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Locomotive

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BLET, UTU support FMLA improvements

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen and the United Transportation Union are jointly supporting a House bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) to clarify eligibility requirements for railroad workers.

The Family and Medical Leave Act currently does not address the unique working conditions of railroad operating employees. Through no fault of their own, rail workers may not always meet the minimum criteria of 1,250 hours worked per year set forth in the current FMLA regulations.

Under the proposed changes to the FMLA, the time that railroad operating crews are required to be available for work will be included in the total hours worked per year, thus making them more likely to meet the FMLA eligibility criteria.

H.R. 5944, was introduced July 29 by Representatives Tim Bishop (D-NY), Bob Filner (D-CA), Mark Critz (D-PA) and Steven LaTourette (R-OH). The bill is the result of joint efforts by the BLET and the UTU. It has been referred to the House Education and Labor Committee.

"BLET Vice President and National Legislative Representative John Tolman, the BLET State Legislative Board Chairmen, and their UTU counterparts all throughout the country worked very hard over the past year to get this legislation introduced," BLET National President Dennis Pierce said. "The next step will be to get this legislation passed and enacted so that it can begin to help our Brothers and Sisters who need to take leave but might not otherwise qualify."

The bill would clarify FMLA eligibility requirements with respect to railroad workers subject to hours-of-service limitations, accounting for periods when such employees must be available for work. In short, the proposed legislation would include this availability time when calculating railroad worker eligibility for FMLA benefits.

If enacted into law, the bill would allow employees to be eligible for

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President Pierce praises members for strong participation in vote to retain direct elections

By a 72%-28% margin, BLET members voted on August 31 to retain direct one member one vote elections for National Division Officers when they rejected an initiative that would have provided for delegate election of National Division Officers.

National President Dennis Pierce was pleased by the results of the vote and thanked all members who took the time to participate. "Turnout was

up significantly from the 2006 initiative; this is proof positive that the National Division's mobilization efforts to get out the vote made a difference," Pierce said.

Under Pierce's direction the National Division conducted phone banks and other efforts to urge members to participate in the referendum vote.

BLET's Bylaws are unique in that they allow for changes to be proposed between conventions using the initiative process.

The vote concluded an initiative introduced late last year by BLET Divisions 13, 98, 155 and 236, which proposed to restore to convention delegates the right to elect National Division Officers. This traditional method of electing the top officials of the Brotherhood was changed by an initiative vote in 2006.

Pierce also said the increased turnout vindicated his decision to remain neutral in the vote and instead focus National Division efforts on getting mem-

bers involved in the process.

"The National Division had complete confidence that the membership was more than capable of making its decision on the initiative without being told how to vote by their National President. The issue was decided by the wisdom of the members and our efforts going forward will be to encourage all members to exercise their right to vote later this fall when the election of our National officers takes place," Pierce added. ©



Reno to host BLET National Convention

IN A SCENE THAT CAN NO LONGER BE DUPLICATED,



a Union Pacific train travels through downtown Reno, Nevada, on February 12, 2002. Trains now travel underground via the 2.3-mile Reno Trench. The project cost approximately \$282 million and trains no longer block intersections in downtown Reno. Approximately 530 BLET delegates will travel to Reno for the Second Quadrennial National Convention, October 4-7, 2010.

FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THE CONVENTION, VISIT WWW.BLE-T.ORG/CONVENTION



AN OLD FRIEND RETURNS

THE BLET is proud to announce the return of its quarterly magazine, Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen Journal. The publication Journal was mailed from Washington, D.C., to active and retired BLET members nationwide on September 1.

The Journal will carry a variety of in-depth articles, guest columnists, and membership profiles.

We are especially interested in featuring BLET members and their volunteer activities outside of the railroad. If you have an interesting or unique hobby and would like to be featured in the Journal, please let us know!

CONTACT JOURNAL EDITOR JOHN BENTLEY BY EMAIL: BENTLEY@BLE-T.ORG

Whistleposts Mandatory

Michigan law boosts safety **pg 3**



Mobilization Victory

BLET helps secure Amtrak funding. **pg 3**



IWC Photo Album

A recap of the 2010 IWC in Bismarck, N.D. **pg 5**

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BLET PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'M PROUD TO BE A TEAMSTER

Wherever I go — from local division meetings, to general committee and state legislative board meetings, to regional meetings — someone frequently asks “Where are the Teamsters?” When our great Brotherhood merged with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters in 2004 and for some time afterward, that was a natural question to ask. But today, the first answer that comes to mind is “Look around the room right now, and look in the mirror when you get up tomorrow morning!”

In fact, the past six years are full of examples of how we've been able to provide better representation for BLET members because of the support and assistance we have access to as Teamster members. For example, did you know that...

- **THE** Teamsters Economics and Contracts Department worked with us to design several membership bargaining surveys and provided key data compilation and analysis?
- **THE** Economics and Contracts Department also routinely performs analyses for the National Division and various general committees in support of our bargaining efforts?
- **THE** Teamsters Government Affairs Department regularly provides coordination and support for BLET lobbying efforts?
- **THE** Teamsters Health and Safety Department regularly provides research assistance for the BLET's regulatory work?
- **TEAMSTER** organizers provided



TEAMSTER » POWER: In August, BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce traveled to Washington, D.C., for a meeting with Teamsters General President James P. Hoffa.

vided invaluable assistance in numerous successful BLET organizing campaigns on short line railroads?

- **MULTIPLE** Teamster departments worked in conjunction with the Rail Conference, the BLET, and the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division (BMWED) to conduct two security surveys and produce two High Alert reports, which strengthened our position on Capitol Hill in fighting for improved security and whistleblower protections?

The institutional support provided by the Teamsters also served as the foundation for the historic Rail Labor Bargaining Coalition (RLBC), a coalition of

seven unions that set the pattern in the last round of national bargaining, which provided real wage increases for all railroad workers. Once again in this round, the Teamsters have stepped up to the plate to assist another joint effort by the RLBC.

In less than seven years, we have reaped significant rewards from our merger with the IBT. Every time a representative of the BLET visits a Senator or a Representative, that elected official knows that we are part of the 1.4 million voters who make up the IBT. In fact, our fight to replace the National Mediation Board's antiquated method of counting votes in representation elections was many times stronger because we spoke with the

strength of 1.4 million members.

While this has been a good start, it is just that: a start. Our great Brotherhood, like all labor unions, is founded on the principle that in unity there is strength. And unified efforts of the IBT Rail Conference — such as the Mexico Task Force, which seeks to improve relations with Mexico's rail union to preserve and protect jobs on both sides of the border, and the Passenger Rail Advisory Committee, which will coordinate the BLET's and BMWED's efforts to promote high speed passenger and commuter rail, increase jobs and secure the future of Railroad Retirement — advance the agenda of both current and future BLET members.

Since being elected as President of the Teamsters Rail Conference this past June, the importance of the BLET being a strong Division within the IBT Rail Conference is clearer to me now than ever before. Our ability to move even further ahead in the future will depend to a significant degree on our being BLET-Teamsters. I not only have the responsibility to lead the BLET in our struggles on behalf of our members, I have the duty to build and strengthen the IBT Rail Conference, so that all BLET and BMWED voices can speak in unison whenever possible.

As many projects as we currently work on jointly, both Rail Conference divisions have an obligation to identify additional areas of common interest and develop strategies and tactics to attain our newly-identified goals. My meeting with General President Jim Hoffa and IBT Vice President and Rail Conference Director John Murphy in August confirmed for me that every department of the IBT stands foursquare behind us in our struggles.

In the end, though, the core battle is ours to wage, because the IBT can only fight along side us; they can't fight for us. Moving beyond being BLET — to being BLET-Teamsters — is the way to unleash that power. So, the next time someone asks you “Where are the Teamsters?” tell them “You're talking to one!”

Fraternally,

DENNIS R. PIERCE

RAILROAD CARRIERS' 2ND QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORTS

BNSF RAILWAY

BNSF posted a \$603 million net income for the 2010 second quarter, up 49.3 percent from 2009. Additionally, revenue rose 23.5 percent to \$4.094 billion. Operating as a unit of Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway since Feb. 12, 2010, BNSF reported that its was Berkshire Hathaway's largest contributing unit. The railroad added \$885 million to net earnings since the acquisitions, including \$603 million profit for the last three months.

Second quarter intermodal volume was up 9.72 percent from 2009, while bulk equipment and railcar loads grew 11.6 percent. BNSF said average revenue per unit hauled was \$1,776 for the period Feb. 13 through June 30. (FROM THE JOURNAL OF COMMERCE.)

CANADIAN NATIONAL

CN reported net income of \$534 million in the second quarter of 2010, an increase of 38 percent from the

same quarter of 2009. The railroad's revenue rose 18 percent to \$2,093 million and car loadings increased 27 percent. The railroad's operating income increased 39 percent to \$813 million. The operating ratio for the quarter was 61.2 percent, an improvement of 6.1 percent over the 2009 second quarter.

Net income for the first half of 2010 was \$1,045 million, up from \$811 million for the comparable period of 2009.

CN said it expects improved earnings per share in the second half of 2010. (ALL DOLLARS REPORTED IN CANADIAN CURRENCY.)

CANADIAN PACIFIC

CP had second-quarter income of \$166.6 million, an increase over 2009, and earnings per share were up 23 percent to \$0.98 over the second quarter of 2009.

CP also reported that total revenues were up 20 percent to \$1.23 billion. The railroad's operating income

increased 48 percent to \$274.1 million, and adjusted earnings increased 97 percent to \$156.2 million.

The railroad's operating ratio improved to 77.8 percent.

Other specified items in the second quarter of 2009 included an after tax gain on the sale of a portion of CP's interest in the Detroit River Tunnel Partnership of \$68.7 million. (ALL DOLLARS REPORTED IN CANADIAN CURRENCY.)

CSX

CSX posted a \$414 million profit in the second quarter, up 36 percent from the 2009 period. Revenue of nearly \$2.7 billion represented an increase of 22 percent over the same quarter of 2009. CSX's operating income increased 33 percent to \$768 million and its operating ratio improved to 71.2 percent.

CSX said the 22 percent increase in revenue was driven largely by increased volume.

CSX said it increased its workforce

by 1 percent during the quarter.

Most of its pricing gains came from bulk railcar loadings, including an 18 percent per-unit increase on coal as CSX continues to benefit from export coal demand. (FROM THE JOURNAL OF COMMERCE.)

NORFOLK SOUTHERN

NS reported second quarter net income of \$392 million, an increase of 59 percent over same quarter of 2009. The railroad's operating revenues increased 31 percent of \$2.4 billion, and net income increased 59 percent of \$392 million. Income from rail operations improved 57 percent to \$733 million.

The railroad's operating ratio improved 5 percentage points to 69.8 percent, an all-time record for the railroad's second quarter.

General merchandise revenues were \$1.3 billion, 31 percent higher compared with second quarter 2009 results. Coal revenues increased 36 percent to \$696 million compared

with the same period last year. Intermodal revenues were \$451 million, 23 percent higher compared with the 2009 second quarter. (FROM CSX NEWS RELEASE.)

UNION PACIFIC

Union Pacific reported net income of \$711 million in the second quarter of 2010, an increase of 53 percent from \$465 million in the 2009 second quarter.

The railroad also reported that earnings per share were up 52 percent to \$1.40 and operating income totaled \$1.3 billion, up 71 percent. The railroad's operating ratio was 69.4 percent, eight points better than the 2009 second quarter.

Freight revenues for all six business groups increased in the second quarter, up 27 percent versus 2009 to a total of \$4.0 billion. Driving the increase were double-digit volume growth, increased fuel cost recoveries and core pricing gains. (FROM UNION PACIFIC NEWS RELEASE.) @@



Amtrak Acela
at Croydon, Pa.
Courtesy Amtrak

BLET mobilizes to help protect Amtrak

On July 29, BLET State Legislative Board Chairmen and the National Mobilization Team were asked by Vice President and National Legislative Representative John Tolman to get the word out to the membership to call their congressmen and request that they do not support the amendment sponsored by Congressman Bachmann (R-MN)

which would have stripped Amtrak of operating and capital funding.

Later that evening, the House of Representatives voted 293-129 to defeat the amendment.

National President Dennis Pierce said, "Thanks to all those who called their members of Congress and urged support for H.R. 5850 and against measures designed to kill Amtrak. A special thank you to the State Legislative Board Chairmen for

their quick action to stop this travesty, Vice President Tolman for keeping on top of this issue and getting the word to us so quickly, and especially to all those in the Mobilization network for passing on the message."

Mobilization is a communications network to disseminate information as quickly as possible throughout the organization. It is a grassroots effort to involve the membership in ongoing campaigns. @@

Whistle posts mandatory in Michigan

Michigan State Legislative Chairman Greg Powell scored a major victory for rail worker safety in July after a long battle for mandatory whistle posts.

A whistle post bill, introduced by Chairman Powell, was signed into law by Governor Jennifer Granholm on July 1, 2010. The new law provides that, "A railroad shall erect and maintain a whistle post in advance of a public crossing or multiple consecutive crossings to notify the Engineer of an approaching public crossing."

Federal legislation that went into effect in 2005 removed the requirement for mandatory whistle posts. After many reports of missing whistle posts, and the railroads' reluctance to replace them,

Chairman Powell took action to rectify this problem.

Chairman Powell first introduced the whistle post bill in 2007, but said that the Michigan Legislature was slow to take action. He said rail labor solidarity helped make passage of the bill possible during this legislative session.

"With the lobbying help of the BLET Auxiliary and all other rail unions, we were successful," Brother Powell said.

After the Bill was signed into law, Chairman Powell said that he hopes that this kind of legislation will be the catalyst to get the Federal Railroad Administration to find a way to make it mandatory throughout the United States. BLET National President Dennis Pierce congratulated Brother Powell on a job well done. @@



From left: State Senator Ray Basham, Governor Jennifer Granholm, Kristie Powell, BLET Auxiliary, and Michigan State Legislative Chairman Greg Powell.

BLET, UTU SUPPORT FMLA IMPROVEMENTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 <--

FMLA if the employee has worked at least 60 percent of the applicable total guaranteed time for the previous 12-month period; and has worked or been paid for not less than 504 hours (not counting personal commute time or time spent on vacation leave or med-

ical or sick leave) during the previous 12-month period.

BLET Vice President Tolman said the legislation would go a long way toward improving the quality of life for BLET members.

"While this problem does not impact a large number of BLET members, its impact on the members it does affect is so dire that it is vital that we get this legislation passed," Vice President Tolman

said. "The National Division and National Legislative Office used, anonymously, several extremely moving, poignant letters and other communications to show Congress how important this problem is to our members and their families. It is a tragedy when any of our members can't take time off work to deal with a health problem or a family member's health problem. There is nothing more important." @@

2010

Calendar & Events

September 24, 2010

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

The U.S. Railroad Retirement Board will hold free informational conferences for elected officers of all railroad labor unions throughout 2010. Registration begins at 8 a.m., with the programs beginning promptly at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 12:30 p.m. In Iowa at the Hampton Inn-West Des Moines, 7060 Lake Drive; and in New York at the Clarion Hotel, 3 Watervliet Ave. Ext., Albany.

October 1, 2010

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

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

October 4-7, 2010

**BLET National Division Convention,
Reno, Nevada**

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

October 15, 2010

**Railroad Retirement Board
Informational Conference
Pittsburgh, Pa.**

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

October 22, 2010

**Railroad Retirement Board
Informational Conferences in
Matthews, N.C. and Wichita, Kan.**

Registration for all meetings begins at 8 a.m., with the programs beginning promptly at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 12:30 p.m. In North Carolina at the Holiday Inn Express, 9420 East Independence Blvd.; and in Kansas at the Holiday Inn, 549 S. Rock Road

2011 BLET Regional Meetings (Tentative)

June 12-17, 2011

**84th annual Southeastern
Meeting Association**

Asheville, N.C.

DoubleTree Biltmore Hotel

August 2-7, 2011

**73rd annual Eastern
Union Meeting Association**

Long Island, N.Y.

Hyatt Regency Long Island, Hauppauge, N.Y.

The week of August 21, 2011

**71st annual International
Western Convention**

San Luis Obispo, Calif.

September 18-22, 2011

**76th annual Southwestern
Convention Meeting**

El Paso, Texas

Camino Real Hotel

from the vault

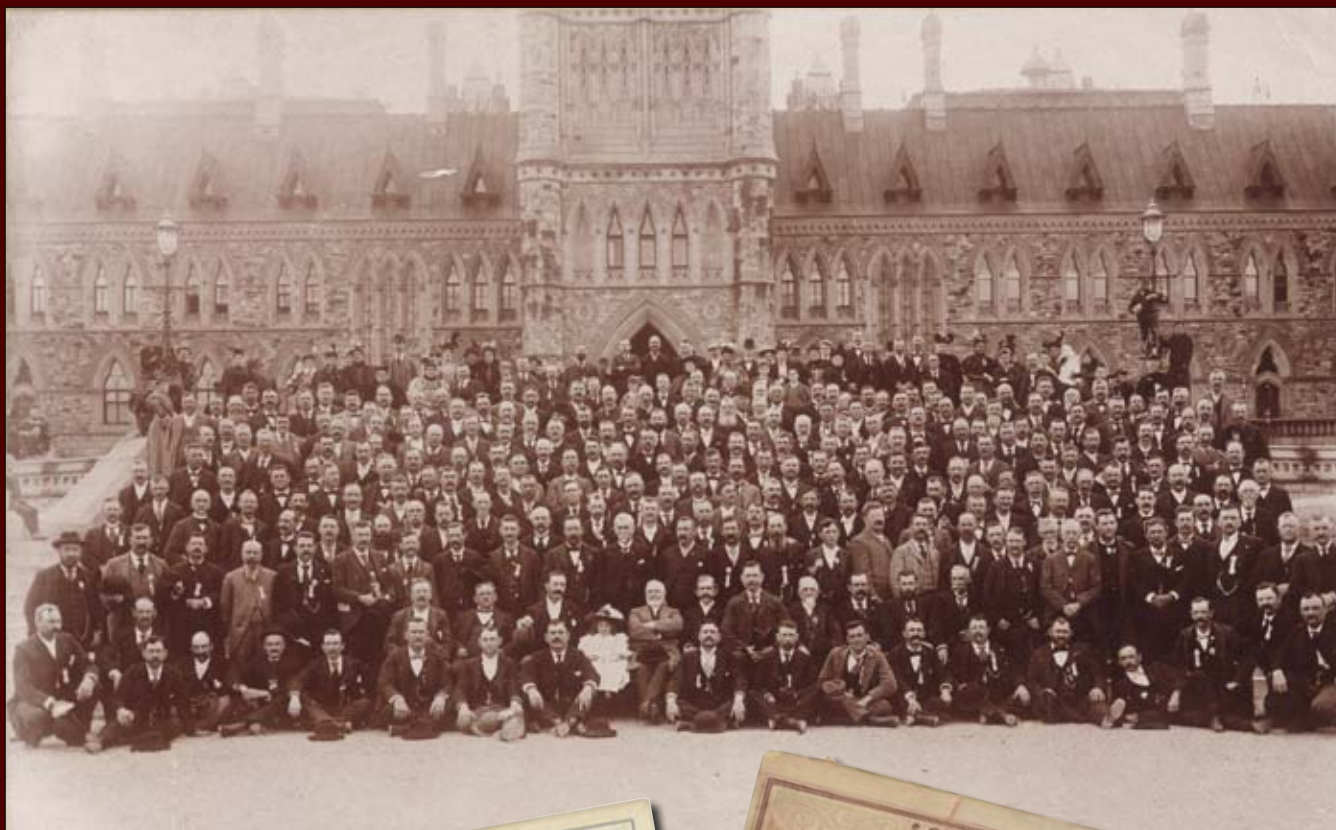
1896 BLE CONVENTION, OTTAWA, ONTARIO

As members and delegates prepare to convene in Reno, Nevada, for the BLET's Second National Convention in October, we searched the vault to find the earliest Brotherhood convention photo available.

In 1896 (pictured right), the Brotherhood held its national convention in Ottawa, Ontario — its first ever large-scale convention outside of the United States. The meeting in Ottawa was in honor of our Brothers and Sisters in Canada, who are now a part of the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference.

P.M. Arthur, the longest serving president in the history of the Brotherhood (1874-1903), is seated in the center of the second row, next to what is likely his granddaughter. In the early days of the Brotherhood, the office of President was known as "Grand Chief Engineer."

As our current delegates convene in Reno this October, they should know that they are part of a long, proud line of engineers. Just like the 1896 delegates pictured here, today's engineers have sacrificed life and limb to move passengers and freight safely and professionally throughout the United States. They have also made many great personal sacrifices in the performance of their duties and in service to their Brotherhood. @@



In the early days of the Brotherhood, members often carried elaborate cards such as these to prove their membership in the Organization.



A commemorative program from the 1894 convention, a valued item in the BLET archive.

Priester reelected as Western General Chairmen conclude annual meeting

General Chairman Mike Priester (CP Rail-US/Metra North/Indiana Southern Railroad/DM&E Railroad) was reelected to a fourth term as Chairman of BLET's Western General Chairmen's Association (WGCA) at meetings held in Las Vegas, NV on April 20-22, 2010. He was elected by acclamation by the Association's members.

Also elected by acclamation were First Vice Chairman Pat Williams (BNSF — former AT&SF), Secretary/Treasurer Rick Gibbons (BNSF — former STL-SF) and Alternate Secretary/Treasurer Keith Stauber (DM&IR). The Association also elected Matt Wilson (BNSF — former CB&Q/GN/NP/SP&S/MRL) and John Reynolds (Wisconsin Central) to round out its Executive Committee.

"I am honored by this Association's continuing support of me as their Chairman," Brother Priester said. "The Western General Chairmen serve as a highly cohesive unit wherein an open form exists to discuss and explore solutions to the core problems facing our respective members. It is this open dialogue and fellowship that empowers us to make a difference."

In attendance were 17 General Chairmen and eight Vice General Chairmen, along with a host of speakers and guests. Presentations from the BLET National Division were made by National President Dennis Pierce, First Vice President Lee Pruitt, National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert and Vice President & National Legislative Representative John Tolman. BLET National President Dennis Pierce, a former Chairman of the WGCA himself, congratulated Brother Priester on winning reelection.



Mike Priester was reelected to his fourth term as Chairman of the WGCA in April. He is pictured here at the BLET's First National Convention in 2006.

Chairman Priester also recognized former WGCA Chairman and Vice President Gil Gore, as well as Vice President Willard Knight, who was attending his first WGCA meeting as a member of the Advisory Board. Rounding out the Advisory Board and also in attendance were Vice Presidents Marcus Ruef and Mike Twombly.

Various law firms making up a portion of the BLET Designated Legal Counsel were also in attendance. They spoke regarding subjects such as worker's com-

pensation versus FELA, proof of fault, whistle blower legislation, deference's as to remedy, harassment/intimidation and a host of other issues.

John Conklin, Engineer Certification Specialist for the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), also addressed the group. He addressed concerns regarding Engineer Certification as well as issues arising out of the Railroad Safety Improvement Act of 2008. His presentation was well received and was followed by a considerable question and answer session.

Also speaking to the Chairmen was Tom Pontilillo, Director of Research and Assistant to the National President. His comments centered on changes to the Hours of Service Law and the effects on availability and earnings.

On the last day of the meeting, the group heard from Vice President Marcus Ruef, Director of the BLET Arbitration Department and Labor Member — NRAB First Division. His roundtable discussion and question-and-answer session focused on the arbitration process in general as well as the diminishing number of arbitrators who give labor fair and equal consideration in their decisions.

The meeting concluded with Chairman Priester recognizing Vice Presidents Merle Geiger and Steve Speagle who will be retiring at year's end. He extended the Association's deep appreciation to both Brothers for their dedication to the membership, the WGCA and the BLET.

"Through their collective efforts, visions and professionalism, the BLET and the Advisory Board on which they serve is something all the membership should be very proud of," Chairman Priester said. @@



70th annual International Western Convention

Hundreds of BLET members and their families gathered in Bismarck, N.D., for the BLET's 70th annual International Western Convention (IWC).

The event was arranged and hosted by: Co-Chairman Mike Muscha, his wife Naomi, and Division 671; and Co-Chairman Ron Huff, his wife Brenda, and Division 746.

The 2010 IWC was held July 13-17, and opening ceremonies

began on July 15 with remarks by BLET National President Dennis Pierce and BLET Auxiliary President Becky Schneider.

BLET member Margo Storsteen (Division 57, Boston), who serves as the BLET's National Representative on the Teamsters Human Rights Commission, gave a presentation and solicited volunteers for the program. Human Rights administers the Teamsters Disaster Relief Fund, the James R. Hofa Memorial Scholarship Fund,

and various other membership benefit programs.

In the afternoon there was a BLET closed meeting where all the vice presidents had a chance to talk to those in attendance about their assignments and the many challenges currently facing the Organization.

In the evening, members enjoyed a dinner cruise on the Missouri River, which traversed the same stretch of river that the Lewis and Clark expedition used when they explored the west.

On July 16, members attended workshops for mobilization, Local Chairman (reading event recorders in the morning and the arbitration process in the afternoon), Legislative Reps, and Secretary-Treasurers. In addition, the National Labor College held a workshop on hazardous materials, and the Federal Railroad Administration conducted a question and answer session.

Besides the riverboat dinner cruise, members enjoyed various other leisure time activities, such

as the annual golf tournament, a tour of Bismarck including the capital, Old Governor Mansion and the Heritage Center. There was a tour of the railroad museum, Fort Lincoln State Park, and the home of General George Custer and his 7th Cavalry.

The IWC concluded with a formal banquet on July 16. The 2011 IWC will be held the week of August 21 in San Luis Obispo, Calif. Mike Galvani, Local Chairman of Division 664, is the arrangements chairman. @@



Presentation of the flags during the opening ceremonies.



BLET members during the Local Chairman workshop.



2010 IWC Co-Chairmen Mike Muscha and Ron Huff.



From left: Bill Hudyma, Mark Robb, John Cooper, Bob Purtill, Bill Pitts and Jim Lance.



BLET National President Dennis Pierce during the opening ceremony.



Jim Lance, IWC Chairman and Local Chairman of Division 228 (Pocatello, Idaho).



Vice President & NLR John Tolman during the Legislative Representative workshop.



Matt Wilson, BNSF/MRL General Chairman, and J.A. Holdcraft BNSF-Santa Fe VGC.



A packed house during the opening ceremonies.



Vice Presidents Gil Gore and Willard Knight.



Legislative Reps. Eric Wood, LR Division 98 (Lincoln, Neb.) and Sam Caruso, LR Division 183 (Omaha, Neb.).



BLET First Vice President Lee Pruitt.



Bill Walpert, National Secretary-Treasurer, giving an update on the financial status of the Brotherhood.



BLET Auxiliary President Becky Schneider addresses the audience.



Ron Huff, Mike Muscha, retired member James Goodale (Div. 746 and former Chairman NDSL) and retired member Kelly Olson (Div. 746).



IWC Co-Chair Ron Huff, Rep. Kenton Onstad (North Dakota District 4, Assistant Minority Leader), VP & NLR John Tolman, and IWC Co-Chair Mike Muscha.



The Cowboy Action Players put on a skit for the 2010 IWC banquet in which they arrested BNSF/MRL General Chairman Matt Wilson.



First VP Lee Pruitt and Montana SLBC Craig Gilchrist.



BLET members during the closed meeting.



Doug Davidson presiding over the Local Chairman workshop.

Divisions must be 'square on the books' to seat delegates

With the upcoming Second National Convention of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen scheduled for October 4-7, all BLET Divisions are reminded that their Secretary-Treasurers must file their monthly dues reports in a timely fashion in order to seat their delegates at the convention.

National Division Rules — Section 23 — of the BLET Bylaws states: "Any delegate whose division is not square on the books and any division that has not paid its pro rata assessments, as provided in these Bylaws, also its indebtedness to other divisions, shall not be allowed a seat in the ND."

The convention begins October 4.

It is essential that each Division ensure that the August 2010 Dues Remittance report is filed prior to the opening of the convention.

BLET National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert sent all Division Secretary-Treasurers a formal reminder of this constitutional requirement in a letter dated August 2, 2010. All BLET Division Presidents were reminded of the requirement as well.

The Second National Convention, held once every four years, will take place at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno, Nevada, from October 4-7, 2010. @@

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 policy 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. @@

Tim Smith reelected California State Legislative Board Chairman



Tim Smith, Chairman of the California State Legislative Board.

Tim Smith was reelected as Chairman of the California State Legislative Board at the board's Sixth Quadrennial meeting from April 26-29 in Santa Rosa, Calif.

Tim Smith has held the position of Chairman since 1998. He is a member of BLET Division 415 (Santa Rosa, Calif.), and he first joined the Brotherhood on June 1, 1975.

Also reelected at the meeting were: First Vice Chairman Darrel Azarcon, Division 692 (Tracy, Calif.); Second Vice Chairman D.D. Francisco, Division 739 (Bakersfield, Calif.); and Secretary-Treasurer Mike Holt, Division 692 (Tracy, Calif.). Brother Holt has served as the Board's Secretary-Treasurer since 1985. Brothers Azarcon and Francisco have served in their positions since 1998 and 2001, respectively.

BLET National President Dennis Pierce, then serving as First Vice President, represented the National Division, along with current First Vice President Lee Pruitt and National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert. All addressed the group and spoke regarding issues of importance at the National Division.

"I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate Brother Smith on his re-election," President Pierce said.

BLET Vice President & National Legislative Representative John Tolman attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the current legislation and political issues facing the BLET in Washington, D.C., and the states.

"Chairman Smith and his Board members have done a fantastic job of representing the membership in California for many years," Vice President Tolman said. "I look forward to continuing to work with Tim and the officers of his Board." @@

Oregon State Legislative Board reelects Chairman Palmer

Oregon State Legislative Board Chairman Scott Palmer was reelected by acclamation to a third term of office at the Board's Triennial meeting at the Benson Hotel in Portland on May 17-19, 2010.

First Vice Chairman Don Strong of Division 236 (Portland) and Secretary-Treasurer Rob Armstrong of Division 362 (La Grande) were also reelected by acclamation. Mike Neale of Division 416 (Salem) was elected as alternate Secretary-Treasurer and Gary Quick, also from Division 362, was elected as Second Vice Chairman.

BLET Vice President & National Legislative Representative John Tolman represented the National Division at the meeting.

BLET National President Dennis Pierce said: "I congratulate these Brothers on winning reelection and know they will continue doing an excellent job of representing our hardworking members in Oregon. Brother Palmer is the Brotherhood's foremost authority on safety issues related to the transportation of radioactive material by rail and all members throughout the United States will continue to benefit from his knowledge and experience."

Vice President Tolman gave a presentation on current legislative affairs and discussed the importance of members leading their union.



Front row, from left: Mike Neale, Alt. S-T; Scott Palmer, Chairman; Rob Armstrong, Secretary-Treasurer; and Gary Quick, 2nd Vice Chairman. **Back row, from left:** Don Trelease, Div. 842; Mike Glenn, Div. 476; and Don Strong, 1st Vice Chairman.

"I would like to congratulate Scott and the members of his Board on their elections," Vice President Tolman said. "It has been a pleasure working with Scott, and I look forward to working with him in the future. Scott does a fantastic job for his members in the state, and those nationwide by being the BLET's point person on nuclear issues. The update he gave on these issues was illuminating and illustrated the dire gaps in the regulations involving railroad workers."

Tim Smith, California State Legislative Board Chairman, presided over a brief Legislative Representative Training course for the attendees.

Also attending the meeting were: Becky Schneider, President of the BLET Auxiliary; Jim Dayton, BLET UP-Western Lines General Chairman; David Cameron, Assistant to the Director of the Teamsters Rail Conference; Tony Andrews, President of IBT Joint Council 37; Lynn Lehrback, Legislative Director of Joint Council 37; Mike Turnbull, FRA; and Phil Bentley, Chief Of Staff for Oregon Senate President Peter Courtney.

"We enjoyed political updates from the State and Federal level, union history and organization, and timely information on federal rulemaking process," Chairman Palmer said. @@

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Worthington reelected Chairman of Utah State Legislative Board

The Utah State Legislative Board held its Quadrennial Meeting in Salt Lake City on May 26. Jeff Worthington was re-elected to the position of Chairman by the 11 Legislative Representatives in attendance.

Also elected were Mark Bleckert of Division 222, First Vice Chairman; Robert Rock of Division 713, Second Vice Chairman; Patrick Whalen of Division 349, Secretary-Treasurer; Gary Mayer of Division 681, Alternate Secretary-Treasurer; and John Sloan of Division 221, Michael Lasater of Division 51, and Robert Rock, Audit Committee.

"I congratulate Brother Worthington and the rest of the board on their successful meeting," BLET National President Dennis Pierce said. "Jeff has done an exceptional job. I'm sure he'll continue to work to make the Brotherhood a better place."

BLET Vice President & National Legislative Representative John Tolman represented the National Division at the meeting, giving a presentation to the attendees on the current legislative and political issues affecting BLET members.

"I would like to thank Brother Tolman



Front row, from left: Roberto CantuVillreal, Jeff Worthington (Chairman), John Tolman (VPNLR), and Patrick Whalen (S-T). **Second row:** Michael Muscha (ND SLB Chairman), Keith Nelson, and John Sloan. **Third row:** Michael Lasater, Chris Gallagher, Mark Bleckert, Gary Mayer, and Robert Rock. (Present but not pictured: Brady Tubbs.)

for attending our meeting," Worthington said. "The group was really impressed with his presentation and we are very grateful that he took the time to be a part of our Quadrennial."

Also attending the meeting was Mike Muscha, Chairman of the North Dakota State Legislative Board. Brother Muscha urged everyone in the group to support and expand the BLET-PAC.

Democratic State Senator Karen Mayne, who is working on crew van legislation for the BLET, was the special guest speaker. She spoke about growing up in a Union family with her father and the legislation she puts forth for labor in the legislature.

"Representative Mayne gave an update on legislation that she has been able to pass that has everything to do with labor," Worthington said. "Even though we live in a very 'RED' state, she has had tremendous success crossing the aisle and getting the Republicans to vote with her on her bills."

Utah State AFL-CIO President Jim Judd also spoke to the delegates. Judd gave a presentation on what the labor movement in Utah is doing politically and thanked the Utah BLET State Legislative Board for all of the support that they have given over the years.

"I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate Jeff on his re-election and thank him and the Utah State Legislative Board for their work for the members in the state," Vice President Tolman said. "I would also like to thank them for inviting me out to what may be one of the most beautiful states in the union." ©©

OBITUARIES

Former GIA President Lillie Mae Parker passes away at age 98

Lillie Mae Parker, long-time member and President of the Grand International Auxiliary (GIA) to the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, passed away peacefully on June 30, 2010, at the age of 98.



long-time neighbor, said that Sister Parker was "a hard-working member of the GIA," and was even responsible for recruiting Sister Dollar into the GIA.

BLET Auxiliary National President Becky Schneider said Sister Parker "was well

known and revered throughout the Auxiliary and the BLET."

On behalf of the National Division, President Dennis R. Pierce extended condolences to the friends and family of Lillie Mae Parker.

"While I did not have the pleasure of knowing Sister Parker, I do know that she contributed a great deal to the Brotherhood over the years," he said. "She was a dedicated leader and a wonderful example of the greatest generation in America. On behalf of the 59,000 men and women of the Brotherhood, I extend deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Lillie Mae Parker."

Expressions of condolence may be made to Sister Parker's daughter, Jane Smith, 2608 Sandalhaven Drive, Hampton Cove, AL 35763. ©©

Honorary Member Bill Purdie, 1915-2010

Bill Purdie, Master Mechanic-Steam Engines for the Southern Railway, and one of the few individuals to hold the coveted title "Honorary Locomotive Engineer" from the BLET, passed away on July 22, 2010. He was 95 years old.

Purdie was one of only 16 Honorary Members in the 147-year history of the BLET. He was an icon of the steam locomotive preservation movement and one of its pioneers in the 1960s and 70s.

He received the rare Brotherhood honor on May 25, 1979. He was nominated by BLET members R.E. Branton, Southern Railway General Chairman; A.F. Zimmerman, BLE Vice President; and Hugo Lackman, Division 194.

He was chosen because of his "dedication to the revival of the steam locomotive on the Southern Railway, and your extremely important part in the successful operation of steam passenger trains over the past several years. You have also been instrumental in providing nostalgic pleasure to the hundreds of thousands of older Americans who have fond memories of steam power and its accomplishments."

Purdie gratefully accepted the nomination. "I am honored to become a part of an organization that began with steam railroading and has continued to be an integral part of

our nation's heritage. Thank you for this great honor, which I shall cherish always."

Purdie began his career with Southern Railway in February 1936, as a machinist's helper in Pegram Shops in Atlanta; he then served as machinist's apprentice and later roundhouse foreman.



Purdie's involvement with steam began in 1968 with a call from then Southern Railway President W. Graham Claytor Jr. Claytor's vision was to operate steam locomotives over Southern rails to let another generation know what a steam locomotive was. The program was so successful that it evolved into nearly year round train excursions throughout the southeast and beyond. Purdie professionalized the rebirth of Southern steam.

During the 70's and 80's, the steam locomotives under Purdie's supervision appeared in several Hollywood productions including "Fools Parade," "Coal Miner's Daughter," and "Minstrel Man."

Other Honorary Members throughout the BLET's 147-year history include former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover; Hollywood producer Jay Sommers; and railroad artist Howard Foggy.

Brother Purdie's family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Southeastern Railway Museum, Duluth, Ga. ©©

BROTHERHOOD OBITUARIES February-July 2010

4 — E. M. Timbers
24 — J. L. Davison
30 — H.W. Cain Jr.
56 — D. W. Siegfried
107 — B. E. Venable
121 — W. C. Sauer II

122 — E. H. Running
156 — S. E. Culp
166 — J. F. Morgan
198 — C. B. Rightmire
230 — D. Amerson
238 — E. L. Ramsey

244 — T. W. Gill
269 — A. Stroman
325 — A. W. Kohler
325 — J.W. Langendorf
325 — A. R. Stevens
344 — F. E. Godwin

344 — L. E. Redgate
392 — W. M. Hamilton
416 — R. L. Langlois
435 — S. J. Mangold
448 — N. C. Mabe
462 — J. G. Goff

488 — J. S. Seybold
518 — W. S. Rausch
662 — R. V. Miller
683 — F. J. Catalano
698 — B. M. Caudill
940 — G. E. Huryta



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ROLLING » ON A RIVER

Norfolk Southern train 11J rolls westbound over the Rockville Bridge on a very hot and humid afternoon along the Susquehanna River near Marysville, Pa., on August 4, 2010. **Photo courtesy:** Robert Pisani



A message from Teamsters General President James P. Hoffa



Securing high-speed rail future

I am looking forward to addressing your national convention in Reno, Nevada in October. As with our International convention you have a unique opportunity every four years to plan for the future direction of the union.

With President Barack Obama in office we have seen some powerful initiatives coming from the White House. First, and foremost, is their focus on the development and building of high-speed rail. Earlier this year President Obama announced that \$8 billion would be distributed for high-speed rail projects. This is the first administration to truly tackle and follow through with allocating funds. The administration recognizes that in order for high-speed rail to become a reality it will take input and coordination with the skilled locomotive engineers, trainmen, maintenance of way workers and other unionized rail workers that daily keep our rail system in top shape.

High-speed rail is a crucial investment in our future. I look forward to continuing our work with the Obama administration to preserve rail jobs and expand work opportunities for our rail members.

Workplace Safety

We continue to learn about the vulnerabilities of our rail system to vandalism or even terrorist attacks. Our Rail Conference published the "High Alert 2" report this year to document the results of the safety and security surveys completed by our members in the BLET and the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division (BMWVED). We have shared the results with the Transportation Security Administration, seven Class 1 carriers, Amtrak, the Federal Railroad Administration and key members of Congress.

We will continue to keep tabs on the conditions you work in every day. This is the value of belonging to the Teamsters Rail Conference. Our combined strength legislatively and strategically will help keep the priorities of union members at the forefront of national projects.

Fraternally,

James P. Hoffa

James P. Hoffa
TEAMSTERS GENERAL PRESIDENT

Advisory Board July 2010 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, Ohio; 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; BNSF MRL GCA mtg., Las Vegas; Division 98 mtg., Lincoln, Neb.; Division 183 mtg., Omaha, Neb.; International Western Convention (IWC), Bismarck, N.D.; Rail Labor Bargaining Coalition, Washington, D.C.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT E.L. "LEE" PRUITT — Director, Passenger Dept.; Director, Short Lines Organizing Dept.; Director, Trainmen's Dept.; National Division Publications Committee; National Legislative Board; Vice President, Teamsters Rail Conference; Assist GC Young w/ PLB 7282, UP-ED, Chicago; Division 183 mtg., Omaha, Neb.; IWC, Bismarck, N.D.; UP on-property negotiations, Cleveland; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland.

NATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER WILLIAM C. WALPERT — General supervision of accounting dept., records dept., online services dept., IT Dept., tax compliance dept.; public relations dept.; Education & Training Dept.; Internal Organizing, Mobilizing & Strategic Planning Dept.; Safety Task Force; Meetings with vendors and financial institutions; Standard Building operations oversight; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; IWC, Bismarck, N.D.

VICE PRESIDENT MERLE W. GEIGER JR. — Assigned to: Kansas City Southern; Texas Mexican Railway; MidSouth Rail; SouthRail; Gateway Western; CP Rail System/US (CP/DME/ICE); Indiana Southern RR; Utah RR; Panhandle Northern RR; Great Western RR; Indiana Harbor Belt; and Belt RR of Chicago; PLB No. 7239 (MidSouth), Hendersonville, N.C.; Advisory Board mtg.; DM&E contract mtgs. w/ GC Priester and Divisions 393, 200, 266, 296 and 117, at Kansas City, Mo., Davenport, Iowa, Dubuque, Iowa, and Mason City, Iowa, respectively; IWC, Bismarck, N.D.; Mtgs. w/ GC Koonce and KCS, Jacksonville, Fla.; Holiday; Vacation.

VICE PRESIDENT STEPHEN D. SPEAGLE—Assigned to Burlington Northern Santa Fe, Montana Rail Link, Pacific Harbor Line, Missouri & Northern Arkansas (M&NA); Matt Wilson GCA mtg., BNSF, Las Vegas; Advisory Board conference call; Mtg. w/ BNSF and GC Williams, ID notice, Decatur; IWC, Bismarck, N.D.; Reception for CSX & UP labor relations, Decatur; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; Section 6 negotiations w/ Pacific Harbor Lines, Reno, Nevada.

VICE PRESIDENT & NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE JOHN P. TOLMAN — Assigned to BLET Washington, DC office; BLET Security Officer; General office duties, telephone, correspondence communications; Coordinate content of NLO website; IWC, Bismarck, N.D.; Mtgs. w/ Illinois Senator Roland Burris and Colorado Senator Mark Udall, Washington, D.C.; Democratic National Committee event, Vienna, Va.; Mtg. w/ FRA Administrator and staff, Washington, D.C.; Hosted fund raiser event for Rep. Dennis Kucinich, IBT-Washington, D.C.; Mtg. w/ UP and CSX General Committees, Cleveland; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; Numerous discussions w/ various members of House and Senate to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA H.R. 5944); Continuous work on Hours of Service and various bills in the House and Senate; Various receptions for U.S. Representatives, Washington, D.C.

VICE PRESIDENT MARCUS J. RUEF — Labor member-NRAB, Vice Chairman, First Division; Director of Arbitration Dept; Assigned to Amtrak; Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA); Long Island Railroad (LIRR); New York & Atlantic (NYAL); New Jersey Transit (NJT); PATH; Metra; GC Darcy retirement, NJT; SBA 1164 admin., BRC; NRAB hearings, Chicago; DL 323-Referee Darby, NRAB hearings, Chicago; Assist GC Dixon with arbitration research, Septa; Vacation; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; UP GC mtg., re: arbitration issues, Cleveland; Assist GC Decker w/ SBA 940, NJT, Haskell, N.J.; Assist GC Nunziato w/ PLB 5210, Haskell, N.J.

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE TWOMBLY — Assigned to Delaware & Hudson; Springfield Terminal; St. Lawrence & Atlantic; Montreal, Maine & Atlantic; Union RR; Birmingham Southern; Huron & Eastern; Duluth, Missabe & Iron Range; DM&IR-Two Harbors; South Buffalo Rwy; Iowa, Chicago & Eastern; Indiana & Ohio; Indiana & Southern; Louisville & Indiana; Meridian Southern; Talleyrand Terminal RR; Metra conferences, Chicago; CN-IC labor-management mtgs., Homewood, Ill. IWC, Bismarck, N.D.; CN-GTW contract negotiations, Detroit, Mich.; PLB 6560, D&H, Cleveland; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; MM&A Oregon Short Line implementing agreement and mediation contract negotiations.

VICE PRESIDENT WILLARD E. KNIGHT — Assigned to: All Norfolk Southern General Committees; Wheeling & Lake Erie; Chicago, Fort Wayne & Eastern; New York, Susquehanna & Western; New England Central; Connecticut Southern; Western New York & Pennsylvania; Indiana & Ohio; Advisory Board conference call; IWC, Bismarck, N.D.; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; General office duties.

VICE PRESIDENT GIL GORE — Assigned to all CSX; Union Pacific-Southern Region GCA special assignment; UP on-property negotiations; Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC), CSXT; Advisory Board conference call; Work w/ CSXT General Chairmen; DRC conference w/ CSXT GCs; Talleyrand RR claims; Conf. call w/ CSXT GCs, re: RSIA; IWC, Bismarck, N.D.; DRC mtgs. w/ CSXT, Cleveland; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; Various office duties, paper work, filing, telephone calls and correspondence.

VICE PRESIDENT DON MOATES — Assigned to UP-Western Lines; UP-Western Region; UP-Central Region; UP-Southern Region; UP-Eastern District; UP-Northern Region; Indiana Rail Road; Terminal Rwy.-Albama State Docks; New Orleans & Gulf Coast; Longview Switching Co.; Eastern Idaho RR; Portland & Western; CSXT Western Lines transition period, assisting the new GC; Disputes Resolution Committee (DRC) conference call; Interdivisional run notices, correspondence, postponing investigations, FRA issues; IWC, Bismarck, N.D.; DRC mtg. between three BLET CSX General Chairmen with CSXT officials and VP Gore, Cleveland; Advisory Board mtgs., Cleveland.