

# *LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS & TRAINMEN* **Journal**

VOLUME 118 | No. 1 | SPRING 2015

WWW.BLE-T.ORG



## **Special Convention Issue**

.....  
Convention Wrap-Up  
Speakers · Elections  
Photo Highlights & More!







## BLET President's Message

BY DENNIS R. PIERCE, BLET NATIONAL PRESIDENT

# Moving Forward

**T**his edition of the *Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen Journal* includes a convention wrap-up that gives all members a glimpse of the governing body of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen at work. While in session, the delegates from our 500 Local Divisions decide what rules will govern our union and also set the course for the future of our Brotherhood and its membership. We should all be proud of how our delegates from all parts of the country performed those duties at our 2014 Convention. They were presented with a multitude of proposed changes to our Bylaws, many of which were submitted by my Office with the intention of bringing additional layers of accountability and transparency to our union and, in the end, our delegates made our union stronger by their collective actions.

Although our Convention was the culmination of many years of planning, it was also the beginning of many new activities, including the installation of a newly-elected Advisory Board. It was with great honor that I administered the IBT Oath of Office to each of the new Advisory Board members on January 1, 2015, which for the first time included our newly created and elected National Division Trustees. As with our Local Divisions, General Committees of Adjustment, and State Legislative



**BLET Executive Committee (from left):**

First VP Pruitt, President Pierce, and NST Bruno.

Boards, the Advisory Board of our BLET National Division now includes trustees, who will perform monthly audits of the finances of your National Division. I am confident that the oversight provided by Trustees David P. Estes, Matt O. Wilson and Mark L. Wallace will add important checks and balances that will ensure that your National Division is a wise custodian of your assets well into the future.

Along with our new Trustees, two other Advisory Board members were sworn in to take on new roles. First on that list is Brother Stephen J. Bruno, who was sworn in as your new National Secretary-Treasurer. Brother Bruno follows one of the longest serving General Secretary-Treasurers/National Secretary-Treasurers in the history of our proud Organization, Brother William C.

Walpert. Brother Walpert was elected as BLE's General Secretary-Treasurer in September of 2001, and became BLET's first National Secretary-Treasurer following our merger with IBT in 2004. We all owe Brother Bill a debt of gratitude for his tireless service to our Brotherhood, and I wish him well as he enjoys the fruits of his labor in retirement.

Our newest National Secretary-Treasurer, Stephen Bruno, also joins First Vice President and Alternate President E. Lee Pruitt and me as Officers of your National Division Executive Committee. Just two months into that role, Brother Bruno is already leading an effort to reinforce our ongoing work to ensure that every member can be confident that the National Division manages BLET's assets in the most effective way possible. Our finances

are in good hands, and I look forward to serving with Brothers Pruitt and Bruno to make sure that our union is managed in a way that all members can be proud of.

The other newly elected addition to our National Division Advisory Board is Vice President James P. Louis. Brother Jim brings a multitude of experience to our Board, having served in many officer roles at the Local Division, State Legislative Board and General Committee of Adjustment levels. Brother Jim most recently served as General Chairman of the CSX/Conrail Shared Assets General Committee of Adjustment, and while that Committee is in good hands under the leadership of new General Chairman Pat Driscoll, that General Committee's loss was most definitely a gain for the National Division. In addition to his field assignments to our passenger/commuter General Committees, Brother Jim has been assigned to head our Education and Training Department, our Department of Internal Organizing, Mobilization and Strategic Planning, and to lead the National Division's new Regional Meeting program that will start in 2016.

Across the board, you can rest assured that the National Division Advisory Board officers elected in 2014 and sworn into office in 2015 will work tirelessly to protect the interests of the membership. That team is made up of seasoned and experienced officers, and

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Photo: Gina Fontana

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# Journal

PUBLISHED BY THE BLET,  
A DIVISION OF THE RAIL CONFERENCE,  
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD  
OF TEAMSTERS

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## Mark your calendars for 2015 BLET regional meetings

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

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

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



Photo: Boston Duck Tours

**EUMA 2015:** The Charles River (above) is one of many tourist sites in Boston.

### **JUNE 14-19, 2015** **88th Annual SMA**

#### **Atlanta, Ga.**

Chair Teresa Bryant, Scott Frederick and the members of BLET Division 30 will host the 2015 SMA at the Lake Lanier Islands Resort just north of Atlanta, Ga.

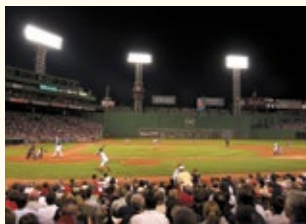


**Photos:** Lake Lanier Islands Resort

### **JULY 26-30, 2015** **77th Annual EUMA**

#### **Boston, Mass.**

Arrangements Chairman Kevin J. Moore, Springfield Terminal/Delaware & Hudson General Chairman and Chairman of the Massachusetts State Legislative Board, will host the 2015 EUMA at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel in historic downtown Boston.



**Photos:** Greater Boston CVB

### **AUGUST 17-20, 2015** **75th Annual IWC**

#### **Denver, Colo.**

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

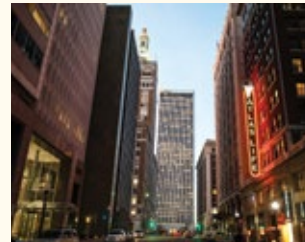


**Photos:** Visit Denver

### **SEPTEMBER 13-17, 2015** **80th Annual SWCM**

#### **Tulsa, Okla.**

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



**Photos:** Downtown Tulsa

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

## BROTHERHOOD BOOKSHELF

# BLET member co-authors another book on historic steam locomotive

The Clinchfield No. 1:

Tennessee's Legendary Steam Engine

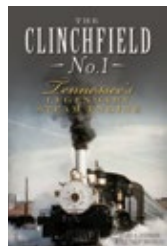
By Mark A. Stevens and A.J. "Alf" Peoples

Publisher: The History Press

ISBN: 978.1.62619.596.7

It may seem like déjà vu, but BLET member A.J. "Alf" Peoples and journalist Mark A. Stevens have co-authored another book about the famous Clinchfield No. 1 steam locomotive.

Based on the success of their first book, *The One & Only: A Pictorial History of the Clinchfield No. 1*, the History Press asked them to do a follow-up. This time, instead of a pictorial history book,



"The Clinchfield No. 1, Tennessee's Legendary Steam Engine" is a definitive history book — about 37,000 words and 160 pages.

Peoples is a member of BLET Division 781 (Erwin, Tenn.), whose railroad career spanned 45 years. He hired out as a car marshal on the Clinchfield Railroad in 1969 and retired as a CSX locomotive engineer in 2014. Stevens has served as a journalist, editor and publisher of both weekly and daily newspapers in Tennessee and Louisiana in a career spanning more than 25 years.

Released nationally on August 19, 2014, the book tells the everyday stories that made the locomotive a fabled symbol of survival and revival. Published by The History Press, the book features nearly 80 vintage photographs, many never before seen by the general public. Many of the stories, too, will be new to readers and railroad enthusiasts.

"The story of the Clinchfield No. 1, including how it was rebuilt in 1968 to lead excursion trains throughout the South, had been well documented over the years," Stevens said, "but Alf and I wanted to explore the stories behind the story. In particular, we wanted to tell the stories of the men who shaped the steam engine's life on the rails."

Utilizing materials available at East Tennessee State University's Archives



Brother A.J. "Alf" Peoples, BLET Division 781, aboard the Clinchfield No. 1 in 1958.



From left: Mark Stevens and Alf Peoples aboard the recently-restored 100-year-old Clinchfield Railroad general manager's car.

of Appalachia and through a series of interviews, Stevens and Peoples pieced together the captivating story of the real-world little engine that could. The book captures the spirit of railroaders who worked to turn an antique steam engine into the nation's oldest working locomotive. Those interviewed include 94-year-old George Hatcher, who served as fireman aboard the No. 1 for 11 years, and current U.S. senator and former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander, who rode behind the No. 1 in 1972 and 1978 as part of a whistle-stop campaign launched by U.S. Sen. Howard Baker Jr.

*The Clinchfield No. 1: Tennessee's Legendary Steam Engine* is available for purchase at local bookstores and online at [Historypress.net](http://Historypress.net) and [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com). Au-



From left: Brother Peoples with George Hatcher, a 93-year-old BLET member who was a fireman on the Clinchfield No. 1.

tographed copies may be ordered directly from the authors by sending a check or money order for \$19.95, plus \$5 for postage to: Mark A. Stevens, 390 Lumbee Circle, Pawleys Island, SC 29585. ☐



# Billboards support California high-speed rail plan

**T**he Teamsters Rail Conference — in conjunction with other labor unions and special interest groups — launched a high-speed rail advocacy campaign in California throughout 2014. As part of the campaign, this pro-rail billboard appeared along Highway 99, which is the main artery connecting cities up and down the Central Valley of California. The Central Valley is where construction of the first 130 miles of the high-speed rail system will begin. More than 60,000 cars a day saw this billboard in the Bakersfield area. The campaign is part of a large-scale plan to bring about a renaissance of passenger rail through our high-speed rail advocacy efforts in California and around the nation, which will create tens of thousands of high paying union jobs. 📍



A billboard supporting the California high-speed rail initiative that appeared in the Central Valley.

## Division 746 in Mandan, N.D., hosts second-annual picnic

**M**andan's second annual BLET Division 746 picnic was a huge success with turnout so large that the hamburgers, brats and beverages were replenished many times, more than twice as much as last year.

BLET Division 746 hosted its second annual picnic on July 16 and 17 for retirees, division members and their families. Sunny skies and perfect temperatures welcomed a larger than expected turnout to the event at Sertoma Park in Bismarck ND.

Like last year, organizers handed out hundreds of tickets to the nearby SuperSlide Amusement Park. Visiting parents were able to take their children on multiple carnival-style rides such as a Ferris wheel, a carousel, a 100-foot



Leftover food that was donated to a local food bank following Division 746's second-annual picnic in 2014.

slide and a railroad roller coaster.

BLET Division 746 Vice President Bill Lipp, along with Brothers Chris Larson, Todd Davis, Jerry Kessel and Sean Forschen, and Rauscha Butler (wife of Division 746 engineer Mike Butler) worked tirelessly to put on the event. They ended up buying the local butcher shop out of hamburger patties. That was in addition to what was ordered for the picnic.

None of the leftovers went



to waste. The unused food went to local charities such as the Dakota Zoo and the Bismarck Mandan Ronald McDonald House.

"The donation could be used to provide more than 30 meals," the staff at the Bismarck Mandan Ronald McDonald House told the Division.

Division 746 picnic organizers issued the following statement: "Our Division feels great pride in the fact that we had a great event and were

able to give something back to the community. Everyone involved with the picnic feels very fortunate that we were able to donate to local charities without even planning to before the picnic. In 2015, we are planning to include a charity fund raiser along with our Division picnic. Some of the military veterans in Division 746 are hoping we can do something for the Wounded Warriors Project or other military/veteran charities next year. Although it is still early in the planning stages we are committed to incorporating charities into next year's picnic.

"Division 746 is committed to putting on a picnic each summer. There is even more of a commitment to having this event after the great experience we had this year." 📍

# letters to the editor

**(BLET EDITOR'S NOTE: BROTHER CARUSO RETIRED EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2014)**

Dear President and Brother Pierce:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for choosing me to serve on the Work/Rituals Committee at the 2014 BLET National Convention. I was honored to serve the Brotherhood as both a delegate and a member of a standing committee at this important event, which will chart the course of our Brotherhood's future.

Towards the end of the Convention, I came to realize that these most likely be my last official duties serving the Brotherhood. I was somewhat saddened when I came to the realization that this part of my life is coming to and end as I approach retirement. I have proudly served in many local positions throughout my 35-year career, and have serve as Division 183's delegate for the past three National Conventions.

I hope to see you at one of the BLET's regional meetings next year or perhaps in Nebraska at a Town Hall meeting some time in the future, but in the meantime, keep up the good fight and continue to move the organization forward as you have done for the last four-plus years. You have a great Advisory Board and I know they will all serve us well.

Best wishes and God Bless the BLET and its leaders!

Fraternally,  
Samuel J. Caruso  
Retired  
Division 183  
Omaha, Neb.

**(BLET EDITOR'S NOTE: THE FOLLOWING IS AN EMAIL FROM ANTHONY CIALLELLA TO PAUL E. SMITH, LOCAL CHAIRMAN OF DIVISION 757, AS THE BLET WAS ABLE TO HELP HIM GET BACK TO WORK.)**



**From left:** Brother Sam Caruso and National President Pierce

Paul:

I especially want to thank you personally for all the time and commitment you put in to get me back on the job and back with my Brothers! I would like to thank you, General Chairman Billy Lyons, the CSX-Northern Lines General Committee of Adjustment and all others involved for the time and effort put in with my case. I also want to thank the members and my fellow Brothers of Division 757 for their part in my case by making the funds available through their dues to help defray the cost of research and representation in such cases.

I know you have had, as have I, a lot of sleepless nights and butterflies in your gut these past few months, not to mention the mental stress that these cases can take on individuals. You always kept me up to speed on the status of my case and always told me the truth (whether it's what I wanted to hear or not). I respect you very much for that.

I want all the Brothers to know that if they need to be represented in an investigation or any situation that they couldn't ask for a better Local Chairman to stand up for them. You did an outstanding job on my case

with your appeal documentation and I am proud to have you represent me.

Thank you again, and thanks to all the Brothers for their support both as fellow railroaders and as friends!

Fraternally,  
Anthony M. Ciallella  
Division 757  
New Castle, Pa.

**(BLET EDITOR'S NOTE: THE NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD CERTIFIED THE BLET AS THE WINNER OF A REPRESENTATION ELECTION AT THE ILLINOIS RAILWAY ON AUGUST 7, 2014, BRINGING AT LEAST 21 NEW MEMBERS INTO THE BROTHERHOOD.)**

Dear President Pierce:

On behalf of the rank-and-file workforce of the Illinois Railway (we still refer to ourselves as Railnet, incidentally), thank you most kindly for letting us join the BLET, with special thanks to both Chris Cundari and Kent Confer (who speaks very highly of you, by the way).

We wish to extend our gratitude and appreciation for the BLET coming on to the property, as we have always had monetary

grievances, as well as staffing issues, which is a direct result of us constantly being undervalued by our carrier. Kent and Chris both sound like people who can help us rectify this situation, as we wish to move forward with the unionization process.

Very soon, we will form a problem committee of adjustment, so that they can report to Chris as to what kind of an overall package (in terms of wages and other quality of life issues), that we seek from the carrier.

I have to commend both Kent and Chris for all of their hard work, and availability throughout this process; they have made themselves available to us evenings, weekends, etc. We do not look upon this as a small sacrifice, since as fellow railroaders, we understand the importance of spending time with one's family.

In closing, let me once again thank you and your team for supporting us, and letting us join the BLET. We look forward to being part of the organization. May God bless and keep you always,

Sincerely,  
Josh Pastin  
Locomotive Engineer  
Illinois Railway, Inc.

## WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS

The Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen Journal welcomes Letters to the Editor. Please include your name, address, BLET Division number, email address, and/or phone number on any submission. We reserve the right to edit your submission for grammar, punctuation, content and space considerations.

### Address letters to:

Editor, Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen Journal,  
1370 Ontario St., Mezzanine,  
Cleveland, OH 44113-1702.  
**Or email:** Bentley@ble-t.org



# Standing up for the union movement





## *BLET National Secretary-Treasurer's Message*

BY STEPHEN J. BRUNO, BLET NATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

# Hitting the ground running

## NEW NATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER GETS TO WORK

**I**t was an exciting and humbling experience when I was elected your new National Secretary-Treasurer at our Third National Convention. Exciting, in that I look forward to the new and varied challenges that lie ahead managing the assets of our Brotherhood and humbling, because you have placed your trust in me to do so.

I want to take a moment to thank Brother Abe Vazquez, Division 582, who nominated me, and to Brother Charlie Lough, Division 131, who seconded my nomination. I thank those Brothers, and intend to measure up to the kind words and confidence in me they expressed during their nomination speeches.

I also thank National President Dennis Pierce and First Vice President Lee Pruitt for their assistance to me personally, their leadership, guidance and unwavering dedication to our Brotherhood and our members during very difficult times. My predecessor, Bill Walpert, took years of experience with him when he retired. He was an effective Secretary-Treasurer and a competent steward of the financial responsibilities of our Organization for many years. I thank him for his dedicated service to our Organization and our members during the past three decades. As I said at the convention in my acceptance speech, the only guarantee I offer is my effort, and I intend to work very hard to create a



seamless transition and build upon our solid 150 year old foundation.

Managing the Brotherhood's finances is a daunting task. From the outset, you could say I had no choice but to hit the ground running. Many months of work involving every department have already gone into the creation of a new BLET membership database, which will bring the National Division's data management processes into the 21st century. We should all be very proud of the accomplishments of the BLET National Division staff in Cleveland on this important project. I look forward to completing the project and implementing a state of the art system.

President Pierce's resolution and the delegates decision to establish three new National Division Trustee positions who will sit on our Advisory Board and assure compliance with our Bylaws and policies was a wise decision and long

overdue. These financial Trustees will have the responsibility of auditing the Brotherhood's books every month, ensuring an unprecedented level of transparency at the National Division level, which I expect will instill even more confidence in the membership that we are headed in the right direction. I thank the elected Trustees — Brother Dave Estes, Brother Mark Wallace and Brother Matt Wilson — for their willingness to serve our great Brotherhood and I know they are up to the task. I look forward to working with them.

Just prior to the convention, President Pierce assigned me as Chairman of the BLET Safety Task Force. I was — and am — proud to accept this critical, safety-sensitive assignment. The Safety Task Force works to investigate major rail accidents from the perspective of operating crew members and provides invaluable information to the National Transportation Safety

Board. All BLET members — myself included — are fortunate to have Brother Carl Fields coordinating the work of the Safety Task Force. His experience and professionalism places our Brotherhood in a positive light and I look forward to working with him in the years ahead.

There are many challenges that our Brotherhood faces now and in the future. As your National Secretary-Treasurer — and also as a rail-roader — I know that issues such as Positive Train Control, one-person operations, inward facing cameras and attendance policies that conflict with fatigue management are industry-specific issues that weigh heavily on our minds. The ongoing War on Workers, with Right-to Work (for less) legislation appearing in numerous states, along with paycheck deception bills, only add to the difficult anti-union environment where we find ourselves. In spite of these challenges, our Union will work with our Brothers and Sisters in the other rail unions, organized labor and indeed all working class people in the country to protect the quality of life our union has fought for since 1863. As a member of your Advisory Board, I will do everything in my power to address these issues in such a way that makes you proud to say you are members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen. 🚂



## Guest Columnists

BY JAMES P. HOFFA, TEAMSTERS GENERAL PRESIDENT  
& JOHN MURPHY, DIRECTOR, TEAMSTERS RAIL CONFERENCE

# Buy American

**O**ur government should take a long look at the proposed 12-nation Pacific Rim trade deal and how it could take away the federal government's ability to enforce a law allowing it to favor American companies when purchasing goods.

The Buy American procurement program has been on the books for more than 80 years. But it has become a target, thanks to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) deal being negotiated. The pact would remove the ability of the U.S. to prioritize com-

*"While some might suggest that American companies will make up for any such losses through increased trading with other Pacific Rim nations, that is not likely."*

panies located in this country when making government purchases.

Under the trade agreement, the U.S. government would be required to grant all firms operating in any TPP country the same access as American companies to federal government procurement contracts over a certain value. The ban on preferential treatment for U.S. firms on obtaining government contracts

would result in the off-shoring of hundreds of millions in tax dollars now recycled into the U.S. economy.

While some might suggest that American companies will make up for any such losses through increased trading with other Pacific Rim nations, that is not likely. The TPP would allow Chinese government-owned firms in Vietnam to undercut American businesses in order to gain U.S.

government business. They can do that because the average minimum wage salary in Vietnam is 52 cents an hour.

America became the world power it is today by taking tough stands. Congress needs to assert U.S. independence now by standing firm against this TPP provision and allowing the Buy American program to flourish.

Fraternally,

**JAMES P. HOFFA**  
TEAMSTERS GENERAL  
PRESIDENT

## Reflecting upon BLET's Third National Convention

**I**n October 2014, I had the honor of addressing delegates at the BLET's Third National Convention in Las Vegas and to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Teamsters Rail Conference.

We have accomplished much in the past decade:

- Our High Alert reports helped compel Congress to pass the first rail safety bill of this century.
- Our Rail Labor Bargaining Coalition ended the divide and conquer strategy of the carriers and we negotiated the best contract in a generation.

• And the Rail Conference is playing a critical role in bringing about a renaissance of passenger rail through our high-speed rail advocacy efforts in California and around the nation, which will create tens of thousands of high paying union jobs.

At the Third National Convention, the delegates displayed remarkable unity and sense of purpose ahead of the upcoming national handling negotiations with the carriers. Like every round, it will not be easy but at the Convention, you unanimous-

ly elected a slate of leaders who will lead the effort with solidarity, strength and commitment to secure the best contract possible, with the full resources of the International Teamsters behind you 100 percent.

Of the many singular moments at the Convention — for those of you who were there I'm sure you'll agree — Bill Walpert's final convention speech was one of the most moving. Brother Walpert's decades' long commitment to the Brotherhood, to his craft, to his

Brothers and Sisters in the cab, and to the labor movement is a shining example of a true labor leader. No words can adequately honor his years of work. His service has been long and steady, his integrity unquestioned, his commitment unshakeable. Thank you, Brother Walpert!

Fraternally,

**JOHN F. MURPHY**  
DIRECTOR, TEAMSTERS  
RAIL CONFERENCE  
AND INTERNATIONAL  
VICE PRESIDENT

### About the Authors:



**James P. Hoffa** grew up on picket lines and in union meetings. He is the only son of James R. Hoffa, former General President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. On his 18th birthday, Hoffa received his own union card and was sworn in by his father.



**John Murphy** has been an Eastern Region Vice President since 1998. He spearheaded merger negotiations with the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees and now serves as Director of the Rail Conference.





# Good News - Increased Daily Benefits Now Available

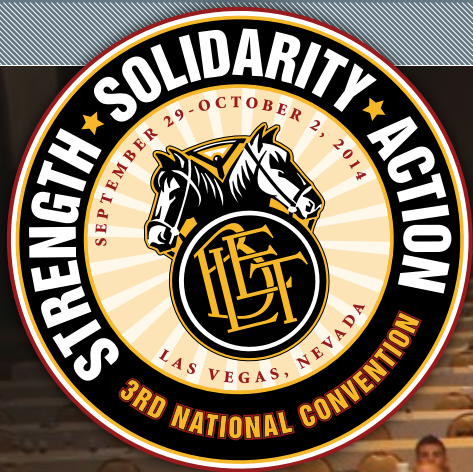
**\$250 per day in  
“Held Out of Service”  
membership benefits  
costs \$95/month.**

**A \$220 membership is also  
offered at \$83.<sup>60</sup>/month.**

Protect your income when disciplined for eligible occurrences with a BR&CF membership. Speak with a local BR&CF member or **visit our web site at [www.brcf.org](http://www.brcf.org) to apply for membership.** Current members may apply to increase... **but don't delay. *Act Now.***







# 3rd National Convention







**More than 500 delegates from across America gathered in Las Vegas to help plot the direction of the BLET for the next four years.**

**CONVENTION COVERAGE: PAGES 12-29**

**SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 2, 2014 | LAS VEGAS, NEVADA**







# Third National Convention wrap-up

**President Pierce, Advisory Board elected by acclamation during BLET's Third National Convention**



**BLET Advisory Board at the start of the convention:** Front row, from left: First Vice President Lee Pruitt; National President Dennis Pierce; and National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert. Back row, from left, are National Vice Presidents: Gil Gore, Steve Bruno, Marcus Ruef, Mike Twombly, Cole Davis, John Tolman, Rick Gibbons and Mike Priester.

## **VP BRUNO ELECTED NST TO REPLACE RETIRING BILL WALPERT, GC JIM LOUIS ELECTED NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT; DELEGATES ADD 3 TRUSTEE POSITIONS TO ADVISORY BOARD**

**D**ennis R. Pierce was elected by acclamation to his second full term as President of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen during the BLET's Third National Convention in Las Vegas on October 1, 2014. Additionally, all Advisory Board members were elected without opposition. Their terms of office will begin on January 1, 2015.

"It's an honor for me to be your Na-

tional President for another four years," President Pierce said. "I have every confidence we will leave here stronger than when we arrived. And when we go home to our Divisions, let us make every effort to make our union the strongest it can be."

The following officers of the Advisory Board were reelected by acclamation: E. Lee Pruitt, First Vice President and Alternate President; John P. Tolman,

Vice President and National Legislative Representative; Marcus J. Ruef, Vice President; Michael D. Twombly, Vice President; Gil L. Gore, Vice President; Michael D. Priester, Vice President; Cole W. Davis, Vice President; and Richard C. Gibbons, Vice President.

Vice President Stephen J. Bruno was elected by acclamation to the office of National Secretary-Treasurer, filing the position vacated by William C. Walpert, who is retiring. Brother Walpert delivered a stirring retirement speech on September 29, the opening day of the convention. Also, Brother James P. Lou-





is, General Chairman, Conrail (SAA/CSX–Northern District), was elected by acclamation to the office of National Vice President, filling the office held by Brother Bruno prior to his becoming National Secretary-Treasurer.

Delegates voted to amend the BLET Bylaws to establish three new Trustee positions to audit the books of the National Division on a monthly basis. Elected by acclamation to those positions were: David P. Estes, Secretary-Treasurer, Amtrak General Committee of Adjustment; Mark L. Wallace, General Chairman, Norfolk Southern–Southern Lines; and Matt O. Wilson, General Chairman, BNSF/MRL General Committee of Adjustment.

Twelve alternate officer positions also were filled by acclamation on October 1. They are as follows: David P. Estes, Alternate Secretary-Treasurer; Vincent G. Verna, 1st Alternate Vice President and National Legislative Representative; Paul Piekarski, 2nd Alternate Vice President and National Legislative Representative; Mark L. Wallace, 1st Alternate Vice President; Matt O. Wilson, 2nd Alternate Vice President; Warren Dent, 3rd Alternate Vice Pres-



ident; William Lyons, 4th Alternate Vice President; Kevin J. Moore, 5th Alternate Vice President; Randy Fannon, 6th Alternate Vice President; Alan Holdcraft, 7th Alternate Vice President; A. Dan Cook III, 8th Alternate Vice President; and Garrison Best, 9th Alternate Vice President.

Throughout the week, delegates deliberated on reports from all BLET standing committees, finalizing their work on the Recommendations of the Bylaws Committee on October 2.

Among the changes to the Bylaws is a provision that alters the structure of the regional meeting system. Beginning in 2016, there will be two regional meetings each year sponsored by the National Division.

Delegates heard from numerous guest speakers, made generous contributions, and passed a resolution supporting two-person train crews. More details on these convention proceedings are featured on the following pages of the *Journal*. 🗣️

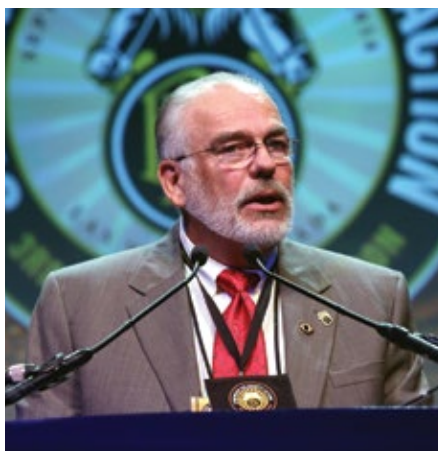




# DAY 1



Dennis R. Pierce,  
BLET National President



E. Lee Pruitt,  
BLET First Vice President



William C. Walpert,  
BLET National Secretary-Treasurer



Matthew Parker,  
Guide



Tim Smith,  
Chaplain



John Fink,  
Director of Bylaws Administration



James P. Hoffa, Teamsters  
General President (VIDEO)



Walt Barrows, Labor Member,  
Railroad Retirement Board





Harold F. Volpe,  
Director of BLET Accounting Dept.



John Murphy, Teamsters Rail  
Conference Director and International  
Teamsters Vice President



Anita Caruso,  
BLET Auxiliary National President

## DAY 2



Ken Hall,  
Teamsters General Secretary-Treasurer



Elizabeth Warren,  
U.S. Senator (D-MA) (VIDEO)

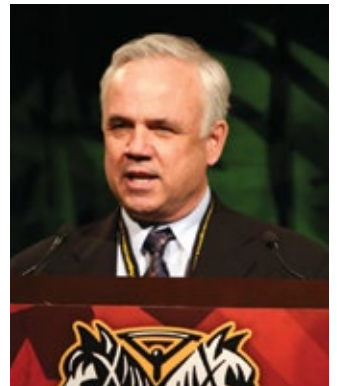


Sherrod Brown, U.S. Senator (D-OH) (VIDEO)



Bernie Sanders,  
U.S. Senator  
(I-VT)

(LETTER READ TO THE AUDIENCE)



Rex Beatty,  
Teamsters Canada  
Rail Conf. President





# DAY 3



Joseph Szabo,  
FRA Administrator  
(VIDEO)



Robert C. Lauby, FRA Associate  
Administrator for Railroad Safety  
and Chief Safety Officer



Antonio Christian,  
Director of the Teamsters  
Human Rights Commission

## COMMITTEES



Credentials Committee (Gary D. Best, Chairman)



Salaries Committee (David P. Estes, Chairman)



Work Committee (Mark Kenny, Chairman)



Bylaws Committee (Jim Dayton, Chairman)



Legislative Committee (Terry Briggs, Chairman)



Arrangements Committee (Dave Ditzel, Chairman)





# Jim Louis newest member of BLET Advisory Board

**J**ames P. Louis, BLET Division 421 (Buffalo, N.Y.), is the newest member of the BLET Advisory Board. He was elected by acclamation to the office of Vice President at the BLET's Third National Convention. Following the convention, National President Dennis Pierce announced that Vice President Louis would serve as Department Head of the BLET's Education and Training Department as well as the BLET's Department of Internal Organizing, Mobilizing and Strategic Planning.

Immediately prior to his 2014 election to the Advisory Board, Vice President Louis served as General Chairman of the Conrail SAA/CSXT Northern District General Committee of Adjustment in Buffalo, N.Y.

Vice President Louis's railroad career began when he hired out with Conrail as a trainman on August 6, 1976, in Buffalo, NY. In 1982, he began working in Conrail commuter service as a trainman/conductor in Hoboken, NJ. He earned promotion to locomotive engineer for Conrail on September 9, 1987, at Oak Point, NY.

He has held many offices on the Division level, including Local Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer. He has also been heavily involved in the Brotherhood's legislative affairs since joining the BLET effective December 1, 1987. He was twice elected Treasurer of the New York State Legislative Board and served as State Legislative Board Chairman from 2008-2010.

Vice President Louis has been active in the BLET's Eastern Union Meeting



Vice President Louis delivers his acceptance speech at the Third National Convention.

Association (EUMA), serving as Arrangements Chairman in 2004, and then as Vice Chairman of the EUMA Standing Committee from 2005 until taking office as Vice President. Beginning in 2013, Vice President Louis began serving as a member of the Rail Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC) as a member of the BLET's Crew Fatigue, Risk Management and Two Person Crew Working Groups.

A second-generation railroader, Vice President Louis is proud of his strong union background. His father, Arthur, was a conductor with the New York Central from 1940 to 1968. His brother, Jerry, was a fireman with Penn Central/Conrail who worked as a Local Chairman of the United Transportation Union from 1970 to 1979. His mother, Leona,

a union baker, taught Jim the values of unionism. As a young girl, she would toss loaves of bread to striking autoworkers in Flint, Michigan, at the risk of being chased by management guards.

Vice President Louis is a Committeeman for the Town of Tonawanda's Democratic Party and has served on the town's Zoning Board of Appeals since 2008. He and his wife Janet have been married for 25 years. They have two sons, Shaun and Christopher, both of whom are Eagle Scouts. Brother Louis himself is a Boy Scout Merit Badge Counselor, specializing in Railroading and American Labor badges. He enjoys spending time with family, including the family's Koi pond and especially with their Yellow Lab, Belle. 🐕

## JAMES P. LOUIS BLET BIO

**Title:** National Vice President **Railroad:** CSX (former Conrail) **Member:** Division 421 (Buffalo, N.Y.) **Background:** Hired out in 1976 as a Trainman for Conrail. Promoted to engineer on September 9, 1987. **Union history:** General Chairman of the Conrail SAA/CSXT Northern District GCA (elected 2009) and Secretary-Treasurer (elected 2004 and 2007). New York State Legislative Board Chairman, (2008). Local Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer of Division 659 (1989); Local Chairman of Division 421 (2004). **Personal:** He is a Boy Scout Merit Badge Counselor who specializes in Railroading and American Labor. He and his wife Janet have been married for 25 years. Their sons Shaun and Christopher are both Eagle Scouts.



# Bill Walpert bids farewell

Delivers moving retirement speech at BLET Third National Convention



“My service as your Director of Education and Training is one of the things in my career with the BLET of which I am most proud,” Brother Walpert said. “In my heart, I’m an engineer and I’m an educator.”

— **BILL WALPERT**

**B**LET National Secretary-Treasurer William C. Walpert delivered a heartfelt and emotional retirement speech on September 29 during the afternoon session of the BLET’s Third National Convention.

“Today marks my final report to you, but I want you to know that when I make this last tie up, my thoughts will be of the Brotherhood and the Brotherhood and the Brotherhood,” he said to a sustained standing ovation.

Walpert’s railroad career spanned more than 41 years.

“I’ve always striven to stay true to the course set by our founders,” Brother Walpert said. “In all my work for the Brotherhood, I have been mindful of the fact that I have been merely a custodian of the proud tradition of this great Organization. Bearing in mind the principles — paraphrasing the great American General, Douglas MacArthur — Duty, honor, brotherhood.”

Brother Walpert has served as the BLET’s National Secretary-Treasurer for 13 years, having been elected in 2001.

He is the union’s longest serving Secretary-Treasurer since Brother H. F. Hempy, who took office in 1939, 75 years ago. As part of his retirement speech, he spoke about the financial good health and viability of our Brotherhood, as well as our growing membership, which has led to renewed strength.

During his tenure, the BLET launched ST Report, the union’s revolutionary online dues and reporting system for Secretary-Treasurers. The BLET’s Education and Training Department also grew to one of the best in the rail industry, especially with the launch of the BLET Training Center during the summer of 2014.

Brother Walpert also served as head of the Internal Organizing, Mobilizing and Strategic Planning Department for many years, leading the BLET’s National Mobilization Team through many tough battles in the late 1990s and early 2000s. He also served as National Chairman of the BLET’s Safety Task Force, representing the BLET in countless hearings before the National Transportation Safety Board over the years.

However, it is the Education and







Training Department that will remain the nearest and dearest to his heart.

“My service as your Director of Education and Training is one of the things in my career with the BLET of which I am most proud,” Brother Walpert said. “In my heart, I’m an engineer and I’m an educator.”

Anyone who has heard Brother Walpert speak over the years will remember that he often described himself as “wearing many hats” for the Brotherhood. But one thing he has learned over his 41-year career: No matter how many hats you wear or how many departments

you are in charge of, it’s the ability to help individual members that means the most.

“I am humbled by the fact through our work in the Education and Training Department we’ve been able to personally touch the lives of so many BLET members,” he said. “I hope that the legacy that I have left behind is one of stewardship, friendship and solidarity with each of you. I hope that you recognize in your decision-making that you are the custodians of these traditions — duty, honor, brotherhood — both now and in the future.”



Brother Walpert with two close friends he thanked during his retirement speech: Tim Stipp (left) and Larry James (right)





## WILLIAM C. WALPERT TIMELINE

### 1973:

Hired out on the St. Louis & San Francisco Rwy. (now BNSF)

### 1974:

Promoted to engineer and joins BLET Division 604 (Madill, Okla.)

### 1974-1984:

Serves as Local Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer of his Division

### 1984-1992:

General Chairman, BNSF/Frisco GCA

### 1986-1991:

First Alternate National Vice President

### 1992-1996:

Appointed Coordinator of BLET Education & Training Dept.

### 1996:

Elected National Vice President: Also named Director of Education & Training Department; Chairman of BLET Safety Task Force; and Director of Internal Organizing, Mobilizing and Strategic Planning.

### 2001:

Elected National Secretary-Treasurer

### 2006:

Reelected NST by acclamation

### 2010:

Reelected NST by acclamation

### 2014:

Announces retirement, which becomes effective January 1, 2015

# A major league retirement gift



Brother Walpert holds a Kirk Gibson autographed baseball presented by Grand Trunk Western General Chairman John Karakian, left.

In the months and weeks leading up to his retirement, former BLET National Secretary-Treasurer William C. Walpert received many gifts to mark the occasion, but perhaps none more special than a baseball autographed by former major league player and current manager Kirk Gibson.


Gibson, who spent most of his playing career with the Detroit Tigers (1979-1987), has served as manager of the Arizona Diamondbacks since 2010. Gibson is a two-time World Series champion (1984 and 1988), a National League Most Valuable Player (1988), American League Championship Series MVP (1984), and a winner of the Silver Slugger Award (1988). He may be best known for a home run he hit off Dennis Eckersley in Game 1 of the 1988 World Series during his time with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Gibson was born in Pontiac, Mich., grew up in Waterford, Mich., attended Waterford Kettering High School and later Michigan State University. Thanks

to these Michigan roots, Gibson just so happens to be friends with BLET member Don K. Steele of BLET Division 920 in Pontiac, Mich.

Brother Steele approached Gibson about signing a ball for NST Walpert. Steele reports that Gibson does not normally give out his signature on baseballs, but made an exception for the BLET and NST Walpert. Steele described Gibson as a union man and a railroad supporter, and that it was his pleasure to sign the ball for NST Walpert for all his years of union service to the BLET.

The gift has special meaning for NST Walpert, who is a life long baseball fan and collector of baseball memorabilia.

General Chairman John Karakian, Grand Trunk Western, presented the ball to NST Walpert during the BLET's Third National Convention in Las Vegas. It was presented on behalf of Kirk Gibson, Don Steele, the entire Grand Trunk Western GCA, the BLET's Advisory Board and all members of the BLET. 





## BLET delegates back two-person train crews on final day of Third National Convention


**D**elegates adopted a resolution pledging the BLET's unwavering support for two-person train crews on October 2, the final day of the union's Third National Convention.

"The single employee train crew issue is one of the most important questions facing rail labor, and specifically the BLET," the resolution reads. "Both SMART and the BLET are supporting federal and/or state legislation to stop the practice of single employee train crews."

The resolution highlights the plight of workers at the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad (W&LE), who have been fighting against single employee crews for years now, having gone on strike over the issue in 2013.

"It is vital that these brothers and sisters win this struggle and demonstrate to the W&LE — and the other rail carriers as well — that union labor will not accept train operations with a single employee," the resolution reads.

The delegates resolved to "pledge our unwavering solidarity and assistance to the members of Division 292 to win this fight." The resolution also calls upon all BLET members and all railroad workers to provide aid and support as necessary in the coming months and years in order to ensure victory.

After passage of the resolution, the BLET's Pennsylvania State Legislative Board pledged \$500 to the cause. Full text of the resolution is copied in the sidebar. 

### Resolution in support of two-person train crews and BLET Division 292

**Whereas**, the single employee crew issue is one of the most important questions facing rail labor, and specifically the BLET; and

**Whereas**, both SMART and the BLET are supporting federal and/or state legislation to stop the practice of single employee train crews; and

**Whereas**, the workers on the Wheeling & Lake Erie (W&LE) members of BLET #292 have been fighting against single employee crews for a number of years now; and

**Whereas**, the engineers and trainmen on the W&LE have gone on strike to defend the two-person crew and oppose the W&LE use of single employee crews; and

**Whereas**, it is vital that these brothers and sisters win this struggle and demonstrate to the W&LE — and the other rail carriers as well — that union labor will not accept train operations with a

single employee; and

**Whereas**, the outcome of this struggle of these brothers and sisters will have a direct impact on engineers and trainmen and all railroad workers throughout North America; their fight is our fight!

**Therefore be it Resolved** that the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) assembled at Convention, October 2, 2014 in Las Vegas, NV, pledge our unwavering solidarity and assistance to the members of Division #292 to win this fight; and


**Be it Further Resolved**, that the union encourages all BLET members and all railroad workers — especially those in geographical proximity — to join the picket line, to bring material aid and assistance and otherwise support the workers on the W&LE as necessary in the coming months and years in order to ensure victory.

## Delegates create three Trustee positions

### Estes, Wallace and Wilson elected to newly created offices

**A**s part of their deliberations during the BLET's Third National Convention, delegates voted to amend the Bylaws and establish three new Trustee positions at the National Division levels.

The duties of the three trustees will be to audit the books of the National Division on a monthly basis under the direction of the Executive Committee.

Elected by acclamation to hold these offices are the following: David P. Estes, BLET Division 60 (Seattle, Wash.); Mark L. Wallace, Norfolk Southern-Southern Lines General Chairman; and Matt O. Wilson, Burlington Northern Santa Fe/MRL General Chairman. 



**BROTHER ESTES** is an Amtrak locomotive engineer currently serving as Vice General Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer of the Amtrak General Committee of Adjustment. He is also Local Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer of Division 60. He joined the BLET on October 1, 1997.



**BROTHER WALLACE** is General Chairman of the Norfolk Southern-Southern Lines General Committee of Adjustment, representing 47 Divisions with over 3,000 members. His father, Ray C. Wallace, served as General Chairman of the same GCA from 1986-2008. He has been a BLET member since he joined Division 267 (Asheville, N.C.) on February 1, 1997.



**BROTHER WILSON** is General Chairman of the BNSF/MRL General Committee of Adjustment, representing 3,900 members in 44 Divisions. It is the largest GCA in the BLET. He was elected by acclamation to the position twice (2010 and 2013) and has been a BLET member since July 1, 1980. He belongs to Division 402 in Pasco, Wash.



**Above:** Jared McNew, Division 139 (Kansas City, Kan.) with Daughters Jennifer and Jasmine



**Left:** Chance J. Gober, Division 182 (North Little Rock, Ark.)



**Left:** Eric Bunch, Division 75 (Kansas City, Mo.) with wife Lari Sue and sons Parker and Lincoln

## Generosity

**T**he generosity of BLET convention delegates has become the stuff of legend. In 1996, the delegates donated \$20,000 to striking newspaper workers in Detroit. And in 2010, they established the Gary Perrien Fund to help BLET Brothers and Sisters who suffered serious injuries that may cause financial hardship for themselves and/or their families.

At the Third National Convention in 2014, BLET delegates stepped up to the plate once again. They made additional donations to the Gary Perrien fund to help four BLET Brothers and their families in need.

The fund is named in honor of retired BLET member Garry L. Perrien of Division 193 (Gretna, La.). In 2010, Brother Perrien was serving on the Arrangements Committee at the BLET's Second National Convention in Las Vegas when he fell ill during the performance of his duties and was rushed to the hospital



As he did in 2010, Brother Perrien served as a delegate to the BLET National Convention in 2014.

for treatment. The initial diagnosis was that Brother Perrien suffered from blood clots in his lungs, which made it difficult for him to breathe.

Delegates to the convention passed the hat and collected more than \$4,000 in donations to help Brother Perrien and his family defray expenses related to his stay in the hospital. While expressing deepest gratitude for their generosity, Brother Perrien explained to the delegates that while the costs of his treatment were exorbitant, his out-of-pocket ex-

penses were minimal thanks to the quality health insurance plan negotiated by the BLET. He then humbly asked their permission to donate the money back to the National Division to establish a benevolent fund to help BLET members less fortunate than himself.

It was one of the finest examples of Brotherhood one could imagine, and Brother Perrien — and the BLET delegates — helped to establish a proud legacy of generosity that will continue to help those in need for years to come.

### JARED MCNEW FUND

Brother McNew, 40, was serving as Local Chairman of Division 130 (Kansas City, Kan.) when he was involved in a horrific motorcycle accident in July of 2014. He sustained a number of critical, life altering injuries and has spent months in intensive care. His wife Julie and daughters Jennifer, 18, and Jasmine, 15, travel three hours on weekends to see Brother McNew at a rehabilitation facility.


### FAMILY OF CHANCE J. GOBER

Brother Gober, 41, was a member of BLET Division 182 in North Little Rock, Ark. He was killed in the line of duty on August 27, 2014, when two Union Pacific trains collided head on near the town of Hoxie, Ark. He is survived by his wife Heather and sons Zach, 21, Jack, 12, and Clay, 10.

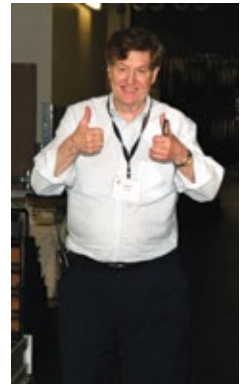
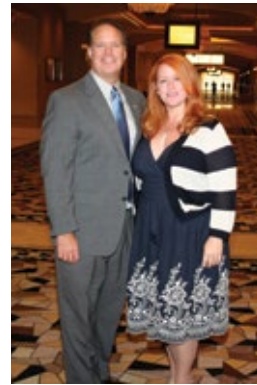
### ERIC R. BUNCH MEMORIAL

Brother Bunch, 38, was serving as Local Chairman of Division 75 (Kansas City, Mo.), when he died unexpectedly of cardiac arrest on July 24, 2014. He is survived by his wife, Lari Sue, and sons Parker, 10, and Lincoln, 8.

### JERRY D. CLOKE

Cloke, a retired member of BLET Division 523 (Chickasha, Okla.), needed help in paying medical costs and other bills associated with a kidney transplant. 







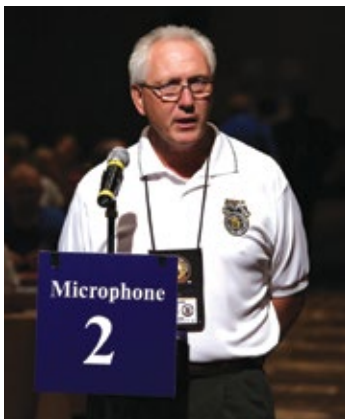


## 3RD NATIONAL CONVENTION

## Photo Gallery















## PRESIDENT PIERCE MESSAGE

CONTINUED FROM  
PAGE 2 ◀▶

I am proud to serve with them as part of BLET's Advisory Board.

Before closing, I would also like to comment on one of the more notable changes that our delegates made in session in 2014, that being the restructuring of BLET's Regional Meetings. For generations, proud members from across the various regions of our Brotherhood planned and hosted regional meetings each and every year. For the past three decades or so the four remaining regional meeting associations were the Eastern Union Meeting Association,

**"We should all be proud of how our delegates from all parts of the country performed those duties at our 2014 Convention."**

the Southeastern Meeting Association, the Southwestern Convention Meeting, and the International Western Convention. Although 2015 will be the final year for these four associations to host regional meetings, our membership will never forget what these associations have done for our Brotherhood. Having attended my first regional meeting almost 25 years ago, I personally know of the benefits that any and all members who attend have received. Whether it be the training, or just the

camaraderie and fellowship that comes from spending time with railroad coworkers, I always left our regional meetings feeling recharged as I went back out to continue our union's fight for the rights of the members.

Beginning in 2016, the National Division will host two regional meetings per year, one to be held in the east and one in the west. As I committed at the Convention, we will do everything in our power to ensure that the two annual meetings hosted by the National Divi-

sion keep the "local" flavor that our current process is so well known for. I do not say that out of obligation, but out of respect for all of the members, past and present, who have labored so hard to put on our regional meetings. Whether it was in a behind the scenes role, or as an arrangements host, I tip my hat and offer my thanks to all who have worked to put on a regional meeting.

In this last year of our current four meeting schedule, please join me in giving our regional meeting associations the sendoff they so richly deserve. Join us in Atlanta, Boston, Denver and Tulsa, and enjoy the education, fellowship and support that these meetings are so well known for. 🇺🇸



# BLET Auxiliary elects new officers at 2nd Quadrennial Convention



**BY SEREENA HOGAN**  
BLET AUXILIARY  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

**I**t is a great honor to have been elected by the delegates at the 2nd Quadrennial Convention of the BLET Auxiliary in Las Vegas, Nevada, to serve the next four years as National President. Fourteen local auxiliaries were represented by their elected delegates, while proxies appointed by Past President Anita J. Caruso represented an additional three auxiliaries. Members-at-Large from the four regions of the country were represented by elected delegates from their regions. In addition, nine national officers were in attendance, including National Past National President Becky Schneider, who presided over the Jurisprudence & Bylaws Committee. A total of 41 resolutions were read and voted upon during the three-day session that convened on September 29 and ended on the afternoon of October 1.

One of the bylaws changes enacted at the convention re-designated the titles of the vice presidents to National 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Vice President. Our National 1st Vice President is Susie Burrola, from Manteca, Calif.; Kathleen "Kat" Bisbikis, from Valley Springs, Calif., was elected as National 2nd Vice President/National Legislative Rep.; and Rachael Grimes, from McCallsburg, Iowa, was elected as National 3rd Vice President/Assistant National Legislative Rep. Terri Fleming, from El Paso, Texas, will take over as the new National Treasurer on January 1, 2015. Debbie Keele, from Paola, Kan., is Alternate National Secretary; and Helen Brand, from Osawatomie, Kan., is the Alternate National Treasurer.



Auxiliary delegates in session.



The Auxiliary's Gina Forman with National President Pierce.



First Vice President Pruitt addresses Auxiliary delegates.

Another bylaw change that allows national officers to now run for a second term made it possible to re-elect Darla Fent, from Council Bluffs, Iowa, to continue to serve as National Chaplain. Lawana Poss, from Suwanee, Ga., will also continue to serve as National Secretary to complete the eight-year term required of that position. And, of course, Anita Caruso assumed the title of Immediate Past National President. Con-

gratulations to all of our new national officers! I truly believe that these ladies have the skills, the talents, and the enthusiasm to take us to new heights in the years ahead.

Since my return from Las Vegas, I have been very busy attending to the many document revisions that arise from the "changing of the guard," learning about my new responsibilities, and getting the new officers up to speed



with the duties of their new positions. I am eternally grateful to Immediate Past National President Anita Caruso, who has been at my beck and call to provide answers to the myriad of questions I have posed to her as I adapt to this new position. I am also very grateful to Past National President Becky Schneider, who has been helping with getting the Journal of Proceedings in order for publication and distribution to those who were in attendance at the convention. Our scribe, Jo Ann Anderson, did a wonderful job of taking the minutes at the convention, and those minutes, along with the many reports and resolutions that were presented

during the convention, are all included in the Journal of Proceedings. The next job is to update the Constitution and Bylaws with the changes voted on by the delegates.

We are all grateful to the BLET National Division for all that was provided for us at our 2nd Quadrennial Convention and to BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce, 1st Vice President E. Lee Pruitt, and to soon-to-be retired National Secretary-Treasurer William C. Walpert, for addressing the attendees at our convention on the last day. Our delegates were honored to have the opportunity to hear from these leaders of the union that we serve and support.

For more information about the BLET Auxiliary, please visit our newly redesigned and very much "alive" website at [www.bletauxiliary.net](http://www.bletauxiliary.net). Many thanks to Member-at-Large Jodi Wallace, of LaGrande, Ore., for volunteering to take over the duties as webmaster for the Auxiliary, and to her husband Will Wallace for all he has done to design the new site and get it up and running. We are excited about all the changes taking place within our organization and look forward to increasing our membership and continuing to fulfill our mission to support the interests and welfare of railroad families across the nation. 

#### ABOUT THE AUXILIARY:

The BLET Auxiliary exists to support the interest and welfare of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) Auxiliary and railroad families, especially the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, and the organizations of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Rail Conference, our members and their families throughout the United States. Learn more about joining the Auxiliary at: [www.bletauxiliary.net](http://www.bletauxiliary.net)

#### PURPOSE:

The overall purpose of the Auxiliary shall be to provide support and promote issues that effect the health, safety, welfare and quality of life of railroaders and their families, to promote higher education with the families of its full members, to give assistance to widows, widowers, sisters and brothers, when needed, especially during times of duress, and to render assistance whenever and wherever needed to further our mission.

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# A Brotherhood Tradition

## 2015 BLET REGIONAL MEETINGS

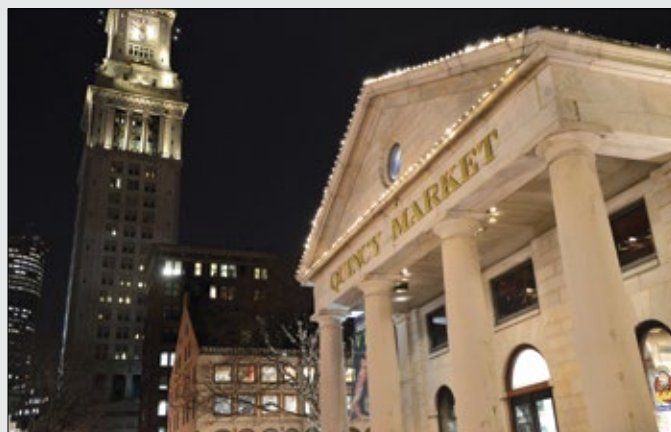
### *88th Annual SMA*

JUNE 14-19, 2015 • BUFORD, GA.



### *77th Annual EUMA*

JULY 26-30, 2015 • BOSTON, MASS.



This year will be the last time BLET members will have the opportunity to attend four different regional meetings in a single year. Delegates to the Third National Convention changed the BLET's regional meeting structure so that there will only be two regional meetings per year beginning in 2016. Make plans to come to the final Southeastern Meeting Association (SMA) and Eastern Union Meeting Association (EUMA) annual conventions this summer!

See Page 4 for more information, or visit [www.ble-t.org/sma](http://www.ble-t.org/sma) and [www.ble-t.org/euma](http://www.ble-t.org/euma).