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President Pierce welcomes Aird, Kronyak to BLET National Division staff

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce has announced the hiring of Brothers Paul T. Aird and Matthew C. Kronyak to full time Special Representative positions with the BLET National Division. Their hiring became effective November 1, 2014.

Brother Aird will serve as Director of Organizing and as National Mobilization Coordinator for the Western United States. He will assume the duties of Brother Kent N. Confer, who is retiring effective January 1, 2015. Brother Kronyak will serve in a new Special Representative position to arrange facilities and coordinate meeting space for Brotherhood functions. Both Brothers will also handle other duties as assigned by the National President.

"I am pleased to welcome Paul Aird and Matt Kronyak to our



President Pierce with Brother Kronyak.



President Pierce with Brother Aird.

National Division staff and I know they will work tirelessly on behalf of the National Division and all members of our Brotherhood," President Pierce said. "Brother Aird will have big shoes to fill with the retirement of Kent Confer, but I have every confidence that he has the skill

and dedication necessary to meet the challenges that lie ahead."

"Brother Kronyak has been with the National Division on a part-time basis for over a year now, and has done an excellent job during that period. It became necessary to add him on a full-time basis to handle the

growing number of meetings in the years to come, including the National Division's increasing involvement in the regional meeting process beginning in 2016," President Pierce said.

A fourth-generation railroad worker, Brother Aird is a Wisconsin Central locomotive engineer and

member of BLET Division 173 (Fond du Lac, Wisc.). He hired out in 1993 as a section laborer for the Fox River Valley Railroad. In 1994, he hired out on the Wisconsin Central and earned promotion to locomotive engineer in May of 1999. He is a proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps. Immediately prior to his November 1 appointment, Brother Aird served as Legislative Representative of Division 173 and as 1st Vice Chairman of the Wisconsin State Legislative Board, a position he has held since July of 2004. For Brother Aird, one of the most influential experiences in his union career was his participation in the War on Workers protests in Wisconsin in the spring of 2011.

"Having seen first hand how extremist politics can negatively impact us as organized labor is certainly a driving force in

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR 2015 BLET REGIONAL MEETINGS

The BLET National Division is pleased to announce the dates and locations of the four regional meetings for 2015.

These meetings are beneficial to all BLET members in several ways, offering the opportunity for education and training, networking with fellow railroaders, time for family, and a chance for personal interaction with BLET National Division officers.

The dates and locations of the four 2015 regional meetings are as follows:

JUNE 14-19, 2015

88th Annual Southeastern Meeting Association (SMA)

Atlanta, Ga.

Arrangements Chairman Teresa Bryant, Local Chairman of BLET Division 30, will host the 2015 SMA at the Lake Lanier Islands Resort just north of Atlanta, Ga.



JULY 25-31, 2015

77th Annual Eastern Union Meeting Association (EUMA)

Boston, Mass.

Arrangements Chairman Kevin J. Moore, Springfield Terminal/Delaware & Hudson General Chairman and Legislative Representative of BLET Division 191 (Lunenburg, Mass.), will host the 2015 EUMA at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel in historic downtown Boston.



AUGUST 17-20, 2015

75th Annual International Western Convention (IWC)

Denver, Colo.

Co-Chairmen Jim Wilmeshier, Chairman of the Colorado State Legislative Board, and Cory Runion, Chairman of the Wyoming State Legislative Board, will host the 2015 IWC at the Embassy Suites Hotel in downtown Denver, Colo.



SEPTEMBER 13-17, 2015

80th Annual Southwestern Convention Meeting (SWCM)

Tulsa, Okla.

Co-Chairman Dana Marlow, 1st Vice Chairman of the Union Pacific-Southern Region General Committee of Adjustment, and Jeff Tryon, Local Chairman of Division 179, will host the 2015 SWCM at the Hard Rock Casino and Resort in Tulsa, Okla.



Next year will be the last time members will have the opportunity to attend four different regional meetings in a single year. Delegates at the Third National Convention changed the BLET's regional meeting structure so that there will only be two regional meetings per year beginning in 2016.



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BLET PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY DENNIS R. PIERCE

THANK YOU!

On September 29th of this year, our Brotherhood assembled for its Third National Convention as the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, a Division of the Teamsters Rail Conference. This was our third convention since the International Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers merged with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, becoming the pioneer Division of the Teamsters Rail Conference. Prior to the merger, the BLE had convened 61 International Conventions, bringing our total number of International and National conventions to 64 since our founding in 1863.

I share those facts so all members are aware of the proud tradition that was continued by all in attendance at this year's National Convention. I also want to take this opportunity to offer my personal thanks to all BLE and BLET members, past and present, who have participated as delegates to any one of our many Conventions. While in session, the delegates are the governing body of our proud organization, and they are tasked with setting the course for the union and with ensuring that we are a strong, vital and transparent organization.

To that end, this year's delegation was asked to consider many resolutions, all crafted to make our union stronger and more stable, and our Bylaws more understandable. I don't have to tell those of you who have served as a convention delegate that



President Pierce with members of the Arrangements Committee during the BLET's Third National Convention in Las Vegas, October 2014.

working on Bylaws resolutions is not always exciting work, but it is work that must be done for the betterment of the Brotherhood. This year's delegates should be proud of the determination and work ethic that they showed, and they have my personal thanks for seeing that the work of the Brotherhood was completed in a timely fashion.

I also need to thank the many members and their families who took their personal time to attend the convention. Our conventions are open to all members, and it excites me to see members who care enough about our Brotherhood to come see our

democracy in action. I must also thank all who participated in our convention preparations, and offer a special thank you to those who served on our Arrangements Committee. That Committee is comprised of a diverse group of members from across the country, who volunteer to help us host the convention without any real idea of what will be asked of them. Their visible efforts assisting the delegates and guests, as well as their behind-the-scenes efforts were in large part why we were able to host a professional convention that all members can be proud of.

Along with that group, I must

also thank the staff of the BLET National Division, both those who took time from their schedules to travel to Las Vegas and assist with the convention, as well as those who stayed on Cleveland to assist in the day-to-day operations of the union.

It is obvious to me that the success of our convention was not due to the efforts of any single individual, but instead was a team effort by all who were involved. I tip my hat to everyone on the team.

Finally, I would like to thank the membership of our proud Organization. It has been my honor to serve as your Nation-

al President for the past four years, and I am even further honored to have been given the opportunity at the Convention to serve you for another four years. I can speak for all of the elected officers in saying that you have our commitment to do everything in our power to represent the BLET's members as best we can. And as part of that commitment, we will continue our efforts to make the BLET the strong, effective organization that you deserve and can be proud to belong to.

DENNIS R. PIERCE
BLET NATIONAL PRESIDENT

66 While in session, the delegates are the governing body of our proud organization, and they are tasked with setting the course for union and with ensuring that we are a strong, vital and transparent organization. 99

VETERANS DAY 2014

On behalf of the entire Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, I offer thanks to the millions of veterans and active-duty soldiers on Veterans Day. You are the protectors of the greatest nation on earth,

and your sacrifices and devotion have preserved our way of life and our freedoms for generations.

In this our 152nd year, the BLET remains proud to represent the rights and interests of military veterans who have gone on to work as Locomotive Engineers and as Trainmen. Today, our active membership consists of veterans who are part of an unbroken chain of men and women who have served this country with distinction since the time of the Civil War. Many of our ear-

liest members fought in such battles as Bull Run, Shiloh, Antietam and Gettysburg. Our membership over the years has consisted of proud veterans who served in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Desert Shield, Iraq and Afghanistan — and today includes 75 who are currently on active duty. These members proudly carry on the traditions established by our founding fathers.

Behind every soldier who serves is a family

who also serves. Please join me in thanking not only our soldiers and veterans, but their families as well. Their sacrifice deserves our praise and is part of the reason our country remains strong and free.

On behalf of the BLET Advisory Board and our 54,000 members, we thank you and we salute you. Your duty and devotion has protected our country and has secured our freedoms. God bless. ©©

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 poli-

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

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



GENERAL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY JAMES P. HOFFA

FAIR TRADE DEALS CAN PROTECT WORKERS

Hardworking Americans have seen a significant decline in the availability of middle-class jobs in this country during the last 20 years. And that is largely due to one thing — lousy trade deals approved by Congress.

Whether it is the mother of all bad trade pacts in NAFTA that led to some 1 million lost U.S. jobs or other more recent corporate boondoggles such as the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) or the U.S.-Korea Trade Agreement (KORUS), such agreements have caused nothing but pain for workers. But more hard times could be on the horizon, especially if elected corporate cronies are left to vote on future agreements.

The U.S. is currently involved in negotiating three trade deals — the Trans-Pacific Partnership

(TPP), the Transatlantic Trade Investment Partnership and the lesser-known Trade in Services Agreement (TISA) — that could further ship good-paying jobs overseas and leave American workers to pay the tab for the private sector's cheap labor, cheap goods and huge profits.

The first battle in the war against the TPP, TTIP and TISA could come as soon as Congress returns to Capitol Hill after the election. It is then that lawmakers could consider whether to approve fast-track trade authority that would limit debate on trade deals and ban amendments. Only an up-or-down vote would be permitted on trade pacts if fast track is approved.

The Teamsters have joined with other allies to urge lawmakers not to move on fast track and instead create a new vehicle for trade deals. But the fate of such an effort is contingent on whether

elected officials actually care about the issue.

So where do the Teamsters and workers go from here? They've seen the destruction that NAFTA and trade pacts already in place have brought. It proves one thing — we don't need any more free trade agreements, we need fair trade agreements!

It is clear that now is the time to stop letting massive corporations ship American jobs overseas and in the process dump U.S. wages overboard along the way. This country needs to rebuild the middle class and that will only come if trade deals include provisions that protect workers.

Faternally,

JAMES P. HOFFA
TEAMSTERS GENERAL PRESIDENT



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New Jersey economic group backs two-person train crews

A leading economic group in the state of New Jersey, comprised of labor and business leaders, is supporting national legislation that would mandate two-person train crews throughout the United States.

The New Jersey Society for Environmental, Economic Development (NJ SEED) recently issued a letter supporting the BLET's efforts to advance H.R. 3040 in the U.S. House of Representatives as well as similar legislation on the state level.

"NJ SEED is committed to working to preserve two-person crews for the ... safety of our railways and citizens," wrote Michael K. Drulis, Executive Director of NJ SEED. "The stakes are too high to do otherwise; the safest and securest workplace for the nation's railroads, their employees and the public at large is one that includes a minimum of a two-person crew."

H.R. 3040, also known as the Safe Freight Act, would mandate that "no freight train or light engine used in connection with the movement of freight may be operated unless it has a crew consisting of at least 2 individuals, one of whom is certified under regulations promulgated by the Federal Railroad Administration as a locomotive engineer pursuant to section 20135, and the other of whom is certified under regulations promulgated by the Federal Railroad Administration as a conductor pursuant to section 20163."

"Both the engineer and conductor are critical to train operations — working symbiotically — dependent on one another for proper and sound procedures," according to NJ SEED's letter of support. "Paramount to the issue of crew size for train operations is ensuring safety on the nation's rails. Instances in the past have proven that two-person crews play a vital role in working

with first responders to protect the public and work in effort to guarantee safe practices."

Dennis R. Pierce, National President of the BLET, thanked Executive Director Drulis and NJ SEED for supporting two-person train crews and recognized Brother Matt Kronyak, Chairman of the BLET's New Jersey State Legislative Board, for educating the members of NJ SEED regarding this important safety issue.

NJ SEED is the leading voice in New Jersey for environmental balance and economic growth, focusing on issues such as maintaining New Jersey's transportation infrastructure and its port facilities. @@

FOR A COPY OF NJ SEED'S LETTER, PLEASE CLICK HERE:
WWW.BLE-T.ORG/PR/PDF/NJ_SEED_2_PERSON_CREWS.PDF

DIVISION 523 COLLECTING DONATIONS FOR MEMBER WHO NEEDS KIDNEY TRANSPLANT

The members of BLET Division 523 are soliciting donations for retired member Jerry D. Cloke, who is in need of a kidney transplant.

Brother Cloke, 63, was forced to retire from the railroad in 2010 after suffering from the effects of diabetes. Since that time, Brother Cloke's kidneys have been failing to the point that he needs to have a kidney transplant.

Brother Cloke and his family have been selling their personal possessions in an effort to raise the \$5,000 necessary to pay for the medications required immediately after the transplant. He and his wife of 24 years have one child living at home.

The members of BLET Division 523 (Chickasha, Okla.) have volunteered to set up a fund to take donations, led by 2nd Vice Local Chairman Zac Walton, Secretary-Treasurer David Boiles, and Member Kevin Hayes.

Brother Cloke has been a member of the BLET since April 1, 1991, and worked for the Union Pacific Railroad in Kansas and Chickasha, Okla., before his retirement. Brother Cloke was a member in good standing at the time of his retirement.

Donations to help Brother Cloke should be made payable to the "Jerry Cloke Kidney Transplant Fund" and mailed to the following:

Jerry Cloke Kidney Transplant Fund
First National Bank
602 Grand Ave.
Chickasha, OK 73018

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enter your email address to begin receiving the most current news from the BLET National Division.

It is a great way to keep informed on the most recent issues impacting your job, your contract and your Brotherhood.

UP General Chairman Bill Hannah reelected by acclamation



Brother D.W. "Bill" Hannah was reelected by acclamation to his fifth term as General Chairman of the Union Pacific-Western Lines General Committee of Adjustment at quadrennial meetings in San Diego, Calif., on September 16, 2014.

Brother Hannah is a member of BLET Division 56 (Colton, Calif.). He joined the Brotherhood on February 1, 1979, and has served as General Chairman since 2001, winning reelection by acclamation in 2003, 2007, 2010 and now 2014.

Also elected were: 1st Vice Chairman B.P. Carr, Division 692 (Tracy, Calif.); 2nd Vice Chairman C.V. Houston, Division 415 (Roseville, Calif.); 3rd Vice Chairman J.E. Cayer Jr., Division 123 (Phoenix, Ariz.); Secretary-Treasurer C.H. "Chuck" Fleming III, Division 192 (El Paso, Texas); and Alternate Secretary-Treasurer L.J. "Luis" Chavez Jr., Division 283 (Oakland, Calif.).

In addition to General Chairman Hannah, Brother Carr, Brother Fleming and Brother Chavez were reelected by acclamation. Brother Fleming begins his third full term as Secretary-Treasurer.

"Congratulations and thank you to Brother Hannah and all the officers of the Union Pacific-Western Lines General Committee of Adjustment for their service to our Brotherhood," BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce said. "Brother Hannah has been elected by acclamation again to the office of General Chairman, which is a rousing en-

dorsement of the great job he has done — and continues to do — representing his membership."

Representing the BLET National Division at the quadrennial meeting were: National President Pierce; First Vice President E. Lee Pruitt; National Vice President Mike Twombly; and National Vice President Rick Gibbons. Brother Hannah succeeded Lee Pruitt as General Chairman of the UP-Western Lines in 2001, following Brother Pruitt's election to the Advisory Board.

The following General Chairmen were also in attendance: Dick Crow, Union Pacific-Northern Region; Jim Dayton, Union Pacific-Western Region; and Ronnie Rhodes, Union Pacific-Central Region.

The following Legislative Brothers were also in attendance: Terry Briggs, Texas State Legislative Board Chairman; Nick Johnson, Arizona State Legislative Board Chairman; Tim Smith, California State Legislative Board Chairman; and Ryan Snow, California State Legislative Board 1st Vice Chairman.

The BLET's Union Pacific-Western Lines General Committee of Adjustment is comprised of 19 different BLET Divisions, representing more than 1,800 active locomotive engineers and trainmen 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. ©©

Kertesz reelected at Pennsylvania State Legislative Board meeting

Chairman Ken Kertesz was reelected by acclamation to his fourth term at the Pennsylvania State Legislative Board's quadrennial meeting in Hershey, Pa., from September 13-15, 2014.

Brother Kertesz is a Delaware & Hudson locomotive engineer and member of BLET Division 263 in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. He first joined the Brotherhood on January 1, 1974. The 2014 quadrennial marked the third consecutive time he has been elected to the Chairman's position by acclamation.

Also elected by acclamation were: 1st Vice Chairman Jim O'Neill, Division 483 (Philadelphia, Pa.); 2nd Vice Chairman Jeff Johnson, Division 71 (Philadelphia, Pa.); and Secretary-Treasurer Tim Laveing, Division 325 (Wilkesburg, Pa.).

Members of the Board's Ex-



Ken Kertesz, Chairman, Pennsylvania State Legislative Board

ecutive Committee were also elected by acclamation: Pete Fernandez, Division 757 (New Castle, Pa.); and Steve Gothreau, Division 276 (Allentown, Pa.).

Representing the BLET Na-

tional Division at the meeting and addressing the delegates were: National President Dennis R. Pierce; First Vice President E. Lee Pruitt; National Secretary-Treasurer William

C. Walpert; Vice President and National Legislative Representative John P. Tolman; and National Vice President Stephen J. Bruno.

"Congratulations and thank you to Brother Kertesz and all members and officers of the Pennsylvania State Legislative Board," President Pierce said. "Brother Kertesz and his officers will have a lot of work ahead in the realm of politics as Pennsylvania will once again play an important role in the November elections and again in 2016. I have every confidence they will do a fine job."

Sereena Hogan, Vice President and National Legislative Representative of the BLET Auxiliary, was also in attendance and addressed the delegation.

Additional BLET guests included: Dave Kearsing, New York State Legislative Board Chairman; Herb Harris, District

of Columbia Legislative Board Chairman; Matt Kronyak, New Jersey State Legislative Board Chairman; and Tim Price, 1st Vice Chairman of the Ohio State Legislative Board.

Other guest speakers included: State Representative Jim Marshall (R-14); Pennsylvania AFL-CIO President Rick Bloomingdale; Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Frank Snyder; and Mark McDermott, a motivational speaker from Washington state who, among other items, discussed labor history.

The BLET Pennsylvania State Legislative Board represents more than 2,300 active and retired members from seven different railroads belonging to 19 different BLET Divisions. Brother Kertesz is its third chairman of the Pennsylvania State Legislative Board since it was founded in 1986. ©©

Hanely Reelected Ohio Legislative Chair at 15th Quadrennial Convention

Timothy R. Hanely was reelected by acclamation to his third term as Chairman of the Ohio State Legislative Board at the Board's 15th Quadrennial Convention held in Columbus, Ohio, May 1-2, 2014.

Chairman Hanely is a member of BLET Division 34 in Columbus, Ohio, and has been a member of the BLET since 1995. He was first elected Chairman of the Ohio State Legislative Board in April of 2006.

Also reelected by acclamation were: First Vice-Chairman Tim T. Price, Division 607 (Cleveland, Ohio); 2nd Vice Chairman Daniel A. DeSelms, Division 4 (Toledo, Ohio); Secretary-Treasurer Edward J. Patterson, Division 894 (Columbus, Ohio); and Alternate Secretary-Treasurer Brian D. Garrison, Division 306 (Crestline, Ohio).

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce congratulated these Brothers on their election. Representing the National Division at the meeting were First Vice President E. Lee Pruitt and Vice President & National Legislative Repre-



Brother Tim Hanely



First VP Lee Pruitt

sentative John P. Tolman.

"I thank Brother Hanely and all officers of the Ohio State Legislative Board for their ongoing dedication to our Brotherhood, and I have every confidence that they will continue doing an excellent job of representing our members in the Buckeye state," President Pierce said. "They will have their work cut out for them as Ohio will once again play a key role in national elections in November and in 2016."

Sereena Hogan, National Vice Presi-

dent of the BLET Auxiliary, addressed the group.

Special BLET guests included: General Chairman Billy Lyons, CSX-Northern Lines General Committee of Adjustment; State Legislative Board Chairman Tony Dimond, Wisconsin; State Legislative Board Chairman Ken Kertesz, Pennsylvania; and State Legislative Board Chairman B.J. Trumble, Michigan.

Robert F. Hagan, a member of BLET Division 757 and State Representative of

Ohio District 58, also addressed the group regarding his plans for Ohio's seat in the United States Senate. In 1986, Hagan was first elected to a seat in the Ohio House of Representatives, representing the 53rd Ohio House district, centered in Youngstown, Ohio. Over the next 27 years, he has served in both the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio State Senate.

Additional guest speakers included: State Representative Connie Pillich, Ohio's 28th District; State Representative Tim Leston, District 64; Heather Miller, Oregon City School Board; Matt Dietrich, Executive Director of the Ohio Rail Development Commission; and Kenny Yuko, candidate for Ohio's 25th Senate District.

Also addressing the body was Jennifer Garrison, a candidate for Ohio's 6th Congressional seat. Her brother, Matt F. Dierig, a CSX locomotive engineer and Vice President of BLET Division 489 (Covington, Ky.)

The Ohio State Legislative Board represents more than 2,600 active and retired members in 25 local Divisions. @@



VP & NLR John Tolman



Tom Davis, Division 511



Sereena Hogan, BLET Auxiliary



Senator Bob Hagan



General Chairman Billy Lyons

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Brian J. Farkas elected chairman of Indiana State Legislative Board

Brian J. Farkas was elected by acclamation to serve as Chairman of the Indiana State Legislative Board at the Board's quadrennial meeting in Indianapolis, October 8-9, 2014.

Brother Farkas is a CSX locomotive engineer who has held continuous membership in BLET Division 121 (Indianapolis, Ind.) since September 1, 1997.

Also elected to the Board's Executive Committee were: 1st Vice Chairman James R. Radtke, Division 548 (Peru, Ind.), re-elected by acclamation; 2nd Vice Chairman Michael Harting, Division 754 (Elkhart, Ind.), re-elected by acclamation; Secretary-Treasurer Carl W. Fields, Division 682 (Hammond, Ind.), re-elected by acclamation; and Alternate Secretary-Treasurer Chris Hubbard, Division 343 (Princeton, Ind.), elected by acclamation.

All terms of office become effective November 1, 2014. Incumbent Chairman C. Ray Ford, Division 742 (Evansville, Ind.), who has served in that role since August 2013 following the retirement of Bill Verdeyen, will continue serving as Chairman until November 1.

Officers representing the BLET National Division at the meeting were: National President Dennis R. Pierce; and Vice President and National Legislative Representative John P. Tolman.

"I offer my congratulations and sincere



Members, officers and guests during the 2014 meeting of the Indiana State Legislative Board.

thanks to all officers of the Indiana State Legislative Board for their commitment to representing our members in the proud state of Indiana," President Pierce said. "Brother Farkas is a bright young man and a dedicated union officer. I have every confidence that he will excel in his new role as Chairman of the Indiana State Legislative Board. I would also like to thank Ray Ford for his leadership during his chairmanship of the Board after Brother Verdeyen retired."

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.

Brother Carl Fields, Coordinator of the BLET Safety Task Force (STF), gave a presentation regarding hazardous materials that focused on crude oil and ethanol transportation by rail.

Representative Scott Pelath (D-District 9, Michigan City, Ind.), the ranking minority leader of the Indiana House, was on hand to address the delegates. Also, the delegates heard a presentation from Mr. Sherrill Benjamin, U.S. Department of Labor, regarding the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) whistleblower program.

The Indiana State Legislative Board consists of 22 Divisions representing more than 1,200 locomotive engineers and trainmen throughout Indiana. @@



Retired ISLB Chairman Bill Verdeyen



National President Dennis Pierce



VP & NLR John Tolman

SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT for BLET DISABILITY AND WELFARE BENEFIT TRUST FUND

This is a summary of the annual report for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen Disability and Welfare Benefit Trust Fund, 30-0262584/501, for 01/01/2013 through 12/31/2013. The annual report has been filed with the Employee Benefits Security Administration, as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

The plan has two contracts with Metropolitan Life Insurance Company to pay certain claims incurred under the terms of the plan. The total premiums paid for the plan year ending 12/31/2013 were \$7,656,568.

Basic Financial Statement

The value of plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan, was \$8,286,046 as of 12/31/2013, compared to \$6,985,377 as of 01/01/2013. During the plan year the plan experienced an increase in its net assets of \$1,300,669. This increase includes unrealized appreciation or depreciation in the value of plan assets; that is, the difference between the value of the plan's assets at the end of the year and the value of the assets at the beginning of the year or the cost of assets acquired during the year. The plan had total income of \$9,202,293, including employer contributions of \$6,911,592, employee contributions of \$2,053,325, gains of \$104,137 from the sale of assets and earnings from investments of \$133,239. Plan expenses were \$7,901,624. These expenses included \$242,089 in administrative expenses and \$7,659,535 to insurance carriers for the provision of benefits.

Your Rights to Additional Information

You have the right to receive a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, on request. The items listed below are included in that report:

1. An accountant's report;
2. Financial information and information on payments to service providers;
3. Assets held for investment;
4. Transactions in excess of 5% of plan assets; and
5. Insurance information including sales commissions paid by insurance carriers.

To obtain a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, write or call the office of Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, who is Plan Administrator, at 1370 Ontario Street, Standard Building Mezzanine, Cleveland, OH, 44113-1702, (216) 241-2630. The charge to cover copying costs will be \$4.50 for the full annual report, or \$0.25 per page for any part thereof.

You also have the right to receive from the plan administrator, on request and at no charge, a statement of the assets and liabilities of the plan and accompanying notes, if any, or a statement of income and expenses of the plan and accompanying notes, if any, or both. If you request a copy of the full annual report from the plan administrator, these two statements and accompanying notes, if any, will be included as part of that report. The charge to cover copying costs given above does not include a charge for copying of these portions of the report because these portions are furnished without charge.

You also have the legally protected right to examine the annual report at the main office of the plan at 1370 Ontario Street, Standard Building Mezzanine, Cleveland, OH, 44113-1702 and at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington DC, or obtain a copy from the U.S. Department of Labor upon payment of copying costs. Requests to the Department should be addressed to: Public Disclosure Room, Room N-1513, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20210.



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UP General Chairman Dick Crow elected by acclamation

Dick Crow was elected by acclamation to his first full term as General Chairman of the Union Pacific-Northern Region General Committee of Adjustment during quadrennial meetings in Las Vegas, Nevada, September 24-25, 2014.

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 convention in 2010, and became General Chairman in December of 2012 following the retirements of long-serving General Chairman Bruce MacArthur and his 1st Vice Chairman and successor, Mike Elsberry. Brothers MacArthur and Elsberry had each held office for seven terms.

Also elected by acclamation were: 1st Vice Chairman Joe Cummins, Division 683 (Chicago); 2nd Vice Chairman Kevin Christians, Division 6 (Boone, Iowa); and 3rd Vice Chairman David G. Johnstone, Division 333 (St. Paul, Minn.). Brother Chris Wagner, Division 405 (Milwaukee, Wisc.), was elected to serve as Secretary-Treasurer, and Brother Mike Abell, Division 96 (Chicago, Ill.), was elected Alternate Secretary-Treasurer.

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce addressed the delegates.

"I congratulate Brother Crow and all officers of the Union Pacific-Northern



Members and officers of the Union Pacific-Northern Region General Committee of Adjustment, September 25, 2014.



President Pierce and GC Crow.



Brother Joe Cummins and his wife, Mary.

Region GCA and thank them for their dedication to our Brotherhood," President Pierce said. "I have every confidence that they will continue doing an excellent job of representing their hard

working members."

Additional guest speakers representing the BLET National Division included First Vice President E. Lee Pruitt, National Secretary-Treasurer William C.

Walpert, and National Vice President Michael D. Twombly.

Other distinguished guests from the BLET included General Chairman Ronnie Rhodes, UP-Central Region; General Chairman Warren Dent, UP-Southern Region; UP-General Chairman Dave Geisler, UP-Eastern District; General Chairman Bill Hannah, UP-Western Lines; and General Chairman Jim Dayton, UP-Western Region.

The Union Pacific Northern Region General Committee of Adjustment represents approximately 1,000 locomotive engineers and trainmen, who work for the Union Pacific Railroad and Metra commuter lines. @@

Memorial service to be held for son of Alabama SLBC M.D. Frank

David "Ryan" Frank, the son of BLET Alabama State Legislative Board Chairman M.D. Frank, passed away on October 4, 2014. Ryan Frank was 31 years old.

Frank is survived by the love of his life Nicole C. Pawenski and their two children Isabella Nicole Frank and Jace Ryan Frank. He is also survived by his father M.D. Frank and his wife Kelley; his mother Sharon Willis Bassette and her husband Dan; three brothers Michael Jason Frank (Teresa), David William Frank III and Jackson Andrew Walters; and a sister Kristen Nicole Frank. Additionally, he is survived by grandmother, Lois "Honey" Willis; and two nephews, Tate Frank and Josh Frank (Lindsay).

"The BLET was saddened to hear of the passing of Ryan Frank," BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce said.



David Frank

"The loss of one so young is always tragic, and is never an easy thing for loved ones to go through. Ryan's family and friends have our deepest sympathy, and I extend the thoughts and prayers of all BLET members to Brother Frank and all of Ryan's family and friends."

A memorial service was held for Ryan on October 19, 2014, at the Centre at Arbor Place.

In lieu of flowers or cards, the family requests that memorial gifts be made to the college funds of the children of Ryan Frank. Anyone wishing to donate can go to any Wells Fargo Bank branch and fill out a savings deposit slips in the name of Isabella Frank (birth date July 9, 2006) or Jace Frank (birth date August 25, 2010). The family asks that all contributors place their names on the deposit slips so they may thank contributors for their gifts. @@

AIRD, KRONYAK HIRED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 <--

how I approach my work as a union officer," Aird said. "The challenges that face us today are no different than the struggles that our forefathers in this organization faced at the time of our inception. We must stand together in these turbulent times to face the attacks of those who seek to destroy our way of life."

Brother Kronyak hired out on Conrail as a trainman on February 23, 1993. He earned promotion to locomotive engineer on May 26, 1995. In 1999, when Conrail was split between Norfolk Southern and CSX, Brother Kronyak elected to work for CSX. Immediately prior to his full-time appointment, Brother Kronyak served as Chairman of the New Jersey State Legislative Board (NJSLB). He was first elected to that position on March 26, 2010, and then reelected by acclamation in March of 2013. Brother Kronyak also is Local Chairman of BLET Division 235 (Union City, N.J.) and also Vice Chairman of the Conrail (SAA-CSX Northern District) General Committee of Adjustment. He was elected Local Chairman of Division 235 in 2000 and has held the po-

sition for the past 14 years, having been reelected by acclamation four times.

"Dedication and knowledge through education are two of the things that make for a good union officer," Brother Kronyak said. "I have won many discipline cases over the past 14 years, and if not for the training I received through the BLET's Education and Training Department, I do not believe I would have had the know-how to win some of them."

One of Brother Kronyak's proudest accomplishments as Chairman of the NJSLB was facilitating a formal Affiliation Agreement between his State Legislative Board and Teamsters Joint Council #73, which represents over 62,000 Teamsters within New York and New Jersey. It marked the first time in the United States that a BLET subordinate body became affiliated with a Teamster Joint Council. Both Teamsters General President Hoffa and BLET National President Pierce signed off on the agreement.

"Again, I am proud to welcome Brother Aird and Brother Kronyak to our BLET National Division staff," President Pierce said. "I have every confidence that our members will be well served by their professionalism and dedication." @@

RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT AND SICKNESS BENEFITS WILL SLIGHTLY DECREASE UNDER ADJUSTED SEQUESTRATION RATE

Beginning October 1, 2014, the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) reduced railroad unemployment and sickness insurance benefits by 7.3 percent, up from the current 7.2 percent reduction, due to federal budget cuts first implemented in March 2013.

These reductions are required under the Budget Control Act of 2011 and

a subsequent sequestration order to implement the mandated cuts. The law exempted social security benefits, as well as railroad retirement, survivor, and disability benefits paid by the RRB, from sequestration.

The adjusted reduction amount is based on revised projections of benefit claims and payments under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.

It will remain in effect through September 30, 2015, the end of the fiscal year. Reductions in future fiscal years, should they occur, will be calculated based on applicable law.

The daily benefit rate is \$70, so the 7.3 percent reduction in railroad unemployment and sickness benefits will reduce the maximum amount payable in a 2-week period with 10 days of un-

employment from \$700.00 to \$648.90.

Certain railroad sickness benefits are also subject to regular tier I railroad retirement taxes, resulting in a further reduction of 7.65 percent. Applying the 7.3 percent reduction to these sickness benefits will result in a maximum 2-week total of \$599.26.

When sequestration first took effect in March 2013, railroad unemploy-

ment and sickness benefits were subject to a 9.2 percent reduction. This amount was then adjusted to 7.2 percent in October 2013.

In fiscal year 2013, the RRB paid more than \$11.7 billion in retirement and survivor benefits to about 592,000 beneficiaries, and net unemployment-sickness benefits of \$90.7 million to more than 26,000 claimants. @@



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Photo of the Month: October 2014

SEATTLE SOUNDER: Sound Transit in the Seattle service contracts with the BNSF Railway to supply train and engine crews, meaning that members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen run these passenger trains. According to Brother John Cox, the members who run these trains belong to either BLET Division 518 and Division 238. Brother Cox has been a BLET member since July 1, 1980. Photo: John Cox, BLET Division 518



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 September 2014 Activity

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

NATIONAL PRESIDENT DENNIS R. PIERCE: National Division Office, Cleveland; General supervision of BLET activities; General office duties; Correspondence and telephone communications; Supervision of Office Administration; General Supervision of Special Representatives; President, Teamsters Rail Conference; Policy Committee, Teamsters Rail Conference; Southwest-ern Convention Meeting (SWCM), St. Louis, Mo.; Illinois State Legislative Board mtg., St. Louis; Pennsylvania State Legislative Board mtg., Hershey, Pa.; Union Pacific-Western Lines GCA mtg., San Diego, Calif.; Union Pacific-Northern Region GCA mtg., Las Vegas; BLET Third National Convention, Las Vegas.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT E.L. (LEE) PRUITT: National Duties include but not limited to: Director, Passenger Dept.; Shortline Organizing Dept.; Trainmen's Dept.; National Publications Committee; National Legislative Board; Teamsters Rail Conference Policy Committee; PRAC; and National Negotiations; SWCM regional mtg., St. Louis; Inward facing cameras, Washington, D.C.; Pennsylvania State Legislative Board mtg., Hershey, Pa.; UP-Western Lines GCA mtg., San Diego; BLET Third National Convention, Las Vegas.

NATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER WILLIAM C. WALPERT— General supervision of accounting dept., records dept., online services dept., tax compliance dept.; Education & Training Dept.; Internal Organizing, Mobilizing & Strategic Planning Dept.; Meetings with vendors and financial institutions; Publications Committee; Teamsters Rail Conference Policy Committee; Trustee, National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust (NRRIT); SWCM regional mtg., St. Louis; Pennsylvania State Legislative Board mtg., Hershey, Pa.; UP-Northern Region GCA mtg., Las Vegas; BLET Third National Convention, Las Vegas.

VICE PRESIDENT & NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE JOHN P. TOLMAN — Assigned to BLET Washington, DC office; General office duties, telephone and correspondence communications; Coordinate content of NLO website; Weekly PAC committee and legislative mtgs.; RSAC inward facing cameras working group, Washington, D.C.; SWCM regional mtg., St. Louis; Pennsylvania State Legislative Board mtg., Hershey, Pa.; Mtgs. at IBT headquarters regarding 2014 midterm elections, Washington, D.C.; Presentation on behalf of President Pierce to the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference convention, Ottawa, Ontario; BLET Third National Convention, Las Vegas; Various meetings and functions with Representatives and Senators.

VICE PRESIDENT MARCUS J. RUEF: Vice Chairman, full NRAB; Labor Member, 1st Division; Labor Member, National Mediation Board Arbitration Advisory Forum; Director of BLET Arbitration Dept; Assigned to Illinois Central; Wisconsin Central; Indiana Harbor Belt; and Belt Railway of Chicago; Assist GC Reynolds w/ discipline case, WC, Chicago; NRAB 1st Division grievance mediation, NRAB, Chicago; SWCM regional mtg., St. Louis; Assist GC Cundari w/ Illinois Rwy. issues, Chicago; ROAR/NRAB Labor Members' Caucus, Chicago; NRAB annual mtg., Section 3 committee mtg., NRAB, Chicago; NARR Convention, Chicago; Assist GC Craddock w/ discipline issues, IC; BLET Third National Convention, Las Vegas.

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE TWOMBLY: Assigned to all Union Pacific GCAs (Eastern District, Northern Region (former C&NW), Western Lines (Pacific Harbor Lines), Western Region (Portland & Western), Central Region, Southern Region; On duty at home office; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications, etc.; UP-Central Region grievance mediation, Chicago; SWCM regional mtg., St. Louis; UP-Western Lines GCA mtg., San Diego; UP-Southern

Region, UP-Western Region conference, Chicago, Ill.; UP-Northern District GCA mtg., Las Vegas; BLET Third National Convention, Las Vegas.

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

VICE PRESIDENT MICHAEL D. PRIESTER: Assigned to all BNSF (former ATSF, former C&S, CRI&P, FWD, former STL-SF, BNSF/MRL), Panhandle Northern, Missouri & North Arkansas, Montana Rail Link, Great Western; Texas Pacifico; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications, etc.; Mtg. w/ BNSF, GC Wilson and Div. 517, Minneapolis; Mtg. w/ MRL, GC Wilson and Divisions 232 and 262, Missoula, Mont.; SWCM regional mtg., St. Louis; National Association of Railroad Referees (NARR) mtg., Chicago; BLET Third National Convention, Las Vegas.

VICE PRESIDENT COLE W. DAVIS: Assigned to: Kansas City Southern (MidSouth Rail, SouthRail, Gateway Western, Illinois & Midland), Texas Mexican Rwy.; CP Rail System/US (Indiana Southern, Iowa, Chicago & Eastern, Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern); Springfield Terminal (St. Lawrence & Atlantic, Delaware & Hudson), Cedar River, Louisville & Indiana, Huron & Eastern; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications, etc.; CPRR& DM&E issues, assisting GC Semenak; KCS issues, assisting GC Parker; Mid South issues, assisting GC Craddock; Springfield Terminal issues and Delaware & Hudson issues, assisting GC Moore; SWCM regional mtg., St. Louis, Mo.; Huron & Eastern agreement, GC Latrig; Division 37 mtg., NS-Eastern Lines, Bristol, Tenn.; TexMex issues, assisting GC Rodriguez; Midwest Rail Craft Scholarship Fund, Excelsior Springs, Mo.; BLET Third National Convention, Las Vegas.

VICE PRESIDENT STEPHEN J. BRUNO: Assigned to various Rail Safety Advisory Committees (RSAC); Regulatory duties as assigned by the President; Amtrak; Long Island Rail Road; New York & Atlantic; Metro North; New Jersey Transit; PATH; SEPTA; Metra; Union Railroad; Birmingham Southern; Internal reports, telephone calls, correspondence, email, general office duties, etc.; Vacation; SWCM regional mtg., St. Louis; Pennsylvania State Legislative Board mtg., Hershey, Pa.; Mtg. w/ SEPTA GCA and General Counsel, Philadelphia; Coordinate political contacts, re: expiration of cooling off period, SEPTA, Philadelphia; NJT contract negotiations, economic analysis, Washington, D.C.; PATH contract negotiations, Newark, N.J.; BLET Third National Convention, Las Vegas.

VICE PRESIDENT R.C. (RICK) GIBBONS: Assigned to: All Norfolk Southern General Committees; Wheeling & Lake Erie; Chicago, Fort Wayne & Eastern; New York, Susquehanna & Western; New England Central; Connecticut Southern; Western New York & Pennsylvania; Indiana & Ohio; Ohio Central; RSAC/RSIA Fatigue Management Group; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications; Labor Day holiday; NS negotiations w/ GC Wallace, Peek and Dehart, Norfolk, Va.; SWCM regional mtg., St. Louis, Mo.; UP-Western Lines GCA mtg., San Diego, Calif.; PLB 7574 and PLB 7663 w/ GC Wallace and Peek, Norfolk, Va.; BLET Third National Convention, Las Vegas.

BLET MEMBERS TO KEEP HEALTH FSA PLAN FOR 2015

Members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen will keep their Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA) through 2015 thanks to the level of participation in the money-saving plan.

A negotiated benefit obtained in the 2012 national contract, the FSA allows members to use pretax dollars to pay for certain medical expenses that are not covered under any health plan (including a railroad health & welfare plan) or any other source. The plan could allow members to save hundreds of dollars per year in taxes.

The 2012 contract stipulates that at least 7.5% of eligible engineers must participate in the FSA in the



Your Track to Health

2015 Plan Year or the Carriers would have the right to terminate the plan. Following the conclusion of the Open Enrollment for 2015, 7.9% of eligible BLET members had enrolled in the program. This number is down from last year's participation number of 8.6% but still above the 7.5% threshold to keep the plan. All future Plan Years, from 2015 forward, have to have a minimum of a 7.5% participation level in order to avoid possible cancellation of the FSA plan.

Except as noted at the end of this

paragraph, members eligible for the plan include locomotive engineers and Tex-Mex train service employees covered by the Health & Welfare portion of the most recent National Agreement, dated January 5, 2012. The national FSA is distinct and separate from the on-property BNSF FSA plan. The participation rates identified in this News Flash do not apply to BNSF engineers.

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce thanked all BLET members who are participating in the plan and cred-

ited the efforts of the BLET's National Mobilization network and the grassroots approach of our local officers for helping the Organization to reach the necessary participation level this year. He also encouraged more members to sign up for the 2016 Plan Year and beyond.

"This is a good program that will help members save money," President Pierce said. "I am optimistic that participation levels will increase as members spread the word about its benefits and become more familiar with the positive aspects of the plan."

Any members with questions regarding the FSA should call United Healthcare at (877) 311-7849 or visit <https://www.yourtracktohealth.com/>.