



DAILY NEWS UPDATES  
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# Locomotive

## ENGINEERS & TRAINMEN NEWS



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## BLET VP Willard Knight retires

### GIBBONS PROMOTED TO ADVISORY BOARD

**B**LET National Vice President Willard E. Knight is retiring following a 44-year railroad career. He has served as a Vice President on the BLET's Advisory Board since April 24, 2009, and his retirement is effective June 30, 2013.

Vice President Knight publicly made the announcement in an emotional speech at the BLET's Southeastern Meeting Association's 86th annual convention on June 24, 2013.

For the past several months, Vice President Knight has bravely battled esophageal cancer and related complications. Richard C. Gibbons, Alternate National Vice President No. 1, will be promoted to the office of National Vice President to fill the vacancy on the Advisory Board effective July 1, 2013.

"I personally thank Brother Willard for his valuable leadership and experience," BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce said. "The contracts he helped negotiate over the years have had a positive and lasting impact on a generation of locomotive engineers. Brother Willard should be proud of what he accomplished for the membership over the past 44 years. On behalf of the National Division and the entire Organization, I wish him nothing but the best in his well-deserved retirement."

Brother Knight spent 34 of his 44 years in the industry serving the membership



Richard C. Gibbons

as an elected officer of the Brotherhood. His railroad career began in 1969 as a fireman on the Norfolk & Western Railroad in Portsmouth, Ohio. He earned promotion to locomotive engineer in 1972 and first joined BLET Division 511 (Portsmouth, Ohio) on January 1, 1974. He began serving as a union officer in 1979 when he was elected Local Chairman of Division 511. Knight was reelected to that office numerous times over the next 18 years until he was elected General Chairman of the BLET's Norfolk Southern-Eastern Region General Committee of Adjustment on January 1, 1992. He then served as General Chairman for 17 years before stepping up to the BLET's Advisory Board.

In 2006, Brother Knight was elected by acclamation to the position of third-alternate vice president and was promot-



Vice President Willard E. Knight retired effective June 30, 2013, following a railroad career that spanned 44 years.

ed to the BLET's Advisory Board on April 24, 2009. He was then reelected by acclamation to his Vice President's office in October of 2010.

As General Chairman, Brother Knight was involved in CSX / NS / Conrail merger negotiations in the mid-1990s and participated in all on-property agreements on the Norfolk Southern. Those agreements have provided wage increases, quality of life improvements and important job protections for the members

he represented. The innovative on-property agreement with NS was among the first in the country to tie membership wage increases to company performance in a way that provided total compensation greater than the scheduled increases. Most recently, he helped negotiate an agreement that contains an important scope rule that protects locomotive engineer jobs in the face of changing technology without sacrificing jobs in other crafts.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Mark Kenny reelected Amtrak General Chairman

**M**ark B. Kenny was reelected by acclamation to his fourth term as General Chairman at the Amtrak/MBCR/ VRE/ Caltrain General Committee of Adjustment's third quadrennial meeting held in Washington, D.C. from May 10-12, 2013.

Brother Kenny is a member of Division 11 (New York, N.Y.). He joined the Brotherhood on March 1, 1981, and has served as General Chairman since 1998, having also won reelection by acclamation in 2009.

All officers of the General Committee were elected by acclamation, including: Vice General Chairman S.J. Tuck,

Division 17 (Kansas City, Mo.); Secretary-Treasurer D.P. Estes, Division 60 (Seattle, Wash.); Western Region Chairman D.H. Hansen, Division 51 (Salt Lake City, Utah); Midwest Region Chairman M.J. Gaab, Division 27 (St. Cloud, Minn.); Eastern Region Chairman J.J. O'Neill, Division 483 (Philadelphia, Pa.); and Alternate Secretary-Treasurer E.A. Stumpf, Division 20 (Los Angeles, Calif.). As with Brother Kenny, Brother Hansen was reelected to his fourth term of office.

Appointed to serve on the Bylaws & Finance Committee were: D. Raptis, Division 12 (Fort Wayne, Ind.); J. J. Cawley, Division 11 (New York); and E.A. Stumpf, Division 20 (Los Angeles). Brother Rap-

tis was chosen to serve as Chair of the Committee.

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce represented the National Division at the meeting, along with John P. Tolman, Vice President and National Legislative Representative, and Stephen J. Bruno, National Vice President. National Division staff members Tom Pontolillo, Assistant to the National President and Director of Research, and Vince Verna, Director of Regulatory Affairs, were also in attendance.

"I offer my congratulations to these officers on their election and my sincere thanks for their continued service to our great Brotherhood," President Pierce said.

"I have every confidence they will continue doing an excellent job of representing the membership."

Additional BLET officers in attendance included D.L. Wright, First Vice Local Chairman of Division 60 (Seattle), who gave a presentation on Amtrak's Confidential Close Call Reporting System (C3RS). Also, R.F. Paseman, Special GCA Representative and member of Division 20 (Los Angeles), assisted with a New Local Chairmen's Training Seminar that was held on May 13.

"Given that we have 12 new local chairmen, we held a training seminar following the GCA meeting," General Chair-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



### BLET President's Message

Mentoring our next generation of union activists **pg. 2**



### Bradford, Kroeger retire

Special Representatives served BLET for many years **pg. 4**



### Early Retirement

Information on how to plan for your 60/30 retirement **pg. 6**

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

# MENTORING OUR NEXT GENERATION OF UNION ACTIVISTS

**T**he front page of this month's *Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen News* shares the bittersweet news that Vice President Willard Knight has retired. The news is bittersweet as Brother Willard will take with him a lifetime of experience, wisdom and institutional knowledge. Willard not only served as National Vice President and member of the BLET's Advisory Board when he retired, but he also served many years as a Local Chairman and General Chairman before becoming a Vice President. His countless contributions to the Organization over the years are also the foundation of the many friendships that he developed, including our personal friendship. Willard will truly be missed, but the sweet part of this story is that Brother Willard will now have the opportunity to enjoy with his family the fruits of his many years of labor. The Organization's loss is Willard's family's gain and I wish them all the best.

Our union will also see two seasoned Special Representatives retire this year, Jim Bradford and Ken Kroeger. Like Brother Willard, these two Brothers have devoted years to the Organization and they, too, will be sorely missed.

At times like these, it's important to step back and examine how our Organization builds from its collective experiences. Several of the greatest minds of the past 2½ centuries — from Edmund Burke, to George Santayana, to Winston Churchill — have commented that those who fail to learn the lessons of history are doomed to repeat them, and so we are challenged with the task of learning from the experiences of those who have retired. At the same time, we must also continually revitalize our Brotherhood, by embracing new



From left: Brother Kroeger, Brother Bradford, President Pierce, and Vice President Knight

members, new officers and new ideas in order to carry on the work of the membership.

In this month's message I ask for each and every member's assistance in this endeavor. Involvement is the key to success — not only for the union as an organization — but also the key to success for the members themselves. An active and mobilized membership is the true strength of our union, yet we struggle in our effort to increase participation.

There are things right now that every member — junior and senior, active and passive — can do to strengthen our movement. For example, senior members who have lived through years of struggle can share their experiences and wisdom with junior members. They can share with those who have never worked in a union environment the value of being Proud to be American, Proud to be Union, and how a successful BLET pays dividends for each and every member and their family. These Brothers and Sisters can share our rich oral

history and tradition, and build continuity in our struggle.

At the same time, our junior members can provide a spark of fresh energy that keeps our union moving forward. Whether it be through new technology, or just good old fashioned one-on-one contact, members talking to members is what will make our union and our efforts successful. Our 150th Anniversary this year has given us a rare opportunity to look backward into our very distant past. We were founded and grew at a time when communications technology was — by today's standards — incredibly primitive. Yet, those who came before us managed to succeed ... by maintaining contact and unity.

Contemporary life is fast-paced, and our daily work environment does not afford the opportunity to create the sense of community for which the industry was known, even a few short decades ago. To me, that only means we have to work harder at it. Every officer in my generation was mentored by one or

more officers or active members from the prior generation, as they were by their predecessors, all the way back to 1863; that's how our tradition has been passed on, and that's how "on-the-job" training took place.

To be sure, we have far more sophisticated training methods available today, but the need to learn "seat of the pants" unionism is no less important than learning how to run a train by the seat of your pants. And so each more senior member should actively look for opportunities to pass along what they have learned to our younger members who are eager to learn. And so I ask each "seasoned" leader of our Brotherhood to find a younger member to take under their wing and mentor.

I also challenge younger and less active members to do just a little bit more. Learn about the history of the Organization that struggles to improve your job. Commit to yourself to attend one extra division meeting in the coming months. If you can, attend one of the upcoming re-

gional meetings, even if only for a day or two, so you can personally learn more and interact with the BLET officers who will be in attendance.

While Brothers Knight, Bradford and Kroeger are being replaced by "new" faces, Brothers Gibbons and Wright, and Sister Mead are by no means new to either the BLET or to unionism. Even as they learn from their predecessors, each brings to the table their own experiences in the various offices they held prior to their recent promotions.

The anti-union and anti-worker propagandists seek first and foremost to drive a wedge between union leadership and union membership. They blame union leadership for the actions of the employers, and count on lack of information and apathy on the part of members in the hope that no one notices this contradiction. An active and informed membership puts the lie to what these hucksters are selling.

Our Brotherhood has made tremendous strides in broadening internal democracy over the past 30 years. In more recent times, member participation has slowly but steadily been increasing across the board, from participating in contract ratifications, to voting in elections. We have become stronger as a union, and now is the time to take it up a notch.

The War on Workers is real, and it isn't going away. The best tribute we can give to our retiring Brothers is to learn the lessons of activism and unity that served as the cornerstones of their BLET careers. You can be a part of that process by becoming even just a little more involved, and by mentoring our young up and coming activists.

**DENNIS R. PIERCE**  
BLET NATIONAL PRESIDENT

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## BLET NATIONAL DIVISION ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

**O**fficial 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. ©©**





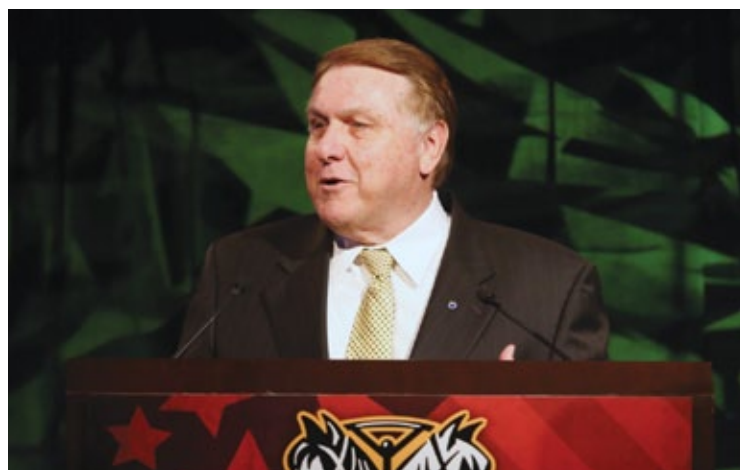
## GENERAL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY JAMES P. HOFFA

# LET'S KEEP AMERICA'S RAILWAY STRONG

America's railroads have united east and west, stimulated commerce between the states and propelled our great nation into a global economic power. They are as crucial to our freedom and our strength as they were 150 years ago, when the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) was founded in Marshall, Mich., on May 8.

I couldn't be prouder that the BLET is now part of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. I joined my brothers and sisters in an anniversary celebration in Detroit in May to mark the anniversary.

Back in 1863, engineers representing five Midwest railways approved a draft constitution in Detroit. Ever since then, BLET has pushed railway carriers to improve working conditions for the dedicated men and women who service our nation's rails.



Whether battling high accident rates or long hours for little pay, union members have stood up to companies that had little desire to change their ways. We are proud of the example these fine workers set for the labor movement across the country.

BLET continues to fight for its members, but the challenges it faces are shifting. Today, certain members of Congress are threat-

ening the future of Amtrak, the nation's only intercity passenger carrier. These elected officials want to reduce the subsidy Amtrak is receiving or even completely privatize the railway. Such a move would be a big mistake.

America's ability to compete in the global economy will depend increasingly on our ability to move our citizens safely and efficiently around the country.

We can do that best with high-speed rail.

Its biggest success is in the Northeast, where high-speed Acela service has led to Amtrak carrying 75 percent of intercity travelers between New York and Washington. Additional investment in the Northeast corridor would improve performance even further.

But that is not the only region that stands to benefit from increased resources. Countless studies have shown the gains that come from investing in rail. A July 2012 American Public Transportation Association report, for instance, showed that discontinuing high-speed rail investments in the Midwest, California, the Pacific Northwest and the Northeast Corridor could cause \$24.6 billion in lost economic benefits over the next 40 years.

We believe that reauthorization of the Passenger Rail Invest-

ment and Improvement Act (PRIIA) would allow Amtrak to finally attain the stable long-term funding it needs to keep the railroad in a state of good repair. It would enable Amtrak to support the jobs and rights of their skilled and hard-working employees. Without them, the traveling public would not have the safe, reliable transportation it has come to depend on.

Amtrak is already moving in the right direction. Further investment would let Amtrak build on the great work it's already doing. But political will is necessary to keep Amtrak strong.

Let Congress know we need to continue our investment in Amtrak.

Faternally,

**JAMES P. HOFFA**  
TEAMSTERS GENERAL  
PRESIDENT

66 America's ability to compete in the global economy will depend increasingly on our ability to move our citizens safely and efficiently around the country. We can do that best with high-speed rail. 99

## Parker reelected Chairman of Nevada State Legislative Board

Matthew B. Parker was re-elected by acclamation to continue serving as Chairman of the Nevada State Legislative Board at the Board's quadrennial meeting in Reno, Nevada, on June 10, 2013.

A Union Pacific locomotive engineer, Brother Parker has held continuous membership in Division 158 (Sparks, Nevada) since he joined the Brotherhood of May 1, 2004. Parker was elected to serve the Board as 1st Vice Chairman in July of 2009, and then moved up to the Chairman's office in January of 2013.

Also elected were: 1st Vice Chairman Donna M. Domingo (by acclamation), Division 794 (Elko); 2nd Vice Chairman Emidio Gonzalez Jr., Division 158 (Sparks); Secretary-Treasurer Keith E. Underwood (by acclamation), Division 158 (Sparks); and Alternate Secretary-Treasurer Chad A. Holub, Division 766 (Las Vegas).

Elected by acclamation to serve on the Board's Executive Committee were: Kelly H. Walsh, Division 766 (Las Vegas); and John Passi, Division 158 (Sparks). Also, the three members of the Audit Committee were elected by acclamation, including: Brother Passi; Christopher M. Dennewitz, Division 158 (Sparks); and Jon C. Turner, Division 158 (Sparks).

The Legislative Representatives from each of the four divisions in the state were seated as Delegates to the meeting.



**From Left,** Brother Robbie Fitzpatrick, Legislative Representative (Division 229, Winnemucca), Brother John Passi, NSLB Executive Committee (Division 158, Sparks), Brother Emidio Gonzalez, NSLB 2nd Vice-Chairman (Division 158, Sparks), Brother Matthew Parker, NSLB Chairman (Division 158, Sparks), Sister Donna Domingo, NSLB 1st Vice-Chairman (Division 794, Elko), Brother Keith Underwood, NSLB Secretary-Treasurer (Division 158, Sparks), Brother Kelly Walsh, NSLB Executive Committee (Division 766, Las Vegas).

"We are a small Board, and we meet in-person infrequently, but this meeting is important for the completion of Board's required business," Chairman Parker said. He told the delegates: "It takes an effort to be here, and your presence here is a testament to your dedication to serve the Brothers and Sisters who elected you to this office."

Special guest John Eutsler, First Vice-Chairman of the Union Pacific-Western

Lines/ Pacific Harbor Lines General Committee of Adjustment, addressed the Board. Brother Eutsler, a member of Division 158 (Sparks), participated in the Board's discussion on a number of topics and offered much valuable input.

Chairman Parker updated the Board on the recently concluded 77th Nevada Legislature, which adjourned sine die on June 4. He reported that only one piece of legislation addressing railroad

operations in Nevada was presented in this session, and it was in regards to building a high-speed rail link between Southern Nevada and Southern California. The bill passed both houses and has been sent to the governor's office for his signature, Parker said.

The Board recognized the faithful and dedicated service of Brother John Passi, who served as Chairman of the Nevada State Legislative Board for three and a half years before resigning his position in January of 2013.

The Board conducted business regarding amendments to its bylaws and discussed their plans to actively pursue crew van safety improvements in the coming weeks and months. Also, the Board voted to immediately begin holding an interim business meeting and training session for its members between quadrennial sessions.

"On behalf of the BLET National Division, I congratulate Brother Parker and all the officers of the Nevada State Legislative Board on their election," BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce said. "I thank them for their service to the Brotherhood and know they will do an excellent job representing the political and legislative interests of our proud Brothers and Sisters in the State of Nevada."

The BLET's Nevada State Legislative Board represents nearly 350 locomotive engineers and trainmen from four Divisions in the State. @@



## BLET's Western General Chairmen elect officers

The annual meeting of the BLET Western General Chairmen's Association (WCGA) concluded in Detroit on May 7 with the election of officers.

Elected to one-year terms were: Chairman Matt Wilson (General Chairman, BNSF/MRL); Vice Chairman John Reynolds (General Chairman, CN-Wisconsin Central); and Secretary-Treasurer Alan Holdcraft (General Chairman, BNSF-former AT&SF).

Also elected were Executive Committee Members Sam Parker (General Chairman, Kansas City Southern) and Warren Dent (General Chairman, Union Pacific-Southern Region).

The WCGA's membership includes the General Chairmen from the Western region of the United States. They meet annually for the purpose of discussing a wide-range of issues.

"We appreciate the opportunity to have held our meeting in Detroit to coincide with the BLET's 150th anniversary celebration," Chairman Wilson said. "It was a well-attended meeting due to the significance of the 150th."

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce, himself a former Chairman of the WCGA, addressed the body with a detailed report on matters of national importance to the Brotherhood. He congratulated all officers on their election and thanked them for their service and dedication to the membership. President Pierce also thanked them for the opportunity to address the body and for the Association's decision to join the many members present in Detroit for the Brotherhoods 150th Anniversary celebration. @@



Matt Wilson

## BLET Special Reps Bradford, Kroeger to retire



Bradford makes his retirement speech.



President Pierce presents Kroeger with a BLET Brass Bell.

On July 3, BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce announced the retirement of two valued members of the National Division Staff — Jim Bradford, Special Representative and Ken Kroeger, Special Representative and Coordinator of Education and Training.

Brother Bradford, a member of BLET Division 566 (De Rio, Texas), has railroad experience that dates back 51 years. He began his railroad career in 1962 on the Cotton Belt Railroad as a part-time Maintenance of Way worker while he was in school. After spending time in the military and graduating from the University of Houston with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1971, he began working full time for the railroad. He went firing for the Southern Pacific in 1973 and earned promotion to Locomotive Engineer in 1974. He first joined the Brotherhood in 1973. Brother Bradford was hired by then-BLET International President John F. Sytsma as a part-time Special Representative in 1978, and then on a full-time basis in 1980. In addition to his Special Representative duties, Brother Bradford also played a key role in the establishment and day to day administration of the BLET's Short Term Disability Trust Plan.

President Pierce announced that Sister Megan Mead has been hired as the BLET's new Special Representative. Sister Mead will also take over the day to day administration of the Short Term Disability Trust Plan effective July 1, 2013. Sister Mead is the first female Special Representative in the Organization's 150-year history. A member of BLET Division 197 (San Antonio, Texas), she served in the military

before hiring out on the Union Pacific and had served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Union Pacific-Southern Region General Committee of Adjustment immediately prior to her July 1 appointment.

Also retiring is Ken Kroeger, Special Representative and Coordinator of Education and Training. A member of BLET Division 28 (Tucson, Ariz.), Brother Kroeger began his railroad career when he hired out as an Engineer Trainee for the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1973. He was promoted to Locomotive Engineer in 1974 and joined the Brotherhood in November of 1976. In 1990, he was elected Vice Local Chairman of Division 28, and in January 1995, he was elected to the position of Local Chairman. During his tenure as Local Chairman, Kroeger became a founding member of the BLET National Mobilization Program.

Brother Kroeger was hired as a Special Representative for the Brotherhood's Western Region in April of 1999. In August of 2000, he attended a National Transportation Safety Board Training Class in Washington, D.C. and became a Primary Investigator with the union's Safety Task Force. In addition to his Special Representative position, Brother Kroeger was appointed Coordinator of Education and Training in September of 2001. He currently is in charge of organizing and conducting training seminars for Local Chairmen and Secretary-Treasurers at various locations throughout the United States, including at all four BLET regional meetings each year.

President Pierce announced that Brother Jason C. Wright has been hired as the BLET's new Special Representative and

Coordinator of Education and Training. A BNSF engineer and member of BLET Division 502 (Kansas City, Mo.), Brother Wright served as 1st Alternate Vice Chairman of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (former SL-SF)/MNA General Committee of Adjustment. President Pierce also announced that Brother Kevin Sexton, a Long Island Railroad Engineer and member of Division 269, and Brother Matt Kornyak, a CSX Engineer and member of Division 235, have been appointed to serve as temporary Special Representatives.

In addition to Brother Bradford and Brother Kroeger, National Vice President Willard E. Knight retired effective June 30. A retirement party in honor of all three men was held in Cleveland on June 11, with more than 100 in attendance.

"It was a bittersweet farewell on June 11 for Brother Knight, Brother Bradford and Brother Kroeger," President Pierce said. "The National Division will lose 135 years of experience between these three Brothers. At the same time, they have worked so hard for so many years and I am happy they will be able to enjoy the fruits of their labor during retirement. On behalf of the Advisory Board and the entire Organization, I thank all three men for their dedication to the Brotherhood."

President Pierce also welcomed all of the new additions to the National Division staff.

"I am excited to add Megan, Jason, Kevin and Matt to our National Division staff," he said. "We have put a lot on their shoulders and have asked them to hit the ground running. I have every confidence they are up to the challenge and am proud to welcome them aboard." @@

### VP KNIGHT RETIRES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 <->

As National Vice President, Brother Knight continued to assist the Norfolk Southern and Canadian National-Grand Trunk Western General Chairmen with his years of experience and leadership. He was also assigned to assist several short line railroads, including the New England Central, Indiana & Ohio, Chicago, Fort Wayne & Eastern, and the New York Susquehanna and Western, and others.

During retirement, Brother Knight will spend more time with his wife, Teresa Lynne, and his grandsons. The couple has been married since 1971 and they have one daughter, Michele (husband Patrick), and two grandchildren: Brady and Creed. Knight's son-in-law Patrick is a Norfolk Southern engineer and mem-

ber of Division 511.

Richard C. Gibbons was elected Alternate National Vice President No. 1 in the BLET's historic first membership election of National Division officers in December of 2010. Vice President Gibbons is serving as General Chairman of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (former SL-SF) General Committee of Adjustment until his promotion to the Advisory Board becomes effective on July 1. He was first elected General Chairman in 2001, then reelected by acclamation in 2005 and 2009. Most recently, he was reelected by acclamation to his fourth term as General Chairman in May of 2013. Immediately prior to winning election in 2001, he served as Local Chairman of Division 502 and 1st Vice Chairman of the BNSF SL-SF/MNA GCA. Vice President Gibbons began his rail-

road career in 1972 on the former Illinois Central Gulf in Slater, Mo. He earned promotion to locomotive engineer in 1973 and first joined the Brotherhood on November 1, 1973. He was a member of BLE Division 8 in Slater until 1993 when he moved to Kansas City, Mo., and joined BLE Division 502. After joining the Brotherhood, he was elected to numerous offices throughout his 40-year career, including Division President, Local Chairman, Legislative Representative, and First Vice Chairman (GCA).

"Rick Gibbons has been a capable and determined General Chairman for many years," President Pierce said. "I know that he will bring that same tenacity and leadership to his new role as National Vice President and I am proud to welcome him to the Advisory Board." @@



Vice President Knight at his retirement party with grandsons, Brady and Creed. Brother Knight plans to spend more time with family during retirement.



# NASLBC concludes 38th annual meeting

**M**embers of the BLET's National Association of State Legislative Board Chairmen (NASLBC) concluded their 38th annual meeting on May 7, 2013. This year's meeting was held in Detroit, Mich., to coincide with the Brotherhood's 150th anniversary celebration.

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

Members conducted elections and elected the following officers to lead the NASLBC: Chairman Tim Smith (California State Legislative Board Chairman); 1st Vice Chairman Paul Piekarski (Illinois SLBC); 2nd Vice Chairman Tim Craver (Virginia SLBC); Secretary-Treasurer Ken Kertesz (Pennsylvania SLBC); and Alternate Secretary-Treasurer James Rigsby (Georgia SLBC). The following Regional Chairmen were also elected: Region 1 Tim Hanely (Ohio SLBC); Region 2 Terry Todd (Arkansas SLBC); Region 3 David Brown (Minnesota SLBC); and Region 4 Cory Runion (Wyoming SLBC).

Several new State Legislative Board Chairmen were seated for their first NASLBC meeting, including: Alan Humphries (Idaho); B.J. Trumble (Michigan); D.B. Kenner (Montana); Patrick Lynch (New Mexico); Terry Schulenberg (Oklahoma); Shahrain Allen (Washington); and James Tiede (Kansas). Brother Matt Parker, new Chairman for the state of Nevada, was recognized but unable to attend.

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce, Vice President & National Legislative Representative John P. Tolman, and Vice President Stephen J. Bruno made presentations to the NASLBC members on behalf of the BLET Na-



Officers and members of the National Association of State Legislative Board Chairmen (NASLBC) at their 38th annual convention in Detroit, Mich., on May 7, 2013.

tional Division. President Pierce thanked the Chairmen for their service to the Brotherhood stating, "A strong legislative department is critical in our struggle to defend the working class and the right of all working class Americans to belong to a labor union. Whether it is at the national level or the state level, our legislative officers are on the front line in this war on all workers and we must rededicate ourselves to that battle."

On May 5, NASLBC members were honored to hear a presentation from U.S. Senator Carl Levin (D-MI), Chair-

man of the Senate Armed Services Committee. He spoke for 30 minutes and, at age 79, announced his decision to retire and not seek reelection next year. He was presented with a commemorative BLET mantle clock in honor of his service and his commitment to organized labor.

Also on May 5, NASLBC members enjoyed a presentation by U.S. Congressman Gary Peters (D-MI), who sits on the House Financial Services Committee. He spoke on many issues, including his support of freight rail and the advancement of high-speed rail.

As with Senator Levin, Congressman Peters was presented with a BLET mantle clock in honor of his dedication to organized labor.

On May 6, NASLBC members heard from their final guest speaker — Walt Barrows, Labor Member of the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board. Barrows spoke on general issues and the financial soundness of the RRB and its Trust Fund.

The various committees of the Association also met and conducted their business for the year. The group will reconvene in 2014 for their 39th annual convention in Indianapolis, Ind. @@

## BLET SAFETY TASK FORCE DISPATCHED TO MAJOR ACCIDENTS DURING MAY

**I**n May, the BLET National Division dispatched members of its Safety Task Force to the scene of three major incidents throughout the United States.

On May 18, Safety Task Force members Thomas Hebert, Division 312 (Boston), and Carlyle Smith, Division 482 (Washington, D.C.), were dispatched to Bridgeport, Conn., to investigate a raking collision between two Metro-North commuter trains. Currently, the active field investigation is closed as they continue to work off site to gather additional information and to formulate safety recommendations.

On May 25, STF members Randy Dumey, Division 595 (Chaffee, Mo.), and Bryan Aldridge, Division 78 (Louisville, Ky.), were dispatched to help investigate the collision of a BNSF train and a Union Pacific train at an interlocking at Chaffee, Mo. The active field investigative phase closed on May 28 but they continue to receive more documentation regarding the incident.

On May 28, STF members David Rose, Division 314 (Rocky Mount, N.C.), and Dan Lauzon, Division 57 (Boston), were dispatched to Rosedale, Md., to assist in the investigation of a grade crossing collision between a CSX train and a truck. The collision caused a derailment followed by a large fire and

explosion. The on-site investigation concluded on June 1, but the STF investigators continue to receive information relating to the incident.

In all three cases, the BLET was granted Party Status by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) to assist in the investigative process. The BLET Safety Task Force assists federal agencies in the investigation of rail accidents, helping to determine probable causes and making safety recommendations. The STF will study these accidents from the viewpoint of locomotive engineers and trainmen to help determine how the accidents occurred and how to prevent similar accidents from happening again.

BLET National President Dennis R.

Pierce thanked all members of the Safety Task Force for their professionalism and hard work on behalf of the Brotherhood.

"Often times we must dispatch our members of the Safety Task Force to the scene of devastating and tragic accidents," President Pierce said. "These Brothers and Sisters go above and beyond the call of duty when responding and they always represent our Brotherhood with the highest level of professionalism. I thank them for their hard work in helping to determine the root causes of such tragedies." @@



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# Preparing for your early retirement

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR RAILROAD EMPLOYEES ELIGIBLE FOR GA-46000 WHO MAY BE PLANNING AN EARLY RETIREMENT. IT WAS PREPARED BY UNITED HEALTHCARE.

## WHEN AM I ELIGIBLE FOR EARLY RETIREMENT?

Preparing for early retirement can be overwhelming, but if you understand the transition process as you move from actively working to early retirement, it will be that much easier. The first thing you must do is determine if you may be eligible to retire early from the Railroad. If you are age 60 and you have at least 30 years of service, and you are either an Age Annuitant or a Disabled Annuitant, as explained below, you may be eligible for the early retirement plan under GA-46000. If you are unsure of your eligibility for a Railroad annuity, please call your local Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) or visit their website at <https://secure.rrb.gov/>.

## AM I AN AGE ANNUITANT?

You are an Age Annuitant if you satisfy the following requirements:

- You have 30 years of service and apply for your retirement annuity on or after you reach age 60, or during the three months prior to your 60th birthday if you continue to work (or take vacation) into the month prior to the month you turn age 60, and
- You are covered for employee/dependent health benefits under The Railroad Employees National Health and Welfare Plan or the National Railway Carriers and United Transportation Union Health and Welfare Plan ("National Railroad Plans") other than by reason of COBRA on the day immediately before the date you applied for your annuity.

## AM I A DISABLED ANNUITANT?

You are a Disabled Annuitant if you satisfy the following requirements:

- You are eligible for a disability annuity from the RRB; and
- You are covered under the National Railroad Plans when you reach age 60; and have 30 years of service.

If you become disabled and stop working at age 58 or 59, you may qualify for GA-46000 if:

- Your disability coverage under the National Railroad Plans extends beyond your 60th birthday, and
- You have 30 years of service.

Note that vacation pay received in a year subsequent to the year in which your disability began will extend coverage for you and your covered dependents under the National Railroad Plans.

## WHAT OTHER IMPORTANT CRITERIA SHOULD I KNOW REGARDING ELIGIBILITY FOR GA-46000?

The most important thing to know regarding your eligibility for GA-46000 is that as a union member:

- You must be covered under the National Railroad Plans at the time you apply for your annuity through the RRB. The best way to ensure this is to apply while you are still employed.
- If you work in the month you retire or take vacation, you will have coverage under the National Railroad Plans for the following month. For example, if you work in October and retire in October, you are still covered under the National Railroad Plans through November. Your coverage under GA-46000 would not begin until December 1.
- Your spouse does not need to be age 60 to be eligible for coverage under GA-46000; eligibility of your dependents is based on you as an employee.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

If you meet the requirements to be either an Age Annuitant or a Disabled Annuitant, follow these important steps as you prepare for your early retirement:

1. Contact your local RRB office approximately 90 days prior to your retirement date to prepare for your application for retirement benefits.
2. Next, contact UnitedHealthcare at 1-800-842-5252 and ask to speak to a Retirement Specialist to request a Railroad Retirement Kit. The retirement kit contains all of the necessary information and UnitedHealthcare forms you will need to enroll for coverage under GA-46000 and GA-23111 Plan E.
3. Plan to mail all of the information listed in item 4 below to UnitedHealthcare no more than 30 days prior to your actual retirement date to the following address: UnitedHealthcare, P.O. Box 30791, Salt Lake City, UT 84130-0791.
4. Mail the following completed forms to UnitedHealthcare and remember to include the Social Security Numbers for all applicants on every form that requests this information:
  - a. The Group Health Plan GA-46000 Application for Coverage form;
  - b. The Enrollment Form for Coverage under Group Policy GA-23111, if enrolling in Plan E;
  - c. The Notice of Qualifying Event COBRA election form if you wish to continue your vision/dental coverage;
  - d. The Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) form if you would like your GA-23111 Plan E payment deducted from your checking or savings account;
  - e. The BA-6 form you receive from the RRB; and
  - f. The Receipt for Claim form you receive from the RRB;
5. Payment for the first month of GA-23111 Plan E should be included with the materials noted in number 4 above, even if you plan to have the EFT automatic withdrawal process set up.
6. Once your GA-46000 and GA-23111 Plan

E enrollment have been processed, you will receive new ID cards from UnitedHealthcare and Express Scripts.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF GA-46000?

The GA-46000 early retirement plan is available to you at no cost and provides a Major Medical Benefit and a Managed Pharmacy Services Benefit. The Major Medical Benefit is administered by UnitedHealthcare and provides for the following:

- The plan pays 80% of covered expenses after a \$100 calendar year deductible.
- A lifetime maximum that generally increases annually at the beginning of each calendar year.
- No requirement to use in-network providers, but if you choose to do so, there is a cost savings to you.
- No preventive benefits under GA-46000, however, some are provided for under Plan E.
- No vision benefit or dental benefit, however, you can extend coverage for these benefits, up to 18 months, through COBRA which is administered by UnitedHealthcare:
  - Your application for COBRA needs to be done within 60 days after your retirement date.
  - UHC can mail you a COBRA form or you may obtain one from the Railroad Information Depot website ([www.rrinfodepot.com](http://www.rrinfodepot.com)).

The Managed Pharmacy Services Benefit (Rx) is administered by Express Scripts and provides for the following:

- No deductible; Rx benefits are not subject to the lifetime maximum under the medical plan.
- In-network benefit - Rx copayments are \$2 and \$6 retail, up to a 21-day supply; \$5 mail order, up to a 90-day supply.
- Out-of-network benefit - If you go to an out-of-network pharmacy, you pay the entire retail cost at the time you have the Rx filled. The Rx benefit will reimburse you for 75% of the cost you paid, up to a 21-day supply if you submit a claim.
- If you purchase an Rx at an in-network or out-of-network pharmacy, in excess of a 21-day supply, you will receive no benefits under the Rx benefit.

## WHAT IS GA-23111 PLAN E?

GA-23111 Plan E is a supplemental plan to GA-46000 and is available for a monthly premium paid by you. Plan E pays 70% of eligible expenses of the 20% not covered under GA-46000. Your Plan E enrollment must be done within a 4-month period which begins in the same month your coverage under the National Railroad Plans ends. If you miss this enrollment period, you must wait until the next open enrollment period which is held each November/December of every even year.

The GA-23111 Plan E Major Medical Benefit is administered by UnitedHealthcare and provides for the following:

- \$100 calendar year deductible and a lifetime maximum of \$500,000 for each enrolled member.
- The \$500,000 lifetime maximum under Plan E is important because the lifetime maximum under GA-46000 is limited, and in the event you, or your dependent, have a serious illness, it may not be sufficient to help cover your medical bills.
- There is some, but limited, coverage for routine and/or preventive benefits. For example:
  - Pap smears and mammograms services are covered at 100%, and not subject to the deductible.
  - However, an office visit charge for the preventive service is not payable under Plan E.

## WHEN DOES COVERAGE END?

Your coverage (including the coverage of your dependents) ends under GA-46000 and GA-23111 Plan E when you, the early retiree, become eligible for Medicare. All coverage for your dependents would also end under GA-46000 and GA-23111 Plan E when you become eligible for Medicare. If your dependents are not yet eligible for Medicare when you become eligible, there are two options available to obtain dependent health care benefits.

1. Continuation of their coverage under GA-46000 is available for up to 36 months through COBRA until they become Medicare eligible, or
2. If the COBRA cost is prohibitive, you can purchase coverage under GA-23111 Plans A, B, or C, which are medical plans sponsored by all of the unions and administered by UnitedHealthcare. For more information on Plans A, B, or C visit [www.rrinfodepot.com](http://www.rrinfodepot.com) and click on the Retirement Center tab.

## SUMMARY

Although planning for your retirement can be stressful, you have many resources available to help make the process easier for you and your family. Begin by calling UnitedHealthcare at 1-800-842-5252 and ask to speak to a Retirement Specialist. They will be happy to assist you with any questions you may have, and ensure that a Retirement Made Easy Kit is mailed to you. And remember, you can also visit <http://www.rrinfodepot.com> and click on the Retirement Center tab for additional information regarding your medical coverage options as you plan to make the retirement decisions that are best for you and your family. ☺☺

A PDF FLYER OF THIS DOCUMENT IS AVAILABLE AT: [www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/Early\\_Retirement.pdf](http://www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/Early_Retirement.pdf)

## ILLINOIS STATE LEGISLATIVE BOARD LAUNCHES DON LITTLE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The BLET's Illinois State Legislative Board is currently accepting applications for its newly established Don Little Memorial Scholarship Fund.

One \$1,000 and two \$500 scholarships will be awarded to applicants whose parent or guardian is a BLET member in good standing with a BLET Local Division represented by the Illinois State Legislative Board.

Brother Don Little was a locomotive engineer with Metra commuter rail in Chicago and a proud member of BLET Division 294 (Bensenville, Ill.) for 35 years. Brother Little served for more than 10 years on the Executive Committee of the Illinois State Legislative Board and always had a dream of establishing a scholarship program for the family members of fellow Brothers and Sis-

ters who worked in Illinois. Unfortunately, Brother Little passed away before his dream was realized.

In a joint letter announcing the new scholarship opportunity, Paul Piekarski (Chairman) and Timothy Dunn (Secretary-Treasurer) of the Illinois State Legislative Board wrote:

"It is with great pleasure that we can announce that the Illinois State Legislative Board has established the first annual Don Little Memorial Scholarship Fund. Few people were more devoted to family, friends and public service than Don. Don's legacy is one of a great union Brother, husband, father, friend and colleague. This scholarship not only honors his name but also represents what he had in his heart: an unsurpassed passion to help people who are trying to get ahead in life yet may not have the

resources to accomplish their dream."

Scholarship applications and all accompanying documents must be received by July 31, 2013. Applicants must be 26 years of age or younger. Applicants may be current high school students who have applied for admission as full-time students in accredited post-secondary schools or may be attending or enrolled as full-time students in accredited post-secondary schools. ☺☺

A copy of the application form (PDF) can be downloaded from the BLET National Division website: [www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/Illinois\\_SLB\\_Scholarship\\_2013.pdf](http://www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/Illinois_SLB_Scholarship_2013.pdf)

For questions or assistance in completing the application, contact Brother Dunn at (618) 755-4929 or [dunnrun1@yahoo.com](mailto:dunnrun1@yahoo.com).



## MARK KENNY REELECTED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

man Kenny said. "It was held at International Brotherhood of Teamsters headquarters in Washington, D.C., and it was an immensely helpful learning experience for all involved."

Local Chairmen (unless otherwise noted) in attendance included: J.J. Cawley, Division 11 (New York); Dino Raptis, Division 12 (Fort Wayne, Ind.); T.A. Reed, Division 14 (Washington, D.C.); C.R. Houser, Division 15 (Albuquerque, N.M.); S. J. Tuck, Division 17 (Kansas City); D.K. Uldricks, Division 19 (Detroit, Mich.); E.A. Stumpf, Division 20 (Los Angeles); J.M. McGregor, Division 22 (El Paso, Texas); M.J. Gaab, Division 27 (St. Cloud, Minn.); L. Yeartie Jr., Division 35 (Jacksonville, Fla.); J.P. White, Division 40 (Chicago); J.E. Bateman, President of Division 45 (Carbondale, Ill.); D.D. Lewsader, Division 47 (Denver, Colo.); D.H. Hansen, Division 51 (Salt Lake City, Utah); G.T. Hobson, Division 57 (Boston, Mass.); D.P. Estes, Division 60 (Seattle); R. Seanez, Division 65 (San Jose, Calif.); P.W. Darcy Jr., Division 77 (New Haven, Conn.); J.K. Loger, Division 144 (Oakland, Calif.); W.F. Sanders III, Division 197 (San Antonio, Texas); B.A. Bennett, Division 312 (Boston); G.L. Per-



Officers, members and special guests attending the third quadrennial meeting of the Amtrak General Committee of Adjustment in Washington, D.C.

ez, Division 474 (Blue Island, Ill.); K.F. Edler III, Division 482 (Washington, D.C.); J.J. O'Neill, Division 483 (Philadelphia); and J.H. Kross, Division 752 (Rensselaer, N.Y.).

Invited guests included Joseph McHugh, Amtrak Vice President of Government Affairs & Director of Communications, and Minnette Miller, Senior Director of Amtrak Payroll Operations.

McHugh gave a presentation on overall Amtrak operations, legislative matters, and the impact of sequestration. Miller gave a presentation on the services provided by Amtrak Payroll and a comprehensive explanation on the implementation of the new bi-weekly payroll process in July 2013.

The delegates paid a special tribute to Brother C. A. (Mac) McDowell, re-

tired Vice General Chairman and member of Division 47 (Denver, Colo.). Brother McDowell retired in December 2012. Even though he was not in attendance, the delegates recognized him for his three terms of officer serving as Vice General Chairman.

The delegates also held a memorial for Brother R. G. Jones, former Local Chairman of Division 459 (Harrisburg, Penna.), who passed away in December 2012 after battling cancer for several years.

General Chairman Kenny thanked the National Division officers for attending. "I know they had a particularly grueling schedule that week with the BLET's 150th Anniversary Celebration in Detroit on May 8," he said. "They went above and beyond the call of duty to make certain they attended our meeting, which speaks volumes to their character."

Brother Kenny also thanked the Amtrak delegates for their hard work and focus throughout the meetings and subsequent training workshop.

The BLET's Amtrak/ MBCR/ VRE/ Caltrain General Committee of Adjustment represents more than 2,300 active and retired locomotive engineers and trainmen who work for Amtrak, the Massachusetts Bay Commuter Railroad, the Virginia Railway Express and Caltrain. @@

2013

## Calendar & Events

### 2013 REGIONAL MEETINGS

**July 14-July 18, 2013**

**73rd Annual International Western Convention**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.**

Hosted by Co-chairmen Luis Chavez Jr., Local Chairman of Division 283 (Oakland, Calif.) and Oscar Burrola, Local Chairman of Division 839 (Richmond, Calif.), at the Hilton San Francisco Financial District Hotel for the 2013 IWC.

[www.iwc2013.org](http://www.iwc2013.org)

**July 28-August 1, 2013**

**75th annual Eastern Union Meeting Association (EUMA)**

**BALTIMORE, MD.**

Arrangements Chairman Fred Cox, BLET Division 52, welcomes all BLET members to Baltimore for the 2013 EUMA.

[www.blet-t.org/EUMA](http://www.blet-t.org/EUMA)

**August 25-29, 2013**

**78th annual Southwestern Convention Meeting (SWCM)**

**NEW ORLEANS, LA.**

Arrangements Chairman Arlin Todd, Chairman of the Louisiana State Legislative Board, welcomes all BLET members to the Loews New Orleans Hotel for the 2013 SWCM.

[www.bletsbcm.org](http://www.bletsbcm.org)

## SAFETY TASK FORCE HOTLINE



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T O P	3
B R C F	4
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E D F C Z P	6
F E L O P Z D	7
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L E F O D P C T	9
F D P L T C E O	10
F E Z O L C F T D	11



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LECPMA and UTU rates are accurate and effective on date of print.







## Locomotive Engineers And Trainmen News Brotherhood Of Locomotive Engineers And Trainmen

A Division Of The Rail Conference,  
International Brotherhood Of Teamsters

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### Photo of the Month: June 2013

**LINCOLN FUNERAL TRAIN:** One of the most famous funeral trains in American history was the Lincoln Funeral Train in 1865. Several members of our Brotherhood had the distinct honor of operating the Lincoln Funeral Train on their various railroads to Lincoln's final resting place in Washington, D.C. Peter M. Arthur, who would become President of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers years later, worked as engineer of the Lincoln Funeral Train along the New York Central. **Photo:** Library of Congress

**This is the third in a series of photos from the BLET archives that will be published this year in recognition of the Organization's 150th anniversary. The BLET was founded as the Brotherhood of the Footboard on May 8, 1863.**



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

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

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

## Advisory Board April/May 2013 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; Division 607 mtg., Cleveland; Arkansas State Legislative Board mtg., Little Rock, Ark.; 2014-2018 convention site visit, Las Vegas; Trip rate dispute resolution committee mtg., Washington, D.C.; BLET Advisory Board mtg., Detroit; BLET 150th anniversary celebration, Detroit; National Association of State Legislative Board Chairmen annual mtg., Detroit; CSX-Northern Lines GCA mtg., Detroit; BLET Western General Chairmen's Assoc. mtg., Detroit; IBT General Executive Board mtg., Las Vegas; Amtrak GCA mtg., Washington, D.C.; IBT Unity Conference, Las Vegas; BNSF SLSF GCA mtg., Tunica, Miss.; IBT Railway Labor Act training class, 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; PRAC; and National Negotiations; Secretary-Treasurer Workshop, Vancouver, Wash.; ID negotiations, assisting GC Hannah, UP-WL GCA, San Bernardino, Calif.; Houston Hub NYD negotiations, assisting GC Dent, UP-SR GCA, Omaha, Neb.; National Duties, Cleveland, Ohio; BLET 150th anniversary duties, Detroit, Mich.; Teamsters Unity Conference, Las Vegas; Article IX mtg., assisting GC Hannah, UP-WL GCA, Las Vegas; Houston NYD negotiations, assisting GC Dent, UP-SR GCA, Dallas; Holiday; Vacation.

**NATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER WILLIAM C. WALPERT:** General supervision of accounting dept., records dept., online services dept., tax compliance dept.; Education & Training Dept.; Internal Organizing, Mobilizing & Strategic Planning Dept.; Safety Task Force; Meetings with vendors and financial institutions; Publications Committee; Teamsters Rail Conference Policy Committee; Trustee, National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust (NRRIT); Secretary-Treasurer Workshop, Vancouver, Wash.; Division 599 mtg., Shreveport, La.; Mtg. w/ Wells Fargo, Cleveland; NRRIT mtg., Washington, D.C.; BLET 150th anniversary celebration, Detroit; Advisory Board mtg. and NASLBC mtg., Detroit; Holiday; IBT Unity Conference, Las Vegas; Hames R. Hoffa Scholarship event, Las Vegas; BLET Safety Task Force training Center, Washington, D.C.; IBT Railway Labor Act training course, Washington, D.C.

**VICE PRESIDENT & NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE JOHN P. TOLMAN:** Assigned to BLET Washington, DC office; General office duties, telephone and correspondence communications; Coordinate content of NLO website; Weekly PAC committee and legislative mtgs.; Attended IBT Political Coordinator Monthly mtg.; SEPTA/NMB conference call; Mtg. w/ freshman members of the House Transportation & Infrastructure committee; Mtg. w/ Mike Rock, UPRR VP of External Relations and James Houton, UPRR AVP of External Relations; Amtrak reauthorization hearing; Mtg. w/ Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation Committee staff; Arkansas State Legislative Board mtg., Little Rock, Ark.; Testified before the Commerce, Science & Transportation Committee hearing on the "Future of Passenger Rail: What's Next for the Northeast Corridor;" Mtg. w/ Commerce Committee staff on Rail Safety Improvement Act reauthorization; Hosted reception for NJ Seeds; OneRail mtg.; NASLBC mtg., Detroit; 150th anniversary celebration, Detroit; BLET Amtrak GCA mtg., Washington, D.C.; IBT Unity Conference, Las Vegas; GAO commuter rail conference call; Attended and presented at Massachusetts AFL-CIO mtg., Falmouth, Mass.; IBT Railway Labor Act training, Washington, D.C.; Various receptions and mtgs. w/ members of U.S. House of Representatives and Senate.

**VICE PRESIDENT MARCUS J. RUEF:** Vice Chairman, full NRAB; Labor Member, 1st Division; Labor Member, National Mediation Board Arbitration Advisory Forum; Director of Arbitration Dept; Assigned to Illinois Central; Wisconsin Central; Indiana Harbor Belt; and Belt Railway of Chicago; NRAB Exec. Cmte. Mtg. w/ NMB, Washington, D.C.; Conference call and Section 6 mediation prep. w/ GC John Reynolds, WC; WC Section 6 mediation, WC, Milwaukee, Wisc.; NRAB hearing, Ref. Meyers interpretation; Assist GC Reynolds w/ mediation prep, WC, Chicago; Assist GC Cundari w/ rules issue, IHB, Chicago; NRAB admin. issues, Chicago; Meany Center Archives, Washington, D.C.; Assist GC Craddock w/ attendance issues, IC; Vacation; Assist GC Reynolds w/ Section 6 medi-

ation prep, Chicago; Assist GC Craddock w/ CN, re: Chicago terminal issues, Chicago; BLET 150th anniversary celebration and historical museum display, Detroit; Advisory Board mtg., Detroit; Assist GC Kaulins w/ discipline issue, BRC; Vacation; Holiday; Prep work and teaching at IBT Railway Labor Act class, Washington, D.C.

**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); On duty at home office; Vacation; Union Pacific-Western Lines Article IX, IDR negotiations, Redlands, Calif.; Union Pacific-Southern Region, NYD Section 4 negotiations, Omaha, Neb.; Union Pacific-Eastern District, PLB 5604, Miami, Fla.; BLET 150th anniversary celebration, Detroit; IBT Unity Conference, Las Vegas; UP-Western Lines Article IX-IDR LABM negotiations, GC Hannah, Las Vegas; UP-Southern Region GCA, New York Dock Section 4, Houston Hub negotiations, assisting GC Dent, Fort Worth, Texas; UP-SR GCA, GC Dent, PLB 7158, Estero, Fla.; UP-SR GCA, BLET GoTO Meeting conference, GC Dent, New York Dock Section 4, Houston Hub.

**VICE PRESIDENT WILLARD E. KNIGHT:** Assigned to: All Norfolk Southern General Committees; Wheeling & Lake Erie; Chicago, Fort Wayne & Eastern; New York, Susquehanna & Western; New England Central; Connecticut Southern; Western New York & Pennsylvania; Indiana & Ohio; Ohio Central; Grand Trunk Western; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications; Prepared for PLB 7238 and PLB 7574; Advisory Board conference call.

**VICE PRESIDENT GIL GORE:** Assigned to all CSX; Union Pacific-Southern Region GCA special assignment; Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) issues, CSXT; General office duties, paperwork, correspondence, emails, telephone calls, etc.; IRR contract ratification mtgs., Indianapolis, Ind.; Article 61 Qualification conference call, CSX LR and GCs; Attend funeral of former GC Gene Thompson, Scott City, Mo.; Holiday and vacation.

**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, email, correspondence communications, etc.; PLB 7477, assist GC Holdcraft, Chicago; General Chairmen's safety mtg. w/ GCs Wilson, Holdcraft, Gibbons and Brown, BNSF, Fort Worth, Texas; PLB 5639, assisting GC Wilson, BNSF, Miami, Fla.; BLET 150th anniversary celebration, Detroit; BLET Advisory Board mtg., Detroit; IBT Unity Conference, Las Vegas; PLB 7550 w/ GC Holdcraft, Albuquerque, N.M.; GCofA mtg. w/ GC Gibbons, Tunica, Miss.; Mtg. w/ BNSF LR and GC Wilson, Billings, 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; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications, etc.; Conference on CP seniority issues, GC Semenak; KCS issues, assisting GC Parker; Tex Mex issues, assisting GC Rodriguez; Huron & Eastern contract issues, assisting Barriger, Vassar, Mich.; Ohio & Indiana RR issues, assisting Cole, Detroit; Mid South issues, assisting GC Craddock; Springfield Terminal and Delaware & Hudson issues, assisting GC Moore; Louisville & Indiana RR contract issues and negotiations, assisting GC Hartill, Jeffersonville, Ind.; NS North Lines issues, assisting GC Linsey; DM&E seniority issues, assist GC Semenak; NS Eastern Lines issues, assisting GC Peek; BLET 150th anniversary celebration, Detroit; Advisory Board mtg., Detroit; IBT Unity Conference, Las Vegas; Louisville & Indiana RR contract negotiations, assist Hartill; Indiana & Ohio Divisions 281 and 281 mtgs., Cincinnati and Lima, Ohio; Huron & Eastern contract negotiations, assist Barringer, Detroit.

**VICE PRESIDENT STEPHEN J. BRUNO:** Assigned to various Rail Safety Advisory Committees (RSAC); Regulatory duties as assigned by the President; Amtrak; Long Island Rail Road; New York & Atlantic; Metro North; New Jersey Transit; PATH; SEPTA; Metra; Union Railroad; Birmingham Southern; Telephone calls, correspondence, email, general office duties, etc.; RSAC FMP working group, Washington, D.C.; IBEW strategy conference call; Vacation; Meetings to prepare for contract negotiations, Metra, CP, CN, Chicago.

## BLET ESTABLISHES FUND TO HELP OKLAHOMA TORNADO VICTIMS

The BLET's Oklahoma State Legislative Board has established a benevolent fund to help railroaders impacted by the massive tornadoes that devastated parts of the state in May.

Under the leadership of Chairman Terry Schulenberg, the Board has already donated \$500 each to five railroaders who lost everything.

"They lost everything, right down to the foundation of their homes, and they are starting over from scratch," Brother Schulenberg said. "We are trying to help them get back on their feet."

Members of the Board made the donations at a safety meeting on June 20. Schulenberg said some of the recipients have small chil-

dren at home and had just minutes to escape the devastation.

"They had about 16-20 minutes notice to get under ground or away from the storm. This storm developed about four miles from me and we sat on my patio and watched it form, having no idea it would be this bad," he said. "I'm sure you've seen the pictures, but they don't do justice of what it actually looks like."

Brother K.L. Ealey III, Secretary-Treasurer of the Oklahoma State Legislative Board, has set up an account to accept donations to help more railroaders impacted by the storm. Those willing to help can make donations through the Bank of America located at 8901 S. Western, Oklahoma City, OK, 73139. The account

number is 3050 0336 8282. Checks or money orders should be made payable to "Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers OSLB." The account will be open for two months.

"Our most sincere thanks for your help," Brother Schulenberg said. "I would also like to thank OSL Board members Chad Nance of Madill, Oklahoma (BNSF), Don Douglass of Enid, Oklahoma, (BNSF) Craig Fack of Tulsa, (BNSF) Lonie Pitner, Moore (UP), Scott Cramer of Oklahoma City (BNSF) and Terry Lynch of Heavener, Oklahoma (KCS) for their support of this effort to help our Brothers in need."

Anyone with questions should contact Brother Schulenberg by email: tischulenberg@gmail.com. @