency have put the BLET back on the right track. I have every confidence that Alternate President, Brother Dennis Pierce, has the intelligence, the energy, the strength and the ability to build on our recent achievements and

"OF THE 45 YEARS PAUL SORROW SPENT WORKING IN THE RAILROAD INDUSTRY, 38 HAVE BEEN IN DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE BROTHERHOOD."

— FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, DENNIS PIERCE

lead our Brotherhood to a brighter future, and I turn the throttle over to him with no reservations.

"I appreciate the friendship and support that you and so many wonderful Brothers and Sisters have shown me over the decades, and will always stand by to help the Brotherhood that has always helped me."

President Sorrow, who will be 64 in August, began his professional railroad career with the Seaboard Air Line Railroad in 1965. He has maintained continuous membership in Division 498 (Abbeville, S.C.) since joining the Brotherhood on March 1, 1972. He has served the Brotherhood as Local Chairman,

Vice General Chairman and General Chairman (Seaboard Coast Line and CSX General Committees of Adjustment), Vice President, First Vice President and National President.

"Of the 45 years Paul Sorrow spent working in the railroad industry, 38 have been in dedicated service to the Brotherhood," First Vice President Dennis Pierce said. "He has always put the Brotherhood first throughout his life and he has earned the right to enjoy time with his family and loved ones. The Brotherhood is a better place today because of Paul Sorrow and I ask all BLET members to join me in thanking him for his contributions to our Brotherhood." @@



ELECTIONS

Brian Kelley re-elected Missouri SLBC

Missouri State Legislative Board Chairman Brian P. Kelley was re-elected by acclamation at Board meetings in Jefferson City on May 4-5, 2010.

Also re-elected were: First Vice Chairman Ted Stauffer of Division 75 (Kansas City); Second Vice Chairman Steve Gillett of Division 107 (St. Joseph, Mo.); Secretary-Treasurer Tim Morgan of Division 86 (Moberly, Mo.); and Alternate Secretary-Treasurer Dan Schroeder of Division 48 (St. Louis). Kimble Jackson of Division 120 (Kansas City) and Calvin Groose of Division 609 (Jefferson City, Mo.) were elected to the Executive Board. BLET National President Paul Sorrow

congratulated these Brothers on their elections and sent his regrets that he was not able to attend the meeting personally due to his busy travel schedule.

"I'm looking forward to getting crew van legislation passed during this term in office, so that I can move on to other legislation," Brother Kelley said. "I also hope to continue our efforts in training and educating new Legislative Representatives."

One of the guests at the Board's meeting will be instrumental in passing crew van legislation in the state. Representative Tim Meadows is a fellow Teamster member who introduced the legislation in the last session. He attended the meeting and spoke to the group, along with John Wyker of the Federal Railroad Administration.

They were joined by BLET First Vice President Dennis Pierce and BLET Vice President & National Legislative Representative John Tolman. First Vice President Pierce updated the group on current events at the National Division, and his role as First Vice President. Vice President Tolman gave the group an update on legislative and political issues.

Brother Kelley, a member of Division 502 (Kansas City, Mo.), was first elected Chairman of the Missouri State Legislative Board in May of 2006. He assumed office on June 1, 2006, following the retirement of long-time chairman Mickey Gage.

The Missouri State Legislative Board represents over 1,100 members and 21 BLET Divisions. @@

2010

Calendar & Events

July 13-17, 2010

70th Annual International Western Convention, Bismarck-Mandan, N.D.

Co-Chairs Mike Muscha and Ron Huff and the members of BLET Division 671 and Division 746 host the 2010 IWC at the Radisson Hotel Bismarck (605 E. Broadway Ave., Bismarck, N.D. 58501. Phone: (701) 255-6000. Rate: \$89). For details, contact Brother Muscha by email: locoeng671e@mlgc.com.

August 8-12, 2010

72nd Annual Eastern Union Meeting Association, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Hosted by Tom and Sue Caruso, Division 335, the 2010 EUMA will take place at the Sheraton Station Square Hotel in Pittsburgh, Pa. (300 West Station Square Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15219-2000. Phone: (412) 261-2000. Rate: \$155). For details, contact: EUMA2010@verizon.net.

September 10, 2010

Railroad Retirement Board Informational Conference, Roanoke, Va.

The U.S. Railroad Retirement Board will hold free informational conferences for elected officers of all railroad labor unions throughout 2010. Registration for all meetings begins at 8 a.m., with the programs beginning promptly at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 12:30 p.m. At the Hyatt Place Roanoke Airport, 5040 Valley View Blvd. NW.

September 12-16, 2010

75th Annual Southwestern Convention Meeting, San Antonio, Texas.

Hosted by Russell Elley, Local Chairman of Division 197, the 2010 SWCM will take place at the Hyatt Regency San Antonio, on the River Walk at Paseo del Alamo (123 Losoya St., San Antonio, Texas, 78205. Phone: (888) 421-1442. Rate: \$139). For details, contact Brother Elley by email: r.elley@att.net.

September 24, 2010

Railroad Retirement Board Informational Conferences, West Des Moines, Iowa and Albany, N.Y.

Registration begins at 8 a.m., with the programs beginning promptly at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 12:30 p.m. In Iowa at the Hampton Inn-West Des Moines, 7060 Lake Drive; and in New York at the Clarion Hotel, 3 Watervliet Ave. Ext., Albany.

October 1, 2010

Railroad Retirement Board Informational Conference, Huntington, W.Va.

Registration for all meetings begins at 8 a.m., with the programs beginning promptly at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 12:30 p.m. At the Ramada Limited, 3094 16th Street Rd.

October 4-7, 2010

BLET National Division Convention, Reno, Nevada

The BLET's Second Quadrennial National Convention will be held at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno. See BLET website for details, www.ble-t.org/convention

October 15, 2010

Railroad Retirement Board Informational Conference, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Registration for all meetings begins at 8 a.m., with the programs beginning promptly at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 12:30 p.m. At the Greater Pa. Regional Council of Carpenters Union Hall, 650 Ridge Rd.



ELECTIONS

Terry Todd reelected Arkansas State Legislative Board Chairman



Arkansas State Legislative Board 2010

Seated, from left: Danny Onstott, Div. 182 1st Vice LC; Earles Carpenter, Div. 858 LR; Terry Todd, ASLB Chairman; and Steve Christian, ASLB S/T; Les Tannahill, Div. 278 LR. **Standing, from left:** Robert Lindsey, retired Div. 858 LR; Todd Smith, Div. 585 S/T; Bill Walpert, National S/T; Charlie Rightnowar, UP-CR GC; James Hoskins, Jr., ASLB 1st Vice-Chairman; Leon Shipman, Div. 116 LR; Shane McCuan, ASLB 2nd Vice-Chairman; John Tolman, National Legislative Rep.; David Grimes, Div. 42 LC; Terry Briggs, Texas State Legislative Board Chairman; and Arlin Todd, Louisiana State Legislative Board Chairman.

Terry L Todd was reelected Chairman of the BLET's Arkansas State Legislative Board at meetings in North Little Rock, Ark., on March 17-18, 2010.

Brother Todd has served as Chairman of the Board since 2002. He first joined the BLET on September 1, 1978, and also serves Division 585 (North Little Rock) as President and Legislative Representative. He has been Division 585's Legislative Representative since 1996.

Other officers were elected as follows: James Hoskins Jr. of Division 182 (North Little Rock) was elected First Vice-Chairman; Steve Christian of BLET Division 524 (Van Buren, Ark.) was reelected Secretary-Treasurer; Shane McCuan of Division 182 was elected 2nd Vice-Chairman; Earles Carpenter of Division 858 (Pine Bluff, Ark.) was elected Guide; and Leon Shipman of Division 116 (Batesville, Ark.) was elected Chaplin.

Brother Christian has held the Secretary-Treasurer position since 2002.

"Steve is our most senior member on the Board, having served for over 20 years," Chairman Todd said.

BLET National President Paul Sorrow congratulated Brother Todd on his reelection and for hosting a successful, informative, and well-attended meeting. President Sorrow also thanked all Legislative Representatives in Arkansas for their continued hard work and expressed regret at not being able to attend the meeting in person due to his busy travel schedule.

Representing the National Division at the meeting were: First Vice-President Dennis Pierce; National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert; and Vice President & National Legislative Representative John Tolman.

Also in attendance were: Texas State Legislative Board Chairman Terry Briggs; and Louisiana State Legislative Board Chairman Arlin Todd.

Four different Region 5 Inspectors from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) were on hand to make presentations on hazardous materials, signal issues, on-duty cell phone use, the Hours of Service Act, and various other mechanical issues. More than 25 BLET and United Transportation Union members attended the FRA presentations. @@

Electronic Communications Policy

The policy currently in effect is that official communications between BLET members and the National Division require a hard copy of the correspondence — with 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.

Due to the volume of e-mails it would be impossible for the President to answer all unofficial communications. Therefore, it is the policy of the BLET National Division Office that e-mails addressed to the National President will be reviewed and forwarded to the appropriate officer or staff for a timely response. In other words, an email message is not considered an official communication.

This will allow the President to be aware of the opinions and suggestions of the membership, while at the same time providing a timely response to the member, if a response is necessary. @@

Photo: courtesy Terry Todd

SWITCH & SAVE

C.P.A. Has Been Protecting Railroad Workers with Job Insurance for 103 years.

We offer REAL Job Insurance from a REAL Insurance Company... which is why we can guarantee that your premiums will NEVER go up and your benefits will NEVER go down.

Do you know what you're paying right now for your job insurance? You may be able to save as much as \$600 a year.*

Talk with one of our experienced & knowledgeable representatives today to find out how much you can save by switching to C.P.A.

Switch & Save... We make switching easy!

Switch To C.P.A. Today
You Could SAVE Up To

\$600*

800-432-8245

or online at

www.cpains.com



C.P.A. Insurance Company

Established in 1907

* October 2009 rate comparison with similar policies of competitors. Your savings may vary.



Matt Kronyak elected Chairman of NJ SLB

Jim Chappelle retires

Matt Kronyak was elected Chairman of the New Jersey State Legislative Board at meetings in Newark, N.J., from March 26-27. He replaces outgoing Chairman Jim Chappelle, who is retiring after nearly 36 years of dedication and service to the Brotherhood.

"Brother Chappelle has done a great job serving the members in the state of New Jersey, and has volunteered to help us in any way he can for the next 13 months," Brother Kronyak said. "I look forward to continuing the work he has done and serving the BLET. I would like to thank all of those who attended the meeting."

Brother Kronyak is a CSX (former Conrail) locomotive engineer and member of BLET Division 235 (Union City, N.J.). He has been a BLET member since December 1, 1995.

Also elected at the meeting were: Fred Mattison, First Vice Chairman (Division 373, Trenton, N.J.); Sean Simon, Second Vice Chairman (Division 226, Newark, N.J.); Mike Luteran, Secretary-Treasurer (Division 601, Newark); and Brian Baginski, Alternate Secretary-Treasurer (Division 601).

BLET National President Paul Sorrow congratulated all officers on their elections and thanked them for their continued dedication to the affairs of the Brotherhood.

"I have every confidence in the world that Brother Kronyak will do an outstanding job representing the rights and interests of our Brothers and Sisters in New Jersey," President Sorrow said. "I also thank retiring Chairman Jim Chappelle for his years of sacrifice and dedication to our Brotherhood."

Attending the meeting on behalf of National President Sorrow was First Vice



Seated, from left: Vice President & National Legislative Representative John Tolman, Mike Luteran, NJ SLB Secretary-Treasurer; Matt Kronyak, NJ State Legislative Board Chairman; Fred Mattison, 1st Vice Chairman NJ SLB; First Vice President Dennis Pierce. **Standing, from left:** Tim Hanely, Ohio State Legislative Board Chairman; Rich Vogt, Division 387 Legislative Representative; Bob Fallon, Division 497 Legislative Representative; Randy Duncan, Division 171 Legislative Representative; Jim Chappelle Division 53 Legislative Representative and Former NJ SLBC; Sean Simon, Division 226 Legislative Representative and Second Vice Chairman NJ SLB; Pat Norton, Division 157 Legislative Representative; Brian Baginski, Alternate NJ SLB Secretary-Treasurer; Dave Hamilton Division 235 Legislative Representative; Ken Kertesz, Pennsylvania State Legislative Board Chairman.

President Dennis Pierce. He presented Brother Chappelle with a plaque from the National Division honoring him for his years of service to the Brotherhood and thanking him and his family for their dedication and many sacrifices over the years.

Brother Chappelle is retiring after nearly 40 years of experience with New Jersey Transit. He joined the Brotherhood on December 1, 1974, and is a member of BLET Division 53 (Jersey City, N.J.).

BLET Vice President & National Legislative Representative John Tolman was also at the meeting. He presented insights into legislation that the BLET is working on in 2010. He also discussed the upcoming political races as well as key regulatory issues.

Other BLET officers attending the meeting include: Ken Kertesz, Chairman of the Pennsylvania State Legislative Board; Tim Hanely, Chairman of the Ohio State Legislative Board and NASL-

BC Region 1 Chairman; and Jim Louis, Chairman of the New York State Legislative Board and Chairman of the Conrail (SAA-CSXT-Northern District) General Committee of Adjustment.

Also in attendance was Cliff Nolan of Teamsters Joint Council 73, which represents 65,000 members.

"Congratulations to Brother Kronyak and all of the members elected at the meeting," Vice President Tolman said. "I look forward to working with Matt." @@

Rail workers must be part of National Rail Plan

In comments to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) regarding its preliminary National Rail Plan, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen declared its support for the plan envisioned by the FRA, but demanded that jobs created under the Plan must go to America's railroad workers.

"The workers currently employed by our nation's railroads are among the most highly trained and skilled employees in the world," National President Paul Sorrow said. "They are entitled to a safe work environment and the National Rail Plan should not interfere with their ability to keep and expand their work."

The Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (PRIIA) directed the FRA Administrator to develop a Preliminary National Rail Plan (PNRP or Preliminary Plan) to address the rail needs of the Nation. The PRIIA also directed FRA to provide assistance to States in developing their State rail plans in order to ensure that the Federal long-range National Rail Plan is consistent with approved State rail plans.

The Preliminary Plan lays the groundwork for developing policies to improve the U.S. transportation system. Its goals are: to improve safety, to foster livable communities, to increase the economic

competitiveness of the United States, and to promote sustainable transportation.

A COPY OF THE PRELIMINARY PLAN IS AVAILABLE AT: [HTTP://WWW.FRA.DOT.GOV/DOWNLOADS/RAILPLANPRELIM10-15.PDF](http://www.fra.dot.gov/downloads/railplanprelim10-15.pdf)

"The BLET urges FRA to require the jobs covered by the National Rail Plan be safeguarded for railroad workers, and ensure these workers are protected by federal laws relating to railroad workers, including the Railway Labor Act, Railroad Retirement Act and the Federal Employers Liability Act," wrote BLET Vice President and National Legislative Representative John Tolman in Brotherhood's written comments on the Plan.

"The BLET supports the goals set forth by the Federal Railroad Administration in developing a National Rail Plan. Its inclusion in the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act is consistent with the desire by the BLET for long-term planning and financing of passenger rail by federal, state and local governments."

A COPY OF THE BLET'S COMMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE DOT DOCKET CLERK REGARDING THIS ISSUE IS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD FROM THE BLET WEBSITE AT: [HTTP://WWW.BLET-T.ORG/PR/PDF/NATIONAL_RAIL_PLAN_COMMENTS.PDF](http://www.blet-t.org/pr/pdf/national_rail_plan_comments.pdf) @@

Transportation Workers protecting each other since 1910



4000 Town Center, Suite 1250, Southfield, MI 48075-1407
phone: 800.514.0010 | fax: 877.633.1910
email: lecempa1910@lecempa.org | web: www.lecempa.org

Pittsburgh welcomes BLET for 2010 EUMA

All BLET members and their families are welcome to Pittsburgh, Pa., for the Eastern Union Meeting Association's 72nd annual convention, August 8-12, 2010.

Guests will stay at the Sheraton Station Square hotel in downtown Pittsburgh. The BLET room rate is \$155 per night. The room registration deadline is July 9, 2010, and the group reservations are listed under BLET (group code BOHO8A).

Early registration is encouraged for the 2010 EUMA. The first 200 registrants will receive a special EUMA 2010 welcome gift.

Arrangements Committee Chairs Tom and Sue Caruso and the members of BLET Division 335 are proudly hosting the 2010 EUMA.

"We strongly encourage you to bring your entire family, as everyone knows there isn't much family time in the railroad world," the Carusos said.

The EUMA area of the BLET website contains convention registration forms, golf tournament registration forms, and a direct link to the Sheraton Station Square hotel for online reservations: <http://www.ble-t.org/info/meetingsr/euma>

Registration begins on Sunday, August 8, and is followed by a welcome reception.

The convention begins the morning of August 9 with opening ceremonies at 9 a.m. Closed meetings for the BLET and BLET Auxiliary will take place Monday afternoon.

Unique to the EUMA this year is a special presentation on SOFA, or Switching



Pittsburgh views: NS train 555 passes below the famous Duquesne Incline (Courtesy BLET Member Rich Borkowski, Div. 255). Station Square displays a lighted fountain each night (VisitPittsburgh.com). The fountain at Point State Park (VisitPittsburgh.com).



Operations Fatality Awareness. SOFA is a working group of representatives from labor and management, which reviews switching operations accident reports and develops recommendations for reducing fatalities and injuries. The SOFA group issues regular safety reminders to help achieve its goal of eliminating switching injuries and fatalities. The SOFA presentation during the 2010 EUMA will take place on Monday afternoon, August 9.

Also unique to the 2010 convention is the EUMA Daycamp. While children and grandchildren are welcome at each event, babysitting will be available and provided

by highly trained and professional staff.

The EUMA concludes its Monday activities with a dinner cruise aboard the Gateway Clipper Fleet. Enjoy dinner and a boat ride on the "Empress" along Pittsburgh's famous Three Rivers. Guests will have the opportunity to depart at the River's Edge Casino with transportation back to the hotel via shuttle if they should choose to end their cruise there.

The annual EUMA golf tournament takes place on August 10 at the Cranberry Highlands Golf Course. Established in 2002, the Cranberry Highlands is a 4,769-yard par-70 course featuring 90 sand bun-

kers and water hazards.

For non-golfers, the EUMA Arrangements Committee has organized a multitude of sightseeing activities for Tuesday, including: a tour of Heinz Field, home of the Pittsburgh Steelers; a visit to the Carnegie Science Center with its famous miniature railroad; and a tour of the Strip District, Pittsburgh's multicultural area and home of the famous Primanti Brothers sandwiches, Wholey's Fish Market and countless other unique stores and restaurants.

August 11 is workshop day at the 2010 EUMA. Educational workshops for BLET Secretary-Treasurers, Local Chairmen and Legislative Representatives will be provided. Additionally, representatives of the BLET's National Mobilization Team will conduct a special workshop on mobilization.

Finally, the 2010 EUMA concludes with the annual banquet the evening of August 11. Dress for the event is semi-formal.

"But, all fun aside, we offer all members the opportunity to learn and grow with the meetings and workshops for all positions with the organization," the Carusos said. "This is a great chance for all officers and members to attend condensed versions of classes. The open and closed meetings are extremely informative, along with the BLET and BLET Auxiliary meetings.

"We are planning events for the spouses as well. We don't want you just hanging out in your hotel room. Join the fun at the Ladies Fair on Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. with special door prizes at 3 p.m.! @@

Hanely reelected as Ohio State Legislative Board concludes convention

Twenty-four Division Delegates from Ohio were joined by officers of the BLET National Division, State politicians and many other special guests at the Ohio State Legislative Board's 14th Quadrennial Convention in Columbus, Ohio, from May 6-7, 2010.

State Chairman Tim Hanely was re-elected by acclamation during the con-

vention, along with First Vice-Chairman Tim Price and Secretary-Treasurer Edward Patterson. Alternate Secretary-Treasurer Dan DeSelms and 2nd Vice-Chairman Brian Garrison were also elected to the executive committee of the Board.

BLET National President Paul Sorrow congratulated these Brothers on winning election and expressed his regret that he

could not attend the meeting personally.

National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert briefed the delegates and guests on the activities of the National Division. Vice President & National Legislative Rep. John Tolman also addressed the convention, and National Vice-President Willard Knight was also in attendance. General Chairman Cole Davis (NS) and VGC Bob Linsey also attended.

Other highlights of the convention included a concise question and answer period with Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) regional inspectors, an informational meeting with BLET Auxiliary President Becky Schneider for 19 spouses, and a keynote address by BLET Division 757 (New Castle, Pa.) member and Ohio State Representative Robert Hagan. Brother Hagan spoke to the group about the importance of political activism in our union at the dinner banquet.

The delegates created an annual scholarship fund for post secondary students and a new chapter of the BLET Auxil-

iary was formed.

"The delegates conducted a very orderly and productive business meeting," Chairman Hanely said. "We accomplished quite a bit of business in a short time."

Hanely thanked First Vice-Chairman Tim Price for directing all of the hotel and banquet arrangements.

"Because of his hard work the convention was flawless and we all owe our thanks to him. Karen Patterson hosted the spouses at the convention" Hanely said.

Hanely is a member of Division 36 in Newark, Ohio, and has been a member of the BLET since 1995. He was first elected Chairman in April of 2006.

"Brother Hanely works very hard for the members in Ohio, and I would like to congratulate him on a successful meeting," Vice President Tolman said.

The Ohio State Legislative Board represents 3,200 active and retired members who work for CSX, Norfolk Southern, Wheeling & Lake Erie, and the Indiana & Ohio Railroads. @@



Delegates attending the 14th Quadrennial meeting of the Ohio State Legislative Board.

Seated, from left: Ed Patterson, Div. 36; Brian Garrison, Div. 306; Tim Hanely, Div. 36; Tim Price, Div. 607; and Dan DeSelms, Div. 4. **Standing, from left:** Jim Blum, Div. 526; Doug Myers, Div. 447; Gary Morrison, Div. 480; Waymond Cross, Div. 260; Greg Gross, Div. 281; Bruce Crockett, Div. 234; Ron Kovacs, Div. 79; Mickey Parsons, Div. 95; John Sedam, Div. 894; Robert Dykes, Div. 678; Louis Blades, Div. 273; Jeff Murray, Div. 34; Steve Fogle, Div. 292; Dave Sattig, Jr., Div. 457; Tim McMahon, Div. 565; Bill Ellert, Div. 3; Tom Galloway, Div. 4; Robert Cunningham, Div. 255; Thom Davis, Div. 511; Rick Bartek, Div. 385; and Kirk Knopp, Div. 937.

BROTHERHOOD OBITUARIES

February-May 2010

4 — E. M. Timbers
30 — H.W. Cain Jr.
107 — B. E. Venable
122 — E. H. Running
166 — J. F. Morgan
198 — C. B. Rightmire

238 — E. L. Ramsey
244 — T. W. Gill
269 — A. Stroman
325 — A. W. Kohler
325 — J.W. Langendorf
344 — F. E. Godwin
344 — L. E. Redgate
392 — W. M. Hamilton

416 — R. L. Langlois
435 — S. J. Mangold
488 — J. S. Seybold
518 — W. S. Rausch
662 — R. V. Miller
698 — B. M. Caudill
940 — G. E. Huryta



BLET FELA Directory

As of JUNE 7, 2010

Our union has designated attorneys who are qualified to serve as counsel for BLET members in accordance with the Federal Employers' Liability Act (FELA) governing workplace accidents. In the event of an injury or death and before reaching any settlement with a railroad, members or surviving families should contact an attorney listed to get

competent advice concerning their legal rights under the FELA. In addition, if you or any members of your family have questions concerning medical malpractice, product liability or other types of injury cases, please don't hesitate to contact one of these law firms for a consultation concerning your rights and remedies. ☺☺



ALABAMA

Harp & Callier, L.L.P.

P.O. Box 875; 1604 Broad St., Suite F
Phenix City, AL 36867-0875
(334) 291-7741 or (800) 422-3352
www.harpcallier.com
Email: harpraillaw@aol.com
J. Anderson "Andy" Harp

Matthews, Steel & Moss

The Massey Building
2025 3rd Avenue North
Suite 400
Birmingham, AL 35203-3372
(205) 533-9000
Fax: (205) 324-1255
www.msm-lawfirm.com
Email: JSteel@msm-lawfirm.com
John D. Steel

ARKANSAS

Kujawski & Associates, P.C.

201 W. Broadway, Suite E
N. Little Rock, AR 72114
(501) 372-8047 or (800) 624-4571
Fax: (501) 372-4379
www.kujawskiassociates.com
John P. Kujawski

CALIFORNIA

The Crow Law Firm

700 "E" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-1230
(916) 441-2980 or (800) 795-6555
Fax: (916) 441-3846
Email: Dfrias@crowlaw.com
Joseph J. Weninger

Hildebrand, McLeod & Nelson, LLP

2000 Riverside Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90039
(323) 662-6400 or (800) 344-3352
Fax: (323) 669-8549
www.hmnlaw.com
Email: Pfister@hmnlaw.com
R. Edward Pfister Jr.

Hildebrand, McLeod & Nelson, LLP

350 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza
Fourth Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2006
(510) 451-6732 or (800) 447-7500
Fax: (510) 465-7023
www.hmnlaw.com
Email: Pfister@hmnlaw.com
R. Edward Pfister Jr.

The Crow Law Firm

100 W. Foothill, Suite 201
San Dimas, CA 91773
(800) 499-9904
Fax: (916) 441-3846
Email: Dfrias@crowlaw.com
Joseph J. Weninger

COLORADO

Rossi Cox Vucinovich Flaskamp P.C.

3801 East Florida Ave., Suite 905
Denver, CO 80210-2500
(303) 759-3500 or (800) 325-4014
Fax: (303) 759-3180
www.rcvpc.com
Email: jcox@rcvpc.com
James L. Cox Jr.

FLORIDA

The Moody Law Firm

1400 Baymeadows Way, Suite 105
Jacksonville, FL 32256
(904) 256-0018 or (800) 813-8608



Fax: (904) 256-0019
www.moodyrrlaw.com
Willard J. Moody Jr.

Sams & Hollon, P.A.

Baywood Center
9424 Baymeadows Road, Suite 160
Jacksonville, FL 32256
(904) 737-1995 or (800) 327-4552
Fax: (904) 737-3838
Alva Hollon Jr.

GEORGIA

Matthews, & Moss

15 Piedmont Center, Suite 160
3575 Piedmont Rd. NE
Atlanta, GA 30305
(404) 264-1292 or (800) 776-0098
Fax: (404) 264-0161
www.msm-lawfirm.com
Email: JSteel@msm-lawfirm.com
John D. Steel

Harp & Callier, L.L.P.

P.O. Box 2645, The Corporate Center
Suite 900, 233 12th St.
Columbus, GA 31902-2645
(706) 323-7711 or (800) 422-3352
Fax: (706) 323-7544
Email: HarpRailLaw@aol.com
Email: aharp@harpcallier.com
www.harpcallier.com
J. Anderson "Andy" Harp

ILLINOIS

Blunt & Associates, Ltd.

60 Edwardsville Professional Park,
P.O. Box 373
Edwardsville, IL 62025
(618) 656-7744 or (800) 323-5538
Fax: (618) 656-7849
Email: michaelb@bluntlaw.com
David L. Blunt

Daniel J. Downes, P.C.

60 W. Randolph
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 781-1852 or (800) 624-2121
Fax: (312) 781-1854
Email: dan@dandownes.com
www.feladownes.com
Daniel J. Downes

Kujawski & Associates, P.C.

1331 Park Plaza Drive, Suite 2
O'Fallon, IL 62269-1764
(618) 622-3600 or (800) 624-4571
Fax: (618) 622-3700
www.kujawskiassociates.com
John P. Kujawski

Sands & Associates

33 North Dearborn St., Suite 1630

Chicago, IL 60602
(312) 236-4980 or (800) 832-1999
Fax: (312) 236-1711
Email: scsands@ameritech.net
www.sandsandassociates.com
Scott C. Sands

Schlichter, Bogard & Denton

120 West Main St., Suite 208
Belleville, IL 62220
(800) 873-5297
Fax: (314) 621-7151
Email: jschlichter@uselaws.com
Jerome J. Schlichter

Hoey & Farina

542 South Dearborn, Suite 200
Chicago, IL 60605
(312) 939-1212 or (888) 425-1212
Email: Info@hoeyfarina.com
www.hoeyfarina.com
James L. Farina

LOUISIANA

Davis•Saunders Law Firm

500 Mariners Plaza Drive
Suite 504
Mandeville, LA 70448
(985) 612-3070 or (800) 321-7815
Fax: (985) 612-3072
www.davissaunder.com
Email: Benbsaunder@aol.com
Ben B. Saunders

MASSACHUSETTS

Thornton & Naumes LLP

100 Summert St., 30th Floor
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 720-1333 or (800) 431-4600
Fax: (617) 720-2445
www.tenlaw.com
Email: rnaumes@tenlaw.com
Robert T. Naumes

MICHIGAN

E.J. Leizerman & Associates

24750 Lasher Road
Southfield, MI 48034
(313) 962-3666 or (800) 628-4500
Fax: (419) 243-8200
www.thefela.com
Email: ej@leizerman.com
E.J. Leizerman

MINNESOTA

Hunegs, LeNeave & Kvas, P.A.

900 Second Ave. South, Suite 1650
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(612) 339-4511 or (800) 328-4340
Fax: (612) 339-5150
www.hklaw.com
Email: rleneave@hklaw.com
Randal W. LeNeave

Ingebritson Moyers & Roos, P.A.

Medical Arts Building, Suite 1025
825 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(612) 340-8290 or (800) 282-6393
Fax: (612) 342-2990
www.ingebritson.com
Russell A. Ingebritson

MISSOURI

Hubbell, Peak, O'Neal, Napier & Leach

30 West Pershing Road, Suite 350
Kansas City, MO 64108-2463
(816) 221-5666 or (800) 821-5257
Fax: (816) 221-5259
Gene Napier

Bauer & Baebler, P.C.

1716 S. Broadway
St. Louis, MO 63104
(314) 241-7700 or (800) 682-4529
Fax: (314) 241-0003
www.RailLaw.com
Joseph L. Bauer, Esq.

Schlichter, Bogard & Denton

100 S. 4th St., Suite 900
St. Louis, MO 63102
(314) 621-6115 or (800) 873-5297
Fax: (314) 621-7151
Email: jschlichter@uselaws.com
Jerome J. Schlichter

Rathmann Law Offices, L.L.C.

1031 Lami Street
St. Louis, MO 63104
(314) 773-3456 or (800) 238-4122
Fax: (314) 773-7238
Dennis T. Rathmann

NEW YORK

Collins & Collins

267 North St.
Buffalo, NY 14201
(716) 885-9700 or (800) 933-8195
Fax: (716) 885-9770
John F. Collins

NORTH CAROLINA

Shapiro, Cooper, Lewis & Appleton, P.C.

101 E. Elizabeth St.
Elizabeth City, North Carolina 27909
(800) 752-0042
www.hsinjurylaw.com
Email: RShapiro@hsinjurylaw.com
Richard N. Shapiro

OHIO

E.J. Leizerman & Associates, LLC

717 Madison Ave.
Toledo, OH 43624
(419) 243-1010 or (800) 843-3352
Fax: (419) 243-8200
www.thefela.com
Email: ej@leizerman.com
E.J. Leizerman

OREGON

Rose, Senders & Bovarnick, LLP

1205 N.W. 25th Ave.
Portland, OR 97210
(503) 227-2486 or (800) 998-9776
Fax: (503) 226-3131
Paul S. Bovarnick

PENNSYLVANIA

Coffey, Kaye, Myers & Olley

Suite 718, Two Bala Plaza
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
(610) 668-9800 or (800) 334-2500

Fax: (610) 667-3352

www.FELAattys.com

Email: mikeolley@comcast.net
Michael J. Olley

Keller & Goggin, P.C.

1528 Walnut Street, Suite 900
Philadelphia, PA 19102
(215) 735-8780 or (800) 666-FELA
Fax: (215) 735-5126
www.keller-goggin.com
Robert S. Goggin III

TEXAS

Jones & Granger

10000 Memorial Drive, Suite 888
Houston, TX 77024
(713) 668-0230 or (800) 231-3359
Fax: (713) 956-7139
Email: bttra@jonesgranger.com
Robert M. Tramuto

The Cartall Law Firm

5126 Fredericksburg Rd., Suite 462
San Antonio, TX 78229
(210) 344-1111
Fax: (210) 344-5844
Bryan P. Cartall, Esq.

Tavormina & Young, LLP

1300 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 1750
Houston, TX 77056
(713) 333-3070 or (888) 565-7245
Fax: (713) 333-3075
www.TavorminaYoung.com
Email: syoung@tavorminayoung.com
Steve Young

UTAH

Hatch, James & Dodge

10 West Broadway, Suite 400
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 363-6363 or (800) 574-6310
Fax: (801) 363-6666
Email: bhatch@hjdllaw.com
Brent O. Hatch

VIRGINIA

The Moody Law Firm

500 Crawford St., Suite 300
P.O. Box 1138
Portsmouth, VA 23705
(757) 393-4093 or (800) 368-1033
Fax: (757) 397-7257
www.moodyrrlaw.com
Willard J. Moody Jr.

Shapiro, Cooper, Lewis & Appleton, P.C.

1294 Diamond Springs Road
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23455
(757) 460-7776 or (800) 752-0042
Fax: (757) 460-3428
www.hsinjurylaw.com
Email: Rshapiro@hsinjurylaw.com
Richard N. Shapiro

WASHINGTON

Rossi Cox Vucinovich Flaskamp P.C.

10900 N.E. 8th St., Suite 1122
Bellevue, WA 98004
(425) 646-8003 or (866) 357-7245
Fax: (425) 646-8004
www.rcvpc.com
Email: jcox@rcvpc.com
James L. Cox Jr.

Email Address Changes To:

John Bentley, Editor
at Bentley@ble-t.org



Locomotive Engineers And Trainmen News Brotherhood Of Locomotive Engineers And Trainmen

A Division Of The Rail Conference,
International Brotherhood Of Teamsters

BLET Publications Committee:

Paul T. Sorrow, National President
Dennis R. Pierce, First Vice-President & Alternate President
William C. Walpert, National Secretary-Treasurer
John P. Tolman, Vice-President & National Legislative Rep.
John V. Bentley Jr., Editor
Bill Joyce, Art Director/Assistant Editor
www.ble-t.org • (216) 241-2630

COPYRIGHT 2010, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED
VOLUME 24 • NUMBER 6 • June 2010

LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS & TRAINMEN NEWS (ISSN 0898-8625)

is published monthly by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen,
1370 Ontario Street, Cleveland, OH 44113-1702.
Periodicals postage paid at Cleveland, OH.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen News — BLET Records Department,
1370 Ontario Street, Mezzanine Cleveland, OH 44113-1702.

Periodicals Postage
PAID
at Cleveland, OH.

6/10

JUNE 2010 PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Vintage » Amtrak

On a foggy morning in 1978, Amtrak's Silver Star heads northbound at Norlina, N.C., on the former Seaboard Air Line route from Raleigh-to-Richmond, N.C. **Photographer Doug Riddell writes:** "Today, the depot is gone and the right of way has trees growing in the gauge between rusted rails. The good news is that this route is slated to become part of the Southeast's high-speed rail line, so in the not too distant future, trains may once again be screaming through Norlina." **Photo courtesy:** BLET member Doug Riddell, Division 14.

A message from
Teamsters General President
James P. Hoffa

Finally, the Dept. of Labor is on our side

It is a disgrace that so many workers are killed on the job in this country.

They're killed in fields and factories, on oil rigs and in coal mines, in refineries, on railroads, on utility poles and driving trucks. Last year, an average of 14 people died at work every single day.

In April, seven workers were killed at the Tesoro Refinery in Washington states and three days later, 29 coal miners were killed in a Massey Energy coal mine in West Virginia. Also, an AT&T utility worker was electrocuted in Detroit, 11 oil rig workers died in the Gulf of Mexico explosion, a New York City transit worker was electrocuted and three more coal miners died — one in West Virginia and two in Kentucky.

Workers should not be dying in fires and explosions and falls. They should not be dying of heatstroke in warehouses and fields. They should not be dying because

their employer blatantly ignore their health and safety.

Most of all, they should not be dying because the federal government lets their employers get away with it. During the last administration, laws protecting workers' health and safety were broken with impunity.



Fortunately, President Obama has taken the side of workers in the battle for safe workplaces. His new Secretary of Labor, Hilda Solis, announced that she was very, very serious about enforcing worker safety laws. "There is a new sheriff in town," she said.

In March, 15,000 employers received letters from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, warning them that inspectors were on their way to as many as 4,500 workplaces. OSHA sent the letters to companies that had high rates of workers who spent time away from work, were restricted or transferred because of injury or illness.

Perhaps there's no better example of the

difference between the Obama administration and the Bush administration than their approach to mine safety. Bush named a mine safety chief whose qualification was his position as top safety officer for a mine operator that broke many safety rules. Some of those violations caused a fire at the Wilberg coal mine in Utah in 1984. Twenty-seven miners were killed. Not surprisingly, the Bush-era Mine Safety and Health Administration halted new safety regulations. Regulations that remained weren't enforced.

In contrast, Obama's mine safety administrator worked for the United Mine Workers' health and safety department at the time of the Wilberg fire. Joe Main was involved in rescuing and recovering the lost miners, something, he said, that affected him deeply. As Solis' mine safety chief, Main is committed to saving miners' lives and enforcing safety regulations.

Elections do make a difference in workers' lives.

Faternally,

James P. Hoffa

TEAMSTERS GENERAL PRESIDENT

Advisory Board April 2010 Activity

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

National President Paul T. Sorrow — National Division office; General supervision of BLET activities; General office duties; Various correspondence and telephone communications; Supervision of office administration; General supervision of Special Representatives; President, Teamsters Rail Conference; Advisory Board mtg.; National Association of State Legislative Board Chairmen (NASLBC) annual mtg., Mobile, Ala.; Western General Chairmen's Assoc. (WGCA) annual mtg., Las Vegas; National bargaining mtgs., Washington, D.C.

First Vice-President Dennis R. Pierce — Director, Passenger Dept.; Director, Short Lines Organizing Dept.; Director, Trainmen's Dept.; National Division Publications Committee; National Legislative Board; Teamsters Rail Conference Policy Cmte.; Assigned to Special Projects-BNSF GCoAs; NY Dock mtgs., CSX, Cleveland; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; Texas State Legislative Board training, Dallas; NASLBC annual mtg., Mobile, Ala.; WGCA annual mtg., Las Vegas; Rail policy mtg., Las Vegas; California State Legislative Board mtg., Santa Rosa, Calif.

National Secretary-Treasurer William C. Walpert — General supervision of accounting dept., records dept., online services dept., IT Dept., tax compliance dept.; public relations dept.; Education & Training Dept.; Internal Organizing, Mobilizing & Strategic Planning Dept.; Safety Task Force; Meetings with vendors and financial institutions; Standard Building operations oversight; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; NASLBC annual mtg., Mobile, Ala.; WGCA annual mtg., Las Vegas; IBT Rail Conference Policy mtg., Las Vegas; California State Legislative Board mtg., Santa Rosa, Calif.

Vice-President Merle W. Geiger Jr. — Assigned to: Kansas City Southern; Texas Mexican Railway; MidSouth Rail; SouthRail; Gateway Western; CP Rail System/US (CP/DME/ICE); Indiana Southern RR; Utah RR; Panhandle Northern RR; Great Western RR; Indiana Harbor Belt; and Belt RR of Chicago; PLB No. 6884 (KCS) session, Las Colinas, Texas; Implementing agreement mtg., KCS/Tex-Mex, Houston; Contract mtgs., OmniTrax/GWR, Denver; WGCA mtgs., Las Vegas; Contract mtgs., Utah RR; Provo, Utah; Bereavement leave; Holiday; Research, correspondence and general office duties.

Vice-President Stephen D. Speagle — Assigned to Burlington Northern Santa Fe, Montana Rail Link, Pacific Harbor Line, Missouri & Northern Arkansas (M&NA); Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; Attend "High Alert 2" rail security mtg., Washington, D.C.; WGCA mtgs., Las Vegas.

Vice-President E.L. "Lee" Pruitt — Assisted general chairmen & members of: UP-Western Lines; UP-Western Region; UP-Central Region; UP-Southern Region; UP-Tacoma Belt; UP-Eastern District; Office duties and paper work, filing, correspondence, etc.; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; Texas State Legislative Board, assisting Chairman Terry Briggs, Dallas; UP Section 6 notices, Kansas City, Mo.; WGCA mtgs., Las Vegas; California State Legislative Board mtg., Santa Rosa, Calif.

Vice-President & National Legislative Representative John P. Tolman — Assigned to BLET Washington, DC office; BLET Security Officer; General Office Duties, telephone, correspondence; Coordinate content of NLO website; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; National Division office, Cleveland; Texas State Legislative Rep training, Fort Worth, TX; NASLBC annual mtg., Mobile, Ala.; WGCA annual mtg., Las Vegas; Rail Conference policy committee mtg., Las Vegas; California State Legislative Board 6th quadrennial session, Santa Rosa, Calif.; Met w/ various Amtrak representatives; Met w/ various Representatives on the House and Senate to discuss changes and technical corrections to RSIA; Several receptions with various U.S. Representatives,

Washington, D.C., and state candidates throughout U.S.

Vice-President Marcus J. Ruef — Labor member-NRAB, Vice Chairman, First Division; Director of Arbitration Dept; Assigned to Amtrak; Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA); Long Island Railroad (LIRR); New York & Atlantic (NYAL); New Jersey Transit (NJIT); PATH; Metra; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; Assist GC Darcy w/ SBA 940, NJT, and SBA 940 arbitration, Newark, N.J.; Work on SBA 1164, BRC; WGCA mtgs., Las Vegas; Mtgs. w/ VGC Linsey and work on PLB 7377, NS/VW&E, Chicago; Assist GC Williams w/ submission for Int. No. 2 to Award 26337, ATSF.

Vice-President Mike Twombly — Assigned to Delaware & Hudson; Springfield Terminal; St. Lawrence & Atlantic; Montreal, Maine & Atlantic; Union RR; Birmingham Southern; Huron & Eastern; Duluth, Missabe & Iron Range; DM&IRTwo Harbors; South Buffalo Rwy; Iowa, Chicago & Eastern; Indiana & Ohio; Indiana & Southern; Louisville & Indiana; Meridian Southern; Talleyrand Terminal RR; Advisory Board mtgs., Cleveland; Vacation; WGCA mtgs., Las Vegas; Contract mtgs. w/ Springfield Terminal Rwy., North Billerica, Mass.

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; Ohio Central; Indiana & Ohio; Advisory Board conference call; Ohio State Legislative Board meeting, Columbus, Ohio; VNNYP mediation meetings, Washington, D.C.; Ohio Central contract meetings, Coshocton, Ohio; General office duties.

Vice-President Gil Gore — Assigned to all CSX; Union Pacific-Southern Region GCA special assignment; UP on-property negotiations; Advisory Board mtgs., Cleveland; Work on Section 4 document, CSXT; Work on DRC position papers, CSXT; Work on UP on-property proposal; Dispute Resolution Committee mtgs., CSXT, Destin, Fla.; WGCA mtgs., Las Vegas; Web mtg., conference call w/ Sorrow & Pierce, re: DRC issues, CSXT; Various office duties, paperwork, filing, telephone calls.