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FEDERAL COURT ORDERS UP TO PUT BLET OFFICERS, MEMBER BACK TO WORK

A federal judge in El Paso, Texas has ordered Union Pacific Railroad (UP) to reverse the unlawful suspensions of a group of six members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) — five of whom are elected officers of Division 192 in El Paso. The judge ruled that all these union members had been wrongfully suspended by the UP in violation of the Railway Labor Act (RLA). UP had suspended these union members for a physical altercation at a private union meeting that was off-duty and completely off company premises.

On June 2, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, El Paso Division, issued a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) to halt Union Pacific's unjust suspension of the union officers, and the member, and condemned UP for its illegal interference in union activities. The court order further prohibits the railroad from spying on union activities. Rather than comply with the TRO, UP filed a Motion for Reconsideration and Dissolution, and demanded a hearing on the matter. The BLET was victorious again following a June 11 hearing when a federal judge in El Paso issued a Preliminary Injunction against UP reversing the suspension of the six members.

SUSPENSIONS REVERSED FOR 6 BLET MEMBERS

JUNE 2 RULING OF THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS:

The TRO is in the public interest because the public has a strong interest in vindicating the RLA's public policy permitting employees to organize, choose their own representatives and bargain collectively free from interference, influence, or coercion by carriers.

"The TRO is in the public interest because the public has a strong interest in vindicating the RLA's public policy permitting employees to organize, choose their own representatives and bargain collectively free from interference, influence, or coercion by carriers," the Court wrote.

Also as part of the TRO, the court further determined that UP's suspension of the employees "... sends a clear message that the Carrier is willing to violate the law to coerce employees in their choice of representatives." Under the TRO, UP is restrained from subjecting BLET officers and members to surveillance, and is "restrained from unlawfully interfering with the Union in its representation capacities, including without limitation disciplining members of the Union and Union leadership for their involvement or support for the Union and its interests, objectives and/

or concerted protected activities."

The Preliminary Injunction found that "[i]t is essential that the Court issue temporary and preliminary injunctive relief to prevent immediate and irreparable injury" to the BLET in order preserve "employees' rights under the [Railway Labor Act] to engage in organizing and union activity" The Court's Order also found that the Injunction was in the public interest, that "far more injury will be done to" the BLET in denying the Injunction than to UP from granting the Union's request, that there "is no adequate remedy at law for the stifling of rights to be free of undue interference, influence or coercion" caused by UP's conduct and that "there is a strong likelihood that [the BLET] will prevail in their arguments."

Accordingly, UP is "restrained and enjoined from engaging in surveillance of

the Union and its members" and "from unlawfully interfering with the Union in its representational capacities." UP also is "restrained and enjoined from unlawfully interfering with, influencing and/or coercing UP employees represented by BLET and its representatives" and was again ordered to "reinstate to work in their former positions" the Division 192 officers and member who had been removed from service.

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce said the court's ruling was a victory for the BLET and its members.

"The court vindicated our rights as union members to conduct our business, hold meetings, and elect representatives without outside interference from railroad carriers," President Pierce said. "I want to



congratulate the officers and members of Division 192 for standing up for their right to conduct Union business free from Carrier interference. I also want to thank General Chairman Brian Carr and our legal counsel for their hard work in prevailing at the hearing. The BLET will continue to stand up for the rights of our members throughout the United States." @



NATURAL TUNNEL

LOCATED IN THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS, the massive, naturally formed cave known as Natural Tunnel is so large that it is used as a railroad tunnel. Here, Norfolk Southern 750s (rear helpers) shove a train through the cave at Natural Tunnel State Park near Kingsport, Tennessee, on April 22, 2018.

Photo: by Brother Cory Rusch, a member of BLET Division 659 in Buffalo, N.Y. Brother Rusch is a conductor with Norfolk Southern and a regular contributor to BLET publications.



BLET National Secretary-Treasurer's Message

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In Memoriam

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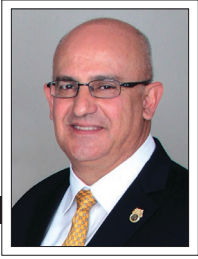
BLET Photo Album

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BLET NATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER'S MESSAGE BY STEPHEN J. BRUNO

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE

One of the fundamental reasons the BLET is the oldest union in North America is our long history of the membership making the most important decisions that govern our affairs. It is this culture of internal democracy that has enabled our Brotherhood to represent locomotive engineers — and, since 2005, trainmen — for over 158 years.

In the coming months, all active BLET members will have another opportunity to select the leaders who will guide our Union in the coming years. High levels of participation in the election process deliver a powerful message to the railroads, and the government, that BLET members are informed and involved.

In September, each of the BLET's 474 Local Divisions will hold its triennial nomination of officers. Among the 20 Division officers to be elected are:

- the President, who presides over all division meetings and is the division's principal officer;
- the Secretary-Treasurer, Trustees and Alternate Trustees, who will manage the Division's finances in an open and transparent manner;
- the Local Committee of Adjustment, who serve as the Division's delegates to the General Committee of Adjustment (GCA) and who are responsible for enforcing the collective bargaining agreement(s) under which the Division's members work;
- and the Legislative Representative, who serves as the Division's delegate to the State Legislative Board (SLB) and who is tasked with responsibilities pertaining to the safety and sanitation of the working environment and the political education for the members of the division.

For GCAs that are comprised of a single Division, the election of the Local Committee of Ad-



Members and officers of the BLET's Union Pacific-Southern Region GCA at the Austin regional meeting, July 13, 2021.

justment also determines who will serve as the GCA's officers.

September's nominations also will include the offices of Delegate to the National Division, First Alternate Delegate to the National Division, and Second Alternate Delegate to the National Division. The election of these delegates is particularly important because the BLET's Fifth National Convention will be held from October 10-13 of next year. In convention assembled, these delegates will consider resolutions to improve the representation provided by the BLET at all levels, and will nominate candidates for National Division offices for the 2023-2027 term.

Local Division officers are the foundation of our Organization; they are the first link in the chain that unites our Brotherhood. The thousands of men and women who serve as officers at the Division level also provide the information needed for GCAs, SLBs and the National Division to successfully address issues that cannot be resolved locally.

Triennial Division elections

not only allow all members to choose their leaders for the next 3-year term, they also provide an opportunity for members to become more involved in our Brotherhood on a day-to-day basis by becoming a candidate for office. Every GCA, SLB and National Division officer began their career in Union service as a Division officer.

If you have something to contribute to the success of the BLET, I strongly urge you to consider accepting nomination for office in September. At the very least, you should show your support for Brothers and Sisters you want to represent you by nominating them in September.

The eligibility rules for nominating someone, being nominated for office, voting in an election and being elected to office are governed by a combination of federal laws and regulations, the IBT Constitution, and the BLET Bylaws. For example, in order to be nominated for Division office, a member must have paid dues for 24 consecutive months through July of this year, and also have worked in the craft or served

in a full-time BLET position during this period. In order to nominate someone for Division officer, a member must have paid dues in the month of July.

Similarly, in order to be elected to Division office in December, a member must have paid dues for 24 consecutive months through October of this year, and also have worked in the craft or served in a full-time BLET position during this period. And in order to vote in the Division triennial election in December, a member must have paid dues in the month of October.

In order to help all BLET members understand the Division triennial election process, the National Division has updated our On the Right Track publication for the 2021 triennial election. A PDF version of On the Right Track is available in the Members' Area on the BLET website at <https://www.ble-t.org/members/On-TheRightTrack.asp>. BLET members who do not have a Members' Area account can sign up for a username and a password at <https://www.ble-t.org/signup.asp>.

Also — for the first time in 15 years — the BLET's triennial Division elections coincide with the IBT's election of International Officers. As Teamsters, all BLET members who are eligible to vote may participate in the election of these IBT Officers, including the General President, the General Secretary-Treasurer, various At-Large and Regional Vice Presidents, and International Union Trustees.

With the pending retirement of Jim Hoffa, this fall's election will produce a new Teamsters General President for the first time in over 20 years. Ballots for the Teamsters International Officer Election will be mailed on Monday, October 4, 2021, and the ballot count will commence on Monday, November 15, 2021. In order to be eligible to vote in the Teamsters International Officer Election, a member must have paid dues in the month of September.

Your participation in the triennial division election process and in the Teamsters International Officer Election is no less important than your participation in contract ratification votes, and in other matters within your Division. You have a voice in your representation, and in your wages and working conditions, and your voice needs to be heard.

To me, one of the core duties of Union membership is exercising the right to vote. We routinely top 50% participation in contract ratification votes, and regularly have significantly better participation. Our goals for this fall's elections should be to top those numbers.

I will be voting in my Division's triennial election this fall, and in the Teamsters International Officer Election. I hope you will, too.

STEPHEN J. BRUNO
BLET NATIONAL
SECRETARY-TREASURER

“Your participation in the triennial division election process and in the Teamsters International Officer Election is no less important than your participation in contract ratification votes, and in other matters within your Division. You have a voice in your representation, and in your wages and working conditions, and your voice needs to be heard.”

BLET NATIONAL DIVISION ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



GENERAL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY JAMES P. HOFFA

U.S. WORKERS WOULD BENEFIT FROM BUY AMERICAN CHANGES

U.S. workers are the best in the world. But over the last several decades, their workplace efforts have been undercut by the desire of corporations to fatten their wallets as much as possible by sending as many jobs as possible overseas.

Instead of intervening to help more and more hardworking Americans struggling to make ends meet, the federal government largely remained on the sidelines. As a result, middle-class workers saw their wages stagnate as the fortunes of big business and those at the top of the economic ladder soared.

But now, thanks to the work of the Biden administration, real change is on the horizon. And the latest example comes in the form of proposed rulemaking that would ensure pur-

chases made by the U.S. government support products manufactured and services provided by American workers, following through on a promise President Biden made when he first took office earlier this year.

As part of the proposal, U.S.-made content in the products the American government buys would increase from 55 percent now to 75 percent in 2029, the largest such proposed change in the Buy American Act since it was implemented almost 90 years ago. Under the updated regulations, mandated American content would rise to 60 percent upon implementation and grow to 65 percent in 2024 before reaching the 75 percent threshold.

The potential effect on U.S. jobs is significant. With \$600 billion in annual procurement spending, almost half of which is in manufac-

tured products from helicopter blades to trucks to office furniture, the federal government is a major buyer in a number of markets for goods and services, including the single largest purchaser of consumer goods in the world.

This rule change is a win for workers. It is well past time that hardworking Americans are recognized by their leaders and rewarded for their efforts. It's time that more in the workforce get an opportunity for greater hours and higher pay. That's how this nation can and will Build Back Stronger.

Fraternally,

JAMES P. HOFFA
TEAMSTERS GENERAL
PRESIDENT



“This rule change is a win for workers. It is well past time that hardworking Americans are recognized by their leaders and rewarded for their efforts.”

BLET mourns passing of Washington State Legislative Board Chairman Shahraim Allen

Officers, members and staff of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) are deeply saddened to learn of the unexpected passing of Washington State Legislative Board Chairman Shahraim C. Allen, who died on June 24, 2021. He was 45 years old.

Brother Allen was a third-generation railroader who belonged to BLET Division 238 in Tacoma, Washington. In 1994, he hired out as a switchman for the Burlington Northern, earning promotion to locomotive engineer on December 20, 1995. Brother



Allen joined the Brotherhood on June 1, 2001. He was elected three times to serve the Brotherhood as Chairman of the Washington State Legislative Board. He was first elected in 2012 and subsequently reelected by acclamation at quadrennial meetings in 2016 and 2020.

During his tenure as Chairman, the Board secured important legislative improvements to better the lives and safety of railroad workers. Brother Allen led



State of Washington Governor Inslee (left) shakes hands with Brother Allen at the signing ceremony for the BLET's crew transportation safety bill on May 16, 2017.

the Brothers and Sisters of the Washington State Legislative Board as they successfully lobbied for passage of a safety bill that mandated a minimum crew size of two qualified professionals in the cab of the locomotive, which was signed by Governor Jay Inslee on March 27, 2020. Also under Brother Allen's leadership, the Board lobbied to help to secure passage of one of the nation's most comprehensive train crew transportation safety laws, which was signed into law by Gov-

ernor Inslee on May 16, 2017.

"Countless railroaders have benefitted from the legislative safety improvements that have been secured in the State of Washington thanks to the determination and leadership of our late Brother Shahraim Allen," BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce said. "Brother Allen was a natural born leader who served our Union with distinction during his tenure as Chairman of the Washington State Legislative Board. He was one of the brightest young leaders



From left: Brother Allen, Chris Mulden (Division 892), and Timothy Haug (Division 236) at the BLET's Fourth National Convention in 2018.

of our Brotherhood but his time on earth has been tragically cut short. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him. On behalf of the 57,500 men and women of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, I extend our deepest and most heartfelt sympathies to the friends and family of Shahraim Allen during this difficult time."

Brother Allen's family has asked for privacy and information regarding a memorial service is pending. ©©

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The News Flash alerts are news articles from the BLET National Divi-

sion website that are automatically emailed to you.

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gin 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.

Lyons reelected CSX-Northern Lines General Chairman

William P. Lyons was reelected by acclamation to his third full term as Chairman of the CSX-Northern Lines General Committee of Adjustment at its quadrennial meeting in Pittsburgh, Pa., held May 4-6, 2021.

Brother Lyons is a CSX locomotive engineer and a member of BLET Division 34 (Columbus, Ohio). He first joined the Brotherhood on September 1, 2003. He was elected 2nd Vice General of the GCA at its 2009 quadrennial meeting, and was later elevated to the office of 1st Vice General Chairman and then Acting General Chairman. He was elected General Chairman at the GCA's quadrennial meeting in 2013 and then reelected by acclamation at the 2017 quadrennial meeting. Also, Brother Lyons has served the National Division as Trustee since February 1, 2018, winning reelection by acclamation at the Fourth National Convention in October of 2018.

First Vice General Chairman Brian Farkas of BLET Division 121 (Indianapolis, Ind.) and Secretary-Treasurer Chris Colucy of BLET Division 526 (Willard, Ohio) were also reelected by acclamation.

The following GCA officers were elected during the 2021 quadrennial meeting: 2nd Vice General Chairman David "Doc" Woods, Division 246 (Evansville, Ind.);



Officers, members and guests at the CSX-Northern Lines GCA meeting held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, May 4-6, 2021.

Central Region Vice General Chairman Bill Rominski, Division 370 (Pittsburgh, Pa.); Eastern Region Vice General Chairman Marty Crothers, Division 231 (Philadelphia, Pa.); Midwest Region Vice General Chairman Ed Donnelly, Division 542 (Detroit, Mich.); and Western Region Vice General Chairman Robert Casad, Division 7 (Lafayette, Ind.).

The following alternate officers were elected: 1st Alternate Vice General Chairman (VGC) Joel Myers, Division 181 (Brunswick, Md.); 2nd Alternate VGC Bill Rominski, Division 370 (Pittsburgh, Pa.); Alternate Secretary-Treasurer Ed

Donnelly, Division 542 (Detroit, Mich.); Central Region Alternate VGC Benny Hindman, Division 284 (Grafton, W.Va.); Eastern Region Alternate VGC Tim Clark, Division 934 (Cumberland, Md.); Midwest Region Alternate VGC Anthony Stall, Division 894 (Columbus, Ohio); and Western Region Alternate VGC Matt Brandon, Division 121 (Indianapolis, Ind.).

Elected to serve on the Audit Committee were: Marty Crothers, Division 231 (Philadelphia, Pa.); Mike Huber, Division 100 (Danville, Ill.); Ed Donnelly, Division 542 (Detroit, Mich.); and John Schultz, Division 25 (Terre Haute, Ind.).

Representing the National Division at the meeting were: National President Dennis R. Pierce and National Vice President J. Alan Holdcraft. Retired National Vice President Gil Gore served as Parliamentarian.

"I am proud to offer my congratulations to Brother Lyons and all officers of the CSX Northern Lines General Committee of Adjustment," President Pierce said. "My hat is off to Brother Lyons and the Committee on how they safely conducted their business during this challenging pandemic. I thank them for their professionalism and their dedication to serving our Brotherhood."

Brother Lyons began his railroad career when he hired out as a conductor for CSXT at Columbus, Ohio, on February 28, 2000. He joined BLET Division 34 in Columbus, Ohio, on September 1, 2003, where he immediately became an active and involved leader. In 2004, Brother Lyons became Division 34's first-ever Local Chairman of trainmen after the BLE merged with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. One year later, he became the GCA's first-ever conductor to be elected to the office of Regional Vice General Chairman.

The CSX-Northern Lines General Committee of Adjustment is comprised of 28 BLET Divisions and represents nearly 3,000 active and retired members. ©©

Amtrak General Chairman Mark Kenny reelected by acclamation

Mark B. Kenny was reelected by acclamation to his seventh term as General Chairman at the Amtrak General Committee of Adjustment's fifth quadrennial meeting, which was held May 19-20, 2021.

Brother Kenny is a member of Division 11 (New York, N.Y.). He joined the Brotherhood on March 1, 1981, and has served as General Chairman since 1998, having also won reelection by acclamation in 2009, 2013, and 2017. Brother Kenny also serves as Chairman of the BLET's National General Chairmen's Association.

All other officers of the General Committee were also elected by acclamation, including: Vice General Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer David P. Estes, Division 60 (Seattle, Wash.); Western Region Chairman John M. McGregor, Division 192 (El Paso, Texas); Midwest Region Chairman Gabriel L. Perez, Division 474 (Chicago, Ill.); Eastern Region Chairman James J. O'Neill, Division 483 (Philadelphia, Pa.); and Alternate Secretary-Treasurer Patrick W. Darcy, Division 77 (New Haven, Conn.). Brother Estes was reelected to his fifth term as Secretary-Treasurer and second term as Vice General Chairman. Brothers McGregor, Perez, and O'Neill were appointed to the GCA audit committee to serve as Trustees.

Appointed to serve on the Bylaws & Finance Committee were: C.M. Skinner, Division 20 (Los Angeles, Calif.); S.E. Ahmed, Division 35 (Jacksonville, Fla.); and D.D. Lewsader, Division 47 (Denver, Colo.). Brother Ahmed was chosen to serve as Chair of the Committee.



Officers of the Amtrak GCA Executive Committee, seated (from left): David P. Estes, Vice General Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer; and Mark B. Kenny, General Chairman. Standing (from left): James J. O'Neill, Eastern Region Chairman; John M. McGregor, Western Region; and Gabriel L. Perez, Midwest Region Chairman.

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce represented the National Division at the meeting, along with Vince G. Verma, Vice President and National Legislative Representative, and James P. Louis, National Vice President. National Division staff members Thomas A. Pontolillo, Assistant to the National President and Director of Research, Robert F. Hagan, Director of Political and Legislative Affairs, and Matt C. Kronyak, Special Representative and Director of Mobilization-Eastern Region, were also in attendance.

"I offer my congratulations to these

officers on their election and my sincere thanks for their continued service to our great Brotherhood," President Pierce said. "I have every confidence they will continue doing an excellent job of representing the membership. Brother Kenny is one of our most veteran General Chairmen and I thank him for his ongoing dedication to our Brotherhood."

Local Chairmen (unless otherwise noted) in attendance included: R.S. McGovern, Division 11 (New York); R.M. Grogan, Division 12 (Fort Wayne, Ind.); A.L. Robertson, Division 14 (Washing-

ton, D.C.); Vice Local Chairman J. Wooldridge, Division 14 (Washington, D.C.); C.E. Harris, Division 15 (Albuquerque, N.M.); B. Porter, Division 17 (Kansas City); J.B. Lacy, Division 18 (New Orleans, LA); E.R. Like, Division 19 (Detroit, Mich.); C.M. Skinner, Division 20 (Los Angeles); C.A. Roehrich, Division 27 (St. Cloud, Minn.); S.E. Ahmed, Division 35 (Jacksonville, Fla.); D.J. Terdich, Division 40 (Chicago); B.J. Cleary, Division 45 (Carbondale, Ill.); D.D. Lewsader, Division 47 (Denver, Colo.); R.A. Reed, Division 51 (Salt Lake City, Utah); G.T. Hobson, Division 57 (Boston, Mass.); D.P. Estes, Division 60 (Seattle); J.D. Coleman, Division 65 (San Jose, Calif.); P.W. Darcy Jr., Division 77 (New Haven, Conn.); J.K. Leger, Division 144 (Oakland, Calif.); J.M. McGregor, Division 192 (El Paso, Texas); M.P. Mitchell, Division 197 (San Antonio, Texas); D.J. Luna, Division 312 (Boston); G.L. Perez, Division 474 (Blue Island, Ill.); W.F. Broadus, Division 482 (Washington, D.C.); J.J. O'Neill, Division 483 (Philadelphia); and S. Crossman, Division 752 (Rensselaer, N.Y.).

General Chairman Kenny thanked the National Division officers for attending. Brother Kenny also thanked the Amtrak delegates for their utmost hard work through the extended COVID-19 pandemic and focus throughout the quadrennial meeting.

The BLET's Amtrak General Committee of Adjustment represents more than 2,300 active and retired locomotive engineers and trainmen who work for Amtrak, Keolis Commuter Services, Keolis Rail Services Virginia, and TransitAmerica Services, Inc. (Caltrain). ©©

BLET applauds passage of INVEST in America Act by U.S. House of Representatives

BILL WOULD FUND CRITICAL RAIL AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AS WELL AS MANDATING IMPORTANT SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS FOR RAIL WORKERS

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen thanked members of Congress for their ongoing support of the INVEST in America Act (H.R. 3684), which was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on July 1. The bill would fund critical rail and other infrastructure needs, while mandating important safety improvements for rail workers.

The INVEST in America Act would authorize \$547 billion in spending over five years on surface transportation, mandate two-person crews on freight trains, provide for mandatory train crew changes at the U.S.-Mexican border, and triple funding for Amtrak.



Peter DeFazio

It also would address a number of additional safety concerns, including a requirement that railroads report all PTC system failures to the FRA, a mandate to improve fatigue management, and a requirement to study the safety impact of long trains — including consideration of safety factors

such as loss of communication between the head-end and the rear of the train, as well as in-train forces that can lead to increased risk of derailments.

The bill was introduced on June 4, 2021, by Chair of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Chair of the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), and Chair of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Donald M. Payne, Jr. (D-NJ).

The House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee approved the bill by a 38-26 vote on June 10. Republicans Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania and Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon of Puerto Rico joined the 36 Democrats on the Commit-



Eleanor Holmes Norton



Donald M. Payne, Jr.

tee in approving the Bill. However, the



Brian Fitzpatrick



Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon

Committee first had to dispose of several pro-railroad and anti-worker amendments that were offered by Committee members, including:

- a proposal by Congressman Brian Babin (R-TX) to allow Mexican crews to operate trains up to 20 air-miles within the United States, which he later withdrew; and
- a proposal by Congressman Scott Perry (R-PA) to eliminate the two-person crew provision, which also was later withdrawn.

But in the end, the bill retained a provision to mandate crew changes at the southern border as well as a requirement for two-person train crews — both key issues for the BLET and its members.

The full House of Representatives passed it by a vote of 221-201 on July 1.

“I thank the legislators in the House of Representatives who voted in favor of the INVEST in America Act,” BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce said. “The safety measures contained in this bill will go a long way toward improving safety in the railroad industry and protecting the lives of railroad workers and citizens throughout the United States whose communities are near railroad lines. I also thank the BLET National Legislative Office and the Teamsters Legislative Department for their ongoing efforts to ensure the passage of this bill. As I said previously, this is one step in a lengthy process, but it is encouraging to see what we can accomplish when we elect worker-friendly legislators to govern our great nation.”

BLET Vice President and National Legislative Representative Vince Verna said: “I’d like to thank Chairman DeFazio and his staff and all the Democrats who supported this bill, in addition to Republican Congressmen Fitzpatrick (PA-1) and Smith (NJ-4) for their helpful votes to pass the bill. They all worked hard with BLET to get it right.”

It is expected that the U.S. Senate will take up the INVEST in America Act in the coming weeks. @@

56 MPH

PTC
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Modern railroading requires managing multiple high-tech systems, including Distributed Power, Trip Optimizer, and Positive Train Control. Railroaders *just like you* have been assessed discipline ranging from suspension to dismissal for the following incidents detected by PTC:

- PREDICTIVE ENFORCEMENT FOR STOP SIGNALS
- SPEEDING IN PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS
- ENTERING WORKING LIMITS
- EXCEEDING LIMITS OF TRACK AUTHORITY
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BLET honors President Hoffa at Austin regional meeting

National President Dennis R. Pierce honored Jim Hoffa, General President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, with an engraved brass bell during opening ceremonies of the BLET's regional meeting held on July 13, 2021, in Austin, Texas.

President Pierce presented the bell on behalf of the 57,500 men and women of the BLET in recognition of General President Hoffa's pending retirement, which will become effective in early 2022. Hoffa has spent the past 23 years leading the world's most powerful labor union.

"Thank you, Brother Jim, for your leadership and congratulations on a remarkable career," President Pierce said. "On behalf of all BLET members, I want to also thank you for your vision of uniting all transportation workers in the strongest Union in America, which led directly to the creation of the Teamsters Rail Conference."

President Pierce began the day by calling the meeting to order with more than 315 members and families in attendance. After presentation of the flags by the Austin Fire Department Honor Guard, Brother Gary Pedigo, Chairman of the Texas State Legislative Board, delivered the in-



vocation. Brother Pedigo has been a member of the BLET for over 42 years and also serves the Brotherhood as the Legislative Representative of BLET Division 177 (Denison, Texas).

President Pierce then welcomed all members, families and guests to Austin. He introduced members of the BLET Advisory Board who were in attendance, and thanked National Vice President Jim Louie, Special Representative Matt Kronyak and Special Representative Jason Wright for their work in managing and organizing the regional meeting. President Pierce also recognized and thanked the regional meeting arrangements committee mem-



bers: Brother Tim Wild, Local Chairman of BLET Division 62 (Houston, Texas); Brother Eddie Perez, Secretary-Treasurer of the Tex-Mex General Committee of Adjustment and of Division 244 (Laredo, Texas); Brother Greg Lund, a retired member of Division 421 (Buffalo, New York); and Brother Carl Fields, a retired member of BLET Division 682 (Hammond, Indiana) and former Coordinator of the BLET Safety Task Force.

Guest speakers included Teamsters

General President Jim Hoffa; Teamsters International Vice President and Rail Conference Director John F. Murphy; Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division (BMWED) Vice President Roger Sanchez; Railroad Retirement Board Labor Member John Bragg; IBT Joint Council 58 President and Local 988 President Robert Mele; Candidate for Lieutenant Governor in Texas Mike Collier; and BLET Auxiliary National President Kat Bisbikis.

As part of the morning session, President Pierce led BLET members in a moment of silence in memory of Brother Shahraim C. Allen, late Chairman of the BLET Washington State Legislative Board, who died unexpectedly on June 24, 2021. Members in attendance also observed a moment of silence in honor of all BLET members who have been killed in the line of duty since 1989, whose names were shown in a solemn video presentation.

Members participated in specialized educational opportunities throughout the remainder of the week. Workshops featured in-depth training for BLET Legislative Representatives, Secretary-Treasurers and Local Chairmen. The 2021 Austin regional meeting concluded with a banquet on the evening of July 15. @@



TEAMSTERS RAIL CONFERENCE JOINS HIGH-SPEED RAIL COALITION

Dennis R. Pierce, President, Teamsters Rail Conference announced on June 30 that the Teamsters Rail Conference, following a unanimous vote by its Policy Committee, has joined the U.S. High Speed Rail Coalition Executive Committee. The Committee is comprised of passenger and high-speed rail stakeholders, proponents and supporters from all corners of the Nation.

The Committee's Campaign will focus on educating elected officials at all levels of government, as well as the public, of the benefits of federal investment in expanding high speed rail service. Among the key goals of the Campaign are:

- a minimum of \$205 billion for true high-speed rail;
- the establishment of a Rail Trust Fund;
- the formation of a High Speed Rail Development Agency within USDOT; and
- maintaining the robust labor standards outlined in the American High Speed Rail Act.

The Teamsters Rail Conference is comprised of two Divisions, the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division (BMWED) and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen Division (BLET). As such, the Teamsters Rail Conference Policy Committee is comprised equally of BMWED and BLET voting members. As part of its ap-

proval to join the High Speed Rail Coalition Executive Committee, the Policy Committee also agreed that both Divisions and their respective Crafts would be equally represented on the Executive Committee. BLET Vice President and National Legislative Representative Vince Verna and BMWED Director of Government Affairs Jeff Joines will serve as the joint representatives and spokesmen for the Teamsters Rail Conference.

BLET Vice President Verna said, "I am very happy that BLET and BMWED can lead the Teamsters Rail Conference as part of a high speed rail coalition. This is to ensure that the HSR coalition includes labor rights as a main priority. We are happy Congress is seeking

the funding for high speed rail while also protecting funding for Amtrak and other intercity and passenger rail systems. Our members who move today's passengers are essential and we are eager to represent rail workers who will work on high speed rail systems in the future."

BMWED Director Joines said, "The BMWED is excited to be a part of the High Speed Rail Coalition along with the BLET. HSR will transform our communities and the way we travel in the 21st century, along with providing good paying union railroad jobs well into the future. We call on Congress to meet the long-needed increased funding for high-speed rail around the country." @@

RRB Labor Member reminds railroaders about importance of Form BA-6

BLET EDITOR'S NOTE: THE FOLLOWING IS A MESSAGE TO RAIL LABOR FROM JOHN BRAGG, LABOR MEMBER OF THE U.S. RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD.

The Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) is still operating in a remote capacity — with field offices closed to the public. Hopefully, in the not too distant future, I will be writing to advise you of plans for getting back to normal operations. Now, however, I am writing to share a friendly reminder with you about action which every active employee should take on an annual basis — and may be of particular importance this year to some, in light of the unique work circumstances many encountered.

Each year, on or before the last day of February, employers must report service and compensation for each employee who performed compensated service in the preceding calendar year. The RRB, in turn, credits the service and compensation records of individual employees based upon these reports and in June of every year, the RRB releases Form BA-6 to each employee for which compensated service for the

preceding year was reported. The Form BA-6 contains the information recently reported for the preceding year, as well as the information reported for three preceding years. For example, the Forms BA-6 which were released by the RRB in mid-June of 2021 will contain service and compensation reported for the years 2017 through 2020. Regardless of the amount earned, the amount of compensation shown on the Form BA-6 will always be limited by the maximum creditable tier I compensation amount for the calendar year. For calendar years 2017 through 2020, the maximum amounts creditable are \$127,200, \$128,400, \$132,900 and \$137,700, respectively. In addition to showing the creditable compensation for the years 2017 through 2020, the Form BA-6 issued in mid-June of 2021 will show the months for which the employer reported railroad service for the employee during the years 2017-2020.

It is critical that individual employees

review their annual Forms BA-6 to make sure that all the information contained on the form is accurate. For example, in addition to validating the creditable compensation, it is important to check to see if the employer properly reported the months for which credit was given by the employer for a month of railroad service. Every month for which you believe you should have credit for railroad service should be coded with a "1". If the code is "0", you will not receive credit for any railroad service for that month. If the code is "D" then you will receive credit for railroad service pursuant to the rules governing the deeming of service months.

Employees who received pay for time lost, especially as a result of arbitration proceedings, during the years 2017 through 2020 are reminded of the importance of checking their Forms BA-6. RRB regulations at 20 C.F.R. § 209.15(b) provide that compensation which is pay for time lost must be reported with respect to the year

in which the time and compensation were lost. However, it is not uncommon for the individuals responsible for completing reports of service and compensation to be unfamiliar with how to report pay for time lost, or to lack awareness that the compensation they are reporting reflects pay for time lost. As a result, the compensation is mistakenly reported for the year paid AND the service months for which the time and compensation were lost are not credited as railroad service months. Situations where this is most likely to occur are arbitration decisions resulting in the employee being reinstated with all rights and benefits unimpaired and receiving compensation for lost time.

REMEMBER: The law limits the period during which corrections to service and compensation records may be filed to four years from the date the report was due at the RRB, so it is very important for employees to request a correction within that period of time. Any railroad employee who thinks that the Form BA-6 contains an error should be certain to follow the directions on how to file with the RRB a protest of the information contained on the Form BA-6. ©©



BE SURE TO MAKE ANY CORRECTIONS BEFORE THE DEADLINE:

In June of every year, the RRB releases **Form BA-6** to each employee for which compensated service for the preceding year was reported. The Form BA-6 contains the information recently reported for the preceding year, as well as the information reported for three preceding years. It is critical that individual employees review their annual Forms BA-6 to make sure that all the information contained on the form is accurate.

Jeff Thurman reelected General Chairman of BNSF (former SLSF)/MNA GCA

Jeffrey L. Thurman was reelected by acclamation to his third term as General Chairman of the BNSF (former SLSF)/MNA General Committee of Adjustment (GCA) at the GCA's quadrennial meeting on June 9, 2021.

A BNSF locomotive engineer and member of BLET Division 172 (Fort Worth, Texas), Brother Thurman was elected by acclamation to serve the GCA as 3rd Vice General Chairman in 2009, a position he was reelected to by acclamation for a second time in 2013. In June of 2013, he was elevated to his first term of office as General Chairman when Rick Gibbons was elevated to serve on the BLET Advisory Board as a National Vice President. Brother Thurman was then reelected by acclamation for a second term at the GCA's 2017 quadrennial meeting.

Also elected by acclamation during the quadrennial meeting were: 1st Vice Chairman Randy J. Dumey, Division 595 (Chaffee, Mo.); Secretary-Treasurer William D. Honeycutt, Division 285 (Thayer, Mo.); 2nd Vice Chairman H.C. Rolen, Division 285 (Thayer, Mo.); 3rd Vice Chairman Kyle W. King, Division 578 (Tulsa, Okla.); and 4th Vice Chairman Daniel Holdcroft, Division 502 (Kansas City, Mo.).

Elected to serve as alternates were: 1st Alternate Vice Chairman and Alternate Secretary-Treasurer Brett D. Jones, Division 386 (Birmingham, Ala.); and 2nd Alternate Vice Chairman William E. Brake, Division 237 (Fort Scott, Kan.); and 3rd Alternate Vice Chairman Chris M. Phillips, Division 172 (Fort Worth, Texas).

Appointed to the Audit Committee



Members of the BNSF (former SLSF)/MNA General Committee of Adjustment in attendance at the BLET's Fourth National Convention in 2018, along with Vice President Mike Priester, First Vice President Lee Pruitt, and National President Dennis Pierce. General Chairman Jeff Thurman (green shirt) is standing in the front row, center, between Brother Pruitt and Brother Pierce.

were: Carl R. Parker, Division 672 (Memphis, Tenn.); Zac Levin, Division 502 (Kansas City, Mo.); and Bobby J. Szenasi, Division 604 (Madill, Okla.).

Representing the BLET National Division at the meeting were: National President Dennis R. Pierce; and National Vice President Michael D. Priester.

"I congratulate Brother Thurman and all officers of the BNSF (former SLSF)/MNA General Committee of Adjustment," President Pierce said. "I thank these Brothers for serving our Brotherhood, and I know they will continue working at the highest levels of excellence to protect the rights of our Brothers and Sisters working for the BNSF."

Special guests included: Robby Cunningham, BNSF (ATSF) General Chairman; Bobby Brown, BNSF (FW&D-C&S-CRI&P) General Chairman; and Kent Psota, BNSF/MRL General Chairman.

Brother Thurman hired out with the Burlington Northern at Enid, Okla., on February 11, 1994. He was promoted to conductor on March 25, 1994, and earned promotion to locomotive engineer on April 19, 1995. He transferred his seniority to Fort Worth, Texas, in September of 2002, and he joined the Brotherhood on September 1, 2003.

He has been an involved and active BLET member throughout his railroad career. Brother Thurman has served as Vice

Local Chairman of Division 604 and as Local Chairman of Division 172. He represented his Division as a Delegate to the BLET's First National Convention in 2006, and has represented the BLET as a Delegate to the Teamsters International Convention. Also, Brother Thurman has served on the National Division Arrangements Committee at BLET National Conventions in 2010, 2014 and 2018.

The BNSF SLSF/MNA General Committee of Adjustment represents nearly 1,300 active and retired members from 15 different divisions, including locomotive engineers and trainmen for the BNSF Railway and the Missouri & Northern Arkansas Railroad. ©©



Locomotive Engineers And Trainmen News Brotherhood Of Locomotive Engineers And Trainmen

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Photo of the Month: June - July 2021

NAVIGATING DONNER PASS: Union Pacific locomotive 5720 climbs the Donner Pass at Casa Loma, California, on December 19, 2020.

At the throttle is Brother Matt Parker, Chairman of the BLET's Nevada State Legislative Board. The Donner Pass is a key route on the Union Pacific system as trains move between Roseville, California, and Salt Lake City, Utah. In spite of the sunny conditions in this photo, Donner Pass averages 411 inches of snowfall each year. *Photo courtesy: Mark Lovgren*



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 March/April 2021 Activity

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

NATIONAL PRESIDENT DENNIS R. PIERCE: National Division Office, Independence, Ohio; General supervision of BLET activities; General office duties; Correspondence and telephone communications; Supervision of Office Administration; General Supervision of Special Representatives; President, Teamsters Rail Conference; Policy Committee, Teamsters Rail Conference; Chairman, CRLO; Bargaining meetings; Vacation; BLET State Legislative Board Chairman mtg.; BLET Up GCA mtg.; CP Rail/KCS GCA mtg.; Arizona SLB mtg.; BNSF GCA mtg.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT E.L. (LEE) PRUITT: National Duties include but not limited to: Trainmen's Dept.; National Publications Committee; National Legislative Board; Teamsters Rail Conference Policy Committee; and PRAC; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications, etc.; Vacation.

NATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER STEPHEN J. BRUNO: General supervision of Accounting Dept., Record Dept., Online Services Dept., Tax Compliance Dept.; Safety Task Force; PAC and FEC reports and filings; Implementation and training for BLET membership database/Union Track; Pension, STD, 457 plan Trustee; Mtgs. with vendors and financial institutions; Union Track issues, development, testing, status updates; Merrill Lynch, BLET finance committee.

VICE PRESIDENT & NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE VINCENT G. VERNA: Assigned to BLET Washington, DC office; General office duties, telephone and correspondence communications, Washington, D.C.; Teamsters weekly Zoom call; Daily Zoom call with D.C. office staff; Discussion w/ Naomi Dunn, Ph.D., about BLET participation in fatigue study; OneRail mtg. w/ guest speaker Auke Maha-Piersma; PHMSA mtg. and precall w/ Sam Loesche; NTSB mtg.; TRB Rail Safety Committee (AR070) monthly Zoom mtg.; Various receptions and fund raising events with members of Congress and the leadership of both the GOP and Democratic parties.

VICE PRESIDENT MARCUS J. RUEF: Chairman, National Railroad Adjustment Board (NRAB); National Mediation Board (NMB) Advisory Forum-Labor Member; Department Head, BLET Arbitration Department; Assigned to CN-Wisconsin Central, CN-Illinois Central, Indiana Harbor Belt, Metra (Chicago), CP Rail System/US (Soo); Assist GC Hau w/ discipline appeals, WC; Assist GC Semenok w/ discipline appeals & submissions, CP; Assist GC Balonek w/ discipline submission, Metra; NRAB hearing, Referee Simon, DL 501; NRAB admin matters; Annotate 3rd Division awards; PLB 7154 executive session, IC; NMB case code project; VP Wallace referee selection, ND; CP Section 6 mtg.; PLB 7154 awards 187-197; National H&W dispute discussion; ROAR/Labor Member Caucus, NRAB; Arbitration Circular 1-94; Holiday; Vacation; Review ND Cir 2021-04-08; Assist GC Hau w/ Watco spinoffs, WC; Assist GC Hau, PLB admin issues; Prep for DL 499 5/4, and DL 500; DL 500 hearing, Referee Phillips.

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE TWOMBLY: NVP assigned to: CN-Grand Trunk Western; Springfield Terminal; Delaware & Hudson; St. Lawrence & Atlantic; New York Susquehanna & Western; Connecticut Southern; New England Central; Louisville & Indiana; Huron & Eastern; Wheeling & Lake Erie; Tacoma Municipal Belt Line Railroad; Department Head and designated representative of the BLET National Short Line Division (NSLD) and Organizing Department with responsibility for hearings, conferences, appeals, First Division Appeals and all other daily business involving the NSLD assigned railroads in conjunction with Carrier Officers and advancement of BLET organizing strategies and opportunities; National Short Line Division (Local Division 16) short line railroads, Union Railroad, Belt Railway of Chicago, South Buffalo Railway, Western New York & Pennsylvania and Gary Railway; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications, etc.; On duty at home office, NVB and NSLB Department Head combined daily responsibilities; Local Division 16 monthly

mtgs. (March and April 2021); National General Chairmen's Assoc. mtg.; WNYF teleconference mtgs.; WNY&P teleconference; Connecticut Southern Section 6 negotiations; CSX/Pan Am Railways merger conference; Springfield Terminal teleconference; CN-GTW PLB 7652.

VICE PRESIDENT MICHAEL D. PRIESTER: Assigned to all BNSF (former ATSF, former C&S, CRI&P, FWD, former STL-SF, BNSF/MRL), Panhandle Northern, Great Western Railway of Colorado; Missouri & North Arkansas, Montana Rail Link, Otter Tail; General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications, etc.; Local Chairman workshops for Santa Fe Committee (Coast, Western, Eastern, NS-PNR, and GW); Division 104 mtg. w/ GC Psota and Vice Chairmen, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; Prep for PLB 7886, mtgs. w/ GC Brown, Amarillo, Texas.

VICE PRESIDENT R.C. (RICK) GIBBONS: Assigned to: All Norfolk Southern General Committees (Northern, Eastern and Southern Lines); Chicago, Ft. Wayne & Eastern; Indiana & Ohio (G&W); General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications; Vice President duties; On duty at home office; Observe Good Friday holiday; SBA 1063 hearing, assist GC Dehart; PLB 7574, assist GC Sturdivant; National Division GCA mtg.

VICE PRESIDENT JAMES P. LOUIS: National Division Department Head, BLET Education & Training Dept.; Department Head of the BLET Internal Organizing, Mobilizing & Strategic Planning Dept.; Department Head, BLET Passenger Dept.; Assigned Amtrak; Keolis Commuter Services; Keolis Rail Services of Virginia, LLC; TransitAmerica Services, Inc.; Long Island Rail Road; New York & Atlantic; Metro-North; New Jersey Transit; PATH; National Division technology group mtgs.; E&T issues; Regional meeting and convention hotel planning and related issues; SBA 940, assist NJT GC Brown; NJT contract talks, assist GC Brown; GCA issues, assist LIRR GC Sexton; GCA issues, assist PATH GC Blakey; LM-2 Class, ND; CSRS mtgs. w/ NJT and FRA, assist NJT GC Brown; Observe Good Friday holiday; NMB A-13753, assist PATH GC Blakey; NMB A-13965, assist NJT GC Brown; NMB A-13975, assist LIRR GC Sexton; CPG mtg., ND.

VICE PRESIDENT MARK L. WALLACE: Assigned to all Union Pacific GCAs (Eastern District, Northern Region (former C&NW), Western Lines (Pacific Harbor Lines), Western Region (Portland & Western RR), Central Region, and Southern Region); Utah RR; Longview Portland & Northern and Longview Switching, and Portland Terminal; General office duties, telephone, emails, correspondence, communications, etc.; On duty at home office; Assist UP GC's with various on-property issues; Mtgs. w/ UP, BLET Illinois State Legislative Board Chairman Falaney, SMART-TD, GC Crow and GC Rhodes, re: complaint filed w/ Illinois Commerce Commission for use of Uber/Lyft; Mtg. w/ President Pierce and all UP GCs related to self-transport; Research and assistance to GCAs related to upcoming PLBs; National wage team bargaining session w/ National Carriers Conference Committee; Finalize awards for PLB 7228.

VICE PRESIDENT J. ALAN HOLDCRAFT: Assigned to all CSX Transportation GCAs (Eastern Lines, Western Lines, Northern Lines (Bombardier Transportation Services), Conrail Shared Assets/CSX Northern District); KCS-Kansas City Southern/Louisiana & Ark. RR.; KCS-Texas Mexican Railway; KCS-Mid South Rail, South Rail, Gateway Western RR, Illinois Midland (G&W); General office duties, telephone, email, correspondence communications, etc.; Served as Board Member of PLB 7239 w/ KCS GC Billy Evans; Mtg. w/ CSXT Head of Labor Relations John Johnson; Attend mtg. hosted by ND regarding CSXT's acquisition of Pan Am Railways; Mtg. w/ CSXT GCs regarding ongoing contract negotiations and arbitration; Mtg. w/ CSXT regarding train separations; Participated in CBC/NCCC bargaining sessions; Participated in CSXT mtgs. re: contract dispute resolution and bargaining; Served as Board Member of PLB 7932 with CSXT GC Keith Kerley; Served as Board Member of PLB 6884 with KCS GC David Spradlin; Contract bargaining session and Dispute Resolution Committee mtg. w/ CSXT management and BLET GCs.

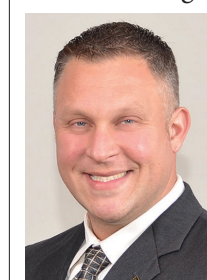
Members can view RRB pre-retirement seminar information online

BLET EDITOR'S NOTE: THE FOLLOWING IS A MESSAGE TO RAIL LABOR FROM JOHN BRAGG, LABOR MEMBER OF THE U.S. RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD.

The Office of the Labor Member is pleased to announce that our 2021 Pre-Retirement Seminar presentation is now available to view online. We designed this program to help educate those nearing retirement about the benefits available to them, and what they can expect during the application process.

This popular program has become a critical resource to RRB customers and

employees alike. It helps promote a better understanding of our benefit programs



John Bragg

among the railroad community, and in turn, improves the effectiveness of our benefit program operations.

While we typically conduct several seminars across the country annually, we are currently unable to hold in-person events because of COVID-19.

To access the video online, visit <https://RRB.gov/PRS> and click on View Pre-Retirement Seminar Presentation. Because

we cover several aspects of railroad retirement benefits in great detail, the entire presentation is over an hour long. View shorter segments of the program by selecting a seminar topic on the same web page. Available topics include: Retired Employee and Spouse Benefits, Spouse Annuities, Working After Retirement, Survivor Benefits, and Items Affecting All Retirement and Survivor Benefits.

The success of our educational programming is made possible with your long-standing partnership. In these challenging times we are especially grateful for you, and appreciate your support in promoting this valuable program.®