



DAILY NEWS UPDATES  
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# Locomotive

ENGINEERS & TRAINMEN NEWS



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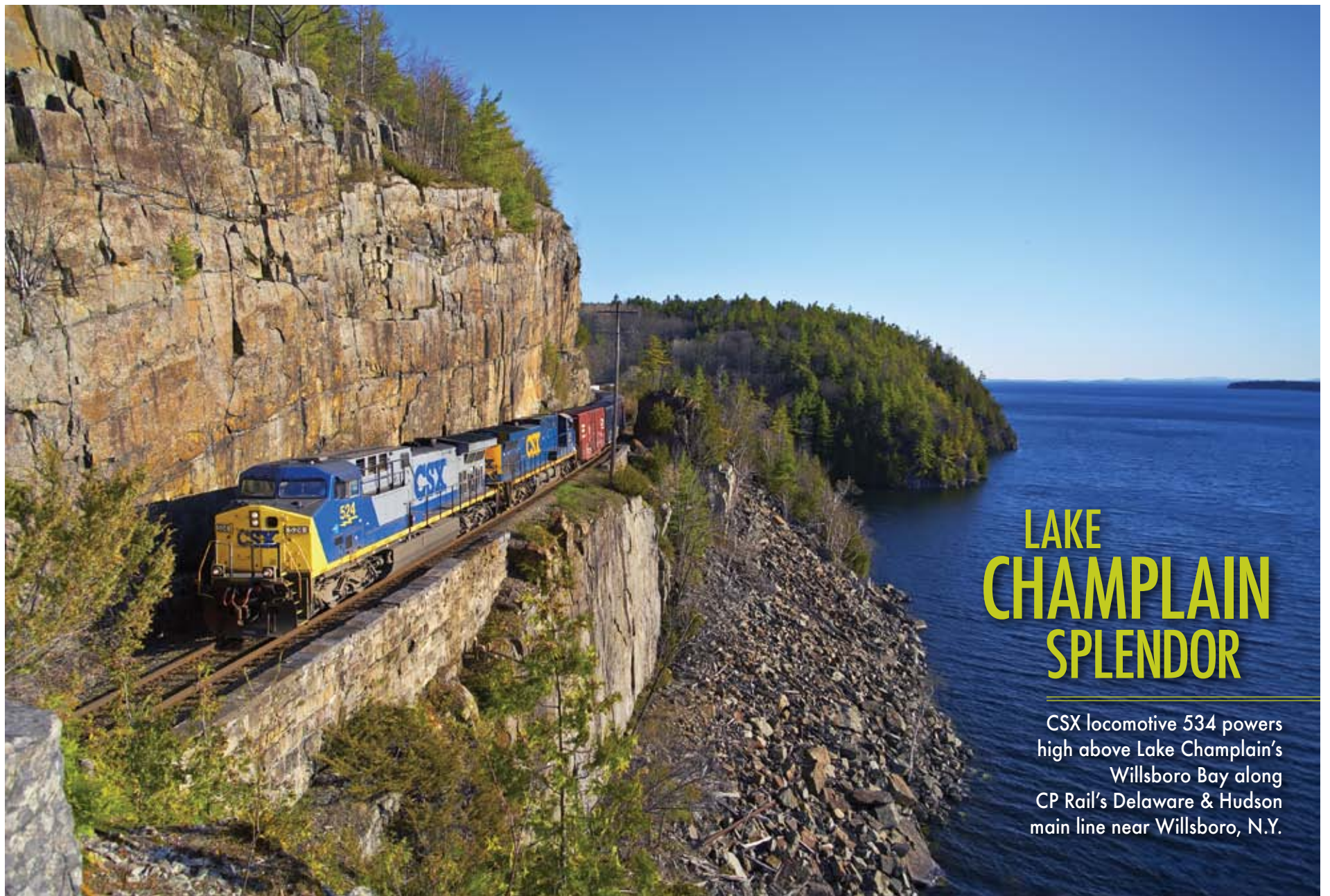
PUBLISHED BY THE BLET, A DIVISION OF THE RAIL CONFERENCE, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

## Teamsters conclude 28th International Convention

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWS COVERAGE INSIDE PGS 3-6



National President Pierce addresses Teamster delegates **PG 5** | Resolution adopted to support high-speed rail **PG 4**



## LAKE CHAMPLAIN SPLENDOR

CSX locomotive 534 powers high above Lake Champlain's Willsboro Bay along CP Rail's Delaware & Hudson main line near Willsboro, N.Y.

## El Paso hosts BLET for 76th annual SWCM

**B**rother Larry Schneider, his wife Becky, and the members of BLET Division 192 are proud to welcome all BLET members to El Paso, Texas, for the 76th annual Southwestern Convention Meeting (SWCM), September 18-22, 2011.

Guests will stay at the Camino Real hotel (101 S. El Paso St. in El Paso). Reservations can be made by calling (915) 534-3000 or through the Camino Real website, [www.caminoreal.com](http://www.caminoreal.com).

"As with all previous Southwestern

Conventions, our primary focus is on the education and training of our members and you will find that the workshops and other activities have something for everyone," said Brother Schneider, President and Legislative Representative of Division 192. "We have scheduled presentations by several groups that will provide important information that we, as railroaders and the spouses of railroaders, will help further our careers and enhance our hectic lifestyle."

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### President's Message

BLET proud to participate in 28th IBT Convention **pg 2**



### In the Field

Vice Presidents attend Division meetings **pg 7**



### Scholarship Winner

Daughter of BLET member wins national honor **pg 8**

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

### IBT CONVENTION WRAP:

# SETTING A COURSE FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

**T**he focus of this month's newsletter is the 28th Convention of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. The BLET was represented at the convention by its General Committee delegates and I was honored to be one of the delegates representing my home General Committee.

The IBT Convention is held every five years and, while in session, the delegates are the governing body of the union with full authority to revise its constitution and the authority to set the union's course for the next five years.

This was the second IBT International Convention since our 2004 merger with Teamsters. I also was a delegate to the 2006 Convention, but as new members of the IBT, our delegation spent more time observing than we did participating. My goal approaching the 2011 Convention was to insure that the BLET, the Rail Conference, and our collective delegates were full participants in the convention. I am proud to report we accomplished that goal, and more.

For example, I was privileged to be appointed to and honored to serve on the IBT Constitution Committee that convened prior to the convention to consider all constitutional amendments proposed by IBT members and Locals from across the United States and Canada. While the BLET, as the oldest union in America, has its own proud and storied processes for modifying our governing rules, I was just as proud to serve with the other IBT committee members to insure that the IBT Constitution truly represents the interests of 1.4 million Teamsters. The other members of the BLET's Executive Committee were similarly honored.



**Teamster Pride:** BLET National President Dennis Pierce was invited to address the 1,800 delegates at the Teamsters 28th International Convention. He was also proud to serve on the Constitution Committee, joining several other BLET delegates who served on committees throughout the convention, including: First Vice President Lee Pruitt, National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert, Vice President and National Legislative Representative John Tolman, National Vice President Steve Bruno; and Division 57 member Margo Storsteen.

First Vice President Lee Pruitt also served as a delegate for his home General Committee, and was honored to also serve on the Rules Committee, which established the rules that govern the convention's activities. Similarly, National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert was honored to serve on the Resolutions Committee, which considered and crafted the resolutions that set the course for our proud International Union into the future. Brother Walpert also served on the Convention's Sergeant-at-Arms Committee, as did BLET Vice President Steve Bruno. In addition, Vice President and National Legislative Representative John Tolman served on the Convention's Political and Legislative Committee and on the Convention's Sergeant of Arms Committee while BLET Human Rights Commission Representative Margo Storsteen served on the Conven-

tion's Diversity Committee.

The efforts of these BLET Brothers and Sisters, along with the full BLET delegation, ensured that the voices of rail members of the IBT were heard and their interests fully represented. We in the BLET are part of something bigger as members of the IBT, and we can only strengthen our efforts when we become more closely tied into the activities of the International Union. Labor's strength is in its numbers; whenever union members unite on common issues our message is louder and our efforts to advance the membership's interest are more successful.

A personal highlight of the Convention was an invitation to address the convention delegates in session. My remarks centered on our ongoing effort in the national bargaining round, and specifically our attempts to advance the concept of coalition

bargaining. Much like our effort to capitalize on our greater strength as part of the 1.4 million members of the IBT, we are working closely with other rail unions to create a stronger and more unified voice in our effort to reach a national settlement with the carriers. As I write this, it is becoming more and more apparent that we will not reach a voluntary settlement in this bargaining round, and could well be headed to a Presidential Emergency Board. To be sure, this was not our first choice; however, I can assure you that we are fully prepared to take your case to such an Emergency Board and to prevail.

The railroads' goal is to obtain concessions from labor in this bargaining round and is just one more attempt to divert more of this nation's collective income from the pockets of the hard working citizens of this country and into the treasuries of large

corporations. At the same time, all Class I railroads are reporting record profits, proving that the railroad industry's ability to "right size" its operations makes it all but recession-proof. At some point, all Americans must realize that this escalating transfer of wealth is not in any working class citizen's best interest, and that is true whether they are union, or non-union workers. Those who seek to weaken and ultimately destroy the working class of this country benefit when they find ways to divide us. We must not let any social or personal differences that we may have divert us away from pursuing our common interests and goals in unity.

Much like our effort at the Convention to develop new ways to work with our Teamster Brothers and Sisters, we are redoubling our efforts at the bargaining table to find new ways to work with our rail union Brothers and Sisters outside of the IBT. As I said at the convention, General President Hoffa has pledged the full support of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters to our cause, and BMWED President Simpson and I are working together within the Rail Conference to coordinate those energies. Our effort now is to join hands with those other rail unions that have not reached a national settlement and present a united front against these attacks on the working class Americans that we represent and their families. When the time comes for action, you will be called upon to join us in that fight because you are the union and your strength is the backbone of our effort.

Fraternally,

**DENNIS R. PIERCE**  
BLET NATIONAL PRESIDENT

66 My goal approaching the 2011 Convention was to insure that the BLET, the Rail Conference, and our collective delegates were full participants in the convention. I am proud to report we accomplished that goal, and more. 99

## BLET NATIONAL DIVISION ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





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

# FIGHTING FOR OUR SAFETY, SECURITY AND ECONOMY

**F**or most Americans, the recession has not ended. Wages are falling and millions of people can't find jobs, even after they've looked for months.

The last thing American workers need right now is a trade deal that puts more of them out of work and lowers their wages. And yet that is exactly what our government is doing to its own people — not once, but four times.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood went to Mexico recently to sign a deal that opens our borders to unsafe trucks from that country. In reporting the agreement, the mainstream press was strangely silent about the 40,000 people killed in Mexican drug wars since 2007. The media made no mention of our widening trade deficit with



Mexico since NAFTA was signed in 1992, nor did reporters say anything about the 700,000 jobs lost since then.

Congress is now considering trade agreements with Colombia, where trade unionists are

routinely murdered with impunity; Panama, a well-known tax haven; and South Korea, in the biggest trade deal since NAFTA.

Lately it seems our trade policy is of the corporation, by the corporation and for the

corporation.

Take the Mexican truck deal. Upon signing the agreement, Secretary LaHood issued a statement: "By opening the door to long-haul trucking between the U.S. and Mexico, America's third-largest trading partner, we will create jobs and opportunity for our people and support economic development in both nations."

I don't think anyone on the planet believes that. Polls show most Americans are skeptical that globalization is helping the economy. The deal with Mexico will flood the U.S. with cheap labor, further eroding our workers' living standards and their rights.

Opening the border is simply a surrender to the trucking industry and to the multinational corporations whose loy-

alty is to their own greed — it certainly isn't to the United States or to its people.

The Teamsters have fought like hell against the unpatriotic, anti-American attempt to undermine our safety, our security and our economy by opening the border to dangerous trucks. We have fought like hell against trade deals that lower our standard of living, erode our national security and contribute to extreme economic inequality. We will continue to fight like hell because we love our country, even if the corporations don't.

Fraternally,

*James P. Hoffa*

**JAMES P. HOFFA**  
TEAMSTERS GENERAL  
PRESIDENT

## — TEAMSTERS CONCLUDE 28TH — INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



**TEAMSTER POWER:** Approximately 1,800 delegates attended the five-day convention in Las Vegas.

**T**he International Brotherhood of Teamsters opened their 28th International Convention on June 27 with plenty of noise and a new resolve to stand up for the American Dream.

The five-day convention in Las Vegas opened in grand style, living up to its theme of "Vision, Solidarity, Action." Delegates and guests were treated to a raucous tribute to the union that includ-

ed images and video that were both current and historic. Members celebrated their role in the fight for workers' rights as drummers, dancers and Harley Davidson motorcycles revved up the opening ceremony on June 28.

Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa announced the Teamsters had organized 135,000 new members in the past five years since their last convention — more than any other labor union in North

America. Hours later, he announced that more than 3,000 Republic Airways pilots had just voted to join or remain with the Teamsters by a margin of 2-to-1.

"This is how we fight back — we organize," Hoffa said.

Teamsters International General Secretary-Treasurer Tom Keegel also set the tone early in the day with a vow: "There's no way they're going to bust us or take us down because it ain't gonna happen."

BLET National President Dennis Pierce, himself a delegate, lead the Rail Conference delegation made up of 78 elected representatives from the BLET and the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division. As President of the Teamsters Rail Conference, Brother Pierce was seated on stage during the convention's opening ceremonies with the IBT General Executive Board. Randy Cammack,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



**28TH INTERNATIONAL TEAMSTERS CONVENTION**
**TEAMSTERS CONVENTION**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

IBT International Vice President and Temporary Chairperson of the convention, introduced President Pierce to the delegates. "I'd like to introduce at this time a great Teamster, a really great Teamster, the President of the Teamsters Rail Conference, Dennis Pierce," Cammack said.

President Pierce also served on the Teamsters Constitution Committee, co-chaired by President Hoffa and GST Keegel.

"We were able to fully participate in the work of the IBT," President Pierce said, "and the representatives of the Rail Conference did their best to contribute and create a presence for the Conference."

In a special closed meeting held for Rail Conference attendees, President Pierce gave an update on the current state of the national wage negotiations, as did BMWED President Freddie Simpson, who is also an IBT Vice President At-Large.

Upon the adjournment of the closed meeting, General President Hoffa addressed the group and told them of his continuing appreciation for the contribution that rail workers make to the Teamsters and the American workforce.

According to the Teamster Constitu-



**Wall Street Greed:** Teamster delegates unanimously passed a resolution calling for the prosecution of chief executives and other Wall Street players responsible for the global financial crisis of 2008.

tion, the International Convention, which is held every five years, is the supreme policy-making body of the union with the power and authority to modify the Constitution, establish programs, address fiscal issues and set priorities. Throughout the week, delegates considered a number

of constitutional measures and resolutions. They adopted a number of resolutions on issues such as high speed rail, protecting pensions, fighting unfair trade agreements, keeping the border closed to unsafe Mexican trucks, worker misclassification, stopping the war on workers,

supporting the National Labor Relations Board and preserving jobs and standards.

Delegates also had the important task of nominating candidates for the International offices of General President, General Secretary-Treasurer, Vice President and Trustees. ©©

# Teamsters, Rail Conference resolve to ensure high-speed rail jobs are union jobs

A resolution to support high-speed rail and the union jobs that should go with it was passed on June 30 by 1,800 delegates to the Teamsters 28th International Convention with full support from its 70,000-member Rail Conference.

The resolution states in part that: "the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and its affiliates will support the development, funding and building of a high-speed passenger rail system in this country, and ensure the jobs created by such a system will be safeguarded for railroad workers as currently defined by federal law."

In addition to calling for all high-speed rail jobs to be union jobs, the resolution addresses specific concerns voiced by Rail Conference members BLET and the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division (BMWED).

For BLET members, the resolution states that: "any high-speed passenger rail train that operates in this nation must have a certified and trained locomotive engineer in its cab to ensure its safe operation."

And for BMWED members, the resolution states that: "any corridor must be constructed and maintained by professional, qualified maintenance of way workers to ensure the highest safety standards."

Fred Simpson, President of the BMWED and IBT International Vice President, rebuked politicians such as Rep. John Mica (R-Fla.), who want to privatize Amtrak. Simpson said Mica's latest proposal "would give away America's most success-

ful rail corridor to his political friends, and provide them with massive government subsidies."

"There is no tax savings to the American people in this scheme," Simpson said. "It will not produce improved passenger service, good paying jobs, or economic growth. But it will transfer our tax dollars into the pockets of Wall Street speculators and corporate profiteers."

Dennis Pierce, President of the Teamsters Rail Conference and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, said current plans in Congress to privatize Amtrak would exempt employees of the privately owned railroads from important labor protections, such as the Railway Labor Act, Railroad Retirement Act and the

Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.

BLET Amtrak Vice General Chairman Craig McDowell also spoke in favor of the resolution, terming high-speed rail "a cornerstone for economic recovery and the rebirth of the middle class in America."

The Teamsters Rail Conference represents more than 70,000 men and women working in the railroad industry as locomotive engineers, conductors, trainmen and maintenance of way employees. ©©

**A COPY OF THE HIGH-SPEED RAIL RESOLUTION IS ON THE TEAMSTER WEBSITE:**  
[WWW.TEAMSTER.ORG/CONTENT/HIGH-SPEED-RAIL-0](http://WWW.TEAMSTER.ORG/CONTENT/HIGH-SPEED-RAIL-0)



**From left:** Mark Chenchar (1st Vice Chairman, UP-Eastern District GCA) and Matt Wilson (General Chairman, BNSF/MRL GCA) support a high-speed rail resolution as delegates to the Teamster convention.



## Biden to Teamsters: You protect the Middle Class

On July 1, Vice President Joe Biden told delegates at the Teamsters' 28th International Convention that unions are the only institution protecting the middle class from assault by concentrated power and wealth.

Biden said recent attacks on working people by politicians in state capitals and Congress represent "the most direct assault on labor in modern American history."

During the five-day convention, which closed on July 1, Teamsters focused on the war being waged on workers by extremist politicians in the states and in Congress. Biden's remarks echoed the union's message that attacks on unions are attacks on the middle class.

"What other institution in America has the power to take on this concentration of power and wealth?"

Biden said. "It's you."

"For white-collar workers in the middle class who don't see any relevance to unions, for my kids, for my grandkids, we can't lose this war," he said.

Biden said the difference between the Obama administration and Republicans is their commitment to the middle class.

"Look at Wisconsin, Ohio, New Hampshire, Missouri, Iowa, Pennsylvania, on and on. Did you ever think that in 2011 you'd be fighting against right to work for less again?" he said.

"In their vision you have no place at all. In our vision you are the place," he said. "Without you there is no American Dream. There is no possibility. We stand with organized labor because you're standing with the people who are struggling to get a chance." ©©



# National President Pierce addresses Teamster convention

**B**LET National President Dennis R. Pierce addressed more than 1,800 delegates at the 28th International Convention of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters on June 30 in his role as the President of the Teamster Rail Conference, which is comprised of the BLET and the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees (BMWED).

In his remarks, President Pierce thanked the International Union and Teamsters General President James Hoffa for the solidarity shown in support of the Teamsters Rail Conference.

The majority of President Pierce's comments to the delegates involved the status of national contract negotiations under the auspices of the Rail Labor Bargaining Coalition (RLBC) — a group representing the BLET, BMWED and four other rail unions.

Pierce told the delegates that the RLBC's level of solidarity is stronger than he has ever seen.

"In the current round of bargaining, which is now in its 18th month, the RLBC has reunited to bargain as a united coalition. When we end the company's ability to play 'divide-and-conquer' we give ourselves a much better chance to produce a fair agreement for our members," he told the delegates.

"But there is another side to coalition bargaining that is not quite as apparent — and doesn't get a lot of recognition — yet it has just as big an impact on our day-to-day work. The bonds of



**Rail Conference President:** BLET President Dennis Pierce updates the 1,800 Teamster delegates on national wage/rule negotiations on behalf of the 70,000 member Rail Conference.

Brotherhood we have built within the coalition, and which we are strengthening every day, have fostered greater solidarity among the RLBC unions than I have seen during my union career."

Pierce said that their solidarity will be tested as the rail carriers attempt to force a concessionary contract on Rail Labor, in spite of the fact that railroad companies have made record profits in recent years. The RLBC has united with almost all oth-

er rail labor unions to voice their united opposition to the concessionary contract.

"Together, 11 unions representing 75 percent of the nation's rail workers told the National Mediation Board loud and clear that we will not accept this contract."

He closed by telling the delegates that Rail Labor solidarity backed by Teamster Power is the best way to win the strongest possible contract.

**"To win this fight, all of the remaining rail unions must stand side by side, in solidarity, because as we all know, united we stand, divided we fall."**

— DENNIS PIERCE

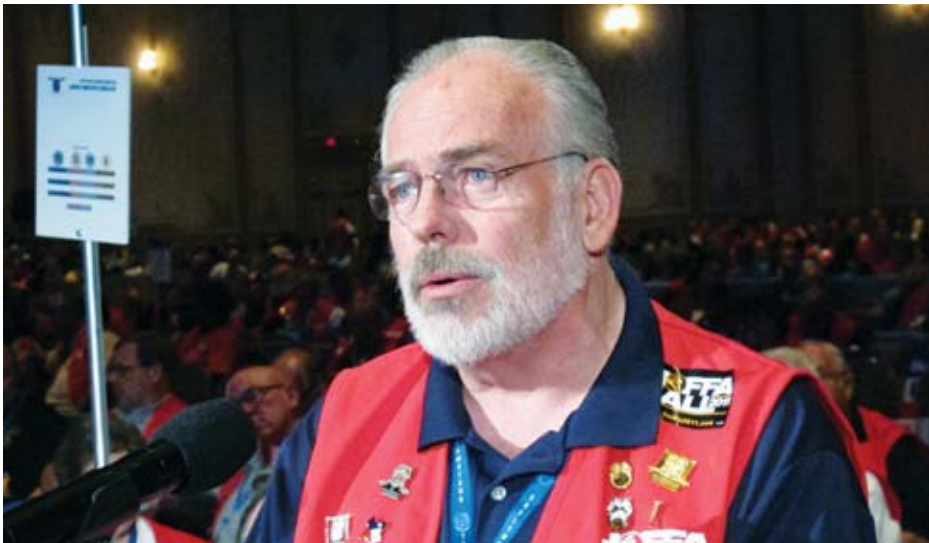
"To win this fight, all of the remaining rail unions must stand side by side, in solidarity, because as we all know, united we stand, divided we fall," President Pierce said. "The part that gives me comfort is that I know that I can count on the International Union and General President Hoffa to put the full might of the great Teamsters Union behind our effort. Working together and unleashing some good, old fashioned Teamster Power, our coalition WILL prevail."

The delegates and guests in the hall responded by giving him a long and loud standing ovation.

The work of the convention delegates concluded on July 1. Seventy-eight delegates represented BLET and BMWED members from all parts of the United States. The IBT membership includes approximately 1.4 million workers in the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico. ©©





**28TH INTERNATIONAL TEAMSTERS CONVENTION**


## Transportation Workers

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 email: lecempa1910@lecempa.org | web: www.lecempa.org

## Obituaries

**AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2011**

32 — H. E. Jude  
 32 — J. A. Kozar  
 46 — S. S. Purello  
 53 — W. Boback  
 71 — C. H. Hunt Jr.  
 103 — L. G. Wells  
 259 — J. T. Sullivan Jr.  
 269 — A. R. Colucci  
 333 — J. A. Leach  
 354 — S. L. Watts

**AS OF MARCH 31, 2011**

94 — J. A. Locken  
 104 — J. D. Gerdo  
 195 — L. S. Nielsen Jr.  
 294 — J. G. Raymond  
 312 — W. Hayward  
 391 — J. G. Holvey  
 435 — G. P. Moffitt  
 476 — R. M. Craven

537 — R. F. Hildebrand Jr.  
 830 — J. D. Flannery  
 940 — E. E. Spears

**AS OF APRIL 30, 2011**

2 — D. L. Cook  
 45 — M. A. Crawford  
 78 — N. F. Pierce  
 81 — R. D. Barnes  
 130 — C. L. Lucy  
 186 — C. T. Saxton  
 192 — D. J. Kelly  
 197 — E. C. Perez  
 238 — T. J. Kenny  
 269 — F. M. Corbo  
 273 — G. B. Saylor  
 303 — L. L. Hanson  
 325 — M. J. Bayko  
 484 — R. A. Gibson I  
 642 — T. H. Anderson  
 811 — K. D. Barrow

834 — B. H. Board Jr.  
 834 — C. T. Shelton

**AS OF MAY 31, 2011**

35 — R. E. Sweat Jr.  
 98 — E. C. Bauers  
 100 — M. K. Nixon  
 114 — R. P. Rund  
 121 — W. L. Barker Sr.  
 165 — J. J. Bruska Jr.  
 191 — R. Civitarese  
 202 — S. J. Backer  
 219 — J. R. Cook Jr.  
 259 — H. W. Shanfelt  
 444 — J. O. Cheney  
 498 — J. G. Hadden  
 511 — D. Leesburg  
 781 — M. T. Pate  
 811 — J. W. McDonald  
 827 — B. W. Langford  
 858 — C. L. Carter  
 940 — E. C. McNutt





2011

## Calendar & Events

**August 21-27, 2011**

**71st annual International Western Convention**

**SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIF.**

Embassy Suites Hotel-San Luis Obispo  
Contact host chairman Mike Galvani  
by phone or email: (805) 927-2967  
or SLOBLE664@wildblue.net

**August 26-28, 2011**

**Teamsters Women's Conference**

Join Teamsters General President  
Jim Hoffa and General Secretary-Treasurer  
Tom Keegel for the 2011 Teamsters Women's  
Conference at the Sheraton New York Hotel  
and Towers. For questions, contact the  
Teamsters Training and Development  
Department, (202) 624-8117, or visit  
www.teamsters.org/women.

**September 18-22, 2011**

**76th annual Southwestern Convention Meeting**

**EL PASO, TEXAS**

Camino Real Hotel  
Contact host chairman Larry Schneider  
by phone or email: (915) 581-1373  
or schneiderman@elp.rr.com  
Website: www.bletsbcm.org

**October 14, 2011**

**U.S. Railroad Retirement Board Informational Conferences**

**HUNTINGTON, W.VA. AND LOUISVILLE, KY.**

The Railroad Retirement Board offers free  
informational conferences to BLET officers  
throughout the year. Registration begins  
at 8 a.m. The program begins at 8:30 a.m.  
and ends at 12:30 p.m. In Huntington  
at the Ramada Limited, 3094 16th Street  
Road. In Louisville at the Crowne Plaza Hotel,  
Louisville Airport, 830 Phillips Lane.

**October 21, 2011**

**U.S. Railroad Retirement Board Informational Conferences**

**PITTSBURGH, PA., AND STEVENS POINT, WISC.**

Registration begins at 8 a.m. The program  
begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 12:30 p.m.  
In Pittsburgh at the Greater PA Regional  
Council of Carpenters Union Hall, 650 Ridge  
Road. In Stevens Point at the Ramada Inn,  
1501 North Point Drive.

**October 28, 2011**

**U.S. Railroad Retirement Board Informational Conferences**

**LITTLE ROCK, ARK., AND PHILADELPHIA, PA.**

Registration begins at 8 a.m. The program  
begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 12:30 p.m.  
In Little Rock at the Comfort Inn & Suites,  
707 Interstate 30, Cash/Campbell  
Banquet Room. In Philadelphia at the  
Sheet Metal Workers Local 19 Union Hall,  
1301 S. Columbus Blvd.

**Plan ahead for 2012!**

**JUNE 24-29, 2012**

**85th annual Southeastern Meeting Association**

**WALT DISNEY WORLD, ORLANDO, FLA.**

Chairman Earl Karper (Division 35)  
and Vice Chairman Mike Tanner (Division  
769) are hosting the 2012 SMA at Disney.  
For details, visit www.SMA2012.com.

# Vice Presidents Priester, Davis keep busy in the field

One of the core items on National President Dennis Pierce's agenda is to increase the presence of National Division officers in the field.

President Pierce himself has attended several regular Division meetings since January 1, setting an example for other Advisory Board members.

In June, BLET National Vice President Mike Priester followed President Pierce's lead and attended the regular meeting of BLET Division 776 in Galveston, Texas. As Vice President, Brother Priester is assigned to the BNSF property, among others, and the members of Division 776 are part of the BNSF (former AT&SF) General Committee of Adjustment.

On April 1, National Vice President Cole Davis attended the regular meeting of BLET Division 527 in Pittsburgh, Kan. Among his other assignments, Brother Davis is assigned to the Kansas City Southern (MidSouth Rail, SouthRail, Gateway Western, Illinois & Midland) General Committee of Adjustment.

"A cornerstone of this administration is to increase our outreach and contact with BLET members in the field," President Pierce said. "Attending Division meetings that we are invited to, whenever our schedules permit, is an important job for everyone on the Advisory Board. Interaction with our Brothers and Sisters is significant and beneficial in so many ways, especially with national negotiations, health and welfare negotiations, Amtrak funding, and so many other important issues on our plates at the National level." ◎◎

## EL PASO HOSTS SWCM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 ◀▶

Early registration will begin on September 18 and will coincide with a Texas Hold'em poker tournament to raise money for the SWCM Scholarship Fund.

Registration continues on September 19, and workshops also begin that day. Members can participate in a BLET Mobilization workshop or an event recorder-electronic tape reading workshop.

The annual SWCM golf tournament will also be held on September 19, with proceeds to benefit scholarship funds for the BLET National Auxiliary and Local Auxiliary 591. It will be held at a Tom Fazzio-designed course, the Butterfield Trail Golf Course. It is described as "an oasis in the desert" and is named after the historic trail used to transport mail and passengers across the country from Missouri to San Francisco.

Non-golfers can participate in two tours on September 19: the El Paso Mission Trail tour and the historic Plaza Theater tour. Both will provide an opportunity to learn about El Paso's history and to explore some of the oldest missions in Texas. The Mission tour will include a visit to the actual site of America's first Thanksgiving, which was held in El Paso 23 years before the Pilgrim's celebration.

Opening ceremonies are the morning of September 20. Closed meetings for BLET members and open meetings for the BLET Auxiliary will take place that afternoon. Dinner will be provided at McKeligion Canyon, an outdoor amphitheater.

Workshops on September 21 will include: Legislative Representative train-



**Vice President Mike Priester:** Attending regular meeting of BLET Division 776 in Galveston, Texas. **First row, from left:** Ron McNease, Alan Holdcraft (Vice General Chairman, BNSF-Former AT&SF General Committee), Corey McGuire, Vice President Priester, Jack Sweeny (Div. 776 Local Chairman), Tommy Horn and Sonny Kurtz. **Second row:** Frank Sturtz, Jeremy Stark (Div. 776 President), Donny Haney, Tim Ferguson (Div. 776 Legislative Representative) and Jason Smith. **Third row:** August Strebeck (Div. 776 Vice Chairman), Derrek Johnson, Gale Rosser (Div. 776 Secretary-Treasurer) and George Shea.



**On March 31 (above left),** Vice President Cole Davis led the BLET in meetings with Kansas City Southern to codify agreements. **Seated** are Division 326 S-T Steve Lott (left) and KCS General Chairman Sam Parker. **Standing** are VP Davis (right) and UTU Vice President Robert Kersey. **Then on April 1 (above right),** Vice President Davis attend the regular meeting of Division 527 in Pittsburg, Kan. **Seated, from left:** VP Davis; GC Parker; Local Chairman Richard Johnston; President Brett Berry; and Secretary-Treasurer Jim Evans.



ing, Secretary-Treasurer training, and a special workshop focusing on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Both BLET members and their spouses are encouraged to attend the PTSD seminar.

The banquet will be held the evening of September 21, and will feature a raffle to benefit the SWCM scholarship fund.

"It is our sincere wish that everyone who attends our convention will return home with something new that will serve to improve your lives and the lives of your membership," Brother Schneider said.

For registration information, contact Chairman Larry Schneider at: Schneiderman@elp.rr.com, or call (915) 581-1373 or (915) 539-1115.

For registration forms, please visit the SWCM website, www.bletsbcm.org, or the BLET National Division website, www.ble-t.org. ◎◎



**El Paso skyline:** BLET members will find that El Paso has much to offer at the 76th SWCM. **Photos** courtesy El Paso Convention & Visitors Bureau





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**Brotherhood Of Locomotive Engineers And Trainmen**  
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**Photo of the Month: August 2011**

**STOP THE WAR ON WORKERS:** U.S. Representative Tim Bishop (D-NY) thanks BLET First Vice President E. Lee Pruitt for the BLET's support at a pro-worker rally at MacArthur Airport in Long Island, N.Y., August 4, 2011. More information on the rally will be reported in the next issue of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen News.



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

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

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

## Daughter of BLET member wins Union Plus scholarship

Rachel McWilliams, daughter of BLET member Robby L. McWilliams, has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Union Plus Scholarship Program.

Brother McWilliams, a Union Pacific locomotive engineer, is a member of BLET Division 664 in San Luis Obispo, Calif.

Rachel McWilliams is a young woman of unusually diverse interests. The longtime choir member has a passion for singing, and her intended major in college is music education. Rachel has also been involved with her local 4-H program for several years. She likes baking and also enjoys big game hunting. She has explored a wide variety of interests while also giving back to her community as a volunteer. Rachel gives credit to her father's BLET membership for the stability her family has enjoyed — stability that has helped her to enjoy such rich and diverse experiences.



her father's BLET membership for the stability her family has enjoyed — stability that has helped her to enjoy such rich and diverse experiences.

"My father has remained gainfully employed during these tough economic times and I give full credit to the union for its strength in keeping his job secure," she said.

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce congratulated the McWilliams family and encouraged other BLET families to apply for Union Plus scholarships next year. Deadline for the 2012 Union Plus Scholarship Program is January 31, 2012. Interested parties can find applications online at the Union Plus website.

Overall, Union Plus awarded \$150,000 in scholarships to 130 students representing 43 unions for the upcoming 2011-2012 school year.

Union Plus Scholarship awards are granted to students attending a two-year college, four-year college, graduate school or a recognized technical or trade school. Since starting the program in 1991, Union Plus has awarded \$3 million in educational funding to more than 2,100 union members, spouses and dependent children. Recipients are selected based on academic ability, social awareness, financial need and appreciation of labor.

Union Plus also offers scholarships to help union members and leaders finish their degrees through the online program at the National Labor College.

For more information, visit [www.unionplus.org](http://www.unionplus.org). ©

## Advisory Board May 2011 Activity

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

**NATIONAL PRESIDENT DENNIS R. PIERCE:** National Division, Cleveland; General supervision of BLET activities; General office duties; Correspondence and telephone communications; Supervision of Office Administration; General Supervision of Special Representatives; President, Teamsters Rail Conference; Policy Committee, Teamsters Rail Conference; AAR luncheon, Wash., D.C.; Rail Labor Bargaining Coalition (RLBC) mtg., Wash, DC; Designated Legal Counsel mtg., San Francisco; CN/WC GCA mtg., Green Bay, Wisc.; CSX-N/Conrail Shared Assets GCA mtg., Buffalo, NY; National Association of State Legislative Board Chairmen (NASLBC) mtg., Kansas City, Mo.; UP Division mtg/ Town Hall, Houston; Division 811 mtg., Clovis, N.M.

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT E.L. "LEE" PRUITT:** National Duties include but not limited to: Director, Passenger Dept.; Shortline Organizing Dept.; Trainmen's Dept.; National Publications Committee; National Legislative Board; Teamsters Rail Conference Policy Committee; PRAC; and National Negotiations; UPRR on-property negotiations, Omaha, Neb.; DLC mtg., San Francisco, Calif.; CN/WC GCA mtg., Green Bay; CSX-N/Conrail Shared Assets GCA mtg., Buffalo; NASLBC mtg., Kansas City, Mo.; Houston Town Hall mtg., Houston; Div. 811 mtg., Clovis, N.M.; Holiday; General office duties, paperwork, filing, etc.

**NATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER WILLIAM C. WALPERT:** General supervision of accounting dept., records dept., online services dept., tax compliance dept.; Education & Training Dept.; Internal Organizing, Mobilizing & Strategic Planning Dept.; Safety Task Force; Meetings with vendors and financial institutions; Publications Committee; Teamsters Rail Conference Policy Committee; DLC mtg., San Francisco; CN/WC GCA mtg. and Local Chairman workshop, Green Bay; NRRIT mtg., Washington, D.C.; CSX-N/Conrail Shared Assets GCA mtg., Buffalo; NASLBC mtg., Kansas City, Mo.

**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; Interviewed candidates for Director of Regulatory Affairs position, Wash, DC; CN/WC GCA mtg., Green Bay; Visited the offices of several Wisc. State Senators to thank them for their support; CSX-N/Conrail Shared Assets GCA mtg., Buffalo; NASLBC mtg., Kansas City; Teamsters states mtg.; Numerous receptions, meet & greets, for various U.S. Representatives, Wash, DC.

**VICE PRESIDENT MARCUS J. RUEF:** Vice Chairman, full NRAB; Labor Member, 1st Division; Labor Member, National Mediation Board Arbitration Advisory Forum; Director of Arbitration Dept; Assigned to Illinois Central; Wisconsin Central; Grand Trunk Western; Duluth Missabe & Iron Range; Elgin, Joliet & Eastern; Indiana Harbor Belt; and Belt Railway of Chicago; Assist GC Karakian w/ trackage rights issue, GTW; GTW Section 6 negotiations, Chicago; NMB arbitration advisory forum, Chicago; Study Section 3 NMB/GAO accounting decision, NRAB; Docket 46168 docket, CN/WC, Green Bay; LC workshop, CN/WC, Green Bay; SBA 1157 conference call, URR, Chicago; PLB 7093 arbitration, GTW, Chicago; PLB 7464 w/ GC Cundari, IHB, Chicago; WC/DMIR Sec. 4 conference call, Chicago; Assist GC Reynolds w/ CN/WC agreement issues, Chicago; National Academy of Arbitrators mtgs. and advocacy training, San Diego; Docket 47435 assistance, NRAB.

**VICE PRESIDENT MIKE TWOMBLY:** Assigned to all Union Pacific GCAs (Eastern District, Northern Region (former C&NW), Western Lines (Pacific Harbor Lines), Western Region (Portland & Western, Eastern Idaho), Central Region, Southern Region (New Orleans & Gulf Coast); Tacoma Belt RR; Utah RR; and Longview Portland & Northern and Longview Switching; UPRR on-property negotiations, Omaha; PLB 7329, UP, Omaha; Montreal, Maine and Atlantic mediation, Bangor, Maine; Utah Railway negotiations, Salt Lake City, Utah; PLB 7158, Fla.; Ft. Myers, Fla.; Vacation; General office duties, correspondence, etc.

**VICE PRESIDENT WILLARD E. KNIGHT:** Assigned to: All Norfolk Southern General Committees; Wheeling & Lake Erie; Chicago, Fort Wayne & Eastern; New York, Susquehanna & Western; New England Central; Connecticut Southern; Western New York & Pennsylvania; Indiana & Ohio; Ohio Central; Division 511 mtg., Portsmouth, Ohio; Assist GC Linsey's office, preparing for CF&E negotiations, St. Louis, Mo.; CF&E negotiations, Indianapolis, Ind.; SBA 1063, Norfolk, Va.; Hourly rate discussions, Norfolk, Va.; PLB 7414, Chicago; General office duties, paperwork, correspondence, telephone calls, etc.

**VICE PRESIDENT GIL GORE:** Assigned to all CSX; Union Pacific-Southern Region GCA special assignment; Conference call w/ GC Louis, CSXT, day off issues; DRC resolution issues, CSXT; PLB 7380 award 113, GC Parker; Work on Ashtabula-Willard assigned local agreement w/ GC Louis, CSXT; PLB 7363, CSXT, review awards 17-22; Work on Enhanced Customer Service Notices, GC Louis, CSXT; PLB 7363 Award 17 Executive Session, CSXT; CSX-N/Conrail Shared Assets GCA mtg., Buffalo, NY; IRR negotiations, Indianapolis; PLB 7363, Thornton-Twomey, CSXT, Jacksonville, Fla.; General office duties, paperwork, etc.

**VICE PRESIDENT MICHAEL D. PRIESTER:** Assigned to all BNSF (former ATSF, former C&S, CRI&P, FWD, former STL-SF, BNSF/MRL), Panhandle Northern, Missouri & North Arkansas, Montana Rail Link, Austin Western RR, Great Western; General office duties, telephone, correspondence communications, etc.; Mtgs. w/ Great Northern RR employees and GC Williams, Denver, Colo.; Div. 75, 502, 777, 130, 344, 64, 644 mtg., BNSF, w/ GCs Gibbons, Williams and Wilson, Kansas City, Mo.; Div. 172 mtg., w/ GC Gibbons and LC C. Phillips, BNSF, Longview, Texas; Div. 599 mtg., w/ VP Davis, GC Parker and LC B. Pickett, KCS, Bossier City, La.; Panhandle Northern negotiations, w/ GC Williams, Dallas/Ft. Worth; Div. 811 100-year anniversary, w/ President Pierce and GC Williams, Clovis, N.M.; Special Board of Adjustment, BNSF, w/ GC Williams, Dallas/Ft. Worth.

**VICE PRESIDENT COLE W. DAVIS:** Assigned to Kansas City Southern (MidSouth Rail, SouthRail, Gateway Western, Illinois & Midland), Texas Mexican Rwy.; CP Rail System/US (Indiana Southern, Iowa, Chicago & Eastern, Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern); Springfield Terminal (St. Lawrence & Atlantic, Montreal, Maine & Atlantic, Delaware & Hudson), Cedar River, Louisville & Indiana, Huron & Eastern; Work on KCS issues; ICE/DME issues w/ GC Semenak; Indiana & Louisville issues, I&M; KCS issues, and Division 569 mtg., w/ GC Parker, Heavener, Okla.; Div. 326 mtg. w/ GC Whitchurch, Shreveport, La.; Joint Division mtg., 326 and 599 crawfish boil, KCS, Shreveport, La.; Mid South (KCS) mtg., Kansas City, Mo.; KCS issues and mtg. w/ KCS officials, GCs Parker and Whitchurch, Kansas City, Mo.; Division 244 mtg., Tex Mex, Kendleton, Texas; Assist GC Whitchurch w/ KCS issues.

**VICE PRESIDENT STEPHEN J. BRUNO:** Assigned to various Rail Safety Advisory Committees (RSAC); Regulatory duties as assigned by the President; Amtrak; Long Island Rail Road; New York & Atlantic; Metro North; New Jersey Transit; PATH; SEPTA; Metra; Union Railroad; Birmingham Southern; Director of Regulatory Affairs interviews, Wash, DC; Assist GC Dixon, Septa; Response to PLB 1157, URR conference call, Philadelphia; Dark territory regulatory issues; SOFA regulatory issues, Wash, DC; Mtg. w/ Amtrak Board, re: funding and privatization issues, Wash, DC; NASLBC mtg., Kansas City, Mo.; PLB 7484, UP-West GC Hannah and VGC Eustler, San Francisco; On Track America (industry group) conference call; General office duties, filing, telephone and email communications w/ members, correspondence, paperwork, etc.