



DAILY NEWS UPDATES  
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# Locomotive

## ENGINEERS & TRAINMEN NEWS



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## BLET KEEPS FIGHTING FOR TWO-PERSON CREWS

IN JULY, the BLET and its members learned that a former UTU General Committee of Adjustment had reached a tentative agreement to allow for one-person train operations on portions of the BNSF Railway. The SMART-TD membership had not voted on the contract as this issue of the *Newsletter* goes to press. It has been reported that the agreement reached by SMART Transportation Division Committee of Adjustment GO-001 is not necessarily endorsed by the SMART-TD national office, and that SMART will continue working with the BLET National Division to support the issue of two-person crews.

FOR MORE IN DEPTH COVERAGE ON THIS CRITICAL ISSUE, PLEASE SEE PAGE 2 OF THIS ISSUE FOR A MESSAGE FROM BLET NATIONAL DIVISION PRESIDENT DENNIS R. PIERCE.



DENNIS R. PIERCE

## AMTRAK'S PACIFIC SURFLINER

On a beautiful sunny morning along the Pacific Coast, Amtrak F59PHI No. 458 leads an Amtrak Pacific Surfliner train south towards San Diego from Oceanside, Calif. Photo and caption: Chase Gunnoe



## BLET opens new Education & Training Center

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen is proud to announce the opening of its state-of-the-art Education & Training Center. Located at BLET National Division headquarters in Cleveland, Ohio, the new facility hosted its first class on July 21, 2014 — a workshop for BLET General Chairman. Following the workshop, the National Division also hosted an Open House at the facility for members and guests who were in Cleveland attending the Eastern Union Meeting Association (EUMA) annual meeting.

Construction of and equipment for the Training Center was funded primarily by a grant from the Teamsters Rail Conference. The new technology in the Train-



A view inside the new BLET Education & Training Center

ing Center also gives the BLET the ability to expand training platforms, thanks to Delegates attending the BLET's 2010 National Convention, who approved a measure to fund the BLET Education & Training De-

partment with an additional \$1 per month, per member.

"The Teamsters Rail Conference as well as the Delegates to the 2010 convention deserve our gratitude for their foresight in supporting the Education &

Training Department," BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce said. "Their actions will help train and educate current and future generations of BLET officers and members, securing the strength and success of our Brotherhood for decades to come."

President Pierce said the new classroom environment will become fully interactive with unrestricted collaboration capabilities, allowing for the inclusion of offsite instructors and officers using video and Internet-based computer technologies.

"I am proud of the work that has gone into establishing our new Education & Training Center," President Pierce said. "This is so much more than a brick and mortar training center. We have established one of the most mod-

ern classroom environments available, affording our membership access to the best classroom technology that exists today. Although construction efforts were put on hold until the future of the Standard Building was known, the provisions of the sale agreement have BLET leasing back space in the Standard Building for two to three years. We could not wait any longer to create our Training Center and we worked hard to put the majority of the Rail Conference grant money into technology that will go with BLET once we relocate in the Cleveland area, as compared to actual construction costs."

BLET National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert, who has

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### Historic Sale

BLET sells Standard Building to real estate investors **pg. 3**

### BLET Photo Albums

Recaps of SMA in Savanna, IWC in Minneapolis **pgs. 4-5**



### New Convention Website

National Division launches informational page for Third National Convention **pg. 7**






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

# PROTECTING TWO-PERSON CREWS IS STILL OUR GOAL

THE FOLLOWING IS A STATEMENT BY DENNIS R. PIERCE, NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS AND TRAINMEN (BLET), REGARDING RECENT MEDIA REPORTS CONCERNING A TENTATIVE CONTRACT AGREEMENT THAT WOULD OPEN THE DOOR TO SINGLE-PERSON TRAIN OPERATIONS ALONG PORTIONS OF THE BNSF RAILWAY.

**T**he BLET National Division has received many requests for comments following the announcement in July that BNSF and one of the SMART Transportation Division General Committees of Adjustment (STD GCA) representing trainmen on BNSF have negotiated a new Crew Consist Agreement that allows for engineer-only operations under certain circumstances. As we understand SMART's internal rules, their General Committees of Adjustment are not unlike BLET's in that they have the autonomous authority to negotiate and interpret contracts. That said, and from the statement issued by SMART Transportation Division President Previsich on July 18, the single STD GCA that entered into the new Crew Consist Agreement does not speak for the SMART Transportation Division. Correspondence is also in circulation that would indicate that this single STD GCA does not speak for any of the other STD GCAs on BNSF.

Just over one year ago, I issued a statement following the disaster involving a one-person crew in Canada urging BLET's membership, and the officers and membership of SMART's Transportation Division, to join us in an effort to ensure safety on the nation's rails by supporting two-person crews. I was clear then that there are three avenues available to protect a two-



The BLET is leading the fight to keep two people in the cab of all locomotives in the United States.

person crew: regulation, legislation, and collectively bargained agreements. BLET has no intention of discontinuing our efforts on the regulatory or legislative fronts. We will continue our effort to advance H.R. 3040 in the U.S. House of Representatives as well as similar legislation on the state level, and are awaiting FRA's regulation on crew size with every intention of commenting in support of a two-person crew for all over the road train operations.

And on properties like the Wheeling and Lake Erie (WLE), where BLET is the designated bargaining agent for both engineers and conductors, BLET stands steadfastly at the bargaining table, refusing to give up the conductor's position as WLE insists we do. In fact, I authorized a strike against the WLE in late 2013 over their refusal to call conductors when they were available. Our members on the WLE have made it clear through their solidarity that they will not accept an agreement that would eliminate the conductor's posi-

tion, and they have the full support of the BLET National Division in this fight.

Things are vastly different in the Class I railroad world, where BLET represents the majority of the nation's engineers and SMART represents the majority of the conductors. To preserve a two-person crew through collective bargaining, each union must protect the craft and class that it is authorized to bargain for. In 2007, BLET and BNSF negotiated such an agreement, revising the scope of duties belonging to locomotive engineers and, in doing so, preserved the work rights of BNSF engineers well into the future. Similar agreements were negotiated on Norfolk Southern and CSXT in that bargaining round. The reasoning behind these agreements is straightforward: neither BLET nor SMART can protect a two-person crew if each union does not collectively bargain agreements that preserve the work rights of the craft for whom it is the bargaining agent.

While BLET's 2007 agreements recognized that the involved railroads did not have to bargain further with BLET should engineer-only operations ever come to pass, that recognition was hardly necessary as it was merely recognition of the status quo. BLET General Committees of Adjustment, and the BLET at large, were not and are not the NMB designated bargaining agent for trainmen or conductors on the involved railroad properties, and as such, have no jurisdictional authority to bargain on their behalf. Instead, that authority is vested in SMART's Transportation Division, formerly UTU, and only SMART has the jurisdictional authority to bargain for and protect those positions. In fact, when the 2007 BLET/BNSF Scope Agreement was negotiated, engineers had already been required to work engineer-only helper assignments on BNSF following UTU's failed effort to preserve their ground crew position on those assignments. Purely as a result of SMART being the des-

ignated bargaining agent for trainmen and conductors, BLET's agreements with BNSF have never included crew consist requirements that govern the number of ground crew members required or that prevent engineers from being required to work engineer only, nor can they.

BLET's 2007 Agreement with BNSF was overwhelmingly ratified by a membership vote, a vote to preserve those members' jobs, and it is my understanding that the BLET General Chairmen responsible for enforcing that agreement are reviewing the BNSF/STD proposal to determine whether any portion of it conflicts with BLET's 2007 Agreement. At the same time, SMART's membership on a portion of BNSF is now in the same position as BLET's membership was in back in 2007; they must decide if the proposal they have been provided actually preserves jobs or eliminates them, and determine if the balance between those two outcomes warrants ratification or rejection.

In either event, BLET's National Division remains as committed to working to preserve two-person crews as it was a year ago when I commented following the Canadian disaster. We will continue to work with the National Representatives of SMART's Transportation Division wherever and whenever in an effort to preserve and protect two-person crews. That includes the regulatory front, the legislative front, and on the collective bargaining front where possible. The stakes are too high to do otherwise; the safest and securest workplace for the nation's railroads, their employees and the public at large is one that includes a minimum of a two-person crew.

**DENNIS R. PIERCE**  
BLET NATIONAL PRESIDENT

66 We will continue to work with the National Representatives of SMART's Transportation Division wherever and whenever in an effort to preserve and protect two-person crews. 99

## 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

# CONGRESS NEEDS TO DECLARE INDEPENDENCE FROM TRADE DEAL

**M**illions of Americans joined in on the celebration of the 238th birthday of this great nation in July. But while we honored U.S. independence, a proposed 12-nation Pacific Rim trade deal could take away the federal government's ability to enforce a law allowing it to favor American companies when purchasing goods.

The "Buy American" procurement program has been on the books for more than 80 years. But it has become a target, thanks to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) deal currently being negotiated. The pact would remove the ability of the U.S. to prioritize companies located in this country when making government purchases.

There is an estimated \$1,500 that every state taxpayer sends each year to Washington to procure goods. Much of that money is fun-

neled back into American jobs thanks to Buy American. But the TPP would allow foreign companies to compete for the tax dollars of Michigan residents.

Under the trade agreement, the U.S. government would be required to grant all firms operating in any TPP country the same access as American companies to federal government procurement contracts over a certain value. The ban on preferential treatment for U.S. firms on obtaining government contracts would result in the offshoring of hundreds of millions in tax dollars now recycled into the U.S. economy.

In essence, the U.S. would be trading preferential access to the \$556 billion U.S. federal government procurement market in exchange for just \$53 billion worth of new national procurement markets overseas. That seems like a bum deal.

The TPP would allow Chinese-government-owned firms in Vietnam to undercut American businesses in order to gain U.S. government business. They can do that because the average minimum wage salary in Vietnam is 52 cents an hour. But does it make sense to allow such Communist-owned companies to handle work dealing with, for instance, U.S. national security? Hell no!

America became the world power that it is today by taking tough stands. Congress needs to assert U.S. independence now by standing firm against this TPP provision and allowing the Buy American program to flourish.

Fraternally,

**JAMES P. HOFFA**  
TEAMSTERS GENERAL  
PRESIDENT



66 But does it make sense to allow such Communist-owned companies to handle work dealing with, for instance, U.S. national security? Hell no! 99

## BLET sells Standard Building

**T**he Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen has sold its landmark Standard Building to Weston, Inc., Northeast Ohio's largest privately held commercial building owner and manager, in a deal that closed in early July.

Built in 1924 by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, the Standard Building — originally named the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers Cooperative National Bank Building — is an elegant 21-story tower that overlooks the busy downtown intersection of Ontario Street and St. Clair Avenue. The 400,000 square foot landmark has a grand terra cotta façade and outstanding views of the surrounding city and Lake Erie.

Weston plans to transform the formidable office building into approximately 287 residential one and two bedroom rental suites. (The configuration may vary if office space is introduced on the first four stories.) Development is projected to commence in 12 to 18 months with completion slated for two years out.

"Weston is extremely enthusiastic about this opportunity," Weston CEO T. J. Asher said regarding the purchase. "We are good at making things viable. The Standard Building is a bit of diversification for us as we enter the residential market from the industrial but it speaks loudly of our commitment to Cleveland and our desire to be a viable part of this community."

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce congratulated Weston on their purchase of the Standard Building. "The Stan-



**The Standard Building:** originally constructed by the BLE in 1924, it has served as headquarters of the BLE International Office and BLET National Division since 1989. It was sold in early July to a real estate investor.

dard Building is a significant part of the Brotherhood's heritage, but it has reached a point in time where considerable assets are necessary to repurpose the building," Pierce said, "and it is very gratifying that the Asher brothers and Weston have committed those assets and will maintain this treasure as a cornerstone of downtown Cleveland life."

The BLET's Bylaws require that the National Office be located in the Cleveland

area, and this is unaffected by the sale of the Standard Building. One of the stipulations of the sale agreement is that BLET will lease back the space in the Standard Building that the Brotherhood currently occupies for a minimum of two years and a maximum of three years. "The lease back provision gives the Brotherhood the time necessary for the Advisory Board to select a new headquarters location in the Cleveland area, without disrupting our

day to day operations," Pierce said.

The BLET is the oldest labor organization in the United States. Cleveland was selected in 1870 as the union's headquarters city due to its central location for serving U.S. and Canadian members. From 1910 to 1989, the union's national office was located in the Engineers Building, across Ontario Street. That building was sold in 1988 to make way for the Marriott Tower. ©©



# BLET concludes 87th annual Southeastern Meeting Association in Savannah, Ga.

**M**ore than 200 members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) and their families were in attendance on June 16 for opening ceremonies of the 87th annual Southeastern Meeting Association (SMA) in Savannah, Ga.

SMA Arrangements Chairman D.C. Dickey, his wife Patty and the members of BLET Division 646 hosted this year's SMA.

Brother Dickey called the meeting to order and delivered the opening prayer. He introduced Lawana Poss, SMA Auxiliary Chairperson, who presided over the annual presentation of state flags by members of the BLET Auxiliary, a tradition that dates back nearly 100 years. States flags presented in the ceremony included Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. Anita Caruso, National President of the BLET Auxiliary, carried the United States flag and later addressed the members and families in attendance.

Brother Dickey introduced Mark Wallace, General Chairman of the Norfolk Southern-Southern Lines General Committee of Adjustment, who led a ceremony to remember BLET members killed

in the line of duty. An empty chair was left at the front of the meeting hall to honor the Organization's departed Brothers and Sisters.

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce introduced members of the BLET Advisory Board and National Division staff who were in attendance, and also acknowledged the presence of former BLET National President Paul Sorrow and former BLE International Vice President Paul Wingo. President Pierce also spoke briefly about the Brotherhood's recent strike at SEPTA in Philadelphia.

The afternoon concluded with a closed meeting for BLET members and open meetings for the BLET Auxiliary. Members took advantage of numerous educational opportunities throughout the remainder of the week. Workshops featured specialized training for BLET Legislative Representatives, Secretary-Treasurers, Local Chairmen, and Division Trustees. Additional workshops focused on the BLET national mobilization network, United Healthcare, Railroad Retirement benefits, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The 87th annual SMA concluded with a dinner banquet the evening of June 19. @





# Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton addresses BLET members at 74th annual IWC in Minneapolis

Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton (D) discussed the safety of transporting crude oil by rail as he addressed approximately 150 members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) and their families during opening ceremonies of the union's 74th annual International Western Convention (IWC) in Minneapolis on July 1.

The Governor discussed several oil train issues impacting the state, including grade crossing problems and potential risks involved in transporting Bakken crude. Governor Dayton said state legislators have recently passed measures to upgrade crossings, increase the number of safety inspectors, and to boost training for emergency responders.

Ken Martin, Minnesota State Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) Party Chairman, introduced the Governor and also delivered brief remarks to the audience.

IWC Arrangements Chairman Dave Brown, who also serves as Chairman of the BLET's Minnesota State Legislative Board, called the meeting to order and presided over the opening ceremony. He thanked his wife Cheri for her help in hosting the event, along with Arrangements Committee members Mark Anderson and Kevin Foley.

Brother Anderson, Secretary-Treasurer of the Minnesota State Legislative Board, delivered the invocation and led a ceremony to remember BLET members killed in the line of duty. An empty chair was left at the front of the meeting hall to honor the Organization's departed Brothers and Sisters. Also, Brother Anderson's daughter Alison sang beautiful renditions of the U.S. and Canadian national anthems as part of the opening ceremony.

Brother Brown then called BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce to the podium. President Pierce introduced members of the BLET Advisory Board and National Division staff who were in attendance. President Pierce also delivered brief remarks regarding America's changing political atmosphere over

the past 30 years. A pro-corporate atmosphere has altered the political landscape to make it much harder for union members and working families to earn a decent living, he said. The anti-union forces have instituted a "divide and conquer" strategy that plays on the base human emotions of greed and selfishness, pitting worker against worker in a race to the bottom.

"Instead of 'Keeping Up With The Joneses,' now it's 'If I Can't Have It, You Can't Have It.' And 'If I Can't Be In a Union, You Can't Be In a Union.' That's not the America that I grew up in. Working class Americans must join together to work on issues of common interest, and to elect politicians who will work to protect the working class of our great country," President Pierce said.

Also addressing the membership during the 2014 IWC morning session were Anita Caruso, National President of the BLET Auxiliary, and Sereena Hogan, Auxiliary Vice President and National Legislative Representative.

BLET members and families were also honored to hear from Tom Dwyer, National President of the National Association of Retired and Veteran Railroad Employees (NARVRE). Brother Dwyer is a long time legislative activist and member of the Transportation Communications Union (TCU).

The afternoon concluded with a closed meeting for BLET members and open meetings for the BLET Auxiliary. Members attended various education and training workshops on July 2. Classes featured specialized training for BLET Legislative Representatives, Secretary-Treasurers, Local Chairmen and Division Trustees. Additional workshops focused on the BLET national mobilization network, United Healthcare, Railroad Retirement benefits, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's whistleblower and safety programs. The 74th annual IWC concluded the evening of July 2 with a dinner banquet.

The 2015 IWC will be held in Denver, Colo. @@





# St. Louis to host BLET for 79th annual SWCM

**M**embers of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen will convene in St. Louis for the 79th annual Southwestern Convention Meeting (SWCM), September 7-11, 2014.

Arrangements Chairman D.W. Grimes (Local Chairman, Division 42) and his wife Gail are organizing a week of educational opportunities for BLET members and their families. Also hard at work are members of the arrangements committee, including Division 42 member Mike Gurley and wife Lisa, Division 42 Legislative Representative Mike McGill and wife Jean, Division 42 President Scott McKinley, Division 42 Secretary-Treasurer Jason Schroeder and the rest of Division 42. Division 6 member David J. Grimes and wife Rachael and Iowa State Legislative Board Chairman Orlando Penrod and wife Anastasia are also helping with the convention.

Members can download a PDF registration form from the SWCM website, [www.bletsbcm.org/st-louis-2014.html](http://www.bletsbcm.org/st-louis-2014.html). The registration fee is \$150 per person if postmarked by August 15, 2014, or \$175 if postmarked after.

Guests will stay at the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark (1 South Broadway, St. Louis, MO), which is right by Busch Stadium, home of Major League Baseball's St. Louis Cardinals. It is also within steps of the iconic St. Louis Gateway Arch. The BLET has secured a room rate of \$130 per night and reservations can be made online through the SWCM website or by calling the hotel, (314) 421-1776. Be sure to ask for the BLET/SWCM group rate when booking your stay.

The famous St. Louis Gateway Arch and the Museum of Transportation are just two of the many tourist attractions in St. Louis.

Although the Cardinals will be out of town during the SWCM, Brother Grimes has arranged for a dinner event at the stadium on September 9. Dinner will take place on the field between the dugouts, and the bull pen will be open for those willing to test their pitching arms. Catchers and a radar gun will be on site for the event.

The 79th SWCM begins on Sunday, September 7, with the annual SWCM Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament. Proceeds from the event are donated to the SWCM Scholarship Fund.

The annual SWCM golf tournament is scheduled for Monday, September 8. The 18-hole Fair Oaks Golf Club in St. Louis features a front nine Scottish-style layout with native prairie grasses and wildflowers. For non-golfers, there is a tour of the Museum of Transportation slated for September 8.

Educational opportunities begin on September 8 with an OSHA training workshop. The convention kicks off with opening ceremonies the morning of September 9. Numerous other workshops will be held on September 10, and the 2014 SWCM will conclude with a banquet and special entertainment that evening. Instead of a traditional dance at the banquet, SWCM organizers have scheduled a concert featuring an Eagles tribute band. @@

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT THE SWCM WEBSITE:**  
[WWW.BLETSWCM.ORG/ST-LOUIS-2014.HTML](http://WWW.BLETSWCM.ORG/ST-LOUIS-2014.HTML) OR CONTACT  
 ARRANGEMENTS CHAIRMAN  
 D.W. GRIMES AT (573) 776-8333 OR  
[DGRIMES1355@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DGRIMES1355@GMAIL.COM)

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

served as Director of the BLET Education & Training Department for more than 20 years, said: "I believe the new Education & Training Center will help give our members the most comprehensive level of education available in all of organized labor. By 2016, I believe our officers will be the most prepared and best trained in our Brotherhood's history."

Jason Wright, Coordinator of the BLET Education & Training Department, said the Department intends to expand its curriculum to include online training.

"Online training will become an invaluable part of our future training pro-

grams, providing online modules that members can visit as often as they wish so that they may stay up to date on the latest material," he said.

Wright also said there are three opportunities for workshops at the new Education & Training Center throughout the remainder of 2014. The three remaining workshops are as follows: Secretary-Treasurer, October 13-17 (Check out to be announced); Advanced Local Chairman, November 2-7 (Check out November 8); and Secretary-Treasurer, December 15-18 (Check out December 19).

"We are looking forward to helping our members get the level of education they need, to have an advantage in the field, and to reflect the strength of this great union," President Pierce said. @@



Members of the New York State Legislative Board get a tour of the new BLET Training Center on August 4.



Photos: Explore St. Louis

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## BLET mourns loss of National Division staff accountant Denise Sears

**T**he National Division is saddened to announce the passing of our colleague, staff accountant Denise Sears following a long battle with illness on July 3, 2014. She was 60 years old.



Denise Sears

Denise is survived by her beloved son, Joshua Allen, grandson Joshua Allen, Jr., father and stepmother, James and Sylvia Hill, Sr., sisters Terrie Kelly and Deborah (Stephen) Howard and brother James Hill, Jr. She leaves behind many loving cousins and friends. Denise is preceded in death by her mother and stepfather, Janet and Robert Allen and brother, Anthony Hill.

Born in Dayton, Ohio on May 15 1954, Denise was a long-time resident of Solon, Ohio. She was a 1972 graduate of Roth High School and a 1976 graduate of Central State University. Denise began working in the BLE Compliance Department during September of 2001. In 2006 she moved to the Accounting Department where she took on a diverse group of essential responsibilities, many affording service to and interaction with members and employees, which is what she enjoyed the most. Denise was also an avid basketball fan especially when her son, Joshua was a star center and power forward for the Solon Comets high school team.

"Denise was a dedicated member of our Brotherhood staff for many years," BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce said. "She was a great person with a wonderful sense of humor and will be sorely missed. I extend deepest sympathies to her family and loved ones during this difficult time." @@

## National Division launches 2014 BLET convention website

**I**n early July, the BLET National Division launched a new website — [www.ble-t.org/convention](http://www.ble-t.org/convention) — to provide key information to delegates, vendors and guests attending the union's Third National Convention coming up in late September 2014.

The BLET's Third National Convention will convene at the Rio All-Suite Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada, from Monday, September 29, 2014, through Thursday, October 2, 2014. Delegate registration begins on Sunday, September 28. Approximately 500 delegates will represent over 38,000 active locomotive engineers and trainmen throughout the United States. They will be charged with nominating candidates for National Division office, analyzing and voting on changes to the Brotherhood's bylaws, and various other important duties.

The new website contains numerous sections containing news and other information for delegates, visitors and vendors. The goal is to smooth the registration process by providing as much

information as possible in advance of the convention, and to serve as a one-stop information source for convention-related news, photographs and videos.

The delegate section includes a video from BLET National Division President Dennis R. Pierce explaining the convention process. There is a special link directly to the Rio Hotel website that allows delegates to make their room reservations, and another to reserve transportation between the airport and the hotel.

The visitors section provides an online pre-registration form for non-delegates who plan to attend the Third National Convention and observe the proceedings. Advance registration for visitors is encouraged as visitors will be asked to obtain a name badge to wear when they are in the convention visitor seating area. The visitors section also contains links for hotel room and airport ground transportation reservations.

Vendors are required to register in advance. A vendor application is avail-

able online, and the website provides information regarding vendor booth set up, loading and unloading, security, and other specifics, as well as access to links for hotel room and airport ground transportation reservations.

Additional key elements of the website include a tentative agenda for the both the BLET Convention and the BLET Auxiliary Convention, as well as maps of the hotel and the convention area. In addition to the link allowing delegates, visitors and guest to make hotel and airport ground transportation reservations, the new website also contains weather information for the Las Vegas area.

Lastly, the BLET Auxiliary will hold its Second National Auxiliary Convention at the Rio from September 29-October 2, 2014. Auxiliary delegates will elect national officers and consider important resolutions. A separate section of the BLET convention website focuses on the Auxiliary's Convention, and similarly includes links for hotel room and airport ground transportation reservations. @@

2014

## Calendar & Events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### BLET REGIONAL MEETINGS

**September 7-11, 2014**  
**79th Annual Southwestern Convention Meeting (SWCM)**  
**ST. LOUIS, MO.**

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

**September 29-October 2, 2014**  
**BLET Third National Convention**  
**LAS VEGAS, NEVADA**

Delegate registration begins on September 28. Convention will be held at the Rio Hotel and Casino. Delegate kits were mailed in early June 2014. See page 7 and 8 for details.



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8/14

### Photo of the Month: July 2014

**SCENIC MOUNT SHASTA:** A heavy Union Pacific manifest freight (M-RVHK) on its way from Roseville, Calif., to Hinkle Yard in Hermiston, Ore., tugs hard on the uphill grade near Mt. Shasta, Calif., on October 16, 2010. The town's namesake mountain is in the background. **Photo:** Robert W. Scott



**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 May 2014 Activity

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

**NATIONAL PRESIDENT DENNIS R. PIERCE:** National Division Office, Cleveland; General supervision of BLET activities; General office duties; Correspondence and telephone communications; Supervision of Office Administration; General Supervision of Special Representatives; President, Teamsters Rail Conference; Policy Committee, Teamsters Rail Conference; Teamsters General Executive Board mtg., Las Vegas; Teamsters Unity Conference, Las Vegas; Teamsters Rail Conference convention, Las Vegas; Western General Chairmen's Assoc. mtg., Las Vegas; Advisory Board mtg., Las Vegas; Vacation.

**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; Ohio State Legislative Board mtg., Columbus, Ohio; Teamsters Unity Conference, Las Vegas; Western General Chairmen's Assoc. mtg., Las Vegas; Holiday; Inward facing cameras mtg., Las Vegas; NASLBC mtg., Indianapolis.

**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.; Meetings with vendors and financial institutions; Publications Committee; Teamsters Rail Conference Policy Committee; Trustee, National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust (NRRIT); Teamsters Unity Conference, Las Vegas; Western General Chairmen's Assoc. mtg., Las Vegas.

**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.; Ohio State Legislative Board mtg., Columbus, Ohio; Teamsters Political Coordinators mtg., Las Vegas; Teamsters Unity Conference, Las Vegas; Western General Chairmen's Assoc. mtg., Las Vegas; Massachusetts AFL-CIO Gompers-Murray-Meany Conference, Falmouth, Mass.; Utah State Legislative Board quadrennial mtg., Salt Lake City, Utah; National Association of State Legislative Board Chairmen (NASLBC) mtg., Indianapolis, Ind.; Various meetings and functions with Representatives and Senators.

**VICE PRESIDENT MARCUS J. RUEF:** Vice Chairman, full NRAB; Labor Member, 1st Division; Labor Member, National Mediation Board Arbitration Advisory Forum; Director of BLET Arbitration Dept; Assigned to Illinois Central; Wisconsin Central; Indiana Harbor Belt; and Belt Railway of Chicago; Teamsters Rail Conference convention, Las Vegas; Teamsters Unity Conference, Las Vegas; NRAB admin matters, Chicago; Assist GC Craddock w/ disciplinary issues, IC; Western General Chairmen's Assoc. mtg., Las Vegas; Advisory Board mtg., Las Vegas; Assist GC Reynolds w/ Section 6 mediation prep., Chicago; National Academy of Arbitrators advocate training and convention, Chicago.

**VICE PRESIDENT MIKE TWOMBLY:** Assigned to all Union Pacific GCAs (Eastern District, Northern Region (former C&NW), Western Lines (Pacific Harbor Lines), Western Region (Portland & Western), Central Region, Southern Region; On duty at home office; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications, etc.; Union Pacific-Eastern District PLB 5604, Miami, Fla.; Teamsters Unity Conference, Las Vegas; Teamsters Rail Conference conven-

tion, Las Vegas; Western General Chairmen's Assoc. mtg., Las Vegas; Vacation; Inward facing camera mtg. w/ Union Pacific and BLET General Chairmen, Las Vegas.

**VICE PRESIDENT GIL GORE:** Assigned to all CSX; Grand Trunk Western; Union Pacific-Southern Region GCA special assignment; Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) issues, CSXT; General office duties, paperwork, correspondence, emails, telephone calls, etc.; Winter Haven extra board discussion, conference call; SAA discussions, Houston; PLB 7655, assisting GC Karakian, GTW, Chicago.

**VICE PRESIDENT MICHAEL D. PRIESTER:** Assigned to all BNSF (former ATSF, former C&S, CRI&P, FWD, former STL-SF, BNSF/MRL), Panhandle Northern, Missouri & North Arkansas, Montana Rail Link, Great Western; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications, etc.; PLB 5939 w/ GC Wilson, BNSF, Miami; PLB 7383 w/ GC Wilson, Miami; Teamsters Unity Conference, Las Vegas; Western General Chairmen's Assoc. mtg., Las Vegas; Advisory Board mtg., Las Vegas; Division 517 and Division 13 mtg. w/ GC Wilson, BNSF, Minneapolis/ LaCrosse; Mtg. w/ BNSF Labor Relations, Minneapolis; Division 695 mtg. w/ GC Wilson, Minot, N.D.

**VICE PRESIDENT COLE W. DAVIS:** Assigned to: Kansas City Southern (MidSouth Rail, South-Rail, Gateway Western, Illinois & Midland), Texas Mexican Rwy.; CP Rail System/US (Indiana Southern, Iowa, Chicago & Eastern, Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern); Springfield Terminal (St. Lawrence & Atlantic, Delaware & Hudson), Cedar River, Louisville & Indiana, Huron & Eastern; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications, etc.; DM&E issues, assisting GC Semenak; KCS issues, assisting GC Parker; Teamsters Unity Conference, Las Vegas; Huron & Eastern agreement, GC Latrig; Springfield Terminal issues and D&H issues, assisting GC Moore; Western General Chairmen Assoc. mtg., Las Vegas; Advisory Board mtg., Las Vegas; Mid South issues, assisting GC Craddock; PLB 6884 and mtgs. w/ KCS, assisting GC Parker, Ft. Myers, Fla.; Louisville & Indiana mtg. on tentative contract, assisting GC Hartill; Canadian Pacific Railway negotiations, assisting GC Semenak, Chicago.

**VICE PRESIDENT STEPHEN J. BRUNO:** Assigned to various Rail Safety Advisory Committees (RSAC); BLET Safety Task Force; Regulatory duties as assigned by the President; Amtrak; Long Island Rail Road; New York & Atlantic; Metro North; New Jersey Transit; PATH; SEPTA; Metra; Union Railroad; Birmingham Southern; Internal reports, telephone calls, correspondence, email, general office duties, etc.; Prepare for PEB 246, LIRR, Jamaica, N.Y.; Teamsters Unity Conference, Las Vegas; Contract negotiations mtg. w/ leadership of TWU 234, SEPTA, Philadelphia; Western General Chairmen's Assoc. mtg., Las Vegas; Advisory Board mtg., Las Vegas; Division 71 monthly mtg., Philadelphia; NTSB/STF mtg. w/ Georgette Gregory, Washington, D.C.; Prepare submissions for PEB 246, SEPTA.

**VICE PRESIDENT R.C. (RICK) GIBBONS:** Assigned to: All Norfolk Southern General Committees; Wheeling & Lake Erie; Chicago, Fort Wayne & Eastern; New York, Susquehanna & Western; New England Central; Connecticut Southern; Western New York & Pennsylvania; Indiana & Ohio; Ohio Central; RSAC/RSIA Fatigue Management Group; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications; Ben Martin GCA triennial mtg., Albany, N.Y.; Teamsters Unity Conference, Las Vegas; Western General Chairmen's Assoc. mtg., Las Vegas; Vacation; Norfolk Southern contract negotiations, assisting all NS GCAs, Charlotte, N.C.

# BLET DELEGATES CAN NOW CHECK ELIGIBILITY STATUS ONLINE

The BLET National Division has made it easier for delegates to track their eligibility status for attendance at the upcoming Third National Convention, which begins in Las Vegas on September 29.

In order to be seated at the convention, Divisions must submit their delegate's credentials — bearing the signatures of the Division President and the Division Secretary-Treasurer — to the National Division and each Division must be square on the books up to and including its July 2014 membership and financial reports. The delegate page at [www.ble-t.org/convention](http://www.ble-t.org/convention) now provides a secure area that allows delegates to check on the status of both.

To log in, delegates can use the same username and password used for logging into the Members' Area of the BLET National Division website. If you do not have a username and pass-



word, you can sign up for one here: [www.ble-t.org/signup.asp](http://www.ble-t.org/signup.asp).

When a delegate logs in to the new secure area of the delegate page, he or she will be ad-

vised whether the National Division has received their credentials and will also advise regarding the status of his/her Division's financial report for July 2014. Delegates also are provided with contact information to request assistance from the National Division if there is a discrepancy in either status.

The BLET's Third National Convention will convene at the Rio All-Suite Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas from Monday, September 29, 2014, through Thursday, October 2, 2014. Delegate registration begins on Sunday, September 28. Approximately 500 delegates will represent over 38,000 active locomotive engineers and trainmen throughout the United States. They will be charged with nominating candidates for National Division office, analyzing and voting on changes to the Brotherhood's bylaws, and various other important duties. ©