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Autumn Leaves

Along one of the more scenic routes in the East, CSX locomotive 5373 crosses the Hudson River over Roe Pond Trestle in Bear Mountain, N.Y., on October 29, 2010.

Photo: courtesy Eric Williams, www.ericwilliams.photography

BLET ORGANIZES ILLINOIS RAILWAY SHORT LINE WORKERS

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) scored a short line organizing victory in early August as a majority of workers at Illinois Railway voted to make the BLET their designated collective bargaining representative.

The National Mediation Board certified the election results on August 7. The organizing victory brings 21 new train and engine service employees into the ranks of the BLET.

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce welcomed the new Illinois Railway workers to the House of Labor and thanked them for voting BLET. The Brotherhood will begin contract negotiations with rail management as quickly as possible, he said.

"The best way to respond to the confidence shown by our new Illinois Railway members is to help them realize the goals they identified throughout the organizing campaign by negotiating their first-ever

collective bargaining agreement," President Pierce said. "That job begins today."

President Pierce thanked Kent Confer, BLET Special Representative and Director of Organizing, for his hard work in securing the election victory at the Illinois Railway property.

President Pierce said the Illinois Railway members will hold membership in BLET Division 682 (Hammond, Ind.) and will belong to the BLET's Indiana Harbor Belt General Committee of Adjustment.

He thanked General Chairman Christopher J. Cundari for his assistance in the organizing effort and for the leadership he has shown by bringing the Illinois Railway membership into his Division and General Committee.

Illinois Railway (IR) is comprised of four track segments aggregating 113 miles of track located just west of the Chicago suburbs. IR services what is often called "the Sand Capital of the World" in northern Illinois. ©

"THE BEST WAY TO RESPOND TO THE CONFIDENCE SHOWN BY OUR NEW ILLINOIS RAILWAY MEMBERS IS TO HELP THEM REALIZE THE GOALS THEY IDENTIFIED THROUGHOUT THE ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN BY NEGOTIATING THEIR FIRST-EVER COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT. THAT JOB BEGINS TODAY." — DENNIS PIERCE

IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Chance J. Gober

1973-2014

Chance Jason Gober, 40, a member of BLET Division 182 (North Little Rock, Ark.), was killed in the line of duty on August 17, 2014.

He was one of two crew members killed when two Union Pacific trains collided head on near the town of Hoxie, Ark. Brother Gober was born on November 12, 1973, in Sacramento, Calif. He is survived by his wife and three sons.

After serving his country in the United States Navy, Brother Gober hired out with the Union Pacific Railroad on March

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BLET President's Message

Voting for two-person train crews **pg. 2**



Photo Album

76th annual EUMA in Cleveland **pg. 5**

Aldridge Reelected

Begins third term as Chairman of Kentucky Legislative Board **pg. 6**

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BLET PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY DENNIS R. PIERCE

VOTING FOR TWO-PERSON TRAIN CREWS

Your choices at the ballot box will go a long way toward protecting crew size

During the week preceding this edition of the Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen News going to press, members and officers of our great Brotherhood gathered in St. Louis for the 79th Southwestern Convention Meeting. This was the last of the four BLET regional meetings this year, and as with all of the preceding regional meetings, the turnout was tremendous. I would like to offer my personal thanks to all of the Brothers and Sisters who worked so hard to put on this year's regional meetings. I would also like to add a special thanks to Brother David Grimes and his wife Gail who chaired the Arrangements Committee for last week's Southwestern Convention Meeting. The Brothers and Sisters of the UP Hubs in St. Louis and Little Rock have suffered many losses in recent years, but the recognition given those who have passed too early was moving to all in attendance.

I must also thank Brother Grimes for giving me a special privilege during the SWCM Banquet on Wednesday night of the convention. As over 350 members and their families entered the banquet hall that evening, I received word that the tentative crew consist agreement between BNSF and the SMART-Transportation Division failed ratification. Brother Grimes granted me the honor of announcing that news to the BLET members and families present, and the rousing ovation and ensuing celebration amongst the BLET membership present was truly moving. It was clear to me and to all present that continuing our effort to preserve two-person crews as a minimum is not only the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do.



President Pierce at the 2014 Eastern Union Meeting Association annual convention in Cleveland.

As I have said since the horrible and tragic accident in Lac-Mégantic, Canada last year, there are three venues that we can work in to preserve two-person crews. The first is on the legislative front, and we have labored side by side with National Representatives from SMART-TD in support of H.R. 3040 in the U.S. House of Representatives. In addition, just last week the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2014 was proposed in the U.S. Senate (S. 2784), which also includes crew size language similar to that found in H.R. 3040. BLET and SMART-TD are now working in support of that portion of S. 2784, as it will take legislation in both the Senate and the House of Representatives to make two-person crews the law of the land.

In addition, BLET and SMART-TD continue our ef-

forts on the regulatory front. As most members are aware, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) will be issuing crew size regulations through its rulemaking process in the coming months, and we have worked long and hard to make sure that FRA knows how important this issue is to the safety of our memberships.

The third leg in this process is Collective Bargaining. As I have said many times, the BLET National Division is prepared to work with SMART-TD in the coming bargaining round to protect two-person crews should the issue make its way to the national bargaining table. On the heels of the failed BNSF proposal, the intentions of the nation's rail carriers should be clear to all.

The political makeup of our nation is where all three of these venues intertwine. We cannot

realistically expect that certain politicians in the Senate or the House of Representative, who constantly attack unions and the working class Americans that unions represent, will support our legislative efforts. This proves true every time an effort is made to return our government to the American people instead of the 1%; politicians consistently vote along party lines, as was the case last week when the Senate took up a constitutional amendment to overturn the Citizens United Supreme Court decision. That decision opened the door for corporate America to buy election after election, ensuring that corporate interests are protected by the government at the expense of working class Americans.

These groups will work very hard this fall to take control of the Senate, and if they are successful, then your interests as

working class Americans will be at risk. Further, they will work to take the White House in 2016, and if they control the House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate and the White House, then all of the laws and legal protections that working class Americans have come to count on will be in jeopardy. In addition, those at FRA who write the regulations that we labor under would be appointed by an anti-worker President. Finally, should crew size get to a Presidential Emergency Board under the steps of the Railway Labor Act, that Board would be appointed by an anti-worker President.

These anti-worker politicians are sponsored by the same corporate America that wants single-person crews. Those who want to preserve two-person crews must not be fooled by anti-worker politicians whose real intent is to make the richest Americans richer. They must not be distracted by that politician's positions on the social issues of the day. These wolves in sheep's clothing will try to convince you that you and they share the same position on some social issues, all the while working against your interests in the workplace. The straight truth is that these social issues will never protect you in the workplace, they will never put food on your family's table, and they will never ensure that our workplace is its safest with two-person crews the mandatory minimum. Be heard this fall when you go to the voting booth. Don't be fooled by politicians whose real master is the richest of Americans. Vote for candidates that will work for working class Americans.

DENNIS R. PIERCE
BLET NATIONAL PRESIDENT

66 These anti-worker politicians are sponsored by the same corporate America that wants single-person crews. Those who want to preserve two-person crews must not be fooled by anti-worker politicians whose real intent is to make the richest Americans richer. 99

BLET NATIONAL DIVISION ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

Official communications between BLET members and the National Division require a hard copy of the correspondence, bearing a signature, being received by the National President to be considered an "official communication." This is to provide that the actual question(s) are addressed, and ensures that when official

interpretations are made they have reference to a specific request and can be used in future correspondence.

The volume of e-mails received makes it impossible for the National President to answer all unofficial communications. Therefore, it is the policy of the BLET that e-mails addressed to the National President will be reviewed and forwarded to

the appropriate officer or staff for a timely response; however, an e-mail message is not considered an official communication.

Moreover, anonymous e-mails and e-mails that do not provide sufficient information concerning the sender to enable National Division staff to confirm the sender's membership status will not receive any reply or acknowledgement. This poli-

cy is intended to allow the National President to be aware of the opinions and suggestions of the membership, while at the same time providing a timely response to the member's unofficial communication, if a response is necessary, without needlessly expending limited BLET resources.

ADOPTED AT CLEVELAND, OHIO ON JULY 22, 2010. ©©



GENERAL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY JAMES P. HOFFA

LEAN TIMES CONTINUE FOR MANY U.S. WORKERS

Labor Day is seen as a day of rest for many hardworking Americans. But for a growing set of U.S. workers, there is no break from trying to earn enough to support their families. Despite a dip in unemployment during the past few years, low pay continues to plague many employees while their corporate bosses rake in record profits.

Some naysayers have tried to brush off the income inequality discussion as a trumped-up effort to agitate Americans. However, while they might have wanted to ignore such calls from the Teamsters and other worker advocates, they cannot turn their back on the debate when their friends with ties to the financial world sound the alarm.

Standard and Poor's -- creators of the S&P 500 index -- and



the International Monetary Fund are just two of the more unexpected sources that recently admitted that the deep divide be-

tween the haves and have-nots in the U.S. is growing and that all Americans are paying the price because of it.

Improving the outlook for U.S. workers isn't about creating millions of minimum wage jobs. It is about creating sustainable, skilled employment that allows Americans to earn a fair wage with benefits that allows them to pay for housing and food on the table and sustain a middle-class lifestyle.

Corporations are increasingly looking to friendly lawmakers on the Hill who are only too happy to reduce the "burden" on billionaires while rank-and-file workers suffer. Despite being a nation that gave birth to the epic failed energy conglomerate Enron Corp. and megabanks that drove the U.S. into a recession and threaten to do so again, for too many in Congress, there is no limit to obstacles they will hurdle for their corporate cronies.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the average worker. That's why we have fast-food workers who are victimized by successful companies allegedly stealing their wages. And it is also why we have thousands of low-wage workers taking to the streets over and over again to say enough.

Hardworking Americans find themselves at a crossroads. With the November elections looming, they need to carefully consider their options to help turn the U.S. economy in a positive direction. It starts with backing candidates who place the people above the powerful.

Fraternally,

JAMES P. HOFFA
TEAMSTERS GENERAL
PRESIDENT

Corporations are increasingly looking to friendly lawmakers on the Hill who are only too happy to reduce the "burden" on billionaires while rank-and-file workers suffer.

BLET families win 14 Hoffa scholarships for 2014-15 school year

Fourteen BLET families were winners of scholarships from the James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund for the 2014-15 academic year, including three top level \$10,000 recipients.

The \$10,000 awards are renewed on an annual basis. The \$1,000 awards are one-time, non-renewable scholarships.

WINNERS OF THE \$10,000 SCHOLARSHIPS ARE:

► **CODY BROWN**, son of Tommy M. Horn of BLET Division 206 (Temple, Texas), a BNSF engineer;

► **KATELYN BUFFETT**, daughter of Eric R. Buffett of BLET Division 435 (Hamlet, N.C.), a CSX engineer; and

► **JACOB MATHIS**, son of Paul J. Mathis of BLET Division 206 (Temple, Texas), a BNSF engineer.

WINNERS OF \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS ARE:

► **LOGAN BARNETT**, son of D.L. Barnett of BLET Division 511 (Portsmouth, Ohio), a Norfolk Southern engineer;

► **MONICA TARNAWSKI**, daughter of Paul Tarnawski of BLET Division 171 (Hoboken, N.J.), a New Jersey Transit engineer;

► **ALEC ESTES**, son of David P. Estes of BLET Division 60 (Seattle, Wash.), an Amtrak engineer. Brother Estes is Secretary-Treasurer of the Amtrak General Committee of Adjustment and Local Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer of Division 60;

► **WILLIAM GUFFY**, son of Timothy N. Williamson of BLET Division 858 (Pine Bluff, Ark.), a Union Pacific engineer;

► **IAN HUTTON**, son of Thomas W. Hutton of BLET Division 171 (Hoboken, N.J.), a New Jersey Transit engineer;

► **WHITNEY LEDFORD**, daughter of Martin E. Ledford of BLET Division 781 (Erwin, Tenn.), a CSX engineer;

► **ZACHARY MARTIN**, son of T.E. Martin, Secretary-Treasurer of BLET Division 122 (Port Huron, Mich.), a Grand Trunk Western engineer;

► **SEAN PENFIELD**, son of Brian J. Penfield, Local Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer of BLET Division 659 (Buffalo, N.Y.), a Norfolk Southern engineer;

► **ANGELICA PREVITE**, daughter of Peter J. Previte, Local Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer of BLET Division 136 (Ogden, Utah), a Union Pacific engineer;

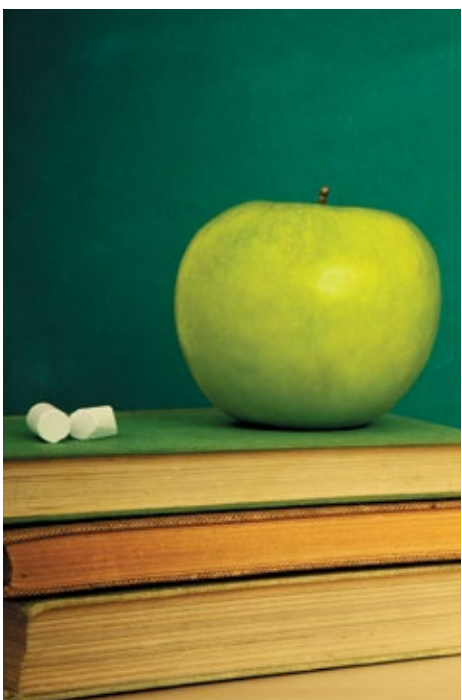
► **DYLAN SCALZO**, son of Michael J. Scalzo of BLET Division 692 (Tracy, Calif.), a Union Pacific engineer; and

► **KERRY SMITH**, daughter of Thomas P. Smith of BLET Division 71 (Philadelphia, Pa.), a SEPTA engineer.

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIPS

The James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund awards scholarships annually to outstanding high school seniors. The application deadline is usually March 31 each year. Recipients are selected by an impartial committee of university admissions and financial aid directors based on academic achievement, SAT/ACT scores, character, potential and financial need. The Teamsters consider all applicants without regard to race, religion, gender, disability, or any other legally protected status.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT THE TEAMSTERS WEBSITE:
TEAMSTER.ORG/BENEFITS/JRH-SCHOLARSHIP



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

TO REGISTER, JUST GO TO WWW.BLE-T.ORG. In the lower right hand corner of the page, you will find an area to

enter your email address to begin receiving the most current news from the BLET National Division.

It is a great way to keep informed on the most recent issues impacting your job, your contract and your Brotherhood.

Fund established to help family of BLET member injured in serious accident

BLET MEMBER JARED W. MCNEW IS IN A FIGHT FOR HIS LIFE.



The 40-year-old Local Chairman of Division 130 (Kansas City, Kan.) was involved in a serious motorcycle crash where he sustained a number of critical injuries and has endured several surgeries since. This Brother spent a month or so in intensive care and has recently been transferred to a rehab facility.

Brian Kelley, Chairman of the BLET Missouri State Legislative Board, reports that Brother McNew and his wife Julie have two daughters: Jennifer, 18, and Jasmine, 15.

"The family is devastated and they need all the help they can get," Brother Kelley said.

The membership of Division 130 has established a fund to help the family offset the costs of medical treatments, recovery and rehabilitation, as well as everyday living expenses. Those wishing to do

so should make donations payable to the "Jared McNew Fund" and mail to:

Unity One Credit Union
4150 Kansas Avenue
Kansas City, KS
66106-1257
Jared McNew Fund

Anyone wishing to send a card or other well wishes may do so by writing:

Jared and Julie McNew
15305 N.W. 125th Street
Platte City, MO 64079

"Please consider sending a donation even if it is only \$5 or \$10 dollars," Brother Kelley said. "Thank you in advance for helping the McNew family out and for thinking of them during these tragic times," Brother Kelley said. @

Eric R. Bunch, Division 75 Local Chairman, 1976-2014

The BLET National Division extends deepest sympathies to the family of Eric R. Bunch, a BNSF locomotive engineer and Local Chairman of BLET Division 75 (Kansas City, Mo.), who died unexpectedly of cardiac arrest on July 24, 2014. He was 38 years old.

He left behind his wife, Lari Sue, and two sons, Parker 10 and Lincoln 8. He also is survived by his mother and step-father: Linda and Tom Cummings, Grandfather: Delbert McCart, sister and brother in law: Debbie and Greg Beavers, sister and brother in law: Renea and Kurt Ostermiller, step siblings: Kelly and Bill Lowe and Kristen and PJ Russell, and Kale Cummings. He had many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

"Eric will be long remembered by everyone that had the pleasure of knowing him. He will be missed by all," said C.C. Fuller, a close friend of the family and Secretary-Treasurer of Division 75.



Brother Bunch earned promotion to locomotive engineer in 2003 and first joined Division 75 on March 1, 2004. He was an officer of Division 75 for over four years. He served three years as 1st Vice Local Chairman and had been the Local Chairman since January 2013.

"He was very active with BLET Division 75, doing whatever he could for the Brotherhood and for his members' safety," Brother Fuller said. "He had aspirations of working at the General Commit-

tee level for the BLET of the former ATSF properties one day."

Those interested in supporting the family with a card, gift, or donation, please send to:

Community Bank of Missouri
1400 Hospital Dr.
Excelsior Springs, MO 64024
(Make checks payable to:
Eric Bunch Memorial)

"Eric Bunch had a huge heart and a very caring soul," Brother Fuller said. "He

would help out anyone that needed help as well as take the time to explain anything to anyone that asked a question. If you had ever met Eric, you enjoyed his company right away. He enjoyed telling stories from his past as well as talking about his family. He enjoyed vacationing with his wife and watching their sons compete in sports. He helped coach them in both football and wrestling. He also enjoyed the outdoors hunting and fishing whenever he had the time."

BLET National President extended deepest sympathies to the Bunch family.

"It is so tragic to see such a young man struck down in the prime of his life," President Pierce said. "This young man had so much to live for, had a wonderful family and had the whole rest of his life ahead of him. He leaves behind a hole in our hearts that can never be filled. On behalf of the entire BLET, our thoughts and prayers are with Brother Bunch's family and the members of Division 75." @

2015 FEES OBJECTOR POLICY

1. EMPLOYEES' RIGHTS

A. Any employee covered by a union or agency shop agreement in the United States has the legal right to be or remain a nonmember of the Union. Nonmembers have the legal right (1) to object to paying for Union activities not related to collective bargaining, contract administration and grievance adjustment, and to obtain a reduction in fees for such activities; (2) to be given sufficient information to intelligently decide whether to object; and (3) to be apprised of internal Union procedures for filing objections. Employees who choose to object have the right to be apprised of the percentage of the reduction, the basis for the calculation, and the right to challenge these figures.

B. To the extent permitted by law, nonmembers may not participate in Union elections as a voter or as a candidate; attend Union meetings; serve as delegates to the Convention, or participate in the selection of such delegates; or participate in the process by which collective bargaining agreements are ratified.

2. PUBLICATION OF POLICY

The fees objector policy shall be published annually in the BLET's newsletter in the month preceding the objection notice period and mailed annually to each objector. It shall also be provided to each new employee when s/he first becomes subject to a union shop agreement.

3. MAKING OBJECTION KNOWN

Objecting nonmembers must provide notice of objection by notifying the National Secretary/Treasurer of the objection in writing by first-class mail postmarked during the month of November preceding the calendar year to which s/he objects, or within (30) days after s/he first begins paying fees and receiving notices of these procedures. The objection shall contain the objector's current home address. Each nonmember wishing to continue his/her objection from year to year must renew the objection each year as specified in this paragraph. Objections may only be made by individual employees. No petition objections will be honored.

4. MAJOR CATEGORIES OF CHARGEABLE EXPENSES

All objectors shall pay their fair share of expenses germane to collective bargaining including:

A. All expenses concerning the negotiation of agreements, practices and working conditions;

B. All expenses concerning the administration of agreements, practices and working conditions, including grievance handling, all activities related to arbitration, and discussion with employees in the craft or class (or bargaining unit) or employer representatives regarding working conditions, benefits and contract rights;

C. Convention expenses and other union internal governance and

management expenses;

D. Social activities and union business meeting expenses;

E. Publication expenses to the extent coverage relates to chargeable activities;

F. Expenses of litigation related to collective bargaining, contract administration and internal governance;

G. Expenses for legislative and administrative agency activities to effectuate collective bargaining agreements;

H. All expenses for the education and training of officers and staff intended to prepare the participants to better perform chargeable activities;

I. All costs of strikes and other lawful economic actions.

5. DETERMINATION OF CHARGEABLE SHARE

The BLET shall engage an outside auditor to perform an independent audit of the records of the National Division annually. Based on this audit, the BLET shall determine the percentage of expenditures that fall within the categories specified in Section 4. The amount of expenditures that fall within Section 4 shall be the basis for calculating the reduced fees that must be paid by the objector. The auditing firm conducting the annual audit of the BLET National Division shall give an opinion concerning the adequacy of the escrow amounts maintained pursuant to Section 10, and later will verify the existence and the audits of mon-

ey in any escrow account.

6. REPORT OF CHARGEABLE SHARE AND BASIS OF ITS CALCULATION

The BLET shall report the determination no later than September 30. This report shall include an analysis of the major categories of union expenses that are chargeable and non-chargeable. A copy of the report shall be sent to all nonmembers whose timely objections have not been revoked.

7. CHALLENGE PROCEDURE

Each person entitled to receive the BLET's report may challenge the validity of the calculations by filing an appeal with the National Secretary/Treasurer. Such appeal must be made by sending a letter to the National Secretary/Treasurer postmarked no later than October 31.

8. ARBITRATION OF CHALLENGES

A. After the close of appeals period, the National Secretary/Treasurer shall provide a list of appellants to the American Arbitration Association (AAA). All appeals shall be consolidated. The AAA shall appoint an arbitrator pursuant to its Rules for Impartial Determination of Union Fees. The AAA shall inform the National Secretary/Treasurer and the appellant(s) of the arbitrator selected.

B. The arbitration shall commence by December 1 or as soon thereafter as the AAA can schedule the arbitration. The arbitrator shall have control over all procedural matters affecting the arbitration in order to fulfill the need for an informed and expeditious arbitration.

C. Each party to the arbitration shall bear its own costs. The appellants shall have the option of paying a prorata portion of the arbitrator's fees and expenses. The balance of such fees and expenses shall be paid by the BLET.

D. A court reporter shall make a transcript of all proceedings before the arbitrator. This transcript shall be prepared within 15 days of the close of the hearing and shall be the official record of the proceedings which may be purchased by the appellants. If appellants do not purchase a copy of the transcript, a copy shall be available for inspection at the National Division during normal business hours.

E. Appellants may, at their expense, be represented by counsel or other representative of choice. Appellants need not appear at the hearing and shall be permitted to file written statements with the arbitrator at the time of the hearing instead of appearing.

F. Fourteen (14) days prior to the start of the first hearing, appellants shall be provided with a list of all exhibits intended to be introduced at the hearing and a list of all witnesses intended to be called, except for exhibits and witnesses that may be introduced for rebuttal. On written request from an appellant, copies of exhibits (or in case of voluminous exhibits, summaries thereof) shall be provided to them. Additionally, copies of exhibits shall be available for inspection and copying at the hearing.

G. The National Division shall

have the burden of establishing that the reduced fees set forth in the report are lawful.

H. If the arbitrator shall determine that more than one day of hearing is necessary, hearings shall be scheduled to continue from day to day until completed. The parties to the appeal shall have the right to file a brief within fifteen (15) days after the transcript of the hearing is available, but in no case no more than thirty (30) days after the hearing closes. The arbitrator shall issue a decision within forty-five (45) days after the submission of posthearing briefs or within such other reasonable period as is consistent with the rules established by the AAA.

I. The arbitrator shall give full consideration to the legal requirements limiting the amounts that objectors may be charged, and shall set forth in the decision the legal and arithmetic basis for such decision.

9. PAYMENT OF REDUCED FEES

Objectors shall pay reduced monthly fees based on the most recent report pending determination of the objection year's chargeable ratio.

10. ESCROW OF DISPUTED FUNDS

All monthly fees paid by objectors shall be placed in an interest-bearing escrow account pending final determination of the chargeable share. Escrowed funds shall be disbursed to objectors and the Union upon issuance of the arbitrator's decision or fifteen days after the conclusion of the appeal period if there are no challenges to the determination.

BLET concludes 76th annual EUMA in Cleveland

Approximately 200 members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen and their families convened in Cleveland for opening ceremonies of the 76th annual Eastern Union Meeting Association (EUMA) on August 5.

EUMA Chairman Mark Kenny opened the ceremonies while Arrangements Chairman Pat Redmond welcomed all members, families and guests to Cleveland on behalf of host Division 607 (Cleveland).

The Color Guard from the Naval Reserve Center of Akron presented the flags and four members of the Cleveland Firefighters Memorial Pipes & Drums played a selection of music, including Amazing Grace, in honor of BLET members past and present who have fallen in the line of duty. Sandy Blum, wife of Arrangements Co-Chairman Jim Blum, led the group in prayer while Brother Blum led the empty chair ceremony. An empty chair, as well as various tools of the engineers' craft, were 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. His remarks touched upon the War on Work-

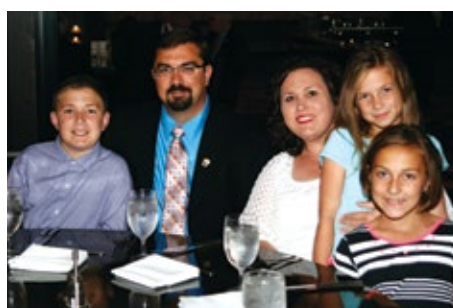
ers and the need for solidarity in the labor movement.

EUMA Chairman Kenny then introduced Anita Caruso, National President of the BLET Auxiliary, who spoke about the important role that the Auxiliary plays in support of all BLET members throughout the United States. Brother Kenny then introduced a video greeting from U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH), who welcomed BLET members to Cleveland.

Teamsters International Vice President John Murphy, who serves as Director of the Teamsters Rail Conference, brought greetings on behalf of Teamsters General President James P. Hoffa and General Secretary-Treasurer Ken Hall. Teamsters International Vice President Al Mixon was the second guest speaker at the 2014 EUMA, and Walt Barrows, Labor Member of the Railroad Retirement Board, was the third.

Brother B.J. Farkas, Local Chairman and Legislative Representative of Division 121 (Indianapolis, Ind.) took to the podium to donate his Division's original charter to the BLET National Division. He said the charter, which is dated 1898, had survived a fire during its 116-year history.

The 2014 EUMA concluded with a banquet on August 7. The 2015 EUMA will be held in Boston, Mass. @@



Bryan Aldridge reelected by acclamation in Kentucky



Officers, delegates and guests at the 2014 quadrennial meeting of the Kentucky State Legislative Board. Seated, from left: John Tolman, Vice President & National Legislative Representative; Bryan Aldridge, Kentucky State Legislative Board Chairman; and Dennis Pierce, BLET National President. **Standing, from left:** Jason Cornett, Div. 829; Dan Maynard, Div. 271; Brian Ponder, Div. 489; Nevin Dunaway, Div. 165; David Marlin, Div. 508; Lucas Meyer, Div. 110; Mike Lambert, Div. 110; Jeff Jones, Div. 199; Mark Kimbler, Div. 78; Keith Exely, Div. 78; Sean Cline, Div. 698)

Bryan T. Aldridge was reelected by acclamation to his second full term as Chairman of the Kentucky State Legislative Board at quadrennial meetings in Newport, Ky., August 12-13, 2014.

Brother Aldridge is a CSX locomotive engineer and has been a member of BLET Division 78 (Louisville, Ky.) since September 1, 2003. He was elected 1st Vice Chairman in October of 2006 and was elevated to Chairman in September of 2008 following the passing of long serving Chairman Tommy G. Mayne.

Also elected by acclamation were: 1st Vice Chairman Jeff P. Jones, Division 199 (Danville, Ky.); 2nd Vice Chairman Jason P. Cornett, Division 829 (Ravenna, Ky.); Secretary-Treasurer Daniel K. Maynard, Division 271 (Russell, Ky.); and Alternate Secretary-Treasurer David D. Marlin, Division 508 (Fulton, Ky.).

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce addressed the membership regarding several issues of national importance to the Brotherhood.

"I thank Brother Aldridge and all of-

ficers of the Kentucky State Legislative Board for their commitment to the Brotherhood and our members," President Pierce said. "I also thank them for their dedication and hard work on behalf of the Brothers and Sisters in the proud commonwealth of Kentucky."

BLET Vice President and National Legislative Representative John P. Tolman was also in attendance, providing a legislative update and discussing the upcoming Senate race in Kentucky and a host of other key races in the November elections.

Several Legislators from across the Commonwealth attended. Jeff Donohue, House District 37, and former officer with the United Auto Workers (UAW) addressed the group. C.B. Embry, a Republican candidate for State Senate, also addressed the delegates concerning the introduction of a two-person crew bill.

The BLET's Kentucky State Legislative Board represents more than 1,450 members from 12 different BLET Division. They work for Norfolk Southern, CSX and the Canadian National railroads. ©©

OSHA ORDERS BNSF RAILWAY TO PAY \$12,000 TO CONDUCTOR DISCIPLINED FOR TAKING DOCTOR-ORDERED LEAVE

BNSF Railway Co. has been found in violation of the Federal Railroad Safety Act (FRSA) by the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for disciplining an employee at its Murray Yard complex in Kansas City for following a physician's treatment plan. The company has been ordered to pay the conductor \$12,000 in damages, remove disciplinary information from the employee's personnel record and provide whistleblower rights information to its employees.

OSHA's investigation upheld the allegation that the railroad disciplined the conductor, who has been employed there since 2004, in retaliation for taking

leave in line with a doctor's treatment plan. The employee was ill and notified a supervisor that he was seeing a doctor the afternoon of Nov. 18, 2013. Following his doctor's appointment, the conductor immediately notified a supervisor that the doctor had ordered him to stay out of work for the remainder of the day, due to a personal illness. The company then accused the employee of violating its attendance policy and subsequently disciplined the employee.

BNSF Railway has been ordered to pay \$2,000 in compensatory and \$10,000 in punitive damages, as well as reasonable attorney's fees. Any of the parties in this case

can file an appeal with the department's Office of Administrative Law Judges.

OSHA enforces the whistleblower provisions of the FRSA. Employers are prohibited from retaliating against employees who raise various protected concerns or provide protected information to the employer or to the government. Employees who believe that they have been retaliated against for engaging in protected conduct may file a complaint with the Secretary of Labor to request an investigation by OSHA's Whistleblower Protection Program. Detailed information on employee whistleblower rights, including fact sheets, is available at www.whistleblowers.gov. ©©

IN THE LINE OF DUTY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

30, 1998. He earned promotion to locomotive engineer on March 21, 2003, and joined the BLET on September 1, 2006.

Brother Gober loved hunting, fishing, camping and spending time with his children. He also enjoyed playing and coaching baseball. He watched and coached his sons in Little League for many years.

He is survived by his wife, Heather Glass Gober; sons, Zach Gober, 21, and his wife, Ashley, Jack Gober, 12, and Clay Gober, 10; mother and step-father, Carole and Jimmy Mullins; brother, Dustin Gober; sister, Jennifer Wells; grandmother, Jean Owen; and grandchild, Bentley Gober.

Brother Gober was preceded in death by his daughter, Estee Alexandra Gober; father, Johnny Gober; grandfather, Charles Owen; and great-grandparents, Jack and Josie Owen.

Funeral services were held on August 22, 2014, and Brother Gober was interred at Leek Cemetery in Star City, Ark.

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce extended deepest condolences to the Gober family.

"The passing of this young man is a great loss to our Brotherhood and the close-knit membership of Division 182 in North Little Rock," President Pierce said. "Our thoughts and prayers are with Brother Gober's family following this terrible tragedy. On behalf of the entire Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, I extend our most heartfelt condolences to every



member of Brother Gober's family." Memorials in memory of Brother Gober may be made to White Hall Little League, PO Box 20085, White Hall, Arkansas 71612. ©©



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NEW DIVISION MONTHLY TRUSTEE AUDIT REPORT AND PROCESS AVAILABLE

The National Division has revised the monthly trustee audit report form and audit process in order to streamline the monthly audit procedure. Under the revised process, the Division Secretary-Treasurer will provide the information contained on the monthly trustee audit report, which will then be reviewed and verified by the Division's Trustees as required by Section 1(a) – National Division Rules of the BLET Bylaws.

This procedural change and the new monthly trustee audit report form must be used beginning with the Division's next monthly trustee audit. Therefore, the old report will no longer be available. The new form and instructions are now available to all Division Secretary-Treasurers via the tool box located in the Secretary-Treasurer's Online Reporting Page. The new forms and instructions are being mailed to all members of the executive board of each Division.

The revised reports will be provided in both PDF and Excel formats. There are two types of PDF files: one is a fill-in form, which performs all the necessary mathematical calculations; and the other is a blank form that must be printed and filled out by hand. The revised reports in Excel format also provide two options: one for a single month; and an extended 12-month workbook that will automatically generate a year-end report. A separate document, with line item instructions, also will be available to download as a guide to assist officers in the completion of the forms.

Once the information has been entered into the audit report form, the Secretary-Treasurer will forward the report, along with all supporting documentation (bank statements, canceled checks, check register, minutes, tax forms, etc.) to the Division Trustees for their review. Regardless of which version of the monthly trustee audit report form is used, the Division Trustees (the Vice President, the Local Chairman, and the Legislative Representative) must review and compare all documents for accuracy. The report will be certified when all the Division Trustees have signed the report. @@

Education and Training Department to host ST, LC Workshops

The BLET Education and Training Department will hold two workshops at the new BLET Training Center in Cleveland in October and November. An expanded Secretary-Treasurer class will be held October 13-17, 2014, and an Advanced Local Chairman class will be held November 2-7, 2014.

SECRETARY-TREASURER WORKSHOP

All Division Secretary-Treasurers, Division Presidents, State Legislative Board Secretary-Treasurers and General Committee of Adjustment Secretary-Treasurers are invited to attend. Attendance is limited to the first 25 who register and those who are interested should register as soon as possible. You must register for the workshop online through the BLET website at: www.ble-t.org/st.

LOCAL CHAIRMAN WORKSHOP

To attend this workshop, you must be

a current Local Chairman or a member of the Local Committee of Adjustment, and have completed the first Local Chairman workshop, or have been in the position of Local Chairman for several years. If you are a Local Chairman who has not attended the first class but still wish to attend, then please contact Jason Wright at (216) 296-4447. Such requests will be reviewed on an individual basis.

BLET officers who are interested in registering for the workshop may do so online at: www.ble-t.org/lcadvance. Applicants will be sent an email confirmation with more details and hotel reservation information after the National Division has received your online application.

NORTH AMERICAN RAILWAY FOUNDATION

Upon successful completion of the course, attendees will qualify for a \$129 per day stipend from the North American Railway Foundation (NARF). The

stipends will be paid directly to the ST of the Division, GCA, or SLB.

The North American Railway Foundation (www.narfoundation.org) is a non-profit operating foundation formed by the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (BR&CF) to support rail history, education, safety and technology in the United States and Canada. With initial funding and continued Board of Directors stewardship coming from the BR&CF, NARF has supported many varied non-political projects throughout the United States and Canada over the past 16 years. The primary focus of these efforts has been in support of organized rail labor ... giving back to all of the men and women of the railroad community across North America.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information, please contact Jason Wright at (216) 296-4447 or wright@ble-t.org.

2014

Calendar & Events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

BLET REGIONAL MEETINGS

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. Visit www.ble-t.org/convention



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9/14

Photo of the Month: August/September 2014

NORFOLK SOUTHERN GOES GREEN, RED & BLUE: Running along the NS Central of Georgia district on April 13, 2014, NS freight train 336 is being pulled by the only two specialty painted locomotives on the NS SD60E roster. The green scheme represents "GoRail," a NS initiative to encourage increased freight shipping by rail, while the patriotic red and blue unit is painted in honor of U.S. veterans. The units were coupled together in Birmingham the night before at Norris Yard. This photo represents the first time that these locomotives have worked together on a single train since being released from Altoona. Photo: courtesy Frank Orona



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 June 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; National Association of State Legislative Board Chairmen (NASLBC) annual mtg., Indianapolis, Ind.; Division 183 mtg., Omaha, Neb.; Department of Transportation mtg., Washington, D.C.; Southeastern Meeting Association (SMA) regional mtg., Savannah, Ga.; BMWED convention, Las Vegas; International Western Convention (IWC) regional mtg., Minneapolis, Minn.

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; NASLBC annual mtg., Indianapolis; UP-SR GCA New York Dock negotiations, Fort Worth, Texas; Division 183 mtg., Omaha, Neb.; SMA regional mtg., Savannah, Ga.; Inward facing cameras mtgs., UP, Irving, Texas; IWC regional mtg., Minneapolis, Minn.

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); NASLBC annual mtg., Indianapolis; SMA regional mtg., Savannah, Ga.

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; NASLBC annual mtg., Indianapolis; Suffolk University Washington Seminar, labor event, Washington, D.C.; Mtg. w/ Reps. Lynch, Neal, Kennedy, McGovern, Tsongas, Tierney, Capuano, Clark and Keating, Washington, D.C.; Mtgs. w/ Senators Warren, Markey and Blumenthal, Washington, D.C.; Mtg. w/ Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx and BLET National President Pierce, Washington, D.C.; Massachusetts Democratic Party convention, Worcester, Mass.; SMA regional mtg., Savannah, Ga.; Rail Labor mtg., re: Amtrak reauthorization, Washington, D.C.; Event for Warren Tolman, Washington D.C.; Function for Rep. Kennedy, Hyannis Port, Mass.; IWC regional mtg., Minneapolis, Minn.; 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; NRAB admin matters; Assist GC Cundari w/ rules issue, IHB; Assist GC Reynolds w/ prior rights mtg., WC/EJ&E, Chicago; SMA regional mtg., Savannah, Ga.; WC tentative agreement ratification mtgs., Green Bay, Wisc., Fond du Lac, Wis., and Chicago; IWC regional mtg., Minneapolis, Minn.

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.; UP-Southern Region New York Dock, Section 4 negotiations, Hurst, Texas; Utah Railway conference, Salt Lake City, Utah; UP-Western Region conference, Pocatello, Idaho; SMA regional mtg., Savannah, Ga.; Inward facing cameras mtgs., UP, Fort Worth, Texas; IWC regional mtg., Minneapolis, Minn.

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; Texas Pacific; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications, etc.; Mtg. w/ BNSF Labor Relations and GC Wilson, Billings, Mont.; Mtgs. w/ Division 238 and Division 518, w/ GC Wilson, Seattle, Wash.; Mtgs. w/ Division 758 and Division 58, w/ GC Wilson, Tacoma/Spokane, Wash.; SMA regional mtg., Savannah, Ga.; Mtg. w/ Division 843, w/ GC Wilson, Klamath Falls; IWC regional mtg., Minneapolis, Minn.

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 Semenek; KCS issues, assisting GC Parker; Springfield Terminal issues and Delaware & Hudson issues, assisting GC Moore; Mid South issues, assisting GC Craddock; Louisville & Indiana contract, assisting GC Hartill; Huron & Eastern agreement, GC Latrig; Wheeling & Lake Erie mediation, assisting GC Dehart, St. Louis, Mo.; Tex Mex issues, assisting GC Rodriguez; SMA regional mtg., Savannah, Ga.; Indiana Southern contract negotiations, assisting GC Semenek, Indianapolis, Ind.; IWC regional mtg., Minneapolis, Minn.

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; Internal reports, telephone calls, correspondence, email, general office duties, etc.; Strike authorization ballots, SEPTA, Philadelphia; Coordination w/ TWU, LIRR, New York, N.Y.; Prepare submission for PEB 246, SEPTA, Philadelphia; Mtg. w/ IBEW and Counsel, re: Submission for PEB 246, Washington, D.C.; NMB public interest mtg. Tosi, Puchala, Philadelphia; SMA regional mtg., Savannah, Ga.; Prepare PEB 246 submission w/ IBEW and counsel, SEPTA, Philadelphia; PEB 246 hearing, SEPTA, Philadelphia.

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; Wheeling & Lake Erie mediation, NS-Northern Lines GCA, St. Louis, Mo.; SMA regional mtg., Savannah, Ga.; IWC regional mtg., Minneapolis, Minn.

LIFE AND ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND DISMEMBERMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS UNDER BLET NATIONAL AGREEMENT

Active and retired railroad employees covered under The Railroad Employees' National Health and Welfare Plan may be eligible for Life and Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) benefits from MetLife.

For eligible active employees covered by the above policy, the death benefit is \$20,000, and there may be an additional AD&D benefit that could pay up to \$16,000, should circumstances permit. For eligible retired employees, the death benefit is \$2,000.

Most employees filled out a designated beneficiary form when they began work for a participating railroad and MetLife urges employees and retirees to keep this form with their other important papers.

If you need to update your beneficiary form, or if there is doubt as to whom you designated,

it is recommended that you complete a new form and send it to MetLife. A beneficiary form, as well as a copy of the full summary plan description book, can be found at www.yourtracktohealth.com.

Select "Life" in the gray box at the bottom of the page, then select "Railroad National Plan." You can also obtain information about this benefit by calling MetLife at (800) 310-7770.

This is a very important benefit for all eligible active and retired railroad employees covered under the national health and welfare plans, although many employees, especially retired employees, may not be fully aware of it.

BLET members are asked to post this notice at appropriate work locations on their property and remind all retirees with whom you may come in contact that they should contact MetLife

to inquire about their eligibility for the \$2,000 death benefit.

Widowed spouses and children may also be due life insurance benefits if the deceased spouse or parent was eligible for the insurance, but the family members were unaware of the coverage.

The insurance policies were originally issued by Travelers Insurance Company, but MetLife began administering the program in 1995.

To file a claim, a potential beneficiary must be able to provide the name, birth date, Social Security number and death certificate of the worker, as well as the name of the railroad company for whom the deceased worked.

If you should have any questions regarding this benefit or your possible eligibility for same, then please contact MetLife at (800) 310-7770. ©©