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Locomotive

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FRA chief Joe Szabo addresses BLET national convention

Joseph C. Szabo, Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration, discussed high-speed rail, rail security, and on-the-job safety when he addressed BLET delegates during the Brotherhood's Second National Convention in Reno, Nevada, on October 4.

Szabo is a fifth generation railroader who comes from the ranks of rail labor. He was Illinois State Legislative Director of the United Transportation Union prior to his appointment to the FRA's top post.

Szabo said that not since the days of Abraham Lincoln has the United States had a President who has put railroading in the forefront of his agenda like Barack Obama has done. He said the Obama administration has made an \$8 billion down payment on high speed rail in 2009 with

another \$2.5 billion follow-up this year. The investment will help increase jobs in the manufacturing and construction fields. More importantly, the investment will create operating jobs for BLET members. He said expanding passenger rail will also help reduce the nation's dependence of foreign oil while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Administrator Szabo also recognized BLET leaders and commended BLET members for participating in the two "High Alert" rail security reports. He acknowledged a recent letter BLET President Pierce calling for improved locomotive cab security following the on-duty murder of a conductor in New Orleans.

He said the FRA has scheduled meetings with the BLET to discuss requirements regarding locking cab doors, window glazing standards, and cab

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FRA Administrator Joe Szabo

AUTUMN IN NEW ENGLAND

The quaint village and the fall foliage combine with the BLET-represented **St. Lawrence & Atlantic train crew** to create this classic New England autumn scene. Frequent BLET contributor Gary Knapp snapped this photo in Gorham, N.H., on October 9, 2010.



BLET VP Ruef appointed NRAB Vice Chairman



National President Dennis Pierce congratulates Vice President Marcus Ruef on his appointment.

Marcus J. Ruef, BLET National Vice President & Arbitration Director, was elected Vice Chairman of the full National Railroad Adjustment Board (NRAB) at meetings in Chicago on September 22. His term of office began on October 1, 2010.

Vice President Ruef is the longest serving Labor Member on the Board. He will be working with Chair-

man Mike Lesnik in overseeing the Boards operations.

"This is not only a significant honor for me personally, but also for our Organization," Vice President Ruef said.

As Vice Chairman of the NRAB, Brother Ruef is now responsible for working with the rail industry and the National Mediation Board (NMB) to resolve problems presented to the Board and to find ways to improve

the minor dispute resolution process.

NMB recently established a new Arbitration Advisory Forum with representatives of labor, industry, and the arbitrator community to work with NMB in a spirit of cooperation to explore ways to improve the Section Three process. Brother Ruef is one of the three labor representatives serving on this important new panel.

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Notice of Election

of National Division Officers **pg 12**

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BLET PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NATIONAL BARGAINING UPDATE

When national Section 6 Notices were served last November, we were more than a year into the worst economic crisis America has seen since the Great Depression, and the national unemployment rate continues to hover around 10%. BLET members have not been spared from the hardships of the current recession. Between May 2008 and June 2009, T&E employment on the "Big Four" Class I carriers dropped over 19½%.

As recently as last January, employment levels remained over 19½% below May 2008, and are still nearly 12½% below that figure today. That translates into nearly 8,000 fewer T&E jobs on those four carriers, alone.

The carriers are doing much better than our members are; in fact, they're doing much better than the economy as a whole. Net profits for the Big Four totaled nearly \$5¼ billion in 2009, a figure that was surpassed in less than nine months this year. Profits for the two-year period are all but certain to top the \$13 billion mark.

The industry continues to make historic profits in the face of these lean economic times. In fact, investing in railroads is such a good bet that even the legendary Warren Buffet has gone "all in" on BNSF.

Those profits come in large measure from the productivity of BLET members and our Brother and Sister railroad workers. They also are calculated after



BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce presents a commemorative BLET watch to Teamsters General President James P. Hoffa following President Hoffa's speech to BLET delegates at the Second National Convention in Reno, Nevada, on October 4, 2010.

our wage and benefit costs have been paid.

You'd never know about the industry's success or our contribution at the bargaining table, though. That's because the carriers are trying to use the nation's economic woes to fill their already bulging pockets at our expense.

The main focus of the carriers' attack is our package of health and welfare benefits. The industry's negotiators are demanding large scale rollbacks in benefits and huge hikes in what we pay — both on the front end, through monthly premium contributions, and on the back end with co-pays.

The carriers don't argue that they can't afford to improve or

maintain the current plan; with the size of their profits no one could make that claim with a straight face. Instead, they're trying to make the case that what we receive is way out of line with the rest of the country.

There are two problems with the carriers' argument. First, it deliberately overlooks the fact our benefits were bought and paid for at the bargaining table in past bargaining rounds; we're already paying for our benefits. And, second, the comparisons made by the carriers are to non-union employers who have slashed their workers' benefits in response to the economic downturn.

Think about that for a minute. What the carriers seek to

do is piggyback on businesses that have been devastated by the recession, and impose a level of concessions on us similar to that foisted upon workers who have no union to defend them ... and they make that argument while they are raking in record profits!

For most of my railroad career I've been witness to the carriers crying poverty. Time and time again the carriers sang the same, worn out chorus... "Labor needs to give us a break so we can get back on our feet!" And the carriers received plenty of breaks that we never agreed to. The late 80's and early 90's saw series of concessionary contracts that included givebacks in wages, benefits and work rules. We also lost hundreds of thousands of jobs, with employment on Class I railroads dropping nearly 75%, between 1970 and last January. On top of that, the percentage of railroad jobs on Class I carriers plunged from more than 88% in 1970 to just over 70% in 2006.

The carriers got what they wanted for more than 30 years, and now are reaping windfall profits, but they reap those profits because of you. Railroad worker productivity — as measured by freight train miles per employee and freight car miles per employee — soared by over 250% during that same period. Maybe the carriers think we've forgotten this history, or maybe they don't believe we're ready for a fight in these tough times, but they're wrong either way.

Let me say this loud enough for the railroads to hear, BLET WILL NOT ACCEPT A CONCESSIONARY AGREEMENT IN THIS BARGAINING ROUND! The membership of our great union has given enough, it's past time for us to receive wages and benefits commensurate with the contribution we make to the Carrier's profits.

This isn't just talk. The BLET, as part of the Rail Labor Bargaining Coalition, has done the research and we are putting together an ironclad case to defend our wages, rules, and all of our benefits. We're gearing up for a fight this industry hasn't seen in decades. Although the Railway Labor Act makes for a long and drawn out process, we will exercise our legal economic power, if that becomes necessary. We will not be worn down in this struggle.

There's a role in this fight for you, too. Be active in your Local Division; get involved in your property's Mobilization Network. When the struggle really gets under way expect us to reach out to you, to make your voice heard. When the word comes that it's time to act, be ready so that the carriers understand that they're not dealing with just a group of union leaders. Make sure that they know that they are dealing with each and every Teamster in the BLET.

Fraternally,

DENNIS R. PIERCE

66

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FRA CHIEF JOE SZABO ADDRESSES BLET NATIONAL CONVENTION

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climate control regulations, which would allow cab windows to remain closed and secured.

"I commit to an ongoing, strong working relationship with rail labor to improve cab security," he said. "You have a pledge from somebody who has walked in your shoes."

Szabo said the use of cellular phones is one of the biggest challenges facing the rail industry today. He urged BLET members to police themselves and to police their fellow Brothers and Sisters while on duty. He said the best policy is to turn off cell phones and store them while on duty.

"The safety of employees is a shared responsibility and we need to make certain that employees are well trained, have proper certification and have obtained a suitable amount of rest before making use of their expertise and abil-

ities," Administrator Szabo told BLET delegates. "Our railroad environment is an absolutely unforgiving environment. And it's one that demands absolute situational awareness."

He concluded by again committing to an ongoing, positive working relationship with the BLET and all Rail Labor.

"We are laying the groundwork for a safer rail environment now and for years to come," he said.

BLET National President Dennis Pierce thanked the Administrator for making time in his busy schedule to address the BLET delegates.

"We appreciate all that you do on behalf of the BLET members and all rail workers," President Pierce said. "We look forward to our continued close cooperation with the FRA." ©©

PHOTOS FROM THE SECOND NATIONAL CONVENTION ARE ON THE BLET'S FLICKR WEBSITE:

WWW.FLICKR.COM/PHOTOS/BLETUNION

BLET VP RUEF APPOINTED NRAB VICE CHAIRMAN

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"Congratulations to Brother Ruef on this significant achievement," BLET National President Dennis Pierce said. "His appointment as NRAB Vice Chairman is a testament to his many years of distinguished service on behalf of the Organization."

As background information, the National Railroad Adjustment Board (NRAB) is an agency of the Federal Government located in Chicago, Ill. Established by an amendment to the Railway Labor Act (RLA) in 1934, the Board has jurisdiction over all "minor disputes" in the rail industry (i.e. claims and grievances concerning the interpretation of existing agreements — including challenges to unjust discipline).

The minor dispute process is vital to our membership because it is the mechanism by which the BLET enforc-

es our collective bargaining Agreements and challenges unjustly assessed discipline.

The Board has 34 members divided evenly between Labor and Management, and is comprised of four separate divisions, each handling a certain group of crafts or classes of railroad employees. The First Division represents operating employees; the Second Division the shop crafts; the Third Division the Maintenance of Way, Clerical, Signal and on-board passenger service groups; and the Fourth Division handles the remnants of the maritime trades, the Yardmasters, line level supervisors and police.

Vice President Ruef serves the BLET as one of our two Labor Members of the First Division. He was elected to a four-year term of office, as a National Division Vice President, at the BLET's First Quadrennial Convention in June of 2006 and was later appointed Director of Arbitration in April of 2009. ©©



A message from Teamsters General President James P. Hoffa

BLET AND IBT: STRONGER TOGETHER

I had the pleasure recently of attending your Second National Convention. As I said from the podium, you truly represent the face of the Teamsters Union and in fact, the face of America. You are the ones who keep America together and moving.

When you merged with the Teamsters Union in 2004, you helped us realize our vision of a great transportation union. Along with your merger and that of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, you enabled us to claim membership that spanned the air, the highways and the rails. And, today the BLET is stronger because of that merger. We are all stronger together.

And we are stronger politically, too. We were one of the first unions to back the presidency of Barack Obama. We met with him and told him we have to have more jobs in America. Now we've got \$8 billion to rebuild our rail systems. And, I know we are ready and able to take this on. Not only do we need to rebuild the rail beds, but we need new cars for the railroads and other new equipment. It will be up to us to make sure the track rebuilding and equipment are made in



America by Americans so that we can put people back to work.

In addition we are focusing on your upcoming national contract bargaining. I have told your leadership that they need to put the rail corporations on notice because we are going to have the entire might of the Teamsters Union—Communications, Research and Strategic Planning—working with you. We are going to be with you at the table. That's

power and that's what we stand for.

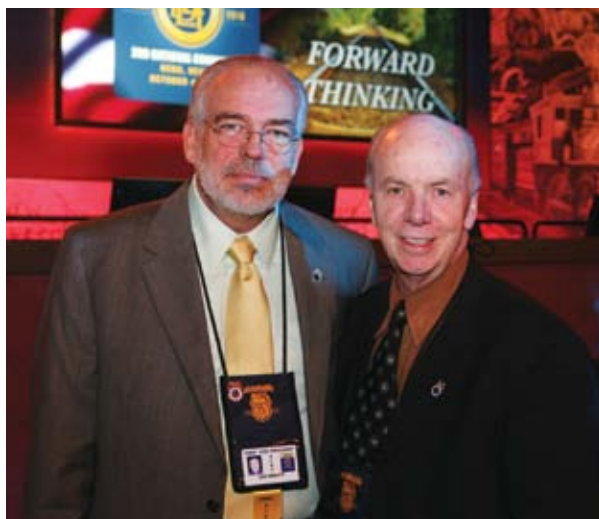
Everybody needs to get involved. Apathy is the worst thing in the world. Work hard for the BLET and work hard for working people. We can do it together.

Fraternally,
JAMES P. HOFFA
TEAMSTERS GENERAL PRESIDENT

National Convention photo gallery, pages 3-5



BLET Advisory Board at the Second National Convention in Reno Executive Committee, seated (from left): First Vice President E. "Lee" Pruitt; National President Dennis R. Pierce; and National Secretary-Treasurer William C. Walpert. Vice Presidents, standing (from left): National Legislative Representative John Tolman, Willard Knight, Gil Gore, Don Moates, Mike Twombly, Arbitration Director Marcus Ruef, Merle Geiger, and Steve Speagle.



First Vice President Lee Pruitt with Teamsters Eastern Region Vice President John Murphy



Presentation of the colors during the opening ceremonies.

2010

Calendar & Events

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. Class size is limited to the first 24 who register. 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 12-17, 2011

**84th annual Southeastern
Meeting Association
Asheville, N.C.**

DoubleTree Biltmore Hotel
Contact host chairman Dewey Brown by phone or email: (828) 683-9371 or drbrown.blet267@yahoo.com.

August 2-7, 2011

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

Hyatt Regency Long Island, Hauppauge, N.Y.
Contact host chairman Jim Brown by email: loco542@optonline.net

August 21-27, 2011

**71st annual International
Western Convention
San Luis Obispo, Calif.**

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

September 18-22, 2011

**76th annual Southwestern
Convention Meeting
El Paso, Texas**

Camino Real Hotel
Contact host chairman Larry Schneider by phone or email: (915) 581-1373 or lschneider7@earthlink.net.

BLET JOURNAL:

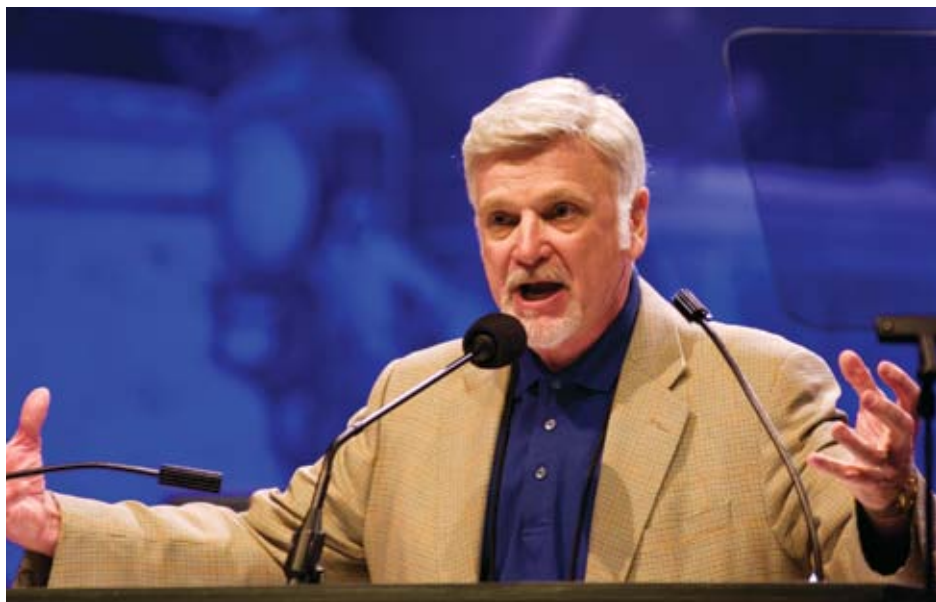
ADDITIONAL NEWS ARTICLES AND PHOTOS FROM RENO WILL APPEAR IN THE WINTER 2010 ISSUE OF THE LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS AND TRAINMEN JOURNAL. IN THE MEANTIME, VISIT THE NATIONAL DIVISION PHOTO GALLERY AT FLICKR: WWW.FLICKR.COM/PHOTOS/BLETUNION



Back of the room: Large video monitors enabled delegates to see speakers clearly even from the back of the room, and allowed them to view proposed changes to the Bylaws in real time. Here, delegates enjoy a speech from National President Dennis Pierce.



Ceremonial gavel: National Guide Jeffrey Valentine, right, presents a gavel to National President Dennis Pierce, which he used throughout the convention. The gavel was handcrafted by Steve Rabenstine, long-time president of BLET Division 158 in Sparks, Nevada. Brother Rabenstine chose not to seek reelection in 2009 due to his pending retirement. President Pierce said a special word of thanks to Brother Rabenstine at the start of the convention and wished him nothing but the best in his upcoming retirement.



Cecil Roberts, President of the United Mine Workers of America



Newly-elected Alternate Vice Presidents receive a round of applause.



Arrangements Committee members with National President Dennis Pierce and First Vice President Lee Pruitt. BLET Special Representative Dave Ditzel, center, served as Chairman of the Arrangements Committee.



Legislative Committee: **Seated, from left:** Terry Briggs, Texas State Legislative Board Chairman; and George Newman, Massachusetts State Legislative Board Chairman. **Standing, from left:** C.R. "Rusty" Jones, Tennessee State Legislative Board Secretary-Treasurer; and Vince Verna, Arizona Legislative Board Chairman.



Salary Committee: **Seated, from left:** Mark Whitchurch, Canadian National-Illinois Central 1st Vice Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer; and Jerry Elmore, Norfolk Southern-Northern Lines Secretary-Treasurer. **Standing:** Committee Chairman Tim Stipp, BNSF (former STL-SF) Secretary-Treasurer.



Credentials Committee: **Seated, from left:** Jim Thompson, Union Pacific-Eastern District Secretary-Treasurer; Committee Chairman Charlie Sheets, Local Chairman of Division 13 (LaCrosse, Wisc.); and Garrison Best, Local Chairman of Division 498 (Abbeville, S.C.). **Standing, from left:** Warren Dent, Union Pacific-Southern Region General Chairman; Louise Reich, BLET National Division office staff; and Bill Hannah, Union Pacific-Western Lines General Chairman.



Bylaws Committee: **Seated, from left:** W.G. Stanich, Local Chairman of Division 504 (Great Falls, Mont.); Jim Chappelle, Secretary-Treasurer of the New Jersey State Legislative Board; and Kevin Peek, Norfolk Southern-Eastern Lines General Chairman. **Standing, from left:** Committee Chairman Jim L. Dayton, Union Pacific-Western Region General Chairman; and Justine Charvat, BLET National Division office staff.



Work Committee: **Seated, from left:** Matt Kronyak, New Jersey State Legislative Board Chairman; and Randy Dumey, BNSF (former STL-SF) 1st Vice Chairman. **Standing, from left:** Committee Chairman Larry James, Division 284 (Grafton, W.Va.); and Kent Confer, Division 623 (McCook, Neb.).



Officers, delegates and members attending the BLET Auxiliary's First Quadrennial Convention.

UP GC Bruce MacArthur reelected by acclamation to seventh term

Bruce D. MacArthur was reelected by acclamation to his seventh term as General Chairman of the Union Pacific-Northern District General Committee of Adjustment during Quadrennial meetings in Reno, Nevada, September 29-30, 2010.

Brother MacArthur is a Union Pacific locomotive engineer and member of BLET Division 125 (Clinton, Iowa). He joined the BLET on January 11, 1973.

First Vice Chairman Mike Elsberry was also reelected by acclamation to his seventh term of office. Brother Elsberry is also a UP engineer and member of Division 125. He joined the Brotherhood on July 1, 1976.

"I offer my sincere thanks to Brother MacArthur and Brother Elsberry for their many years of hard work and dedication to the Brotherhood," BLET National President Dennis Pierce said. "Their tireless devotion to the membership has been evident for several decades. I congratulate them and all officers of the General Committee for endeavoring to serve the members."

Brother MacArthur thanked President Pierce for his kind words and thanked the membership for their confidence in him over the years.



Officers, delegates and guests at the quadrennial meeting of the Union Pacific-Northern District General Committee of Adjustment, September 30, 2010.

Also elected during the meetings were: 2nd Vice Chairman Dick Crow, Division 404 (Chicago); 3rd Vice Chairman Joe Cummins, Division 683 (Chicago); Secretary-Treasurer Mike Abell, Division 96 (Chicago); and Alternate Secretary-Treasurer Chris Wagner, Division 405 (Milwaukee, Wisc.).

Brother Abell will replace outgoing Secretary-Treasurer Mike Mercier (Division 333, St. Paul, Minn.), who did not seek reelection due to his pending retire-

ment. "Brother Mercier has served the Brotherhood with honor and distinction," President Pierce said. "He has been an asset to the membership and will be sorely missed. I wish him a happy retirement on behalf of the BLET."

President Pierce was a featured speaker during the meeting. He addressed the delegates regarding a number of national issues affecting locomotive engineers, including health and welfare negotiations, on-duty use of electronic devices,



From left: GC Bruce MacArthur and 1st VGC Mike Elsberry were reelected by acclamation to their seventh term of office.

inward facing video cameras, and locomotive cab security.

Additional guest speakers included BLET First Vice President Lee Pruitt, National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert, and Vice President & National Legislative Representative John Tolman.

The UP Northern District GC of A represents approximately 1,000 locomotive engineers and trainmen who work for the Union Pacific and Metra commuter lines. ©©

Indiana Chairman Bill Verdeyen reelected by acclamation to fifth term

Bill Verdeyen was reelected by acclamation to his fifth term as Chairman of the Indiana State Legislative Board at Quadrennial meetings held in Indianapolis, Ind., on September 28-29, 2010.

Brother Verdeyen is a member of Division 754 (Elkhart, Ind.). He joined the BLET on June 1, 1974, and is a CP Rail System-U.S. locomotive engineer.

Also elected during the meetings were: 1st Vice Chairman C.R. Ford, Division 742 (Evansville, Ind.); and 2nd Vice Chairman Jim Radtke, Division 548 (Peru, Ind.). Reelected by acclamation to serve his second term as Secretary-Treasurer was Carl Fields of Division 682 (Hammond, Ind.). Elected by acclamation to serve as Alternate Secretary-Treasurer was Mike Harting, Division 754 (Elkhart, Ind.).

BLET National President Dennis Pierce attended the meeting and gave the delegates an update on the state of the union.

"Congratulations to all the officers of the Indiana State Legislative Board," President Pierce said. "Brother Verdeyen

is one of the longest serving officers in our Brotherhood. Our Brothers and Sisters in Indiana will continue to benefit from his hard work, and his many years of experience."

Also in attendance were John Tolman, BLET Vice President & National Legis-

lative Representative, and Mike Priester, CP Rail System-U.S. General Chairman and National Vice President elect.

The INSLB consists of 22 Divisions representing more than 1,200 locomotive engineers and trainmen in Indiana. ©©



National President Dennis Pierce and Brother Bill Verdeyen.



Officers and delegates of the Indiana State Legislative Board at their quadrennial convention in Indianapolis, Ind., September 28-29, 2010.

Kneeling, from left: Matt Klausing, Div. 537; Mike Harting, Alt. S-T, Div. 754; Al Combs, Div. 106; Jay Weddle, Div. 25; Rick Morris, Div. 204; and John Stiles, Div. 270. **Standing, from left:** Robert Denlinger, Div. 597; Dino Raptis, Div. 12; Phillip Melloy, Div. 246; C. R. Ford, 1st Vice-Chairman, Div. 742; Bill Verdeyen, Chairman, Div. 754; Brian Farkas, Div. 121; Rollin Young, Div. 7; Carl Fields, Sec.-Treas., Div. 682; and Jim Radtke, 2nd Vice-Chairman, Div. 548. (Present but not pictured: Scott Brown, Div. 153.)

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Illinois SLB Chairman Paul Piekarski reelected by acclamation

Brother Paul Piekarski was elected by acclamation to continue serving as Chairman of the Illinois State Legislative Board at the Board's 13th quadrennial meeting in Schaumburg, Ill., from September 23-24, 2010.

Brother Piekarski was serving as 1st Vice Chairman when he assumed the office of Chairman after the retirement of C. Edward Way on May 31, 2010. Brother Piekarski is a Union Pacific locomotive engineer who is a proud member of Division 683 (Chicago). He joined the Brotherhood on November 1, 1974. He became 1st Vice Chairman in 2004 and was elected by acclamation to that position at the Board's 2006 quadrennial convention.

Also elected to the Executive Board were: 1st Vice Chairman James McGovern, Division 644 (Galesburg, Ill.); 2nd Vice Chairman David Hiligoss, Division 96 (Chicago); 3rd Vice Chairman Tony Belscamper, Division 602 (Champaign, Ill.); and Secretary-Treasurer Tim Dunn, Division 24 (Centralia, Ill.).

The following alternate officers were also elected: 1st Alternate Vice Chairman Pat Randolph, Division 512 (Belleville, Ill.); 2nd Alternate Vice Chairman Norm Eisengart, Division 184 (Schiller Park, Ill.); 3rd Alternate Vice Chairman Chris Falaney, Division 683 (Chicago); and Alternate Secretary-Treasurer Dan Theileman, Division 613 (Dolton, Ill.).

"I would like to thank all those who have given me their support. I consider



Officers and delegates attending the 13th Quadrennial meeting of the Illinois State Legislative Board, September 23-24, 2010.

it to be an honor and a privilege to serve my Brothers and Sisters of the BLET as Chairman of the Illinois State Legislative Board," Brother Piekarski said. "I am looking forward to the challenges that may lie ahead and to continue efforts to strengthen the Brotherhood."

BLET National President Dennis Pierce attended the meeting and addressed the delegates.

"Illinois is one of our largest states in terms of railroad track mileage as well as BLET membership," President Pierce said. "The Brothers of the Illinois State Legislative Board are a strong and united group that works hard for the membership."

President Pierce also offered congratulations to Chairman Piekarski and the

other officers elected by the delegates. "I know they will continue doing a professional job representing the legislative needs of our members in the proud state of Illinois."

Also in attendance from the National Division were: First Vice President Lee Pruitt; National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert; and Vice President & National Legislative Representative John Tolman.

Retired officers Don Lindsey, former BLE International Vice President & U.S. National Legislative Representative, and Ed Way, former Chairman of the Illinois State Legislative Board, also attended as special guests.

Several BLET State Legislative Board

Chairmen from nearby states were in attendance, including: Dave Brown, Minnesota; Jeff Kurtz, Iowa; and Greg Powell, Michigan.

Leaders of the BLET Auxiliary also attended, including BLET Auxiliary National President Becky Schneider and National Legislative Representative Serreena Hogan.

The Illinois State Legislative Board represents more than 3,500 active and retired BLET members from 40 different BLET Divisions. Their members work for: Union Pacific; Norfolk Southern; BNSF Railway; CSX Transportation; Belt Railway of Chicago; Elgin Joliet & Eastern; Canadian National-Illinois Central; Iowa, Chicago & Eastern; and Metra. ©©

UP General Chairman Bill Hannah reelected by acclamation

Brother D.W. "Bill" Hannah was reelected by acclamation to his fourth term as General Chairman of the Union Pacific-Western Lines General Committee of Adjustment at triennial meetings in San Diego, Calif., from September 21-23, 2010.

Brother Hannah is a member of BLET Division 56 (Colton, Calif.). He joined the Brotherhood on February 1, 1979, and has served as General Chairman since 2001, winning reelection in 2003, 2007 and 2010.

Also elected were: 1st Vice Chairman L.R. "Larry" Law, Division 56; 2nd Vice Chairman J.R. "John" Eutsler, Division 158 (Sparks, Nevada); 3rd Vice Chairman M.R. "Mike" Arnold, Division 800

(Portola, Calif.); Secretary-Treasurer C.H. "Chuck" Fleming III, Division 192 (El Paso, Texas); and Alternate Secretary-Treasurer L.J. "Luis" Chavez Jr., Division 283 (Oakland, Calif.).

In addition to General Chairman Hannah, Brother Law and Brother Fleming were reelected by acclamation.

BLET National President Dennis Pierce attended the meeting and addressed the delegates.

"Congratulations to Brother Hannah and all the officers of the Union Pacific-Western Lines General Committee of Adjustment," President Pierce said. "Brother Hannah is one of the hardest-working General Chairmen in the Brotherhood and his unanimous reelection is

a testament to the fantastic job he has done these many years."

Also in attendance from the National Division were: First Vice President Lee Pruitt; National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert; National Vice President Steve Speagle; National Vice President Gil Gore; and Special Representative Ken Kroeger.

Brother Hannah succeeded Lee Pruitt as General Chairman of the UP-Western Lines in 2001, following Brother Pruitt's election to the Advisory Board.

The following State Legislative Board Chairmen were also in attendance: Tim Smith, California; John Passi, Nevada; Terry Briggs, Texas; Scott Palmer, Oregon; and Vince Verna, Arizona.

Brother Dave Grimes, Local Chair-

man of BLET Division 42 (St. Louis, Mo.), delivered a time claims presentation to the 19 delegates who were in attendance.

John Conklin and Mike Sanders of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) were also in attendance to address the delegates.

The BLET's Union Pacific-Western Lines General Committee of Adjustment is comprised of 19 different BLET Divisions, representing more than 1,800 active locomotive engineers and trainmen from the Union Pacific Railroad and the Pacific Harbor Line Railroad. They live and work primarily in California, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas and Kansas. ©©



GC Bill Hannah addresses delegates during the triennial meeting.



GC Hannah welcomes National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert.

SAN ANTONIO HOSTS BLET FOR 75TH ANNUAL SWCM

Linda Chavez-Thompson, candidate for Lieutenant Governor of Texas and former Executive Vice President of the AFL-CIO, addressed more than 300 members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) during opening ceremonies of the union's 75th annual Southwestern Convention Meeting (SWCM) in San Antonio, Texas, on September 14, 2010.

Chavez-Thompson received a warm welcome and several standing ovations from BLET members and their families in attendance. She served as executive vice president of the AFL-CIO from 1995 to 2007.

She discussed the challenges of running for political office and the importance of the labor movement in electing candidates that are friendly toward working families.

"I can speak for people who haven't had a voice in Austin for a long time," Chavez-Thompson said.

She urged BLET members to take an active role in the upcoming November elections by encouraging their families, friends and neighbors to go to the polls and vote.

In his opening remarks, Brother Russell Elley, arrangements chairman of the 2010 SWCM, thanked his wife Alisa for her help and support — not only in organizing this convention — but over the past several years when he has served as a union officer. He also recognized several members of BLET Division 197 in San Antonio for their assistance.

He introduced National President Dennis Pierce, who spoke briefly about various issues of importance to all BLET members, including: railroad security; Hours of Service and the Rail Safety Improvement Act (RSIA); contract negotiations; health and welfare issues; the use of electronic devices during on-duty hours; and issues related to video cameras inside locomotive cabs.

Becky Schnieder, National President of the BLET Auxiliary, conducted a memorial service for BLET members killed in the line of duty since 1989. She was assisted by Anita Caruso, BLET Auxiliary National Secretary.

Sister Margo Storsteen, a member of BLET Division 57 (Boston), serves as the BLET's National Representative on the Teamsters Human Rights Commis-



Members of the Arrangements Committee who helped organize the 2010 SWCM, along with special guests and friends.

sion. She said that some BLET Divisions have appointed a local representative (or representatives) to the Teamsters Human Rights Commission, but that many more still need to do so. Members interested in volunteering for the Human Rights Commission should contact Sister Storsteen at (781) 883-3443, or email: Margoblet57@comcast.net.

Brother Brad Thompson, a member of BLET Division 442, gave a brief testimonial about the help he received from the BLET National Division and Designated Legal Counsel in obtaining experimental treatment for cancer, which he credits for helping to save his life.

Also during the opening ceremonies, Brother Terry Briggs, Chairman of the Texas State Legislative Board, donated an original charter from Division 530 to the BLET National Division. The charter is for the Division in Commerce, Texas, and is dated August 1, 1894.

Throughout the remainder of the week, members attended separate closed meetings for members of the BLET and BLET Auxiliary, participated in Education & Training Department workshops for Local Chairmen, Secretary-Treasurers, Legislative Representatives, a mobilization workshop, and a presentation by the Federal Railroad Administration regarding whistleblower protections. ©©



BLET National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert, who has attended many SWCM conventions throughout his career.



Terry Briggs, Chairman of the Texas State Legislative Board, donates an original charter from 1894 to the National Division.



National President Dennis Pierce



Joe and Jackie Monroe



Commemorating a milestone



Russell Elley, SWCM arrangements chairman



From left: Rick Gibbons, BNSF (former STL-SF) General Chairman; Jim Nelson, BNSF-MRL Secretary-Treasurer; Roland Kleinsorge, BNSF-Santa Fe Secretary-Treasurer; and National President Dennis Pierce.



From left: Vice President Merle Geiger; Vice President Mike Twombly; and Vice President & National Legislative Representative John Tolman.



Marcus Ruef, BLET Vice President and Director of Arbitration



From left: Mike Priester, CP Rail System-U.S. General Chairman, John Koonce, CN-IC General Chairman, and President Pierce. Brother Koonce was recognized for his many years of service and his pending retirement.



First Vice President Lee Pruitt



Larry and Becky Schneider will host the 2011 SWCM in El Paso



Dean Amos, Local Chairman of Division 197 (San Antonio), and Jeff Fancki, 1st Vice Local Chairman of Division 197.



Linda Chavez-Thompson, keynote speaker



Presentation of the flags



President Pierce presents Chuck Fleming with a 30-year pin.



Dinner at the Buckhorn Saloon



Terry Briggs presents his PGA-style golf swing



Dinner entertainment at the Buckhorn Saloon

Open enrollment begins November 1 for BLET Short Term Disability plan

Open Enrollment for 2011 under the BLET's Short Term Disability insurance plan begins on November 1, 2010, and runs through December 15, 2010. If you are a locomotive engineer working on a railroad that participated in the Wage / Rules portion of the National Agreement dated December 16, 2003 (BNSF and NS did not participate and this information does not apply to engineers working on either of these properties), your coverage under Part A (described below) of the BLET Short Term Disability Plan will automatically continue.

Last year, if you opted out of Part B coverage (also described below), you may opt back in during this enrollment period. If you currently participate and wish to opt out of Part B coverage, you can also do so during this enrollment period.

PART A NON-OCCUPATIONAL DISABILITIES

Effective January 1, 2011, there will be no changes to Part A coverage:

- Your eligibility and \$40 premium is submitted by the railroad on a monthly basis.
- Part A pays \$402 per week for non-occupational disabilities only.
- Occupational disabilities are not covered.
- Each eligible member is insured for \$50,000 of Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) coverage.

PART B OCCUPATIONAL DISABILITIES

Effective January 1, 2011, the cost for Part B coverage will be \$23 monthly with no additional changes:

- Part B is voluntary. Participation in this additional occupational coverage is not required.
- The weekly benefit for occupational disabilities is \$402 per week.
- Each eligible member is insured for an additional \$50,000 of AD&D coverage.
- The benefit is not subject to repayment upon receipt of a FELA settlement (no repayment after a personal injury settlement).
- The benefit is not considered taxable income.
- The premium will be payroll deducted with your monthly union dues.

NOTE: UTU members working as engineers are eligible for Part A and may purchase Part B coverage by



making an annual payment of \$276 to the BLET Trust Fund. (Complete the form below and return to address noted by December 15, 2010)

FILING A CLAIM FOR BLET SHORT TERM DISABILITY

- Call 1-800-858-6506 – MetLife Claim Center
- Provide information requested, including contact information on your attending physicians.
- A Case Manager will be assigned and you will receive a file number which you must keep available for future reference.
- Following the call, you will receive an authorization for release of medical information. Sign the document and return to MetLife.

IMPORTANT:

- Eligibility for Part B is dependent on your eligibility for Part A. In order to be eligible for Part A, you must have seven starts in a month with one start as an engineer.

If you are furloughed to train service and become ineligible for Part A coverage, you must notify the Secretary-Treasurer of your local division immediately. At that time, you have three options:

- 1) Continue coverage of Part A and Part B by paying \$40 directly to the BLET Trust Fund by the 10th of the month and continuing payroll deduction of \$23 for Part B. Coverage may only be continued for six months under this option. If you choose this option, you will need to contact the Plan Administrator (in-

formation below) for additional instructions.

2) Discontinue coverage of Part B temporarily until you return to engineer status and become reeligible for Part A. An engineer, who loses Part A coverage due to no fault of his own, may resume coverage for Part B once he returns to engineer status and becomes reeligible for Part A. You must keep the Secretary-Treasurer of your local division informed of your status.

3) OPT-OUT of Part B by completing an OPT-OUT form. If you choose to opt-out of Part B, you may only resume coverage during a subsequent annual enrollment period.

If you currently do NOT participate and choose to do nothing, you will continue to be eligible for Part A coverage only.

◦ If you currently do NOT participate and would like to sign-up for Part B coverage during this open enrollment period, or if you do currently participate and would like to opt-out of Part B coverage, you must notify the Secretary-Treasurer of your local division by completing and returning the attached form by December 15, 2010. Your election will become effective on January 1, 2011.

◦ Members who OPT-OUT of Part B coverage effective January 1, 2011, will not be eligible to enroll for the coverage until the next annual enrollment period.

DESIGNATION OF BENEFICIARY(IES)

You are now able to designate your beneficiary(ies) for the AD&D coverage on-line. If you would prefer to submit a paper beneficiary form, it will be available on MetLife's website. A simple registration process is required the first time you access www.metlife.com/mybenefits. Designating your beneficiary(ies) will ensure that your benefit proceeds are paid according to your wishes. If you do not have a designation of beneficiary(ies) on file, proceeds will be paid according to the AD&D plan's facility of payment clause. Beneficiary designation for this coverage will not impact beneficiary designations for any other Life Insurance or AD&D plans that you may have with MetLife.

Anyone with questions regarding this matter should contact Jim Bradford, BLET Short Term Disability Administrator, at (216) 241-2630, ext. 205, or email Bradford@ble-t.org. ©©

THE OPT-IN/OPT-OUT FORMS

ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE:

WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/STD_OPT_INOUT.PDF



BLET Engineers Enrollment 2011 Opt-In/Opt-Out Form

PART B – BLET SHORT TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE PLAN

If you desire to OPT-IN or OPT-OUT of Part B coverage under the BLET Short Term Disability Insurance Plan, complete the remainder of this form. Be sure to include your signature and the date and deliver to your Division Secretary-Treasurer by December 15, 2010.

"I, _____ (Print your name here and sign below), hereby choose to: (Mark with an "X")
____ OPT-IN ____ OPT-OUT of the BLET Short Term Disability Insurance Plan, Part B. I understand that if I OPT-OUT, I may only seek enrollment in Part B during a future open enrollment period."

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Phone #: _____

DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 15, 2010



UTU-E Engineers Enrollment 2011 Opt-In Form

PART B – BLET SHORT TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE PLAN

If you desire to OPT-IN to Part B coverage for 2011 under the BLET Short Term Disability Insurance Plan, you must be eligible for Part A. If you purchased coverage for 2010, your coverage will end on Dec. 31, 2010. Complete the remainder of this form. Be sure to include your signature and the date. A check made out to the "BLET Trust Fund" for \$276 should be sent by DECEMBER 15, 2010 to:

JIM BRADFORD, BLET STD Administrator 222 Lake Ridge Rd. Kerrville, Texas 78028

"I, _____ (Print your name here and sign below), hereby choose to OPT-IN to the BLET Short Term Disability Insurance Plan, Part B."

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Phone #: _____

E-mail: _____ Railroad: _____ UTU Local #: _____

DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 15, 2010

BLET National Division Electronic Communications Policy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Carl Fields new Coordinator of BLET Safety Task Force



Brother Carl W. Fields has been appointed to serve the BLET as Coordinator of the Safety Task Force.

NST Bill Walpert congratulates Carl Fields upon his appointment. Brother Fields is a member of Division 682 (Hammond, Ind.)

The BLET Safety Task Force (STF) is the rail industry's first and oldest union-based accident investigation team. It was organized in 1989 for the purpose of participating in accident investigations conducted by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) with the goal of contributing to both the accident cause-finding phase, and the safety recommendation phase from the viewpoint of locomotive engineers and trainmen.

Brother Fields also serves the Brotherhood as Secretary-Treasurer of Division 682 (Hammond, Ind.) and as Secretary-Treasurer of the Indiana State Legislative Board. Brother Fields will report directly to BLET National Secretary-Bill Walpert, who is the Safety Task Force Director.

"Brother Fields will do an excellent job representing the viewpoint of locomotive engineers and trainmen and assisting the NTSB during accident investigations," NST Walpert said.

Brother Fields began his railroad career on April 1, 1978, as a trainman for the Norfolk & Western Railroad (Nickel Plate Road) at Calumet yard in Chicago, Ill. He began working for the Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad on January 19, 1990. Throughout his career he worked as a trainman, yardmaster, and car retarder operator prior to earning promotion to Locomotive Engineer on August 2, 1991.

He has proudly served the BLET since July 29, 1993, holding various positions within the organization such as: Legislative Representative of Division 682 since 2000, Secretary-Treasurer of the Indiana State Legislative Board (since 2006), and Alternate Secretary-Treasurer of the Indiana SLB (2002-2006).

"Brother Fields has admirably represented the BLET in numerous accident investigations over the past several years, most notably the tragic Norfolk Southern crash in Graniteville, S.C., which occurred on January 6, 2005," BLET National President Dennis Pierce said. "His experience and skills are great assets to the Brotherhood."

The toll-free Safety Task Force Hotline number is (800) 306-5414. @@

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE BLET SAFETY TASK FORCE, VISIT THE BLET WEBSITE:

WWW.BLE-T.ORG/DEPARTMENTS/STF



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Wish Train

In cooperation with Norfolk Southern, members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen in Cleveland helped organize a community outreach event in the form of a special "Wish Train" ride for sick children. Brother C.R. "Bud" Ramkey, a member of Division 607 (Cleveland), helped organize the event, which took place on October 16. More information about the NS "Wish Train" will appear in the Winter 2010 issue of the Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen Journal. **Photo:** copyright Brent Lane, 2010



BROTHERHOOD OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS AND TRAINMEN

Notice of Election of National Division Officers

An election by secret ballot is being conducted among the eligible voters of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) to fill the following offices:

ONE (1) NATIONAL PRESIDENT

ONE (1) NATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

ONE (1) VICE PRESIDENT NO. 4

ONE (1) ALTERNATE VICE PRESIDENT & NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE

You may vote for a slate of candidates or individual candidates. If you vote for a full slate, noother marks on the ballot will be counted. If you vote for a partial slate, you may also vote for candidates for the other two open offices (i.e., Vice President No. 4 and Alternate Vice President & National Legislative Representative). If you do not vote for either a full or partial slate, you may still vote for individual candidates (no more than one) for any of the four open offices.

The term of office for each elected office is four (4) years, commencing January 1, 2011.

The Election of Officers shall be by MAIL REFERENDUM SECRET BALLOT VOTE ONLY.

To be eligible to vote in the election for National Division Officers, a member must have his/her dues paid up through October 2010. No member whose dues have been withheld by his/her employer for payment to the Local Division pursuant to

his/her voluntary authorization provided for in a collective bargaining agreement shall be declared ineligible to vote by reason of a delayor default in the payment of dues by the employer to the Local Division.

Persons eligible to vote include, but are not necessarily limited to, each person who is otherwise a member in good standing and whose dues are paid through October 2010, and in accordance with Section 30 - National Division Rules of the BLET Bylaws, each member otherwise in good standing whose dues record does not reflect that his/her dues have been paid through October 2010, who pays his/her dues by check-off, and whose employer has remitted dues for him/her in the last remittance made by such employer, provided that such remittance was received within ninety (90) days of December 15, 2010.

An official ballot, a white SECRET ballot envelope, a return addressed, postage pre-paid, envelope and ballot instructions will be enclosed in the election materials you receive. To cast your vote, read carefully and carry out the instructions included with the official ballot.

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE A BALLOT BY MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2010, PLEASE CALL THE AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSOCIATION (A.A.A.) BALLOT HOTLINE AT (800) 529-5218, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, 9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M. EST FOR A REPLACEMENT.

YOUR BALLOT MUST BE MAILED IN TIME TO REACH P.O. BOX 93966, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101-9815, NO LATER THAN 10:00 A.M., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2010.

NO PERSON OR ENTITY SHALL LIMIT OR INTERFERE WITH THE RIGHT OF EACH BLET BALLOT QUALIFIED MEMBER TO INDEPENDENTLY DETERMINE HOW TO CAST HIS/HER VOTE, AND TO CAST AND MAIL THE BALLOT HIMSELF/HERSELF. THE BLET SHALL NOT HESITATE TO IMPOSE THE MOST SEVERE SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATION OF THE PROHIBITION AGAINST SOLICITATION OF A BALLOT-QUALIFIED MEMBER'S BALLOT BY ANY OTHER UNION MEMBER, OFFICER, STEWARD OR OTHER PERSON, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, RECOMMENDING APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST MEMBERS INVOLVED, AND WHEN APPROPRIATE, DISQUALIFYING THE CANDIDATE ON WHOSE BEHALF BALLOTS WERE SOLICITED.

Advisory Board September 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; Norfolk Southern mtg., Norfolk, Va.; Kentucky State Legislative Board mtg., Frankfurt, Ky.; Southwestern Convention Meeting (SWCM), San Antonio, Texas; Passenger General Chairmen RSIA mtg., Washington, D.C.; Union Pacific-Western Lines General Committee of Adjustment mtg., San Diego, Calif.; Rail Labor Bargaining Coalition mtgs., Chicago; Illinois State Legislative Board mtg., Chicago; Indiana State Legislative Board mtg., Indianapolis, Ind.; BLET National Convention, Reno, Nevada; UP-N GCA mtg., GC Bruch MacArthur, Reno.

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; Union Pacific on-property Section 6 negotiations, Cheyenne, Wyo.; Pratt sequencing & ID mtg., UP WL GCA, San Luis Obispo, Calif.; SWCM, San Antonio; Passenger RSIA mtg., Washington, D.C.; UP WL GCA mtg., GC D.W. Hannah, San Diego, Calif.; National negotiations, Chicago; Ill. SLB mtg., Schamburg, Ill.; National Division Convention, Reno; UP-N GCA mtg., GC Bruce MacArthur, Reno.

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; SWCM, San Antonio; UP-Western Lines GCA mtg., San Diego, Calif. Illinois SLB mtg., Schamburg, Ill.; Union Pacific-Northern Lines GCA mtg., Reno, Nevada; Preparation for National Division convention, Reno; 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; Div. 221 (Utah RR) contract roll-out mtgs., Salt Lake City, Utah; SWCM, San Antonio; Teamsters Canada Rail Conference (TCRC) convention, Edmonton, Alberta; Single system agreement mtg., KCS/ Tex-Mex/ MidSouth/ SouthRail/ Gateway Western, Kansas City, Mo; Advisory Board conference call; Vacation; Holiday, Correspondence, research 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); Vacation day; Holiday; SWCM, San Antonio; Section 6 mtgs. w/ Pacific Harbor Line, San Antonio; Bill Hannah's GCA mtg., San Diego, Calif.; Wabash Hospital reception, Decatur; BLET National Convention, Reno, Nevada.

VICE PRESIDENT & NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE JOHN P. TOLMAN — Assigned to BLET Washington, DC office; BLET Security Officer; General office duties, telephone, correspondence communications; Coordinate content of NLO website; Kentucky State Legislative Board mtg., Louisville, Ky.; SWCM, San Antonio; Illinois State Legislative Board mtg., Schamburg, Ill.; Indiana State Legislative Board mtg., Indianapolis, Ind.; Union Pacific-Northern Lines GCA mtg., Reno, Nevada; Second National Convention, Reno; Communications with House and Senate members on rail safety and security issues, high-speed rail funding, Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA H.R. 5944), Hours of Service, and a range of other bills in the House and Senate; Attended 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; Assist GC Kaulins w/ arbitration issues, Chicago; Mtg. w/ new NMB Chief of Staff Rainey, re: Section 3 issues, Chicago; Holiday Assist GC Decker, re: SBA 940 brief, NJT; Adopt awards on PLB 7346, NYAL; NRAB adoption session; Assist LC Palcovich, Amtrak; Attend SWCM and teach at LC workshop, San Antonio, Texas; Passenger rail GC RSIA and RSAC update mtgs., Washington, D.C.; Assist GC Dixon, Septa, Chicago; Septa D.L., referee Claus; ROAR quarterly mtg. Chicago; NRAB annual mtg., Chicago; National Association of RR Referees annual mtg., Chicago; Assist GC Hannah, re: discipline case, UP-WL; Section 3 committee, NRAB, Washington, D.C.; National Division convention, Reno, Nevada.

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 ratification mtgs., Waterville and Portland, Maine; Grand Trunk Western contract negotiations, Homewood, Ill.; SWCM, San Antonio; CNIC PLB 7154 mtg., Chicago; CN-DMIR negotiations, Duluth, Minn.; National Division convention, Reno, Nevada.

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; General office duties; Kentucky State Legislative Board mtg., Frankfort, Ky.; Division 199 special mtg., Danville, Ky.; Ohio Central contract mtg., Coshocton, Ohio; Advisory Board conference call; SWCM, San Antonio; PLB 7264; PLB 7159; National Wage Team; NARR mtg., Chicago; National Division convention, Reno, Nevada.

VICE PRESIDENT GIL GORE — Assigned to all CSX; Union Pacific-Southern Region GCA special assignment; UP on-property negotiations; Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC), CSXT; Multiple Section 4 mtgs. w/ GC Finamore, GC Louis and CSXT, Jacksonville, Fla.; CSXT mtgs., re: Attendance policy, Jacksonville; Arbitration, re: Kasher dispute w/ Francis Quinn, CSXT, Jacksonville; Work with CSXT General Chairmen; Office duties, paper work, filing, calls; UP-WL GCA mtg., GC D.W. Hannah, San Diego, Calif.; National Division Convention, Reno, Nevada.

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; Union Pacific on property negotiations, all UP GCAs, Cheyenne, Wyo; Rock Train inter-divisional mtgs., San Luis Obispo, Calif.; Assist BLET Western Lines GCA, re: Indiana Railroad and Terminal Railroad-Alabama Docks, Etowah, Tenn.; National RR Referees mtg., Chicago; PLB 7158, Chicago; National Division convention, Reno, Nevada.