BLE-IBT subcommittees begin talks

At an October 3 meeting of the BLE’s Advisory Board and the IBT’s General Executive Board, dates were announced for meetings of four joint subcommittees charged with the task of exploring a merger of the BLE and Teamsters.

“The process has begun and the committees are starting to meet,” BLE International President Don M. Hahs said. “This is an important time for our Brotherhood. A merger with the Teamsters would provide a unique opportunity for BLE members to become part of the world’s most powerful transportation union.”

The BLE is seeking a merger that will guarantee the maximum amount of autonomy under the Teamsters’ umbrella, allowing the BLE to operate independently but subject to the constitution of the IBT.

As reported previously, four joint BLE-IBT subcommittees will review aspects of the merger or affiliation and report to a two-person Merger Committee, co-chaired by BLE President Hahs and IBT General President James Hoffa. The four subcommittees are Constitution & Bylaws, Finance, Legislative and Canada.

The Constitution & Bylaws Subcommittee will hold its first meeting on November 4-6. First Vice-President & Alternate President Ed Rodzwicz is the BLE’s co-chairman on the committee, and the IBT’s co-chairman is General Secretary-Treasurer C. Thomas Kegel. The primary goal of the Constitution & Bylaws Subcommittee is to produce a Merger Agreement and suitable Bylaws for the BLE as the Rail Conference within the IBT.

The Finance Subcommittee, co-chaired by BLE General Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert, has scheduled meetings for October 22-23 and November 6-8. Brother Kegel is also the IBT co-chairman of the Finance Subcommittee. This Subcommittee will research and advise the Merger Committee concerning the appropriate per capita structure for the BLE if merged with the Teamsters.

The Legislative Subcommittee has scheduled its first meeting for October 21. BLE Vice-President & U.S. National Legislative Representative Raymond Holmes is co-chairman of this subcommittee, along with Mike Mathis, who is the Teamsters’ Director of Government Affairs. The Legislative Subcommittee will determine the appropriate organization of the BLE’s Legislative Boards within the IBT and within the IBT Rail Conference.

The Canadian Subcommittee, co-chaired by Gilles Hallé, BLE Vice-President & Canadian Director, and George Hubert, BLE Canadian National Legislative Representative-Canada, will meet with the Teamsters from October 31-November 1. The Teamster neutral will have the right to operate remote control technology.

Neutrals picked for remote control arbitration; Deadline extended

On September 17, an employee of the California Northern Railroad was injured and lost his left leg while operating a remote control locomotive in Napa Valley, Calif.

Michael F. O’Brien, Chairman of the Louisiana State Legislative Board, recognized several BLE members who participated in the lobbying effort, including Sam Parker, General Chairman on the Kansas City and Canada of Locomotive Engineers, and Michael F. O’Brien, Chairman of the Louisiana State Legislative Board. The neutral for this subcommittee was James McDonald, who was a well-respected arbitrator in the rail industry. The “deadlock” neutral member will be selected by the IBT and the BLE, with the final arbitrator being the neutral who has been selected by both parties. The arbitration panel will be composed of three arbitrators, with each party having the right to operate remote control technology.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and United Transportation Union will each have one vote in the proceedings, while six railroad companies (BNSF, Conrail, CSX, KCS, NS and UP) will have one vote each.

The three parties could not agree on a single question to pose to the arbitrator, so each party submitted its own question. The arbitration panel will render a decision on the questions posed by each of the parties.
BLE NEWS

BLE welcomes new Tex-Mex members

From left: Martin Andrade, brakeman; Raul Nunez, engineer; and Juan Garaza, conductor.

“Beto” Lucio, Conductor

From left: Juan Espinoza, conductor; and Sergio Gonzalez Jr., conductor.

From left: Allonzo Contreras, engineer; and Eloy Perez, conductor.

From left: Juan Garza Jr., conductor; Martin Andrade, brakeman; and Raul Nunez, engineer.

George Leyendecker, engineer.
BLE welcomes new Tex-Mex members

From left: Ricky Martinez, conductor; and Mike Montalvo, conductor.

From left: Conrado Wise, conductor; and Jose “Che” Garza, engineer.

From left: Eddie Perez, engineer; John Harris, conductor; and Rolando Garcia, brakeman.

From left: George Dabdoub Jr., engineer; Ricky Martinez, conductor; and Jose Luis Morales, brakeman.

From left: Terry Gill, engineer; Abel Garza, brakeman; and Terry Cooper, conductor.

From left: Jose Luis Morales, conductor; Danny Compton, conductor; Javier Martinez, engineer; and George Leyendecker, engineer.

BLE News

Teamsters

continued from Page 1

co-chairmen are Robert Bouvier, President of Teamsters Canada, and Francois LaPorte, Recording Secretary, Teamsters Local 1998. This Subcommittee will advise the Merger Committee concerning the appropriate structure for Canadian members.

According to the Procedural Agreement, approved on August 1 by the BLE Executive Committee and the IBT General Executive Board, the work of these Subcommittees will be completed in approximately six months. Once the Merger Agreement is agreed upon by the two parties, it will go to each organization for approval according to its Constitution.

The BLE’s Constitution & By-laws requires any proposed merger or affiliation to be approved by a majority of BLE members in a secret ballot. Section 1(e) of the BLE Constitution governs this merger process.
SOUTHWESTERN CONVENTION MEETING

Cecil Roberts (center), President of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), was a featured speaker during opening ceremonies at the 67th annual Southwestern Convention Meeting (SWCM). SWCM Chairman Mark Banton, right, and BLE International President Don Hahs, left, thank President Roberts following his speech, which was well-received by the audience.

From left: Hyram Posey, President of Division 192 (El Paso), James K. Boyd, Division 592 (Dalhart, Texas), Bobbi Boyd, and Lori Posey.

From left: BNSF General Chairman Dennis Pierce and General Secretary-Treasurer William C. Walpert.

International Vice-President Joseph A. Cassidy Jr.

From left: Mary Anna Mullins, GIA International Chaplain, Bill Mullins, a retired member of BLE Division 182 (N. Little Rock, Ark.), and Anita Caruso, GIA International Secretary.

President Hahs & Ed Rodzwicz, First Vice-President & Alternate President, meet with a group of BLE members. From left: Russell Elley, Legislative Representative of Division 197 (San Antonio); Dan Stanfield, a member of BLE Division 197 (San Antonio); President Hahs; Jeff Zunker, Local Chairman of Division 197 (San Antonio); Greg Bailey, Local Chairman of Division 62 (Houston); and First Vice-President Rodzwicz.

From left: Mary Anna Mullins, GIA International Chaplain, and Debbie Keefe, GIA Alternate International Secretary.

Members of the Cleburn (Texas) High School choir. During opening ceremonies, the choir performed “The Star-Spangled Banner,” with a prelude from the “Battle Hymn of the Republic.” This was followed by the lead baritone’s solo performance of “O Canada.”

Seated: Cooksey Humphrey, a retired member of BLE Division 326 (Bossier City, La.). Standing, from left: Lynn Weninger, Janice Hahs, and Martha Humphrey.
From left: Tim Windsor, SWCM Treasurer; Mark Banton, SWCM Host Chairman; and Rodney Stutes, SWCM Chairman.

From left: Ron Sikorski, Local Chairman of Division 139 (Houston); Mrs. Lara; R.O. Lara, President of Division 139; Glenda Sikorski, President of GIA “Lone Star” Auxiliary 139 (Houston), and Lowell Cantrell.

From left: James Jackson, Local Chairman of Division 109 (East St. Louis, Ill.); and Rick Gibbons, BNSF General Chairman (former St. Louis-Santa Fe).

From left: UMWA President Cecil Roberts and BLE Texas State Legislative Board Chairman Terry Briggs. Illinois Central General Chairman John Koonce.

From left: Garry Harper, Local Chairman of BLE Division 383 (Needles, Calif.) and Cal Holland, Local Chairman of BLE Division 134 (Winslow, Ariz.).

Standing: Louisiana State Legislative Board Chairman M.F. O’Brien. Foreground, from left: Ed Bayne and T.E. Hawk, Secretary-Treasurer of Division 206 (Temple, Texas).

From left: Members of the SWCM Scholarship Committee: Don Hals, International President; Leo Srubas, retired member of BLE Division 81 (Kansas City, Kan.); Patty Howell, Osita Wayland, GIA International President, and Bill Walpert, General Secretary-Treasurer.

From left: Randy Dumey, Local Chairman of Division 595 (Chaffee, Mo.) and Vice-General Chairman, BNSF (former St. Louis-Santa Fe); Rick Gibbons, BNSF General Chairman; International Vice-President Stephen Speagle; and G.T. Haskins, Local Chairman of BLE Division 672. Brother Gibbons is host of the 2003 SWCM in Branson, Mo.

Secretary-Treasurers take advantage of a workshop provided by the International Division during the SWCM.

2003 SWCM — Branson, Missouri
September 28-October 2; More details to come when available.
List of BLE-endorsed candidates

Editor’s Note: Due to Federal Election Commission (FEC) regulations, the list of BLE-endorsed candidates is only available in the members-only section of the BLE website.
List of BLE-endorsed candidates

BLE Job Bank

Antrak

Amtrak, the National Railroad Passenger Corp., is recruiting Locomotive Engineers to work out of the following locations: New Orleans, Jacksonville, Fla.; Raleigh, N.C.; Florence, S.C.; and Meridian, Miss. Duties include the safe operation of diesel-electric locomotives, complying with train orders, wayside signals, railroad operating rules, special instructions, and federal, state and local regulations to transport passengers and equipment safely and efficiently.

Locomotive Engineers perform equipment and air brake tests as required. Job involves working alone and apart in physical isolation while integrating activities with others. Engineers must make timely and critical decisions under stressful situations to safeguard lives and property.

Candidates must have a current Class 1 Engineer Certificate and must currently be working as a Locomotive Engineer with one year of service. Any candidate whose driving record indicates a conviction for an alcohol or substance violation, or a refusal to submit to testing in connection with a moving violation within the past 36 months, will be automatically disqualified. Candidates must be able to report to their Crew Base within a 2-hour call. Resumes may be forwarded to Amtrak Human Resources Department, 800 Second Street, NE, Washington, DC, faxed to 202-906-3349, or emailed to <cannon@amtrak.com>.

Antrak is an equal opportunity employer: EOL, M/F, DIV

2002 BLE Fees

Objector Policy

1. Employee Rights

Employees covered by a collective-bargaining agreement in the United States shall have the right to object to paying the Union fees charged under the agreement.

2. Publication of Policy

The purpose of this policy is to inform all employees of the rights guaranteed under the agreement in the United States.

3. Making Objection Known

Objectors shall provide notice of objection to the Bureau of Labor and Industry. Nonmembers have the legal right to object to paying for Union activities not related to collective bargaining, contract administration and grievance adjustment, or participation in the selection of such delegates; or participate in Union meetings; serve as delegates to the Convention, or tend Union meetings; serve as delegates to the Convention, or participate in the selection of such delegates; or participate in the process by which subordinate bargaining agreements are made.

4. Major Categories of Chargeable Expenses

All expenses shall be paid their fair share of expenses per year to year to year must renew their objection each year as specified in this paragraph.

5. Determination of Chargeable Share

The independent referee shall also give an opinion concerning the expenditures that fall within Section 4 shall be the basis for determining the chargeable share.

6. Report of Chargeable Share and Basis of Its Calculation

The independent referee's determination shall be placed in an interest-bearing escrow account. The BLE shall also retain an independent referee for form an independent audit of the records of the International Department, 900 Second Street, NE, Washington, DC, faxed to 202-906-4218

7. Application of Change

The arbitrator shall give full consideration to the legal and arithmetic basis consistent with the rules established by the AAA.

8. Arbitration of Claims

The arbitrator shall give full consideration to the legal and arithmetic basis consistent with the rules established by the AAA.

9. Payment of Reduced Fees

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10. Escrow of Disputed Funds

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Resolution adopted by Baton Rouge, La., City Council, banning remote control trains

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING THAT NO RAILROAD SHALL OPERATE REMOTE CONTROLLED LOCOMOTIVES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF BATON ROUGE UNTIL CERTAIN SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS ARE MET (Adopted September 25, 2002)

WHEREAS: the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge have a duty to provide for the public safety of its Citizens, and
WHEREAS: railroads operate within the geographic boundaries of Baton Rouge, over public and private highway road crossings and on property accessible to persons of all ages and abilities, and
WHEREAS: railroad equipment is known to present significant danger to persons and property from collision, derailment, and possible release of hazardous materials, and
WHEREAS: a significant bulk of Kansas City Southern (KCS) Railroad’s cargo is petrochemical and hazardous materials traveling through and being switched in Baton Rouge, and
WHEREAS: the United States Government has issued a safety alert against traveling through and being switched in petrochemical and hazardous materials by the Parish of East Baton Rouge have a duty to

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Metropolitan Council of the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge that this City that the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge request that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) develop comprehensive regulations for the use of remote control locomotives.

Be It Further Resolved, that all remote controlled operations in Baton Rouge cease and desist until such time as Baton Rouge Emergency Preparation Can be in place for a plan in execution before such remote control is implemented.

Residuals picked for remote arbitration

Remote Control

Continued from Page 1

The BLE question states, “The assignment of other than locomotive engineers to operate locomotives via remote control in connection with the movement of cars, trains and/or engines in terminal operations is a violation of the exclusive rights of locomotive engineers to perform such service pursuant to existing BLE Agreements and established practice.”

In a related event, the BLE announced on October 8 that the railroads are not required to transport hazardous materials and switch cars containing hazardous materials, or switch other cars on or near tracks occupied by hazardous materials.

Remote control locomotives cannot be operated near a public or private highway road crossing without a person occupying the cab of the locomotive who has the required skills to stop the locomotive and its attached equipment.

4. A railroad must provide effective and reliable protection at the point of movement in any location accessible to the general public for any remote control operation.

Be It Further Resolved, That the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge requests that in the interest of the safety of the Citizens of Baton Rouge that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) develop comprehensive regulations for the use of remote control locomotives.

Advisory Board September Activity

By action of the delegates at the Fifth Quinquennial Convention, summaries of BLE Advisory Board members’ activities are published monthly:

International President Don M. Hahn
— International Office; General supervision of BLE activities; General office duties; Information, Training, Education and Research; Public Affairs, Corporate Communications, Administrative Services; Member of BLE: Transportation Congress of America; Member of International Office: Administration, Transportation and Safety; M&N Rr.; M&NE Rr.; O&K Rr.; C&O Rr.; V&O Rr.; UP; RR; M&NA; Utah RR; UP (Eastern District); UP (former CNW); General office duties, telephone, correspondence; Mtgs. w/ G.C. Utah RR;——G.C. Delany; Mtgs. w/ Divisions 502 & 107, Kansas City; Illinois State Legislative Board mtg., Chicago; BNSF Railway; Vice-President Dale McPherson
— Vice-President; BNSF; CSX; CSXT; Norfolk Southern; General office duties, telephone, correspondence; Mtgs. w/ Divisions 502 & 107, Kansas City; Various Arbitration; Washington D.C. office; General office duties; Mtgs. w/ Divisions 502 & 107, Kansas City; Various Arbitration; Various Arbitration; Mtgs. w/ Divisions 502 & 107, Kansas City; Various Arbitration; Washington D.C. office; General office duties; Mtgs. w/ Divisions 502 & 107, Kansas City; Various Arbitration; Washington D.C. office; General office duties; Mtgs. w/ Divisions 502 & 107, Kansas City; Various Arbitration; Various Arbitration; Washington D.C. office; General office duties; Mtgs. w/ Divisions 502 & 107, Kansas City; Various Arbitration; Various Arbitration; Washington D.C. office; General office duties; Mtgs. w/ Divisions 502 & 107, Kansas City; Various Arbitration; Various Arbitration; Washington D.C. office; General office duties; Mtgs. w/ Divisions 502 & 107, Kansas City; Various Arbitration; Various Arbitration; 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