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BLET HOLIDAY GREETINGS pg.5

# Locomotive

ENGINEERS & TRAINMEN NEWS

DECEMBER  
2008

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Photo: International Brotherhood of Teamsters



## Obama Victory

BLET, Teamsters' massive election push for change helps lead Obama to historic victory

**THE TEAMSTERS**, the world's most powerful labor union, unleashed its largest election mobilization in history, helping land Barack Obama in the White House and putting worker friendly candidates in key offices at

every level in the country. ¶ "Our 1.4 million members demanded change and we marshaled our forces in unprecedented numbers for this historic election," said Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa. "There is no

doubt that we made the difference. I congratulate Senators Barack Obama and Joe Biden on their well-deserved victory, and our Teamster members who worked tirelessly on their behalf." CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

SEE BLET GENERAL COMMITTEE, STATE LEGISLATIVE BOARD ELECTION RESULTS pg.6

## Hours of Service Q&A now available online

**T**he Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen has made available a list of Frequently Asked Questions regarding changes to the Hours of Service Act that are going into effect following passage of the 2008 Rail Safety Bill.

The document is available for download as a PDF from the BLET website at: <http://www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/HOSEFAQ.pdf>

The FAQs concerning the new Hours of Service provisions represent the un-

derstanding and interpretation of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen only. They are subject to clarification, correction, and/or revision upon the Federal Railroad Administration publishing formal interpretations of applicable statutory provisions. They pertain only to "train employees" (i.e., operating craft employees), and



not to any other employees governed by the Hours of Service Act (e.g., signalmen and train dispatchers).

The FAQs address key areas such as recordkeeping; extra board issues; pool jobs; home terminal and away from terminal issues; working six consecutive days with two days off ("6&2"); the 276 hour monthly cap; un-

disturbed rest; eligibility to work; and a host of other related issues.

The National Division continues to field questions from the General Chairman regarding various scenarios that arise under the revised Hours of Service Act, and will continue to seek clarification from the Federal Railroad Administration. @@

When available, updates will be provided on the BLET website.

Photos: iStock

EDUCATION &  
TRAINING DEPARTMENT

**Workshop For Local Chairmen**  
concluded November 7 in Silver Spring, Md. **pg2**

**Health Care News**

Employee cost sharing to rise, but not as much as expected. **pg3**



**FELA Directory**

Important contact information for BLET Designated Legal Counsel. **pg4**



## BLE Local Chairmen Workshop

Numerous BLET Local Chairmen, Vice Local Chairmen and Vice General Chairmen recently completed an in depth workshop conducted by the BLET Education & Training Department. The five-day workshop was held from November 2-7 on the campus of the National Labor College/George Meany Center in Silver Spring, Md.

**Row one, from left:** David Beverly, Local Chairman Div. 226, NS, Southern Lines; Gregg Tansey, Local Chairman Div. 483, Amtrak; Jack Cawley, Local Chairman Div. 11, Amtrak; Sereena Hogan, 1st VP and NLR



BLET-Auxiliary; Ken Kroeger, Coordinator of Education & Training & Special Representative; and William Walpert, National Secretary-Treasurer and Director of BLET Education & Training Department.

**Row two, from left:** Eddie

Atkins Jr., Local Chairman Div. 291, NS Eastern Lines; Jack Sweeny, Vice Local Chairman Div. 776, BNSF-ATSF; Oscar W Perez Jr., Vice-Local Chairman Div. 103, UP Eastern District; Charles Gardner Jr., Local Chairman Div. 54, NS Northern Lines; and Gary Kickhafer,

Local Chairman Div. 261, UP Eastern District.

**Row three, from left:** Jerry Sturdivant, Local Chairman Div. 110, NS Southern Lines; Eddie Stump, Vice Local Chairman Div. 271, CSXT Western Lines; and Robby Cunningham, Vice Local Chairman Div. 134, BNSF-ATSF.

**Row four, from left:** Stacey Monson, Local Chairman Div. 846, UP Western Region; Marcus Ruef, BLET Vice President; Warren Dent Jr., Div. 187, Vice General Chairman, UP Southern Region; Ben Blissett, Coordinator, BLET Safety Task Force; David Sease, Local Chairman Div. 711, UP Southern Region; Lynn Underhill, Local Chairman Div. 416, Portland & Western, Short Line GCofA; Doug Davidson, Assistant Director of Arbitration / Labor Member - NRAB; and Rick Radek BLET Vice President & Director of Arbitration.

## OBITUARIES

### Francis R. Byers, FORMER CONRAIL VICE GENERAL CHAIRMAN

Francis R. Byers, former Chairman of Conrail Seniority District E and Alternate General Chairman, died after suffering a stroke on November 8.

Brother Byers, 87, is fondly remembered by his fellow BLET members as a dedicated leader who devoted 35 years of his life to union service. He hired out on the Pittsburgh Division of the former Pennsylvania Railroad, joining the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers on June 4, 1947.

He served the Brotherhood for many years as Local Chairman of Division 325 before earning promotion to the office of Vice General Chairman in 1968.



**Brother Byers** provided leadership during Conrail chaos.

He assumed the title of District Chairman of former Conrail Seniority District E, and also held the office of Alternate General Chairman for Conrail.

He retired in June of 1982 and

received a 60-year BLET membership pin in 2007. Upon his retirement, Brother Byers' position was filled by W.A. Thompson, current 2nd Vice Chairman of the Norfolk Southern-Southern Lines General Committee of Adjustment.

Thompson said Brother Byers provided strong leadership during the tumultuous formation of Conrail during the mid 1970s and early 1980s.

"Brother Byers was a mentor to myself and many others on the Conrail system," Brother Thompson said. "He was very instrumental in the early years of my training as a union officer, and for that I am eternally grateful. I am proud to have known

him and fortunate to have worked with him over the years."

Brother Byers was born January 11, 1921. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Evelyn; and is survived by sons John, Michael, Patrick and daughter Bonnie. He is also survived by three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

"Frannie was a devoted union man who always went that extra mile to protect his membership," BLET National President Ed Rodziewicz said. "He was also a devoted and loving family man. On behalf of the Brotherhood, I extended deepest condolences to his family and friends." @@

#### As of May 31, 2008

4 — A. G. Kosier  
13 — S. P. Blank  
55 — R. A. Bell  
182 — R. L. Boyd  
182 — D. F. Ehemann  
182 — R. H. Lakin  
190 — T. D. Childs  
190 — H. E. Johnson  
190 — C. R. Lake  
190 — C. T. Winters  
269 — F. M. Battaglia  
316 — D. W. Fluellen  
325 — C. B. Barr  
325 — J. F. Burich  
325 — L. R. Clark Jr.  
325 — P. G. Clark  
325 — L. F. Clark  
325 — A. W. Collins  
325 — R. J. Cooper  
325 — S. F. Eberharter  
325 — G. O. Fairbanks  
325 — W. B. Goodlin  
325 — D. E. Hall  
325 — E. F. Herold  
325 — P. C. Hollabaugh  
325 — E. A. Jennings  
325 — P. F. Joseph  
325 — R. Kaczmarek  
325 — J. M. Kindervater  
325 — J. C. Kinney Jr.  
325 — C. P. Kunkle  
325 — E. C. Lambert  
325 — R. H. Leach  
325 — J. M. Lear  
325 — M. G. Leasher

325 — G. W. Lewis  
325 — I. H. Mosley Jr.  
325 — W. W. Oaks  
325 — A. J. Penrose  
325 — W. J. Porter  
325 — M. E. Potts  
325 — R. F. Quinn  
325 — J. H. Reefer  
325 — P. R. Schwab  
325 — W. J. Simmons  
325 — R. W. Smith  
325 — W. A. Stevens  
325 — W. G. Thompson  
325 — A. F. Townsend  
325 — M. H. Williams  
325 — L. E. Wills Jr.  
325 — J. J. Worbuck  
325 — A. E. Wygant  
739 — R. Bader

#### As of June 30, 2008

6 — D. A. Faux  
48 — D. T. Cool  
182 — R. H. Lakin  
183 — P. J. Rindone  
224 — E. B. Schlegel  
232 — R. A. Benson  
269 — E. R. DeCeck  
382 — T. A. Evans III  
482 — C. R. Eierman Jr.  
496 — D. R. Buchanan

#### As of July 31, 2008

33 — G. W. Leist  
110 — H. G. Guyton Jr.  
126 — C. F. Greene

129 — W. B. Weatherford  
130 — L. C. Mallon  
160 — A. E. Eskelson  
187 — D. L. Howard Jr.  
190 — J. L. Bowen  
190 — R. Deskins  
205 — D. S. Cox  
269 — H. J. Edgar  
304 — W. P. Fitzpatrick  
383 — J. T. Wright  
503 — E. T. Barrett  
504 — J. G. Harrington  
682 — R. G. Byrom  
758 — W. J. Seifert

#### As of August 31, 2008

4 — G. R. Bryant  
34 — T. R. Gilliam  
84 — C. K. Bradley  
84 — F. Hallums Jr.  
104 — L. A. Gaston  
190 — B. A. Handwork  
348 — M. L. Simmons  
421 — R. L. Balliet  
517 — P. A. Corbett  
671 — A. R. Hanson  
851 — T. P. Giblin  
920 — E. L. York

#### As of September 30, 2008

23 — J. R. Austin  
104 — D. E. Henrichs  
186 — V. L. Jorgensen  
204 — P. T. Myers  
206 — T. J. Jones  
369 — W. J. Stewart

439 — N. W. Broad Jr.  
456 — B. S. Turner  
463 — T. G. Mayne  
523 — R. D. Pendarvis  
585 — J. B. Standley  
662 — S. W. McLaughlin  
766 — D. G. Hartman  
782 — J. R. Walker

#### As of October 31, 2008

6 — M. R. Oltman  
13 — R. W. Allen  
40 — J. E. Hall Jr.  
41 — D. J. McCallum  
55 — J. H. Tooley  
74 — W. J. McEwen IV  
78 — M. E. Speer  
123 — J. T. Wahlen  
183 — G. K. Primmer  
200 — H. W. Notz Sr.  
236 — C. C. Custer  
263 — J. E. Hogancamp  
269 — D. G. Bender  
369 — L. D. Zezza  
450 — R. J. Alawine  
473 — G. B. Tucker  
489 — C. G. Arnold  
491 — J. W. Phipps  
497 — R. Calvin  
714 — R. D. Bailes  
758 — R. L. Rouse  
777 — H. V. Mentch  
899 — T. L. Rapier  
940 — J. W. Maxfield

2009

## Calendar & Events

January 13-16, 2009

**BLET Education & Training Department LM-2 GCofA Secretary-Treasurer Workshop**

The BLET Education & Training Department will conduct a workshop for all Secretary-Treasurers who file an LM-2 Report for their General Committee of Adjustment or Division. The workshop will be held at the School for Workers, University of Wisconsin-Extension, Pyle Center, in Madison, Wisc. For registration details, contact Ken Kroeger, Kroeger@ble-t.org, or cell phone: (216) 272-0986.

June 7-12, 2009

**82nd Annual Southeastern Meeting Association, Gatlinburg, Tenn.**

Brother John Mason, Local Chairman of BLET Division 239 (Knoxville, Tenn.), is Chairman of the 2009 SMA in Gatlinburg, Tenn. It will be held at the Park Vista Hotel & Conference Center (705 Cherokee Orchard Road, Gatlinburg, TN 37738; Phone: (865) 436-9211). The room rate will be \$103 per night. To contact Brother Mason, call (865) 523-2684 email: scooterloco@comcast.net or LNM67@comcast.net.

July 5-9, 2009

**71st Annual Eastern Union Meeting Association, Philadelphia, Pa.**

Brother Sean Simon, Vice President of BLET Division 226 (Newark, N.J.), is Arrangements Chairman of the 2009 EUMA in Philadelphia, Pa. It will be held at the Hyatt Regency Philadelphia at Penn's Landing (201 S. Columbus Blvd., Philadelphia, PA 19106; Phone: (215) 928-1234. The room rate will be \$169 per night. To contact Brother Simon, call (609) 558-6405 or email: EUMA2009@aol.com.

BROTHER SIMON NOTES THAT THE EUMA IS MAKING AVAILABLE A LIMITED NUMBER (40) OF ROOMS AT \$199 PER NIGHT FOR THE JULY 4 WEEKEND (JULY 2, 3, 4). THIS WILL COINCIDE WITH PHILADELPHIA'S "WELCOME AMERICA" CELEBRATION, WHICH INCLUDE FREE CONCERTS AND FIREWORKS ON THE WATERFRONT, IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO THE HOTEL. DEADLINE TO BOOK THESE ROOMS IS FEBRUARY 28, 2009, AFTER WHICH THEY MUST BE RELEASED BACK TO THE HOTEL. THE CONVENTION RATE (\$169 PER NIGHT SINGLE OR DOUBLE OCCUPANCY, ADDITIONAL FOR TRIPLE OR QUADRUPLE OCCUPANCY) IS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR THE THREE DAYS FOLLOWING EUMA, AND ALSO MUST BE BOOKED PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 28.

August 9-14, 2009

**69th Annual International Western Convention, Green Bay, Wisc.**

Brother John Reynolds, Wisconsin Central General Chairman and member of BLET Division 209 (Green Bay, Wisc.), is Chairman of the 2009 IWC in Green Bay, Wisc. It will be held at Radisson Hotel & Conference Center Green Bay (2040 Airport Drive, Green Bay, WI 54313; Phone: (920) 494-7300). The room rate will be \$94 per night. To contact Brother Reynolds, call (920) 462-4509 or email: JReynoldsBLET@newbc.rr.com.





## HEALTH CARE

# Cost sharing increase less than national average

Rail worker cost-sharing contributions toward health and welfare coverage will increase slightly next year, but the increase will not be as much as originally anticipated.

The monthly contribution will increase from \$166.25 per month to \$170.96 per month beginning January 1, 2009. However, it was expected that the rate would increase to as much as \$192 per month.

Health care for all rail labor unions is negotiated jointly through the Cooperating Railway Labor Organizations (CRLO). CRLO is a joint policy holder with the carriers of the Railroad Employees National Health and Welfare Plan, and participates in annual rate-setting meetings on an equal footing with the carriers.

According to the CRLO, the favorable trend in the medical premium for 2009 is in large part due to the removal of almost 20,000 ineligible dependents from the Plan through the recent eligibility audit — a savings of about \$30 million for 2009.

In addition, medical claims are predicted to increase at a far lower rate than the national average of all insurance plans due to the implementation of several significant plan improvements, such as Nurse Line, Custom Care Coordination, Disease management, Integrated Behavioral Health, and Wellness Programs (Healthy Weight and Smoking Cessation). All of these changes are designed to improve the health and medical treatment of participants, and thereby reduce the frequency and severity of illness.

**"Our cost-sharing increase was far lower than expected and well below the national average, which is a significant accomplishment."**

— BLET NATIONAL PRESIDENT ED RODZWICZ.

The monthly premium rate for the medical portion of the Plan increased a very modest 2.1% to \$1,061.46. The Life and Accidental Death and Dismemberment premium decreased 10% to \$12.30, while the Dental Plan rate increased by 23.3% to \$55.98. The Vision Plan rate remained the same at \$10.00.

Employee cost-sharing amounts were set by the 2007 National Agreements at 15% of the premium rates for the above four components of members' insurance coverage (Medical, Life, Dental and Vision). The total amount of the four components for 2009 is \$1,139.74, which is an increase of \$31.40, or 2.8% over 2008. The 2009 cost-sharing amount is thus 15% of \$1,139.74, or \$170.96, an increase of \$4.71 over the current amount of \$166.25.

"Our cost-sharing increase was far lower than expected and well below the national average, which is a significant accomplishment," said BLET National President Ed Rodziewicz. "The BLET will continue to work diligently along with the CRLO to keep employee cost sharing to a minimum while moving ahead with the constant improvement of our membership's benefits." @@



Photo: iStock

## >> FEDERAL EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT (FELA)

### Protection from retaliation

Carrier's often retaliate against their injured employees. These laws can help protect you.

**"Under the right circumstances... these laws are powerful weapons for the protection of injured railroaders."**

In the last few years, railroaders who report injuries have confronted increasingly vindictive carriers. The carriers often retaliate against their injured employees with discipline and terminations. Fortunately, FELA lawyers have found some creative ways to protect their injured clients from retribution by the carriers.

For clients who are not old enough to retire, the value of their jobs often far exceeds the value of any settlement or judgment that they might get after an injury. There are a host of state and Federal laws that can sometimes help an employee keep his or her job, even if they face retaliation or even a disability.

First of all, even though grievances about working conditions, pay and even terminations must be grieved under the collective bargain-

ing agreement (CBA), railroads are still covered by state and Federal employment discrimination law. That means that no matter what happens in a claim under the CBA, the railroad cannot discipline or fire their employees for reasons that are otherwise illegal.

Second, successful plaintiffs can recover damages for lost wages, emotional distress and attorney fees under most of these laws. Many of the laws allow a court award punitive damages and to force a carrier to reinstate a dismissed employee.

#### HERE ARE SOME LAWS THAT CAN BE USED TO PROTECT RAILROADERS:

##### • Federal Whistleblower

**Law:** In August of 2007, a new law Federal law went into affect. That law prohibits carriers from retaliating against any employee who reports an injury or a condition that threatens to cause a serious injury. Employees can make a claim either as a grievance handled by their union, or they can make a complaint through OSHA. If OSHA dismisses the complaint, it can be brought in court.

• **State wrongful discharge laws.** In many states it is illegal to retaliate against employees because they report injuries or sue their employers.

• **Family Medical Leave Act.** Under state and Federal Family Leave laws, it is illegal to retaliate against someone because they have applied for Family leave, or because they have taken family leave. Many employees who have been injured may be subject to protection under state or Federal Family Leave laws when they take time off to recuperate from their injuries. Courts can also force the carrier to allow the employee to take leave.

• **Disability discrimination.** Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and similar state laws, it is illegal for an employer to discriminate against an employee because they have a disability. Moreover, employers may have an obligation to accommodate an employee with a disability, and it is also illegal to discriminate against an employee who has asked for an accommoda-

tion or even because the employer thinks the employee is disabled. These laws also generally permit a court to order the carrier to accommodate a disability.

It is important to remember that these laws almost always require cases to be started within two years or less — sometimes as soon as six months after the violation. Also, litigation under these laws is much more complicated than under the FELA. Under the right circumstances, however, these laws are powerful weapons for the protection of injured railroaders. @@

#### Submitted by:



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# BLET FELA Directory

As of November 26, 2008

Our union has designated attorneys who are qualified to serve as counsel for BLET members in accordance with the Federal Employers' Liability Act (FELA) governing workplace accidents. In the event of an injury or death and before reaching any settlement with a railroad, members or surviving families should contact an attorney listed to get

competent advice concerning their legal rights under the FELA. In addition, if you or any members of your family have questions concerning medical malpractice, product liability or other types of injury cases, please don't hesitate to contact one of these law firms for a consultation concerning your rights and remedies. @@



## Arkansas

**Kujawski & Associates, P.C.**  
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**John P. Kujawski**

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**www.rcvpc.com**  
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**Fax:** (904) 256-0019  
**www.moodyrllaw.com**  
**Willard J. Moody Jr.**

**Sams & Hollon, P.A.**  
Baywood Center  
9424 Baymeadows Road, Suite 160  
Jacksonville, FL 32256  
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**John P. Kujawski**

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**Scott C. Sands**

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**James L. Farina**

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**Email:** Benbsaunders@aol.com  
**Ben B. Saunders**

## Massachusetts

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**Fax:** (617) 720-2445  
**www.tenlaw.com**  
**Email:** rnaumes@tenlaw.com  
**Robert T. Naumes**

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**Email:** ej@leizerman.com  
**E.J. Leizerman**

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## New York

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**www.rcvpc.com**  
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**James L. Cox Jr.**

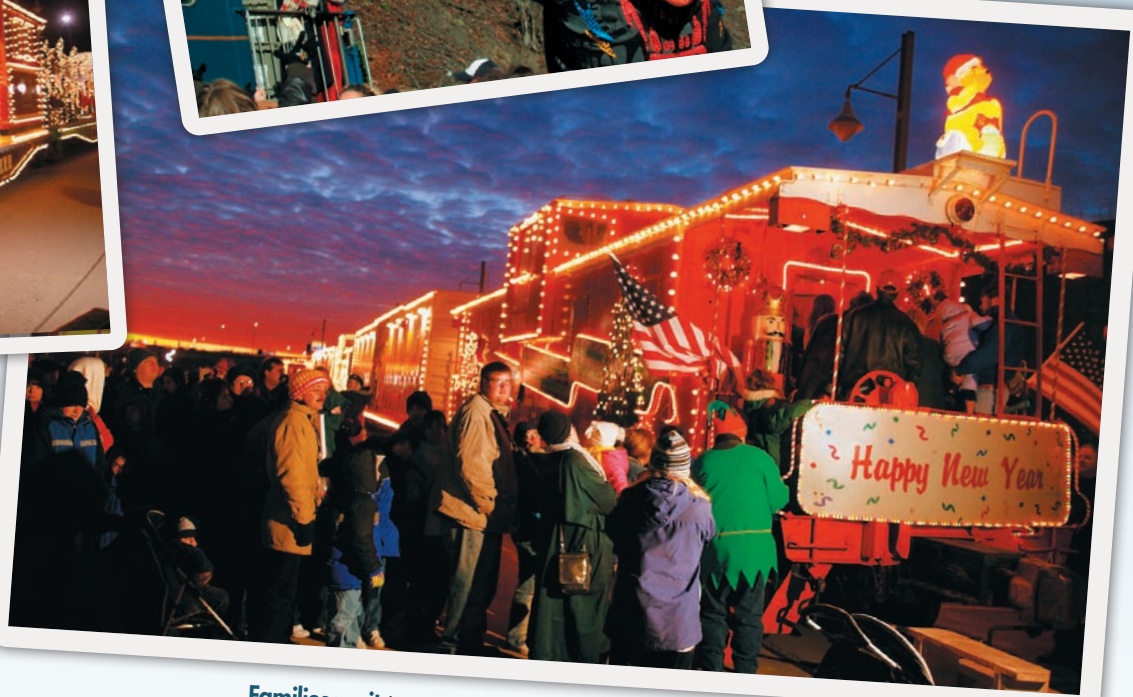




The Kansas City Southern Holiday Express Train features "Rudy," a smiling tank car.



Volunteers distribute toys to children from the CSX Santa Claus Special.



Families wait to see Santa Claus in the caboose of the KCS Holiday Express Train.

## Merry Christmas from the BLET Executive Committee

The BLET and its members have many things to be thankful for during this joyous time of year. Our country elected a union-friendly President in November, and increased the union-friendly majority in the House and Senate as well. Congress also passed legislation to improve rail safety — one of the biggest safety overhauls in decades.

The Brotherhood has seen many Christmas holidays come and go since our organization was founded in 1863, but the one thing that has remained the same is our hard working, dedicated and professional membership.

May the spirit of the season

warm your heart, and may the Lord's bright blessing be with you and your family during this holiday season.

Faternally yours,

*Edward W. Rodzicz*

EDWARD W. RODZICZ  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

*Paul T. Sorrow*

PAUL T. SORROW  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

*William C. Walpert*

WILLIAM C. WALPERT  
NATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

## Merry Christmas from the BLET Auxiliary

The Christmas Season always brings home the importance of family, friends and loved ones. During this holiday season, please remember those cannot be with us — our loved ones who keep the railroads running, our family and friends who have de-

parted this life, and our troops serving overseas. With all of life's trials and tribulations, we still have much to be thankful for.

On behalf of the National Auxiliary, we wish you a blessed holiday and a bright and prosperous New Year!

*Becky Schneider*

BECKY SCHNEIDER  
PRESIDENT

SEREENA HOGAN  
VICE PRESIDENT/  
NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE REP.

ANITA CARUSO  
SECRETARY

HELEN BRAND  
TREASURER

GINA FORMAN  
1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT

DIANE SHIFFLETT  
2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT  
ASST. NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE REP.

DELAINE MORRIS  
3<sup>RD</sup> VICE PRESIDENT

LINDA MAHER  
CHAPLAIN

KATHY YAMBRA  
ALT. SECRETARY

DEBBIE KEELE  
ALT. TREASURER

ONITA WAYLAND  
PAST PRESIDENT

## More Christmas Trains

Visit our online gallery at [www.ble-t.org](http://www.ble-t.org)

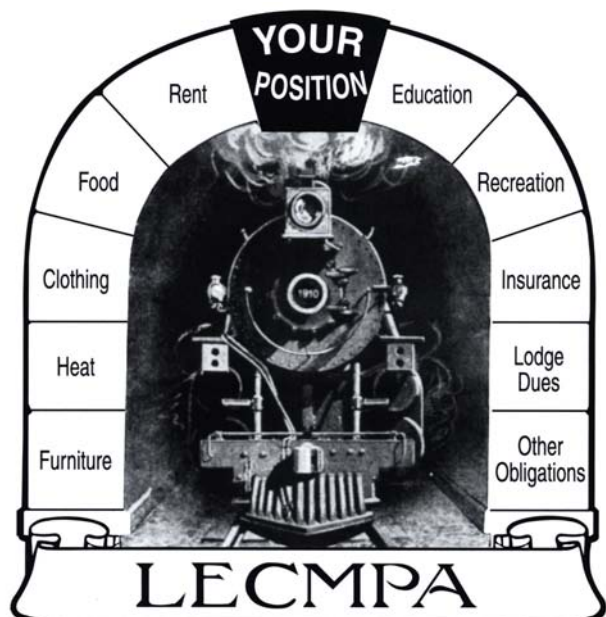
Happy Holidays from the BLET National Division officers and staff!

## Locomotive Engineers & Conductors Mutual Protective Association

4000 Town Center • Suite 1250 • Southfield, MI 48075-1407

(800) 514-0010 • (313) 962-1512

Fax: (877) 633-1910 • E-Mail: [lecmpa1910@lecmpa.org](mailto:lecmpa1910@lecmpa.org) • Web: [www.lecmpa.org](http://www.lecmpa.org)



Job Protection Headquarters for Transportation Employees  
Since 1910

## Obama headline

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

More than 40,000 Teamsters volunteered for the union's massive member mobilization efforts. Hoffa and General Secretary-Treasurer Tom Keegel barnstormed key battleground states across the country on multiple trips, talking to Teamster members and motivating them to volunteer and go to the polls for Obama.

The BLET played a key role in the Obama victory as well, generating support among rail and transportation workers. The BLET National Legislative Office in Washington, D.C. — in conjunction with the State Legislative Board Chairmen — helped coordinate worksite leafleting campaigns, mailings, phone banks, and an early-voting campaign that encouraged members to vote by absentee ballot.

"You have chosen who will lead this country, and we are in a lot better shape today than we were before the election," said John Tolman, BLET Vice President and National Legislative Representative. "We now have a President who believes, as we believe, in the strength and value of American workers, who will ensure that railroad workers are protected in mergers, who will ensure that Amtrak is funded, and who will ensure that FELA and Railroad Retirement will survive well into the future."

Vice President Tolman also said there is now a labor-friendly majority in both

the U.S. House and U.S. Senate, "which will enable us to get more pro-worker legislation."

In addition, the BLET National Division sent a special mailing to active and retired members in key swing states, which helped turn the tide in Obama's favor in such states as Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

All this was part of the Teamsters' impressive get-out-the-vote push, which included:

- More than 2.6 million direct mail pieces
- More than 1.6 million phone calls
- More than 40,000 volunteers
- More than 1 million Teamster job sites visited
- 54,687 Teamsters signed up for election text messaging
- 4.5 million doors knocked as part of Change to Win

Also, Teamsters conducted precinct walks, canvassed neighborhoods, drove voters to the polls and countless other activities. The union also incorporated new technology, like text messaging, predictive dialer phone banking, national and targeted-state interactive teleforums and microtargeting of swing voters.

"This is a great day -- a historic day," Hoffa said. "Now let's get this country unified and working for regular, middle-class Americans again. We elected a great man, but we can't stop here because our real work starts now." ©



# '08 BLET Election recap

## Pat Williams reelected as General Chairman, BNSF Santa Fe GCA

**P**at J. Williams was re-elected to a third term as General Chairman of the BNSF (Santa Fe) General Committee of Adjustment by the delegates at meetings in Reno, Nevada, which concluded on October 30.

Brother Williams is a member of Division 446 (Belen, N.M.), and he first joined the Brotherhood of August 1, 1977.

"I very much appreciate the opportunity again to serve the members of the Santa Fe Committee, and the BLET for another three years," Brother Williams said. "I'm still 100 percent committed to the protection of my members and the betterment of our working rules."

The BNSF (Santa Fe) General Committee is composed of 35 Divisions representing 2,650 engineers and trainmen. The meetings took place at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, which will also be the site of the BLET 2010 national convention.

In addition to General Chairman Williams, the delegates elected a full slate of officers including: Alan Holdcraft (Division 776, Galveston, Texas), First Vice Chairman; Gary Harper (Division 383, Needles, Calif.), Coast Lines Regional Chairman; Bret Anderson (Division 500, Cleburne, Texas), Northern/Southern Regional Chairman; Dave Nelson (Division 391, Fort Madison, Iowa), Eastern Lines Regional Chairman; and Rick Switzer (Division 811, Clovis, N.M.), Western Lines Regional Chairman.

Delegates also returned Roland P. Kleinsorge (Division 398, San Bernardino, Calif.) to the office of Secretary-Treasurer for second full term.

"I'm thankful to be given the opportunity to serve the committee for another term and very much appreciate the confidence that the members have placed in me once again," Brother Kleinsorge said.

Chris Moser (Division 871, Slaton, Texas) was elected to the office of Alternate Secretary-Treasurer.

Various committees conducted business during the meeting, including the Audit Committee, which examined the financial records of the General Committee. In addition, the delegates considered several changes to the Bylaws, discussed FRA Emergency Order 26 regarding the use of wireless devices on locomotives, and the Rail Safety legislation re-

cently enacted by the Congress and signed by President Bush on October 16.

Delegates also created an educational fund to provide for training of local chairmen within the Committee.

Numerous guests addressed the group including BLET National President E. W. Rodziewicz. He discussed the new Rail Safety legislation and spoke about preparations for the next round of national wage/rule negotiations.

First Vice-President Paul T. Sorrow explained current efforts by the National Division to organize non-union rail properties in the U.S. and told delegates that the Executive Committee was fully united in their efforts and determination to see the Brotherhood function to its fullest capacity to serve the members.

National Secretary Treasurer William C. Walpert gave a full report regarding the financial condition of the National Division. He pointed to a gain of almost 10,000 members in a span of less than 10 years, saying "I do not believe there is another labor union in the U.S. that has seen the membership gains we have in the BLET in this time frame."

John P. Tolman, BLET Vice President and National Legislative Representative, spoke about the process that led to the enactment of the new Rail Safety bill and provided a written summary to the delegates. He explained how the Brotherhood actively promoted early voting as the best option for members in irregular train and engine service to make sure their vote will be counted.

BLET Vice President Stephen D. Speagle, who is assigned to the Committee from the National Division, was in attendance and remained for the entirety of the meetings, which he served as parliamentarian.

The following BLET Designated Legal Counsel firms provided educational information and hospitality during the meetings, including a dinner-banquet: The Crow Law Firm; Jones & Granger; Pfister Law Corporation; Rossi, Cox, Vucinovich P.C.; Rathmann & O'Brien, L.L.C.; Schlichter, Bogard & Denton; and, Tavormina & Young, L.L.P.

The Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (BRCF) sponsored a luncheon. BRCF International President



**Front row, from left:** Steve Speagle, BLET National Vice President; Pat Williams, General Chairman; Kaye Capps, GCofA Office Secretary; Mark Banton, Div. 500; and Roland Kleinsorge, Secretary-Treasurer. **Second row, from left:** Jeremy McFather, LC Div. 446; Gary Roth, LC Div. 64; Alan Holdcraft, LC Div. 776; Ray Young, LC Div. 256; Doug Miller, LC Div. 739; Danny Smith, LC Div. 344; Dave Nelson, LC Div. 391.2; and Steve Hariu, LC Div. 636. **Third row, from left:** Lew Fraser, LC Div. 215; John Atchison, LC Div. 777; Russell Moore, LC Div. 863; Bill Paahler, LC Div. 75; Rudy Borrego, LC Div. 662; Oscar Burrola, LC Div. 839; Lawrence Kridler, LC Div. 206; and Garry Tutor, LC Div. 249. **Fourth row, from left:** Gordy Cutright, LC Div. 458; Joe Maloy, LC Div. 299; Ron Hagar, LC Div. 462; Mike Lane, VLC Div. 141; Stan Haessig, LC Div. 391.3; Rick Switzer, LC Div. 811; and Jeff Boatman, LC Div. 553. **Fifth row, from left:** Dick Lyon, LC Div. 130; Ken Kyer, LC Div. 647; Ron Hrzich, LC Div. 400; T. K. McGeehee, LC Div. 201; Garry Harper, LC Div. 383; Carl Anderson, LC Div. 505; Jorge Gomez, LC Div. 264; and Chris Moser, LC Div. 871. **Back row:** Brett Anderson, LC Div. 500; Dwayne Tafoya, LC Div. 791; Jimmy Johnson, LC Div. 134; and Tod Byrd, LC Div. 398.

Mark J. Robb pointed out that the North American Rail Foundation, which received start-up capital from BRCF, has made grants totaling \$2.1 million to BLET units over the past nine years.

The CPA Insurance Company sponsored refreshments for the meeting breaks. Their representative, Leonard Baca, was present for the meeting.

The Locomotive Engineers and Conductors Mutual Protective Association (LECMAPA), with headquarters in Southfield, Mich., also sponsored a luncheon and was represented by regional sales director Bob Brown.

"I sincerely want to thank all the sponsors who helped to make this event a pleasant one and for creating the opportunity for our delegates to spend time together outside of the regular daily meetings in a more informal setting," General Chairman Williams said.

Brother Williams expressed thanks for several other general chairmen who attended the meeting, including: R.C. Gibbons, BNSF (former St. Louis & San Francisco); M.D. Priester, CP Rail System - U.S.; and, Matt O. Wilson, BNSF-MRL.

Charlene Payne of United Health Care gave a presentation to delegates and attendees, as did Debbie Rein of the Rathmann law firm concerning Railroad Retirement and disability benefits. ©

## Rich Darcy new NJ Transit General Chairman

**B**rother Richard J. Darcy was recently elected General Chairman of the BLET's New Jersey Transit General Committee of Adjustment.

Brother Darcy is a member of BLET Division 373 in Trenton, N.J. He has held continuous membership in the Brotherhood since September 1, 1977.

"Congratulations to Brother Darcy and all elected officers of the New Jersey Transit General Committee," BLET National President Ed Rodziewicz said. "Our passenger rail engineers and an integral part of our Brotherhood and I know Brother Darcy will do an excellent job of representing his members."

Also elected at the meeting were: Vice General Chairman David C. Decker (Division 272, Dover, N.J.); and Alternate Secretary Treasurer George Petrie (Division 373). Also, Brother Jim Chappelle was reelected to the office of GCofA Secretary-Treasurer. Chappelle, a member of BLET Division 53 in Jersey City, N.J., also serves the Brotherhood as Chairman of the New Jersey State Legislative Board.

Chairman Darcy said the delegates to the meeting approved important by-laws changes that make the GCofA more responsive to the needs of the membership.

He also said the delegates debated several issues facing the NJ Transit membership, including changes to the Hours of Service law, a peer training initiative, internal organizing, and the FRA Confidential Close Call Reporting System to improve rail safety.

"Our thanks to each elected BLET officer on New Jersey Transit for fulfilling the duties of office," Chairman Darcy said.

Brother Darcy was elected to fill a vacancy created by the retirement of former General Chairman Bob Vallochi.

The BLET's New Jersey Transit General Committee of Adjustment represents more than 400 hard-working members. ©

## Kevin Moore elected General Chairman of combined ST/D&H/StL&A/MM&A GCofA

**Kevin Moore** was elected by acclamation to his first term as General Chairman of the combined Springfield Terminal, Delaware & Hudson, St Lawrence & Atlantic, and Montreal Maine & Atlantic General Committee of Adjustment by the delegates in meetings on October 21. He will take office on January 1, 2009.

Brother Moore is a member of Division 191 (Lunenburg, Mass.). He first joined the Brotherhood on February 1, 1995.

"I look forward to serving the Brothers and facing the challenges that this office will

bring," Brother Moore said. "Thank you for your support in electing me to this position."

The combined General Committee of Adjustment is composed of eight BLET Divisions representing approximately 190 members. The meetings took place at the Clarion Hotel in Albany, N.Y.

Current General Chairman John Brown, who is retiring from active duty after serving as an elected officer of the BLET for more than 23 years, presided over the meeting.

In addition to General Chairman Moore, the delegates elected a full slate of officers including: Steve

Vaughan of Division 311 as 1st Vice General Chairman; James Thomas of Division 87, 2nd Vice General Chairman; and Dean Santore of Division 112 as Alternate Vice General Chairman.

The delegates returned Bruce Cushing of Division 112 to the office of Secretary-Treasurer for his fourth full term.

During the course of the meetings, activity reports were read and Brother Cushing presented a financial report to Committee. The delegates considered several changes to their Bylaws.

National Vice President Mike Twombly represented

the National Division at the meeting. He discussed FRA Emergency Order 26 regarding the use of wireless devices on locomotives, and the Rail Safety legislation recently enacted by the Congress and how it was expected to affect the Hours of Service.

At the close of the meeting, Vice President Twombly addressed the delegates assembled speaking of his close friendship with Brother Brown.

"Thank you, Brother Brown, for your selfless and faithful service throughout your 23 years as an elected Officer of this great organization," Twombly said. ©





## Muscha reelected Chairman of N.D. State Legislative Board

Delegates attending the quadrennial meeting of the North Dakota State Legislative Board have returned Mike Muscha by acclamation as Chairman in meetings that concluded on August 15 in Bismarck, N.D.

Brother Muscha is a member of BLET Division 671 (Enderlin, N.D.). He has held continuous membership in the BLET since he joined on November 1, 1979. This will be Brother Muscha's sixth term as Chairman of the North Dakota Board. He was elected to two-year terms in 1990 and 1992, and then to four-year terms in 1996, 2000, 2004 and 2008.

Other officers elected during the sessions were: First Vice Chairman R.K. Huff of Division 746 (Mandan, N.D.); Second Vice Chairman R.D. Albrightson of Division 695 (Minot, N.D.); and Secretary-Treasurer D.E. Altringer of Division 160 (Harvey, N.D.).

"It is a privilege and honor



**Newly elected officers of the North Dakota State Legislative Board.** Seated, from left: Mark Boushee, Division 69; Charlie Wiek, Alternate Secretary-Treasurer; and Ron Huff, 1st Vice Chairman. Standing, from left: Mike Huson, Division 746; Rod Albrightson, Division 695; Mike Muscha, Chairman; and Dean Altringer, Secretary-Treasurer.

to be allowed to continue in my service to the BLET and its members here in North Dakota," said Brother Muscha. "I have an outstanding team on my Board and, thanks to their hard work with the BLET PAC, we can help win some important elections this fall."

All five North Dakota divisions sent delegates to the two-day business meeting. The delegates revised the Board's By-

laws, audited the financial records, heard from several candidates for state political office, endorsed candidates, and discussed matters of policy and strategy for the upcoming general elections.

Invited guests included BLET First Vice President Paul T. Sorrow, who made a formal presentation to the delegates.

"Congratulations to Brother Mike and the members of

his Board on behalf of the National Division," First Vice President Sorrow said. "It was a pleasure for me to spend this time with our members here in North Dakota. They are good hearted people who have the best interests of the Brotherhood at the forefront of their deliberations."

John P. Tolman, BLET Vice President and National Legislative Representative, also addressed the delegates.

"We have all been witness to past election cycles," he said, "but this fall's election will either mark the survival of the middle class in the United States or ensure its demise."

Other guests included: Mike Priester, General Chairman, CP Rail/U.S. GCofA; Craig L. Thurow, Secretary-Treasurer, CP Rail GCofA; Craig Gilchrist, Chairman, Montana State Legislative Board; and R.A. Olson, BNSF Twin Cities Division Safety Coordinator and BLET Division 746 Local Chairman. ©©

## Wilmesher elected chairman of Colorado SLB

**Jim Wilmesher** was elected by acclamation to the office of Chairman of the BLET's Colorado State Legislative Board during the Board's Fourth Quadrennial meetings in Westminster, Colo., from September 26-29.

Brother Wilmesher, a BNSF locomotive engineer, is a member of BLET 256 in Denver. He joined the BLET on February 1, 1998.

Also elected by acclamation during the meeting was Brother Kevin Utterback (Division 47-Denver), who will serve as 1st Vice Chairman. Other officers elected during the meeting were: Steve Wareham (Division 488-Grand Junction), 2nd Vice Chairman; Paul Pearson (Division 133-Denver), Secretary-Treasurer; and Mike Bevirt (Division 940-Denver), Alternate Secretary-Treasurer.

Outgoing Chairman Mike Weston (Division 186-Denver) did not seek reelection due to the fact that he is scheduled to retire prior to the expiration of the Chairman's next four-year term in 2012. However, he was elected to serve as Chaplain to finish out his career with the Board.

"Mike Weston was very emotional about handing over the reins," Wilmesher said. "Mike said he enjoyed every moment he's spent with the members working on their behalf. He received tremendous applause for his effort, hard work, and dedication to the Colorado State Legislative Board."

In addition to Brother Weston, other Board members who did not seek reelection due to pending retirements were Dennis Parker and Lew Fraser.

"Thanks to Dennis Parker (Div 133-Denver) for all his work and vigilance as 1st Vice Chairman," Wilmesher said. "Dennis has been with the Colorado State Legislative Board from the beginning in 1996 and has passed on his torch when his alternate (Paul Pearson) became our new Secretary-Treasurer."

"Thanks also to our 2nd Vice Chairman Lew Fraser (Division 215), from ar-



**From left:** Outgoing officers Ken Casper, LR; Mike Weston, Chairman; Jim Wilmesher, new Chairman; Dennis Parker, 1st Vice Chairman; Lew Fraser, 2nd Vice Chairman; and Kevin Utterback, Alt. S/T.

guably the smallest and most distant division (Grand Junction, Colo.)," Chairman Wilmesher said. "Lew has participated as Legislative Representative and Local Chairman for his division and handled each with vigor. He will be a difficult man to replace."

Chairman Wilmesher said that the Fourth Quadrennial was a success — and although it occurred during an extremely busy time legislatively speaking (with the Democratic National Convention, financial crisis, and national elections) — the new leadership is prepared to take the reins.

"I thank all those in attendances for their contribution and hard work over the last four years," he said. "I thank the Executive Board for their efforts above and beyond the norm. I specifically want to thank George Last, Steve Patterson (former S-T), and Mike Weston, for including me, mentoring me, and having confidence in me to follow in their footsteps."

"Finally, we all owe a lot to George Last for having the vision to get the Board started and to invigorate it through his 12 years of service."

"I look forward to working with my LR's in handling the business of the Colorado Legislative Board and serving the members we represent." ©©

## Jim Louis elected Chairman of NY State Legislative Board

**James P. Louis** was elected Chairman of the New York State Legislative Board at meetings held in Grand Island, N.Y.

He is a member of BLET Division 421 (Buffalo, N.Y.), and he joined the BLET in 1987. He also serves as Alternate General Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer of the Conrail SAA/CSXT Northern District General Committee of Adjustment.

Also elected at the meeting were: Vice Chairman Davis Kearsing, Division 46; Secretary-Treasurer James Daddino, Division 269; and Alternate Secretary-Treasurer Gregory Lund, Division 421.

Brother Louis will fill the shoes of outgoing Chairman John Collins (Division 421), who held the job for the past 23 years. "I would like to thank John Collins for his 23 years of service to the Brotherhood," Louis said. "As our Board's longest running chairman, he spent years mentoring BLET members and officers of the New York State Legislative Board."

BLET National President Ed Rodziewicz thanked Brother Collins for his years of dedicated service to the Brotherhood.

"Brother Collins provided valuable leadership for our members and has been a steady force within our Brotherhood for many years," President Rodziewicz said. "Thank you for your faithful service."

Louis is a CSX engineer who hired out as a trainman for Conrail on August 6, 1976. He earned promotion to engineer on July 9, 1987. His service to the NYSLB began in 1989 as Legislative Representative of Division 659, and he has served the Board continuously ever since.

"Jim Louis and his Board will do an excellent job representing the interests of all members in New York," President Rodziewicz said. He and his wife Janet have two sons, Shaun and Chris, who are both Eagle Scouts.

The New York State Legislative Board represents 1,200 members throughout New York, including both freight and passenger lines. ©©

## Tim Craver elected Chairman of Virginia State Legislative Board

**Delegates** Delegates attending the quadrennial meeting of the Virginia State Legislative Board elected Tim R. Craver as Chairman in meetings that concluded here on October 21.

Brother Craver is a member of BLET Division 532, Richmond, Va. He joined the Brotherhood on December 1, 1998.

"It is a privilege and honor to be allowed to continue in my service to the BLET and its members here in Virginia," Brother Craver said. "I have an outstanding team on my Board. Thanks to their hard work with the BLET PAC and the continued contributions to the BLET PAC by our members we can help win some important elections this fall."

Other officers elected during the sessions were: First Vice Chairman Marlon Ward (Division 38, Clifton Forge, Va.); Second Vice Chairman Michael Coleman (Division 561, Richmond, Va.); and Secretary-Treasurer, Jeff Wood (Division 26, Richmond, Va.).

Auditing Committee Members consist of Robert Lassiter, Jr., Division 456; Michael Coleman, Division 561; and Marlon Ward, Division 38.

Executive Board Members consist of Kim Bartee, Division 37; Barry Fannon, Division 167; Marlon Ward, Division 38; and Robert Lassiter, Jr., Division 456.

By-Laws Committee Members consist of Eddie Atkins, Division 291; Barry Fannon, Division 167; Marlon Ward, Division 38.

Ten of 11 divisions sent delegates to the three-day business meeting. The delegates revised the Board's By-Laws, audited the financial records, endorsed candidates, and discussed matters of policy and strategy for the upcoming and general elections.

Invited guests included John P. Tolman, BLET Vice President and National Legislative Representative, who addressed the delegates.

Vice President Tolman stressed the importance of voter turnout and in his presentation illustrated the financial decline of the American middle class and the choices before voters this fall.

Also in attendance were: Tim Hanley, Ohio State Legislative Board Chairman and Chairman Region 1 (NASLBC); Herb Harris, District of Columbia Legislative Board Chairman; and former Virginia State Chairman J.T. Norris.

FRA Inspectors David Shockley and Bill Cashman gave a presentation on FRA Emergency Order No. 26. ©©



**Members and officers of the Virginia State Legislative Board (from left):** Kim Bartee, Executive Board member; Jeff Wood, Secretary-Treasurer; Michael Coleman, Second Vice Chairman; Rodney Murphy, Legislative Representative of Division 301; Tim Craver, Chairman; Barry Fannon, Executive Board member; Marlon Ward, First Vice Chairman; and Robert Lassiter, Auditing Committee.



A message from  
Teamsters General President  
James P. Hoffa

## Victory for Working Families!

The Teamsters Union spearheaded a massive get-out-the-vote effort on behalf of Barack Obama in the months leading up to Election Day. That effort paid off, with Obama and his running mate Joe Biden claiming a historic victory.

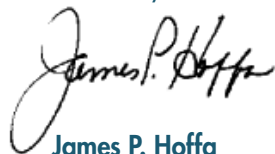
I could not be more proud of the effort that the Teamsters Union and our politically active members put into this historic election. More than 37,000 Teamsters volunteered in this campaign, and when you look at the final numbers, there is no doubt that we made a big difference.

Members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen as well as members from all of our other trade divisions took Obama's message of change to their work sites. We had volunteers working with our Field Action department in every one of the battleground states. There were many early morning and late night visits required of these volunteers and we truly thank them.

Teamster volunteers racked up some impressive numbers during the hard-fought campaign. More than 500,000 rank-and-file Teamsters nationwide were visited at work sites. Teamster volunteers also conducted precinct walks, week-end work site visits, canvassed neighborhoods, drove voters to the polls and countless other activities.

Now let's get this country unified again and start on these programs to help America's working families. We've helped elect a great man, but now the hard work starts.

Fraternally,



James P. Hoffa

TEAMSTERS GENERAL PRESIDENT

## BLET JOB BANK: Amtrak

Amtrak is recruiting Locomotive Engineers to work in the following areas: Jacksonville, Fla.; Raleigh, N.C.; Florence, S.C.; Miami, Fla.; Charlotte, N.C.; Lorton, Va. (Auto Train); and Washington, D.C.

Duties include safe operation of locomotives and complying with train orders, wayside signals, railroad operating rules, special instructions, federal, state and local regulations to transport passengers and equipment safely and efficiently. Engineers must also perform air brake tests as required, and must frequently make timely and critical decisions under stressful conditions.

Must have a high school diploma or GED. Candidates must also have a current Class I Engineer Certificate and must have operated an engine within one year. Candidates must pass the Hogan Personality Inventory. Candidate must be able to report to their crew base within a two hour call period. Salary-start rate - \$25.76 to full rate \$34.35 per hour. Rate depends on how much service you have as an engineer. Five years is the maximum rate.

**FAX RESUME TO:** (202)906-3349 ATTN: SARAH RAY ENG - LOCATION DESIRED

**MAIL RESUME:** AMTRAK HUMAN RESOURCES 900 SECOND ST. N.E. WASHINGTON, DC 20002

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## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



**Rail Conference Rallies Montana For Obama** Lyle Lambert, Jim Hoffa and Craig Gilchrist at a Teamsters for Obama rally in Montana. Brother Lambert is the Montana Legislative Director for the BMWED and Brother Gilchrist is Chairman of the BLET's Montana State Legislative Board.

Photo: courtesy Dave Ditzel

## Advisory Board October Activity

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

**National President Edward W. Rodziewicz** — National Division office: General supervision of BLET activities; General office duties; Various correspondence & phone calls; President, Teamsters Rail Conference; Amtrak Division 11 meeting, New York City; Town Hall meetings in Cincinnati and Columbus, Ohio; BNSF (former ATSF) General Committee meeting, Reno, Nevada.

**First Vice-President and Alternate President Paul T. Sorrow** — Performed various duties in Office Administrator capacity; Various duties assigned to First Vice President; Various correspondence and telephone communications; General supervision of Special Representatives; Tex Mex mtgs., Corpus Christi, Texas; BNSF-Santa Fe General Committee meetings, Reno, Nevada.

**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 oversight; Conference call with Advisory Board and General Chairmen, re: Hours of Service changes; National Reporting Officers Meeting with Railroad Retirement Board, Chicago; BNSF (ATSF) GCA meeting, Reno, NV; Short Term Disability Fund Trustees meeting, Cleveland.

**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; Duluth, Missabe & Iron Range; Routine office duties, Chicago and Cleveland; Agreement negotiations, CN/IC, Montreal; NYD implementing agreement discussions, PLB 7154 exec. session, IC-WCEJ&E; Award enforcement & related legal affairs, UP, w/ special counsel M. Wolley, Washington, D.C.; Referee oversight award review (ROAR), Chicago; NYD implementing agreement, EJ&E, Joliet; National association of railroad referees (NARR) reception, mtgs., Chicago; NRAB exec. Session w/ D. Hargrove, re: BNSF, Chicago; Mtg. w/ S. Powers (BMWV), re: Section 3 (RLA), Cleveland; National Passenger Railroad Conference, Washington, D.C.; NRAB annual mtg., Chicago, VP Radek elected Vice Chairman of NRAB and Vice Chairman of First Division for fiscal year 2008-2009; FRA Part 240.409 dockets this month: EQUAL 05-59 (CSX); 00-84 (UP); 05-01 (CSX).

**Vice-President Merle W. Geiger Jr.** — Assigned to: BLET Trainmen's Department; Kansas City Southern; Texas-Mexican Rwy.; Midsouth Rail; Southrail; Gateway Western; CP Rail System/U.S.; Portland & Western RR; Great Western RR; Utah Railway; Mtg. w/ GC Priestner and CP Rail, Minneapolis, Minn.; Mtgs. w/ GC Parker and KCS, Kansas City, Mo.; Mtgs. w/ GC Parker and Division 517, Kansas City, Mo.; Mtg. w/ GC Clark and KCS, Kansas City, Mo.; 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; General office duties; Office work, BNSF; Audit Committee, Cleveland; BNSF conference call, Decatur; Safety meeting with BLET General Chairmen and BNSF, Fort Worth; Vacation day; Attend BNSF-Santa Fe GCofA meeting, Reno, Nevada; Wabash Hospital

Association Board mtgs., 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; Office duties, paper work, filing and calls; ID run negotiations, assisting UPWL/WRGCA, Las Vegas (Las Vegas to West Colton w/ GC Hannah and Dayton); STD trustee mtgs., BLET National Division, Cleveland; Arbitration Board 7228, 7229 and 7230, UPWRGCA, Chicago.

**Vice-President & National Legislative Representative John P. Tolman** — Assigned to BLET Washington, DC office; BLET Security Officer; General Office Duties, telephone, correspondence; Coordinate content of NLO website; Continued coordination w/ IBT Government Affairs Dept.; Coordinated PAC contributions; Suicidologist mtg. to discuss CISD; Attended Advisory Board audit; New Mexico; Hosted town hall mtgs. in Clovis and Belen, N.M.; Participated in town hall mtgs. in Cincinnati and Columbus, Ohio; Virginia State Legislative Board mtg., Richmond, Va.; BNSF (AT&ST) General Committee mtg., Reno; Coordinated BLET participation in Teamsters Presidential and Congressional election efforts; Participated in organizing BLET members for Election 2008 campaign efforts; Election 2008 efforts including canvassing, leafleting, phone banking, get out the vote efforts and attending rallies.

**Vice-President Marcus J. Ruef** — Assigned to Amtrak; Port Authority Trans Hudson (PATH); Long Island Railroad (LIRR); Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA); New Jersey Transit (NJT); MNR; Norfolk Southern-All General Committees; Wheeling & Lake Erie; and NYAL; Mock arbitration exercise for LC workshop, BNSF/MRL, Fort Worth, Texas; Merrill Lynch 401(k) planning mtg. & Short Term Disability mtg., NS-all, Buffalo, N.Y.; Expenses and month end reporting, paperwork, correspondence, phone calls, etc.; Assist GC Quinn prepare for investigation, LIRR; Compose letter, re: FRA Emergency Order 26, NS-all; PLB 7086, NSS; Conference call on Rail Safety Bill; Executive session, PLB 7079; SEPTA cab configuration dispute; Passenger Department planning agenda; PLB 7159, NSS; SEPTA full cab dispute, coordinate with PA SLBC Ken Kertesz; Prepare submission, PLB 7079, NECR; Vacation day; Assist VGC Peek for investigation, NSE; Assist GC Darcy with regulatory issues, NJ Transit.

**Vice-President Dennis R. Pierce** — Assigned to all CSX General Committees — Eastern Lines, Western Lines, Northern Lines, Conrail (SAA/CSX-Northern District) — and Indiana Rail Road, Alabama State Docks; Special projects, BNSF GCofAs; General office duties; Mtgs. w/ CSX-N, CSX-W, CSX-E GCofAs and CSX, Jacksonville; Local Chairmen's workshop, BNSF GCofAs, Fort Worth, Texas; Division 190 mtg., Huntington, W.Va.; Division 101 mtg., Hinton, W.Va.; Division 95 Town Hall mtg., Cincinnati, Ohio; Division 34 Town Hall mtg., Columbus, Ohio; Public Law Board, CSX-W GCofA/ Indiana RR, Dallas; Conrail SSA Local Chairmen mtg.; Division 601 mtg., South Plainfield, N.J.

**Vice-President Mike Twombly** — Assigned to Delaware & Hudson; Springfield Terminal; St. Lawrence & Atlantic; Montreal, Maine & Atlantic; Union Railroad; Birmingham Southern; New York, Susquehanna & Western; New England Central; South Buffalo Rwy.; Iowa, Chicago & Eastern; Indiana & Ohio; Indiana Southern; Louisville & Indiana; Meridian Southern; Talleyrand Terminal Railroad; Mtg. w/ Louisville & Indiana Local Chairman Dan Hartill, prep for L&I Section 6 notices, Indianapolis; IC&E Division 200 mtg., Moline, Ill.; Springfield Terminal/D&H mtg., Albany, NY; Mtg. w/ Regional Short Line GC Dustin Heichle,



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International Brotherhood Of Teamsters

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