

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



## ELECTION 2008

John McCain's health care plan proposal a disaster for BLET members, absentee voting information, legislative board endorsements and more.

pgs. 8-11



## Flexible Spending Account will provide real savings

Registration for the money-saving Flexible Spending Account (FSA) begins next month, and BLET members are encouraged to take advantage of this valuable new health and welfare benefit. The program allows BLET members to pay for doctor co-pays and other medical expenses with pretax dollars.

A partial list of items that qualify for this type of payment includes: Doctor co-pays; Drug Co-pays; Dental Co-pays or other dental expenses not covered in our dental plan; Vision Co-pays or additional cost for eye care not covered under the national plan; and Over the counter medications, such as cold medicine, decongestant medicine, aspirin, Tylenol or their generic brands.

At the Union Pacific Railroad, Southern Region General Chairman Gil Gore is a staunch supporter of the program. He encourages all BLET members to sign up.

"I have a personal experience with the medical portion of the FSA," Brother Gore said. "The program has helped tremendously with braces and other major dental work for my children not covered by our health insurance."

Brother Gore gave braces and orthodontist work as an example. He said the FSA could really help BLET members who have children save money.

"If you have some major dental work scheduled (such as braces for your kids) up to \$3,600 of that expense can be paid with pretax dollars," he said. "If you are in a 25%-33 % tax bracket, that amounts to as much as a \$1,200 reduction in the federal taxes that you pay."

"We planned ahead to have our children's dental work done at the proper time to get maximum benefit from the plan," he said.

In much the same way that a 401k pro-

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### Deadly Hurricanes

Ike and Gustav ravaged Louisiana and Texas.



### DISASTER RELIEF

## Ike's Aftermath

Many BLET members are rebuilding their lives with assistance from other BLET members and the Teamsters Disaster Relief fund.

pg. 6

## BLET members at Norfolk Southern ratify new contract

Members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen have overwhelmingly ratified a new contract agreement with Norfolk Southern.

The six-year agreement governs about 4,800 engineers and provides for general wage increases of 19 percent in addition to bonuses that members can earn based on the company's financial performance. It was ratified by a vote of 1,894 in favor

and 1,091 against. Members will also receive lump sum bonus payments totaling \$4,700 — a signing bonus of \$1,200 plus an additional lump sum payment of \$3,500 by January 1, 2009.

"Substantial wage increases of 19 percent put NS engineers in line with engineers covered by the National Agreement as of July 1, 2009," said BLET General Chairmen Ray Wallace, Willard Knight and Cole Davis, negotiated the contract.

The agreement provides for substantial improvements in lifestyle related areas and holds the line on health and welfare cost sharing. The agreement also institutes an important Scope Rule that protects the work of locomotive engineers in the face of new and changing technologies. "We want to stress that the agreement does not serve to eliminate any positions in any other craft," the General Chairmen said.

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### METROLINK TRAGEDY:

## Accident claims 25 lives

BLET Engineer Robert M. Sanchez among the dead pg4

### Labor Day 2008

Celebrating our holiday in Douglas, Wyoming pg2



### Your Rights, Your FELA

Joseph L. Bauer Jr. provides an overview of FELA pg7



## Labor Day 2008

# Not just another day in Douglas, Wyoming

For most folks, Labor Day is a holiday that marks the end of the summer season. But that's not the case in towns and cities throughout the United States where trade union members gather to celebrate "their" day.

Such was the case for BLET members in Douglas, Wyo., on Labor Day 2008.

As do many other Divisions throughout the U.S., BLET Division 31 has held a union Labor Day picnic for several years. The last two were held in conjunction with Local 257 of the United Transportation Union. "It just made sense to combine the picnic with the UTU," said Division 31 Local Chairman Don Hill. "We work on the same trains, we can certainly get together for a Labor Day picnic."

The 2008 picnic was an all day family affair.

"The burgers started grillin' about 10 a.m. and we didn't finish until after 6 that day," said Brother Hill, who was one of the organizers of the event, along with Shawn VonWald, shop steward of UTU Local 257. "We had a good turnout with over 150 people being served, and lots of kids, who had a great time. We have 70 pools working in place now, and almost half were able to lay off, which left about 20 pools working at any one time during the day, so it worked out pretty nice for most everyone to get to the picnic at one time or another during the day," he said.

"We roasted a 200 pound pig, went through about 90 pounds of hamburger, 300 bratwursts, and lots of salads, chips, sodas and cold beer," he said. "We started planning for the picnic sometime in June. It takes a lot of work, but it is great to see the members and their families get together, especially for the kids."

Even the weather seemed to cooperate for a time in Douglas, Wyo., but a late afternoon shower, try as it might, could not dampen the spirits of guests. Later, as if to make amends, the sun broke out and shown again near the end of the picnic.

Political candidates paid visits to the picnic in Douglas, Wyo., as they were no doubt doing elsewhere throughout the United States on Labor Day.

Terry R. Jones, BLET member and Chairman of the Wyoming State Legislative Board, is a candidate for the Wyoming State House running in District 3 from Wheatland, Wyo. He attended the picnic and visited with guests. "In this campaign, I got my work cut out for me," he said. "It won't be easy, but I'm gonna give it all I got."

Gary Trauner also spent a good deal of time with guests. The 49-year old Wyoming Democrat is running for the U.S. House of Representatives. In a short time, guests learned that Gary is a husband, father, businessman, entrepreneur, community volunteer, and former elected official residing in Wilson, Wyo. Eighteen years ago, he and his wife Terry chose Wyoming as the place they wanted to live and raise a family; they are now the proud parents of two Wyoming born-and-raised young boys — ages 14 and 8.

Division 31's members work for the Union Pacific Railroad out of Bill, Wyo., some 35 miles from Douglas (where most of the members reside), and the Division is a part of the UP Northern Lines General Committee of Adjustment. Bruce D MacArthur, General Chairman of the committee, was also in attendance. His office is in Clinton, Iowa, and visited with guests and their families.

As holidays go, Labor Day has a lot of "seniority." It originated in 1882 as the Central Labor Union (of New York City) sought to create a "day off for the working citizens." Congress made Labor Day a federal holiday on June 28, 1894, two months after the May Day riots of 1894. All 50 states have since made Labor Day a state holiday.

Labor Day has been celebrated on the first Monday in September in the United States since the 1880s. The form of the celebration of Labor Day was outlined in the first proposal for the holiday: a street parade to exhibit to the public "the strength and the esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations," followed by a festival for the workers and their families which became the pattern for a Labor Day celebrations. Speeches by prominent men and women were introduced later, as more emphasis was placed upon the economic and civil significance of the holiday. Still later, by resolution of the American Federation of Labor convention of 1909, the Sunday preceding Labor Day was adopted as labors Sunday and dedicated to the spiritual and educational aspects of the labor movement.

"The Labor Day picnic is getting to be a popular event with the members of both unions here in Douglas," says Brother Hill.

In conclusions, as if to reaffirm the future of the labor movement itself, he said confidently, "You can bet your bottom dollar we'll be here next year to do it again." ©©



Don Hill, event co-organizer gets the first burgers going on the grill.



Steve Dyer, LR for Division 31 staples a poster for Terry Jones, BLET member running for the Wyoming House.



Terry Jones, a candidate for the Wyoming House speaks to the crowd.



There's more where that came from. Shawn VonWald (left), UTU 257 local steward serves up a hot bratwurst to an eager youngster who was one of the first in line, as Don Hill, Local Chairman for BLET Division 31 looks on. Both were joint organizers of the event.



They're not really checking the line-up on the lap top computer, but the weather forecast. Don Hill (center at the computer) is shown with Dennis Duran on the left, and Tim Skinner on the right, S/T of Division 31.



A red-white-and-blue friendship. Division 31 President Glenn Dalton (left) shown with Terry Jones, who is running for the Wyoming State House, and to the right Cory Runion and in the red shirt, his son Brandon



Engineer Trent Young (left) has a conversation with Engineer Cory Patterson, both members of Division 31.



Locomotive Engineer Fred Green makes sure his grandson Connor has a snack



Never late for dinner. Cade Mariner gives a "thumbs up" as he digs into his burger. Cade's father Dave, is a locomotive engineer and member of Division 31



Division 31 Local Chairman Don Hill (left), is shown with UP General Chairman Bruce MacArthur (center) and Division 31 President Glen Dalton.





## Norfolk Southern contract

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

### THE BALANCE OF THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES THAT:

- **Effective January 1, 2009**, conditions eligibility for the Thoroughbred Performance Bonus on accumulation of an agreed to number of starts based on type of service and, for through freight service, length of the trip. Establishes two levels of bonus potential eligibility tied to two levels of start attainment. Does not affect the bonus potential for 2008 payable in 2009. Provides for an opt-out of the bonus program that can be exercised at the end of 2014.

- The wage increases begin on July 1, 2009 and continue for six years according to the following schedule:

JULY 1, 2009 — 5%; JULY 1, 2010 — 3%;

JULY 1, 2011 — 5%; JULY 1, 2012 — 2%;

JULY 1, 2013 — 2%; JULY 1, 2014 — 2%

- The above represents a simple total of 19% increases, which when compounded total 20.5%.

- **Effective January 1, 2010**, the current weekend differential payments of \$30.00 in through freight and \$7.00 in other than through freight services are raised to \$45.00 and \$21.00 respectively. These are substantial increases to these differentials that help to recognize the negative aspects of the "railroad lifestyle."

- **Beginning in 2010**, the Carrier will designate six (6) "Extra Pay (EP) Days." On these specially designated days, which the Carrier will choose regionally on days they typically experience difficulty in crewing through freight assignments, employees in through freight service working on these days will be paid time and one half for the service performed, as well as an additional basic day. This should harmonize the desires of employees who want to be off on special days with those who would rather make extra money, and represents another incremental reform of the railroad lifestyle.

- **Effective January 1, 2010**, the away from home meal allowance is raised from \$9.00 to \$12.00.

- **Effective January 1, 2010**, the 401(k) match is raised to 30%.

- **Effective September 1, 2008**, the Designated Supervisor of Locomotive Engineer (DSLE) rate is raised to \$275.00.

- **Effective January 1, 2010**, the waiting time for held away payments will be lowered from 16 to 14 hours, a long sought improvement for those members who have to stay at away from home terminals, and another incremental reform of the railroad lifestyle.



**From left:** Ray Wallace, BLET General Chairman; Steve R. Budzina, NS Assistant VP Labor Relations; Harold R. Mobley, NS VP-Labor Relations; Chris S. Decker, NS Assistant Director, LR; Cole Davis, BLET General Chairman; and Willard Knight, BLET General Chairman.



**Reviewing the contract** prior to signing are Ray Wallace, Willard Knight, Cole Davis and Harold R. Mobley.

- **Effective September 1, 2008**, the Carrier's portion of the disability premium payment is raised from \$13.00 to \$44.00, which will allow the employee's share to return to the \$13.68 level it was at before the premiums were recently raised.

- **Effective January 1, 2010**, raises the Trainer (Coach) allowance from \$15.00 to \$20.00.

- **Effective upon the implementation of the appropriate technology**, establishes a Standing Bid system for the assignment of permanent vacancies. Engineers will maintain a standing bid with their desired assignments listed in their order of preference. When and where operative, the system will make assignments every Monday at 12:01 p.m. The system also will accelerate the assignment of permanent and subsequently generated vacancies, thus placing engineers on their most desired job sooner than the previous methods of having to run bulletin periods for all subsequent vacancies, but does not disturb any rules concerning displacement rights or temporary vacancies.

- **Effective January 1, 2010**, limits the number of times per month to three (3) that the Carrier can reduce the number of positions on a Guaranteed Extra Board. This will help to stabilize the work lives of younger employees assigned to these boards, especially those who are "on the bubble" between train and engine service, and represents another lifestyle improvement.

- **Health and Welfare coverage** for NS engineers continues to be tied to National Handling, and NS engineers will be protected against short term increases in H&W cost premium sharing in the same manner as the National Agreement provides for based on the 2009 cost sharing rate.

- **Moratorium provision expires on November 1, 2014**; however, the Parties may always negotiate sooner if they mutually agree to do so.

**The negotiating committee consisted, variously, of: Ray Wallace**, GC Southern Lines; **Bill Thompson**, VGC Southern Lines; **Mark Wallace**, VGC Southern Lines; **Cole Davis**, GC Northern Lines/WLE; **Willard Knight**, GC Eastern Lines; **Kevin Peek**, VGC Eastern Lines; and **Marcus Ruef**, VP assigned to NS.

"This is a tremendous accomplishment that these officers should be rightly proud of," said Vice President Marcus J. Ruef, who assisted General Chairmen Wallace, Knight and Davis in the negotiations. Other members assisted in various capacities such as preparing materials to be used in the informational meetings held at various points on the system. @@

## 2008 - 2009

# Calendar & Events

### October 17

#### U.S. Railroad Retirement Board Informational Conference, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The U.S. Railroad Retirement Board will host a free informational conference at the Greater Pennsylvania Regional Council of Carpenters Union Hall, 650 Ride Rd., in Pittsburgh, Pa. Registration for each program begins promptly at 8 a.m. The conferences run from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Per Railroad Retirement Board request, elected BLET officials only!

### October 24

#### U.S. Railroad Retirement Board Informational Conference, Wichita, Kan. and Pineville, N.C.

The U.S. Railroad Retirement Board will host two free informational conferences on October 24. The first is in Wichita, Kan., at the Holiday Inn Select, 549 S. Rock Road. The second is in Pineville, N.C., at the Quality Inn and Suites (9840 Pineville-Matthews Road). Time of both meetings is the same as above.

### October 31

#### U.S. Railroad Retirement Board Informational Conference, Philadelphia, Pa.

The U.S. Railroad Retirement Board will host a free informational conference at the Sheet Metal Workers Local 19 Union Hall, 1301 S. Columbus Blvd. Time of the meeting is same as above.

### November 2-6

#### BLET Education & Training Department Local Chairman Workshop

Space is limited for this workshop, which will be held on the campus of the National Labor College in Silver Spring, Md. Register online through the BLET website at: <http://www.ble-t.org/lc>; or call Ken Kroeger, Coordinator of the BLET Education & Training Dept., at (216) 272-0986.

### June 7-12, 2009

#### 82nd Annual Southeastern Meeting Association, Gatlinburg, Tenn.

The members of BLET Division 239 in Knoxville, Tenn., are hosting the 82nd annual SMA from June 7-12, 2009, at the Park Vista Hotel & Convention Center in Gatlinburg, Tenn. More information to come. In the meantime, please visit the Park Vista Hotel & Convention Center website, [www.parkvista.com](http://www.parkvista.com)

### July 5-9, 2009

#### 71st Annual Eastern Union Meeting Association, Philadelphia, Pa.

EUMA Arrangements Chairman Sean Simon is proud to host the 71st annual EUMA in historic Philadelphia. A room rate of \$169 per night has been secured at the Hyatt at Penn's Landing. More details to come soon. In the meantime, you may email Brother Simon at EUMA2009@aol.com, or visit the Hyatt website, [www.PennsLanding.Hyatt.com](http://www.PennsLanding.Hyatt.com).

## BLET fast facts



1,340,387 carloads of freight originated on U.S. railroads in August 2008. That includes:

603,229 coal

126,342 chemicals

33,172 metallic ores

15,794 coke

55,126 motor vehicles and equipment

77,245 crushed stone, sand, and gravel

11,399,000 carloads of freight originated on U.S. railroads in the first eight months of 2008.



Overall, down 0.5% from July 2008



## OBITUARIES

### IN THE LINE OF DUTY: Robert M. Sanchez

Brother Robert M. Sanchez, a member of BLET Division 20 in Los Angeles, was killed in the line of duty on September 12 when his Metrolink train collided head on with a Union Pacific freight train near Crestline, Calif.

He was one of 25 people killed in the crash, which is being described as the worst train disaster in California in the last 50 years. More than 130 people were injured.

Brother Sanchez, 46, worked as an engineer for the last 12 years, according to Tim Smith, chairman of the BLET's California State Legislative Board. He joined the Brotherhood on July 1, 1998.

Chairman Smith told the New York Times that Brother Sanchez called regularly with concerns over safety issues, like broken or misplaced track flags. He said Brother Sanchez had volunteered for training on safety regulations at a union conference in July.

"If he didn't care about being safe, or was reckless, he wouldn't have come to that conference," Smith said. "He did care about safety, and I admire him for that."

Ed Rodziewicz, National President of the BLET, extended deepest condolences to the family and friends of Brother Sanchez, and sympathies to those injured in the crash, and also to the victims and



At the scene of the Metrolink tragedy

their families.

"Our hearts are with Brother Sanchez, his family and friends," President Rodziewicz said.

The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the accident and will not issue a probable cause determination for several months.

The BLET Safety Task Force was dispatched to the scene immediately to as-

sist the NTSB in its investigation. STF Members Ben Blissett and Scott Palmer are representing the BLET during the investigation.

Due to its tragic nature, the accident has garnered significant levels of media attention. The NTSB is investigating the fact that Brother Sanchez worked a split shift on the day of the fatal accident to determine whether or not fatigue played



a role in the accident. Friends of Brother Sanchez have told the media he struggled with diabetes.

The NTSB has also subpoenaed Brother Sanchez's cell phone records to determine whether or not he was sending and receiving text messages while on duty. Media reports indicated Brother Sanchez may have been in touch with teenage rail fans while on duty.

"Rob seemed to really enjoy being a railroad engineer," Chairman Smith said. "If he was texting those teenagers, he'd have to have loved his job and wanted to share it with people. Someone who's a malcontent is not going to reach out to those enthusiasts."

Soon after the crash some rail buffs posted a video tribute on YouTube with footage taken the previous week. The video shows a smiling Mr. Sanchez along his route, driving the same locomotive and passenger cars that collided with the freight train.

"You take care, Rob," said a message at the end of the tribute. "God speed and God bless you." ©©

Photos: BLET Safety Task Force Member Scott Palmer

### Ed Rodziewicz statement on Metrolink accident

The following statement is from Ed Rodziewicz, the president of the Teamsters Rail Conference and National President of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) about the Metrolink railroad accident in Chatsworth, Calif.: "A rush to judgment is never beneficial in a situation such as this. BLET Safety Task Force Members Ben Blissett and

Scott Palmer are actively working with the National Transportation Safety Board to determine the causes of the tragic accident, which occurred last Friday on the Metrolink line in Chatsworth, California. All of our members know that railroad jobs are inherently dangerous jobs, but an accident such as this can be avoided." "This accident would not

have occurred had the Metrolink system been using positive train control technology. This safety system is designed to keep trains from colliding by preventing them from inadvertently passing a stop signal."

"We have long supported the development and implementation of positive train control technology, and we urge the railroad industry and the feder-

al government to redouble their efforts to eliminate the risks that positive train control technology is designed to address."

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those who perished or were injured as a result of this deadly accident. The Metrolink engineer operating the train was a dedicated union member and our thoughts also are with his family

and friends at this time."

The BLET represents over 38,000 men and women as locomotive engineers and trainmen working on freight, passenger and commuter rail lines across the United States. The BLET and the 32,000 members of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division constitute the more than 70,000-member Teamsters Rail Conference. ©©

### Former Kentucky SLBC Tommy Mayne, 1951-2008

Tommy Mayne, former Chairman of the Kentucky State Legislative Board, passed away unexpectedly at a hospital in Corbin, Ky., on September 8.

He was the husband of Sondra Mayne and the father of Samantha Mayne.

Brother Mayne, 56, was born December 9, 1951, and was a member of BLET Division 463 in Corbin, Ky. He first joined the Brotherhood on September 19, 1974. In 2006, he was elected Alternate Vice President and National Legislative Representative at the BLET's First Quadrennial National Convention in Las Vegas.

"We are shocked and saddened at the sudden loss of Brother Tommy Mayne," said BLET National President Ed Rodziewicz. "He was well liked and respected by all his co-workers and by elected officials throughout the United States. He was a dedicated leader who spent countless hours in the legislative arena fighting for workplace safety and quality of life improvements for locomotive engineers and trainmen. He will be sorely missed."

Brother Mayne was a founding member of the Kentucky State Legislative Board and served as its Chairman from



Tommy Mayne at the BLET's First Quadrennial Convention in 2006

its inception in 1994 to 2007. He was re-elected to the Chairman's job numerous times over the years, most recently by acclamation in October 2006.

"Tommy Mayne was a Brother in the truest sense of the word," said BLET National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert. "He always put the Brotherhood and its membership first in every assignment he

handled. I will always remember him for his wonderful sense of humor. He was a dedicated Brother, but also a loving father and husband. He was very proud of his daughter Samantha."

For many years, he was a leader of the BLET's National Association of State Legislative Board Chairmen. He also represented the BLET at the National Conference of State Legislatures, a bipartisan organization that serves the legislators and staffs of the nation's 50 states, its commonwealths and territories. He also served as Vice-President of the Kentucky State AFL-CIO for transportation

Tommy received a Purple Heart medal for his U.S. Army service during Vietnam. He was a 32nd degree Mason in the Hugh Harris Lodge #938 F&AM and Shriner with the Oleika Temple.

"I am stunned and saddened at the sudden death of a great Brother," said BLET Vice President and National Legislative Representative John Tolman. "Tommy was an asset to the Brotherhood. He accomplished a lot in his years as the Kentucky State Legislative Board Chairman, but what he will be remembered most for is the relationships he formed with the legislators

in that state and around the country, through his work with the National Conference of State Legislatures. I will personally remember him though for the smiles he brought to our organization. Tommy will be missed by me, and many others, for his sense of humor and practical jokes, but most of all for his commitment to the BLET. He will be sadly missed and fondly remembered."

During his tenure as State Chairman, Brother Mayne worked tirelessly for the members he represented. He lobbied state and national legislative officials on numerous issues, including: improved lodging facilities for train crews; remote control safety improvements; and increased rail security.

He was one of several BLET leaders who played a key role in passage of the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2001, a significant piece of national legislation that lowered the retirement age for all railroad workers in the United States.

"I extend deepest sympathies to the family of Tommy Mayne on behalf of the 55,000 men and women of the BLET," National President Rodziewicz said. ©©





## IN THE LINE OF DUTY: Philip T. Myers

**A** BLET member working as an employee of the Indiana Rail Road died on September 10 after a tanker derailed at low speed from a rail spur at a Terre Haute company that makes railroad ties.

Philip T. Myers, 42, was a member of BLET Division 204 in Linton, Ind. He joined the BLET on January 1, 1998. He began working for the Indiana RR in 2006, and prior to that, was employed by the Candian Pacific Railway.

Brother Myers is the fourth BLET member to die while on duty in 2008.

"This is a terrible tragedy," said BLET National President Ed Rodziewicz. "I extend deepest sympathies Brother Myers' family and friends."

Brother Myers was taken to Terre Haute Regional Hospital after the accident, which happened on the property of Tangent Rail Products, in Terre Haute.

According to Vigo County Coroner pathologist Dr. Roland Kohr, Myers was pronounced dead at the hospital from blunt force trauma to the head.

The accident happened about 10:30 a.m.

Myers was part of a two-man work crew on the Tangent rail cars, pushing a line of cars down the rail spur.

A locomotive engineer was in the engine, which was pushing the line of cars, while Myers was on the lead car up at the front. Myers was observing the path to make sure it was clear.

For a still-unknown reason, the car derailed, and Myers was pinned between it and a load of cross ties, one of the products made at that location.

"It is a tragic situation and all of us are in shock and we are deeply saddened," said Chris Rund, a spokesman for the Indiana Rail Road. "We are a smaller regional railroad company and our employees are a little more tightly knit than you might find on a larger railroad, so this has been very impactful for all of us. Our hearts are with the family."

Indiana Rail Road operates a 500-mile route rail service in Indiana and Illinois. The company has headquarters in Indianapolis.

Myers hired out on the Indiana Rail Road in 2006 and began his railroad career with the Canadian Pacific Railroad in 1992.

Brother Myers was born Sept. 28, 1965, the son of Gary and "Marty" Martin Myers. He graduated from Clay City High School, Class of 1984.

He had worked in the railroad industry for 16 years, most recently as a locomotive engineer for Indiana Rail Road. Prior to 2006, he worked for CP Rail. He had been a member of the Clay City Veterans of Foreign Wars post, and had been an active member of the BLET and Teamsters.

He enjoyed being a "shade tree" mechanic, and loved going to truck pulls with his son. Family was very important to Philip and he was very proud to be a father and grandfather. He was a member of the Free Methodist Church in Clay City.

Survivors include his son, Kevin Myers and wife Misty of Clay City; daughter Whitney Myers, also of Clay City; granddaughter, Peyton Myers; his father, Gary Myers; grandmother, Frances Martin of Bowling Green; sister, Shannon Myers of Clay City; two brothers, Joe Myers of Terre Haute, and Grady Myers of Lafayette, La.; the mother of his children, April Count-

## IN THE LINE OF DUTY: R.D. Pendarvis

**B**rother Richard D. "Ricky" Pendarvis, a member of BLET Division 523 in Chickasha, Okla., was killed in the line of duty on August 29 when his Union Pacific locomotive collided with a propane tanker truck near Medford, Okla.

The collision triggered a massive explosion and also caused the death of conductor Larry B. Williams, a member of the United Transportation Union, and truck driver Dennis Wayne Etherton.

Brother Pendarvis, 52, joined the BLET on April 1, 2004. He is survived by his son, Travis and his mother Julie Lonewolf; two step-children Shamieka and Donte; one step-grandson Kobe; his childhood sweetheart Kym; his parents Jean and James Guesby; father William Marvin Craine Sr. and a host of aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and co-workers.

The accident occurred at 9:20 a.m. on August 29, about three miles south of Medford, Okla., in Grant County. The truck driver had just filled his tanker with propane at the Conoco-Phillips LP underground storage facility south of Medford before the accident. The truck was on the train tracks when the 76-car train struck it.

The locomotive event recorder indicated Brother Pendarvis sounded the horn and was trying to stop the train just prior to impact. Mike Honigsberg, emergency management director for neighboring Garfield County, said Brother Pendarvis and Conductor Williams were heroes for their last-second attempts to halt the train.

"In my opinion, that was a heroic effort because if they didn't, there was nothing to stop that train between here and Enid," he said. "They probably prevented another major catas-

trophe." Enid is about 35 miles south of Medford.

When time permitted due to his career demands as a locomotive engineer, Brother Pendarvis attended church with his family members at Grace Christian Fellowship. He sang in the choir and was an usher.

He was a veteran of the United States Navy and served aboard the USS Talbot for several years prior to receiving an honorable discharge. Brother Pendarvis was a highly competent engineer who was well respected by his coworkers, who say he enjoyed "seeing the world" from the cab of a locomotive.

National President Ed Rodziewicz extended his deepest sympathies to the family of Brother Pendarvis on behalf of the 55,000 members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen. ©

## Is financial protection against discipline a multiple choice decision?



**A** Invest in a BR&CF membership. It offers more benefits and is the least expensive protection when disciplined for eligible occurrences.



**B** Waste money purchasing an expensive policy from a company that offers much less.



**C** Spend your money now. Live payday to payday. Collect toys.



**D** Do nothing. Gamble. Convince yourself that procrastination is a good thing.

## The best choice is obvious!

### A. Invest in a BR&CF membership



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brcf@brcf.org  
www.brcf.org



## DISASTER RELIEF

# Helping hands

The BLET's BNSF/ATSF General Committee of Adjustment has established a relief fund to help BLET members impacted by Hurricane Ike.

**M**any members' homes and belongings were severely damaged or outright destroyed by the Hurricane.

According to General Chairman Pat Williams, members in Beaumont, Texas, were hit particularly hard.

These affected members are doing their best to provide the bare minimum of care and protection for their families. BLET members across the property have volunteered to travel to Beaumont to help with repairs. Others are coming into the area to hold down railroad jobs while the affected members are unable to work because of the problems they and their families are dealing with.

The Carrier is doing almost everything in their power to help alleviate some of the problems by agreeing to guarantee all the pools and other jobs so there will be income for these families. In addition to this, they have opened the Hardship phone lines again to allow all BNSF employees to receive money and other kinds of aid during these trials. They have pretty much suspended all work rules, so to speak, to help protect these brothers by allowing others to be called around rather than having to lay off.

"The willingness of all our members stepping forward to help amazes me to say the least," General Chairman Williams said. "All these brothers and sisters are more worried about those affected than they are about themselves and money."

"I have a challenge for each and every one of us that have not had this misfortune to make at least a minimum contribution of \$100 to aid these members and their families," he said.

Brother Williams has worked with his Secretary-Treasurer Roland Kleinsorge to set up a fund to accept donations to help these BLET families. Anyone wishing to donate can send a check, in any amount, made out to "BLET BNSF/ATSF GCA - Ike Relief Fund" to the following address:

**BLET BNSF/AFSF GCA**  
– Ike Relief Fund  
c/o Roland Kleinsorge  
5505 N. Jesse Drive  
San Bernardino, CA 92407-2517

## Railroad worker relief fund seeks donations

**A**s in 2005 after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, a Railroad Relief Fund has been set up to benefit the Southern Region BLET members who have been seriously impacted by Hurricane Gustav and now Hurricane Ike.

More than \$15,000 was raised in 2005 for those that were affected by Hurricanes' Katrina and Rita. BLET members are asked to help out our brothers and sisters who need all the help they can get right now.

Below is the information to send donations to the relief fund:

**Make checks payable to:**  
Southern Region  
Railroad Relief Fund



**Washout repair** Union Pacific Railroad workers repairing an area washed out by flooding near a street crossing on Galveston Island.

Photos: courtesy of FEMA

## Disaster Relief assistance in Louisiana, Texas

**T**he Teamsters Disaster Relief Fund is accepting applications for assistance from members in Louisiana and Texas after hurricanes Gustav and Ike caused significant property damage in September.

The assistance is available in Texas for Hurricane Ike only; assistance is available in Louisiana for damage caused by Hurricane Gustav and Hurricane Ike.

For Hurricane Ike, assistance is available to individuals and households in the following Louisiana counties:

Acadian, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lafourche, Plaquemines, Sabine, St. Mary, Terrebonne, Vermilion, Vernon, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana Parishes, St. Tammany and Tangipahoa.

Also for Ike, assistance is available in the following Texas counties:

Angelina, Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Cherokee, Fort Bend, Galveston, Grimes, Hardin, Harris, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Madison, Matagorda, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Trinity, Tyler, Walker, Waller, and Washington Counties.

Finally, for victims of Hurricane Gustav, assistance is available to individuals and households in the following Louisiana counties:

Acadia, Allen, Ascension, Assumption, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Cameron, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Evangeline, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Jeffer-



son Davis, Lafayette, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, Sabine, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Terrebonne, Vermilion, Vernon, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana Parishes, St. Tammany and Tangipahoa.

If you or someone you know needs help, please call the Teamsters Disaster Relief Fund office at: (202) 624-8971. If you were a victim of Hurricane Gustav, then the completed "Request for Help"

forms (including all requested documentation) must be returned to the Teamsters by Wednesday, October 15, 2008.

If you were a victim of Hurricane Ike, then the completed "Request for Help" forms must be returned to the Teamsters by Tuesday, October 28.

**"Request for Help" forms are available on the BLET website.**

**Hurricane Ike assistance for Louisiana residents:** <http://www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/LAikedisasterrelief.pdf>

**Hurricane Ike assistance for Texas residents:** <http://www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/TXikedisasterrelief.pdf>

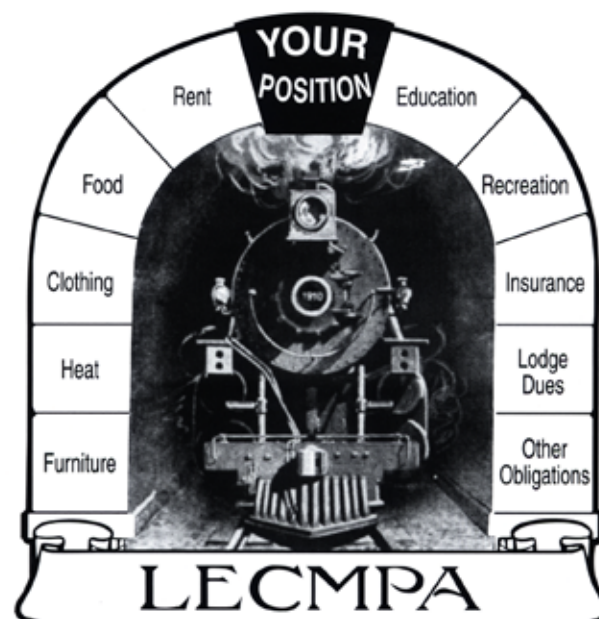
**Hurricane Gustav assistance for Louisiana residents:** <http://www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/LAdisasterrelief.pdf>

## Locomotive Engineers & Conductors Mutual Protective Association

4000 Town Center • Suite 1250 • Southfield, MI 48075-1407

(800) 514-0010 • (313) 962-1512

Fax: (877) 633-1910 • E-Mail: [lecempa1910@lecempa.org](mailto:lecempa1910@lecempa.org) • Web: [www.lecempa.org](http://www.lecempa.org)



*Job Protection Headquarters for Transportation Employees*

*Since 1910*





>> FEDERAL EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT (FELA)-AN OVERVIEW

# Your Rights. Your Protection. Your FELA.

“The FELA affirmatively requires that railroads provide their workers with a reasonably safe place to work at all times and in all situations.”

Railroad workers face a dangerous work environment that is filled with potential hazards. As a result, at the turn of the century, in 1908 Congress passed the Federal Employer's Liability Act (known as “FELA”) for the protection of the thousands of railroad workers employed nation wide. The FELA established and continues to provide a Federal system of legal recovery for railroad workers and their families, for injuries or deaths suffered by a railroad employee who is hurt or killed while on the job. If an equipment defect causes injury or death to a railroad employee, the employer will likely be liable for those injuries or death under the FELA, for failure to properly maintain its equipment, failure to properly inspect its equipment and the work environment and in some cases be exposed to absolute liability for the equipment defect itself.

When Congress enacted the FELA for the protection

of railroad workers nationwide, it not only created a system where injured workers could receive compensation for their injuries, it also provided railroad companies with a uniform liability standard applicable to working conditions and employee safety in the job. The FELA affirmatively requires that railroads provide their workers with a reasonably safe place to work at all times and in all situations. However, the FELA also places responsibility on the employee for working safely as well.

Unlike worker compensation systems, the FELA requires that a railroad employee prove that the railroad was negligent before he or she can recover monetary damages suffered as a result of an injury. That is, the employee must prove that the railroad was at fault and that the negligence caused his injury in whole or in part. Without proving fault, the employee cannot recover. In addition, the employee's damages will be reduced by the amount of fault on the part of the employee, if the employee was at fault himself or herself. For example, if an employee is injured and is found to be 10% at fault himself, then recovery will be for 90% of his or her damages. Likewise, if the employee is 90% at fault, then recovery will be for 10% of the dam-

ages. However, there is also an exception to this rule of comparative fault.

One way to prove fault is to prove that the railroad violated a Federal workplace safety regulation or statute. FRA standards and OSHA regulations are examples of such safety laws. Specific to the operation of trains, the Locomotive Inspection Act and the Safety Appliance Act can provide legal responsibility on the railroad if an injury is caused by the violation of these regulations. If a violation of such a safety regulation or statute is proven to cause an injury, then in most cases there will be no reduction of the amount of damages for the employee's fault.

One significant advantage of the FELA over a worker compensation system is the right of the injured employee to be compensated for the full extent of his damages on an individual basis by a jury at trial. Such damages may include past lost wages, future lost wages, past pain and suffering and future pain and suffering. This is in sharp contrast to the method of using a chart to put all similar injuries in the same amount of damages in a worker compensation system.

As with any legal proceeding, there are numerous traps and pitfalls to be avoided by an injured em-

ployee. These include giving the claim agent a statement of any kind (oral or taped), seeing a doctor chosen by the railroad (rather than a doctor of your choosing), doing a reenactment of your injury, receiving advancements from the claim agent, and many others suggested by the railroad too numerous to mention here.. Thus, it is important that an injured railroad employee obtain legal representation as quickly as possible following an injury. Your union has determined that certain attorneys are competent to handle FELA cases and has designated them to represent members of the BLET. Such attorneys have demonstrated a proficiency in handling FELA cases for engineers and trainmen, and should be employed to protect your rights and the future of injured railroad employees and their families.

Submitted by:



**Joseph L. Bauer, Jr.**  
Bauer & Baebler, P.C.  
1716 South Broadway  
St. Louis, MO 63104  
(800) 682-4529  
law@bauer-baebler.com

## 2009 Fees Objector Policy

### 1. Employees Rights

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

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

### 2. Publication of Policy

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

### 3. Making Objection Known

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

### 4. Major Categories of Chargeable Expenses

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

- a.** All expenses concerning the negotiation of agreements, practices and working conditions;
- b.** All expenses concerning the administration of agreements, practices and working conditions, including grievance handling, all activities related to arbitration, and discussion with employees in the craft or class (or bargaining unit) or employer representatives regarding working conditions, benefits and contract rights;
- c.** Conversion expenses and other union internal governance and management expenses;

- d.** Social activities and union business meeting expenses;
- e.** Publication expenses to the extent coverage is related to chargeable activities;
- f.** Expenses of litigation related to collective bargaining, contract administration and internal governance;
- g.** Expenses for legislative and administrative agency activities to effectuate collective bargaining agreements;
- h.** All expenses for the education and training of officers and staff intended to prepare the participants to better perform chargeable activities;
- i.** All costs of strikes and other lawful economic actions.

### 5. Determination of Chargeable Share

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

### 6. Report of Chargeable Share and Basis of Its Calculation

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

### 7. Challenge Procedure

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

### 8. Arbitration of Challenges

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

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

**c.** Each party to the arbitrator shall bear their own costs. The appellants shall have the option of paying a pro-rata portion of the arbitrator's fees and expenses. The balance of such fees and expenses shall be paid by the BLET.

**d.** A court reporter shall make a transcript of all proceedings before the arbitrator. This transcript shall be the official record of the proceedings and may be purchased by the appellants. If appellants do not purchase a copy of the transcript, a copy shall be available for inspection at the National Division during normal business hours.

**e.** Appellants may, at their expense, be represented by counsel or other representative of choice. Appellants need not appear at the hearing and shall be permitted to file written statements with the arbitrator instead of appearing. Such statement shall be filed no later than fifteen (15) days after the transcript becomes available, but in no case more than thirty (30) days after the hearing closes.

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

**g.** The National Division shall have the burden of establishing that the reduced fees set forth in the report are lawful.

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

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

### 9. Payment of Reduced Fees

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

### 10. Escrow of Disputed Funds

All monthly fees paid by objectors shall be placed in an interest-bearing escrow account pending final determination of the chargeable share. Escrowed funds shall be disbursed to objectors and the Union upon issuance of the arbitrator's decision or fifteen (15) days after the conclusion of the appeal period if there are no challenges to the determination.



## ELECTION

2008

**F**he Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen is joining the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and the rest of the labor movement in the United States by endorsing Barack Obama for President.

"We believe Senator Obama is the best candidate to fight for the rights of the 55,000 men and women of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen," BLET National President Ed Rodziewicz said.

"The next President will make several decisions and appointments that will have a major impact on the rail industry. The next President will appoint the members of the Surface Transportation Board, who regulate

the carriers, the Federal Railroad Administrator, who oversees the workplace safety of BLET members, and the members of the National Mediation Board, who can force the railroads to bargain in good faith."

Also included in this voter guide are state-level candidates who have been endorsed by the BLET, as well as instructions on how to vote by absentee ballot.

"You can exert a strong influence on your family's economic future when casting your vote in November, and we believe Senator Obama will fight to make the right decisions when it comes to doing what's right for all rail workers," President Rodziewicz said.



BLET Member Carl Fields (right) hosted Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa during a recent visit to Illinois to campaign on behalf of Barack Obama.

## McCain health care plan a disaster for BLET members

**I**n preparation for national bargaining that will begin late next year, the National Division has begun research on a number of subjects that must be considered as the BLET's bargaining strategy is shaped. A review of the health care "reform" plan offered by Presidential candidate John McCain uncovered some facts that should worry BLET members and all railroad workers.

In contrast to the health care plan proposed by BLET-endorsed candidate Barack Obama, the cornerstone of the McCain plan is to end the tax deductibility of employer-sponsored coverage. This move would have a significant impact on our coverage under the national industry plan.

This year, each railroad's total contribution toward the various elements of our national freight benefits package — including short-term disability — exceeds \$15,000 per BLET member. Enactment of the McCain plan would subject the carriers to Medicare and Railroad Retirement Tier 1 and Tier 2 taxes on this sum. Depending upon an individual's taxable income, carrier costs could rise over \$3,000 per employee. This would be the equivalent of a 19.75% increase in the carrier's cost.

Each member also would be subject to additional Medicare and Railroad Retirement taxes of up to \$2,000 or more. BLET members would be further impacted in two other ways. First, the "pre-tax" status of the \$166.25 monthly employee premium contribution and the carrier's \$40 monthly short-term disability contribution would end, and those contributions would have to be made with after-tax

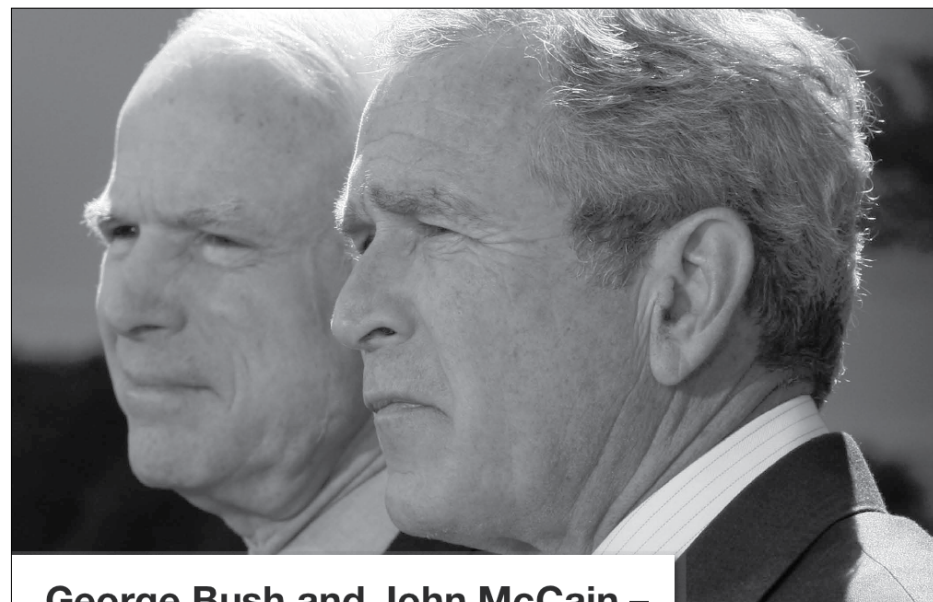
dollars. Second, the value of the carrier's contributions would be included in each member's taxable income.

For someone in the 25% marginal tax bracket — which includes single people with a taxable income in excess of \$31,850, and married people filing jointly with a taxable income over \$63,700 — the total income tax impact is over \$4,500. For someone in the 28% marginal tax bracket — which includes single people with a taxable income in excess of \$77,100, and married people filing jointly with a taxable income over \$128,500 — the total income tax impact is over \$5,100.

Promoters of the McCain plan point to \$2,500 individual and \$5,000 family tax credits that are included in the plan. However, it is unclear whether workers who receive employer-sponsored health benefits will be entitled to the tax credit. What is clear is that, in either case, the railroads' costs will rise significantly, and your taxes also will increase steeply.

"John McCain claims that — as he puts it — 'opening up the health insurance market to more vigorous nationwide competition, as we have done over the last decade in banking, would provide more choices of innovative products less burdened by the worst excesses of state-based regulation,'" said BLET National President Ed Rodziewicz.

"In other words, he's going to bring to the nation's health care system the same changes that produced the current crisis on Wall Street and throughout the global financial sector," added Rodziewicz. "This proposal is a disaster for BLET members, for American workers, and for the country." @@



### George Bush and John McCain – More of the Same

#### Sen. McSame has a staunchly anti-worker voting record: McSame:

Voted **AGAINST** funding Amtrak in 2007. If Amtrak were to shut down, over 20,000 employees would not be paying into Railroad Retirement, seriously weakening the fund.

Voted to **ALLOW** employers to hire permanent replacements during a strike.

Voted **AGAINST** an amendment which provided transportation laborers with an employee engagement mechanism for addressing workplace issues, the right to collective bargaining, and whistleblower protections.

Believes that **OSHA** policies should be reviewed so that they do not "overburden" employers.

Electing Sen. McCain this fall would be a continuation of President Bush's failed policies on the economy and our jobs while keeping the power in the hands of billionaires. We can't afford another four years of a Bush White House.

McSame will not support working families. He is a self-proclaimed "free-trader" who supported NAFTA and is still under the delusion that the trade agreement helped our economy.

**A McCain presidency would only do further damage to American railroad families.**





## Democratic National Convention

Representatives of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen converged on Denver in August to participate in the 2008 Democratic National Convention. BLET officers were able to witness the delegates endorse Barack Obama and Joe Biden as candidates for President and Vice President of the United States.

While in Denver, the BLET representatives were also able to participate in valuable face-to-face meetings with key leaders of the House and Senate, including Senator Frank R. Lautenberg of New Jersey. Also, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters made their presence known in Denver, and several BLET officers were able to participate in important meetings with Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa. @@



General President Hoffa with Robert F. Hagan, a member of BLET Division 757. Brother Hagan also holds elected office, serving as State Representative of Ohio's 60th Congressional District.



BLET First Vice President Paul Sorrow, Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa, and BLET National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert



BLET Vice President Stephen D. Speagle and Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ)



Senator Lautenberg with BLET Vice President & National Legislative Representative John P. Tolman



General President Hoffa with Herbert Harris Jr., Chairman of the BLET's District of Columbia Legislative Board.

## Absentee voting information for BLET members

Railroading is a demanding occupation that often requires locomotive engineers and trainmen to be on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Due to the importance of the upcoming November elections, the BLET urges its members to vote by absentee ballot in case they are on duty or away from home on Election Day.

To that end, the BLET's National Legislative Office in Washington, D.C., issued the following Absentee Voter Guide for BLET members. The following state-by-state guide gives members an idea of what they need to do in order to make sure their vote is cast in the November elections:

### Alabama Absentee Voter Guide

LAST UPDATED JULY 25, 2008

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

**General Election:** November 4, 2008

**Absentee ballot application:**

received by October 30, 2008

**Absentee ballot due:** postmarked by

November 3, 2008 (by mail) - received by

5pm on November 3, 2008 (in person)

### Arizona Absentee Voter Guide

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

**Primary Election:**

Tuesday, September 2, 2008

**General Election:**

Tuesday, November 4, 2008

**Absentee Ballot Request:**

Received by October 24, 2008

(for general election)

Received by August 22, 2008

(for primary election)

**Absentee Ballot Return:**

Received by 7pm Election Day

<http://www.azsos.gov/election/>

### Arkansas Absentee Voter Guide

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

**General Election:**

Tuesday, November 4, 2008

**Absentee Ballot Request:** Received

by October 28, 2008 (by mail or fax)

**Absentee Ballot Return:**

Received by 7:30 pm on November 4,

2008 (by mail - CANNOT fax ballot)

Received by close of business November

3, 2008 (in person)

<http://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections.html>

### California Absentee Voter Guide

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

**General Election:** Tuesday, November

4, 2008

**Absentee Ballot Application:** Re-

ceived by October 28, 2008 (general

election)

**Absentee Ballot Return:** Received by

8 pm on Election Day

**State Elections Website:** <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections.htm>

**County Election Officials:** [http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections\\_d.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_d.htm)

### Colorado Absentee Voter Guide

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

**General Election:** November 4, 2008

### Absentee Ballot Request:

Received October 28, 2008

if ballot is mailed

Received October 31, 2008

if ballot is picked up in person

**Absentee Ballot Return:** Received

7pm Election Day

**State Contact Information:**

<http://www.elections.colorado.gov/>

**County Clerk and Recorders:**

<http://www.elections.colorado.gov/DDefault.aspx?tid=147>

### Connecticut Absentee Voter Guide

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

**Voter registration:**

postmarked by October 21, 2008

**Absentee ballot application:**

no specific deadline, but allow enough

time for them to mail you the ballot and

for you to mail it back.

**Absentee ballot due:** received by 8pm Election Day

**State Elections Website:**

<http://www.ct.gov/sots/site/default.asp>

### Delaware Absentee Voter Guide

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

**Absentee ballot application:**

Received by October 31, 2008

**Absentee ballot due:**

Received by 8pm on Election Day

**State Elections Website:**

<http://elections.delaware.gov/>

**County Department of Elections:**

<http://elections.delaware.gov/locations.shtml>

### District of Columbia Absentee Voter Guide

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

**General Election:** Tuesday, November

4, 2008

**Absentee Ballot Application:** Re-

ceived by October 28, 2008

**Absentee Ballot Due:** Postmarked by

November 4, 2008

**State Election Website:** <http://www.dcooe.org/>

### Florida Absentee Voter Guide

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

**General Election:** November 4, 2008

**Voter registration:** Postmarked by

October 6, 2008

**Absentee ballot application:**

Received by October 29, 2008

**Absentee ballot due:** Received by

7pm Election Day

**State Election Website:**

<http://election.dos.state.fl.us/>

**Supervisor of Elections:**

[http://election.dos.state.fl.us/SOE/supervisor\\_election\\_list.shtml](http://election.dos.state.fl.us/SOE/supervisor_election_list.shtml)

### Georgia Absentee Voter Guide

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

**General Election:**

Tuesday, November 4, 2008

**Voter registration:**

Postmarked by October 6, 2008

**Absentee ballot application:**

Received by October 31, 2008

**Absentee ballot due:** Received by

7pm Election Day

**State Election Website:**

<http://sos.georgia.gov/elections/>

### Idaho Absentee Voter Guide

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

**General Election:** November 4, 2008

**Absentee Ballot Request:** Received

by October 29, 2008

**Absentee Ballot:** Received by 8 PM on

election day, November 4, 2008

**State Elections Website:** <http://www.idsos.state.id.us/elect/eleindex.htm>

### Illinois Absentee Voter Guide

NOTE: If you are a first-time voter and

you register by mail, you must vote in

person the first time you vote. You cannot

vote by absentee ballot. You can vote on

election day or you can vote absentee-in-

person at your local local election author-

ity anytime between September 25 and

November 3, 2008. Call ahead to con-

firm location and hours of operation.

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

**General Election:** November 4, 2008

**Absentee Ballot Request:** Received

by October 30, 2008

**Absentee Ballot Return:** Received by

close of polls on Election Day

**State Election Website:**

<http://www.elections.il.gov/>

**Local Election Authorities:**

[www.elections.il.gov/ElectionAuthorities/ElecAuthorityList.aspx](http://www.elections.il.gov/ElectionAuthorities/ElecAuthorityList.aspx)

### Indiana Absentee Voter Guide

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

**General Election:** November 4, 2008

**Absentee Ballot Application:**

Received by October 27, 2008

**Absentee Ballot:** Received by close of

polls on November 4, 2008.

**Website:** [www.in.gov/sos/elections](http://www.in.gov/sos/elections)

### Iowa Absentee Voter Guide

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

**General Election:** November 4, 2008

**Absentee Ballot Request:** Received

by 5 PM on October 31, 2008

**Absentee Ballot:** Postmarked before

election day; received by noon

on November 10, 2008

**State Election Website:**

[www.sos.state.ia.us](http://www.sos.state.ia.us)

### Kansas Absentee Voter Guide

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

**General Election:** Tuesday, November

4, 2008

**Absentee Ballot Request:**

Received October 31, 2008

**Absentee Ballot Return:**

Received 7pm election day

**State Election Website:** <http://www.kssos.org/elections/elections.html>

**County Election Officials:** [http://www.kssos.org/elections/elections\\_registration\\_ceo.asp](http://www.kssos.org/elections/elections_registration_ceo.asp)

### Kentucky Absentee Voter Guide

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

**General Election:**

Tuesday, November 4, 2008

**Absentee Ballot Request:**

Received by October 28, 2008

**Absentee Ballot Return:**

Received by November 4, 2008 at 6pm

**State Election Website:** <http://elect.ky.gov/>

### Louisiana Absentee Voter Guide

CAUTION: If you are a first time voter

in your parish, and you registered by

mail, you must vote in person the first time

you vote. You may vote on Election Day

or during the early voting period, but you

cannot vote by absentee ballot.

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

**General Election:** November 4, 2008

**Absentee Ballot Request:** Received

October 31, 2008

**Absentee Ballot Return:** Received

November 3, 2008

**State Election Website:** <http://www.sos.louisiana.gov/tabid/68/Default.aspx>

### Maine Absentee Voter Guide

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

**General Election:** November 4, 2008

**Absentee Ballot Request:** No spec-

ific deadline, but allow enough time for

them to mail you the ballot and for you to

mail it back.

**Absentee Ballot Return:** Received by

8pm on Election Day

**State Election Website:**

[www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/](http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/)

### Maryland Absentee Voter Guide

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

**General Election:** Tuesday,

November 4, 2008

**Absentee Ballot Application:** 4:30

p.m. on October 28, 2008 (mailed)

11:59 p.m. on October 28, 2008 (faxed).

**Absentee Ballot Return:** 8 p.m. elec-

tion day (in person) Postmarked on or be-

fore election day (by mail)

**State Election Website:**

<http://www.elections.state.md.us/>

### Massachusetts Absentee Voter Guide

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

**General Election:**

Tuesday, November 4, 2008

### Absentee Ballot Request:

Received noon November 3, 2008

**Absentee Ballot Return:**

Received before close of polls

**State Election Website:**

[www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleidx.htm](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleidx.htm)

### Michigan Absentee Voter Guide

CAUTION: First-time voters who register

by mail MUST vote in person the first time

they vote. They may not vote by absen-

tee ballot. This restriction does not apply

to overseas voters, voters who are handi-

capped or voters who are 60 years of

age or older. (Voting in person on one

governmental level clears the restriction

on the other levels. For example, if a voter

subject to the restriction votes in person at

a school election, the voter would be free

to obtain an absentee ballot for the first

state election in which he or she wishes to

participate.)

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

**General Election:** November 4, 2008

**Absentee Ballot Request:** Received

by November 1, 2008 - 2pm

**Absentee Ballot Return:** Received by

8pm on Election Day

**State Election Website:**

<http://www.michigan.gov/sos>

### Minnesota Absentee Voter Guide

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

**General Election:** Tuesday, November



## Absentee voting

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE ←

### Nebraska Absentee Voter Guide

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

#### General Election:

Tuesday, November 4, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Request:

Received 4pm October 27, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Return:

Received 8pm election day

#### State Election Website:

http://www.sos.state.ne.us/

### Nevada Absentee Voter Guide

LAST UPDATED JUNE 18, 2008

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

#### General Election:

Tuesday, November 4, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Request:

Received 5pm October 28, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Return:

Received 7pm election day

#### State Election Website:

http://sos.state.nv.us/elections/voter/

### New Hampshire

#### Absentee Voter Guide

LAST UPDATED JULY 03, 2008

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

#### General Election:

Tuesday, November 4, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Request:

No specific deadline, but allow enough time for them to mail you the ballot and for you to mail it back.

#### Absentee Ballot Return:

Received by 5pm on Election Day

#### State Election Website:

http://www.sos.nh.gov/electionsnew.html

### New Jersey

#### Absentee Voter Guide

LAST UPDATED AUGUST 01, 2008

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

#### General Election:

Tuesday, November 4, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Request:

Received by October 28, 2008 by mail; OR Received by November 3, 2008 by 3pm IN PERSON

#### Absentee Ballot Return:

Received by November 4, 2008 by 8pm

#### State Election Website:

www.NJElections.org

### New Mexico

#### Absentee Voter Guide

LAST UPDATED AUGUST 05, 2008

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

#### General Election:

November 4, 2008

#### Voter registration form:

postmarked by October 7, 2008

#### Absentee ballot application:

received by October 30, 2008

#### Absentee ballot due:

received by 7pm on Election Day

#### State Elections Website:

http://www.sos.state.nm.us/

#### County Clerks Information:

http://www.sos.state.nm.us/

sos-CClerk.html

### New York

#### Absentee Voter Guide

LAST UPDATED AUGUST 05, 2008

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

#### General Election:

Tuesday, November 4, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Request:

Received by October 28, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Return:

Postmarked by November 3, 2008

#### State Elections website:

http://www.elections.state.ny.us/

### North Carolina

#### Absentee Voter Guide

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

#### General Election:

November 4, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Application:

Received between September 15<sup>th</sup> and

October 28, 2008

#### Absentee Ballots Due:

Received by 5pm the day before the election

#### Absentee One-Stop Period:

October 16, 2008 - November 1, 2008

#### Elections Website:

http://www.sboe.state.nc.us/

#### County Board of Elections:

http://www.app.sboe.state.nc.us/

NCSBE/about/directors.asp

### North Dakota

#### Absentee Voter Guide

LAST UPDATED AUGUST 05, 2008

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

#### General Election:

Tuesday, November 4, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Request:

No specific deadline, but allow enough time for them to mail you the ballot and for you to mail the voted ballot back

#### Absentee Ballot Return:

Postmarked November 3, 2008

#### State Election Website:

http://www.nd.gov/sos/electvote/

#### County Election Officials:

http://www.nd.gov/sos/forms/

doc/county-elec-officials.rtf

### Ohio Absentee Voter Guide

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

#### General Election:

November 4, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Request:

Received by noon November 1, 2008

(Saturday before election day)

#### Absentee Ballot Return:

Postmarked prior to election day and

received within ten days of election day

#### State Election Website:

http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/voter/

RegisteringToVote.aspx

### Oklahoma

#### Absentee Voter Guide

LAST UPDATED AUGUST 04, 2008

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

#### General Election:

November 4, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Request:

Received October 29, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Return:

Received 7 pm Election Day

#### State Election Website:

http://www.ok.gov/~elections/

#### County Election Boards:

http://www.ok.gov/~elections/cebinfo.html

#### State Contact Information

### Oregon Absentee Voter Guide

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

#### General Election:

November 4, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Request:

Received by October 31

#### Absentee Ballot Return:

Received by 8pm Election Day

#### State Election Website:

http://www.oregonvotes.org/

#### County Election Offices:

www.oregonvotes.org/other.info/clerk.htm

### Pennsylvania

#### Absentee Voter Guide

#### General Election:

November 4, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Request:

Received by October 28, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Return:

Received by 5pm October 31, 2008

#### State Election Website:

http://www.votespa.com

### Rhode Island

#### Absentee Voter Guide

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

#### Statewide primary:

September 9, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Request:

Received by 4pm on October 14, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Return:

Received by 9pm on Election Day

#### General Election:

November 4, 2008

#### State Election Website:

http://www.elections.state.ri.us/

### South Carolina

#### Absentee Voter Guide

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

#### General Election:

November 4, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Request:

Received by October 31

#### Asentee Ballot Return:

Received by close of polls election day

#### State Election Website:

www.scvotes.org

### South Dakota

#### Absentee Voter Guide

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

#### General Election:

Tuesday, November 4, 2008

### Absentee Ballot Request:

Received 3pm on election day (yes, really)

### Absentee Ballot Return:

Received by close of polls on election day

### State Election Website:

http://www.sdsos.gov/

### Tennessee

#### Absentee Voter Guide

CAUTION: If you register to vote by mail you must vote in person the first time you vote. You cannot vote by absentee ballot.

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

#### General Election:

Tuesday, November 4, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Request:

Received October 28, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Return:

Received by close of polls

#### State Election Website:

http://www.state.tn.us/sos/

election/index.htm

### Texas Absentee Voter Guide

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

#### General Election:

Tuesday, November 4, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Application:

Received by October 28, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Return:

Received by close of polls, Election Day

#### State Election Website:

http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/

voter/index.shtml

http://www.votexas.org/

### Utah Absentee Voter Guide

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

#### General Election:

November 4, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Application:

Received by October 31, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Due:

Postmarked by November 3, 2008 and received by

noon November 10, 2008

#### Elections Website:

www.leaveyourprint.com or

www.elections.utah.gov

### Vermont

#### Absentee Voter Guide

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

#### General Election:

Tuesday, November 4, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Request:

Received 5pm November 3, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Return:

Received 7pm election day

#### State Election Website:

http://vermont-elections.org/soshome.htm

### Virginia

#### Absentee Voter Guide

WARNING: If you register to vote by mail, you must vote in person the first time you vote unless you are a full time college student, absent due to active duty mili-

tary, residing overseas, physically handicapped, age 65 or over. This restriction doesn't apply if you are voting a "presidential only" ballot.

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

#### General Election:

Tuesday, November 4, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Request:

Received by October 28, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Return:

Received by close of polls on Election Day

#### State Election Website:

www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms

### Washington Voter Guide

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

#### General Election:

Tuesday, November 4, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Request:

No specific deadline, but allow enough time for them to mail you the form and for you to mail it back

#### Absentee Ballot Return:

Postmarked on or before

November 4, 2008

#### State Election Website:

http://www.sectate.wa.gov/elections/

### West Virginia Voter Guide

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

#### General Election:

Tuesday, November 4, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Request:

Received by October 29, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Return:

Received by close of polls

#### State Election Website:

http://www.wvsos.com/elections/

### Wisconsin

#### Absentee Voter Guide

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

#### General Election:

Tuesday, November 4, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Request:

Received by 5:00 PM October 30, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Return:

Received by 8:00 PM election day

#### State Election Website:

http://elections.state.wi.us/index.asp

### Wyoming

#### Absentee Voter Guide

MAIL-IN DEADLINES

#### General Election:

Tuesday, November 4, 2008

#### Absentee Ballot Request:

No specific deadline, but allow enough time for them to mail you the ballot and for you to mail it back

#### Absentee Ballot Return:





8 — Michael Capuano  
9 — Stephen Lynch  
10 — William Delahuntt

## Michigan

### US SENATE

Carl Levin (D)

### US HOUSE

**DISTRICT** — CANDIDATE

1 — Bart Stupak (D)  
2 — Fred Johnson (D)  
3 — Henry Sanchez (D)  
4 — Andrew Concannon (D)  
5 — Dale Kildee (D)  
6 — Don Cooney (D)  
7 — Mark Schauer (D)  
8 — Bob Alexander (D)  
9 — Gary Peters (D)  
10 — Robert Denison (D)  
12 — Sander Levin (D)  
13 — Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D)  
14 — John Conyers (D)  
15 — John Dingell (D)

## Minnesota

### US SENATE

Al Franken

### US HOUSE

1 — Tim Walz  
2 — Steve Sarvi  
3 — Ashwin Madia  
4 — Betty McCollum  
5 — Keith Ellison  
6 — Elwyn Tinklenberg  
7 — Collin Peterson  
8 — Rep. James Oberstar

## Mississippi

### US SENATE

**Seat 1** — Thad Cochran (R)  
**Seat 2** — Ronnie Musgrove (D)

### US HOUSE

**DISTRICT** — CANDIDATE

1 — Travis Childer (D)

## Missouri

### US HOUSE

**DISTRICT** — CANDIDATE

1 — Lacy Clay  
2 — Bill Haas  
3 — Russ Carnahan

4 — Ike Skelton  
5 — Emmanuel Cleaver  
6 — Kay Barnes  
7 — OPEN  
8 — Joann Emerson  
9 — Judith Baker

## Montana

### US SENATE

Max Baucus

## Nebraska

### US SENATE

Scott Kleeb (D)

### US HOUSE

**DISTRICT** — CANDIDATE

2 — Jim Esch (D)  
3 — Gail Kopplin (D)  
5 — Heath Mellow (D)  
7 — Jeremy Nordquist (D)  
9 — Gwen Howard (D)  
11 — Brenda Council (D)  
15 — Richard Register (D)  
17 — Richard (Bob) Geise (D)  
18 — Carl Lorenzen (R)  
21 — Ken Haar (D)  
25 — Travis Wagner (D)  
27 — Dan Marvin (D)  
29 — Susan Scott (D)  
39 — Rex Moats (D)  
41 — Kate Sullivan (D)  
49 — Leroy Loudon (R)

## New Hampshire

### US SENATE

— Senator Judd Gregg  
— Senator John Sununu

### US HOUSE

**DISTRICT** — CANDIDATE

1 — Carol Shea-Porter  
2 — Paul Hodes

## New Jersey

### US SENATE

— Frank Lautenberg (D)

### US HOUSE

**DISTRICT** — CANDIDATE

2 — Frank LoBiondo (R)  
3 — John Adler (D)  
6 — Frank Pallone (D)  
8 — William Pascrell (D)  
9 — Steve Rothman (D)

10 — Donald Payne (D)  
12 — Rush Holt (D)  
13 — Albio Sires (D))

## New York

### US HOUSE

**DISTRICT** — CANDIDATE

1 — Tim Bishop (D)  
2 — Steve Israel (D)  
3 — Peter King (R)  
4 — Carolyn McCarthy (D)  
5 — Gary Ackerman (D)  
6 — Gregory Meeks (D)  
7 — Joseph Crowley (D)  
8 — Jerrold Nadler (D)  
9 — Anthony Weiner (D)  
10 — Edolphus Townes (D)  
11 — Yvette Clark (D)  
12 — Nydia Velazquez (D)  
13 — Mike McMahon (D)  
14 — Carolyn Maloney (D)  
15 — Charles Rangel (D)  
16 — Jose Serrano (D)  
17 — Eliot Engel (D)  
18 — Nita Lowey (D)  
19 — John Hall (D)  
20 — Kirsten Gillibrand (D)  
21 — Michael McNulty (D)  
22 — Maurice Hinchey (D)  
23 — Michael Oot (D)  
24 — Michael Arcuri (D)  
25 — Dan Maffei (D)  
26 — Alice Kryzan (D)  
27 — Brian Higgins (D)  
28 — Louise Slaughter (D)  
29 — none

## Nevada

### US HOUSE

**DISTRICT** — CANDIDATE

1 — Shelley Berkley  
2 — Jill Derby  
3 — Dina Titus

## North Dakota

### US HOUSE

At large Earl Pomeroy

## Ohio

### US HOUSE

**DISTRICT** — CANDIDATE

1 — Steve Driehaus  
2 — Victoria Wulsin

3 — Jane Mitakides  
4 — Mike Carroll  
5 — Bob Latta  
6 — Charlie Wilson  
7 — Steve Austria  
8 — Nicholas Von Stein  
9 — Marcy Kaptur  
10 — Dennis Kucinich  
11 — Marcia L. Fudge  
12 — Dave Robinson  
13 — Betty Sutton  
14 — Steven C. LaTourette  
15 — Mary Jo Kilroy  
16 — John Boccieri  
17 — Tim Ryan  
18 — Zack Space

## Oklahoma

### US SENATE

Andrew Rice

### US HOUSE

**DISTRICT** — CANDIDATE

1 — Georgianna W. Oliver  
2 — Dan Boren

## Oregon

### US SENATE

Jeff Merkley

### US HOUSE

1 — David Wu  
2 — Greg Walden  
3 — Earl Blumenauer  
4 — Peter DeFazio  
5 — Kurt Schrader

## Pennsylvania

### US HOUSE

**DISTRICT** — CANDIDATE

1 — Robert A. Brady  
2 — Chaka Fattah  
3 — Kathy Dahlkemper  
4 — Jason Altmire  
5 — Mark B. McCracken  
6 — Bob Roggio  
7 — Joe Sestak  
8 — Patrick J. Murphy  
9 — Tony Barr  
10 — Chris Carney  
11 — Paul E. Kanjorski  
12 — John Murtha  
13 — Allyson Schwartz  
14 — Mike Doyle  
15 — Sam Bennett

16 — Bruce A. Slater  
17 — Tim Holden  
18 — Tim Murphy  
19 — Phillip J. Aivillo, Jr.

## Rhode Island

### US SENATE

Senator Jack Reed  
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse

**DISTRICT** — CANDIDATE

1 — Patrick Kennedy  
2 — James Langevin

### US HOUSE

**DISTRICT** — CANDIDATE

1 — Patrick Kennedy  
2 — James Langevin

## Tennessee

### US SENATE

Bob Tuke

## Texas

### US SENATE

Rick Noriega

### US HOUSE

**DISTRICT** — CANDIDATE

4 — Glenn Melancon  
7 — Michael Skelly  
9 — Al Green  
10 — Larry Joe Doherty  
12 — Tracey Smith  
13 — Roger Waun  
15 — Ruben Hinojosa  
16 — Silvestre Reyes  
17 — Chet Edwards  
18 — Sheila Jackson Lee  
20 — Charlie Gonzalez  
22 — Nick Lampson  
23 — Ciro Rodriguez  
24 — Tom Love  
25 — Lloyd Doggett  
27 — Solomon Ortiz  
28 — Henry Cuellar  
29 — Gene Green  
30 — Eddie Bernice Johnson  
32 — Eric Roberson

## Virginia

### US SENATE

Mark Warner

### US HOUSE

**DISTRICT** — CANDIDATE

1 — William (Bill) Day  
2 — Glenn Nye  
3 — Bobby Scott  
4 — Andrea Miller  
5 — Tom Perriello  
6 — Sam Rasoul  
7 — Aniti Hartke  
8 — Jim Moran  
9 — Rick Boucher  
10 — Judy Feder  
11 — Gerry Connolly

## Washington

### US HOUSE

**DISTRICT** — CANDIDATE

1 — Jay Inslee (D)  
2 — Rick Larsen (D)  
3 — Brian Baird (D)\*  
4 — George Fearing (D)  
5 — Norm Dicks (D)  
7 — Jim McDermott (D)  
8 — Darcy Burner (D)  
9 — Adam Smith (D)

## West Virginia

### US SENATE

Jay Rockefeller

### US HOUSE

**DISTRICT** — CANDIDATE

1 — Alan Mollohan  
2 — Anne Barth  
3 — Nick J. Rahal

## Wisconsin

### HOUSE

**DISTRICT** — CANDIDATE

2 — Tammy Baldwin  
3 — Ron Kind  
7 — David Obey  
8 — Steve Kagen

## Wyoming

### US SENATOR

Chris Rothfus

### US SENATOR

(unexpired term: 4 years)  
Nick Carter

### US HOUSE —

**DISTRICT** — CANDIDATE  
At Large - Gary Trauner

## Flexible spending account

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 ◀▶

gram allows individuals to use pre-tax dollars to save for retirement, the Railroad Employees Flexible Benefits Program allows members to use pre-tax dollars to pay for certain medical expenses or dependent care expenses. The current 2008 plan allows members to save anywhere from \$120 to \$5,000 per year for dependent care expenses, or \$120 to \$3,600 per year for medical expenses. It is expected the dollar amounts will change under the upcoming 2009 plan year.

Just like 401k contributions are automatically deducted from your paycheck, membership contributions to the Flexible Spending Account are withheld from your paycheck. Your contributions to the plan are spread out over 12 monthly payments (in other words, if you elect the 2008 maximum of \$3,600, then you would place \$300 per month into your Flexible Spending Account). If you elected the 2008 minimum of \$120, then you would have \$10 per month deducted from your pay and placed into your Flexible Spending Account. You can receive payment from the account when you present a bill via a claim form. You must furnish receipts to be reimbursed for the expense.

“It also allows you to pay for all of your co-payments on doctor visits and for prescription medicine,” Brother Gore said.

Additionally, some over the counter medications can be paid for using the Flexible Spending Account. United HealthCare has provided a list of medications that it will reimburse under the Flexible Spending Account: [http://www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/](http://www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/OTCMedFSA.pdf)



OTCMedFSA.pdf

The plan also has a “use it or lose it” provision. For example, if you sign up for \$2,000 in flex spending deductions and only have expenses equal to \$1,900, then you would only be able to collect \$1,900 of the \$2,000 you put into your account. But if you were in a 33% tax bracket, that would still net you \$533 in savings for the year (\$633 tax savings minus the \$100 left in the account = \$533 net savings).

“While I know the ‘use it or lose it’ function of the plan can be scary, you can easily meet the minimum deduction of \$120 for the year just on over the coun-

ter medications, which would yield you a net savings of \$40 for the year if you were in a 33% tax bracket,” Brother Gore said. “My wife and I have put the maximum in her flex spending account for the last eight years and been able to provide receipts to receive a total refund every year.

“Our over the counter medicine for our family in the year 2006 came to \$217. If you are on maintenance medications this program can put real dollars into your pocket allowing you to pay your co-pays with pretax dollars.”

Side Letter 8 of the 2007 BLET Nation-

## Flexible Spending Benefits

In much the same way that a 401k program allows individuals to use pre-tax dollars to save for retirement, the Railroad Employees Flexible Benefits Program allows members to use pre-tax dollars to pay for certain medical expenses or dependent care expenses.

However, the program will be lost if less than 5% of active BLET members participate. Registration packets will be mailed to all BLET members in October.

The BLET National Division has established an Information Center on its website at: [www.ble-t.org/fsa](http://www.ble-t.org/fsa)

Visit this website for late-breaking registration information. Don’t let this money-saving program come to an end!

al Agreement stipulates that the BLET must reach at least 5% participation by the year 2009 in order to retain this benefit. This is a big reason why the BLET is strongly encouraging its members to participate in the Flexible Spending Account program.

“This is a benefit that will put real dollars into your pockets and I encourage you all to enroll at an amount you are comfortable with to see how the plan works,” Gore said.

Enrollment opportunity for the Flexible Spending Account (FSA) should arrive in your mailbox soon from United HealthCare. ©©





A message from  
Teamsters General President  
James P. Hoffa



## Election Day and Our Country's Future

**Everything Teamsters are doing in this election cycle,** from phone banking to house visits to voter education and more, is done with one goal in mind: getting people to the polls on Election Day – Tuesday, November 4, 2008.

Time and again, just a few votes have made the difference in elections. You can bet there were plenty of people in Florida in 2000 kicking themselves after George W. Bush was declared the winner there, hence winning the presidency. Washington state is another great example. In 2004 Christine Gregoire won the governor's race by a scant 129 votes.

This election is expected to be another close shave, and it is my hope that members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen will join me in voting for Barack Obama. When the Teamsters Union endorsed Sen. Obama, it was only after a lengthy process where we came to the conclusion that only he could provide working families with very real and very necessary change.

So many issues important to working families and the Teamsters Union hang in the balance during this election. What's at stake? The Employee Free Choice Act. The fate of the Mexican truck program. Amtrak funding. Trade policies. The list goes on and on.

The upcoming election is about more than who has the better personality and who can generate better sound bites. It's about the future of our country and the health of the American labor movement. That future should not be left in the hands of someone like John McCain, who recently said he "doesn't really understand economics" and that "the fundamentals of the economy are strong."

No matter what the polls are saying leading up to Election Day, it is essential that each and every one of us get to the polls and vote. As Election Day approaches I hope you will evaluate your state and local candidates with the same scrutiny with which we evaluated the candidates for president. We can't afford four more years of anti-worker politicians taking America in the wrong direction.

*James P. Hoffa*

James P. Hoffa

TEAMSTERS GENERAL PRESIDENT

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



**Canadian Pacific Railway's Spirit Train** is moving the Olympic Spirit through Canada to generate buzz for the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver. The railroad is one of many sponsors for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. The CP Spirit Train began its run in Port Moody on September 21, and traveled across six provinces, finishing its adventure in Montreal on October 18.

## Advisory Board August Activity

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

**National President Edward W. Rodziewicz**— National Division office: General supervision of BLET activities; General office duties; Various correspondence & phone calls; President, Teamsters Rail Conference; UP-Eastern Region general committee mtg.; Kansas State Legislative Board mtg.; Town Hall mtg., Kansas City; FRA meeting; International Western Convention; Democratic National Convention.

**First Vice-President and Alternate President Paul T. Sorrow**— Performed various duties in Office Administrator capacity; Various duties assigned to First Vice President; Various correspondence and telephone communications; General supervision of Special Representatives; SBA awards 1116, Jacksonville, Fla.; Bob Godwin Memorial golf tournament, Forestville, N.Y.; North Dakota State Legislative Board mtg., Mike Muscha, Bismarck, N.D.; 68th Annual International Western Convention, San Luis Obispo, Calif.; Democratic National Convention, Denver.

**National Secretary-Treasurer William C. Walpert**— General supervision of BLET financial, record depts.; ND office; BLET Education & Training Dept.; Internal Organizing, Mobilizing & Strategic Planning Dept.; Safety Task Force; Meetings with vendors and financial institutions; Standard Building operations oversight; Eastern Union Meeting Association, Huron, Ohio; Union Pacific-Southern Region GCofA mtg., New Orleans, La.

**Vice-President Richard K. Radek**— ND Office; BLET Decertification Helpline services; Director of Arbitration Dept; National Railroad Adjustment Board (NRAB); Illinois Central; Wisconsin Central; Indiana Harbor Belt; METRA; Belt Rwy. of Chicago; Chicago Central & Pacific; Duluth, Missabe & Iron Range; Routine office duties, Chicago; Public Law Board establishment, Metra, Chicago; NRAB case prep. w/ Doug Davidson; NRAB Arbitration, Sec. 3 mtg.; New secretary job briefing; Mtg. w/ G. Faulkner, Cleveland; NRAB arbitration, various GCofAs; Mtg. w/ L. Pruitt & J. Dayton, re: PLB, UP, Rosemont, Ill; LMDR mtg. prep, CN/WC, Green Bay, Wisc.; WC labor/management DR mtg.; FRA Part 240.409 dockets: EQAL.

**Vice-President Merle W. Geiger Jr.**— Assigned to: BLET Trainmen's Department; Kansas City Southern; Texas-Mexican Rwy.; Midsouth Rail; Southrail; Gateway Western; CP Rail System/U.S.; Portland & Western RR; Great Western RR; Utah Railway; Charity event and mtgs. w/ GC Parker and Division 612 (KCS), Lake Charles, La.; Mtgs. w/ GC Clark and Division 244 (Tex Mex), Laredo, Texas and Houston, Texas; Vacation; Research, correspondence and general office duties.

**Vice-President Stephen D. Speagle**— Assigned to Burlington Northern Santa Fe, Montana Rail Link, Pacific Harbor Line, Missouri & Northern Arkansas (M&NA), National Wage/Rule Committee; General office duties; Conference call

on NS tentative agreement; Conference call for PLB 7166; PLB 7151, Chicago; Vacation day; International Western Convention, San Luis Obispo, Calif.; Democratic National Convention, Denver.

**Vice-President E.L. "Lee" Pruitt** — Assisted general chairmen & members of: UP-Western Lines; UP-Western Region; UP-Central Region; UP-Southern Region; UP-Tacoma Belt; UP-ED GCofA mtgs., Las Vegas (Young GCofA mtgs); San Antonio Yard negotiations, UP-SR GCofA, Las Vegas (assisting GC Gore-enhanced customer service); Arbitration Board 7158, UP-SR GCofA, San Antonio; Vacation; International Western Convention, San Luis Obispo, Calif.; Various office paperwork, filing, telephone correspondence, etc; Arbitration Board 7228, UP-WR GCofA, Assisting GC Dayton.

**Vice-President & National Legislative Representative John P. Tolman** — Assigned to BLET Washington, DC office; BLET Security Officer; General Office Duties, telephone, correspondence; Coordinate content of NLO website; Continued coordination w/ IBT Government Affairs Dept.; Coordinated PAC contributions; Kansas State Legislative Board mtg., Kansas City; North Dakota State Legislative Board mtg., Bismarck, N.D.; International Western Convention, San Luis Obispo, Calif.; BLET State Legislative Board conference call; Attended various functions at Democratic National Convention, Denver.

**Vice-President Marcus J. Ruef** — Assigned to Amtrak; Port Authority Trans Hudson (PATH); Long Island Railroad (LIRR); Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA); New Jersey Transit (NJT); MNR; Norfolk Southern-All General Committees; Wheeling & Lake Erie; and NYAL; Discuss Norfolk Southern tentative agreement; NS-N conference call; Prepare for NS-S GCofA mtg. to discuss tentative contract; NS-S GCofA mtg., Asheville, N.C.; Present NS tentative agreement to NS-S GCofA for Q&A by local chairmen; Discuss SEPTA arbitration issues, conference call; NSE conference call w/ GCof A to discuss tentative agreement; NSE, study upcoming arbitration cases; Study PLB cases for hearing in NYC, PATH.

**Vice-President Dennis R. Pierce** — Assigned to all CSX General Committees — Eastern Lines, Western Lines, Northern Lines, Conrail (SAA/CSX-Northern District) — and Indiana Rail Road, Alabama State Docks; Special projects, BNSF GCofAs; General office duties; CSX-BLET General Chairmen's mtgs., Jacksonville, Fla.; NS-Southern GCofA contract mtg., Asheville, N.C.; CSX interdivisional service mtg., Huntington, W.Va.; International Western Convention, San Luis Obispo, Calif.; Democratic National Convention, Denver.

**Vice-President Mike Twombly** — Assigned to Delaware & Hudson; Springfield Terminal; St. Lawrence & Atlantic; Montreal, Maine & Atlantic; Union Railroad; Birmingham Southern; New York, Susquehanna & Western; New England Central; South Buffalo Rwy.; Iowa, Chicago & Eastern; Indiana & Ohio; Indiana Southern; Louisville & Indiana; Meridian Southern; Talleyrand Terminal Railroad; Springfield Terminal conference; Office calls and administration; Union Railroad PLB 7006, Pittsburgh; Montreal, Maine & Atlantic contract negotiations, Bangor, Maine; International Western Convention, San Luis Obispo, Calif.



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