



NEWS

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Labor-friendly candidates take Congress

With more than 40 percent of eligible voters casting their ballots, the November 7 elections put the Democrats into power in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. The Democrats also made their mark in many state races and now hold 28 governorships across the country.

"Labor, and especially rail labor, has a lot to celebrate in these elections," BLET National President Don M. Hahs said. "We hope that the shift in power will be a shift towards the interests of the working men and women of this country and away from corporate special interests."

"Rail labor has several specific goals, including long-term funding for Amtrak, that it hopes to accomplish with a new Congress in place, and hopefully, with more worker-friendly legislators, we will be able to accomplish these goals."

The BLET and rail labor are looking forward to a House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee led by Representative James Oberstar (D-MN) and a Railroad Subcommittee chaired by Corrine Brown

(D-FL). Both of these Representatives have shown their support of issues of importance to the BLET and rail labor during their years in Congress. Representative Oberstar is serving in his 17th term in Congress. Representative Brown is serving in her 8th term.

The Senate Committees with jurisdiction over issues of interest to the BLET will also be led by friends of rail labor. The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions will be chaired by Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation will be chaired by Senator Daniel K. Inouye (D-HI).

Many BLET members volunteered alongside their Teamster brothers and sisters throughout the country campaigning for worker and family-friendly candidates.

"I would like to thank all the BLET members who worked so hard on this election. Our work paid off," said BLET Vice President and National Legislative

Representative John Tolman. "I hope that we will be able to get some of our issues addressed in the 110th Congress. November 7th was a great day for working men and women."

Representative Nancy Pelosi — the California Democrat poised to become the first female Speaker of the House — has outlined a "First Hundred Hours" agenda. The plan includes promises to reform lobbying, enact the recommendations of the bipartisan 9/11 commission, raise the minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour, cut the interest rate on student loans in half, streamline Medicare's prescription drug program and expand federal funding for stem cell research.

The Democrats have a 34 seat majority in the House of Representatives (with five races still being counted as of press time) and the Senate is tied 49-49, with two independents — Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Joseph Lieberman (I-CT) — having announced that they caucus with the Democrats. The Democrats had a net gain of 28 seats in the House and six seats in the Senate to take the majorities in both. •

BLET, Rail Labor go to U.S. Supreme Court to protect FELA

Major U.S. railroads are using the U.S. Supreme Court in an attempt to weaken the Federal Employers' Liability Act (FELA), the federal law that promotes a safe workplace for rail workers.

"In contract negotiations, the carriers are trying to do away with all they can — cutting crew size and gutting our health care," said Don Hahs, National President of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen. "Now they're using the court system in an attempt to gut FELA."

The carriers' actions stem from a U.S. Supreme Court Case, *Norfolk Southern vs. Timothy Sorrell*. Lower courts awarded a \$1.5 million FELA settlement to Sorrell, a trackman for the Norfolk Southern who was injured in 1999 when the company vehicle he was driving was run off the road by another company vehicle.

Sorrell suffered ruptured disks in his back and

other permanent injuries that prevented him from returning to his railroad job. Sorrell, whose wife has multiple sclerosis, lost his job and health insurance as a result of the accident, and still suffers debilitating back pain during most everyday activities.

After losing cases in lower courts as well as appeals courts, Norfolk Southern argued the case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

However, in Supreme Court arguments presented on October 10, the Norfolk Southern lawyers attempted a "bait and switch," according to Sorrell's attorney Jerry Schlichter of Schlichter, Bogard & Denton in St. Louis.

"Norfolk Southern got the Supreme Court to take the case based on one ground, and when the Supreme Court took it, the railroad raised a different ground," said Schlichter, who is on the BLET's recommended list of Designated Counsel for FELA cases.

NS advanced the case to the Supreme Court based on the railroad's argument that the negligence standards for

railroads under FELA should also be used to determine employee negligence under FELA.

However, once before the Supreme Court, NS argued that the Court should modify FELA by ruling that a higher standard for accident causation should be employed, completely ignoring their original arguments for getting to the Supreme Court in the first place.

"Our strong view is that the railroad is now trying to do through the judicial system what it couldn't do through legislation, which is the gutting of the FELA law," Schlichter said.

To support his view, he said that the Association of American Railroads (AAR) filed a brief on behalf of Norfolk Southern's position, stating that the Supreme Court's ruling would have an impact on virtually every railroad injury case in the country. "It asks the Supreme Court to overturn its own decisions," he said.

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Breaking News

Jim Hoffa wins reelection

International Brotherhood of Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa declared victory in the 2006 Election of International Union Officers.

With a majority of votes counted, Hoffa defeated his challenger by a more than two-to-one margin.

"The members have spoken," Hoffa said. "Together we will continue leading the fight for all working families. We are organizing the unorganized, fighting for health care, good wages and a secure retirement, and holding employers accountable." •

Panhandle Northern shortline workers get first BLET contract

BLET-represented workers at the Panhandle Northern Railroad (PNR) unanimously ratified their first union contract on October 27.

Members at the short line railroad will see immediate wage increases of 7 percent to 12 percent when the agreement goes into effect on November 1. On top of that, they will receive wage increase of 3 percent each year for the next four years. Members will also receive longevity pay.

"Across the board this is a good agreement," said John Mullen, the BLET's Director of Shortlines.

Going into negotiations, which began in March, workers cited health care concerns as one of their top priorities.

The BLET agreement secures a reduction in co-pay for workers as well as other health and welfare improvements.

Members will also work under a guaranteed extra board with assigned days off.

Perhaps most importantly, the BLET agreement provides PNR workers with their first-ever discipline rule and grievance rule.

"Those are the most important with these first agreements," Mullen said.

Mullen credited Brian Price, Local Chairman of the PNR members, for his efforts during contract negotiations.

"Brian Price did an excellent job representing the needs

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BLET NEWS

Original Brotherhood Constitution and By-laws returned

Possibly 'Most significant documents in the history of the American labor movement'

A significant piece of the Brotherhood's history was recently returned to the labor movement when the original handwritten Constitution and Bylaws of the Brotherhood of the Footboard was donated to the George Meany Memorial Archives/National Labor College by relatives of a former BLE employee.

The Brotherhood of the Footboard was founded in 1863 and is the predecessor organization of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen.

On January 23 and February 27, 2006, the George Meany Memorial Archives/National Labor College received from James M. Wolfe of Glenn Dale, Md., a Deed of Gift covering BLET historical items.

The prized donation was a bound six inch by eight inch notebook with the 16 page original handwritten Constitution and By-Laws of the Brotherhood of the Footboard. The constitution dates from May 5-8, 1863 — the initial organizational meeting in Detroit of locomotive engineers from throughout the nation. The notebook also contains the signatures of Division 1 officers elected the final day of the gathering.

"This historic document was nearly lost to the hands of fate," BLET National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert said. "It is amazing that it has been recovered. The original Constitution of

our organization is quite possibly one of the most significant documents in the history of the American labor movement. We are the oldest existing labor union in North America and now an important piece of our history can be preserved for the future."

Founding of the Brotherhood

The story of the document begins in Marshall, Mich., in March 1863 when William D. Robinson and several other Michigan Central engineers met at his home to air grievances that the men had previously been talking about in smaller groups at the railway roundhouse. They held further discussions in Marshall the following month, culminating in the men deciding to gather likeminded engineers from other companies whose routes ran through Detroit to meet together in that city.

On May 5, the delegates assembled and over the next three days drew up a constitution and by-laws based on a rough draft created earlier by Robinson. On May 8, the delegates unanimously approved the document, and created Division Number 1, Brotherhood of the Footboard, composed of those in attendance who lived in Detroit.

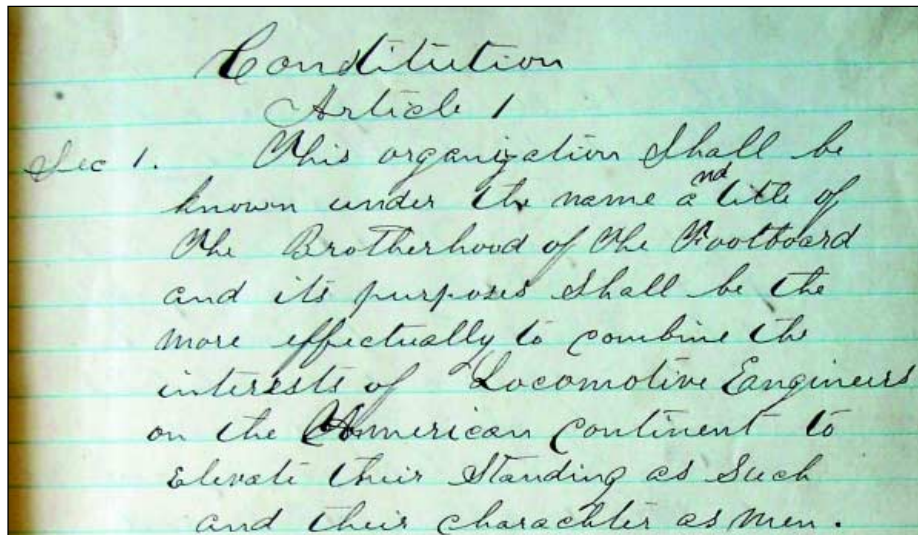
The newly formed division immediately elected the following as its officers: George Adams, chief engineer; Fred Wortsmit, second engineer; E. F. Elewell, first assistant engineer; A. Keith, second assistant engineer; and Mat McCormack, third assistant engineer. Five others also joined the organization and signed the notebook containing the governing laws.

Robinson, who lived in Marshall, soon created Division 2 in his hometown. By August 1, a total of ten divisions had been founded so that a national organization emerged on August 18, 1863.

Historic Documents

The notebook also contains the signatures of additional Division 1 members who joined later that year, and a dues-paid list covering July 20 to September 18, 1863.

The Wolfe family also made a second donation of archival material to the Meany Center, which consists of approximately 47 BLE documents such as written communications, membership



Dating to May of 1863, the original handwritten Constitution & Bylaws of the Brotherhood of the Footboard, the predecessor organization of the BLET, was recently returned to the BLET. According to Section 1, Article 1 of the bylaws, the purpose of the Brotherhood of the Footboard was to "more effectually to combine the interests of Locomotive Engineers on the American continent to elevate their standing as such and their character as men."

cards, convention credentials, receipts, and other membership forms.

These documents are from various divisions and are dated from 1865 to 1906, with the bulk of the items from the 1870s and 1880s.

The Notebook's Travels

The notebook containing the Constitution & By-Laws was the property of Detroit's BLE Division 1 until May 1938, at which time (in honor of the union's Diamond Jubilee) the Secretary-Treasurer presented it to George Hooper, with the understanding that upon his death it would be turned over to the Grand Office of Locomotive Engineers. Research by the Meany Archives has uncovered information that Hooper was the chief clerk of the BLE in 1938 and the author of a "Historical Brief and Comments on the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers." It appears that Hooper was considered the "archivist" of the organization and would be the logical person to receive the notebook for safekeeping. It seems certain that he or his heirs gave the notebook to the Grand Office.

There is little evidence how the 47 other documents came into the possession of the BLE except for a typewritten notation on one of the items with the date 1965. Since 1963 would have been the 100th anniversary of the BLE, one can conjecture that some or all of these documents had been received by

the BLE in the early 1960s in preparation for the anniversary celebration.

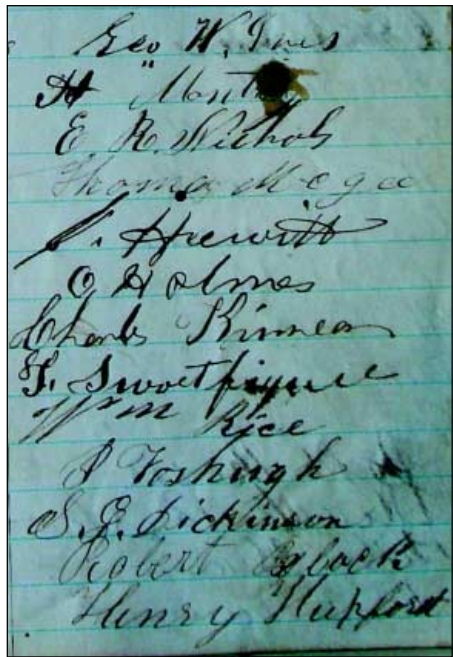
This theory is further substantiated by the fact that the father-in-law of the donor, Eften B. Meredith, was the office manager and executive assistant to the Chief Engineer in the Cleveland, Ohio, office of the BLE from 1966 to 1972. In this capacity, Meredith was in all likelihood given responsibility for the "historical documents" that had been acquired for the 75th and 100th anniversaries. When departing from the BLE, he inadvertently gathered up the historical items with his personal files. It was not until 2005 that the family unpacked the files, discovered the historical records, and contacted the Meany Archives.

Priceless Piece of History

The 1863 notebook is a missing piece of early trade union history. Even though it has been lost for more than 30 years, no earlier published or unpublished study covering the founding of the Brotherhood of Footboard appears to have cited it as a source of information.

The Meany Center has safeguarded the document and intends to return it to the BLET National Division in Cleveland.

"We are looking forward to the day when this important artifact is returned to the Brotherhood," BLET National President Don Hahs said. •



Signatures of some of the original members of the Brotherhood who belonged to Division 1 in Detroit.

Members beware! There's no union in 'Union Workers Credit Services'

(Editor's Note: In late October, Union Privilege issued the following news release in response to union members' concerns.)

At least five million people have received solicitations that give the impression of offering a credit card from the Texas-based Union Workers Credit Services, which has no official ties to any union or the AFL-CIO and does not offer a credit card.

Unions have received many calls from members about the company's offer. The Fort Worth Better

Business Bureau (FWBBB) has logged 166 complaints and thousands of inquiries.

"The initial advertising builds an expectation that goes unmet," says John Riggins, FWBBB president, who thinks the firm is targeting people with a history of credit problems. "People think they're getting a credit card from a company affiliated with unions, but there is no affiliation and they don't get credit cards."

Instead, for a \$37 annual fee, consumers get a

catalogue of various products and a paper card that can only be used to make purchases from the catalogue. The company also offers what it says are restaurant and travel discounts.

The finance charges incurred for paying off any balance "with conveniently low monthly payments" are not disclosed in the initial letters.

Consumers should use caution when considering any credit card offer that requires you to pay a fee before you can learn all the details of the offer. •

Division 34 'adopts a family' for the holidays

Holiday spirit brings out the best in Ohio railroaders; Giving a family something to celebrate at Christmas

Members of BLET Division 34 (Columbus, Ohio) got to play Santa Claus to a family in need last year and they enjoyed it so much they're planning to do the same thing again this year.

The members of the Division began their Adopt-A-Family program in late 2005. Division 34's Vice Local Chairman and Legislative Representative Jeff Murray heard about a family in need at his church.

In Dire Straits

A single mother and her seven children were in dire straits. The husband, who had battered his wife, abandoned the family right before the holidays. He was their primary breadwinner and took everything when he left.

The family was going to be evicted from their two bedroom apartment. They had no heat, no dining room table, no washer and dryer, and the stove did not work.

It was November and the children had no winter clothes and the family was using their oven to heat the apartment. The family had more pressing needs to consider, but there would obviously be no Christmas for the children.

When Brother Murray heard about their story, he approached Division 34 Local Chairman Jeff Scott and BLET CSX-Northern Lines Vice General Chairman Bill Lyons. The Brothers enthusiastically supported the idea of

doing something to help the family. Murray wrote about the family and posted their story on bulletin boards at work. He also e-mailed to everyone he knew.

"We knew these kids wouldn't have Christmas, and we didn't want that to happen," Brother Murray said.

Overwhelming Generosity

The outpouring of support for the project surprised everyone involved. The love and generosity of railroad workers gave the adopted family the chance to have a very Merry Christmas.

The Division received donations from members of the BLET, UTU and management.

"It was a joint effort," Brother Murray said. "We even had members of management make anonymous donations. It wasn't about union affiliation. We worked together to help this family."

It even extended beyond the Columbus area with BLET members from the Cleveland area helping out.

"One crew from Cleveland wanted to donate a set of bunk beds and tried to get permission to put them in the rear unit of the train," Murray said. "They didn't get permission but it made us realize the magnitude of what we were doing."

The family received a donated a dining set and furniture. Division 34 President Woody Reffitt donated a



In 2005, a needy single mother with seven children enjoys a Christmas celebration that she could not have given her family without the generosity of railroad workers. The "Adopt-A-Family" program is sponsored by BLET Division 34 in Columbus, Ohio, and is seeking donations for a family this year.



washer and dryer. The children received gifts of clothing and toys for the holiday. Monetary donations enabled the Division to put down security deposits for an apartment and utilities. Division 34 members also used some of the monetary donations to purchase gift cards, which provided the family with several months' worth of groceries.

"I am very proud of the people I work with," Brother Murray said. "I think railroad workers, especially train and engine service employees, are sometimes a little removed from society in general. We are secluded because of our jobs, but this showed the kind of people that we are really."

Planning For 2006 and Beyond

The holiday spirit was so strong in 2005 that this year, Division 34 hopes to once again help a family or multiple families in need. They are accepting submissions from members and workers in Columbus, and hope to receive support from members in other areas,

too. The adopted family (or families) will be chosen by a three-member board, and must have a connection to the railroad.

"We want to help a needy family within the larger family of railroad workers," Brother Murray said.

National Division Helps Out

Through the generosity of BLET National President Don Hahs, First Vice President Ed Rodziewicz, and National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert, the BLET National Division has donated \$500 to Division 34's Adopt-A-Family program. Division 34 has pledged to match any donation of up to \$500.

Brother Murray and the members of Division 34 hope to carry on the program in the years to come and hope that other Divisions will also do something similar.

"There are so many families in need, both among railroad workers and in society," he said. "We need to do our part to help them." •

Rail Carriers go to Supreme Court in effort to 'gut' FELA

FELA

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Weakening the causation standards for rail accidents would make the rail carriers virtually blameless for accidents, rendering the FELA powerless.

According to Schlichter, BLET President Don Hahs organized other rail unions to file a joint amicus brief in support of Timothy Sorrell.

In addition to BLET, the other unions include: American Train Dispatchers Association; Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees; International Brotherhood of Boilermakers & Blacksmiths; International Conference of Fireman & Oilers; Transportation Communications International Union; United Transportation Union; and the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen.

FELA was enacted in 1908, and for the past 50 years, Rail Labor has resisted lobbying efforts by the railroad industry to abolish or weaken FELA.

"One of the major purposes of FELA is to promote safety within the railroad industry," the amicus brief states. If Norfolk Southern is successful, however, "railroads would no longer have this duty and there would no longer be an effective deterrent to their negligence."

In addition, FELA was intended by Congress to be a way to facilitate compensation of workers who are injured or killed in the course of their railroad employment. According to the amicus brief, "Congress desired for injured railway workers to receive fair compensation for their injuries."

President Hahs condemned the underhanded tactics employed by Norfolk Southern in this case. "Norfolk Southern got into the Supreme Court on one

premise, and now they're arguing a different premise," he said. "It's the same type of dishonesty the entire industry has displayed throughout our collective bargaining sessions this round."

In addition, it is an example of why unions are so important in the rail industry. "Rail unions today must serve as watchdogs to guard and protect the benefits that the union leaders who came before us fought so hard to achieve," he said. "This is another example of why unions are necessary. We have to protect what we have, because the carriers are trying to take it away."

The U.S. Supreme Court Case is Norfolk Southern Railway Co. vs. Timothy Sorrell (Case No. 05-746). More information will be provided when the Court announces its decision. In the meantime, those interested in copies of the legal briefs filed by attorney Jerry Schlichter may contact him by e-mail: jschlichter@uselaws.com. •

Panhandle Northern

Continued from page 1

of the PNR members," Mullen said.

A 99 percent majority of workers at the PNR voted to join the BLET in January.

The PNR operates over 31 miles of track between the towns of Panhandle and Borger, Texas. Even though it is a small railroad, it stays busy as a vital interchange between the BNSF Railway and many chemical plants. In fact, Borger is home of the nation's largest inland petrochemical complex.

The PNR is a former Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe (now BNSF) line. The PNR main line is primarily

continuous welded rail. PNR handles carbon black, liquid petroleum gas, chemicals, petroleum products, scrap metal, fertilizer and grain, and serves Agrium, Chevron Phillips, Conoco Phillips, Degussa Engineered Carbons, Sid Richardson, Texas Pipe, Van Waters and others.

PNR is a subsidiary of OmniTRAX, a transportation holding company with 17 railroads in three Canadian provinces and six U.S. states. •

BLET NEWS

VP Raymond Holmes' career began in 1959

It was with a heavy heart that Raymond A. Holmes announced his retirement from the office of Vice-President and National Legislative Representative of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen in June.

He was finally retiring from an organization that he had served for more than 30 years and from a railroad career that spanned 47 years.

But on a more personal note, Brother Holmes' retirement coincided with the passing of his mother. Delegates attending the Brotherhood's First Quadrennial Convention in Las Vegas in June will recall that Brother Holmes was called to leave the convention early as his mother entered into a Hospice situation. She passed away on June 29, 2006.

"Retirements are normally a celebration of achievements from a lifetime of work," said Don Hahs, National President of the BLET. "We thank Brother Holmes for his years of dedication and service to the Brotherhood, and, on behalf of all BLET members, I express deepest sympathy over his mother's passing."

Delegates attending the former BLE's Seventh Quinquennial Convention in Miami Beach, Fla., elected Holmes to the office of Vice President & U.S. National Legislative Representative in September 2001. He served as the union's chief lobbyist until his retirement in June 2006.

Passage of the Railroad Retirement and Survivors Improvement Act of 2001, which lowered the retirement age for railroad workers, came during Holmes' term of office as National Legislative Representative.

"It took three or four years to get it passed," Holmes said. "I made many trips to Washington to lobby for it as a State Chairman and continued lobbying as Vice President."

Immediately prior to his election as National Legislative Representative in

2001, he served as Chairman of the BLE's Texas State Legislative Board, a position he held since 1986. At the time of his election in 2001, he was serving his second term as Chairman of the National Association of State Legislative Board Chairmen, a group he had previously served as Secretary-Treasurer for more than 11 years.

His work with the Texas State Legislative Board was also productive. Holmes said the Texas Board had more than 25 pieces of legislation were passed during his tenure that directly or indirectly affected locomotive engineers. "They ranged from limo bills to improved grade crossing safety bills," Holmes said.

On the Division level, Holmes served Division 834 (Mineola, Texas) as Local Chairman from 1976-1986 and Legislative Representative from 1972-1986. On the General Committee level, he served for six years as First Vice-Chairman of the Union Pacific General Committee in Fort Worth, Texas.

On the state level, he served the Texas State Legislative Board as Second Vice-Chairman for three years and First Vice-Chairman for six years.

He was also a delegate to the Sixth Quinquennial Convention where he served as Chairman of the Legislative Committee.

Looking back on his career, Brother Holmes mentioned two individuals who had a tremendous influence on him. First, he recognized Don Robertson, the man he succeeded as Chairman of the Texas State Legislative Board, who encouraged him to get involved in the union and in politics. In addition, he recognized Walter Ayers, "one of the old locomotive engineers who taught me a lot when I was a fireman."

Holmes also thanked BLET First Vice President Ed Rodzicz. "I appreciate all the good counsel Ed has given me over the years," Holmes said.

But it is his years of service on the National Association of State Legisla-



From left: Retired BLET Vice President & National Legislative Representative Raymond Holmes; Minnesota State Legislative Board Chairman Tom Perkovich; and Texas State Legislative Board Chairman Terry Briggs.

tive Board Chairmen (NASLBC) that evoke his favorite memories from the Brotherhood.

"I have very fond memories of all of our NASLBC meetings," Holmes said. "We had some real characters serving over the years and I love every one of them."

A second generation locomotive engineer, Holmes began his railroad career as a switchman on the Texas & Pacific Railroad in 1959 in Dallas, Texas. He went firing for the Missouri Pacific Railroad on August 19, 1970 and was promoted to locomotive engineer in October of 1972.

Holmes' father, now deceased, was a locomotive engineer and his younger brother, Matthew, is currently an engineer for the Union Pacific Railroad working out of Longview, Texas.

Brother Holmes remarried in May, and he and his wife Diane have already spent time traveling during his retirement. An outdoors enthusiast, Brother Holmes owns a small farm in East Texas and plans to spend time "fixing and repairing things I neglected the last 20 years," he said.

He has two children (Rachel Faling and Joseph Holmes) and seven grandchildren. He plans to spend a lot more time with them than he has in the past. Brother Holmes was born on December 25, 1939, in Borger, Texas.

In addition to hunting and fishing, he enjoys building bird houses and woodduck boxes that he installs throughout his properties. He is a "semi-expert" on flowers and trees and he loves to take long walks in the woods. •

William T. 'Bill' O'Brien, former Ohio State Legislative Board Chairman

William T. "Bill" O'Brien, former Chairman of the BLET's Ohio State Legislative Board, passed away from complications of liver cancer on November 1.

Brother O'Brien served as Chairman of the Ohio State Legislative Board from 1987-2002. He passed away in the care of his children in Sarasota, Fla.

"All five of his children were able to be at his side and say good-bye," said his daughter Peggy O'Brien.

Survivors include daughters Ann Matthews, Judy O. Klauber and Margaret-Mary (Peggy), all of Sarasota; sons Michael of North Port and Timothy of Toledo, Ohio; and four grandchildren.

"Brother O'Brien influenced many high ranking political leaders during his years of service to the Brotherhood and successfully lobbied on behalf of numerous pieces of legislation that improved the working conditions for locomotive engineers," said Don M. Hahs,

National President of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen. "On behalf of the BLET, I extend my deepest sympathies to the friends and family of Bill O'Brien."

He was born Dec. 18, 1933, in Detroit. He was a Coast Guard veteran of the Korean War and a member of St. Martha Catholic Church. He retired from the Brotherhood in 2002. He was a member of the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon for 25 years.

"(Bill O'Brien) was a friend and a companion in our struggles against uncaring employers and government agencies," said George Hucker, Vice President of the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference and former National Legislative Representative-Canada for the BLE. "There are a few good guys that you could always depend on and Brother Bill falls into that group."

"We can all tell each other of how



Brother Bill O'Brien, right, at 1995 meeting with U.S. Vice President Al Gore.

much we will miss the old guy but we need to tell each other of how much he meant to us," Hucker said. "Bill was always understanding of how important the International really was. Bill was very aware of how well our union worked when we all worked together. We in the Legislative Department of the

BLE are lesser today with his passing and we need to remember that he came to represent the true meaning of Brotherhood."

Memorial donations may be made to TideWell Hospice and Palliative Care, 5955 Rand Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34238. •

VP Paul Wingo served BLET for 37 years

Vice President Paul Wingo retired following the BLET's First Quadrennial Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, after spending 40 years in the railroad industry and 37 years as a BLE/BLET officer.

"I will look back on my years of service to the BLE and BLET and know that everytime I was called upon, I helped in every way I possibly could," Brother Wingo said. "Most often, I was involved in representing our members in formal investigations all across the Norfolk Southern system, but I also regularly assisted on health and welfare and Railroad Retirement Disability issues."

Brother Wingo was elected to the office of First Alternate International Vice President at the BLE's Seventh Quinquennial International Convention in Miami in September of 2001, and was elevated to the office of Vice President on November 1, 2002, following the retirement of Vice President Joe Cassidy.

Wingo is a member of BLE Division 198 (Chattanooga, Tenn.). Immediately prior to his elevation to Vice President, he served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Norfolk Southern (Southern Region) General Committee of Adjustment from 1986 to 2002 and as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Tennessee State Legislative Board from 1982 to 2002.

Following four years of active duty in the U.S. Marine Corps, Brother Wingo began his railroad career in 1966 when he hired out as a switchman on the Southern Railroad. He was promoted to the position of locomotive engineer in 1969 and joined the BLET in September of that year.

A Career of Service

Throughout his career, Brother Wingo held numerous elected positions. He served Division 198 as Secretary-Treasurer from 1969-1986, Legislative Representative from 1980-2000 and Local Chairman from 1986-2001.

He was a delegate to the 1986, 1991 and 2001 BLE International Conventions. He served on the Board of Appeals from 1987 to 1996. Outside of the BLE/BLET, he served from 1996 to 2002 on the Board of Directors of the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund.

"I had the honor for 37 years of being elected to serve the membership," Brother Wingo said. "I took that honor seriously."

As a Vice President, Brother Wingo's assignments included working for the Norfolk Southern

General Committees of Adjustment. He also served as the BLET's Security Officer, working with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters to develop security procedures for our nation's railroads. Additionally, he worked to negotiate contracts for shortline railroads.

"It was really an eye opener to get outside of the NS system and see the shortlines," Brother Wingo said. "It was a challenge to get these people, who so wanted a union, organized. It took a lot of dedication on their part."

The Wingo Family

Brother Wingo and his wife Linda were married on October 2, 1965. The couple has two sons, Lt. Col. (select) Carl David Wingo, USAF, and Paul Lebron Wingo, who is a locomotive engineer and the Local Chairman of BLET Division 198. The couple has three grandchildren, Hannah, who is 7; Garrett, 5; and Sage, 1.

"I am proud of both of my sons," Brother Wingo said. "Through their work, they have chosen to serve in different ways."

Brother Wingo is continuing to help railroad workers, even after his retirement, by working as the Director of Railroad Claims and Disabilities for Matthews and Steele, a BLET designated legal counsel firm.



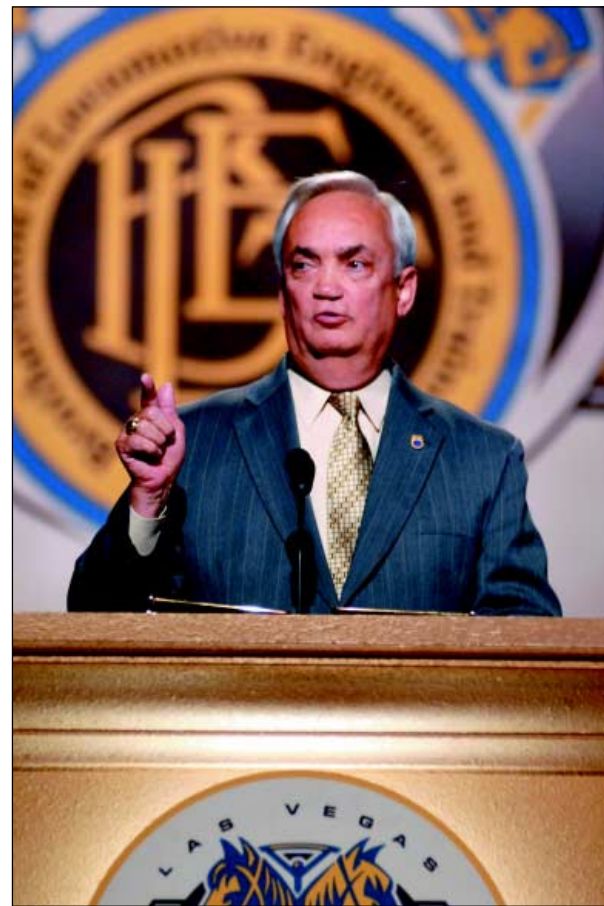
LeBron Wingo, son of retired VP Paul Wingo.

Staying Involved

"My passion was always hearings and investigations and taking this job was a way to stay involved with that," Brother Wingo said. "I am pleased to have found a way to continue helping members, after 37 years, I couldn't stop cold turkey."

In addition to his new position, Brother Wingo and Linda have been taking trips and plan several more, including an upcoming cruise to the Western Caribbean and a possible cruise to Alaska. Brother Wingo also cruises a little closer to home with his wife and grandson, on his boat that is docked in a marina near his home. He has "gotten back into fishing" since his retirement and is planning on duck hunting too.

Additionally, he plans to get involved in more activities through his church, possibly joining the Gideons.



BLET Vice President Paul Wingo announces his retirement at the BLET's First Quadrennial Convention in Las Vegas. He has served the Brotherhood for 37 years and became a Vice President on November 1, 2002.

Do not be surprised if you see Brother Wingo at regional meetings in the future. He plans on attending next year's Southeastern Meeting Association (SMA) in Florida. He also plans to continue his membership in the BLET-PAC and urges other retirees to do so.

"I am going to try to stay involved in BLET activities," Brother Wingo said. "I plan on actively monitoring legislation in the U.S. House and Senate and writing to my Congressman and Senators on issues that I think are important to the BLET."

While Brother Wingo plans an active retirement, he said his main goal is simply being a "good granddaddy" to Hannah, Garrett and Sage (and others that might come along).

Congratulations! •

Thomas J. Cavan, former Conrail General Chairman

Thomas J. Cavan, 87, former BLE General Chairman on Conrail, passed away on September 19.

He was born on Dec. 13, 1918, in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., son of the late Thomas H. and Helen Doster Cavan. A 1936 graduate of Coughlin High School, he served in the Army during World War II as a radar operator in the Philippines, and worked for a time with the U.S. Postal Service.

Brother Cavan hired on with the former Lehigh Valley Railroad on Sept. 30, 1941 in Wilkes-Barre. He served as a fireman on the last steam locomotive that came into Wilkes-Barre in the late 1950s.

He served the Brotherhood for many years and eventually won election to the office of General Chairman on the

Lehigh Valley Railroad. With the formation of Conrail in 1976, Brother Cavan was elected as Seniority District "G" Chairman from 1976 to 1980. He later won election to the office of Conrail General Chairman in 1980 and held the office until his retirement in 1983.

"He served the membership of Conrail during some of the toughest times of the merger era and separation of the passenger committees," said W.A. Thompson, 2nd Vice General Chairman of the Norfolk Southern-Southern Lines General Committee of Adjustment.

Brother Cavan was a former resident of South Wilkes-Barre, where he was a member of St. Therese's Church, Wilkes-Barre. He also

belonged to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Anthracite Post 283, Kingston.

He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Kathleen Gannon; brothers, Donald, Girard and Robert Cavan.

Surviving are daughters, Cathy Jamiolkowski, Selinsgrove; Molly Lowe, Wilkes-Barre; granddaughters, Katie Lowe, Aileen Lowe and Jackie Lowe; sisters, Mary McGrew and Lorraine Loftus, both of Wilkes-Barre.

His funeral was held on September 23. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, 71 N. Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701, or the American Diabetes Association, 63 N. Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701. •

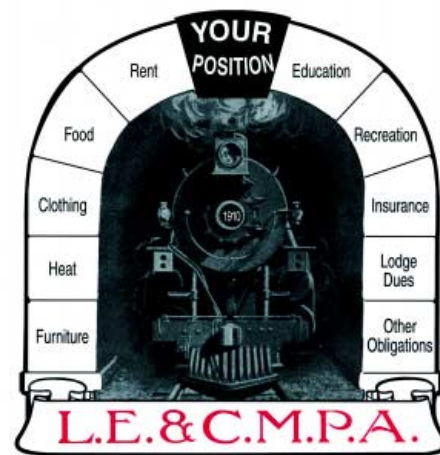
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BLET NEWS

BLET delegation meets with Cong. Oberstar

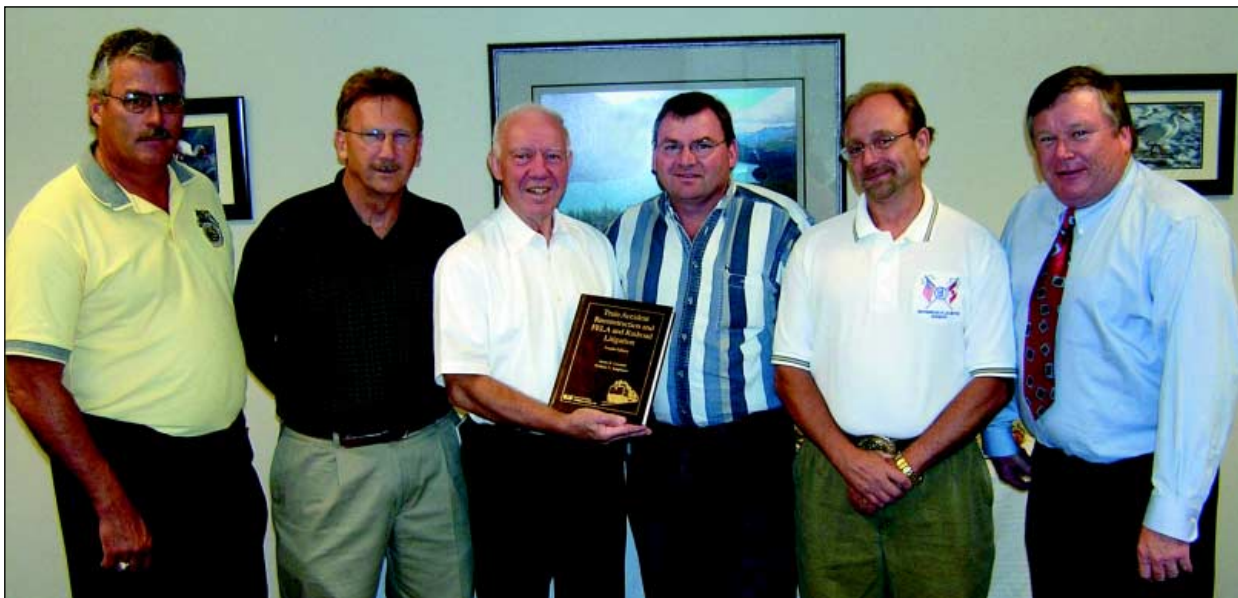
Several BLET legislative officials met with Congressman James Oberstar on August 24 in Minneapolis, Minn. Rep. Oberstar will be the Chairman of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee in the 100th Congress.

The BLET representatives included: North Dakota State Legislative Chairman Mike Muscha; Minnesota State Legislative Chairman Tom Perkovich; Division 333 Legislative Representative Mark Anderson; and Division 517 Legislative Representative David Brown.

Congressman Oberstar recognized the importance of the BLET in providing information to his and other Congressional offices on important safety and regulatory issues. He conveyed to the BLET delegation his personal greetings and congratulations to all BLET Advisory Board officers elected at the union's recent First Quadrennial Convention in Las Vegas, including President Don Hahs, First Vice President Ed Rodziewicz, National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert and Vice President & National Legislative Representative John Tolman.

Chairmen Muscha and Perkovich told Oberstar about the need to protect the Railroad Retirement Trust Fund. Brother Brown inquired about funding for training programs, such as the one BLET State Legislative Chairman Scott Palmer of Oregon runs on nuclear waste and hazardous material transportation. Oberstar echoed the need for comprehensive training in such areas and adamantly supports the need to protect the RRB trust fund.

Congressman Oberstar restated his strong support for FELA and for rail safety. He noted that a number of years ago the Association of American Railroads (AAR) had fought safety initiatives that he had sponsored, even to the point of the AAR spending a \$1 million budget to defeat those safety initiatives.



From left: Mike Muscha, North Dakota State Legislative Board Chairman; Tom Perkovich, Minnesota State Legislative Board Chairman; Congressman Jim Oberstar (D-Minn.); Division 333 Legislative Representative Mark Anderson; Division 517 Legislative Representative David Brown; and Bill Jungbauer of the BLET-designated firm Yaeger, Jungbauer & Barczak, PLC.

AAR and Rail Carrier organizations continue to fight against the rights of rail workers. Oberstar spoke of his family experience with unionism and company harassment. His own father became a union member in 1932 after a company official harassed him for voting Democrat in the national elections.

Oberstar said that one only need look at the cruise line industry to see what happens without good laws and union protection. Cruise ship employees often work 70-hour weeks with no overtime. If they get hurt, the ship tries to put them off at the next port to get rid of them.

He also discussed the appalling situation of those impacted by the Minot train disaster where a federal judge in North Dakota ruled they can not recover

damages due to federal law pre-emption. He noted that airline mechanics can stop an airplane in its tracks due to defects, but that railroad employees cannot always stop defective equipment from moving.

Oberstar reiterated that when the labor friendly legislators regain control of the House of Representatives that he would become the Chairman of the Transportation Committee controlling legislation, debates, and hearings on all transportation issues. "The power of the Gavel" is what union members and the public need on that committee to best protect their rights and move good legislation forward.

The BLET representatives thanked Bill Jungbauer, Designated Legal Counsel, for his assistance in organizing and attending the meeting. •

Verdeyen reelected by acclamation in Indiana

Bill Verdeyen was re-elected by acclamation to his fourth term as Chairman of the Indiana State Legislative Board at Quadrennial meetings held in Indianapolis, Ind., on October 12-13, 2006.

Brother Verdeyen is a member of Division 754 (Terre Haute, Ind.). He joined the BLET on June 1, 1974.

Al Combs, a member of BLET Division 106 (Muncie, Ind.), was re-elected to his second term as the First Vice Chairman; Ray Ford, a member of Division 742 (Evansville, Ind.), was elected to his first term as Second Vice Chairman; and Kendall Smith, a member of Division 153 (Garrett, Ind.), was elected to his first term as Alternate Secretary-Treasurer.

Carl Fields of Division 682

(Hammond, Ind.) was elected by acclamation to the Secretary Treasurer position. Brother Fields will be filling the shoes of the retiring Secretary-Treasurer Larry Ice. Brother Ice held the position of the INSLB Secretary-Treasurer for 12 of the 28 years that he was a member of the Indiana Legislative Board.

BLET National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert and BLET Vice President and National Legislative Representative John Tolman attended the Board meeting. National Secretary-Treasurer Walpert updated the attendees on the current financial health of the BLET and Brother Tolman gave presentations on the national elections, a legislative update and the Change to Win coalition.

Bob Braitman from the Railroad Retirement Board gave a presentation and discussed the current Railroad Retirement Law. He explained retirement scenarios related to disability, age, length of service and how railroad retirement benefits can support our families.

The INSLB presented service awards to two retiring members. Brother Larry Ice, the retiring Secretary-Treasurer, was honored for his 28 years of service to the Indiana State Legislative Board. Brother Dan Rasco, the retiring 2nd Vice Chairman, has been a member of the INSLB for 12 years.

"When it comes to supporting our BLET PAC, Brother Rasco is the best," Chairman Verdeyen said. "He is a



leader in expressing to our Indiana membership the importance of donating to the BLET PAC. Both of these Brothers believed in the legislative process and made it a point to come over to the Indiana session every year they were legislative representatives. They will be missed."

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

Kertesz reelected by acclamation in Pennsylvania

Ken Kertesz has been reelected by acclamation to his second term as Chairman of the Pennsylvania State Legislative Board at the Board's Quadrennial Meeting on October 20.

A CP Railway engineer, Kertesz is a member of BLET Division 263 in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Other board members include: 1st Vice Chairman Gene Imler, who was elected to his first term; 2nd Vice Chairman Jim O'Neill, who was elected to his

second term; and Secretary-Treasurer David Caniff, who was reelected by acclamation to his third term.

Imler is a Norfolk Southern engineer who belongs to Division 74 in Harrisburg-Enola, Pa. O'Neill is an Amtrak engineer serving his second term on the board. He belongs to Division 483 in Philadelphia. Caniff is a CSX engineer who will begin his third term on the board. He belongs to Division 370 in Pittsburgh, Pa.

The meeting was conducted in Harrisburg, Pa. It was held the day after the Board conducted its first training session on spent nuclear fuel shipments as well as a training workshop for Division Legislative Representatives.

The Pennsylvania State Legislative Board represents 1,500 locomotive engineers and trainmen from eight unionized railroads in 21 local Divisions.

Visiting Brothers included: Vice President and National Legislative Representative John Tolman; Ohio State Legislative Board Chairman Tim Hanely; Ohio State Legislative Board 1st Vice Chairman Tim Price; and Michigan State Legislative Board Chairman Greg Powell. Additional visitors were IBT Joint Council President Frank Gillen and Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer Rick Bloomingdale. •

III. SLBC Ed Way reelected by acclamation

C. Edward Way of BLET Division 512 (Benton, Ill.) was elected by acclamation for the third time to another four-year term as Chairman of the Illinois State Legislative Board at their quadrennial meeting in Peoria on September 22.

Also elected during the meeting were: First Vice-Chairman Paul Piekarski of Division 683 (Chicago); Second Vice Chairman Don Little of Division 294 (Chicago); and Third Vice-Chairman Maurie Lehmkuhl of Division 135 (Galesburg, Ill.)

Bill Kruspe of Division 582 (Chicago), who has held the office of Secretary-Treasurer of the board for more than 20 years, was reelected.

"It is nice to be able to continue the work I have started and continue moving the board forward," Brother Way said. "By winning reelection by acclamation, I feel that I have been doing what the membership wants. And, with the executive committee that has been elected, I know that I will have all help I need to get the job done."

BLET First Vice President Ed Rodziewicz addressed the delegates, giving them an update on national contract negotiations and the upcoming IBT election. National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert gave delegates a pre-



Chairman Ed Way (front row, center) with the Executive Committee of the Illinois State Legislative Board.

sentation on the BLET's financial situation, while Vice President Rick Radek and Vice President Steve Speagle also addressed the body. Ken Kroeger, Co-

ordinator of the BLET Education and Training, was also in attendance at the meeting.

Steve Drassler of the Federal Rail-

road Administration (Region 4) and Tom Sadler of the Railroad Retirement Board were also on hand to address the delegates. •

Ky. SLBC Tommy Mayne reelected by acclamation

Tommy Mayne was reelected by acclamation to the office of Chairman of the Kentucky State Legislative Board by delegates at the Board's quadrennial meeting in late September. Mayne has held the office of Chairman since the Board's inception in 1994.

Also elected at the meeting were: 1st Vice Chairman Bryan Aldridge of BLET Division 78 (Louisville); 2nd Vice Chairman Jeremy Nelson of Division 110 (Ludlow, Ky.); and Secretary-Treasurer Daniel Maynard of Division 271 (Ashland, Ky.).

"Our State Board is lucky to have such an intelligent group of bright young engineers," Chairman Mayne said. "They will take care of our members now and in the future."

The outgoing Secretary-Treasurer, Terry Beadles, held the S-T job for the KSLB since 1994. He will retire at the end of the year. "Working together for the past 13 years, we're like brothers now," Mayne said.

BLET National President Don Hahs attended the meeting and gave delegates an update on the current round of national contract negotiations. In addition, Vice President & National Legislative Representative John Tolman discussed with delegates the upcoming November elections.

A host of elected officials also addressed the delegates, including: Representative Ben Chandler; Representative Susan Westrom; State Senator Perry Clark; Rep. Robin Webb; Rep. Howard Cornett; and Rep. Charlie Hoffman.

Rail security was a key topic for the delegates, who enjoyed a presentation



Delegates and officers gather together after reelecting Tommy Mayne by acclamation to serve as Chairman of the Kentucky State Legislative Board. Mayne has held the position since the Board was created in 1994.

by Alecia Webb-Edgington, Director of the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security. In addition, Richard Gent, a U.S. Navy Seal, put on a program showing how vulnerable the railroads were to terrorists.

Joe Lydick, a representative of the Federal Railroad Administration, was also in attendance.

Representing the Teamsters at the meeting was Tony Fiori, the IBT's State Coordinator for Kentucky. Bill

Londrigan, President of the Kentucky State AFL-CIO, was also in attendance.

Brother Mayne also thanked Dick Scott, a FELA Specialist with the law firm of Yaeger, Jungbauer & Barczak, for his support. •

BLET NEWS

A message from Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa

A November victory Pro-labor Congress a reason to celebrate, begin taking action

Working families have new reason to believe in the ability of their government to better their lives, as Teamster-endorsed candidates across the country prevailed at the ballot box. I congratulate the victors and thank the thousands of Teamster members who invested countless hours over many months to help elect a pro-working families Congress.

Now is the time for action on issues such as universal health care, retirement security, the Employee Free Choice Act, fair trade agreements and rail security. This new Congress must reverse action on the Bush administration's misplaced priorities.

This election marks an opportunity to move our domestic agenda in a markedly different direction. It is an opportunity to cease the global race to the bottom resulting from the endless series of job-killing trade pacts passed by Congress. It is an opportunity to give all working Americans access to affordable, quality healthcare. It is an opportunity to raise the minimum wage. It is an opportunity to promote the rights of workers who want to join a union.

Over the years, I have had many conversations with Representative Nancy Pelosi and Senator Harry Reid about how Democratic control of Congress could directly benefit the lives of working Americans. I commend them for their leadership throughout this campaign and congratulate their success in electing Democratic majorities in the House and the Senate.

But the truly difficult task still lies ahead. I look forward to working with Rep. Pelosi and Sen. Reid to move our



pro-worker, pro-union agenda through Congress. In particular, I commit that the Teamsters are willing to work overtime to help enact key provisions of Rep. Pelosi's "First Hundred Hours" plan, including a raise in the minimum wage and changing in the Medicare prescription drug program that will lower the cost of medications.

The votes of working families made a difference at the ballot box. We must now make sure this new Congress makes a real difference in their lives.

Fraternally,

James P. Hoffa
James P. Hoffa
General President

Three ST workshops planned for '07

The BLET's Education & Training Department announced that its final Secretary-Treasurer workshop of 2006 is completely full. For those who will miss it, however, the dates and locations of three additional ST workshops for early 2007 will be announced in the next 30 days.

The final ST Workshop of 2006 will be December 3-6 in Cleveland. Next year's meetings will be held in areas where there is a high-concentration of newly-elected STs.

"Proper training is a must with so many new Secretary-Treasurers expected to win election during the Triennial Elections," said Bill Walpert, the BLET's National Secretary-Treasurer. "Finalized dates and locations for the 2007 workshops has not yet been released pending the outcome of the Triennial Elections."

For more information, please contact Ken Kroeger, BLET Special Representative and Coordinator of the Edu-

cation & Training Department, by e-mail at: Kroeger@ble-t.org.

Dates and locations of the 2007 meetings will be announced first on the BLET's website, www.ble-t.org.

NOVEMBER 2006 CALENDAR & EVENTS

DECEMBER 8... U.S. Railroad Retirement Board Informational Conference, Tampa, Fla.

At the Crown Plaza, Sable Park (10221 Princess Palm Avenue). 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.

EARLY 2007... BLET Education & Training Dept. Hosts Secretary-Treasurer Workshops

The final workshop of 2006 is completely full, so three more workshops will be announced soon for early 2007. Be sure to watch the BLET website for the announcement.

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 October 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; Mtg. w/ UPLR Director Terry Olin, Cleveland; Mtg. w/ GC C. Davis, Cleveland; BLET-UTU joint divisional mtg., Cleveland; RLBC Wage Negotiation mtg.; CSXT conference call w/ GCs & VP Sorrow; BLET-UTU-NCCC wage mtg., W.Va.; RRB NRO mtg., Chicago.
- 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; Standard Building operations mtg.; Indiana State Legislative Board mtg., Indianapolis, Ind.; National Reporting Officers mtg. with Railroad Retirement Board, Chicago.
- 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; CN/WC quarterly L/M mtg., Green Bay, Wisc.; Metra disciplinary case conference, Chicago; CN Human Resources seminar; BRC and IHB general assistance; IC&E special GCoFA mtg., Davenport, Iowa; Metra quarterly L/M mtg.; Commuter Rail Labor mtg., Metra; CBA negotiations, EJ&E, Joliet, Ill.; SBA No. 1151 exec. session, EJ&E; NRAB administration; SBA No. 586 mtg. and Executive Session, Metra; FRA Part 240.409 dockets this month, EQAL 00-84, 03-31, 05-01, 01-26, 01-69, 02-04, 02-10, 01-18, 02-01.
- 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 cmtc.; National wage/rules; General office duties, telephone, correspondence; Mtgs w/ UP General Chairmen, re: Trip Rates, New Orleans; National contract negotiations, White Sulphur Springs.
- 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; Montreal, Maine and Atlantic RR; Contract mtgs. w/ GC Twombly and MM&A, Bangor, Maine; Review and finalization of latest Awards from PLB No. 6884, KCS; 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; Div. 383 mtg, Barstow, Calif.; Div. 398 mtg., San Bernardino, Calif.; Div. 214 mtg., Long Beach, Calif.; RLBC mtgs., National Wage Rule mtgs., Washington, D.C.; Wabash Hospital mtg., Decatur; National wage/rule mtgs. w/ UTU and NCCC, White Sulphur Springs, W.Va.; PLB 5939 Executive Session; Confidential close call reporting system mtg, Lincoln, Neb.; Wabash Hospital Assoc. Board mtg., Decatur.
- 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, DC office; BLET Security Officer; General Office Duties, telephone, correspondence; Coordinated PAC contributions through election day; Visited National Labor College Meany Center to observe Hazmat Safety Training Class with other Rail Labor Representative; Attended event for Congressional Hispanic Caucus; Attended Amtrak Rail Labor Meeting; Attended US Supreme Court Oral Arguments for Norfolk Southern vs. Tim Sorrell case involving FELA; Attended Indiana State Legislative Board Meeting; Attended Pennsylvania State Legislative Board Meeting; Attended meeting in Lincoln, NE on BNSF implementation of C3RS. Attended events for Ohio Gov.-Elect Strickland, Ohio Senate Elect Brown, Iowa Gov. Elect Culver, with Senator Kennedy and Harkin. Worked on several campaigns and GOTV.
- 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; NS-E, NEC and NYSW general assistance; NS-N, Multi-craft NS Dearborn Division LC mtg., Elyria, Ohio; Div. 590 mtg., Pittsburgh, Pa.; NS-N attend mtg. w/ Merrill Lynch, re: 401(k) plan administration, Buffalo, N.Y. PLB 6657 adopt and dispute awards, NS-N; NS-E general assistance, correspondence; E.L. Bright investigation and representation, Columbus, Ohio; Prep for confrence/negotiations; URR prepare supra; W&LE, discuss neutrals for PLB 6657 w/ Carrier; URR GC Dopic conference; URR negotiations. SEPTA general assistance.



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