

THE LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEER NEWSLETTER • AUGUST 2002

NMB victory!

Board dismisses UTU application for single-craft on KCS

The National Mediation Board on August 14 dismissed the United Transportation Union's application to create a single craft of "Train and Engine Service Employees" on the Kansas City Southern Railway.

The UTU filed the application in September of 2001, seeking the establishment of the new craft and requesting a representation election on the KCS.

"This is another major victory — not only for the BLE — but for all Labor in the battle to preserve historic operating craft lines," said BLE International President Don Hahs. "I thank the new members of the Board and Chairman Duggan for making the right decision. The fact that the UTU's application was dismissed outright, without a hearing, demonstrates that it was a baseless case without merit."

On August 1, the Senate confirmed Harry Hoglander and Edward Fitzmaurice as Board members. Hoglander succeeded Magdalena Jacobsen and Fitzmaurice filled the vacant position left by Ernie Dubester, whose term had previously expired.

The NMB's decision was reached in part based on an amicus brief filed by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and the AFL-CIO in support of the BLE.

Teamsters General President James P. Hoffa hailed the decision, saying "The NMB has once again rejected UTU's attempt to create a new legalis-

tic strategy to raid long-established BLE jurisdiction. The NMB's decision is soundly based on established precedent and the fundamental need for stability in the law and bargaining relationships that is embodied in the Railway Labor Act. We congratulate BLE President Don Hahs and the rest of the BLE and its members on this important victory. The Teamsters Union was pleased to be able to assist in obtaining the correct result."

The August 14 decision marks the second time the NMB has denied a UTU attempt to force single-craft elections on a Class 1 railroad. On Feb. 29, 2000, the NMB dismissed a similar UTU request on the nation's largest railroad, Union Pacific.

In dismissing the UTU application, the NMB ruled in the BLE's favor on a number of points to confirm that two distinct operating crafts exist on the Class 1 railroad.

The Board noted the fact that locomotive engineers are Federally certified while conductors are not.

"Although train service employees and engineers have joint responsibilities, such as the safe operation of the train, most of their duties are job specific," the NMB ruled. "In addition, engineers are required to obtain Carrier certification in accordance with Federal regulations."

The UTU had argued that "mandatory progression" from trainman to engineer is one reason why the crafts

should be combined. The NMB sided with the BLE on this issue, ruling that, "When the need for engineers increases, the most senior qualified train service employees willing to work in engine service are called up. There is no forced 'promotion' to engine service..."

The NMB also cited a lack of cross-utilization among train service employees and engine service employees as proof that the crafts are not combined.

"During the period June 15, 2001, through Sept. 15, 2001, 45 out of 1,219 (3.7 percent) operating employees worked in both train service and engine service," the NMB ruled. "Accordingly, the UTU application is... dismissed."

The House of Labor viewed the UTU's attempts to combine operating crafts and force representation elections as a way of raiding the BLE. The AFL-CIO, Teamsters, and members of the AFL-CIO's Transportation Trades Department condemned the UTU single-craft attack as a back-door raid on the BLE. The AFL-CIO constitution forbids one affiliate from raiding another. The AFL-CIO Executive Committee adopted a resolution allowing victims of raiding (like the BLE) to pursue financial reparations from the attacking union (UTU). In March of 2000, the UTU pulled out of the AFL-CIO to avoid these potential sanctions.

"I thank the AFL-CIO, the Teamsters, and all the TTD affiliates for their solidarity and undivided assistance to-

ward passing resolutions that supported the BLE in this endeavor," President Hahs said. "I also thank our attorney, Roland Wilder, who did an outstanding job on this case."

The NMB ruling also reemphasized railroad management's support of the UTU's single-craft theory. "This gives the impression that UTU International officers are carrying out the wishes of rail management," Hahs said.

Portions of the NMB's ruling read: "The National Railway Labor Conference... think[s] it clear on its face that in today's circumstances, representation of a single craft or class of operating employees, rather than divided crafts, would create a more stable and constructive labor relations environment, thereby improving railroad operations."

The Board also noted those labor organizations that petitioned the NMB in favor of the BLE's position: Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen; American Train Dispatchers Dept.; United Steelworkers of America; Transport Workers Union of America; International Association of Fire Fighters; International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers; Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees; Sheet Metal Workers' International Association; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; and the AFL-CIO's Transportation Trades Department.

A copy of the NMB's decision is available on the BLE website. •

BLE approves Procedural Agreement to govern Teamster talks

The BLE Advisory Board and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters' General Executive Board have approved a procedural agreement that will govern the merger process up to and including the submission of an agreement for ratification.

The Procedural Agreement calls for the creation of a Rail Conference in the Teamsters Union and establishes Joint Committees to determine the rules of the merger. The agreement establishes a Merger Committee, which will be made up of co-chairs appointed by each union, and four subcommittees covering constitution and bylaws, legislative department, finance, and Canada.

The work of the Joint Committees will be completed in six months. At that time, the Merger Agree-

ment will go to each organization for approval according to each organization's Constitutional requirements.

BLE President Don Hahs will serve as the BLE co-chairman and Teamster General President James Hoffa will serve as the Teamsters' co-chairman on the Merger Committee. The members of the subcommittees were not appointed as of press time.

"This agreement protects the interests of both organizations and will keep us focused on reaching an agreement to submit to the membership under the provisions of Section 1(e) of the BLE Constitution and Bylaws," President Hahs stated.

The agreement also establishes time frames for completing the different tasks that will be a part of the overall process.

"We are pleased with our progress and are look-

For full-text of the BLE-IBT
Procedural Agreement, see Page 7

ing forward to welcoming our BLE brothers and sisters into the Teamsters Union," said Teamsters General President Hoffa. "By joining together, we will strengthen our ability to represent workers across the transportation spectrum."

In the meantime, the Procedural Agreement calls upon the BLE and Teamsters to, "cooperate on all matters of mutual interest including, but not limited to, legislation, organizing, representation and issues pending before the National Mediation Board."

Full text of the BLE-IBT Procedural Agreement is available on Page 7 of this issue. •

BLE NEWS

BLE questions remote control safety at rally

In temperatures over 100 degrees, several hundred people attending the BLE's International Western Convention in Kennewick, Wash., rallied against the unsafe use of remote control technology in the railroad industry.

BLE and GIA members, their families, members of the Teamsters, members of other labor unions and concerned citizens participated in the informational protest, held to educate the public about the potential dangers and job losses associated with the use of remote control locomotives.

BLE International President Don Hahs told the crowd that the BLE International Division was fighting a legal battle in the courts and through arbitration to support the union's position that the most trained and qualified member of the train crew should operate the new technology.

President Hahs was joined by several high-ranking Teamster officers, lead by Teamster International Vice President Al Hobart. Vice President Hobart led a delegation of members from Teamster Local 174 (Seattle, Wash.), who offered a tractor-trailer that served as the backdrop for the speakers. Local 174 Business Agent Manny Loya drove the rig from Seattle to Kennewick.

Other speakers included General Secretary-Treasurer William C. Walpert, International Vice-President & U.S. National Legislative Representative Raymond Holmes, International Vice-President and National Legislative Representative-Canada George Hucker, Kennewick Mayor Jim Beaver, and Mike Roswell, Rail Safety Manager of the Washington Utilities Transportation Company.

The rally organizers were led by Kent Confer of the BLE's



BLE International President Don Hahs, far right, discusses safety concerns relating to the use of remote control locomotives at an informational rally in Kennewick, Wash., during the BLE's International Western Convention on July 23. More than 200 people attended the rally. Other speakers pictured here include, from left: Mike Roswell, Rail Safety Manager of the Washington Utilities Transportation Co.; Al Hobart, Vice President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters; Jim Beaver, Mayor of Kennewick, Wash.; and Raymond Holmes, BLE International Vice-President & U.S. National Legislative Representative. Other speakers not pictured here were Bill Walpert, BLE General Secretary-Treasurer, and George Hucker, BLE Vice-President & National Legislative Representative-Canada.



National Mobilization Team. Jeff Cheney, a member of BLE Division 236 (Portland, Ore.). Confer and Cheney thanked Brother Will Amaya, IWC 2002 Chairman, for helping coordinate the event with the IWC and the hotel.

U.S. railroads could avoid potential safety hazards and improve operating efficiency by using federally-certified lo-

comotive engineers in Remote Control Operations. Locomotive engineers are the most highly-trained, skilled and experienced employees in the railroad industry. However, the railroads insist on using employees with limited training and experience in remote control operations, while eliminating the jobs of many locomotive engineers. •



Wade Mobley, Vice Local Chairman of BLE Division 821 (Kamloops, B.C.).



The crowd braved temperatures of more than 100 degrees to participate in the BLE's rally.



From left: International Vice-Presidents Lee Pruitt and Stephen Speagle.



From left: The two primary organizers of the event were Kent Confer, BLE Division 623 (McCook, Neb.) and Jeff Cheney, BLE Division 236 (Portland, Ore.).

BLE NEWS



At the microphone is General Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert, addressing the crowd during the BLE's rally in Kennewick, Wash., on July 23. In the background, from left, are: Raymond Holmes, BLE Vice-President & U.S. National Legislative Representative; George Hucker, BLE Vice-President & National Legislative Representative-Canada; and Don Hahs, BLE International President.



From left: Teamsters International Vice-President Al Hobart and BLE International President Don M. Hahs, following a BLE rally to educate the public regarding the potential safety hazards of remote control locomotives. Even though the temperature in Kennewick reached 110 degrees that day, more than 200 people turned out for the BLE's rally.



George Hucker, BLE Vice-President & National Legislative Representative-Canada.



The tractor trailer, provided by Teamster Local 174 out of Seattle, Wash., provided the backdrop for the stage.



With microphone: Raymond Holmes, BLE Vice-President & U.S. National Legislative Representative, with President Hahs in the background.



INTERNATIONAL WESTERN CONVENTION



The Canadian flag was escorted by bagpipers into the hall during opening ceremonies. The bagpipe players are, from left: Don Anderson of BLE Division 898 (Jasper, Alberta) and Bob Gallaher of Division 821 (Kamloops, B.C.).



IWC 2002 Chairman Will Amaya, podium, welcomes guests during the opening ceremony on July 19. Seated, from left, are General Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert; International President Don Hahs; and GIA International President Onita Wayland. The convention was held at the Tri-Cities West Coast Hotel in Kennewick, Wash.



From left: Tim Donnigan, General Chairman of the Union Pacific-Western Region, with Ira Happe and Bonnie Leake, both members of BLE Division 766 (Las Vegas, Nev.).



From left: Mike Weston, Legislative Representative of BLE Division 186 (Denver), explains to GST Walpert how his division has recruited a vast number of new trainmen members in recent months.



From left: Steve Halbrook, President of BLE Division 94 (Gillette, Wyo.); Melna Bennett; and her husband Greg Bennett, Secretary-Treasurer of Division 94 (Gillette, Wyo.).



From left: Mark Ricci, Ph.D., Chairman of the Washington State Legislative Board, and Tim Smith, Chairman of the California State Legislative Board.



From left: Bruce MacArthur, Union Pacific-Northern Region General Chairman; Lee Pruitt, BLE International Vice-President; and Gil Gore, Union Pacific-Southern Region General Chairman.



From left: Richie Prevo, Legislative Representative of BLE Division 647 (Phoenix, Ariz.) and Britt Stafffield, Local Chairman of BLE Division 647.

KENNEWICK, WASH.



Members of the Grand International Auxiliary (GIA) had a successful trip, recruiting at least three new members. Ladies attending a GIA workshop are pictured here. Seated, from left: Linda Lee, Victoria Linkletter, Virginia Linkletter, Sherry McGunigal, Ruthanna Lee, Onita Wayland, and Kim Linkletter. Standing, from left: Barbie Lynch, Sereena Hogan, Toni Coleman, Diane Fender, Lynne Weninger, Janice Hahs, Brenda Hayes, and Paula Priest.



BLE-PAC — "Don't leave home without it." North Dakota State Legislative Board Chairman Mike Muscha signed up several new contributors to the BLE PAC fund while at the IWC.



From left: Walt Webster, Utah State Legislative Board Chairman; BLE Vice-President & U.S. National Legislative Representative Raymond Holmes; and Pat Whelan, Legislative Representative and President of BLE Division 349 (Salt Lake City, Utah).



From left: Randy Saunders, Local Chairman of BLE Division 5 (Los Angeles); International President Don Hahs; and Jim Booth, Local Chairman of BLE Division 28 (Tucson, Ariz.).



From left: International Vice-President Dale McPherson and Phil Bailey, Local Chairman of BLE Division 236 (Portland, Ore.).



General Chairman D.W. Hannah (Union Pacific Western Lines), lower right, is the lucky winner of the drawing for a hand-made afghan. The money raised by this raffle was donated to the GIA's scholarship fund.



Sellar B. Nugent, Secretary-Treasurer of the Oregon State Legislative Board, is presented with a 30-year membership pin by International President Don Hahs. Brother Nugent has held his current office for 10 years, previously serving as Local Chairman of Division 664 for six years and Legislative Rep. of that same division for four years. Currently, he is a member of Division 277 (Portland, Ore.).



From left: Michael Coleman of Division 123 (Phoenix, Ariz.) discusses work/rest guidelines with George Hucker, BLE Vice-President & National Legislative Director-Canada, and Don Anderson, Chairman of the Alberta Provincial Legislative Board.



LEFT: Ronnie Lee, Secretary-Treasurer of Division 126 (Bakersfield, Calif.), and Dean Altringer, Secretary-Treasurer of the North Dakota State Legislative Board and S-T of Division 160 (Harvey, N.D.).

IWC 2003 – Sparks

Sparks, Nevada
June 1-5, 2003
See Page 8 for more details.

BLE NEWS

UTU evicted, again

IBEW tells unaffiliated UTU to leave union hall in Chicago

The United Transportation Union, which removed itself from the AFL-CIO for the purposes of raiding the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, was evicted from yet another union hall because of its non-affiliate status.

On June 7, UTU Local 528 was evicted from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers' (IBEW) union hall in Chicago following a successful informational campaign and rally by members of BLE Divisions 96, 404 and 405.

The eviction in Chicago marks the second time in less than six months that the UTU has been evicted from a union hall because of its non-affiliate status.

On February 20, the AFL-CIO affiliated unions compris-

ing the Western Nebraska Central Labor Council voted unanimously to adopt a resolution evicting the UTU from its headquarters in Alliance, Neb.

"UTU leadership is hoping to accomplish a hostile takeover of the BLE by convincing the National Mediation Board to eliminate the historical operating crafts in the railroad industry," according

to literature distributed by the BLE divisions as part of their informational drive against the UTU. "This reckless plan is bad for Rail Labor and could potentially affect other trades.

"UTU has lost all credibility as they do the bidding of railroad management to achieve industry goals of remote control operation and a substandard collective bargaining agreement that drags



Members of BLE Divisions 96, 404 and 405 conducting their informational campaign and rally outside the IBEW Union Hall in Chicago.

down the rest of Railroad Labor.

"The AFL-CIO, including the IBEW, has condemned the UTU and supported the BLE in its fight to preserve operating crafts."

The BLE's highly successful campaign was organized by Chicago-area Local Chairmen Doug Davidson (Division 96), Paul Fesssenbecker (Division 404) and Sean McGovern (Division 405).

These Brothers issued a special thanks to the Chicago IBEW Office Staff, who helped the BLE send a strong message to UTU membership regarding the AFL-CIO's condemnation of their International's anti-labor practices. •



As a result of anti-union tactics by the UTU International, two UTU subordinate bodies have been evicted from their offices in union halls operated by AFL-CIO affiliates. In March, UTU representatives were evicted from the Western Nebraska Central Labor Council's headquarters in Alliance, Neb. In June, UTU Local 528 was evicted from the IBEW Union Hall in Chicago.

Photo Left: Dan Lauchart, Div. 405; Jim Stacey, Div. 96; and Dale Kneupfer, Div. 96.

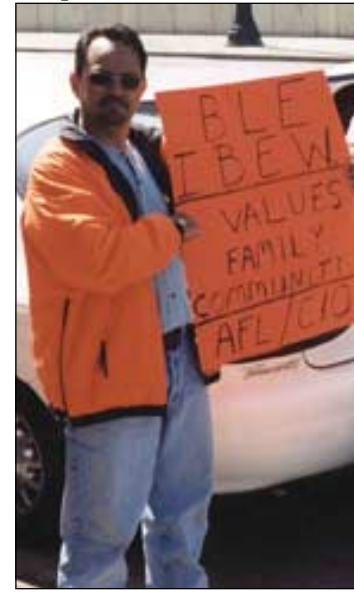


Photo Right: Tom Cuellar, Div. 96.

NEWS BRIEFS

President Hahs issues call for voter registration drives

In a letter to secretary-treasurers and legislative representatives of all BLE divisions in the United States, President Don M. Hahs asked divisions to conduct voter registration drives this summer in order to increase voter turnout in the November congressional elections.

In his June 27 letter, President Hahs emphasized the extreme importance of a strong labor turnout to support union-friendly candidates.

"We were fortunate to have a one-vote majority in the U.S. Senate last year, which re-

sulted in rail labor being able to obtain passage of the legislation that improved Railroad Retirement benefits," President Hahs said. "Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle guided this legislation through the Senate and to the desk of the President. He would not have been able to do so without a labor-friendly Senate."

BLE secretary-treasurers and legislative representatives are asked to hold voter registration events at summer festivals, shopping center parking lots, or any place with a constant flow of people.

A list of Congressional endorsements for this fall's elections will be published in an upcoming issue of the *Locomotive Engineer Newsletter*. •

HELP WANTED — POLITICAL & LEGISLATIVE STAFF ASSISTANT Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Washington, D.C. office

The National Legislative Office of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers is seeking a full-time Political and Legislative staff assistant. In accordance with Section 1 (d)-Legislative Boards-U.S. of the BLE Constitution & Bylaws (Page 179), the applicant must be an active, dues-paying BLE member in good standing in order to be considered for this position.

Applicants must be a **team player** willing to work in a broad area of legislative, political, and regulatory activities. Duties will include tracking and analyzing legislation, attending political events, as directed, and other activities that affect the interests of our membership.

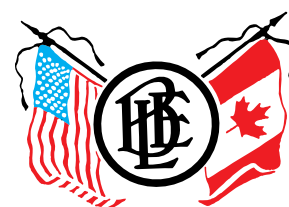
Individual must possess experience and skill in written and verbal communication, use of multi-media equipment, and be able to handle a diverse range of time-sensitive assignments, some of which may involve time spent outside normal office hours. Individual will assist in coordinating legislative efforts to adopt or amend federal laws. This will require meeting with elected officials, their staff, and others who may have an interest in the proposed legislation. Individual will prepare reports on these meetings for the VP and NLR.

Individual will prepare for publication to the membership — promotional material for specific legislative issues, candidates, or voting records. Will develop, with assistance, a program that enables the membership to understand the importance of the political, legislative and regulatory process. Individual will assist the State Legislative Boards in their efforts to develop legislation and will assemble and maintain a database of state laws that affect our members. Will work with the State Legislative Boards to assist in their efforts to evaluate candidates and increase contributions to the BLE-PAC and will act to promote the BLE-PAC as directed. Individual will coordinate the effort of information distribution from the Washington, DC office to the computer network for members, as directed by the VP & NLR.

Please submit your resume along with samples of letters, papers or other documents you have prepared for distribution on subject matters relating to locomotive engineers' interest, to BLE Washington DC office no later than thirty (30) days from the date of this publication. Must be willing to relocate to the Washington, DC area.

Please mail submissions to:

**Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers
National Legislative Office
10 G Street NE, Suite 480
Washington, D.C. 20002**





**PROCEDURAL AGREEMENT
between
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS
and
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS**



The International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) and the International Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (BLE) agree to follow the process set forth in this Procedural Agreement with respect to a potential merger between the two Unions.

1.1 Preliminary Period. During a six-month Preliminary Period, IBT and BLE will form a Joint Merger Committee and various subcommittees which will produce a Merger Agreement and Bylaws for the BLE as the Rail Conference within the IBT. The Conference structure will guarantee the BLE maximum autonomy with the IBT, and will allow the BLE as the IBT Rail Conference to retain the right to represent its members; negotiate all contracts on behalf of its members; administer those contracts; represent its members and handle their grievances; organize employees within its primary jurisdiction; determine the location of its headquarters; hire representatives, employees, attorneys and consultants; set the terms and conditions for its employees; maintain its own funds; set its own dues in accord with the requirements of federal law and the IBT Constitution; and otherwise to operate independently subject to the Constitution of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

1.2 The Unions have determined that the Merger Agreement and the Bylaws for the BLE as the IBT Rail Conference should be produced through a joint and cooperative process between the two Unions. This process will insure that as much of the BLE's rules, procedures and structure will be maintained as is consistent with the requirements of the IBT Constitution. The Unions therefore have agreed to form the following joint committee and subcommittees with the members and purposes set forth below.

1.2.1 Merger Committee. The Merger Committee shall be composed of co-chairs appointed by each Union and the members of the subcommittees. The Merger Committee shall have the primary purpose of producing a Merger Agreement and Bylaws for the BLE as the Rail Conference within the IBT.

1.2.2 Constitution and Bylaws. The Constitution and Bylaws Subcommittee shall be composed of eight (8) members from each Union and will have the primary purpose of providing the Merger Committee with suitable Bylaws for the BLE as the Rail Conference within the IBT.

1.2.3 Legislative. The Legislative Subcommittee shall be composed of four (4) members from each Union and will have the primary purpose of advising the Merger Committee concerning the appropriate organization of the BLE Legislative Boards within the IBT and within the IBT Rail Conference.

1.2.4 Finances. The Subcommittee on Finances shall be composed of four (4) members from each Union and will have the primary purpose of advising the Merger Committee concerning the appropriate dues and per capita structure for the IBT Rail Conference.

1.2.5 Canada. The Subcommittee on Canada shall be composed of two (2) members from each Union and will have the primary purpose of advising the Merger Committee concerning the appropriate structure for Canadian members of the BLE within the IBT and Teamsters Canada.

1.3 The Committees will work under the general supervision of the Co-Chairs of the Merger Committee and will arrange their work so that a Merger Agreement and Bylaws for the BLE as the IBT Rail Conference will be completed within six months. The Unions shall, however, have the authority to extend this period by mutual agreement if, for any reason, the Committee and Subcommittees are unable to complete their work as scheduled.

1.4 The Committees and Subcommittees may use such staff and assistance from each Union as they may judge necessary to efficiently complete their work.

2.1 Approval Period. The Merger Agreement and Bylaws for the BLE as the IBT Rail Conference which are produced by the Merger Committee will be subject to approval by the IBT and the BLE in accord with the terms of their respective Constitutions. The Unions will promptly and expeditiously seek approval of the Merger Agreement and Rail Conference Bylaws through the procedures required by their respective Constitutions and the Approval Period will continue until the approvals are properly attained. None of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Merger Agreement and Rail Conference Bylaws will be effective until the Merger Agreement has been approved by both the IBT and the BLE.

3.1 Cooperation. During the Preliminary Period and the Approval Period, the IBT and the BLE will cooperate on all matters of mutual interest including, but not limited to, legislation, organizing, representation and issues pending before the National Mediation Board.

4.1 Merger. Upon approval of the Merger Agreement and IBT Rail Conference Bylaws, BLE will merge into IBT according to the terms of the Merger Agreement.

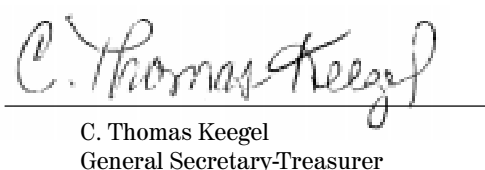
5.1 Cancellation. Either the IBT by action of its General Executive Board or the BLE through the action of its Advisory Board may cancel these merger procedures at any time before the approval process begins. The Merger shall also be cancelled if either Union fails to approve the Merger Agreement. In addition, the Merger Agreement shall include a provision that allows the IBT by action of its General Executive Board or the BLE through an appropriate procedure which must be set forth in the Merger Agreement to withdraw from the merger at any time during a period twelve months to twenty-four months following approval of the merger.

APPROVED by the General Executive Board of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

By:


James P. Hoffa
General President

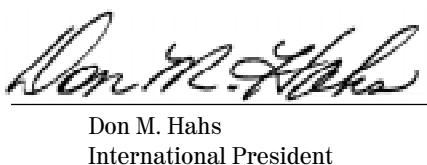
Date: August 1, 2002


C. Thomas Keegel
General Secretary-Treasurer

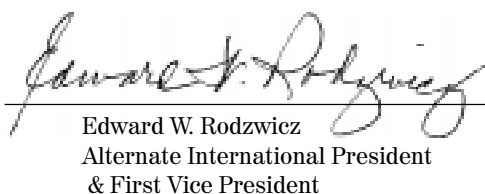
Date: August 1, 2002

APPROVED by the Advisory Board of the International Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

By:

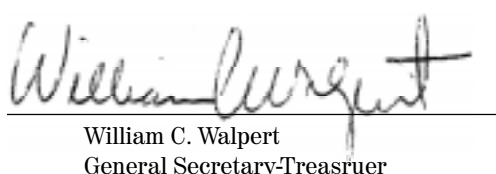

Don M. Hahs
International President

Date: August 1, 2002


Edward W. Rodzwicz
Alternate International President
& First Vice President

Date: August 1, 2002

By:


William C. Walpert
General Secretary-Treasurer

Date: August 1, 2002

Senate confirms Fitzmaurice, Hoglander to NMB

The U.S. Senate confirmed two new members to the National Mediation Board on August 1 — Edward J. Fitzmaurice and Harry R. Hoglander.

Fitzmaurice, a Republican, comes to the Board from private law practice in Dallas, Texas. His experience as a labor lawyer includes 12 years of Counsel to Hicks and Associates, and working as an Associate with Kern, Wooley and Maloney, representing underwriters at Lloyd's. While also practicing law, Fitzmaurice was a Domestic Captain, Co-Pilot, and Flight Engineer for Braniff International Airlines for 17 years. He is a former Captain of U.S. Marines, a graduate of Villanova University and attended Southern Methodist School of Law.

Hoglander, a Democrat, comes to the Board from his position as a legislative specialist in the office of Massachusetts Congressman John Tierney. His work in the airline industry includes six years as a labor representative to the United States Aviation Bi-Lateral Delegation. He has served as Master Chairman of the TWA Master Executive Council, Executive Vice President of the Air Line Pilots Association, and as a Captain for Trans World Airlines. Mr. Hoglander was a Captain in the United States Air Force, and is a retired Lt. Colonel in the Massachusetts Air National Guard. He is a graduate of Florida State University and the Suffolk University School of Law.

Hoglander will succeed Magdalena Jacobsen and Fitzmaurice will fill the vacant position left by Ernie Dubester, whose term had previously expired. Hoglander's term will expire on July 1, 2005, and Fitzmaurice's will expire July 1, 2004. Both men will join Chairman Frank Duggan, a Republican, on the three member panel.

BLE International President Don Hahs congratulated Fitzmaurice and Hoglander on their confirmations and said that, along with current Chairman Duggan, the three men will constitute a fair and competent Board. •

Fleming reelected at BMW; Pickett at BRS

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers offers congratulations to Mac Fleming and Dan Pickett who were recently reelected President of their respective rail labor unions.

Fleming of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees was reelected in June and Dan Pickett of the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen was reelected in July.

Pickett was elected to his third full term as International President. Fleming was elected to his fourth four year term.

In a statement, Fleming said he was looking "forward to working with other rail labor unions to advance our common agenda."

BLE President Don M. Hahs offered his congratulations to both men. "Working together, we can accomplish so much more for our members and that is my goal," Hahs said. "And I know that I share this goal with both of these men." •

BLE NEWS

CN-IC deal emphasizes better quality of life

BLE members working on Canadian National's former Illinois Central (IC) properties ratified a new labor agreement on August 1.

The agreement — modeled on one approved by BLE members on CN's Wisconsin Central Division earlier this year — applies to 415 locomotive engineers and eliminates prior work rules and agreements in exchange for guaranteed time off and job security for all BLE members now qualified as engineers. It will also see engineers paid an hourly wage.

Many consider the recently ratified contract a radical change from traditional mileage-based agreements.

The contract, ratified on July 29, embraces an hourly pay rate and guaranteed time off, which is intended to improve the quality of life for locomotive engineers.

The agreement is based on the hourly rate model ratified by BLE members on the Wisconsin Central Division of CN, which went in to effect in April.

In negotiating the agreement, CN committed to operating "meet and turn" (turn around) road assignments to the greatest extent possible. The turn around road service is intended to improve members' quality of life. It should reduce the amount of time engineers spend at away from home terminals while increasing the amount of time they can spend at home.

Outside of the quality of life im-

provements, the contract provides for substantial wage gains and fully paid hospitalization. BLE members will also benefit from major job security provisions in the agreement. For example, the new contract provides lifetime employment security for current working engineers and affords the same lifetime security to future engineers who accumulate 60 months of service.

Illinois Central General Chairman John Koonce said the agreement contains a reversion clause, which will allow either party to opt out of the agreement after three years.

"Because the agreement departs from the traditional mile based agreements, which isn't necessarily a bad thing, but because it is different, we negotiated a provision that allows us to scrap the agreement and go back to prior agreements that were in effect," Brother Koonce said.

Riek Radek, BLE International Vice-President & Director of Arbitration, said he is confident the hourly rate agreement will benefit BLE members.

"The hourly rate agreement is not a 'one size fits all' proposition," he said. "But based on actual experience, the Wisconsin Central agreement, which is similar in nature, seems to be working out quite well. We don't expect it to be any different on Illinois Central once the agreement is in effect."

The three-year agreement took effect Aug. 1, 2002. •

BLE announces grant for Local Chairman workshops

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers has received a \$32,000 grant from the North American Railway Foundation to assist in the training and education of its membership.

Specifically, the grant will be used to pay BLE divisions that participate in the Local Chairmen Training Workshops provided by the BLE Education & Training Department. BLE divisions will be paid \$85 per day, or \$425 per week, after their appointed representative successfully completes the five-day workshop.

"One of the BLE's main objectives is to offer our members the highest quality education and training available," said General Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert, who heads the BLE's Education & Training Department. "On behalf of the men and women of the BLE, I thank NARF for its generous assistance in helping the BLE achieve this goal."

The per diem payments are limited to the first 75 who complete a five-day workshop. It is expected that the grant will cover the first 25 officers who register for next three Local Chairmen Workshops (25 participants per class, or 75 total).

The next workshop is scheduled for October 13-18 at the George Meany Center in Silver Spring, Md. To register for the workshop, please contact

Ken Kroeger of the BLE Education & Training Dept. at (216) 272-0986 or e-mail: <kroeger@ble.org>.

With BLE divisions already registered for the October workshop, less than 75 grants are available. All funding is provided on a first come, first served basis, and funding requests must be received before Dec. 31, 2002.

The per diem payments will be made directly to the BLE Divisions involved and not to the BLE International. Details regarding how to request payment from NARF for attending a workshop will be available soon. •

AUGUST 2002 CALENDAR & EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 20... Railroad Retirement Board Informational Conference in Decatur, Ill.

The U.S. Railroad Retirement Board will conduct a free informational conference in Decatur, Ill. On-site registration begins at 8 a.m. with sessions starting promptly at 8:30 a.m. All sessions end at 12:30 p.m. To be held at the Best Value Inn & Suites, 450 E. Pershing Road. For details, visit the RRB website at <www.rrb.gov>, or call the toll-free RRB Help Line at (800) 808-0772.

SEPTEMBER 23-26... 67th Annual Southwestern Convention Meeting, Ft. Worth, TX

Chairman Mark Banton and members of BLE Division 500 host the 2002 SWCM, to be held at the Radisson Hotel, 815 Main Street Fort Worth, TX 76102. Reservations can be made by calling (817) 870-2100. The tentative agenda is as follows: Monday, September 23: convention registration and golf tournament (8 a.m.); September 24: opening ceremony and barbecue dinner; September 25: workshops and formal banquet; and September 26: closed meeting and SWCM business meeting. For more details, contact Chairman Banton at (817) 641-4606.

OCTOBER 4... Railroad Retirement Board Informational Conference in Philadelphia, Pa.

See Page 2 of this issue for more details.

OCTOBER 13-18... Local Chairman Workshop, George Meany Center, Silver Spring, Md.

Among other assignments, the workshops will include BLE organizational structure and functions, representing members at disciplinary and decertification hearings, union leadership skills, claim and grievance handling, and writing and editing skills. Participants also will learn how to effectively use the BLE arbitration database. A highlight of the workshops is when attendees participate in a simulated disciplinary hearing. These classes are not just for new Local Chairmen, and the BLE encourages all Local Chairmen to attend one of these workshops. Registration is on a first come, first served basis with class size limited to the first 25 who register. To register, please contact Ken Kroeger of the BLE Education & Training Dept. at (216) 272-0986 or kroeger@ble.org.

JUNE 1-5, 2003... 63rd Annual International Western Convention in Sparks, Nevada

Jeffrey Valentine welcomes BLE and GIA members to Sparkes, Nevada, for the 2003 International Western Convention. The 63rd annual IWC will be held at John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel & Casino in Sparks. More details to come when available. Those wishing to contact Chairman Valentine may do so by phone, (775) 857-2013, or by e-mail, <jval@accutek.com>.

Advisory Board July Activity

By action of the delegates at the Fifth Quinquennial Convention, summaries of BLE Advisory Board members' activities are published monthly:

International President Don M. Hahs—International Office: General supervision of BLE activities; General office duties; IBT mtgs. on Procedural Agreement; National negotiating team internal mtg.; IWC, Kennebec, mtg. and rally; NASLBC mtgs., Minnesota; Senate Commerce Cmte. rail safety hearing, deliver testimony on safety, fatigue countermeasures; Advisory Board conference call; Mtg. w/ Western General Chairmen, re: remote control.

First Vice-President & Alternate President Edward W. Rodzicz—Assisted President in general operation of ID office; General office duties and VP assignments; Mtg. w/ BLE-IBT representatives and Procedural Agreement on BLE-IBT merger/affiliation; Mtg. on South Buffalo Rwy. w/ VP Cassidy, General Chairman, and members; Mtg. w/ Div. 421 LC Jack Murphy; National wage/rules mtg.-internal; Various calls to multiple General Chairmen.

General Secretary-Treasurer William C. Walpert—General supervision of BLE financial and record depts.; ID office; BLE Education & Training Dept.; Internal Organizing, Mobilizing & Strategic Planning Dept.; BLE Safety Task Force; Mtgs. w/ vendors and financial institutions; Teamsters merger/affiliation negotiations, Washington D.C.; Mtg. w/ delegation of Tex Mex operating employees; International Western Convention, Kennebec, Wash.

Vice-President Paul T. Sorrow—General office duties; Public Law Board 6470 (CSX); Section Six strategy session, Grand Trunk committee; Executive Session w/ Referee Vaughn; Executive Session w/ Arbitrator Ben (PL days, CSX-Eastern Lines); SMA; Nat'l. Wage/Rules committee mtg. w/ NCCC; Attended dinner mtg. of Divisions 246, 742, 154 and 7; Assisted NS, CSX, GTW committees.

Vice-President Joseph A. Cassidy Jr.—NYS&W grievance mtg.; Mtg. w/ G. C. Melendez; Mtg. w/ carrier officers & GCoFA, NYS&W; Conference w/ AAR, re: security matters; DM&IR contract negotiations; Grievance mtg., GCoFA & carrier, DM&IR; Mtg. w/ Div. 520; Missabe division mtg.; General office duties; Study & paperwork; Prepare for Ex Parte submissions for CSX arbitration; Prepare decertification case for LERB, NYS&W; Mtg. w/ S. Buffalo Rwy.; Mtg. w/ First VP Rodzicz; Mtg. w/ CSXT GC Roberts.

Vice-President & U.S. Nat'l. Legislative Representative Raymond A. Holmes—Washington D.C. office; Texas; BLE-IBT affiliation mtgs.; Senate hearing on rail safety and fatigue; TTD Rail Labor Div. mtg. w/ Amtrak; Reception: Cong. Turner (D-TX), Cong. Clement (D-TN), Senator Hollings (D-SC), Senator Murray (D-WA), Senator Biden (D-DE); AFL-CIO political directors mtg.; Advisory Board conference call; FRA collision analysis review task force mtg.; IWC mtg., Kennebec; Hall of Fame weekend w/ President of NYS&W Railroad; Senate hearing on rail shipping issues; Mtg. w/ AAR, re: Locomotive inspection.

Vice-President Merle W. Geiger Jr.—Assigned to following properties: KCS; Midsouth; South Rail; Gateway Western; Springfield Terminal; Tex Mex RR; Indiana & Ohio RR; Contract negotiations w/ Indiana & Ohio, Cleveland; Advisory Board conference call; IWC, Kennebec; Review PLB 6145 (Springfield Terminal); Review PLB 6355 (KCS); General office duties, paperwork.

Vice-President Stephen D. Speagle—Mtg. w/ Wabash Hospital Assn. Admin.; BNSF/MRL; Mtgs. w/ MRL officers; PLB 6491; Mtg. w/ BNSF General Chairmen, Ft. Worth; Mtg. w/ CARE; Mtg. w/ BNSF officials for on-property negotiations, Ft. Worth; On-property mtg. w/ BNSF; IWC, Kennebec, Wash.; General office duties, paperwork.

Vice-President E.L. "Lee" Pruitt—Assisted general chairmen & members of the following properties: UP-Western Lines; UP-Western Region; UP-Central Region; UP-Southern Region; Tacoma Belt; General office duties; PLB 4450, PLB 4451 & PLB 4452, Houston; Assist General Chairmen & members, UPRR/Tacoma Rail; Remote control mtgs, UP-North, Kansas City, assisting GC Rightnowar & members; Remote control mtgs. w/ UP management; Work/rest mtgs. w/ UP management.

Vice-President Richard K. Radek—ID Office; BLE Decertification Helpline services; Director of Arbitration Dept; National Railroad Adjustment Board (NRAB); Illinois Central; Wisconsin Central; Indiana Harbor Belt; METRA; Belt Rwy. of Chicago; Paducah & Louisville; Chicago Central & Pacific; Attend special mtg. of CN/IC Divisions 762, 203, 23, 914, 196, 914, 10, 602, 577 & 315, Memphis, Tenn., Jackson, Miss., and Macomb, Miss.; IHB general assistance; Special division mtgs. continue, Chicago, Champaign, Ill.; Remote control arbitration, Procedural Board prep., Cleveland; CN/WC labor/management quarterly mtg., Rosemont, Ill.; CN/WC general assistance, Madison, Wisc.; CBA executed, CN/IC; Equity dispute mediation, Champaign, Ill.; Ray Keane-PI Hearing, METRA; FRA Part 240.409 dockets this month: EQAL 01-06 (CSX), 99-15 (Conrail), 01-23 (UP), 00-51 (UP), 00-67 (UP), 98-84 (CP Rail).

Vice-President Dale McPherson—CP Rail; I&M Rail Link; Port. Term. RR; Lonview Portland & Northern; Indiana RR; M&NA; PHL; UP (Eastern District); Birmingham Southern RR; PBL-5604, 5681, 5721, 6040, 6281; National negotiating team; General office duties; Telephone, correspondence; UP mtgs., Billings, Mont.; Mtgs. w/ General Chairman B.D. MacArthur, UP; re: Claim issues; IWC, Kennebec.

Vice-President & Canadian Director Gilles Hallé—Ottawa Office; Mtg. w/ Standard Life; Mtgs. w/ CN Rail, Montreal; Mtgs. w/ VIA Rail, Montreal; Annual holiday; Mtgs. w/ CN; CN conference call; Mtgs. w/ Division 753, Quebec City; Executive mtg. at International Division, Cleveland.

Vice-President & National Legislative Representative-Canada T. George Hucker—Ottawa Office; National Legislative Board-Canada; CPR senior health & safety committee, Calgary; CPR/CCROU fatigue management design committee mtgs., Calgary; IWC, Kennebec, Wash.



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