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# Locomotive

## ENGINEERS & TRAINMEN NEWS



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## THIRD NATIONAL CONVENTION

Full details of the BLET's Third National Convention, September 29-October 2 in Las Vegas, will appear in a commemorative issue of the *Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen Journal*. Coming soon!



## President Pierce, Advisory Board elected by acclamation during BLET's Third National Convention

**VP BRUNO ELECTED NST TO REPLACE RETIRING BILL WALPERT, GC JIM LOUIS ELECTED NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT; DELEGATES ADD 3 TRUSTEE POSITIONS TO ADVISORY BOARD**

**D**ennis R. Pierce was elected by acclamation to his second full term as President of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen during the BLET's Third National Convention in Las Vegas on October 1, 2014. Additionally, all Advisory Board members were elected without opposition. Their terms of office will begin on January 1, 2015.

"It's an honor for me to be your National President for another four years," President Pierce said. "I have every confidence we will leave here stronger than when we arrived. And when we go home to our Divisions, let us make every effort to make our union the strongest it can be."

The following officers of the Advisory Board were reelected by acclamation: E. Lee Pruitt, First Vice President

and Alternate President; John P. Tolman, Vice President and National Legislative Representative; Marcus J. Ruef, Vice President; Michael D. Twombly, Vice President; Gil L. Gore, Vice President; Michael D. Priester, Vice President; Cole W. Davis, Vice President; and Richard C. Gibbons, Vice President.

Vice President Stephen J. Bruno was elected by acclamation to the office of National Secretary-Treasurer, filing the position vacated by William C. Walpert, who is retiring. Brother Walpert delivered a stirring retirement speech on September 29, the opening day of the convention. Also, Brother James P. Louis, General Chairman, Conrail (SAA/CSX-Northern District), was elected by acclamation to the office of National Vice President, filling the office currently held by Brother Bruno.

Delegates voted to amend the BLET Bylaws to establish three new Trustee positions to audit the books of the National Division on a monthly basis. Elected by acclamation to those positions were: David P. Estes, Secretary-Treasurer, Amtrak General Committee of Adjustment; Mark L. Wallace, General Chairman, Norfolk Southern-Southern Lines; and Matt O. Wilson, General Chairman, BNSF/MRL General Committee of Adjustment.

Twelve alternate officer positions also were filled by acclamation on October 1. They are as follows: David P. Estes, Alternate Secretary-Treasurer; Vincent G. Verna, 1st Alternate Vice President and National Legislative Representative; Paul Piekarski, 2nd Alternate Vice President and National Legislative Representative; Mark L. Wallace, 1st Alternate Vice President; Matt O. Wilson, 2nd Alternate

Vice President; Warren Dent, 3rd Alternate Vice President; William Lyons, 4th Alternate Vice President; Kevin J. Moore, 5th Alternate Vice President; Randy Fannon, 6th Alternate Vice President; Alan Holdcraft, 7th Alternate Vice President; A. Dan Cook III, 8th Alternate Vice President; and Garrison Best, 9th Alternate Vice President.

Throughout the week, delegates deliberated on reports from all BLET standing committees, finalizing their work on the Recommendations of the Bylaws Committee on October 2. Delegates heard from numerous guest speakers and also passed a resolution supporting two-person train crews. More details on these convention proceedings will be featured in the upcoming issue of the BLET's magazine, *Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen Journal*. ©

**VISIT FACEBOOK.COM/BLETNATIONAL FOR NEWS AND PHOTO ALBUMS RECAPPING THE THIRD NATIONAL CONVENTION.**



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**BLET PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY DENNIS R. PIERCE**

# YOUR VOTE COUNTS

**F**or those of you who were in attendance at the BLET's Third National Convention earlier this month, you know that we talked a lot about this fall's mid-term elections. Whether it was from our guest speakers like Teamster General Secretary-Treasurer Ken Hall, or from a video message like the one from Senator Elizabeth Warren, the common thread that all of our speakers shared was the importance of this year's election, both at the Federal level and at the State level.

In the U.S. Senate, there are 36 seats to be decided, and those who support an anti-worker, anti-union and therefore anti-middle class agenda are working hard to take control. At the same time, all 435 seats are up for re-election in the U.S. House of Representatives, and the same group is working hard to increase their existing majority. There is a reason for this push in the House and the Senate, and that reason does not benefit you as working class Americans.

Quite to the contrary, the agenda being pushed by the so-called conservatives trying to increase their power in Washington, D.C., is one that is bought and paid for by corporate America. Many of you do not know who the Koch brothers are, but they are billionaires who have long advocated ending Social Security and Medicare. By the end of the year, they will have spent millions trying to persuade voters, including good union men and women, to vote for their issues.

They will convince some of you to support their agenda, even though their cause includes nothing good for working class Americans. They oppose any increase to the minimum wage, even though our nation's workers are some of the most pro-



President Pierce at the podium during the BLET's Third National Convention in Las Vegas.

ductive in the world and their wages lag behind the bulk of the industrialized world. If their bought and paid for politicians take full control, they would end all hope of a secure retirement for millions of working class Americans by ending Social Security — and our Railroad Retirement system would not be safe either.

You only have to study the voting records of the politicians that these billionaires have already bought, to know what being owned by billionaires like the Koch brothers, the Walton family or Sheldon Adelson requires. Although said in jest by a well-known comedian, it was speculated during the recession that due to the downturn in the economy, the Koch brothers actually had to lay off several congressmen. In all truth though, it is imperative that you look beyond the advertisements that corporate America and its sup-

porters will put on your television this year. You must instead study the voting records of all politicians that seek your vote, and if you truly want a strong working middle class in this country, you must not support those whose true agenda is just the opposite.

At our Third National Convention, delegates were honored to hear from U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT), who offered his unique insight into the importance of the upcoming elections:

"And while the rich get richer, the billionaire class, as a result of the disastrous 'Citizens United' Supreme Court decision, is investing hundreds of millions of dollars into political campaigns to make sure that elected officials in Washington will keep making sure the folks on top get an even greater share of the pie," Sanders said. "If ever there was a time for a political

revolution, one that engages millions of Americans in the political process, and significantly increases voter participation, now is that time. We need to educate, organize and bring to the polls millions of workers and young people who otherwise might not vote. We need to make clear to every American what the Koch brothers' agenda is and what Republican control of Congress will mean for the working families of this country, and we need to bring forth a strong progressive agenda that reverses the decline of the middle class."

Perhaps the most disappointing misrepresentation in all of this year's politics is what I call the "wolf in sheep's clothing" politician. I am talking about those politicians who are bought and paid for by corporate America, but try to convince you that they actually support you or a social issue important to you.

Having been raised in a devoutly religious home, I am especially offended by those corporate owned politicians who claim to stand on "high ground" religiously.

There is no greater hypocrisy than to claim to support a religious philosophy, while at the same time supporting an economic philosophy that allows corporations to crush the working class of this great nation. It has been said that truly being religious requires a conscience, but that is the one thing that no corporation owns. Quite the opposite, corporations serve only one purpose, that being to make money for those who own and operate them. What that does not include in many cases is paying a living wage, providing benefits or allowing employees to have the time off that they need to enjoy the fruits of their labor. The almighty dollar — and not the Almighty — is king in corporate America.

I will leave you with this quote from Pope Francis, who eloquently explains the economic inequalities facing Americans today. I ask you to keep this in mind when you vote in November:

"Some people continue to defend trickle-down theories which assume that economic growth, encouraged by a free market, will inevitably succeed in bringing about greater justice and inclusiveness in the world. This opinion, which has never been confirmed by the facts, expresses a crude and naïve trust in the goodness of those wielding economic power and in the sacralized workings of the prevailing economic system." — *Pope Francis, Joy of the Gospel apostolic exhortation, November 2013.*

**DENNIS R. PIERCE**  
BLET NATIONAL PRESIDENT

66

And while the rich get richer, the billionaire class, as a result of the disastrous 'Citizens United' Supreme Court decision, is investing hundreds of millions of dollars into political campaigns to make sure that elected officials in Washington will keep making sure the folks on top get an even greater share of the pie.

— **U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT)**

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## BLET NATIONAL DIVISION ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

**O**fficial 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. ©©**



## GENERAL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY JAMES P. HOFFA

# ELECTION CHOICES ARE CLEAR CUT WHEN VOTERS MULL POLICY

**L**ess than a month from today, voters will have an opportunity to head to the polls. While many might be tempted to just throw up their hands instead of casting a vote, they should keep in mind what is at stake. Because rest assured, those with corporate interests certainly will.

A slew of state and federal candidates will be on the ballot Nov. 4, and it is incumbent on every voter to get familiar with their stances on the issues. Too many seeking elective office have become enamored with big business at the cost of regular workers. If allowed to take power, those lawmakers will reward their moneyed elite contributors.

The Teamsters are urging our members and those concerned about the future of the middle class to support candidates who

are willing to invest in working families and our communities. Although one might think that any candidate would want what's best for people, the facts just don't back it up.

Take trade, for instance. It may not seem obvious why the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) with 11 other nations is a significant issue for rank-and-file workers. But make no mistake, the Teamsters have seen this story play out before, and it does not end well.

NAFTA, the 20-year-old trade deal between the U.S., Mexico and Canada, cost upwards of 1 million U.S. workers their jobs. And there is significant reason to be concerned that the TPP would be even worse. It would lead to the off-shoring of jobs and a reduction in workplace protections, not to men-

tion a reduction in food and product safety.

Right-to-work is a ruse. The law is proven not to be a deciding factor in where businesses locate. It is just another effort by big business to tip the economic scales even more in their favor at the expense of hard-working people.

When you don't fight to close loopholes that encourage companies to ship their jobs overseas you're not doing what's best for working families. And, when you support legislation that takes away the ability for workers to collectively bargain, you're not doing what's best for the U.S.

Fraternally,

**JAMES P. HOFFA**  
TEAMSTERS GENERAL  
PRESIDENT



66 The Teamsters are urging our members and those concerned about the future of the middle class to support candidates who are willing to invest in working families and our communities. Although one might think that any candidate would want what's best for people, the facts just don't back it up. 99

## Piekarski reelected by acclamation to ILSLB

**P**aul S. Piekarski was reelected by acclamation for the third time, his second full term as Chairman of the Illinois State Legislative Board, at a quadrennial meeting held in St. Louis, Mo., September 8-9, 2014.

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. He was promoted to the Chairman's position following the retirement of C. Edward Way on May 31, 2010. Brother Piekarski was then elected by acclamation to continue serving as Chairman at the Board's 2010 quadrennial convention.

Elected to the Executive Committee were: 1st Vice Chairman Tim Dunn, Division 24 (Centralia, Ill.); 2nd Vice Chairman James McGovern IV, Division 644 (Galesburg, Ill.); 3rd Vice Chairman, Pat Randolph, Division 512 (Benton, Ill.); and Secretary-Treasurer Jody Thomas, Division 155, (Decatur, Ill.). Additional Board officers elected were: 1st Vice Alternate Chairman Chris Falaney, Division 683 (Chicago, Ill.); 2nd Alternate Vice Chairman Tim Simmons, Division 294 (Elgin, Ill.); 3rd Alternate Vice Chairman James Wasson, Division 602 (Champaign, Ill.); and Alternate Secretary-Treasurer David Hilligoss, Division 96 (Arlington Heights, Ill.).



Members and officers of the Illinois State Legislative Board just prior to opening ceremonies of the Southwestern Convention Meeting (SWCM) in St. Louis, Mo., on September 9, 2014.

Elected by acclamation to serve on the Audit Committee were: Tyrone Hughes, Division 815 (Oak Forest, Ill.); Pat Randolph, Division 512 (Benton, Ill.); and Doug Pope, Division 444, (Granite City, Ill.).

"I thank Brother Piekarski and all officers and members of the Illinois State Legislative Board for their continuing dedication to our Brotherhood," BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce said. "I have everyone confidence they will continue doing an excellent job of represent-

ing the rights and interests of all BLET members in the proud state of Illinois."

A number of milestones were celebrated, one being Brother Piekarski's upcoming 40th anniversary with the BLET, and more importantly, the 125th anniversary of the Illinois State Legislative Board, which was founded in Springfield, Ill., on February 17, 1889.

On September 8, the Board held its business meeting with Brother Vince Verna, BLET Director of Regulatory Affairs, giving a presentation.

Also, several legislators from across Illinois addressed the group, including: U.S. Congressman Bill Enyart, (12th District); State Senator Michael Frerichs (52nd); State Senator Mike Frerichs (D-Champaign), who is also a candidate for Illinois Treasurer; and Rep. Jay Hoffman (113th), who represented House Speaker Michael J. Madigan.

The Board set the date of their quadrennial convention to coincide with the 79th annual Southwestern Convention Meeting in St. Louis.

"I don't know if this has ever been done before," Brother Piekarski said. "It was a decision made by our Executive Committee when planning this meeting. It was all about Unionism — building unity and networking together for not only the members of the Illinois State Legislative Board but all involved with the regional meeting."

On the morning of September 9, the entire Illinois State Legislative Board delegation assembled and then marched in procession to be seated in the opening ceremony of the SWCM. They did the same for the afternoon's closed session, where they heard presentations by BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce, First Vice President E. Lee Pruitt, and National Secretary-Treasurer William C. Walpert.

The Illinois State Legislative Board represents nearly 3,400 active and retired members from 40 different BLET Divisions. @@

# BLET LEGISLATIVE BOARD ENDORSEMENTS 2014

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** THESE ENDORSEMENTS ARE BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE VARIOUS BLET STATE LEGISLATIVE BOARDS. THEY REPRESENT THE CANDIDATES WHO YOUR ELECTED BLET OFFICERS BELIEVE BEST REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF RAILROAD WORKERS AND MIDDLE CLASS AMERICANS.

**Due to Federal Election Commission (FEC) regulations, our 2014 endorsements are viewable in the members-only area of the BLET website: [www.ble-t.org/members](http://www.ble-t.org/members).**



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## BLET concludes 79th annual Southwestern Convention Meeting in St. Louis

**M**ore than 350 members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen convened on September 9 for opening ceremonies of the 79th annual Southwestern Convention Meeting (SWCM).

As with the 2013 SWCM in New Orleans, the SWCM attendance is the highest of any of the BLET's four regional meetings this year.

Sister Heather R. Carnahan, a member of BLET Division 442, sang the National Anthem following presentation of the flags. Brother Ulysses Evans, BLET Division 42, delivered the invocation. Brother Mike McGill, Division 42, presided over the empty chair ceremony. An empty chair, as well as various tools of the engineers' craft, were left at the front of the meeting hall to honor the Organiza-

tion's departed Brothers and Sisters. SWCM Arrangements Chairman David Grimes, Local Chairman of Division 42, led the group in a moment of silence in honor of Brother Chance J. Gober, BLET Division 182, a Union Pacific locomotive engineer who was killed in the line of duty on August 17, 2014.

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce introduced members of the BLET Advisory Board and National Division Staff who were in attendance. His remarks touched upon the War on Workers and the need for solidarity in the labor movement. To counteract the War on Workers, President Pierce urged all workers and all unions to pull together for their common interests.

His remarks were echoed by three members of the Missouri State Legislature who addressed attendees during the morning session: Gina Walsh, Mis-

souri State Senator; Jacob W. Hummel, Missouri State Representative; and Bob Burns, Missouri State Representative. They all spoke about the importance of unions — and an involved, active membership — in counteracting the War on Workers. Additionally, Rep. Burns presented Brother Grimes with a proclamation from the Missouri House of Representatives honoring Brother Grimes for his many contributions to the Brotherhood over the years.

Brian May, a representative of Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon's office, read a letter of greeting from the Governor, praising BLET members for their professionalism and the important role they play in the nation's economy.

John Murphy, Vice President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and Director of the Teamsters Rail Conference, spoke about the importance

of high-speed rail in California and its impact on the rest of the United States.

The sixth guest speaker of the day was Jim Kabell, President of the Missouri-Kansas-Nebraska Conference of Teamsters, a three-state coalition of Teamsters in the Midwest.

Anita Caruso, National President of the BLET Auxiliary, also addressed the group and introduced the National Officers of the Auxiliary who were in attendance.

The meeting kicked off on September 8 with an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) workshop. Members participated in additional educational opportunities throughout the remainder of the week. The 79th annual SWCM concluded with a dinner banquet and dance the evening of September 10. The 2015 SWCM will be held in Tulsa, Okla. @@



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# Open enrollment begins November 1, 2014 for the BLET Short Term Disability Plan

## IMPORTANT CHANGES AND ENHANCEMENTS TO PLAN B COVERAGE

**O**pen Enrollment for 2015 under the BLET's Short Term Disability insurance plan began on November 1, 2014 and runs through December 15, 2014.

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 (as an example; BNSF, NS and Amtrak did not participate in this Plan so this information does not apply to engineers working on these properties), your coverage under Part A (described below) of the BLET Short Term Disability Plan will automatically continue.

If you currently do not participate in Part B coverage (also described below), you may elect coverage during this enrollment period. If you currently participate and wish to opt out of Part B coverage, then you can also do so during this enrollment period.

### PART A NON-OCCUPATIONAL DISABILITIES

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, up to 52 weeks' coverage.
- Occupational disabilities are not covered.
- Each eligible member is insured for \$50,000 of Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) coverage.
- There is a 14-day waiting period.

### PART B OCCUPATIONAL DISABILITIES

The premium cost for Part B coverage was reduced significantly to \$18 per month in 2014. In addition, if you currently participate in Part B coverage or are currently eligible for Part A and enroll in Part B coverage, Part B will now also cover non-occupational disabilities in the case that you are demoted to train service and become ineligible for Part A coverage.



### Part B is voluntary. Participation in this additional occupational coverage is not required.

- The weekly benefit for occupational disabilities is \$402 per week, up to 52 weeks.
- Each eligible member is insured for an additional \$50,000 of AD&D coverage. When participating in both Part A and Part B there is a total of \$100,000 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 Part B premium will be paid either via a payroll deduction or via an automatic monthly direct withdrawal authorization arranged with your banking/financial institution.
- There is a 14-day waiting period.

**NOTE:** SMART-TD members working as engineers are eligible for Part A and may purchase Part B coverage by making an annual payment of \$216 to the BLET Short Term Disability Trust Fund. (Complete the form below and return to address noted by December 15, 2014.)

### FILING A CLAIM FOR BLET SHORT TERM DISABILITY

- Call 1-800-858-6506 – MetLife Claim Center.
- Tell them you would like to file a claim under BLET Short Term Disability.
- Provide information requested, including contact information for your attending physician(s).

• 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:

Your initial eligibility for Part B remains dependent upon your eligibility for Part A. In order to be eligible for Part A, you must have seven (7) starts in a month (with at least one (1) start as an engineer) prior to enrolling for coverage.

If you are enrolled in Part B and are demoted to train service and become ineligible for Part A coverage you will no longer have to notify the Secretary-Treasurer of your local division. Your Part B coverage will automatically cover you for both occupational and non-occupational disabilities until you (1) again become eligible for Part A, (2) elect to discontinue your payroll deduction for Part B coverage, or (3) are no longer a locomotive engineer working on a railroad that participated in the Wage/Rules portion of the National Agreement dated December 16, 2003.

### CHOICES THAT MUST BE MADE BY DECEMBER 15, 2014

If you currently do NOT participate in Part B and choose to do nothing, you will continue to be eligible for Part A coverage only. If you are currently enrolled in Part B and wish to remain enrolled, then you

are not required to take any action.

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 complete and return the attached form (below), by December 15, 2014, to the Secretary-Treasurer of your local division. Your election will become effective on January 1, 2015.

Members, who OPT-OUT of Part B coverage effective January 1, 2015, will not be eligible to enroll for the coverage until the next annual enrollment period. No exceptions will be made.

### DESIGNATION OF BENEFICIARY(IES)

You are able to designate your beneficiary(ies) for the AD&D coverage on-line. If you would prefer to submit a paper beneficiary form, one is available on MetLife's website. A simple registration process is required the first time you access [www.metlife.com/mybenefits](http://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.

### QUESTIONS

Anyone with questions regarding BLET Short Term Disability should contact Megan Mead, BLET Short Term Disability Liaison, at 216-241-2630 (ext. 205) or email at [mead@ble-t.org](mailto:mead@ble-t.org). ©

**A COPY OF THE OPT-IN/OPT-OUT FORM IS AVAILABLE ON THE NATIONAL DIVISION WEBSITE:**  
[WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/2015\\_BLET\\_STD\\_OPT\\_IN\\_OPT\\_OUT.PDF](http://WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/2015_BLET_STD_OPT_IN_OPT_OUT.PDF)

**A COPY OF THE ANNUAL ENROLLMENT FORM FOR SMART-TD MEMBERS CAN BE FOUND HERE:**  
[WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/2015\\_BLET\\_STD\\_ANNUAL\\_OPT\\_IN\\_SMART.PDF](http://WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/2015_BLET_STD_ANNUAL_OPT_IN_SMART.PDF)



## BLET ENGINEERS ENROLLMENT 2015 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, you must complete the remainder of this form. Be sure to include your signature and the date, and deliver to your Division Secretary/Treasurer. You may Opt-Out at any time.

"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 enrollment period."

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ BLET Div. #: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please deliver this form to your Division Secretary-Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Division Secretary/Treasurer must keep a copy in the division records and forward a copy of the opt-in/opt-out to:

Megan Mead, Special Representative, Short Term Disability Liaison  
1370 Ontario St- Mezzanine  
Cleveland OH 44113

**DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 15, 2014**



## SMART-TD ENGINEERS ENROLLMENT 2015 OPT-IN FORM

### PART B – BLET SHORT TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE PLAN

If you desire to OPT-IN to Part B coverage for 2015 under the BLET Short Term Disability Insurance Plan, you must be eligible for Part A. If you purchased coverage for 2014, your coverage will end on December 31, 2014. Complete the remainder of this form. Be sure to include your signature and the date. A check made out to the "BLET Welfare Benefit Trust Fund" for \$216 should be sent by December 15, 2014 to:

Megan Mead, Special Representative  
Short Term Disability Liaison  
1370 Ontario St- Mezzanine  
Cleveland OH 44113

"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: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Railroad: \_\_\_\_\_ SMART Local # \_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 15, 2014**



## Locomotive Engineers And Trainmen News Brotherhood Of Locomotive Engineers And Trainmen

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10/14

### Photo of the Month: October 2014

**BLET AUXILIARY ELECTS NEW OFFICERS:** Congratulations to new BLET Auxiliary National President Sereena Hogan and all other National Officers, who were elected at the Auxiliary's 2nd Quadrennial Convention on October 1, 2014. From left: Sereena Hogan, National President; Susie Burrola, 1st Vice President; Lawana Poss, Secretary; Terri Fleming, Treasurer; Kathleen Bisbikis, 2nd Vice President; Rachael Grimes, 3rd Vice President; Darla Fent, Chaplain; Debbie Keele, Alternate Secretary; Helen Brand, Alternate Treasurer; and Anita Caruso, Past National President.



**Are you a photographer?** The National Division's Public Relations Department, which produces the Newsletter each month, has received numerous inquiries lately from BLET members volunteering to contribute their

images to the "Photo of the Month" section of the Newsletter. If you'd like to submit a photo for consideration, you may call Editor John Bentley at (216) 241-2630, ext. 248, or you can email: Bentley@ble-t.org.

Please note only high resolution images can be used. Members are also encouraged to review their employer's policies regarding the use of cameras and other electronic devices while on duty.

## Advisory Board July & August 2014 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; 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; International Western Convention (IWC) regional mtg., Minneapolis, Minn.; BLET Legislative Representative Training Class, Washington, D.C.; BLET General Chairmen's Workshop, Cleveland; BLET Town Hall mtg. (UP Little Rock Hub), Little Rock, Ark.; Vacation; Eastern Union Meeting Association (EUMA) regional mtg., Cleveland; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; Kentucky State Legislative Board mtg., Bellevue, Ky.; Local Chairman training, Cleveland; Division 28 mtg., Tucson, Ariz.

**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; PRAC; and National Negotiations; IWC regional mtg., Minneapolis; New York Dock negotiations, Dallas; NDC golf, Baltimore; NFAC July mtg., Washington, D.C.; Legislative training class, Washington, D.C.; Town Hall mtg., Little Rock, Ark.

**NATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER WILLIAM C. WALPERT:** General supervision of accounting dept., records dept., online services dept., tax compliance dept.; Education & Training Dept.; Internal Organizing, Mobilizing & Strategic Planning Dept.; Meetings with vendors and financial institutions; Publications Committee; Teamsters Rail Conference Policy Committee; Trustee, National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust (NRRIT); IWC regional mtg., Minneapolis; National Democratic Club event, Rockville, Md.; Legislative Representative Workshop, Washington, D.C.; General Chairmen's Workshop, Cleveland; Town Hall mtg., Little Rock, Ark.; EUMA regional mtg., Cleveland; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; Local Chairmen's Workshop, Cleveland; NRRIT mtg., Washington, D.C.; Town Hall mtg., Tucson, Ariz.

**VICE PRESIDENT & NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE JOHN P. TOLMAN:** Assigned to BLET Washington, DC office; General office duties, telephone and correspondence communications; Coordinate content of NLO website; Weekly PAC committee and legislative mtgs.; IWC regional mtg., Minneapolis; Mtgs. w/ Representatives Tierney, Bucshon, McCarthy, Loebach, Bishop, Fudge, Grijalva, Courtney and Shuster, Washington, D.C.; Railroad Retirement briefing with Michael J. Collins, Washington, D.C.; Mtg. w/ Federal Railroad Administration, Washington, D.C.; Legislative Representative workshop, Washington, D.C.; Functions for Democratic Nominee Brendan Boyle and for Reps. DeLauro, Keating, Rahall and Shuster, Washington, D.C.; Mtg. w/ Senator Blumenthal's office, Washington, D.C.; AFL-CIO mtgs., re: political races, Washington, D.C.; EUMA regional mtg., Cleveland; Kentucky State Legislative Board mtg., Bellevue, Ky.; Mtgs. w/ leadership of Keolis, new operator of commuter service in Boston; BLET Division 28 Town Hall mtg., Tucson, Ariz.; Various meetings and functions with Representatives and Senators.

**VICE PRESIDENT MARCUS J. RUEF:** Vice Chairman, full NRAB; Labor Member, 1st Division; Labor Member, National Mediation Board Arbitration Advisory Forum; Director of BLET Arbitration Dept; Assigned to Illinois Central; Wisconsin Central; Indiana Harbor Belt; and Belt Railway of Chicago; IWC regional mtg., Minneapolis; WC TA ratification mtgs., Duluth, Stevens Point, Wisc., and Gladstone, Wisc.; NRAB admin issues, Chicago; Assist GC Craddock w/ disciplinary issues, IC; GC Workshop, Cleveland; General office duties and file management; Assist GC Kenny w/ back pay issues, Amtrak; EUMA regional mtg., Cleveland; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; Assist GC Reynolds w/ disciplinary issues, WC, Chicago; Arbitration Advisory Forum mtg., NRAB, Chicago; Local Chairman Workshop, Cleveland; Indiana Harbor Belt mtg., Ottawa, Ill.

**VICE PRESIDENT MIKE TWOMBLY:** Assigned to all Union Pacific GCAs (Eastern District, Northern Region (former C&NW), Western Lines (Pacific Harbor Lines), Western Region (Portland & Western), Central Region, Southern Region; On duty at home office; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications, etc.; UP-Southern Region New York Dock Section 4 negotiations, Fort Worth, Texas; DNC outing, Owens Mills, Md.; Legislative Training Workshop, IBT headquarters, Washington, D.C.; UP-Central Region Town Hall Mtg., North Little Rock, Ark.; UP-Southern Region and UP-Western Region conference, Denver, Colo.; EUMA regional mtg., Cleveland; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; UP-Southern Region New York Dock Section 4 negotiations, Hurst, Texas; Mtg. w/ UP General Chairmen, re: inward facing cameras, Hurst, Texas; UP-Western Lines conference, Redlands, Calif.; UP-Southern Region and UP-Western Region conference, Woodlands, Texas.

**VICE PRESIDENT GIL GORE:** Assigned to all CSX; Grand Trunk Western; Union Pacific-Southern Region GCA special assignment; Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) issues, CSXT; General office duties, paperwork, correspondence, emails, telephone calls, etc.; Winter Haven extra board discussion, conference call; SAA discussions, Houston; PLB 7655, assisting GC Karakian, GTW, Chicago.

**VICE PRESIDENT MICHAEL D. PRIESTER:** Assigned to all BNSF (former ATSF, former C&S, CRI&P, FWD, former STL-SF, BNSF/MRL), Panhandle Northern, Missouri & North Arkansas, Montana Rail Link, Great Western; Texas Pacific; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications, etc.; IWC regional mtg., Minneapolis, Minn.; Div. 746 mtg. w/ GC Wilson, Mandan, N.D.; Mtg. w/ BNSF Labor Relations and GC Wilson, Bismarck, N.D.; National Democratic Club event, Washington, D.C.; Conference call w/ BNSF and R. O'Brien, re: PLB 5939, Las Vegas; Division 391 mtg. w/ GC Holdcraft, Fort Madison, Iowa; Mtg. w/ Great Western Division 256 w/ GC Holdcraft, Denver; Funeral for Div. 75 LC Eric Bunch w/ GC Holdcraft, Kansas City; Division 180 mtg. w/ GC Wilson, Glendive, Mont.; EUMA regional mtg., Cleveland; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; Mtg. w/ BNSF General Chairmen and Carrier, Fort Worth, Texas; Division 383 mtg. w/ GC Holdcraft, Needles, Calif.; Div. 134 and Div. 647 mtg., Winslow and Phoenix, Ariz.; PLB 7383 conference call w/ Carrier and Arbitrator O'Brien; MNA mtg. w/ Carrier, Local Chairmen, and GC Thurman, Springfield Mo.

**VICE PRESIDENT COLE W. DAVIS:** Assigned to: Kansas City Southern (MidSouth Rail, South-Rail, Gateway Western, Illinois & Midland), Texas Mexican Rwy.; CP Rail System/US (Indiana Southern, Iowa, Chicago & Eastern, Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern); Springfield Terminal (St. Lawrence & Atlantic, Delaware & Hudson), Cedar River, Louisville & Indiana, Huron & Eastern; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications, etc.; DM&E issues, assisting GC Semenek; KCS issues, assisting GC Parker; Springfield Terminal issues and Delaware & Hudson issues, assisting GC Moore; Mid South issues, assisting GC Craddock; Louisville & Indiana contract, assisting GC Hartill; Huron & Eastern agreement, GC Latrig; TexMex issues, assisting GC Rodriguez; CPRR contract preparations, GC Semenek; Legislative Representative workshop, Washington, D.C.; National Democratic Club event, Washington, D.C.; CPRR contract negotiations w/ GC Semenek, Chicago; PLB 766 w/ GC Semenek, Portland, Ore.; EUMA regional mtg., Cleveland; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; CPRR contract negotiations, Minneapolis, Minn.

**VICE PRESIDENT STEPHEN J. BRUNO:** Assigned to various Rail Safety Advisory Committees (RSAC); Regulatory duties as assigned by the President; Amtrak; Long Island Rail Road; New York & Atlantic; Metro North; New Jersey Transit; PATH; SEPTA; Metra; Union Railroad; Birmingham Southern; Internal reports, telephone calls, correspondence, email, general office duties, etc.; Mtg. w/ PEB Chairman Kashner, SEPTA, Philadelphia; Conference calls w/ Advisory Board & SEPTA negotiating team; RRB conference call, re: Disability claims and fraud; PEB 246 recommendations published, SEPTA, Philadelphia; LIRR strike preparations & PEB 246 recommendations, LIRR and SEPTA; BLET membership database, Cleveland; Mtg. w/ SEPTA membership, re: PEB 246, Philadelphia; Town Hall mtg., UP-North Little Rock Hub, Little Rock, Ark.; Contract negotiations w/ carrier, SEPTA, Philadelphia; PEB 246 hearing, Washington, D.C.; EUMA regional mtg., Cleveland; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; Mtgs. w/ GCA officers and contract negotiations with NMB and Carrier, LIRR, New York, N.Y.; Mtgs. w/ GCA officers and contract negotiations w/ NMB and Carrier, NJT; Division 71 monthly mtg., re: PEB 246, Philadelphia; Contract negotiations w/ SEPTA, Philadelphia; BLET Town Hall mtg., Tucson, Ariz.

**VICE PRESIDENT R.C. (RICK) GIBBONS:** 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; Ohio Central; RSAC/RSIA Fatigue Management Group; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications; IWC regional mtg., Minneapolis; National Democratic Club event, Washington, D.C.; Norfolk Southern negotiations w/ all 2 NS BLET GC's, Norfolk, Va.; Vacation; IORY negotiations w/ GC Chip Cole, Columbus, Ohio; EUMA regional mtg., Cleveland; Advisory Board mtg., Cleveland; Ongoing IORY negotiations assisting GC Chip Cole, Columbus, Ohio; Norfolk Southern negotiations w/ General Chairmen Wallace, Peek and Dehart, Norfolk, Va.

## BLET REACHES TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH SEPTA

**T**he BLET, representing 200 engineers in Division 71 at SEPTA, announced on October 13 a tentative agreement for a new 5-year contract with the transit agency that will run through July 2015.

"This agreement keeps the trains rolling in Philadelphia," BLET National Vice President Steve Bruno said. "SEPTA has finally come to terms with the recommendations of the Presidential Emergency Board (PEB). It is unfortunate that SEPTA's intransigence has held this settlement up for far too long. The union has offered and manage-

ment has accepted a compromise on economic issues to make this deal work. However, we still have critical safety concerns related to fatigue caused by long hours and inadequate training for new engineers. We will now seek resolution through federal regulators rather than through collective bargaining with SEPTA."

The tentative agreement includes a 13.32 percent pay raise. BLET members went on a one-day strike in June and then returned to work following appointment of a PEB.

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce con-

gratulated the negotiating team for their perseverance, thanking Steve Bruno and General Chairman Rich Dixon for bringing the negotiations to a close. Pierce also said, "Our Brothers and Sisters at SEPTA deserve the chance to vote on a contract that recognizes their commitment to safety and the value of their professional skills as locomotive engineers."

The terms and conditions of the tentative agreement will be presented to members of Division 71 for a ratification vote. Results will be announced within the next 30 days. ©©