



## BLET CONCLUDES FOURTH NATIONAL CONVENTION



CHECK OUT THE 2018 BLET NATIONAL CONVENTION PHOTO GALLERY ON PG. 5

## President Pierce reelected by acclamation

**D**ennis R. Pierce was re-elected by acclamation to his third full term as National President of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen at the union's Fourth National Convention in Las Vegas on October 3, 2018. Additionally, all Advisory Board members were elected without opposition. Their terms of office will begin on January 1, 2019.

"I am humbled. I am honored," President Pierce said. "It's a privilege to serve you. This is a great Union, and we can do great things as long as we stick together. So thank you again."

It also was announced that National Vice President Gil Gore and National Vice President Cole Davis would be retiring.

The following officers of the Advisory Board also were reelected by acclamation:

E. Lee Pruitt, First Vice President; Stephen J. Bruno, National Secretary-Treasurer; John P. Tolman, Vice President and National Legislative Representative; Marcus J. Ruef, Vice President; Michael D. Twombly, Vice President; Michael D. Priestler, Vice President; Richard C. Gibbons, Vice President; James P. Louis, Vice President; David P. Estes, Trustee; and William P. Lyons, Trustee.

Elected by acclamation to the office of National Vice President was current National Division Trustee Mark L. Wallace. Brother Wallace was elected by acclamation as National Division Trustee at the BLET's Third National Conven-



"I am humbled. I am honored. It's a privilege to serve you.  
This is a great Union, and we can do great things  
as long as we stick together. So thank you again. — Dennis Pierce

tion in 2014, and he will fill the vacancy created by the pending retirement of Vice President Cole Davis.

New to the Advisory Board is General Chairman Alan Holdcraft, BNSF (former ATSF) GCA, who was elected by acclamation to the office of National Vice President. Brother Holdcraft will fill the vacancy created by the pending retirement of Vice President Gil Gore.

Also new to the Advisory Board is General Chairman Richard E. (Dick)

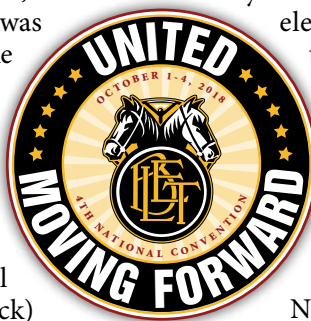
Crow, Union Pacific-Northern Region, who was elected by acclamation to the office of National Division Trustee. Brother Crow fills the vacancy created by Trustee Mark Wallace, who was elevated to the office of National Vice President.

Twelve alternate officer positions also were filled by acclamation. They are as follows: David P. Estes, Alternate Secretary-Treasurer; Vincent G. Verna, 1st Alternate Vice President and National Legislative Represen-

tative; Paul S. Piekarski, 2nd Alternate Vice President and National Legislative Representative; William P. Lyons, 1st Alternate Vice President; Richard E. Crow, 2nd Alternate Vice President; L. Randy Fannon Jr., 3rd Alternate Vice President; Peter Semenek, 4th Alternate Vice President; Patrick Driscoll, 5th Alternate Vice President; Garrison Best, 6th Alternate Vice President; Brian Carr, 7th Alternate Vice President; A. Dan Cook, III, 8th Alternate Vice President; and Jeff Thurman, 9th Alternate Vice President.

Throughout the week, delegates analyzed and voted on changes to the Brotherhood's Bylaws, and heard reports from numerous guest speakers. The list of speakers included: Teamsters General President James P. Hoffa; Teamsters General Secretary-Treasurer Ken Hall; Teamsters International Vice President & Rail Conference Director John Murphy; BLET Auxiliary National President Sereena Hogan; Railroad Retirement Board Labor Member Walt Barrows; Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown; Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren; Nevada Senator Catherine Cortez Masto; Massachusetts Congressman Joe Kennedy, III; Ohio Congressman Tim Ryan; and National Transportation Safety Board Member Jennifer Homendy. ☺

**MORE IN DEPTH REPORTING WILL  
BE PROVIDED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF  
THE BLET'S MEMBERSHIP MAGAZINE,  
LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS AND  
TRAINMEN JOURNAL.**



### BLET President's Message

United, moving forward

pg. 2

### Legislative Board News

Piekarski reelected in Illinois;

Hubbard new chairman in Indiana pg. 6

### General Committee News

UP-WL GC Carr and UP-NR

GC Crow reelected pg. 7




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

# UNITED, MOVING FORWARD

**BLET Editor's Note:** The following is an excerpt from the report delivered by BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce to delegates attending the BLET's Fourth National Convention on Monday, October 1, 2018.

All of you know the basic history of our Brotherhood. Over 155 years ago, 13 Michigan Central Engineers gathered at the home of William D. Robinson in Marshall, Michigan, to discuss their intolerable conditions and map out a plan of action. They agreed that if any one of them was fired, the rest would quit.

Their committee met with the railroad, and they won the improvements that they needed. We have to remember how 12 delegates representing engineers on five different railroads drafted a Constitution for an Organization named the Brotherhood of the Footboard, which was adopted on May 8, 1863, electing Brother Robinson as the Chief Engineer of Division 1 in Detroit.

Because of the commitment of those 13 rank-and-file Locomotive Engineers, by the following year, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers had 54 divisions. In 1865, the first Canadian division was chartered in Toronto. In 1883, Division 224 was chartered in Mexico City. And in 1908, Division 756 was chartered in the Panama Canal Zone. Our Brotherhood was truly an international organization, from Atlantic to Pacific, and from the Arctic Circle to the Panama Canal.

In fact, by the first quarter of the 20th century, the BLE was not only the oldest transportation union in North America, it was one of the most influential, representing nearly 90,000 working locomotive engineers.

Our legislative work led to



That's 26 years and counting of Local Chairmen for Division 98 in Lincoln, Neb.: Dennis Pierce, Roy Helm, Jerry Jensen and L.D. Gordon.

the first federal eight-hour day law in 1918. A copy of that original legislation, along with a letter from President Wilson and the pen he used to sign that bill, are now on display in our Museum in Independence. We did all of that without a union shop agreement, Brothers and Sisters, without a payroll dues deduction agreement. Indeed, we did that all before the Railway Labor Act of 1926 gave our Brotherhood the actual legal right to exist.

In addition to the eight-hour day, enactment of the Federal Employers' Liability Act and the Railroad Retirement Act and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act all occurred prior to the legalization of union shop agreements and payroll dues deduction agreements.

These victories came about because of how well organized and committed to the struggle we were. All of our members, from the rank-and-file to the

elected officers, were involved because our Union was united, moving forward. Rail Labor won these fights because the members of our Brotherhood and the other rail unions understood the need for solidarity and principle — and here's the key part, Brothers and Sisters — unity in action. They knew and fully understood the history of how the struggle for railroad workers' rights and progress unfolded, as well as the degree of individual involvement and personal sacrifice required to succeed.

I'll say it again. Our union was united, moving forward.

But here is my concern. In some ways it could be that the ease of unionization has led some in the railroad industry, some union members, to take for granted that rail unions will always be there — always be there to provide economic security and representation. Our Brotherhood did not survive for 155 years by conducting itself like a bank or

an insurance company or some other form of business. The BLE survived and thrived because of its core ethic, which dates back to 1863. Each member has a personal obligation to be informed and the responsibility to act in concert with other members. In other words, we must be united, moving forward.

Today it's hard to imagine how difficult it was during the early years, when BLE members were killed by federal troops for being on strike in Reading, Pennsylvania, in 1877. Some of you have heard this quote. In 1886, railroad tycoon Jay Gould actually bragged that he could "hire one half of the working class to kill the other half."

The bosses' favorite tool back then was divide and conquer. Congressman Ryan talked about it today. And it was done by geography, it was done by national origin, by immigrant accent.

We see it all again today, Brothers and Sisters; it is right in

front of us. There are those that demonize people who don't look like you or speak like you, people who don't worship the same way you do. These are all attempts to divide us from one another. It's been given a name. It's called tribalism. It enters into almost all walks of life in America and most certainly into politics.

If you've been watching the news, you know that the days of a civil discourse are gone in this country. Once the average American is convinced that he or she is part of a political tribe, they're told to have a fight with everyone in a different tribe. This is completely contrary to the ideas that started our great union movement. We cannot allow the things that we may disagree on to divide us in our fight with the railroads. Our shared fight for a fair workplace requires that we stand together, not stand divided.

Our history and our success as a Brotherhood proves that we can defeat this divide-and-conquer effort by those who wish to remove the union movement from the landscape of America.

So, Brothers and Sisters, what we have to do, we have to get back to our roots as a union, and as a Nation. Getting back to our roots means working together in solidarity and in pursuit of our common goals as Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen. It means each and every member doing his or her part, attending union meetings, voting in elections and contract ratifications, answering the call when the mobilization network reaches out on an important issue. In that way, we will prevail. I have hope that we will always prevail because we are united and we are moving forward.

Thank you very much.

**DENNIS R. PIERCE**  
BLET NATIONAL PRESIDENT

66 Rail Labor won these fights because the members of our Brotherhood and the other rail unions understood the need for solidarity and principle — and here's the key part, Brothers and Sisters — unity in action. 99

## BLET NATIONAL DIVISION ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

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

reference to a specific request and can be used in future correspondence.

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

response; however, an e-mail message is not considered an official communication.

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

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

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





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

# HOUSE REPORT PLOTS COURSE FOR WORKER PROSPERITY

**A** two-year fact-finding effort by four U.S. House members found that unchecked corporate power is threatening workers and must be altered if the nation's workforce is going to be able to thrive in the years to come.

Reps. Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.), Donald Norcross (D-N.J.), Mark Pocan (D-Wis.) and Mark DeSaulnier (D-Calif.) unveiled a report recently that shows the growing influence of big business on the policymaking process has led to stagnating wages and a weakening of workers' rights.

"Our labor policies must keep up with the rapid changes the 21st century has brought," Dingell said. "We traveled the country hearing directly from workers. They told us the decline in collective bargaining, worker representation and the ability to form unions doesn't just hurt workers, it hurts our communities and our economy."



While U.S. workers remain among the most productive in the world, the report stated, they are not profiting from it. Income inequality reigns supreme, thanks to economic changes that have allowed the corporate class to cash in from growth while those who toil for them struggle to make ends meet.

Lax antitrust enforcement, for instance, has allowed companies to consolidate across industries, resulting in fewer and fewer corporations controlling the wages and working conditions of a growing share of workers. The paper notes this

is particularly true in rural areas, where only a few employers may be posting jobs at a given time.

While unions have traditionally provided support for workers, the spread of so-called right-to-work laws and the recent *Janus* Supreme Court decision

have threatened the ability of workers to join together and fight for better wages and working conditions.

That's why it's so important that lawmakers unveiled a slate of proposals that they say will help tip the scales back in favor of U.S. workers. They include overturning the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* ruling; strengthening antitrust enforcement; banning stock buybacks and curb the shareholder-first economy; and raising the minimum wage.

"With these recommendations, we can create real change and restore the American promise that a job can provide economic security, an opportunity to get ahead, a brighter future for you and your family," Pocan said.

Fraternally,

**JAMES P. HOFFA**  
TEAMSTERS GENERAL  
PRESIDENT

66

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## Bipartisan group of 27 U.S. legislators urge DOT's Chao to block KCSR safety waiver that allows Mexican train crews to operate in U.S.

*BLET Editor's Note: The following press release was issued by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.*

**O**n September 17, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Ranking Member Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and House Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Ranking Member Michael Capuano (D-MA) sent a bipartisan letter, signed by 27 Members of Congress, to Secretary of the Department of Transportation (DOT) Elaine Chao expressing opposition to a petition filed by Kansas City Southern Railway (KCSR) requesting a waiver of critical Federal safety and inspection requirements.

This petition is the latest in a series of actions taken by KCSR to allow Mexican workers, who are not subject to Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) regulations regarding pre-employment screening and random drug and alcohol

testing, to operate trains in the United States and to move U.S. rail jobs involve inspection and testing of locomotives, freight cars and air brakes to Mexico.

"Freight railroads have long sought the ability to allow Mexican crews to operate trains in the United States. We oppose any groundwork that the FRA might be laying toward that effort... We strongly urge you to deny the May 31 petition and to rescind the process of allowing Mexican rail crews to operate within the United States," the Members wrote.

KCSR's effort to get waivers from critical Federal safety and inspection requirements to allow Mexican workers to operate trains in the U.S. first started in 2008 when the FRA granted KCSR a waiver from safety regulations to move class I brake test inspections from the U.S.-Mexico border crossing in Laredo, Texas, to KCSR's Laredo Yard, about nine miles north of the point where U.S. and Mexican crews interchanged. That waiver was extended on December 11, 2017. Both waivers listed conditions for relief,

including the requirement that KCSR employees perform a class III air brake test at the U.S.-Mexico border before a train proceeds to the Laredo Yard for the class I brake test.

In June 2018, FRA — with no public notice or comment — granted KCSR further relief at the border crossing by eliminating a previous requirement for a crew change at the International Bridge on the U.S.-Mexico border. Previously, U.S. crews took control of northbound trains from Mexican crews at the International Bridge and brought those trains nine miles to the Laredo Yard and handed off the southbound trains back to Mexican crews at the International Bridge. That no longer occurs — a 50-year history has changed. The Mexican crews are employed by Servicio, a subcontractor to Kansas City Southern de Mexico (KCSM), a subsidiary of KCSR. FRA regulations exempt these Mexican crews from pre-employment and random drug and alcohol testing within 10 miles of the U.S.-Mexico border.

The letter was signed by DeFazio, Capuano, as well as Representatives John Katko (R-NY), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), John Garamendi (D-CA), Daniel Lipinski (D-IL), Grace F. Napolitano (D-CA), Donald M. Payne, Jr. (D-NJ), William Keating (D-MA), Tom O'Halleran (D-AZ), Albio Sires (D-NJ), Seth Moulton (D-MA), James P. McGovern (D-MA), Richard M. Nolan (D-MN), Brian Higgins (D-NY), Alan Lowenthal (D-CA), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Jacky Rosen (D-NV), Charlie Crist (D-FL), C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD), Andre Carson (D-IN), Peter Welch (D-VT), Michael Doyle (D-PA), David P. Joyce (R-OH), Don Young (R-AK), and Gene Green (D-TX). @@

**THE FULL LETTER CAN BE FOUND HERE:**  
DEMOCRATS-TRANSPORTATION.  
HOUSE.GOV/IMO/MEDIA/DOC/  
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INSPECTION%20LETTER.PDF



# Aldridge reelected to third full term as Kentucky State Legislative Board Chairman

**B**ryan T. Aldridge was re-elected by acclamation to his third full term as Chairman of the Kentucky State Legislative Board at its quadrennial meeting in Louisville, Ky., August 28-30, 2018.

Brother Aldridge is a CSX locomotive engineer and has been a member of BLET Division 78 (Louisville, Ky.) since September 1, 2003. He was elected 1st Vice Chairman of the Board in October of 2006 and was elevated to Chairman in September of 2008 following the passing of long serving Chairman Tommy G. Mayne. Brother Aldridge was subsequently re-elected by acclamation at quadrennial meetings in 2010, 2014 and 2018.

Also elected by acclamation were: 1st Vice Chairman Jeff P. Jones of BLET Division 199 (Danville, Ky.); 2nd Vice Chairman Justin Dzan of BLET Division 365 (Louisville, Ky.); Secretary-Treasurer Daniel K. Maynard of Division 271 (Russell, Ky.); and Alternate Secretary-Treasurer David D. Marlin of BLET Division 508 (Fulton, Ky.). For Brother Jones and Brother Marlin, this represents their second full term of office. Brother Maynard begins his third term as Secretary-Treasurer.



Members of the BLET's Kentucky State Legislative Board at the 2018 quadrennial meeting. Front row, from left: Steve Bledsoe, Div. 463; Bryan Aldridge, Div. 78; David Marlin, Div. 508; and David Greer, Div. 165. Back row, from left: Justin Dzan, Div. 365; Mike Lambert, Div. 110; Mark Kimbler, Div. 78; Dan Maynard, Div. 271; and Ken Ganote, Div. 489.

Elected to serve on the Audit Committee were: Ken Ganote, Division 489 (Covington, Ky.); David Marlin, Division 508 (Fulton, Ky.); and Mark Elkins, Division 271 (Russell, Ky.). Brother Elkins also served as Guide during the meeting, along

with Mark Kimbler, Local Chairman of BLET Division 78 (Louisville, Ky.).

Representing the BLET National Division at the meeting were: National President Dennis R. Pierce; First Vice President E. Lee Pruitt; National Secretary-Treasur-

er Stephen J. Bruno; Vice President and National Legislative Representative John P. Tolman; and Director of Regulatory Affairs Vincent G. Verna.

"I am proud to congratulate Brother Aldridge and all officers of the Kentucky State Legislative Board, and I thank them for their commitment to our hard-working Brothers and Sisters in the proud state of Kentucky," President Pierce said.

Guest speakers included Jeff Donohue, a member of the Kentucky State House of Representatives (37th District). Donohue is a 37-year member of the United Auto Workers and he has sponsored a two-person crew bill in the Kentucky State House each year for the last several years. Ronel Brown, a challenger to represent the 29th District in the Kentucky State House of Representatives, also addressed the delegates. Brown is a 22-year City of Louisville firefighter and is a former member of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen (BRC).

The BLET's Kentucky State Legislative Board represents approximately 650 active members in 12 different BLET Divisions. They work for Norfolk Southern, CSX, and the Canadian National railroads. @@

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# 2018 BLET NATIONAL CONVENTION PHOTO GALLERY



The new BLET Advisory Board that will be sworn in to office on January 1, 2019, from left: VP Mike Priester, VP Alan Holdcraft, VP Marcus Ruef, VP Jim Louis, Trustee Bill Lyons, First Vice President Lee Pruitt, VP and NLR John Tolman, National President Dennis R. Pierce, VP Mike Twombly, National Secretary-Treasurer Steve Bruno, VP Mark Wallace, VP Rick Gibbons, Trustee David Estes, Trustee Dick Crow, and Parliamentarian/BLET General Counsel Mike Wolly



Salaries Committee, from left: G.W. Lund, S.P. Alexander, C.R. Jones and R.J. Dumey (Chairman)



Credentials Committee, from left: C.R. Hyde, M.J. Gaab (Chairman), B.H. Fransen, and C.J. Wagner



Legislative Committee, from left: M.D. Frank, B.J. Farkas, D.K. Brown (Chairman), P.S. Pfeifer, and V.G. Verna (Liaison)



Bylaws Committee, from left: G.D. Best, L.R. Fannon Jr. (Chairman), B.P. Carr and K.J. Sexton



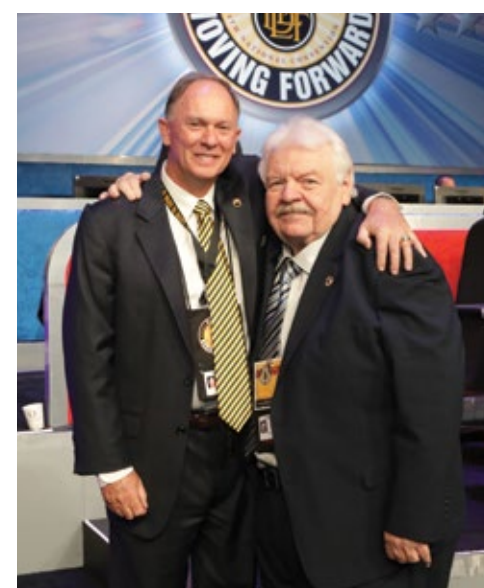
Work Committee, from left: D.T. Hill, M.B. Kenny (Chairman), J.W. Reynolds, T.L. Bryant and D.L. Marlow



The new slate of Alternate Officers of the BLET National Division elected by acclamation at the Fourth National Convention



Members of the Arrangements Committee, chaired by Megan Mead



Retiring Vice Presidents Cole Davis (left) and Gil Gore



## Piekarski elected to third term as Illinois SLB Chairman

**P**aul Piekarski was elected to his third full term as Chairman of the Illinois State Legislative Board at the Board's 15th quadrennial meeting in Springfield, Ill., September 5-7, 2018.

Brother Piekarski is a Union Pacific (formerly C&NW) locomotive engineer and one of the BLET's three full time state legislative board chairman (California and Texas being the others). He has been a proud member of BLET Division 683 (Chicago) for over 44 years.

Also elected to the Board's Executive Committee were: 1st Vice Chairman Chris Falaney of Division 683 (Chicago); 2nd Vice Chairman Rick Leschina of Division 32 (Aurora, Ill.); 3rd Vice Chairman Cory Martin of Division 135 (Beardstown, Ill.); and Secretary-Treasurer, Doug Pope of Division 444 (Granite City, Ill.).

Elected to serve on the Audit Committee were: Dan Thielemann of Division 613 (Dolton, Ill.); Rick Leschina of Division 32 (Aurora, Ill.); and Charles Grigsby of Division 602 (Champaign, Ill.).

Representing the BLET National Division at the meeting were: National President Dennis R. Pierce; National Secretary-Treasurer Stephen J. Bruno; Vice President and National Legislative Representative John P. Tolman; and Director of Regulatory Affairs Vincent G. Verna.

"On behalf of the National Division, I



Delegates, officers and guests attending the Illinois State Legislative Board's 15th quadrennial meeting in Springfield, Ill., September 5-7, 2018.

am proud to congratulate Brother Piekarski and all officers of the Illinois State Legislative Board," President Pierce said. "I also thank them for their dedication and willingness to serve our Brotherhood. I have every confidence they will do an outstanding job representing the interests of BLET members throughout the state."

Additional BLET guests included Minnesota State Legislative Board

Chairman David Brown.

Piekarski became 1st Vice Chairman of the Illinois State Legislative Board 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 Chair-

man at the Board's 2010 and 2014 quadrennial meetings.

The Illinois State Legislative Board represents approximately 2,000 members in 40 different BLET divisions. Piekarski said all seven Class I railroads operate within the state, and approximately 25% of the nation freight passes through Illinois. It is also home to Metra, the nation's second largest commuter rail system. ©©

## Shane Hubbard elected chairman of Indiana State Legislative Board

**S**hane Hubbard was elected Chairman of the Indiana State Legislative Board at its 14th Quadrennial Meeting in Indianapolis, September 12-13, 2018.

Brother Hubbard is a Norfolk Southern locomotive engineer who has held continuous membership in BLET Division 343 (Princeton, Ind.) since May 1, 1995. He was elected Alternate Secretary-Treasurer at the Board's 2014 quadrennial meeting. Outgoing Chairman Brian J. Farkas did not seek reelection.

Also elected to the Board's Executive Committee were: 1st Vice Chairman Mike R. Harting, Division 754 (Elkhart, Ind.); 2nd Vice Chairman Matthew J. Klausung, Division 537 (Fort Wayne, Ind.); Secretary-Treasurer Ryan Kregel, Division 121 (Indianapolis, Ind.); and Alternate Secretary-Treasurer Carl W. Brown Jr., Division 246 (Evansville, Ind.).

Elected to serve on the Auditing Committee were: Rollin Young, Division 7 (Lafayette, Ind.); Adam D. Farley, Division 25 (Terre Haute, Ind.); and M.S. (Shawn) Hollis, Division 742 (Evansville, Ind.).

All terms of office become effective November 1, 2018.

Representing the BLET National Division at the meeting were: National President Dennis R. Pierce; First Vice President E. Lee Pruitt; National Secretary-Treasurer Stephen J. Bruno; Vice President and National Legislative Representative John P. Tolman; and Director of Regulatory Affairs Vincent G. Verna.

"I offer my congratulations and sincere thanks to all officers of the Indiana State Legislative Board for their com-



Members of the Indiana State Legislative Board at their 14th quadrennial meeting in Indianapolis on September 12-13, 2018.

mitment to representing our members in the proud state of Indiana," President Pierce said.

Additional BLET guests included Illinois State Legislative Board Chairman Paul Piekarski and retired Indiana State Legislative Board Chairman Bill Verdeyen, who held the Chairman's position for five terms prior to his retirement in 2013. Other guests included: Outreach Director Jordan Isaacs from Indiana Senator Joe Donnelly's office; Indiana State Representative Terri Jo Austin (36th District); and State Senate Candidate J.D. Ford, who is running for office in the state's 29th District.

"Although it was a bittersweet decision for me to not seek reelection, I am encouraged by the group that will begin serving on the Executive Committee beginning November 1, which will be led by Chair-

man Shane Hubbard," outgoing chairman Brian Farkas said. "Brother Shane brings years of union activism to the board, which will no doubt benefit from his past experience. I wish him all the success as he be-

gins his new term this fall."

The Indiana State Legislative Board consists of 22 Divisions representing more than 2,300 active and retired members throughout Indiana. ©©



President Dennis Pierce



VP & NLR John Tolman



## UP-WL General Chairman Brian Carr elected by acclamation

**B**rother Brian P. Carr was elected by acclamation to his first full term as General Chairman of the Union Pacific-Western Lines General Committee of Adjustment at the GCA's quadrennial meeting in San Diego, Calif., September 17-19, 2018.

Brother Carr has been a member of Division 692 (Tracy, Calif.) since he first joined the Brotherhood on March 1, 2000. He was elected by acclamation to serve the GCA as 1st Vice General Chairman in 2014, and was elevated to the office of General Chairman effective October 1, 2017, following the retirement of D.W. (Bill) Hannah.

Also elected by acclamation were: 1st Vice Chairman Paul R. Ansberry, Division 158 (Sparks, Nevada); 2nd Vice Chairman Curt V. Houston, Division 415 (Roseville, Calif.); and 3rd Vice Chairman Kenneth B. Walker Jr., Division 28 (Tucson, Ariz.). Brother C.H. (Chuck) Fleming III of BLET Division 192 (El Paso, Texas) was reelected by acclamation to his fourth term as Secretary-Treasurer, and Paulo Tortorice of Division 5 (Los Angeles) was elected Alternate-Secretary-Treasurer.

Appointed to serve as Trustees were: Curt V. Houston, Division 415 (Roseville, Calif.); Paulo Tortorice, Division 5 (Los Angeles); and Jose L. Covarrubias, Division 214 (Long Beach, Calif.).

Representing the BLET National Division at the meeting were: National President Dennis R. Pierce; First Vice President



General Chairman Carr (left) and National President Pierce (right) present a plaque of appreciation to UP-WL GCA Secretary-Treasurer Chuck Fleming (center) in recognition of his 43 years of service.

E. Lee Pruitt; Vice President and National Legislative Representative John P. Tolman; National Vice President Michael D. Twombly; National Vice President Michael D. Priester; National Vice President R.C. (Rick) Gibbons; Director of Benefits A. Dan Cook III; and Director of Regulatory Affairs Vincent G. Verna.

"I am proud to congratulate Brother Carr and all officers of the UP-Western Lines General Committee of Adjustment," President Pierce said. "I thank them for their service to our Brotherhood and I know they will do an excellent job of representing their members."

Additional Brotherhood guests included: Texas State Legislative Board Chairman Gary Pedigo; California State Legislative Board Chairman Ryan Snow; General Chairman Dana Marlow, Union

Pacific-Southern Region GCA; General Chairman Dick Crow, Union Pacific-Northern Region GCA; General Chairman Steve Leyshon, Union Pacific-Western Region GCA; 1st Vice Chairman William Wallace, Union Pacific-Western Region GCA; General Chairman Dave Geisler, Union Pacific-Eastern District GCA; General Chairman Ronnie Rhodes, Union Pacific-Central Region GCA; and 1st Vice Chairman Kyle Bagby, Union Pacific-Central Region GCA.

Retired UP-WL General Chairman Bill Hannah also was in attendance, and was presented with a retirement pin. Also, Secretary-Treasurer Chuck Fleming was presented with a plaque in recognition of his 43-years of service. In 2003, Brother Fleming was elected to serve the GCA as



President Pierce addresses delegates during the 2018 quadrennial meeting of the Union Pacific-Western Lines GCA.

2nd Vice Chairman and Alternate Secretary-Treasurer. In 2004, he was elevated to the office of GCA Secretary-Treasurer following the retirement of Tommy Gowan. Brother Fleming was subsequently reelected by acclamation to serve as GCA Secretary-Treasurer in 2010, 2014 and 2018. Brother Fleming first began serving the Brotherhood in 1994 when he was elected Local Chairman of Division 591, a position he held through 2015. The BLET's Union Pacific-Western Lines General Committee of Adjustment is comprised of 17 different BLET Divisions, representing more than 2,800 active and retired members from the Union Pacific Railroad and the Pacific Harbor Line Railroad. They live and work primarily in California, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas and Kansas. ©©

## Dick Crow reelected UP-Northern Region General Chairman

**R**ichard E. (Dick) Crow was elected to his second full term as Chairman of the Union Pacific-Northern Region General Committee of Adjustment during the GCA's quadrennial meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, September 26-27, 2018.

Brother Crow is a Union Pacific locomotive engineer and member of BLET Division 404 (Chicago, Ill.). He was elected to the office of 2nd Vice Chairman at the GCA's quadrennial meeting in 2010, and was elevated to the office of General Chairman in December of 2012 following the retirements of long-serving General Chairman Bruce MacArthur and 1st Vice Chairman, Mike Elsberry. Brothers MacArthur and Elsberry had each held office for seven terms. Brother Crow was elected to his first full term of office at the GCA's quadrennial meeting in 2014.

Elected by acclamation during the meeting were: 1st Vice Chairman K.J. (Joe) Cummins, Division 683 (Chicago, Ill.); 2nd Vice Chairman Daniel J. Lucansky, Division 96 (Chicago, Ill.); and 3rd Vice Chairman Jason J. Carnes, Division 333 (St. Paul, Minn.). Brother Chris J. Wagner, Division 405 (Milwaukee, Wisc.), was elected to serve as Secretary-Treasurer, and Brother Tim W. McCue, Division 125 (Clinton, Iowa.), was elected Alternate Secretary-Treasurer.

Appointed to serve as Trustees were: Greg J. Vogel, Division 404 (Chicago, Ill.); Joel J. Mueller, Division 9 (Wase-



Members, officers and guests at the UP-Northern Region GCA's quadrennial meeting in Las Vegas on September 27, 2018.



President Pierce addresses the UP-NR GCA delegates.



VP & NLR John Tolman addresses the UP-NR GCA delegates.

ca, Minn.); and Joseph N. Gish, Division 6 (Boone, Iowa).

Representing the BLET National Division at the meeting were: National President Dennis R. Pierce; First Vice President E. Lee Pruitt; National Secretary-Treasurer Stephen J. Bruno; Vice President and National Legislative Representative John P. Tolman; National Vice President Mi-

chael D. Twombly; and Special Representative and Director of Education and Training Department Jason Wright.

"I am proud to congratulate Brother Crow and all officers of the Union Pacific-Northern Region GCA," President Pierce said. "I also thank them for their willingness to serve our Brotherhood and to be involved in the union movement."



Officers and delegates of the UP-NR GCA.

These Brothers have demonstrated great skill and professionalism in representing our members, and I have every confidence they will continue to do so in the months and years ahead."

Additional BLET guests included: General Chairman Dana Marlow, Union Pacific-Southern Region GCA; General Chairman Dave Geisler, Union Pacific-Eastern District GCA; General Chairman Steve Leyshon, Union Pacific-Western Region; and 1st Vice Chairman William Wallace, Union Pacific-Western Region.

The Union Pacific Northern District General Committee of Adjustment represents approximately 1,200 active locomotive engineers and trainmen, who work for the Union Pacific Railroad and Metra commuter lines. ©©





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

7061 East Pleasant Valley Road  
Independence, Ohio 44131

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### Photo of the Month: October 2018

**BLET AUXILIARY ELECTS NEW OFFICERS:** Officers, members and delegates of the BLET Auxiliary gathered for this group photo as they completed their Third Quadrennial Convention in Las Vegas, October 1-3, 2018. Congratulations to the new National Officers who were elected at the convention: National President, Kathleen Bisbikis; National First Vice President and National Outreach Coordinator Jodi Wallace; National Second Vice President and National Legislative Representative Jessica Cole; National Third Vice President and Assistant National Legislative Representative Becky Schneider; National Secretary Lawana Poss; National Chaplain Velma Williams; Alternate National Treasurer Helen Brand; and Alternate National Secretary Roseanna Surchik



**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 August 2018 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, Independence, Ohio; General supervision of BLET activities; General office duties; Correspondence and telephone communications; Supervision of Office Administration; General Supervision of Special Representatives; President, Teamsters Rail Conference; Policy Committee, Teamsters Rail Conference; Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen convention, Boston, Mass.; Eastern Regional mtg., Washington, D.C.; Advisory Board mtg., Washington, D.C.; Kentucky State Legislative Board mtg., Louisville, Ky.

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT E.L. (LEE) PRUITT:** National Duties include but not limited to: Shortline Organizing Dept.; Trainmen's Dept.; National Publications Committee; National Legislative Board; Teamsters Rail Conference Policy Committee; PRAC; and National Negotiations; National duties, Independence, Ohio; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications, etc.; Eastern Regional mtg., Washington, D.C.; Advisory Board mtg., Washington, D.C.

**NATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER STEPHEN J. BRUNO:** General supervision of Accounting Dept., Record Dept., Online Services Dept., Tax Compliance Dept.; Safety Task Force; PAC and FEC reports and filings; Implementation and training for BLET membership database/Union Track; Pension, STD, 457 plan Trustee; Division, General Committee and SLB monthly Trustee reports; Mtgs. with vendors and financial institutions; Union Track issues, testing, status updates, etc.; Triennial election planning and oversight duties; Eastern Regional mtg., Washington, D.C.; Advisory Board mtg., Washington, D.C.

**VICE PRESIDENT & NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE JOHN P. TOLMAN:** Assigned to BLET Washington, DC office; General office duties, telephone and correspondence communications; Eastern Regional mtg., Washington, D.C.; Advisory Board mtg., Washington, D.C.; Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen convention, Boston; Kentucky State Legislative Board mtg., Louisville, Ky.; Mtgs. w/ candidates for Governor and Congress, Washington, D.C.; Various mtgs. w/ U.S. Senators working on our rail issues; Numerous receptions and office visits with members of Congress and the leadership of both the GOP and Democratic parties, Washington, D.C.

**VICE PRESIDENT MARCUS J. RUEF:** Vice Chairman, National Railroad Adjustment Board (NRAB); National Mediation Board (NMB) Arb. Adv. Forum; Department Head, BLET Arbitration Department; Assigned to Illinois Central, Wisconsin Central, CN-Cedar River, Indiana Harbor Belt, Illinois Rwy., Belt Railway of Chicago, METRA, GRR, and Union Railroad; Eastern Regional mtg., Washington, D.C.; Assist GC Reynolds /w discipline submissions, WC, Chicago; Assist GC Balonek w/ discipline issues, Metra, Chicago; PLB 7154 respond to carrier for Exec. Sess., IC, Chicago; Advisory Board mtg., Washington, D.C.; Draft dissents dockets 48365, 48534, NRAB, Chicago; Vacation; NRAB award adoption, Chicago; Assist Div. 394 Pres. Shackleton, BRC, Chicago; Assist VGC Martin w/ discipline issues, LIRR, Chicago.

**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; Tacoma Belt RR, Utah RR, Longview Portland & Northern NO & Longview Switch, Portland Terminal; On duty at home office; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications, etc.; Vacation; Eastern Regional mtg.,

Washington, D.C.; Advisory Board mtg., Washington, D.C.; Utah Railway Section 6 negotiations, Salt Lake City, Utah.

**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.; Eastern Regional mtg., Washington, D.C.; Advisory Board mtg., Washington, D.C.; GTW contract negotiations; PLB 7681 executive session; Alabama State Docks; IRR PLB; PLB 7384, 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; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications, etc.; Eastern Regional mtg., Washington, D.C.; Advisory Board mtg., Washington, D.C.; M&NA contract talks, assist GC Thurman, Fort Worth, Texas; BNSF/Santa Fe GCA Local Chairman training classes, Fort Worth, Texas, Denver, Colo., Kansas City, Mo., and Fort Worth, Texas; BNSF General Chairmen's Article IX mtg., Fort Collins, Colo.; Division 256 mtg., Great Western RR, Loveland, Colo.

**VICE PRESIDENT COLE W. DAVIS:** Assigned to: Kansas City Southern (MidSouth Rail, South Rail, Gateway Western, Illinois & Midland), KCS-Louisiana Arkansas Rwy., Texas Mexican Rwy., CP Rail System/US Soo Line (Indiana Southern, Iowa, Chicago & Eastern, Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern), Springfield Terminal (St. Lawrence & Atlantic, Delaware & Hudson), New York, Susquehanna & Western (Connecticut Southern, New England Central), Louisville & Indiana, Huron & Eastern, Wheeling & Lake Erie Rwy.; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications, etc.; Tex Mex international border issues, Laredo, Texas; D&H and Springfield Terminal issues, assist GC Moore; KCS issues, assist GC Spradlin; MidSouth issues, assist GC Evans; Louisville & Indiana issues, assist GC Hogan; Huron & Eastern issues, assist GC Ladrig; Soo Line issues, assist GC Semenek; New England Central CBA, assist GC Moore; Wheeling & Lake Erie mediation, assist GC Fannon, Norfolk, Va.; Eastern Regional mtg., Washington, D.C.; Advisory Board mtg., Washington, D.C.

**VICE PRESIDENT R.C. (RICK) GIBBONS:** Assigned to: All Norfolk Southern General Committees (Northern, Eastern and Southern Lines); Chicago, Fort Wayne & Eastern; Indiana & Ohio; RSAC/RSIA Fatigue Management Group; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications; Vice President duties; On duty at home office; Eastern Regional mtg., Washington, D.C.; Advisory Board mtg., Washington, D.C.; BLET NS internal mtgs., assist GCs Wallace, Dehart & Fannon, Louisville, Ky.; SBA 1063 and PLB 7238, assist GCs Dehart and Fannon, Estero, Fla.

**VICE PRESIDENT JAMES P. LOUIS:** Assigned Amtrak; Long Island Rail Road; New York & Atlantic; Metro-North; New Jersey Transit; PATH; SEPTA; Western New York & Pennsylvania Rwy.; National Division Department Head, Education & Training Dept.; National Division Department Head, Internal Organizing, Mobilizing & Strategic Planning Dept.; Union Track mtgs. and training; Education & Training issues; BLET Regional Meeting planning; BLET National Convention planning; Eastern Regional mtg., Washington, D.C.; Advisory Board mtg., Washington, D.C.; ND Convention planning mtgs., Independence, Ohio, and Las Vegas, Nevada; PATH contract issues, assist GC Basile; Amtrak issues, assist GC Kenny.

## Teamsters: New NAFTA must be trilateral, address freight rail staffing concerns

The following is a joint statement from Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa and Teamsters Canada President François Laporte in response to ongoing North American Trade Agreement (NAFTA) reform discussions taking place in Washington now between U.S. and Canadian trade representatives and the need for a trilateral agreement.

"The Teamsters are encouraged to see U.S. and Canadian representatives sitting down this week and trying to reach agreement on essential outstanding issues as part of NAFTA 2.0. Canada's inclusion in any revamped trade deal is necessary if the Teamsters are ultimately going to endorse this pact.

"Likewise, all North American nations must be included in a freight rail fix the Teamsters and our Mexican rail union brethren are demanding that would protect the jobs of some 143,000 freight rail workers in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

It builds off an agreement reached by the continent's railway unions two decades ago in the spirit of solidarity — that no movement of employees across borders would occur absent explicit agreement with the unions permitting it.

"The U.S. Teamsters-affiliated Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen sent a letter to President Trump in July informing him that Kansas City Southern Railway was already allowing Mexican rail workers to staff trains inside U.S. borders, in violation of federal law.

"Similarly, Teamsters Canada sent a letter to the Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs in late August calling on Canada to protect its rail members from companies wishing to replace them with

U.S. workers. It referenced the 2015 actions of Canadian Pacific Railway as necessitating the request.

"We note that the exclusion of foreign rail crews that the Mexican government inserted in the original NAFTA is likely to survive into the replacement agreement and therefore we call on the U.S. and Canadian governments to similarly protect our freight rail crew members. These workers are members of BLET and TCRC, Teamsters all, and we expect that their existing collective bargaining agreements will be honored and their jobs will be protected from unilateral cross-border incursion under any new trilateral NAFTA replacement.

"The threat to North American rail workers is real. We urge the U.S. and Canada to make sure these workers are protected as part of a new NAFTA." ◎◎