



NEWS

OCTOBER
2006

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

President Hahs: Get out and vote!

BLET National President Don M. Hahs issued the following statement regarding the importance of registering to vote and voting on November 7:

BLET members are fortunate to have a strong union that supports them by standing up for their rights at work. The BLET works very hard to negotiate and enforce strong contracts to ensure that members receive good pay and benefits.

However, each day, BLET members are confronted with news that our American dream is slipping further from our grasp. In other industries, we see massive layoffs. In our own industry, we hear threats from the rail carriers to take away our jobs and benefits, even in a time of record profits.

In other words, the corporate agenda cuts across all industries. Big business want tax cuts for themselves and for the rich; they want to privatize, downsize and outsource; they want to deregulate in-

dustries; they want to enact free trade agreements; they want to weaken unions; and most importantly, they want to take away workers' rights to organize and to silence our voice in the political process.

But there is a way to keep the American dream alive — by casting your vote for worker-friendly candidates on November 7. It is as simple as that.

All BLET members must take a few moments out of their busy days to cast a ballot that will help to ensure their future. Most states will allow voters to cast an absentee ballot if they cannot vote on Election Day. Check with your state for the regulations regarding absentee voting.

You may not be feeling the loss of the American dream yet, but you still need to vote. Why? You need to vote in order to protect your family; to protect your job; to protect your retirement; and to protect your future.

List of BLET Endorsements

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The railroads will try to take this all away if current trends continue. They are already threatening your benefits and your jobs in negotiations and will be further empowered to do so if the corporate titans who rule our country are allowed to stay in office.

There is no government “of the people, by the people and for the people” if people do not vote.

On pages two and three of this issue, you will find a list of BLET-endorsed candidates. These candidates, both Democrat and Republican, have shown that they support workers and have been friendly towards us. Please take this list with you when you vote on November 7 and remember to vote pro labor and support union candidates. •

BLET-supported railroad security bill becomes law in California

After two years of work by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a railroad security bill into law on October 1.

The law, known as the Local Community Rail Security Act of 2006, requires railroads to provide a detailed risk assessment of each rail facility in California by July 1, 2007. The law also calls on rail carriers to document their emergency response procedures in case of acts of sabotage or terrorism.

“This bill will make the railroads in California much more secure for our members and the general public,” BLET National President Don Hahs said. “In this post 9-11 era, it is imperative that we take all steps necessary to secure our nation’s railroads against the threat of terrorism.”

By January 1, 2008, rail carriers are required to develop and implement an infrastructure protection program to protect rail infrastructure in the state from acts of sabotage, terrorism,

or other crimes. Railroad employees will receive specialized security training as part of the infrastructure protection program regarding how to recognize, prevent, and respond to acts of sabotage, terrorism, or other crimes.

The railroads’ own flagging rules were adopted in the bill. Codification included the use of yellow, red, and yellow/red flags and crew notification; accurate milepost markers; accurate whistle posts and two mile speed boards.

All points of the new law are covered by “whistleblower protection” with fines of up to \$1 million. Additionally, this new law provides the protection of severability; if any entity finds a portion of the law invalid, the rest of it remains law.

The bill was signed after members in the state of California inundated the Governor’s office with phone calls, faxes and emails, according to BLET California State Legislative Board Chairman Tim Smith.

“With the efforts of several, we were successful,” Smith said. “First, I would like to thank BLET members of the

state of California who took the time to make phone calls, send faxes, email and letters to the Governor. Without your efforts, this would not have been possible.

“Barry Broad and Shane Gusman of CT-PAC were instrumental in carrying our bill forward,” he said. “Additional thanks go out to 1st Vice Chairman Darrel Azarcon.

“I would also like to thank my Executive Staff of Mike G. Holt, Secretary-Treasurer, and Diz Francisco, 2nd Vice Chairman, for their efforts and encouragement. Thanks also to the BLET National officers and the Teamsters.”

BLET State Legislative Boards have introduced Rail Security bills in state legislatures throughout the country.

“Congratulations to all the BLET members in California, who worked diligently with Tim Smith and the Legislative Board to get this bill passed and signed,” BLET Vice President and National Legislative Representative John Tolman.

BLET testifies rail workers are key to national security plans

The U.S. railroad industry must take immediate action to improve the security training of its workers if they are to help prevent terrorist attacks in the United States.

That was the message delivered by BLET Vice President and National Legislative Representative John Tolman before the House Homeland Security Committee’s Subcommittee on Economic Security, Infrastructure Protection and Cybersecurity.

In his testimony, he cited the “High Alert” report compiled by the Teamsters Rail Conference. In the High Alert survey, 84 percent of respondents said that they had not received any additional training in terrorism response or prevention in the 12 months preceding the survey; and 99 percent said they did not receive training related to the monitoring of nuclear shipments.

“This lack of training should be of critical interest to citizens who live near rail yards and tracks,” Tolman said. “The workers who lack this training will be the first ones to respond to incidents. It’s all about the money, of course, but employees still need adequate training. The number one issue in national negotiations is to reduce the

crew size from one to two to save money. There should be a minimum of two people on every train.”

The training is critical because railroad workers are the “eyes and ears” of the industry and are the first line of defense in the event of a terrorist attack on a freight train or passenger train.

“Each and every day, we are on the front lines of the nation’s transportation system and see the woeful lack of security on our railroads,” Tolman said. “This lack of security is more than just troubling; it is tragic because we have seen the damage that can be done by accidents on the railroads and shudder to think of the damage that could be wrought by terrorism or sabotage.”

He noted that there have been more than 250 terror attacks on railroads world wide from 1995 until June of 2005. Since June 2005, there have been major attacks perpetrated in London, Madrid, and Mumbai, India. In the United States, plans were recently uncovered to attack the New York subway system on three different occasions. An act of terrorism in Hyder, Ariz., killed one Amtrak employee and injured

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BLET NEWS

List of BLET-endorsed candidates

Due to FEC regulations, the list of BLET-endorsed candidates is available to members only. Please visit the BLET website at:

<http://www.ble-t.org/members/2006endorsements.asp>

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Does one vote really matter?

Some Americans don't vote because they think their vote doesn't matter. That couldn't be further from the truth! Throughout history, many important elections were decided by a single vote. Here's a list to consider when deciding whether or not to vote:

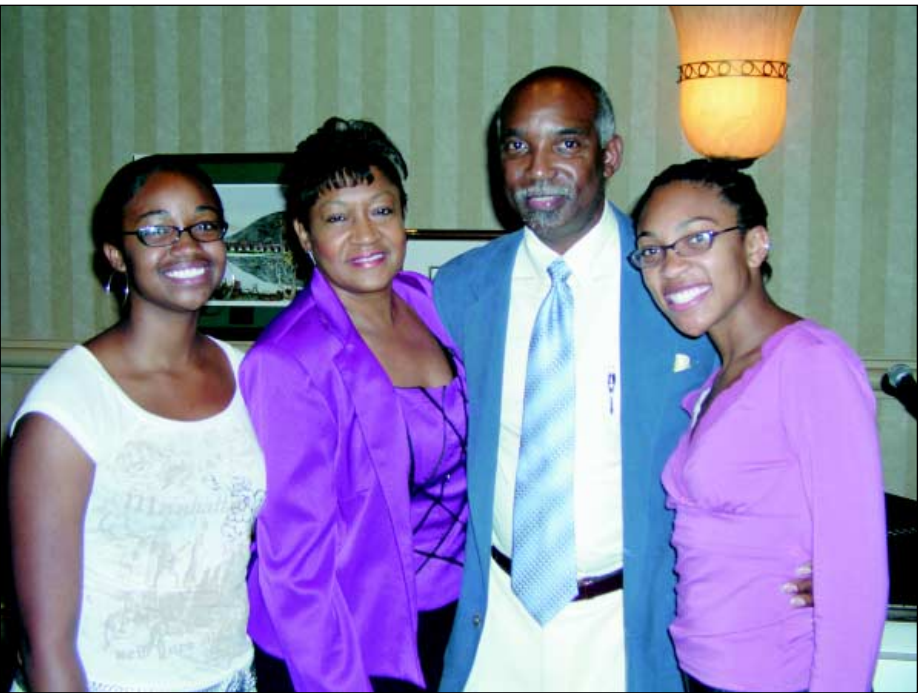
- One vote gave Oliver Cromwell control of England in 1645.
 - One vote caused King Charles I of England to be executed in 1649.
 - One vote gave America the English language in 1776 instead of German.
 - One vote margins in our Electoral College first elected Thomas Jefferson and then John Quincy Adams as President of the United States.
 - One vote elected Marcus Norton as Governor of Massachusetts in 1839.
 - One vote brought Texas into the Union in 1845.
 - One vote also admitted California, Oregon and Washington to statehood.
 - One vote defeated President Andrew Johnson's impeachment in 1868.
 - One vote needed when the House of Representatives voted in 1876 to elect President Rutherford B. Hayes.
 - One vote changed France from a monarchy to a republic in 1876.
 - One vote elected Adolph Hitler as leader of the Nazi Party in 1923.
- And...
- John F. Kennedy's margin of victory over Richard Nixon in 1960 was less than one vote per precinct.

As you can see, one vote is important! Be sure to do your part and get out and vote!

SOUTHEASTERN MEETING ASSOCIATION



From left: BLET Vice President Steve Speagle; Vice President Paul Sorrow; National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert; First Vice President Ed Rodziewicz; and National President Don Hahs.



Travis L. Reed served as chairman of the 79th annual SMA, which was held at the Marriott hotel in Chattanooga, Tenn. He received a lot of help and support from his wife and daughters.



BLET members enjoyed a scenic dinner cruise aboard this sternwheeler. BLET members also visited the renowned Tennessee Aquarium (background) as part of their SMA experience.



From left: BLET Vice Presidents Dale McPherson and Merle Geiger.



Betty Dollar, Treasurer of the Grand International Auxiliary (GIA), tells members and spouses attending the SMA about the “Mainline Cooking” cookbook available from the GIA.



In addition to leisure time activities, BLET regional meetings offer an abundance of educational workshops for the benefit of the membership. Here, BLET members pay close attention during one such educational workshop offered by the National Division during the SMA.



BLET regional meetings offer members the opportunity to spend time with their families. Here, retired Vice President Paul Wingo and General Chairman Ray Wallace (Norfolk Southern-Southern Lines) enjoy time with their grandsons.

JUNE 4-9, 2006



The area around Chattanooga, Tenn., boasts many natural wonders and breath taking views of the Appalachian Mountains. BLET members enjoyed sight seeing tours of Ruby Falls and Rock City during the annual SMA.



BLET National President Don Hahs gives his state of the union address during the SMA's opening ceremony. President Hahs provided BLET members with an update on collective bargaining, regulatory, and legislative issues during his presentation.



From left: K.A. Chancey of BLET Division 547 (Etowah, Tenn.), and Kevin Peek, Local Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer of BLET Division 456 (Norfolk, Va.).



BLET Vice President Paul Sorrow, a member of BLET Division 498 (Abbeville, S.C.), enjoys a warm welcome from members at the SMA.



SMA Chairman Travis L. Reed, center, with members of his Arrangements Committee. Representatives from Division 198 and Division 205 pitched in to help Chairman Reed with the convention.



From left: BLET General Chairman Dennis Pierce (BNSF-MRL) and General Chairman M.D. Priester (CP Rail/U.S.).

Mark your calendars for the 80th Annual SMA
 June 10-15, 2007 • Walt Disney World • Orlando, Fla.
 Hosted by Michael Tanner and Earl Karper Sr.

BLET NEWS

Auxiliary Update

Make your vote count on November 7!

By **Becky B. Schneider**
National President, BLET Auxiliary

With every election comes the call to exercise your right to vote. Once again, we are at a pivotal point in our

nation's history to restore the balance and representation our forefathers envisioned. Over the last six years, our government has been controlled by one party, and the effects of that ideology have taken their toll across a broad spectrum of our society. There seems to be no end in sight for our mounting budget deficits; record trade deficits; erosion of our middle-class standard of living, while the super rich get super richer; and erosion of worker's rights to some of the lowest points in recent history. Many of the gains labor made over the last hundred or so years have vanished with the stroke of a pen, and if a change is not made, they will continue to disappear.

It is said that voters have short memories. We as Auxiliary and BLET members need to keep fresh the memories of those politicians who have voted to undermine issues that are important to railroad employees, retirees, and their families. If your Senator fought against Railroad Retirement or Amtrak funding, make sure you repay his or her

kindness at the ballot box. If your Representative or Senator failed to allow a bill to move out of committee, tried to attach restrictions on collective bargaining or unrelated bills for the sole purpose of defeating a measure, or out-



right voted against bills that would provide some relief to railroad workers and their families, also remember those individuals at the ballot box.

The most important tool we have is information about the candidates. We must do our homework, especially with incumbents, to determine on which side their bread is buttered. Sometimes, it is hard to separate the candidate from the political party. If there is one issue you are particularly passionate about, find out whether the political party's view is the same as the politician's view.

For us to have any hope of bringing our issues before the 110th Congress, we must see a change in the leadership. A total gain of 15 seats will be needed in the House of Representatives, and 6 seats in the Senate. While daunting, these achievements are not impossible. If the majority make-up changes, then so will the leadership, the committee chairs, and our ability to have important legislation actually make it to the floor for vote. Issues such as: rail safety,

including fatigue and hours of service; rail security, including the issuance of federal regulations for remote control operations and positive train control systems; and other issues important to the working class of America, such as an increase in minimum wage not held hostage by a "pet" tax cut.

A good example of what looms on the horizon if the majority retains the status quo concerns national contract negotiations. The carriers have already shown their hand as to their intentions, and are just waiting until after the elections to try it again. No railroader wants Congress deciding the National Contract by way of a Presidential Emergency Board. A change in leadership would help to foil the Carriers' plans. The Administration has already announced that if they retain the majority, efforts will be once again made to privatize Social Security, which will directly affect Railroad Retirement Tier I. Social Security needs to be strengthened, not privatized. The only benefits from privatization would be to plan administrators and brokers, while either additionally driving up the deficit or raising the retirement age to pay for the change. For retirees, a change could mean revisiting the disaster Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit, eliminating the "donut hole" that has taken so many seniors by surprise. Of course, I am certain that the Federal Employees Liability Act would once

again be on the radar for termination. There are many issues that directly affect us, or our families, that would be stymied if the leadership does not change in November.

Since no substantive campaign finance reform was passed even though scandals abound, we must do our part to counter the obscene amount of funding being poured into key races this year by the RNC. There are a number of ways to accomplish this, which are relatively easy. For instance, BLET members could pick up a few voter registration cards from their Division Legislative Representative, and ask co-workers if they are registered to vote. Auxiliary members and spouses can make sure members of their family are also registered. If they are not, provide them with a registration card. Most importantly, whether your State provides absentee ballots, or early voting periods, be sure to take advantage of that access to the polls. Everyone knows railroaders can never be sure whether they will be in town on election day, so this is the easiest, surest way to make your vote count.

Bottom line, your vote counts. Please exercise your right to vote, and with a little luck and strong candidates, we can once again see a Congress that will work for all of the people, not just for corporate America or the privileged few. •

'Mainline Cooking' available for the holidays

Copies of the BLET Auxiliary's cookbook, "Mainline Cooking," are still available and would make an excellent gift for the upcoming holiday season.

Containing recipes submitted by railroaders for railroaders, "Mainline Cooking" is being sold as a fund-raiser for the BLET Auxiliary. The book is chock-full of delicious recipes submitted by BLET/BLET-A members and their families from all parts of the United States and Canada.

It contains more than 300 recipes and is bound in a hardback three ring binder (7" x 9 1/4") that opens easily for adding or removing recipes.

"This book will make an excellent addition to your cooking library as well as a great gift idea for young and old alike," said Becky Schneider, National President of the BLET Auxiliary.

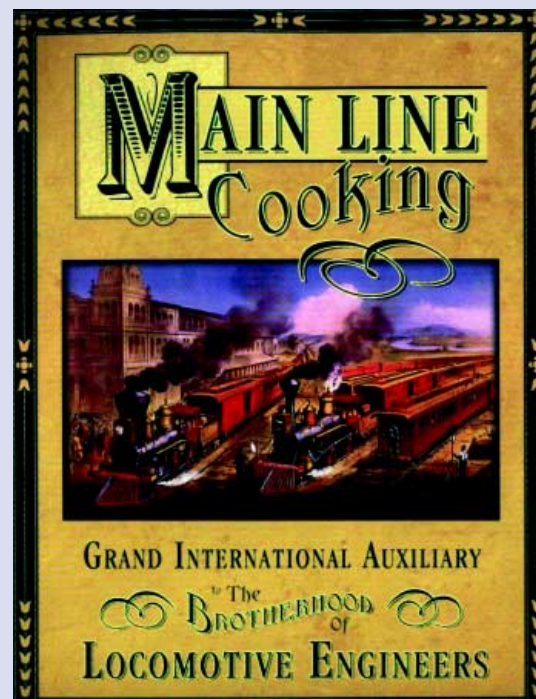
The book also contains humorous quotes, a section on railroadese, railroaders' stories, and great tips on eating healthy while working on the railroad.

All proceeds, except postage and handling, benefit the BLET Auxiliary. Each book is \$15. There is a charge of \$5 shipping and handling for U.S. orders (Hawaii, Alaska and international orders should e-mail the GIA for shipping costs.)

Please make your check or money order payable to the "BLET Auxiliary," and send it along with your name and address to:

Becky Schneider
515 West Redd Road
El Paso, Texas 79932-1909

Email: beckygia1@earthlink.net



Nevada AFL-CIO passes resolution supporting 'Safe Rails Secure America'

The Nevada AFL-CIO passed a Safe Rails, Secure America resolution at its convention on August 25.

Joe Carter, Chairman of the Nevada State Legislative Board, wrote the resolution as part of an on-going campaign to bring awareness to rail safety and security deficiencies.

"I think it is sad when — here in Nevada — casino park-

ing lots are more secure than our railroads," Brother Carter said. "The railroads have record profits but seem unwilling to make security improvements."

The resolution is critical of the Union Pacific Railroad for failing to "live up to its responsibility to the communities for

railroad security in the State of Nevada and the nation at large."

There are five Union Pacific Railroad yards in the State of Nevada. None of them

are fenced for security, nor do they have a significant security force, or lighting.

According to the resolution, "These five railroad yards have limited security, two railroad policemen in Las Vegas and one railroad policeman in Sparks. There are no railroad security police stationed in Elko or Winnemucca."

Brother Carter was not at the convention, held in Las Vegas, but he credited several of his Vice Chairmen for its passage, including: John Passi of BLET Division 158 (Sparks, Nevada), Matt Parker of BLET Division 158, and Jerry Coon of BLET Division 766 (Las Vegas).

"These guys really stepped up and did a great job," Brother Carter said. •

HIGH ALERT:

Workers Warn of Security Gaps on Nation's Railroads



Election Supervisor’s Report to BLET Members

The Rank-and-File Vote for IBT International Officers — Starting in October 2006, each and every IBT member, including members of the newly merged BLET, will receive a mail ballot to cast votes for IBT International officers. Voting for International officers is every member’s democratic right and responsibility: it is your union. Every member has the opportunity to campaign in support of, or opposition to, any candidate in the election. Every member has the right to receive campaign presentations and information.

A ballot will be mailed to you on October 6, 2006. In order to be counted, your voted ballot must be received by November 14, 2006. If you believe you are eligible to vote and do not receive a ballot by October 19, contact 1- 888-428-2006 to request a ballot.

Every member has the right to vote their own ballot in secret. It is a serious violation of the Rules for someone to solicit, mark, or mail another member’s ballot. For example, protest rulings issued in two different delegate elections found that ballots had been collected in violation of the *Rules*. Go to www.ibtvote.org to read 2006 ESD.

The ballot count site is in Alexandria, Virginia. All candidates and their designated observers are permitted to observe all phases of the ballot counting process. Additional information about balloting and the count is available at www.ibtvote.org.

Candidate Forum — The 2006 IBT International Officer Candidate Forum took place on August 25, 2006 in Washington, D.C. The participants in the Candidate Forum were General President Candidate Tom Leedham and General Secretary-Treasurer Candidate C. Thomas Keegel. General President Candidate James P. Hoffa exercised his right to designate the General Secretary-Treasurer Candidate on his slate as his representative to appear at the forum. A panel of journalists posed questions to the candidates. **You can watch the Candidate Forum at any time from any computer with an internet connection (cable modem, DSL, or dial-up with at least a 56K modem).** The full video recording can be viewed at www.ibtvote.org OR at www.teamsters.org. At less than 56K, you can still listen to the forum over the internet, but you will not see the video. Anyone may link to or promote www.ibtvote.org as a source for the Candidate Forum. You can read or download a transcript of the Candidate Forum at any time from any computer with an internet connection. The complete transcript is available at www.ibtvote.org OR at www.teamsters.org.

Each General Committee has three copies of a DVD recording of the Candidate Forum, which it must make available upon request to any member, or group of members, for viewing or copying. At least one copy of the Candidate Forum DVD must be maintained at the General Committee through November 14, 2006.

Any IBT member can get a DVD recording and/or a transcript of the Candidate Forum, free of charge, by calling the Election Supervisor’s Office at 888-IBT-2006 (888-428-2006) or; in the Washington, D.C. area, 202-429-8683; or by sending an email with the member’s name, local union number, and mailing address to ElectionSupervisor@ibtvote.org. Additional information about the election of IBT International officers is available at www.ibt.vote.org

Richard W. Mark
Election Supervisor

2006 BLET 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.

Locomotive Engineers & Conductors Mutual Protective Association

535 Griswold • Suite 1210 • Detroit, MI 48226-3689

(800) 514-0010 • (313) 962-1512
FAX: (877) 633-1910 • E-MAIL: lecmpa1910@lecmpa.org •
WEB: www.lecmpa.org



Job Protection Headquarters for Transportation Employees
Since 1910

BLET NEWS

A message from Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa

Get out and vote on Nov. 7!



Rail Security Training

Our government recently approved legislation that includes \$3.5 billion for state and local first responders such as firefighters and emergency workers. Although a good step, it only allocated a small fraction of that amount, \$13.5 million, for inspectors and explosive detection on the rail system. BLET-Teamster members and the public deserve so much more. Its been shown that five-times as many passengers travel daily on our rail transit system compared to airlines. And, we know that locomotive engineers, trainmen and maintenance of way workers are always among the very first to respond to an emergency rail situation. Yet, the rail corporations are still turning a deaf ear to requests for emergency drills and hands-on training.

Some of the rail corporations have distributed a video program that they contend is adequate for training employees on how to handle emergency situations. A videotape is no substitute for an on-site instructor and an emergency simulation. Our members deserve to have the training and equipment necessary to perform in emergency situations — and the public relies on us to know how to do our jobs. One of those jobs is having responsibility for the safety of a train’s passengers. We won’t forget that, even when the chairmen of the rail corporations can’t come through with the type of training we need.

Mid-Term Elections

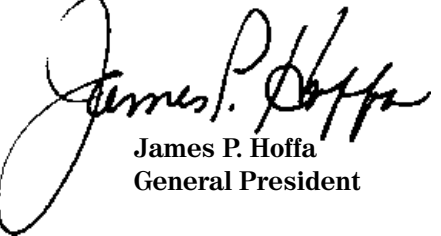
The mid-term elections will impact every state in one way or another and will affect unions and working Americans dramatically.

In the United States Senate, 33 of the 100 seats are being contested. The election for members in the House of Representatives is scheduled for the same day, as well as many state and local elections, including those for 36 state governors.

These elections are critical to our future. We must remind lawmakers that they represent us — working people — not Big Business and Corporate America. Politicians must be held accountable for the actions they take and the votes they cast. If they do not stand with us, we should not stand with them on Election Day.

I urge you to make sure your ballots are cast for pro-labor candidates. Study the issues and see where candidates in your area stand on issues such as jobs, pensions, health care and rail security. Support candidates that support working families.

We have a chance to send a message to our election representatives on November 7, but we can only do it if we remember to Get Out and Vote!


James P. Hoffa
General President

OCTOBER 2006 CALENDAR & EVENTS

NOVEMBER 17... U.S. Railroad Retirement Board Informational Conference, Metairie, La.
At the Plumbers & Steam Fitters Union Hall, Service Road West (corner of Severn and I-10 Service Rd.). The U.S. Railroad Retirement Board offers free informational conferences for elected officers of the BLET throughout the remainder of 2006. Registration for all informational conferences begins at 8 a.m. The programs begin promptly at 8:30 a.m. and end at 12:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 8... U.S. Railroad Retirement Board Informational Conference, Tampa, Fla.
At the Crown Plaza, Sable Park (10221 Princess Palm Avenue). Registration for all informational conferences begins at 8 a.m. The programs begin promptly at 8:30 a.m. and end at 12:30 p.m.

MAY 20-24, 2007... 67th International Western Convention, Tacoma, Wash.
Hosted by David Beech and the members of Division 238. More details to come!

JUNE 10-15, 2007... 80th Annual Southeastern Meeting Association, Orlando, Fla.
Hosted by Brothers Mike Tanner and Earl Karper Sr., the 80th annual SMA will be held at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla. More details to come!

AUGUST 20-23, 2007... 69th Annual Eastern Union Meeting Association, Traverse City, Mich.
Hosted by Don Zatteau and the members of Division 286, the 69th annual EUMA will be held at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa in Acme, Mich. More details to come!

OCTOBER 7-11, 2007... 72nd Annual Southwestern Convention Meeting, Shreveport, La.
Hosted by Bud Pickett and the members of Division 599, the 72nd annual SWCM will be held at Sam’s Town in Shreveport, La. More details to come!

Advisory Board September Activity

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

National President Don M. Hahs—National Division office: General supervision of BLET activities; General office duties; Annual Labor Day Parade in Toledo, Ohio, with Divisions 4, 385 and 457; BLET-UTU wage negotiation mtg. w/ NCCC, Kansas City, Mo.; Rail Labor Bargaining Coalition wage negotiation mtg., Washington, D.C.; Division 255 mtg., Beatrice, Neb.; Mtg. w/ Harold A. Ross and General Chairman Finamore, Cleveland; Teamsters Canada Rail Conference convention, Ottawa, Ontario; Kentucky State Legislative Board mtg., Frankfort, Ky.; Sherrod Brown Fundraiser, Washington, D.C.

First Vice-President & Alternate President Edward W. Rodziewicz— Assisted President in general operation of National Division Office; Vice President assignments; Organizing department; Shortline department; Passenger department; Various correspondence & phone calls; President-IBT Rail Conference; South Buffalo RR; BLET-UTU-NCCC mtg.; IBT General Executive Board mtg.; IBT Women’s Conference; Illinois State Legislative Board mtg.; BLET-BMWED Rail Conference planning mtg.

National Secretary-Treasurer William C. Walpert—General supervision of BLET financial, record depts.; ND office; BLET Education & Training Dept.; Internal Organizing, Mobilizing & Strategic Planning Dept.; Safety Task Force; Meetings with vendors and financial institutions; Midwest Rail Craft Scholarship event, Beatrice, Neb.; Joint Division meeting, Lincoln, Neb.; Teamsters Canada Rail Conference convention, Ottawa, Ontario; Illinois State Legislative Board mtg., Peoria, Ill.; Mtg. w/ BMWED, Washington, D.C.

Vice-President Paul T. Sorrow—Assigned to CSX, NS and GTW general committees of adjustment; Attended GTW informational mtg.; Negotiations w/ CSXT and CSXT General Committee in connection with single agreement; Contract negotiations w/ CN on behalf of GTW engineers; Informational mtg., Moberly, Mo.; Division mtg., Moberly, Mo.; Attended informational mtg. CSX Western Line divisions (Greenbo State Park); Work on Public Law Board awards and general office duties.

Vice-President Richard K. Radek— ND Office; BLET Decertification Helpline services; Director of Arbitration Dept; National Railroad Adjustment Board (NRAB); Illinois Central; Wisconsin Central; Indiana Harbor Belt; METRA; Belt Rwy. of Chicago; Chicago Central & Pacific; Iowa, Chicago & Eastern; U.S. Court of Appeals, Settlement Conference, Chicago; New arbitrator orientation mtg., Chicago; NRAB, admin. & arbitration assistance, BRC and Metra, Chicago; Prep. mtg. to discuss NARR, Chicago; Arbitration, NRAB, UP-West; Labor-Arb. review board mtg., Chicago; National Association of Railroad Referees conference, Chicago; SBA-NY Dock arbitration, KCS and MidSouth Rail, Chicago; Illinois State Legislative Board mtg., Peoria; Section 3 (RLA) Committee, Washington, D.C.; Arbitration at NRAB, CP Rail, UP, CN, et al; NRAB annual board mtg., Chicago; FRA Part 240.409 dockets this month: EQAL 00-84 (UP), 00-41 (NS), 01-29 (UP), 01-06 (CSX).

Vice-President Dale McPherson — CP Rail; Port. Term. RR; Longview Portland & Northern; Longview Switching Co.; Indiana RR; W&LE RR; Utah Railroad; UP Eastern Dist.; UP former CNW; DM&IR RR; Portland & Western RR; Great Western RR; Appalachian & Ohio RR; Public Law Boards 5604, 5681, 5721, 6040, 6281, 6449, 6558, 6589; SBA 585; UP work/rest projects; RSAC positive train control cmt.; National wage/rules; General office duties, telephone, correspondence; BLET First Quadrennial Convention, Las Vegas; Rail Conference First Quadrennial Convention, Las Vegas.

Vice-President Merle W. Geiger Jr.— Assigned to: BLET Trainmen’s Department; Kansas City Southern; Gateway Western; Midsouth Rail; Southrail; Texas-Mexican Rwy.; Springfield Terminal, Delaware & Hudson; Indiana & Ohio RR; Louisville & Indiana RR; St. Lawrence & Atlantic RR; Indiana Southern RR; Prep. for Special Board of Adjustment and New York Dock arbitration; SBA (MidSouth) and New York Dock arbitration (KCS-MidSouth), Chicago; Numerous conference calls; Holiday; Research, correspondence and general office duties.

Vice-President Stephen D. Speagle—Assigned to Burlington Northern Santa Fe, Montana Rail Link, Pacific Harbor Line, Missouri & Northern Arkansas (M&NA), National Wage/Rule Committee; Labor Day mtg. and picnic, Div. 155; National wage/rule mtg. w/ NCCC and UTU, Kansas City; Mtgs. for Wabash Hospital Assoc., Decatur; Annual mtg. of Railroad Referees, Chicago; Mtg. w/ G.C. Cole Davis and Illinois LC’s; Illinois State Legislative Board mtg.

Vice-President E.L. “Lee” Pruitt — Assisted general chairmen & members of: UP-Western Lines; UP-Western Region; UP-Central Region; UP-Southern Region; UP-Tacoma Belt; General office duties, telephone paperwork.

Vice-President & National Legislative Representative John P. Tolman — Assigned to BLET Washington D.C. office; BLET Security Officer; General office duties, telephone, correspondence; Mtg. w/ AAR; Mtg. w/ Senator Voinovics; Mtg. w/ Snowe; Mtg. w/ GC Amtrak Kenny; Amtrak Rail Labor mtg.; Congressional Black Caucus; Homeland security; NMB mtg.; State Legislative Board mtg., Kentucky; Mtg. w/ Senator Kennedy, Mass., Harkin, Iowa, former Senator Culver, Iowa, and candidate for governor Culver; Fundraiser for Brown, with Kennedy (MA), Schumer (NY), Brown (OH); Change to Win mtg. and open house; Testify in the Economic Security, Infrastructure and Protection and Cybersecurity Committee, a subcommittee of Homeland Security; Chair Lungren and Ranking Member Sanchez; General office duties; Interviews.

Vice-President Marcus J. Ruef — Assigned to Amtrak Long Island Railroad; Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority; New Jersey Transit; Port Authority Trans Hudson; Norfolk Southern (Northern Lines/W&LE); Norfolk Southern (Eastern Lines); Norfolk Southern (Southern Lines); Union Railroad; Allegheny Ludlum Steel Co.; and Birmingham Southern; SEPTA general assistance; Assisted various GCofAs at meetings in Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Brackenridge, Pa.; NYS&W conference; SEPTA hearings, Philadelphia; NS-Eastern general assistance; Allegheny Ludlum general assistance.

Decertification Helpline (800) 393-2716

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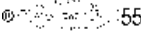
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