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Locomotive

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2010

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BLET concludes 2nd National Convention

The BLET's 2nd National Convention kicked off on Monday October 4, 2010 and concluded on Thursday October 7, 2010. The Convention was a Bylaws and Nominating Convention in the build up to this November's historic rank-and-file election of National Division officers. While they are in session at the Convention, the delegates constitute the governing body of the BLET.

"Being a delegate is a not only an honor for any member, it is also one of the most important roles that any member will play," BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce said. "The Bylaws that control our internal governance are 147 years old. They are a living document and a testament to the member delegates who have worked so hard to insure that our internal rules represent the interests and needs of our membership."

National President Pierce chaired the Convention, staying with the delegates on the convention floor until their deliberations were concluded.

"My goal at the convention was to insure that each and every delegate knew that their participation in this proud process was welcome," said President Pierce. "Our BLET delegates were elected by the rank and file



CALL TO ORDER: BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce calls the delegates to order on Wednesday, October 6, during the Second National Convention in Reno, Nevada.

membership of their respective Local Divisions and they deserve our full respect and support in this their most important mission. My hat is off to the delegates who took the time to stay on the floor of the convention and work long, hard hours to make sure that BLET is headed in the right direction."

The convention also included remarks from several guest speakers, all of whom are well known friends of the working men and women of America. Teamsters General President James P. Hoffa addressed the group as did United Mine Workers President Cecil Roberts. Both Presi-

dents brought the delegates to their feet, re-energizing all in attendance.

President Pierce also addressed the delegates regarding the state of the Brotherhood, while BLET National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert gave his financial report to the body.

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The following Advisory Board officers will be sworn in on January 1, 2011:

LEE PRUITT

First Vice President
and Alternate National President

JOHN TOLMAN

Vice President & NLR

MIKE PRIESTER

Vice President #1

COLE DAVIS

Vice President #2

STEVE BRUNO

Vice President #3

MIKE TWOMBLY

Vice President #5

WILLARD KNIGHT

Vice President #6

GIL GORE

Vice President #7

The following Alternate Vice Presidents will also be sworn in on January 1:

JIM NELSON

Alternate National Secretary-Treasurer

RICK GIBBONS

Alternate Vice President #1

TONY SMITH, Alternate VP #2

JIM LOUIS, Alternate VP #3

MATT WILSON, Alternate VP #4

BILLY LYONS, Alternate VP #5

MIKE TANNER, Alternate VP #6

KEN KROEGER, Alternate VP #7

RICH DIXON, Alternate VP #8

MATT THORNTON, Alternate VP #9

CONVENTION VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS

Due to overwhelming requests from delegates, five videos from the Second National Convention in Reno are available on YouTube.
www.youtube.com/user/BLETUnion



JAMES P. HOFFA
TEAMSTERS GENERAL
PRESIDENT



DENNIS R. PIERCE
BLET NATIONAL
PRESIDENT



WILLIAM C. WALPERT
BLET NATIONAL
SECRETARY-TREASURER



JOHN MURPHY
TEAMSTERS EASTERN REGION
VICE PRESIDENT



CECIL ROBERTS
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA

BLET URGES FRA TO IMPROVE CAB SAFETY, SECURITY

Call to action comes after conductor
is killed inside locomotive

In the aftermath of the tragic murder of CSX Conductor Fred Gibbs in the cab of his train's lead locomotive, BLET National President Dennis Pierce has called on the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to act to improve the safety and security of locomotive cabs to help protect operating crews.

Gibbs was shot to death and his engineer was wounded during an apparent robbery in late June, when an intruder invaded the cab of the controlling locomotive of their train, which was

being held in a siding.

In his September 22 letter to FRA Administrator Joseph Szabo, President Pierce highlighted data from the two Teamsters Rail Conference *High Alert* surveys, showing that most BLET members are unable to secure their cabs from attack, and that little has changed over the past five years.

Gibbs was murdered just four days after public release of the Teamsters *High Alert 2* report. The report revealed that 51 percent of train crews surveyed had no way to lock or secure the cab

of their locomotive against unauthorized access while occupied. Also, 73 percent had no way to lock the cab while it was unoccupied.

President Pierce offered to develop a PDF-based reporting form that BLET members could access via the website to report specific instances of an inability to secure their locomotive cabs. He also said the BLET would compile and maintain the data from these reports, if FRA was prepared to accept their validity.

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Get out
and vote

President Pierce's message **pg 2**



EUMA photo album

A recap of the 2010
EUMA in Pittsburgh **pg 5**



White House clout

High speed rail
for the Sunshine State **pg 6**

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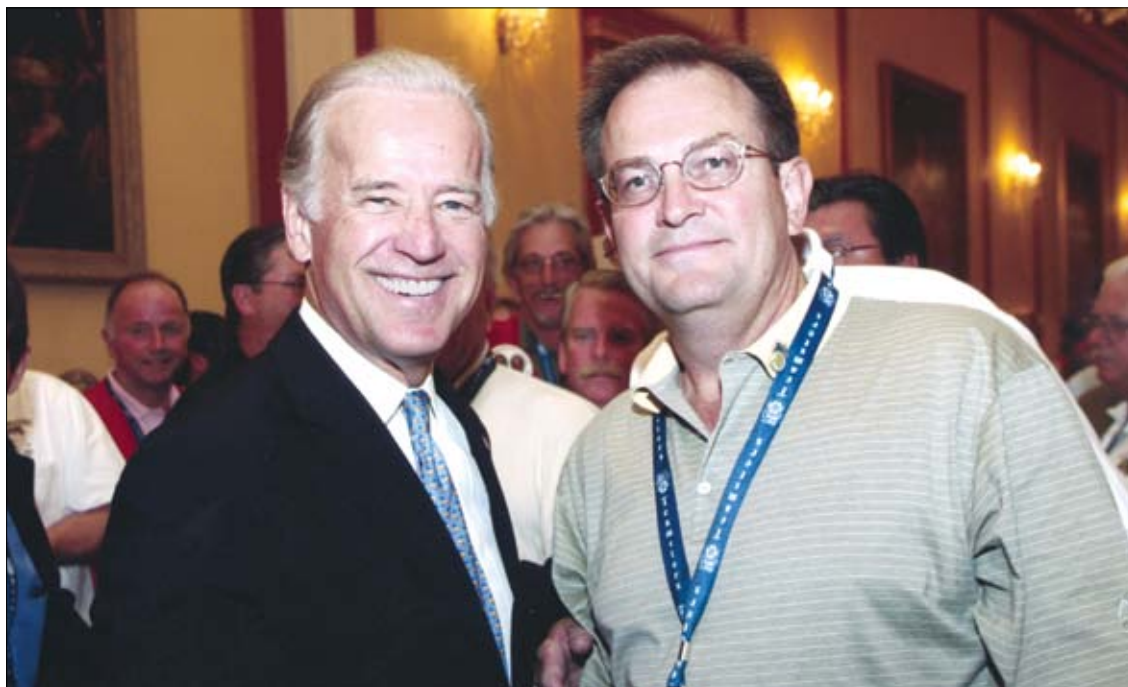
BLET PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GET OUT AND VOTE IN NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

As we enter the fall season of the year, we also enter the political season of the year. All across the country, the citizens of our great nation will go to the polls this fall to elect congressmen, senators, and governors to represent their interests. There will also be other state and local elections in many areas. From school boards to city councils, to the Statehouse and the halls of Congress, "we the people" will have the opportunity to study the issues and cast our ballots as we see fit this fall.

As Teamsters, and as members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, we are all part of that nationwide electorate. We will have the opportunity to elect government officials this fall who share our views and will help us with our issues. Our strength is in our numbers and in our unity. When labor votes as one, its voice is magnified tenfold. Our challenge now is to find the common issues that bind us together and concentrate on getting out labors' vote for the candidates who will work for our cause.

This is no easy task. As locomotive engineers and trainmen, the work that we do requires that we be strong willed individuals. Yard crews safely classify and deliver millions of dollars of precious commodities every day. Freight crews leave their terminals every day operating millions of dollars worth of motive power, pulling even more millions of dollars of cargo. Passenger crews safely deliver millions of passengers to their destination every



Dennis Pierce with Vice President Joe Biden at a Teamster political rally.

week. In most cases, we do all of this in the absence of immediate supervision. The split second decisions that we make every day must be made based upon the judgment that we have developed through our training and experience. We are true professionals in every sense of the word.

I only share this to show that by our very job descriptions, we function in the workplace as many individuals working separately day after day. That only magnifies our challenge when the time comes to work together as a group, rather than as individuals. That is our challenge in this fall's election.

For labor to succeed, we must concentrate on where we agree,

instead of where we disagree. I think we all agree that all Americans should be treated with respect in the workplace. All Americans should receive a living wage for the labor that they exert for their employers. Furthermore, the compensation and benefits that we receive should be commensurate with the contribution that we make to our employer's profitability.

To put it mildly, corporate America does not generally share labor's views on these issues. We, as members of the labor community, must fight daily for every dime that we receive in compensation. We must fight daily to maintain the benefits that our membership receives. While

CEO's make millions, we struggle to keep up with the cost of living and must fight to receive wage increases that keep us in the middle class.

As organized labor, we fight that battle at the bargaining table on a continuing basis. At any given time on any given day, our Local Chairmen, General Chairmen and National Division Officers are at the table with one of the nation's railroads, fighting for better contracts for the members that they represent.

Our Division Legislative Representatives, State Legislative Board Chairmen and the Washington Office of our National Legislative Board also fight for our members on a daily basis. Whether it be in regulatory venues, in the Statehouse, or in the halls of Congress, our Legisla-

tive Officers work tirelessly to convince your elected government officials that they must support labor's cause.

As your National President, my task is to bring all of BLET's Departments, Officers and members together so that our true strength is seen and heard every day. That is even more important in this fall's election. We must take that same "strong will" that we show as individuals every day in the workplace, and make it the "strong will" that we show as a group. We must all cast our votes this fall for the candidates that will support labor's cause.

Please join me this fall in exercising your right and obligation to vote. If you are not registered to vote, register now. Take the time to be an educated voter. Study the issues in detail, and get to know the candidates beyond their sound bites and slogans. Then cast your vote for the candidate who truly represents labor's interests and issues. If you will be working on Election Day, make arrangements to vote early, or vote absentee.

The voice of the individual becomes the voice of the many when we all speak in unison. Be a part of that voice this fall. Be a part of our effort to take labor's cause to the Statehouse and to the halls of Congress. GET OUT AND VOTE!

Fraternally,

DENNIS R. PIERCE

66 As your National President, my task is to bring all of BLET's Departments, Officers and members together so that our true strength is seen and heard every day. That is even more important in this fall's election. 99

Health insurance alert

Open enrollment coming soon for important health care reform changes

Starting in the next few weeks, employees covered under the Railroad Employees National Health and Welfare Plan and the National Railway Carriers and United Transportation Union Health and Welfare Plan (the Plan) will receive their annual Open Enrollment Packets from Railroad Enrollment Services. It is imperative that every employee open the packet to read the important Plan changes effective January 1, 2011. Further, it is also vital that each employee reads the instructions on how to comply with the Federal Law requiring Social Security Numbers (SSNs) for covered dependents (see Page 4 of this issue for more details on SSN collection).

On March 23, 2010, President Obama

signed into law the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (the "Act"). As a result, the Plans will make certain changes effective January 1, 2011. Removal of lifetime limits and addition of certain dependent children to age 26 are two of the major areas of improvement for BLET members. These changes are scheduled to become effective for this Plan on January 1, 2011.

Effective January 1, 2011, the following will be implemented under the Plan. During Open Enrollment, Railroad Employees will be given a 30-day special enrollment period to take advantage of these provisions. Please note: the deadline for enrolling is November 3, 2010.

Currently, the Plan contains a lifetime maximum benefit of \$1,000,000 per each individual. Beginning on January 1, 2011 lifetime maximums will be eliminated for any individual who reached or will reach a lifetime maximum prior to December

31, 2010. The Plan will begin paying any claims incurred by that individual on or after January 1, 2011. (Note: any claims incurred prior to January 1, 2011 that exceed the maximum will not be paid.)

Additionally, the Plan will be extending coverage to certain dependent children to age 26, regardless of student, marital, residence or financial dependence status of the dependent child. The 30-day special enrollment period is being provided for certain children that are not currently enrolled in the Plan, or who are enrolled in the Plan but will lose their dependent eligibility on or before December 31, 2010. **Coverage for any children added during this special enrollment period will be effective on January 1, 2011.**

Your personalized annual open enrollment materials will arrive in the mail in a few weeks. The package will contain further details along with a special

Dependent Add Form. Please review the materials and follow the instructions included in the packet to enroll your eligible dependents up to age 26. The completed Dependent Add Form and other required materials must be postmarked no later than November 3, 2010 in order to have the eligible dependents covered by your Plan. @@

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING THESE CHANGES, PLEASE CALL:

Aetna: 1-800-842-4044

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield: 1-866-267-3320

UnitedHealthcare: 1-800-842-9905

YOU MAY ALSO VISIT THE BLET WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.ble-t.org



Bryan Aldridge reelected by acclamation in Kentucky



Front row, from left: National Vice President Willard Knight; Chris Cooper, 1st Vice Chairman; Bryan Aldridge, Chairman; Dennis Pierce, National President; John Tolman, Vice President & National Legislative Representative; David Sturgeon; Terry Stotts, 2nd Vice Chairman; and Paul Kowalski. **Second row:** Larry Phillips; Jason Cornett; Mike Foley; Henry Gaddis; Larry Whittaker; Dan Maynard, Secretary-Treasurer; and David Marlin, Alternate S-T.

Bryan Aldridge was reelected by acclamation to continue serving as Chairman of the Kentucky State Legislative Board at quadrennial meetings in Frankfort, Ky., from September 1-2, 2010.

Brother Aldridge, 36, has been a member of BLET Division 78 (Louisville, Ky.) since September 1, 2003. He was elected 1st Vice Chairman in October of 2006, and was elevated to Chairman in September of 2008 following the passing of Brother Tommy Mayne. He is a CSX locomotive engineer.

Also elected by acclamation were: Second Vice Chairman Terry Stotts, Division 110 (Ludlow, Ky.); Secretary-Treasurer Dan Maynard, Division 271 (Russell, Ky.); and Alternate Secretary-Treasurer David Marlin, Division 508 (Fulton, Ky.).

BLET National President Dennis Pierce attended the meeting on behalf of the National Division, along with Vice President & National Legislative Representative John Tolman and National Vice President Willard Knight.

"Congratulations to Brother Aldridge and the other Officers on the Kentucky State Legislative Board," President Pierce said. "I know they will continue working hard on behalf of their Brothers and Sisters in the proud commonwealth of Kentucky."

Former BLE International President Clarence V. Monin also attended the meeting. He introduced Jeff Donohue, a candidate for the Kentucky House of Representatives in the 37th district.

Brother J.T. Little, Chairman of the Tennessee State Legislative Board, attended as a guest speaker. He gave a presentation on Switching Operations

Fatality Analysis (SOFA) and its true meaning.

Brother Tim Braden, who serves the CSX Western Lines General Committee of Adjustment as Secretary-Treasurer and Junior Vice General Chairman, also attended. He is also Local Chairman of Division 271.

Bob Buckner, the Federal Railroad Administration's Operating Practices Inspector for Kentucky, also attended as a guest.

Several Legislators from both sides of the aisle addressed the delegates sharing their views on issues that affect the members in Kentucky.

The BLET's Kentucky State Legislative Board represents more than 1,250 members from 12 different BLET Division. They work for Norfolk Southern, CSX and the Canadian National railroads. @@

Teamsters Rail Conference supports Barrows nomination

The Teamsters Rail Conference Policy Committee, in a unanimous decision, will support submitting the name of Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen International Secretary-Treasurer Walt Barrows for nomination to the post of Labor Member, United States Railroad Retirement Board.

Walt Barrows was recently reelected to the position of International Secretary-Treasurer of the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen. He was first elected to the position in 1999, after serving as General Chairman of the Norfolk Southern General Committee and Grand Lodge Trustee. Barrows began his railroad career on the Norfolk and Western Railway in 1974. He also serves on the Board of Trustees for the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust.

The Policy Committee, which announced its decision earlier today, is comprised of members of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Divi-



Walt Barrows

sion and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, both divisions of the Rail Conference of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

"Walt Barrows is the most qualified

person for this important post and will serve all of Rail Labor admirably," said Dennis R. Pierce, President of the Teamsters Rail Conference.

Perry K. Geller Sr., Teamsters Rail Conference Secretary-Treasurer, added: "The Teamsters Rail Conference is glad to support Walt. We believe he will do a great job and look forward to his appointment."

If nominated and confirmed, Barrows would replace outgoing Labor Member V. M. "Butch" Speakman on the three-member board. Speakman announced in July that he would be retiring at the end of the year.

The U. S. Railroad Retirement Board, headquartered in Chicago, IL, administers a federal retirement benefit program and other benefits for the nation's railroad workers.

The Rail Conference of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters represents more than 80,000 hardworking men and women throughout the United States. @@

2010

Calendar & Events

October 22, 2010

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

The U.S. Railroad Retirement Board will hold free informational conferences for elected officers of all railroad labor unions throughout 2010. Registration begins at 8 a.m., with the programs beginning promptly at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 12:30 p.m. In Matthews, N.C. at the Holiday Inn Express, 9420 East Independence Blvd.; and in Wichita, Kan., at the Holiday Inn, 549 S. Rock Road.

October 29, 2010

Railroad Retirement Board Informational Conference
Philadelphia, Pa.

At the Sheet Metal Workers Local 19 Union Hall, 1301 S. Columbus Blvd.

October 31-November 4, 2010

BLET Education and Training Department Local Chairman Workshop

On the campus of the National Labor College in Silver Spring, Md. BLET pays the cost of books, equipment, tuition and a graduation banquet. BLET members are responsible for their own transportation costs as well as room and board. Limited to the first 22 who register. For details, please contact Ken Kroeger, Coordinator of the BLET Education & Training Department, at (216) 272-0986 or kroeger@ble-t.org

December 3, 2010

Railroad Retirement Board Informational Conference
Jacksonville, Fla.

The final RRB Informational Conference of 2010. Registration begins at 8 a.m., with the program beginning promptly at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 12:30 p.m. At the Holiday Inn, 9150 Baymeadows Road.

December 12-15, 2010

BLET Education and Training Department Secretary-Treasurer Workshop

The Education & Training Department conducts its final workshop of 2010 at the Hyatt Regency at the Arcade in downtown Cleveland, Ohio. For details, please contact Ken Kroeger, Coordinator of the BLET Education & Training Department, at (216) 272-0986 or kroeger@ble-t.org.

2011 Calendar (Tentative)

June 12-16, 2011

84th annual Southeastern Meeting Association
Asheville, N.C.
DoubleTree Biltmore Hotel

August 2-7, 2011

73rd annual Eastern Union Meeting Association
Long Island, N.Y.
Hyatt Regency Long Island, Hauppauge, N.Y.

August 21-27, 2011

71st annual International Western Convention
San Luis Obispo, Calif.
Embassy Suites Hotel-San Luis Obispo

September 18-22, 2011

76th annual Southwestern Convention Meeting
El Paso, Texas
Camino Real Hotel

Final effort to collect dependent Social Security Numbers to comply with federal law

A new federal law passed under the Bush administration and just now coming into effect requires the reporting of Social Security Numbers (SSNs) for covered dependents to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). This includes participants of all medical plans, including: The Railroad Employees National Health and Welfare Plan; and The National Railway Carriers and United Transportation Union Health and Welfare

Plan. In addition, if a covered dependent is eligible for Medicare, then the Medicare Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) is also required.

In order to comply with these reporting requirements, Railroad Enrollment Services has mailed a final notice to those members identified with missing dependent SSNs and/or HICNs. If you have received a notice from Railroad Enrollment Services, please provide the SSN and/or HICN for any dependent who is listed as missing this information.

Please be sure to sign, date and return the Social Security Number Reporting Form by the requested return date to the address provided.

NOTE: If you do not receive a notice requesting missing dependent SSNs and/or HICNs, then you do not need to take any action at this time.

The following will occur if the requested SSNs are not provided:

For any dependent who was added to the Plan before January 1, 2009:

If Railroad Enrollment Ser-

vices does not receive the Social Security Number for any dependent whose SSN is missing by January 31, 2011, the dependent(s) will be disenrolled from the Plan effective January 31, 2011.

Please be assured that when Railroad Enrollment Services transmits the SSNs and/or HICNs to CMS, they will maintain all physical, electronic and procedural safeguards that comply with federal standards to guard your personal information. For additional information regard-

ing the new CMS federal law pertaining to this requirement, visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MandatoryInsRep/>.

If you have questions or need another copy of the notification sent to you, please call Railroad Enrollment Services at 800-753-2692. Additionally, there will be an opportunity to provide missing dependent SSNs and/or HICNs during the 2011 Annual Open Enrollment process in the month of October. Your support in providing this information is appreciated. @@

2011 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. @@

BLET CONCLUDES 2ND NATIONAL CONVENTION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 <->

As part of the nomination process, 18 candidates for National Division office ran unopposed and were elected by acclamation. Two candidates were nominated in each of the four remaining races for National President, National Secretary-Treasurer, National Vice President #4 and Alternate National Vice President & National Legislative Representative. A ballot for those races will be mailed to eligible members on November 15, 2010 and

must be returned by December 15, 2010.

"The Brotherhood will be running a Get Out The Vote, or GOTV campaign with the goal that all members will participate in this historic rank and file election of officers," President Pierce said. "Please remember to mail your ballot when it arrives."

Additional coverage of the BLET's Second National Convention will appear in the next issue of the monthly newsletter, as well as the Winter 2010 issue of the Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen Journal. @@

Transportation Workers protecting each other since 1910



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72nd annual Eastern Union Meeting Association

Several hundred BLET members gathered at the Sheraton Station Square Hotel in downtown Pittsburgh, Pa., for the 72nd annual Eastern Union Meeting Association (EUMA).

Tom and Sue Caruso hosted the 2010 EUMA, along with several hardworking members of their Arrangements Committee.

EUMA organizers made arrangements to honor fallen BLET

members during the 2010 EUMA, including Brother Andy Monheim. Monheim was a member of BLET Division 700 (Braddock, Pa.) who was killed in the line of duty on March 16, 2010, while working for the Union Railroad in Pittsburgh.

On behalf of the Monheim family, BLET Division 700 member Bill Dopico accepted a United States flag from the Carusos, which had flown over Capitol Hill.

The office of Congressman Mike Doyle, special guest speaker during EUMA opening ceremonies, helped to acquire the flag for presentation to the Monheim family.

EUMA organizers also remembered fallen BLET Brothers and Sisters during a dinner cruise. BLET National President Dennis Pierce concluded a special memorial ceremony honoring the BLET's fallen members by tossing a wreath of flowers into the river. @@



Don Despines, a member of BLET Division 590 (Conway, Pa.), and family.



Secretary-Treasurer John Bove, Division 269 (Long Island, N.Y.), and National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert.



Tom Caruso and his wife Sue, organizers and hosts of the 2010 EUMA. Tom is Secretary-Treasurer of the BLET Division 335 (Elrama, Pa.).



Vice President Don Moates and CSX (Northern Lines) General Chairman Rick Finamore.



Septa General Chairman Rich Dixon (lower left) along with several other members during the opening ceremony.



Dino Raptis, Division 12 LC (Fort Wayne, Ind.); **Mark Kenny**, Amtrak GC; and **S.J. Tuck**, Division 17 LC (Kansas City, Mo.).



Jerry Elmore, Secretary-Treasurer, NS-Northern Lines GCA; and **A.J. Goulet**, Legislative Representative of Division 304 (Saginaw, Mich.).



Tim Hanely, Ohio SLBC; **Larry Schneider**, LR Division 192 (El Paso, Texas); and **Greg Powell**, Michigan SLBC.



Becky Schneider, President of the BLET Auxiliary.



Union Railroad Locomotive Engineer Bill Dopico, Division 700 (Braddock, Pa.), and his wife Susan.



John Karakian, Grand Trunk Western General Chairman, and **Dennis Pierce**, BLET National President.



Remembering the fallen: The BLET Advisory Board prepares to toss a wreath of flowers into the river as part of a memorial ceremony honoring the BLET's fallen members.



Jim Louis, NY SLBC & Conrail (SAA/CSX-Northern District) GC; **John Tolman**, Vice President & National Legislative Rep; **Dennis Pierce**, President; and **Steve Bruno**, Director of Regulatory Affairs.



Steve Speagle, National Vice President



Lee Pruitt, First Vice President



Bill Walpert, National Secretary-Treasurer



Dennis Pierce, National President



Wheeling & Lake Erie engineers **Steve Fogle**, LC Division 292 (Beach City, Ohio) and **Chad Colucci**, ST Division 292.



Marcus Ruef, Vice President & Arbitration Director, and **Mike Priester**, General Chairman (CP Rail System/U.S.).



Willard Knight, Vice President

BLET National Division Electronic Communications Policy

Official communications between BLET members and the National Division require a hard copy of the correspondence, bearing a signature, being received by the National President to be considered an "official communication." This is to provide that the actual question(s) are addressed, and ensures that when official interpretations are made they have reference to a specific request and can be used in future correspondence.

The volume of e-mails received makes it impossible for the National President to answer all unofficial communications. Therefore, it is the policy of the BLET that e-mails addressed to the National President will be reviewed and forwarded to the appropriate officer or staff for a timely response; however, an e-mail message is not considered an official communication.

Moreover, anonymous e-mails and e-mails that do not provide sufficient information concerning the sender to enable National Division staff to confirm the sender's membership status will not receive any reply or acknowledgement. This policy is intended to allow the National President to be aware of the opinions and suggestions of the membership, while at the same time providing a timely response to the member's unofficial communication, if a response is necessary, without needlessly expending limited BLET resources.

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

BLET URGES FRA TO IMPROVE CAB SAFETY, SECURITY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 →

Additionally, the FRA was asked to take the following steps:

- Revise its interpretation of 49 C.F.R. § 229.45 to include malfunctioning and uninstalled cab locking devices as "conditions that endanger the safety of the crew" and issue a Safety Advisory to that effect.
- Revise the Task Statement for the Locomotive Safety Standards Working Group of the FRA's Railroad Safety Advisory Committee to include the development of standards for securing locomotive cabs.
- Make locomotive cab securement a prominent feature in FRA's final report on cab conditions, which is mandated by Section 405(b) of the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008.
- Empower operating crews with the right to manage their locomotive consist so that an air conditioned locomotive is on the point whenever any locomotive in their consist is so equipped, to reduce exposure caused when crews are forced by heat to leave cab windows open.
- Revisit outdated glazing requirements.

"I have always believed that we will never have secure rails until we have a secure cab," President Pierce said. "In the wake of 9/11, the airlines beefed up their cockpit doors to provide a secure workplace and environment for pilots and the traveling public. It's way past time for locking locomotive cab doors on all locomotives." ©©

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, SEE:
[HTTP://WWW.BLE-T.ORG/SECURITY](http://www.ble-t.org/security)

FLORIDA HIGH-SPEED RAIL



White House Clout: One of the major initiatives supported by the Obama administration has been the development of a national high-speed rail network. President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden recently met with Brother Dave Lavery, Chairman of the BLET's Florida State Legislative Board, regarding high-speed rail in the Sunshine State. Earlier this year, it was announced that Florida would receive \$1.25 billion in Federal funding to build a true high-speed rail line connecting Tampa on the West Coast with Orlando in the middle of the state, eventually going south to Miami.

Teamsters Canada Rail Conference holds Second National Convention

Some 165 delegates and a gallery of almost 150 guests and invited international visitors opened the second quadrennial national convention of the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference (TCRC) here on September 21 under the banner of "Building the Future."

"The convention delegates here today represent the interests of almost 93 percent of all rail workers in Canada," TCRC National President Dan Shewchuk said. "This is surely a significant event, which has been in the planning process for a year and a half."

"It pleases me to see the many new first-time delegates here in attendance at our convention," he continued. "With only 45 returning delegates out of the 160-plus registered, there are many new faces at the convention, and I welcome their energy and enthusiasm. They will be able to form lasting friendships and bonds that will strengthen our great Union."

Two members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen were on hand to address the TCRC delegates. BLET National Vice President Merle Geiger received a standing ovation for his address to the delegates. In addition, BLET Member Chuck Anderson, who serves the National Division as Director of Communications, delivered the opening session invocation.

President Shewchuk said the theme for the TCRC's 2006 convention was "Moving Forward Together," something he said the organization has certainly fulfilled. "Over the past four years, the Rail Conference has increased in size from approximately 4,000 members to over 10,000 members fulfilling the true multi-craft Union envisioned by our



Strong ties: BLET Vice President Merle Geiger discusses the proud history that ties the BLET with the TCRC.

delegates in 2006," he said.

BLET Vice President Merle Geiger, who is currently the senior BLET Vice President on the Advisory Board, represented the BLET on behalf of all Brothers and Sisters in the United States. He presented greetings from National President Dennis Pierce, who could not attend due to ongoing preparations for the BLET Second Quadrennial National Convention in Reno in two weeks. Brother Geiger referred to the long-standing relationship between rail trade unionists in Canada and the United States.

"Even though we have moved forward as separate entities, our history, our common interests, our good communications and an excellent relationship will keep our Organizations forever bonded," he said. "We will always be special

Brothers amongst Brothers."

To further illustrate his point he said, "I happened to receive a copy of our Locomotive Engineer and Trainmen newsletter in the mail last week. In the history section was a picture of the earliest Brotherhood convention photo available from our vaults and it just so happened to be a picture of our 1896 convention held in Ottawa, Ontario, which was the Organization's first ever large-scale convention held outside the United States. The meeting in Ottawa was in honor of our Canadian Brothers and Sisters."

The delegates rewarded his remarks with a standing ovation, and he received numerous congratulations afterwards, which was a further expression of the friendship that exists between members in Canada and the U.S. ©©

Photo: Avonlea Photography



BLET launches close call reporting system at Amtrak

A confidential, risk-reducing approach to safety

A mtrak and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) will begin working together to improve safe train operations under a joint Confidential Close Call Reporting System (C3RS) at nine locations throughout the United States.

C3RS enables operating employees to confidentially report close calls that occur anywhere the Amtrak employees work (specifically, employees who work in rail yards in Boston, New Haven, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Miami, Chicago, and Seattle).

The agreement was signed by Amtrak, the BLET, Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and United Transportation Union (UTU).

The goal is to encourage management and employees to identify potential risks so that specific safety countermeasures can be developed and implemented. Under the pilot program, employees can make voluntary and confidential reports of close call incidents without concern for disciplinary or FRA enforcement action.

Examples of reportable close call incidents include a wide range of issues all the way from leaving a piece of equipment unsecured up to incidents of a train operating beyond its track authority.

Close call events will be report-

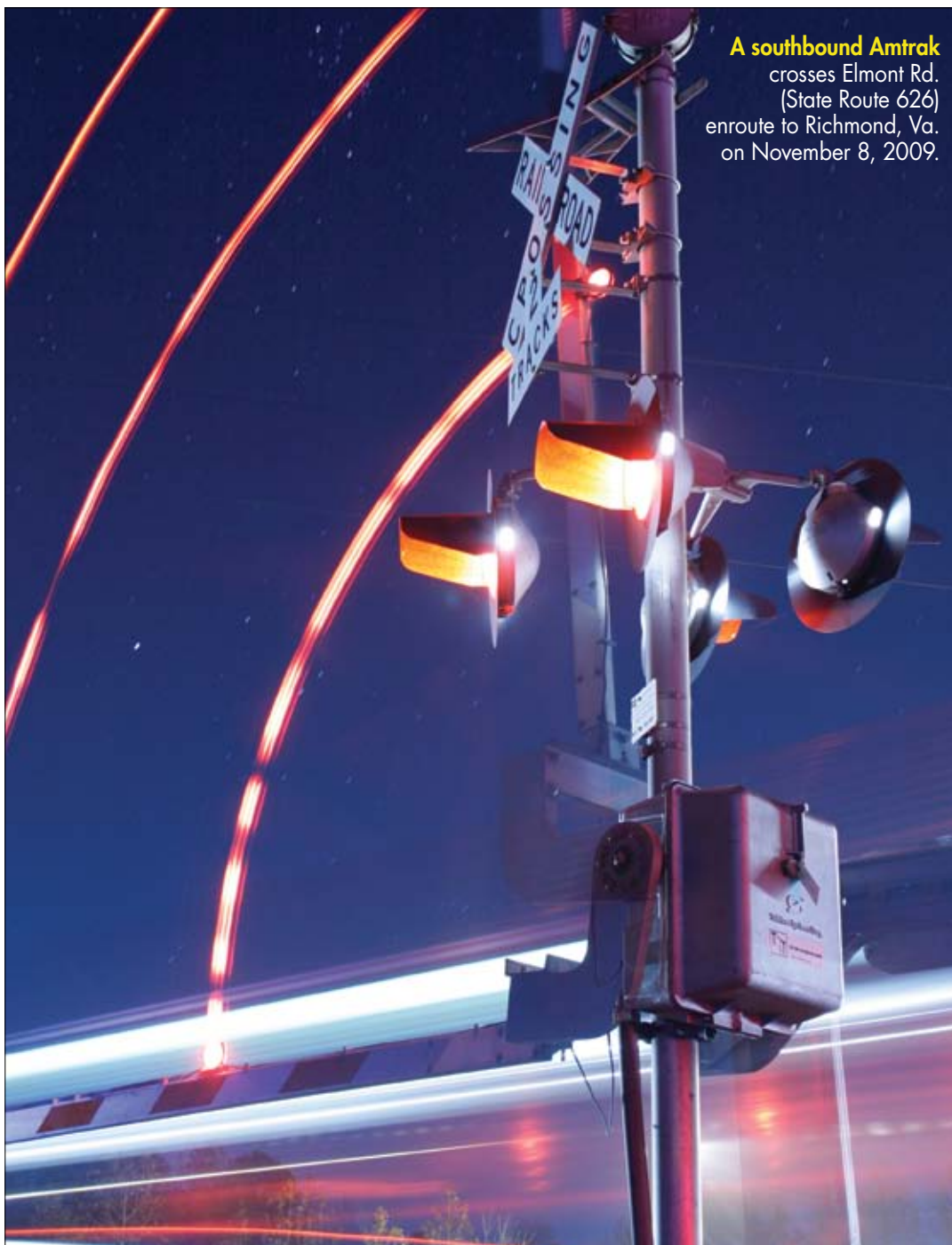
ed to NASA, which has years of experience with the risk-reduction approach to safety and will process the information to maintain the confidentiality of the reporting employee. Then, a Peer Review Team with representatives from Amtrak, FRA, BLET, and UTU will analyze the close call incident to determine appropriate corrective action.

The BLET has been the leading rail labor union to work with the FRA during the development and initial launch of C3RS in 2002. The program was started in 2002 when the FRA formed the Close Calls Planning Committee to study the value of a reporting system in the railroad industry.

The BLET inked a similar C3RS agreement with New Jersey Transit in April of 2008, and has additional close call reporting agreements with Union Pacific and the Canadian Pacific Railway.

BLET was represented in the negotiations by Amtrak General Chairman Mark Kenny, who was assisted by several Amtrak members.

BLET National President Dennis Pierce said, "I want to congratulate Brother Kenny and those who are bringing this program to fruition. Working together to address systemic safety issues we can make the railroad a safer place, not only for Amtrak's passengers, but also for the hard working professionals of the BLET and UTU." @@



A southbound Amtrak crosses Elmont Rd. (State Route 626) enroute to Richmond, Va. on November 8, 2009.

Photo: courtesy Michael Marra, BLET Division 532 (Richmond, Va.)

Plan ahead for 2011 BLET regional meetings!

BLET members making vacation plans for next year are encouraged to consider attending one of the BLET's regional meetings in 2011.

These multi-day meetings combine the best of the Brotherhood — networking, education and training, and family fun — all in one place. The meetings provide an excellent opportunity for members to meet their elected leaders and to engage in face-to-face question and answer sessions. It also allows them to exchange ideas and information with their fellow BLET Brothers and Sisters.

The 2011 meetings are as follows:

June 12-16, 2011

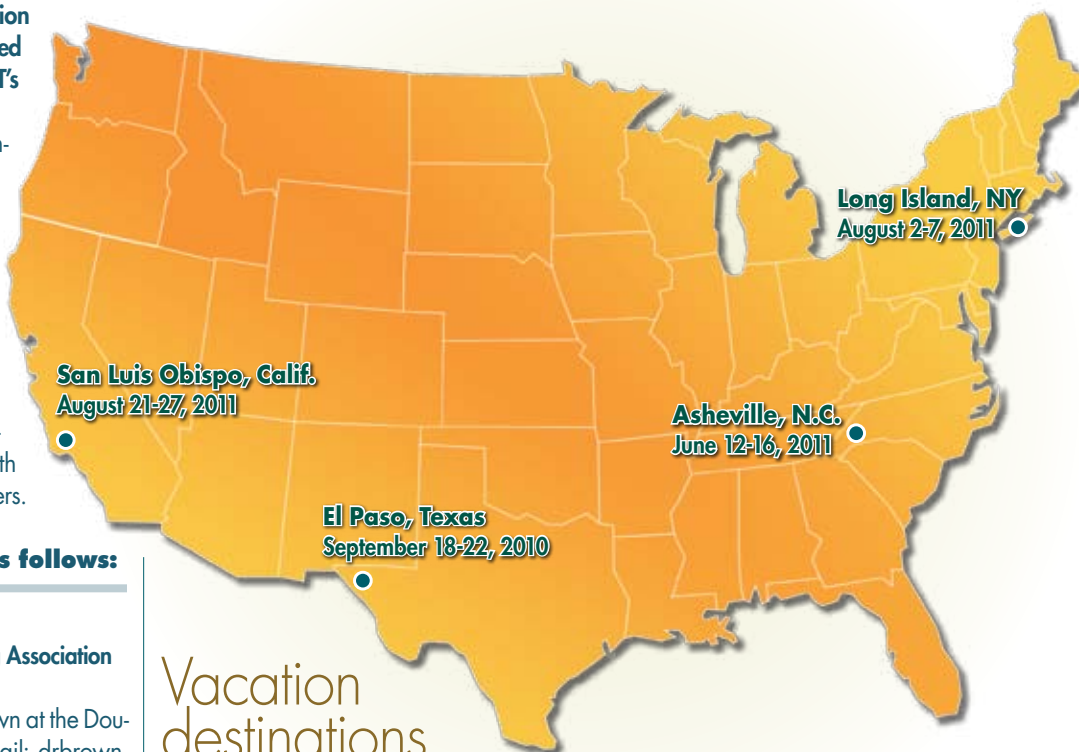
84th Annual Southeastern Meeting Association
Asheville, N.C.

Hosted by Brother Dewey Brown at the DoubleTree Biltmore. For details, email: drbrown.blet267@yahoo.com.

August 2-7, 2011

73rd Annual Eastern Union Meeting Association
Long Island, N.Y.

Hosted by the members of BLET Division 269 at the Hyatt Regency Long Island, Hauppauge, N.Y. For details, email Jim Brown (loco542@optonline.net) or visit www.euma2011.org.



Vacation destinations

Week of August 21-27, 2011

71st Annual International Western Convention
San Luis Obispo, Calif.

Hosted by Brother Mike Galvani and the members of BLET Division 664 at the Embassy Suites Hotel-San Luis Obispo. For details, email Brother Galvani (sloble664@wildblue.net) or call (805) 927-2967.

September 18-22, 2011

76th annual Southwestern Convention Meeting
El Paso, Texas

Hosted by Larry & Becky Schneider and the members of BLET Division 192 at the Camino Real Hotel. For details, email Brother Schneider (lschneider7@earthlink.net) or visit the SWCM website, bletsbcm.org/index2.html.

Sales of EUMA video to support scholarship fund

A highlight video of the 2010 EUMA convention, which was shown at the banquet, is available for sale. The DVD includes full coverage of the opening ceremonies as well as the awards and scholarship announcements made during the banquet. Each DVD is \$24.95, which includes shipping. Ten percent of the total sales will be donated to the EUMA scholarship fund.

FOR DETAILS, PLEASE CONTACT:

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9/10

NICKEL PLATE STEAM

Nickel Plate Road 2-8-4 Berkshire No. 765 blasts over the Cuyahoga River north of Peninsula, Ohio, during an evening excursion trip on September 18, 2010. The powerful locomotive, owned by the Fort Wayne Railroad Historical Society, was loaned to the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad for a few weeks in September. It is the largest operating steam locomotive east of the Mississippi River and was built by the Lima Locomotive Works in 1944. It stands 15 feet tall and weighs 404 tons. **Photo courtesy:** Michael Harding



A message from Teamsters General President James P. Hoffa



Put American jobs first

Thirty million Americans who want a full-time job can't find one. This is a catastrophe of the magnitude of a war, a flood or a hurricane. Countless lives are being ruined, families shattered, communities impoverished.

I'm afraid this unemployment crisis will destroy the social fabric of our nation. Far too many people are finding out that working hard and following the rules isn't enough anymore.

Waiting and hoping for things to get better won't work. America lost jobs continually for two years, and it's going to take longer than that to bring them back. Some economists say it will be 10 years before the unemployment rate returns to what it was when the recession started in December 2007.

Unfortunately, waiting and hoping is pretty much what corporate America wants us to do. And corporate America is in the driver's seat. Even though it's obvious what needs to happen to put our economy back on track, corporate America isn't interested.

We desperately need to start putting America first. Like it or not, the federal government accounts for about 20 percent of our economy. The federal government should be buying goods and services from companies headquartered in America that employ American workers.

But corporate America is fighting back hard against "Buy America" policies. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce actually claims "Buy America" will cost U.S. jobs.

To create American jobs, there are things we can do in addition to buying American. We need to fix our trade policy, especially with China. We need to rebuild our infrastructure — such as the rails, which President Obama has already committed to. We need to subsidize growth industries that create good-quality jobs, as we did when we rescued GM and Chrysler.

But none of that will happen as long as U.S. companies that send jobs overseas are calling the shots. And believe me, they will go all out this November to fill Congress with politicians who care more about their profits than about the well-being of the American worker.

It's up to our brothers and sisters in the labor movement to prevent that from happening. We must do everything we can in order to make sure that we elect candidates who truly care about bringing jobs back to America.

Fraternally,

James P. Hoffa
TEAMSTERS GENERAL PRESIDENT

Advisory Board August 2010 Activity

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

NATIONAL PRESIDENT DENNIS R. PIERCE — National Division office, Cleveland, Ohio; General supervision of BLET activities; General office duties; Correspondence and telephone communications; Supervision of Office Administration; General supervision of Special Representatives; President, Teamsters Rail Conference; Policy Committee, Teamsters Rail Conference; Division 197 mtg., San Antonio, Texas; Eastern Union Meeting Association (EUMA), Pittsburgh, Pa.; Mtg. w/ IBT General President James P. Hoffa, Washington, D.C.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT E.L. "LEE" PRUITT — National Duties include but not limited to: Director, Passenger Dept.; Shortline Organizing Dept.; Trainmen's Dept.; National Publications Committee; National Legislative Board; Teamsters Rail Conference Policy Committee; and National Negotiations; Division 197 mtg., San Antonio, Texas; EUMA, Pittsburgh; PLB 7329, Assisting GC Dayton, UP, Omaha, Neb.; UPRR on-property, Omaha, Neb.; Advisory Board conference call; Section 6 negotiations, UPRR, Cheyenne, Wyo; PRAC conference call.

NATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER WILLIAM C. WALPERT — General supervision of accounting dept., records dept., online services dept., IT Dept., tax compliance dept.; public relations dept.; Education & Training Dept.; Internal Organizing, Mobilizing & Strategic Planning Dept.; Safety Task Force; Meetings with vendors and financial institutions; Standard Building operations oversight; EUMA, Pittsburgh; Local Chairman workshop, National Labor College, Silver Spring, Md.; Publications Committee mtg., Cleveland; Advisory Board conference call.

VICE PRESIDENT MERLE W. GEIGER JR. — Assigned to: Kansas City Southern; Texas Mexican Railway; MidSouth Rail; SouthRail; Gateway Western; CP Rail System/US (CP/DME/ICE); Indiana Southern RR; Utah RR; Panhandle Northern RR; Great Western RR; Indiana Harbor Belt; and Belt RR of Chicago; Mtg. w/ GC Williams (Panhandle Northern), Crowley, Texas; Mtgs. w/ GC Rodriguez (Tex-Mex) and Div. 244, Houston, Corpus Christie and Laredo, Texas; Mtg. w/ GC Koonce and KCS, Kansas City, Mo.; Mtgs. w/ GC Parker and KCS, Kansas City, Mo.; 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); EUMA, Pittsburgh, Division 232 mtg., MRL, Billings, Mont.; BNSF assistance, Decatur; Vacation day; PLB 7369, BNSF, Phoenix, Ariz.; PLB 7404, BNSF, Philadelphia.

VICE PRESIDENT & NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE JOHN P. TOLMAN — Assigned to BLET Washington, DC office; BLET Security Officer; General office duties, telephone, correspondence communications; Coordinate content of NLO website; EUMA, Pittsburgh, Iowa State Legislative Board mtg., Fort Madison, Iowa; Publications Committee mtg., Cleveland; Kentucky State Legislative Board mtg., Louisville, Ky.; Communications w/ House and Senate members, re: safety related issues, FMLA, H.R. 5944, Hours of Service, and various other bills; Various receptions.

VICE PRESIDENT MARCUS J. RUEF — Labor member-NRAB, Vice Chairman, First Division; Director of Arbitration Dept; Assigned to Amtrak; Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA); Long Island Railroad (LIRR); New York & Atlantic (NYAL); New Jersey Transit (NJT); PATH; Metra; Prep for D.L. 318 session, NRAB; NMB 2010 psgr. LR conf. steering cmte., ND; D.L. 318 Referee Benn, Chicago; EUMA, Pittsburgh; Advanced Local Chairmen's Workshop, Silver Spring, Md.; First Division adoption session, Referee Kenis, NRAB, Chicago; 3rd Circuit decision, re: SBA 1157, URR; Prep & travel for mtg. w/ NMB Chief of Staff, Chicago.

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE TWOMBLY — Assigned to Delaware & Hudson; Springfield Terminal; St. Lawrence & Atlantic; Montreal, Maine & Atlantic; Union RR; Birmingham Southern; Huron & Eastern; Duluth, Missabe & Iron Range; DM&IR-Two Harbors; South Buffalo Rwy; Iowa, Chicago & Eastern; Indiana & Ohio; Indiana & Southern; Louisville & Indiana; Meridian Southern; Talleyrand Terminal RR; Springfield Terminal negotiations, Billerica, Mass.; EUMA, Pittsburgh; CN-EJ&E contract negotiations, Homewood, Ill.; Gary Railway, labor-management mtgs., Gary, Ind.; CN-DMIR negotiations, Duluth, Minn.

VICE PRESIDENT WILLARD E. KNIGHT — Assigned to: All Norfolk Southern General Committees; Wheeling & Lake Erie; Chicago, Fort Wayne & Eastern; New York, Susquehanna & Western; New England Central; Connecticut Southern; Western New York & Pennsylvania; Indiana & Ohio; EUMA, Pittsburgh, Div. 548 mtg., Prui, Ind.; Div. 537 and Div. 106 mtg., Fort Wayne, Ind.; Div. 345 mtg., Van Wert, Ohio; Div. 306 mtg., Mansfield, Ohio; Div. 4 and Div. 385 mtg., Toledo, Ohio; Advisory Board conference call; SBA 1063, PLB 7159, PLB 7436, Norfolk, Va.; Mtg. w/ NS CEO Morman, Norfolk, Va.; General office duties.

VICE PRESIDENT GIL GORE — Assigned to all CSX; Union Pacific-Southern Region GCA special assignment; UP on-property negotiations; Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC), CSXT; Section 4 mtgs. w/ GCs Finamore and Louis and CSXT, Jacksonville; Advisory Board conference call; EUMA, Pittsburgh; Section 4 notice & mtgs., work w/ CSXT General Chairmen; Conference call, web mtgs., CSXT; Paperwork, filing, calls, and general office duties.

VICE PRESIDENT DON MOATES — Assigned to UP-Western Lines; UP-Western Region; UP-Central Region; UP-Southern Region; UP-Eastern District; UP-Northern Region; Indiana Rail Road; Terminal Rwy.-Alabama State Docks; New Orleans & Gulf Coast; Longview Switching Co.; Eastern Idaho RR; Portland & Western; CSXT Western Lines transition period, assisting the new GC; Mtg. w/ CSX Labor Relations and GC Matt Thornton, CSXT Western Lines, Jacksonville; Mtg. w/ GC Thornton and Indiana Railroad and Terminal RR-Alabama State Docks, re: 6/2 work/rest cycle proposal; Advisory Board conference call; EUMA, Pittsburgh; PLB 7329; Review PLB 7319 issues w/ GC Jim Dayton, 1st VP Pruitt and Steve Leyshon, Council Bluffs, Iowa; PLB 7319 hearing, UP; UP Fuel Masters program, mtg. w/ various BLET members, Council Bluffs; Assist CSXT-Western Lines, Indiana RR and Terminal RR-Alabama State Docks; Favorable FRA ruling for Engineer E.W. Rice, CSXT, Atlanta Division; Mtgs. w/ UP, Cheyenne, Wyo.