

UTU News

www.utuia.org

The Official Publication of the United Transportation Union

THE VOICE OF TRANSPORTATION LABOR

“Don’t spit into the wind, don’t tug on Superman’s cape and don’t try to play one labor union off against the other. Through the veins of every brother and sister runs solidarity; and through solidarity, cooperative strategy, commitment and perseverance, we shall achieve victory.” – *UTU International President Paul C. Thompson*

News & Notes

Member killed in Canada

James Prescott, a member of UTU Local 1360 in Calgary, Alta., was killed Dec. 7 in a CN switching accident. He was 51.



Prescott

Prescott worked as a brakeman until the late 1980s when he became a locomotive engineer.

A highlight of his career was when he was given the opportunity to operate the train and work with Jackie Chan on the movie “Shanghai Noon.”

Jim is survived by his loving wife Karen, a son and daughter and many relatives.

Debs plaque deadline

UTU locals and members wishing to donate money to help erect a plaque honoring labor pioneer Eugene V. Debs have until April 15 to respond. (Debs was an officer of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, and helped organize the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen.)

The Debs plaque will be an integral part of the Spirit of Solidarity, a tribute to organized labor being constructed in Grand Rapids, Mich.

So far, the UTU International, one state legislative board, four UTU members and 12 locals have donated to the project. Each group contributing \$250 or more will be honored by having its name inscribed on a walkway brick.

To donate, individual locals and/or members should send checks, payable to the “United Transportation Union Spirit of Solidarity,” to the UTU, Attn. Dora Wolf, 14600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44107-4250.

UTU restricts logo usage

Some UTU members may have recently received promotional and/or sales materials from a firm not authorized to use the UTU logo. The UTU has notified those companies to cease using the logo on its materials and the company has complied.

The use of the UTU and UTUIA logos are closely regulated, and those individuals and companies seeking to include them on correspondence and other materials should contact the UTU International first.

The UTU logo is copyright protected and cannot be used by any entity outside of the union without an express written limited license for its use from the UTU International. The UTU and UTUIA also closely guard their mail lists and email lists, and neither sells nor distributes them.

Members who believe they have been solicited by companies improperly using the UTU or UTUIA logos should report those concerns to the UTU International Law Department immediately.

UTU Blue Ribbon Committee recommends streamlining

By a unanimous vote, the UTU Board of Directors approved recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Committee to streamline the UTU International and significantly reduce its costs of operation. Delegates will now vote on whether to implement them as a change to Article 2 of the UTU Constitution.

The Blue Ribbon Committee observed that while the number of active dues-paying members has declined over time, there has not been a similar decrease in the number of full-time International officers.

In 1974, there was one full-time International officer for every 5,492 active dues-paying members; but, today, there is one International officer for every 3,406 active dues-paying members. In Canada, there are three full-time International officers for 3,192 members.

The Blue Ribbon Committee recommended elimination of eight full-time International officer positions (six by abolishment and two by attrition), which would create a ratio of one full-time International officer for every 5,677 active dues-paying members.

Specifically recommended was that effective

Dec. 31, 2007, four U.S. International vice president positions be abolished; and effective Jan. 1, 2008, two more U.S. vice president positions will be abolished through attrition.

If the Blue Ribbon Committee recommendations are adopted by the delegates, any U.S. vice president vacancies that occur for any reason between the time of adoption and Dec. 31, 2007, such positions will attrite up to the four vice president positions that abolish Dec. 31, 2007.

Also, effective Dec. 31, 2007, the Canadian leg-

islative director and the two Canadian vice president positions will be abolished. Effective Jan. 1, 2008, a new full-time Canadian officer position of vice president/legislative director will be established. If the proposal is adopted by the delegates, any vacancies that occur in the three Canadian officer positions prior to Jan. 1, 2008, the first two vacancies shall be subject to attrition.

“The purpose of this Blue Ribbon Committee was to insulate decision making from union politics and do the right thing by this organization,” said UTU International President Paul Thompson. “Hopefully, the membership will

Continued on page 10

Delegates to vote on attriting officer positions

Workload eased for treasurers

The UTU International is taking steps through computer technology to ease the work burden of local treasurers.

New computer programs will soon permit the International to communicate directly with carriers to ensure that changes in UTUIA and Discipline Income Protection (DIP) deductions are made promptly and accurately.

The Web-based technology will be put into effect for so-called direct-pay locals, where International union dues are being electronically credited to the International.

Changes to UTUIA and DIP deductions will be an overlay to the existing direct-pay process. The changes will become effective within the next 30 to 45 days.

“These changes will shift the burden from

Continued on page 10

Members share in relief funds

Almost \$220,000 has been paid out to UTU members and their families adversely affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The payments from the UTU Hurricane Relief Fund were made possible by contributions from the UTU family, including UTU members, UTU locals, UTU general committees, UTU state legislative offices and the UTU International.

One of the largest contributions to the hurricane relief fund was \$1,000 from retired UTU International employee Catherine “Dickie” Robertson in honor of her sister, Mary Glenn, who was a 56-year UTU employee until her death in March 2005 at age 87.

The UTU Hurricane Relief Fund was established in the wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita to assist unionized railroad and UTU bus

Continued on page 10

Around the UTU

Locals 78 & 265, Pocatello, Idaho

These two UP locals, along with the local chapter of *UTU for Life*, held a Christmas party on Dec. 20 drawing more than 180 members, said State Legislative Director **George J. Millward**. Past General Chairperson and *UTU for Life* Chapter Chairperson **Mac McCarty** was absent due to illness and missed by all. The event raised \$480 for the Idaho Food Bank. Millward thanked the sponsors and Local 78's **Brian Martin, Todd Clement, and Matthew Millward**; and Local 265's **Ralph Fuller, Scott Paul, Mike Oswald and Kelly Fly**.

Local 195, Galesburg, Ill.

Members of this BNSF local thank all UTU members whose prayers and donations are aiding the family of brakeman **Keith Myers**, 34, who died Dec. 4 after falling from a coal car, said Secretary **Ronald D. Murray**.

Local 240, Los Angeles, Calif.

This UP local recently honored two outgoing officers, said member **Brian N. Black**. Honored were **Ralph J. Lee**, who served as president for nine years, and **Fred G. Comeau**, who served as secretary and treasurer for 12 years. Meanwhile, members were saddened by the loss of retirees **Dave Green, Johnny Nichols, Tom C. Hyde and Dave Herron**, who recently passed away.

Local 306, Eagle Grove, Iowa

This UP local is mourning the loss of **Harold Bard**, who passed away in late 2005. Brother Bard, a conductor on the Chicago & North Western for more than 40 years, served as local chairperson for nearly 20 years, and as a delegate attended a number of UTU conventions, said Local Chairperson **Larry J. Pearson**.

Local 324, Seattle, Wash.

This BNSF local recently elected its first female president when it gave the nod to conductor **Tonia Hall**, said **Dale Wallem**, general committee vice local chairperson.

Local 489, San Antonio, Texas

Retired member **Allen M. Johnson**, 90, said he and his companion were among 19 couples who enjoyed the tour of Opryland and Nashville sponsored by the *UTU for Life* program in December. (See Page Eight for news of upcoming trips.)

Local 590, Portage, Wis.

Members of this Canadian Pacific/Soo Line/Milwaukee Road local are holding a Valentine's dinner and raffle on Saturday, Feb. 25, at the Blankenhaus Restaurant in Portage. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m. For more information, contact member **Steve James** at (608) 742-8054, or send him e-mail at rrengineer@charter.net.

Local 750, Knoxville, Tenn.

About 20 members of this Norfolk Southern local participated in Knoxville's Christmas parade, marching or riding on the local's float, said GO-898 assistant general chairpersons **Mark Cook and Mike Lydon**. Driving the float was the committee's General Chairperson **Paul Emert**.

Local 756, San Antonio, Texas

As this UP employee has done for the past 12 years at various schools and orphanages, **Bobby Flores**, committee member in Laredo, Texas, played Santa Claus to the delight of the children attending Charles R. Borchers Elementary School. "I can honestly say, there is no greater feeling than to see such happiness in their faces," said Flores.

Heart attack in cab highlights crew size

A tight-knit group of BNSF Railway employees, members of Local 1177 in Willmar, Minn., are mourning a recent death and at the same time wondering why the nation's major railroads would want to roll the dice with a national Section 6 proposal calling for one-person crews.

Shortly after noon on Dec. 27, 2005, 48-year-old engineer

Leon Klinghagen and conductor **Michael Vosika**, both members of Local 1177, were aboard BNSF 8092, pulling into a siding in Litchfield, Minn. Suddenly, Brother Klinghagen slumped in his seat, the victim of a heart attack.

"I wasn't sure, at first, what was happening," said Vosika about his longtime friend. "He had no prior health problems, as far as I knew. I thought maybe he'd fainted or something."

Brother Vosika reacted immediately, taking control of the locomotive and bringing it to a stop while notifying the dispatcher via radio of the medical emergency.

"The dispatcher was great, and within five to 10 minutes, the police and an ambulance arrived," Vosika said. "They worked on Leon right in the cab and did everything they could."

Despite the paramedics' efforts, Brother Klinghagen passed away, leaving behind a wife, four children, nine grandchildren, three sisters and two brothers. (He was preceded in death by one sister and a twin brother.)

"Obviously, something like this bothers you a lot," said the 58-year-old Vosika, who has been a UTU member since 1980. "I'd known Leon since he came on the railroad, going back to about 1994. I was at his house on Christmas Day, playing Santa Claus for his family. Leon was well known and very well liked."

Beyond the personal loss, the incident has left Vosika and other members of the local shaken because of its implications in light of the carriers' Section 6 crew-consist proposal.

"Eventually, the locomotive would have come to a stop had Leon been alone in the cab," Vosika said, "but what if it didn't stop soon enough? What if the train had been in another spot and gone through the siding and into the path of another train? What if it was possible to save someone in a similar predicament, but no one was there to call for medical help?"

Then Vosika posed the question that haunts and bewilders the members of Local 1177: "Why would the carriers create a situation that could leave someone suffering, maybe dying, alone on the floor of a locomotive?"



Klinghagen

Local 794, Wellington, Kan.

This BNSF local recently honored conductor and engineman **Richard D. Lusk**, said Local Chairperson **Kurk Crittenden**. Brother Lusk retired in October 2005 after 42 years of service with the Santa Fe and BNSF.

Local 951, Sheridan, Wyo.

Members of this BNSF local held their annual Christmas party and awards banquet on Dec. 16, where Vice Local Chairperson **Grover Sharp** was lauded for his efforts in 2005, said State Legislative Director **Terry Ungricht**. Also at the event, UTU Auxiliary State Legislative Director **Nancy Drummond** was honored as volunteer of the year by the Sheridan County Chamber of Commerce. Guests included Wyoming Gov. **Dave Freudenthal**,

BNSF General Chairperson **Randy Knutson** (GO-245) and Railroad Retirement Board Representative **Ron Kaminski**.

Local 1221, Tampa, Fla.

Members of this CSXT local were saddened by the loss of Local Chairperson **Frank Snyder**, who passed away in early December after a brief illness, said CSXT General Chairperson **John Hancock** (GO-851).

Local 1313, Amarillo, Texas

This BNSF local is inviting members and their spouses to two workshops featuring representatives from the UTUIA, Railroad Retirement Board and health and welfare providers UnitedHealthcare, Aetna and Care (Temple, Texas), said Local President **Joe Romo**. The events will be held March 13 at 6 p.m. and March 14 at 1 p.m. at the Woodmen of the World Building, 4535 Canyon Dr., Amarillo, TX 79110. For information, contact Romo at (806) 622-2265 or Secretary **Jeremy Rock** at (806) 457-1097.

Local 1438, Lincoln Park, Mich.

Members of this local, which includes NS and Delray Connecting Railroad employees, were saddened by the recent passing of Legislative Rep. **John L. Powell**, said State Legislative Director **Jerry Gibson**.

Local 1440, Staten Island, N.Y.

Members of this Long Island Rail Road local are mourning the death of **James (Geech) Eugenio**, who recently retired after 30 years of service, said Secretary **Kevin J. Hughes**.

Local 1778, N. Vancouver, B.C.

The winter issue of this CN local's newsletter, *Meeting Point*, is now available on the Web site shared by this local and Local 1923 in Prince George, B.C., said Secretary and Treasurer **David Moorhouse**. Also available on the Web site is the CN pension plan document dated June 15, 2004. Visit the site at www.ututbc.com.

Local 1846, W. Colton, Calif.

This UP local offers congratulations and best wishes to N.C. "Corky" **Sykes, E.B. Todd Jr. and Wade H. Wallace Jr.**, who recently retired, said Local President **Richard Escamilla**. Meanwhile, all are invited to participate in the West Colton Golf Club's Las Vegas Classic, set for June 12-15. This is the 15th year Escamilla will chair the event. For information about the the four-day, three-night event, contact Brother Escamilla by calling (909) 795 6867 or send him e-mail at pres1846@earthlink.net.

Local 1963, Louisville, Ky.

Retired member **Joe Alenduff** is again organizing an annual picnic for retirees in the vicinity of St. Petersburg, Fla. The event, set for Saturday, March 18, will run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Ft. DeSoto Park in St. Petersburg. Coffee and iced tea will be furnished. Participants are urged to bring two covered dishes to share, their own place settings and a cup. For more information or directions, contact Alenduff at (727) 522-6808 or send e-mail to him at jalenduff@tampabay.rr.com.

Local 1977, Seattle Wash.

Retired BNSF yardmaster **Jim Sofie**, 72, a member of the Polar Bear Club, took a dip in the cool waters of Lake Wenatchee near Leavenworth, Wash., at 2 p.m. on Jan. 1. Sofie said this was the 14th year he participated. Call Sofie at (509) 763-2197 or send e-mail to bigwhitepolarbear@msn.com.

UTU, TTD help gain win for rail retirement system

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A favorable decision by the Surface Transportation Board affecting carrier payments into the Railroad Retirement system has important implications for Amtrak and freight railroads.

The STB decision followed an earlier and similar ruling by the Railroad Retirement Board.

The decision directly affected American Orient Express, a so-called excursion company; but the reasoning in the decision is more far-reaching.

American Orient Express, or AOE, claimed it is not a common carrier and, as such, has no obligation to pay Railroad Retirement or railroad unemployment taxes – that it is a land excursion company that owns vintage railroad coaches, diners and sleepers, and merely provides vacation packages.

AOE asserted that Amtrak, which pulls its excursion cars with Amtrak locomotives and

operating crews, is the common carrier subject to the Railroad Retirement and railroad unemployment taxes.

Not so, said the STB in ruling AOE is, indeed, a rail carrier. As such, AOE must pay

STB rules AOE is liable for retirement, unemployment taxes

Railroad Retirement and railroad unemployment taxes on its employees.

The STB ruled that AOE, by making reservations, selling tickets and holding itself out to the public, is, in fact, engaged in the business of transporting persons or property.

A different decision could have resulted in non-union entities creating similar services using modern equipment and contracting with a skeletonized Amtrak.

Freight railroads might have sought similar loopholes in an effort to cut costs. The removal of thousands of workers from the Railroad Retirement and railroad unemployment systems could have adversely affected the financial solvency of both systems.

In 2001, the Railroad Retirement Board made a finding that AOE is subject to Railroad Retirement and railroad unemployment taxes on its employees. A petition by AOE for reconsideration is before the Railroad Retirement Board, but it has delayed ruling on that petition pending the STB decision.

The UTU and Transportation Trades Department of the AFL-CIO were the only labor organizations to oppose the AOC petition before the STB.

UTU wins court ruling on vacation, leave time

CLEVELAND, Ohio – The UTU and others in transportation labor were successful in turning back efforts by the nation's rail carriers to use the Federal Medical Leave Act (FMLA) to trump contract provisions regarding vacation.

The UTU and others went to court to fight a decision by the railroads to force their workers to exhaust their paid vacation and personal leave days before they could take unpaid leave time due them under the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

Federal District Court Judge Wayne R. Andersen rejected the carriers' contention that the FMLA authorized them to require employees to substitute paid vacation or personal leave days for unpaid leave under the FMLA, regardless of any collective bargaining agreements.

The court held that "if a (collective bargaining agreement) gives employees the right to determine when, or in what manner, they take accrued vacation and/or personal leave, an employer cannot force employees covered by

that (agreement) to use such vacation and/or personal leave at a time of the employer's choosing."

The court also indicated that, absent mutual agreement on the meaning of the relevant provisions in the collective bargaining agreement, the determination of whether a railroad collective bargaining agreement prohibits such required substitution will have to be determined through arbitration.

Carriers are expected to appeal the decision.

Brunkenhoefer reappointed to advisory panel

WASHINGTON, D.C. – UTU National Legislative Director James M. Brunkenhoefer has been reappointed to serve a three-year term on the Railroad/Shipper Transportation Advisory Council (RSTAC), according to the Surface Transportation Board.

The appointment of Brunkenhoefer, who had previously served on the council's executive committee, was one of 15 selected by STB Chairman Roger Nober and announced in January. Brunkenhoefer was

first appointed to the council by former STB Chairman Linda Morgan.

The council provides advice on regulatory policy and legislative matters to the STB chairman, the secretary of transportation and the Congress. It also provides a forum for the discussion of matters of concern to small rail shippers and small railroads, in particular rail-car supply, service, rates, competitive issues and procedures for dispute resolution.

The council's membership includes representatives of large and small railroads, shippers and one public member.

In addition, the secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation and the three STB members serve as ex-officio members.

More information regarding the RSTAC may be found on the STB's Web site at http://www.stb.dot.gov/stb/rail/railshipper_council.html.

Tips to help from catching and spreading flu, colds

A doctor familiar with the working environment of transportation employees, Dr. Thomas Pace, has issued tips to aid these workers and their families from catching the flu and other seasonal illnesses.

This year, the annual flu season has gotten even more press than usual with the highly publicized concerns about the potential spread of the avian flu, according to Pace, who also serves as BNSF Railway's chief medical officer.

As with every flu season, Pace said, it is smart to practice all of the good habits that help prevent the spread of the flu virus. Pace provide these tips to help keep you healthy:

- **Keep your immune system in good shape** by eating wholesome foods, especially lots of vegetables and fruits. Get adequate sleep, drink plenty of non-alcoholic fluids and exercise moderately on most days.

- **Don't share your air.** If you're around someone who's sneezing or coughing, stay at least three feet away.

- **If you think you were exposed to the flu,** consider taking vitamin C to help build your immunity.

- **Wash your hands frequently** with soap and warm water, rubbing your hands vigorously together. Wash for 15 to 20 seconds. The soap combined with the scrubbing action can help dislodge and remove germs.

- **Avoid touching or rubbing your eyes** if you think you've been exposed to contaminated surfaces. Viruses can enter your body through any mucus membrane, including the area around your eyes.

- **If you're eating out** and the person who serves your food is coughing or sneezing, do not eat the food. Politely ask for a replacement or a refund.

If you do come down with the flu, Pace said these points of "etiquette" will help prevent spreading the infection:

- **Stay home, get plenty of rest,** and check with a health care provider as needed.

- **Cough or sneeze into a tissue** and then throw it away. Cover your cough or sneeze if you do not have a tissue. Then, clean your hands, and do so every time you cough or sneeze.

- **If you're caught without tissues,** consider sneezing or coughing into the crook of your arm, not into your hands. Your hands are the easiest way to spread the virus.

- **If you're sick, carry some disinfectant wipes.** It's beneficial to everyone if you wipe off doorknobs, phones and computer keyboards.

- **If you're sick, don't prepare food** for other people.

"Some people mistakenly ask their doctors to prescribe antibiotics to fight the flu," Pace said. "In fact, antibiotics effectively fight bacteria but have no effect on flu viruses. So when faced with the flu, resist the temptation to request antibiotics, which can actually present other medical problems if used too frequently. Remember that most healthy people recover from the flu without complications."

Paul C. Thompson, International President
p_thomps@utu.org

Rick Marceau, Assistant President
r_marceau@utu.org

Dan Johnson, General Secretary and Treasurer
d_johnso@utu.org

James M. Brunkenhoefer, Nat. Legislative Dir.
utunld@aol.com

Contact the UTU:

via telephone at (216) 228-9400

via fax at (216) 228-5755

via e-mail at utunews@utu.org

Solidarity = Victory

Building coalitions is the art of statecraft.

The current administration refused to build a world-wide coalition before venturing into Iraq and the U.S. is now forced to bear the burden of rebuilding Iraq alone, with few allies to assist.

The UTU International leadership uses a different playbook.

When it became apparent the National Carriers' Conference Committee was driving a wedge between the UTU and the BLET for selfish bargaining leverage, the UTU and BLET put differences aside and formed a partnership to serve all members.

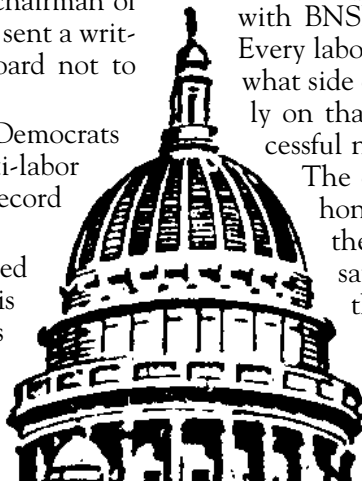
Believe in labor solidarity. Within hours, the Teamsters and the AFL-CIO offered their full support.

Congressional friends of labor quickly spoke out in support of the UTU-led coalition. Chief among them is Republican Don Young, chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, who sent a written warning to the Bush-controlled National Mediation Board not to climb into bed with the carriers.

The word is going forth from moderate Republicans and Democrats that Congress will not be a carrier patsy and rubber stamp anti-labor PEB recommendations – especially when carriers are earning record profits and paying record bonuses.

UTU members have a vital role to play, also. As you are asked to make phone calls and send e-mails, remember this fight is about job security and the future of Railroad Retirement. It is that simple and that urgent.

In unity there is strength and in solidarity there is victory.



WASHINGTON WATCH

By James M. Brunkenhoefer

Where is the outrage over Abramoff?

If you visit Washington, D.C., this spring, be sure to wear your wading boots and rain slicker to avoid the oozing slime coming from the Jack Abramoff political lobbying scandal.

Yes, we are a bipartisan union; and, yes, we have more friends in one political party than in the other. But the slop and slime is falling on members of both parties.



Brunkenhoefer

There will be a handful of Democratic lawmakers and their staff in Congress who take a hard fall on this; but there appears to be a bushel basket of Republican lawmakers and their staff involved in the scandal.

But recognize that the great majority of those in Congress and their staff had absolutely nothing to do with the Abramoff scandal.

I have never seen so much money as is involved in this political scandal. It is in the many, many millions of dollars.

Its trail leads to posh resorts where members of Congress and some of their staff were jetted to by corporate jets; and it leads to cash from a Russian-owned energy corporation that allegedly was laundered through a London source and into a tax-free foundation where it was used to corrupt lawmakers.

The victims of this scandal include the perceived integrity of our entire political and legislative system. But the scandal is not new – just bigger than previous ones, such as Watergate or Teapot Dome.

The Abramoff scandal could be Washington's biggest disgrace ever

Deplorable actions

By Paul C. Thompson
International President

You don't spit into the wind, tug on Superman's cape or try to play one labor union off against the other – especially if it means job reductions, reduced safety and a weakened Railroad Retirement system.

Through the veins of every brother and sister runs solidarity; and through solidarity, cooperative strategy, commitment and perseverance, we shall achieve victory in this round of national negotiations with the major railroads.

I have participated in national negotiations more than 20 years, and this current round with the National Carriers' Conference Committee, which represents the railroads, is the most deplorable. They have privately and separately promised the UTU and the BLET that each would become the surviving union if, among other things, each would testify against the other during Presidential Emergency Board hearings.

The carriers' chief negotiator has been playing us like a banjo, with BNSF the most aggressive. Every labor negotiator, no matter what side of the table, learns early on that the only key to successful negotiations is honesty.

The carriers have not been honest. But rather than their deplorable whip-sawing tactics driving the UTU and BLET further apart, they have brought us closer together.



Thompson

The carriers' claim that positive train control technology allows one-person crews is no more truthful than evidence of a tooth fairy. Carrier operating officers admitted PTC is years from reliability and safe implementation, and the FRA hasn't studied the safety and reliability of reduced crew size nor its impact on an already highly fatigued workforce operating trains through congested areas carrying highly toxic hazmat.

The carrier crusade to reduce crew size is all about further fattening already fat bottom lines and officer bonuses.

The railroads also have infuriated their Republican friends in Congress by threatening to dump in their laps a rail-labor problem before elections. We may have fewer Republican friends, but even those not normally friendly to labor recognize that the UTU court case on crew consist should be decided before Congress is asked to referee a labor/management battle. This is especially true now that the UTU/BLET partnership includes support from the AFL-CIO, other rail unions and even the Teamsters.

Indeed, rather than bashing a goodies-filled piñata with their bat, the carriers have opened a hornet's nest.

We have a carefully crafted plan to counter the carriers' deceptive anti-safety and anti-employee strategy of using their friends in government to force a crew-size reduction. Your continued assistance making phone calls and sending e-mails, as requested by your local and general committee officers, is key to our success.

State Watch *News from UTU State Legislative Boards*

Illinois

Following a complaint from the UTU Illinois Legislative Board, the FRA said it would cite Norfolk Southern for the mishandling of an employee on-duty injury by a terminal superintendent in Decatur, according to State Legislative Director **Joseph C. Szabo**.

In a letter to Szabo, FRA Regional Administrator Laurence H. Hasvold said his investigators determined that the NS terminal superintendent violated the law when he failed to report an injury suffered by a switchman last year.

FRA's investigation revealed that after the NS terminal superintendent drove the injured employee to an emergency room for treatment he engaged in conduct designed to make the injury appear non-reportable.

"He denied the employee's request to mark off in accordance with the physician's instructions. Clearly, the supervisor was not knowledgeable about FRA reportable injuries and disregarded the physician's instructions," Hasvold wrote.

Hasvold told Szabo his office had recommended that NS be assessed a civil penalty (fine) for violating the law and that a "regional letter of warning" would be issued to the terminal superintendent regarding his failure to handle the injury properly.

"One day – hopefully soon – the mistreatment of injured railroad workers will end," Szabo said.

Maryland

The Maryland Senate overrode several vetoes of Gov. Bob Ehrlich on the first days of the session, and the one that gained the most attention was SB 790, the "Fair Share Health Care" bill, otherwise known as the Wal-Mart bill, according to State Director **Larry Kasecamp**.

"Three years ago we partnered up with the 'Maryland Health Care for All Coalition' to seek affordable health care for all Marylanders," Kasecamp said.

"The bill passed in the 2005 session, but was vetoed by the governor," Kasecamp said. "However, the legislature voted for the override and our coalition couldn't be happier.

"Now, major corporations such as Wal-Mart can no longer freeload on the backs of Maryland taxpayers by shifting their employees to the rolls of the state for their health care without a consequence.

Kasecamp said the UTU also is working to get measures passed that would establish a commission to study Southern Maryland transportation needs and to make it easier for residents to register and vote.

New England States

Two bills working their way through the New Hampshire legislature are of interest to UTU members, reports New England States Legislative Director **George Casey**.

House Joint Resolution 24 (HJR 24) supports the establishment of commuter rail service in the state while House Bill 1655 supports a commuter rail system to complement the I-93 expansion project, Casey said.

"HJR 24 is intended to find solutions to funding and management problems connected with restoring/extending commuter rail service from Massachusetts into New Hampshire," he said. "Funding issues also have delayed and frustrated the extension of MBTA service on the Lowell Line 10 miles northward to Nashua, N.H. This would be the first incremental extension into New Hampshire, with a second phase reaching Manchester, which is about 20 miles further."

UTU has testified in support of these bills and Casey said the New England Legislative Board is asking that all New Hampshire members call their legislators and ask them to support these legislative efforts.

Wyoming

Wyoming's UTU Auxiliary state legislative director, Nancy Drummond, has been chosen as the Sheridan County Chamber of Commerce volunteer of the year, according to State Director **Terry Ungricht**.



Drummond

"She has been active in the Chamber of Commerce for over 20 years, serves on the Sheridan school board, delivers meals on wheels to seniors, helps organize the MS Walk-a-Thon each year, and is the state vice chair of the Democratic Party. She has been especially helpful in counseling retired rail-

roaders and other retirees on the new Medicare prescription plans. The State of Wyoming and the United Transportation Union are fortunate to have her as one of our own." Drummond is the wife of Bruce Drummond, local chairperson of Local 951 in Sheridan.

Idaho

Members of the Idaho State Legislative Board, along with UTU officers from Locals 78 and 265 (both in Pocatello), recently held a private meeting with Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada when he was visiting the state, according to State Legislative Director **George Millward**. Millward, along with Assistant State Director Larry Morton, said the group talked with Reid about the attack on the Federal Employers' Liability Act by the rail carriers.

After the meeting, Reid spoke to more than 400 local Democrats on how to take back their government in the next election. UTU members who attended were Local 78 Legislative Rep. Todd Clement and his wife; Local 78 Vice President Matthew Millward and his wife; Local 265 Chairperson Greg Wilson and his wife; Local 265 member James Buffaloe and his wife, and retired Local 265 member State Sen. A. Linn Whitworth and his guest.

Bus Department

By Roy Arnold, vice president/director

Fresh starts for the new year



Is your local thinking about a fresh start this new year? Make your resolutions effective and long-lasting by taking time to plan changes and ensure the goals are realistic. Reaching out to members for advice certainly will help the process and better ensure success.

Here are some things to consider in setting goals for the coming year:

- How often you do have meetings? Plan the meeting schedule around realistic expectations and recognition that members have competing family interests. Above all, give members a reason to attend union meetings.
- Devise a plan to ease internal bickering that is normal within any group. Ensure members have opportunity to say what is on their minds and create an open and all-inclusive environment. Consider less formal meetings, such as a potluck dinner, or even inviting a non-member to attend where the benefits of union membership can be discussed.
- Does your local have a discretionary flower fund for births, graduations and bereavement? Are members' birthdays and illnesses being recognized by verbal or written communication?
- Consider meetings where various contract provisions are reviewed to ensure understanding of what they mean and how they affect the membership. Make sure every member has a copy of the contract, and ensure all members understand their rights under the contract.

As you plan the year ahead, develop specific goals for the local, seek to involve all members, and keep score on how well goals are being achieved.

Without participation of all members, the word "union" is meaningless.

The American worker faces an uphill battle these days, but by using the strength of our union family we can, and will, prevail.

Yardmasters

By J.R. "Jim" Cumby, vice president

It starts in Congress and ends with you



For better or worse, what happens on the railroad first happens in Congress.

Only Congress can make changes to the Railroad Retirement and railroad unemployment acts.

Only Congress can protect (or scrap) the Federal Employers' Liability Act (FELA).

Only Congress can change the Hours of Service Act and other laws affecting transportation safety.

And it is Congress that decides whether to impose recommendations of a Presidential Emergency Board.

Electing labor-friendly lawmakers obviously is a priority. When anti-labor conservatives are in charge, no working family is secure.

There are two ways to protect our interests in Congress.

One is by registering to vote and voting – and that also means encouraging all family members, friends and neighbors to register to vote and then cast ballots for labor-friendly candidates.

The second way to protect our interests is to contribute to the UTU PAC, which helps fund the election campaigns of labor-friendly candidates.

Want evidence of UTU PAC's value? Consider recent written warnings by UTU congressional friends that Congress will not roll over for carrier-friendly PEB recommendations should the freight railroads in national negotiations convince the National Mediation Board and White House to stack the deck against labor.

The power of the ballot box can only work for us if we get out the vote and support labor-friendly candidates.

UTU Web site: Info and services on demand!

What's in the red area?

Some of the most empowering elements delivered by your UTU Web site can be found along the left-hand side of its home page, in the blocks colored red and blue. Whether you have a computer at home or need to visit a friend or your local library to log on and investigate, it's well worth the effort to click on the major headings found in these two areas to see what's available. These items can help you become an integral part of the organization that secures your job and your family's welfare. Below are a few of the items you'll find in the red area:

WASHINGTON UPDATES

More often than not, the UTU flexes its muscles through the legislative process. This item at the top of the red area offers resources for understanding the political process and becoming involved. Click on "Washington Updates" to see a page highlighting current issues and alerting you to pending legislation that may directly affect you and your family. Want to write to the UTU's national legislative director or one of your elected representatives in Congress? This page makes it easy, and also includes information about UTU PAC, transportation labor's most effective political action committee.



UTUIA

This is your link to the UTUIA, which has provided security to transportation workers and their families through life, health and retirement products for more than 135 years. At your leisure, learn about the economic steps you can take now to secure the future for you and your family. Go here to explore the wide variety of life insurance policies, income-replacement plans, health-care annuities and long-term care options available. Want to talk to a representative about your unique needs? You can make those arrangements here!



CONTACT UTU

Want to send a letter to an International officer or a certain department at the UTU International? Unsure how to contact your state legislative director? Need to contact your general chairperson? Looking for a way to write or call the members of the Transportation Safety Team? Is there an issue you'd like to bring to the attention of the UTU Human Rights Committee? Just one click on "Contact UTU" and another on the listing you want brings you the information you need to send a letter, fire off some e-mail or make that phone call.



AWARDS/AGREEMENTS

Clicking on "Awards/Agreements" takes you to a page providing links to a variety of important documents, agreements and protective conditions, as well as linking you to a searchable database of thousands of arbitration awards affecting the various crafts represented by the UTU. It's almost like having a law library at your fingertips! And there's more – because if it's not in the UTU's database, we provide a link from here to the National Mediation Board's Knowledge Store. Want to read the UTU Constitution? This is the place!



UTU FOR LIFE

The UTU was built by previous generations, and further progress will be secured by future generations. Retired UTU members remain part of the family, and they make the most of that relationship through the *UTU for Life* program. Click here to learn about this program, to find a local chapter that meets regularly, to discover ways to prepare for retirement, or to access the latest news affecting pensioners. A convenient link to the Railroad Retirement Board can also be found on this page.



Make the most of your computer – and your union membership – each day by visiting www.utu.org, the UTU's home on the Internet! Why? Here's a sampling of just a few features and highlights – but don't be afraid to click and explore!

And now, our Top Story...and then some!

Among its many other functions, the UTU's Web site complements the monthly *UTU News*, providing a comprehensive selection of daily news stories affecting transportation labor. If you only have time to view one site, this information alone makes this the one to visit.

Besides keeping an eye on the "Top Story" (and the story below it), UTU members can keep abreast of current events by checking the gray area on the right-hand side of the UTU's home page. Here, we supply a daily selection of current stories from newspapers, television and radio stations, and other sources, including exclusive original material not found anywhere else. And in

blue type, under the list of headlines in the gray area, is the "More Headlines" link. Clicking that link takes you to the day's complete list of stories, as well as stories from the past week or so, and to a tool that allows you to search for stories by keyword or see all the stories from a particular month and year.

In a hurry? Want just the stories about your particular profession? Go to the top of the UTU's home page, where you'll see a black stripe with headings in white type. Click on these headings to get pre-sorted lists of stories relevant to the topic you clicked on. Want to see what's happening with Amtrak? Click on "Amtrak/Commuter." Interested in bus stories? Click on "Bus."

What's in the blue area?

Like the red area, the blue area contains information and resources that help UTU members at their jobs and in their homes. By taking full advantage of the offerings on the UTU Web site, members create a stronger union that operates more efficiently and effectively. Below are some of the resources contained in the blue area on the left-hand side of the UTU's home page. While there's much you can do and find for yourself through the UTU Web site, don't hesitate to contact us for help. *The UTU International staff stands ready to assist you with prompt, first-class service!*

HEALTHCARE

Click on "Healthcare" and you'll get a page with links to companies that administer medical, dental, vision, prescription drug, mental health/substance abuse and life insurance benefits under the nationally negotiated benefit plans. This page also includes toll-free telephone numbers and claim mailing addresses. But there's more! Healthcare news stories from our daily news digest are collected here for ease of access, along with columns written by UTU Medical Consultant Dr. Norman K. Brown, M.D. Also, the latest alerts from health and welfare providers, as well as information for those on disability or preparing for retirement, can be found here.



SECRETARY/TREAS. NEWS & TOOLS

If you're a local secretary or treasurer, and you haven't visited this page, you're doing things the hard way! This page provides access to the computerized book-keeping program, *Winstabs 2006*; a variety of forms that are frequently used by local treasurers, and links to other important or useful Web sites. There's also a link to an e-mail box where you can submit questions regarding your duties. Make sure you scroll down to the alerts that keep you up to date, and note the handy checklist of reports that should be filed.



TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

This union and its predecessors fought for and obtained federal laws making transportation occupations safer. But each year, thousands of rail, bus and transit workers are injured, and some are killed, on the job. Click on "Transportation Safety" to learn about hazards in your workplace and how to prevent accidents. Included is a special section on fatigue, a link to the UTU Transportation Safety Team, another to general summaries of safety laws and recommendations, and links to safety-related agencies and resources. Also included is a link to the Switching Operations Fatalities Analysis (SOFA) working group.



UTU GEAR

What would the Internet be without shopping? This is the place to go to find UTU apparel that reflects your pride in occupation and membership. Each item from the UTU online store, hosted by American Products Co., carries a 100-percent quality guarantee against defects in materials and workmanship, with volume discounts on customized orders available to UTU locals. Looking for watches, caps, T-shirts, jackets, specialty items, golf products or custom novelty products bearing the UTU logo? You're just a click away!



LINKS

The UTU Web site is the logical starting point for your online excursions. Click on "Links" to save time finding government, railroad, bus company and transit system Web sites. View sites posted by other UTU locals, state legislative boards, general committees and organized labor. And a new link takes you directly to the Railroad Retirement Board's updated job list.



UTU for Life

Museum visitors learn from retiree

When Conrail engineer **Ronald E. Fox** retired at age 62 back in July 1987, he thought he was finished with trains. But on most Wednesdays and some Saturdays, you can find the 80 year old back on the Pennsylvania Railroad's (PRR) Monongahela Division, hauling gondolas and hoppers past the steel mills and through the small towns of southwest Pennsylvania.



Ronald E. Fox

The towns are smaller than they were, but that's because they're only models, as are the trains he's been running as a volunteer since November 1992 at the Miniature Railroad and Village exhibit at the Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh, Pa.

"My youngest son was in electronics school and volunteered at the museum," said Fox, a member of Local 1006 in Brownsville, Pa. "He took me to see the railroad display. When we were done, they asked me what day would be good to be in charge of the exhibit, and off the top of my head, I said 'Wednesdays.'"

The museum would be hard-pressed to find a better person for the job. Brother Fox began his career on the PRR in February 1947 on the fireman's extra board. He joined the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen & Enginemen, and in five years was promoted to engineer.

His on-the-job experience gave him the historical background he now draws on when teaching young museum visitors about the coal mines, steel mills, glass houses and chemical plants that defined that neck of Pennsylvania.

"Kids come in from schools in groups, and they ask a lot of questions about what it was like to work on the rails then," Fox said. "But they mostly want to know how fast the miniature trains can go, and if I can make them wreck!"

UTU for Life arranges more travel opportunities for '06

The *UTU for Life* program has arranged for its members a pair of unforgettable trips aboard a number of the nation's most scenic and historic railways. The trips will be held in late June in Colorado and in mid-October in the Napa Valley of California.

The first is a nine-day tour that begins in Denver and includes visits to Colorado Springs, Vail, Estes Park, the Colorado Railroad Museum, the Royal Gorge Bridge and Park, the Mesa Verde National Park, Arches National Park, the Rocky Mountain National Park as well as rides aboard the Pike's Peak Cog Railway, the Royal Gorge Route Railroad, the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad and the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad.

UTU for Life members wishing to travel together are encouraged to take the tour that departs Denver June 25, but other dates are available.

The second trip is an eight-day tour of San Francisco and the Napa Valley, and includes a ride aboard the Napa Valley Wine Train.

The package includes a tour of Golden Gate Park, Twin Peaks, Fisherman's Wharf, a cruise across San Francisco Bay, visits to Carmel and Sausalito, tours of the Roche Winery, the Viansa Winery and Italian Marketplace, a wine-blending seminar at Ravenswood Winery, a visit to the Solano de San Francisco Mission and the Buena



The Napa Valley Wine Train figures prominently in the eight-day tour of San Francisco and the Napa Valley.

Vista Winery, a ride aboard the relaxing Napa Valley Wine Train, visits to the famous champagne maker Mumm, the Calistoga Cellars, and much more.

UTU for Life members wishing to travel together are encouraged to take the tour that departs San Francisco on Oct. 13.

These trips are available only to *UTU for Life* program members; if the trips do not sell out, other UTU members will be permitted on a first-come, first-served basis. Also, all first-time travelers will receive a rebate of their annual *UTU for Life* dues (\$9) plus an additional \$9, courtesy of Gone With the Wind Travel.

For details, for airline tickets or to make reservations, contact the UTU's designated travel agent, Gone With the Wind Travel, toll free at (800) 886-4989, or at (216) 221-2121, or via e-mail at marcia@gwtw.webmail.com. You may also access www.gonewiththewindtravel.com.

Retired former general chair J.R. Burge dies

John R. Burge, 92, who served as general chairperson (GO-892) for Southern Pacific yard workers in San Francisco from July 1953 to January 1976, passed away Nov. 9, 2005.

As a member of the Switchmen's Union of North America (SUNA), Brother Burge was one of 10 from his union who joined with 10 members from each of three other unions – the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen and the Order of Railway Conductors and Brakemen – to

form the 40-person unification committee that wrote the agreement clearing the way for creation of the UTU.

A member of Local 1043 in Sparks, Nev., Burge began his rail career working for the Southern Pacific Railroad in May 1937, first as a brakeman and then a switchman, and joined SUNA Lodge 274. He retired in January 1976.

Burge is survived by his wife, Marjorie, a daughter and a sister. His only son, John Jr., passed away in August 2001.

THE FINAL CALL

Following are the names of recently deceased retirees who maintained annual membership in the *UTU For Life* program (formerly known as the *UTU Retiree Program*), according to reports received at UTU International Headquarters. These brothers and sisters will be missed by their many friends and by fellow *UTU for Life* members.

Local	Name	City/State	Local	Name	City/State	Local	Name	City/State
27	Wodarski, Clarence J.	Austin, Tex.	596	Kitcey, Frank L.	Albion, Pa.	1365	Peak, Everett J.	New Castle, Pa.
113	Rogers, Nollis E.	Winslow, Ariz.	610	Padilla, Barney L.	Englewood, Fla.	1376	McClintic, Vernon	Grove City, Ohio
168	Tansey, Frederick J.	Brewster, Mass.	622	Burton, Ocie L.	Birmingham, Ala.	1386	Hall, Clyde J.	Nashport, Ohio
225	Geiger, John L.	Green Springs, Ohio	632	Myers, Frank	Painesville, Ohio	1390	Ackermann, Robert A.	Toms River, N.J.
239	Castleman, William A.	Modesto, Calif.	674	Kirkland, William W.	N. Augusta, S.C.	1421	Mekemson, John E.	Hamilton, Ill.
240	Hyde, Thomas C.	Bloomington, Calif.	792	Hill, Don F.	Alliance, Ohio	1458	Volz, Frederick D.	Baltimore, Md.
256	Decknick, Raymond R.	Surprise, Ariz.	793	Wheeler, Martin L.	Charlotte, N.C.	1462	Griffin, Edward F.	Lincoln, R.I.
258	Burke, Thomas E.	Long Grove, Iowa	816	Bailets, Clifford M.	East Berlin, Pa.	1470	Valentine, Ralph P.	Strasburg, Va.
300	Cushman Jr., Thomas J.	Fullerton, Calif.	891	Patterson, Henry E.	Columbia Falls, Mont.	1477	Ashley, Richard T.	Warren, Mich.
306	Bard, Harold E.	Eagle Grove, Iowa	904	Adams Jr., William R.	Madisonville, Ky.	1477	Mattera, Samuel F.	Monroe, Mich.
322	Mielke, John J.	Fond Du Lac, Wis.	982	Page, James L.	Madison, N.Y.	1477	McGill, Robert G.	Rodney, Mich.
352	Roche, Robert T.	Westfield, Mass.	1043	Burge, John R.	Reno, Nev.	1638	Brant, Edward L.	Cleveland, Ohio
367	Baker, Richard E.	Omaha, Neb.	1053	Lide, Joe M.	Ruidoso Downs, N.M.	1765	Schildroth, Gerald F.	Warsaw, Ind.
385	Vonglahn, Karl	Livingston Manor, N.Y.	1058	Moore, Forrest C.	Nampa, Idaho	1800	Fadala, Nicholas	Benson, Ariz.
440	Berger, Ronald J.	Cincinnati, Ohio	1074	Boggs, Alfred D.	Cooperstown, Pa.	1846	Geren, Robert L.	Apple Valley, Calif.
469	Medvik, John L.	Marble Hill, Mo.	1074	Coffman, Lawrence A.	Freeport, Pa.	1923	Green, Clifford N.	Fort St. John, B.C.
507	Walters, Robert O.	Porter, Okla.	1105	Bland Sr., Paul D.	Leland, N.C.	1923	Venus, Marvin L.	Prince George, B.C.
587	Haskins, Elbert J.	Greenfield, Mass.	1312	Pendleton, Cecil E.	Milton, Fla.	1963	Williams, Thomas R.	Avon, Ind.
594	Avery, Cecil A.	Mineola, Tex.	1346	Cosey, Roy Q.	Nashville, Tenn.			

NOTE: Erroneously included in this listing recently was **Charles Czajkoski** of Local 1382, who resides in Milwaukee, Wis.

With **UTUIA** You Won't Have to Worry About This!



If you or your spouse died, where would the money come from to replace the lost earnings caused by death? You may have a mortgage, credit card debts, automobile loans, children to raise and other major expenses.

The answer is an insurance policy that provides the cash to pay off these debts while providing additional money for living expenses.

Our **Ultimate Term** and **Ultimate Par** policies are flexible. You tell us how much coverage you need and UTUIA will custom design the product for you. Complete the coupon below for more information, or call us toll-free at **(800) 558-8842** for assistance from your UTUIA representative.

For more information, please complete and return the coupon at right or telephone toll-free (800) 558-8842 for assistance from your UTUIA representative.

Information, please

I would like more information on UTUIA's Ultimate Term and Ultimate Par policies.



Please print

Full name _____ Sex _____ Date of birth _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone number with area code _____ UTU local number _____

Complete and mail to: UTUIA Sales Dept., 14600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44107-4250

2/06



UTU PAC HONOR ROLL

Individuals who have begun contributing to UTU PAC or increased their donations to \$100 or more, per year, during the past four months

Name	Local	City	Name	Local	City	Name	Local	City	Name	Local	City
PLATINUM CLUB (\$1,200 OR MORE PER YEAR)			Duran, Richard C.	113	Winslow, Ariz.	Craig III, Curtis E.	867	Des Moines, Iowa	Croom, Ray	1597	Chicago, Ill.
Foster, William L.	226	Moberly, Mo.	Johnson, Chester W.	113	Winslow, Ariz.	Cuffe, Theodore J.	891	Whitefish, Mont.	Davis Jr., Joseph R.	1597	Chicago, Ill.
Mewshaw, Mark	605	Grafton, W. Va.	Beckman, Douglas W.	195	Galesburg, Ill.	*Frost, James G.	891	Whitefish, Mont.	Drozd, Daniel J.	1597	Chicago, Ill.
Tello, Michael F.	911	Minneapolis, Minn.	Brown, Jeffrey C.	195	Galesburg, Ill.	Hedgecock, Ryan N.	891	Whitefish, Mont.	Fountain, Eric M.	1597	Chicago, Ill.
Devall, Gary W.	1501	Baton Rouge, La.	Froelich, Steven P.	195	Galesburg, Ill.	*Stubblefield, James E.	891	Whitefish, Mont.	Freeston, Paul A.	1597	Chicago, Ill.
Petrey, Jason D.	1567	Corbin, Ky.	Baer, Christopher A.	196	Beardstown, Ill.	*Wagner, Roger F.	891	Whitefish, Mont.	Garcia, José	1597	Chicago, Ill.
DOUBLE DIAMOND CLUB (\$600 OR MORE PER YEAR)			Devore, Milton	196	Beardstown, Ill.	*Fox, Charles E.	898	Boston, Mass.	Gifford, Bobby E.	1597	Chicago, Ill.
Welch, G. Dale	1092	Teague, Tex.	Lane, Mark I.	196	Beardstown, Ill.	Lochamy, Steven C.	903	Jacksonville, Fla.	Harris, Kendall S.	1597	Chicago, Ill.
UTU Auxiliary Lodge	803	Jacksonville, Fla.	Stambaugh, Jason W.	196	Beardstown, Ill.	Brasher Jr., Arthur R.	904	Evansville, Ind.	Hartford, John J.	1597	Chicago, Ill.
DIAMOND PLUS CLUB (\$400 OR MORE PER YEAR)			Tracy, Bryan J.	196	Beardstown, Ill.	Bilbruck, Dan	934	Alliance, Neb.	Hernandez, Joseph M.	1597	Chicago, Ill.
Johnson, Dallas A.	283	Portland, Ore.	Businelle, Junius J.	200	North Platte, Neb.	Bohannon, Ryan F.	934	Alliance, Neb.	Hicks Jr., Bobby L.	1597	Chicago, Ill.
Soltys, John A.	1597	Chicago, Ill.	Wellman, Terry M.	200	North Platte, Neb.	Brown, Tyler P.	934	Alliance, Neb.	Jacob, Anthony J.	1597	Chicago, Ill.
Tierney Jr., John J.	1628	Pittsburgh, Pa.	Cheney, Lorraine E.	202	Denver, Col.	Chipperfield, Chris	934	Alliance, Neb.	Jaroch, John	1597	Chicago, Ill.
DOLLAR-A-DAY CLUB (\$365 OR MORE PER YEAR)			*Pearson, Warren A.	259	St. Joseph, Mo.	Dvorah, Bart D.	934	Alliance, Neb.	Jones, Antwon D.	1597	Chicago, Ill.
Smith, Chad E.	94	Kansas City, Kan.	Carter, David A.	303	Springfield, Mo.	Elkins, Aaron J.	934	Alliance, Neb.	Lemus, José	1597	Chicago, Ill.
Black, Phillip R.	113	Winslow, Ariz.	Socha, Robert E.	303	Springfield, Mo.	McVicker, Meloney	934	Alliance, Neb.	Long, Tony	1597	Chicago, Ill.
Martyn, Ralph	113	Winslow, Ariz.	Hongsermeier, Ronald D.	305	Lincoln, Neb.	Musgrove, Christopher E.	934	Alliance, Neb.	Lopez, José G.	1597	Chicago, Ill.
Hugley, Joel	202	Denver, Col.	Young, Dennis A.	305	Lincoln, Neb.	Pena, Omar R.	934	Alliance, Neb.	Lutz, William C.	1597	Chicago, Ill.
Neurauter, Ernest L.	202	Denver, Col.	Kroll, John C.	311	La Crosse, Wis.	Redlin, Jeffery L.	934	Alliance, Neb.	Moro, David	1597	Chicago, Ill.
Atwood, David L.	238	Ogden, Utah	Tomten, James E.	311	La Crosse, Wis.	Ritter, Shaun	934	Alliance, Neb.	Perez Jr., Juan R.	1597	Chicago, Ill.
Shumate, Adam W.	305	Lincoln, Neb.	Veley, William S.	311	La Crosse, Wis.	Shaw, Clinton G.	934	Alliance, Neb.	Poczarko Jr., Joseph F.	1597	Chicago, Ill.
Simpson, Stephen M.	489	San Antonio, Tex.	Carrifee, Blane	439	Tyler, Tex.	*Rauschenberger, R. R.	974	Nashville, Tenn.	Pro, Michael A.	1597	Chicago, Ill.
Wells, David L.	934	Alliance, Neb.	Butler, Phillip E.	445	Niota, Ill.	*Tucker, K. E.	1011	Hamlet, N.C.	Rathburn, Jerry L.	1597	Chicago, Ill.
Walker, Steven M.	1136	Sterling, Col.	Faul, Scott J.	445	Niota, Ill.	Davis, Todd E.	1059	Minot, N.D.	Reedy, Nicholas B.	1597	Chicago, Ill.
Brinkman, Mark A.	1137	Fargo, N.D.	*Ficht, Raymond L.	445	Niota, Ill.	Brotherton, Rex R.	1059	Minot, N.D.	Rough, Sean A.	1597	Chicago, Ill.
Woolverson, Shayne M.	1137	Fargo, N.D.	*Hicks, Merlyn R.	464	Arkansas City, Kan.	*Kalich, Philip A.	1074	Freeport, Pa.	Ruiz, Rigoberto	1597	Chicago, Ill.
Drake, John E.	1366	Salt Lake City, Utah	Chenault, Graham L.	465	Gillette, Wyo.	Chipperfield, Raymond	1136	Sterling, Col.	Sowinski, Robert J.	1597	Chicago, Ill.
Thomas III, Dan F.	1366	Salt Lake City, Utah	Boegenmann, Mark E.	471	Eugene, Ore.	Frankenfeld, Michael B.	1136	Sterling, Col.	Thomas, William E.	1597	Chicago, Ill.
Thompson, David B.	1366	Salt Lake City, Utah	Henry, Edward E.	471	Eugene, Ore.	Hall, Steven J.	1136	Sterling, Col.	Walters, Joseph K.	1597	Chicago, Ill.
Winegar, David W.	1366	Salt Lake City, Utah	Mellor, Ron	471	Eugene, Ore.	Harwick, Fayette L.	1136	Sterling, Col.	Wanda, Joseph M.	1597	Chicago, Ill.
Hemmesch, Shaun Lee	1532	Kansas City, Kan.	Berry, Brenda Marie	486	Glendive, Mont.	Hudson, Roche G.	1136	Sterling, Col.	Webster, Corey D.	1597	Chicago, Ill.
Kauffman, Steven B.	1765	Grand Rapids, Mich.	Weaver, Nathan R.	486	Glendive, Mont.	*Montgomery, Robert	1136	Sterling, Col.	Wis, John J.	1597	Chicago, Ill.
Gion, Jeffrey L.	1841	Klamath Falls, Ore.	*Davis, Wayne J.	489	San Antonio, Tex.	Backer, Bradley A.	1137	Fargo, N.D.	Grogan, David M.	1687	Belen, N.M.
Leistikow, Kelly D.	1841	Klamath Falls, Ore.	Johnson, Rob J.	490	Princeton, Ind.	Griffis, Kenneth E.	1137	Fargo, N.D.	Govert, John J.	1760	Detroit, Mich.
Lewis, Joyce	Aux. 419	Hammond, Ind.	Thomas, William V.	500	Grand Junction, Col.	Holter, Mitchell E.	1137	Fargo, N.D.	Long, Susan J.	1760	Detroit, Mich.
DIAMOND CLUB (\$300 OR MORE PER YEAR)			Wodke Jr., James C.	500	Grand Junction, Col.	Mattsen, Tyson	1137	Fargo, N.D.	*Rowe, Richard E.	1765	Grand Rapids, Mich.
Parsons, Robert A.	17	Marshalltown, Iowa	*DuBose, G. Thomas	535	Macon, Ga.	Moe, Michael J.	1137	Fargo, N.D.	Griffin, Wesley J.	1790	Fitzgerald, Ga.
Morrison, Philip E.	195	Galesburg, Ill.	Adams, John C.	544	Havre, Mont.	Pipek, Zachary J.	1137	Fargo, N.D.	*Pyritz, William D.	1800	Tucson, Ariz.
*Layton, Harlan D.	305	Lincoln, Neb.	Beck, Kenny L.	544	Havre, Mont.	Schulz, Steven W.	1137	Fargo, N.D.	Tally, John W.	1800	Tucson, Ariz.
Vucinovich, Jim	324	Seattle, Wash.	Bitney, Chris	544	Havre, Mont.	Slattery, James P.	1137	Fargo, N.D.	Holstein, Trent E.	1840	Glasgow, Mont.
Ilmberger, Joseph B.	445	Niota, Ill.	Giard, Earl T.	544	Havre, Mont.	*Cochran, Carl E.	1138	Miami, Fla.	Carey, Glenn	1841	Klamath Falls, Ore.
Hamilton, Michael L.	577	Northlake, Ill.	Hasler, John C.	544	Havre, Mont.	Mayer, Nicholas M.	1138	Miami, Fla.	Carroll, Marc D.	1841	Klamath Falls, Ore.
Hausser, Kevin P.	577	Northlake, Ill.	Holsapple, Jeffrey P.	544	Havre, Mont.	McCargo, Abayomi	1138	Miami, Fla.	Fisher, James	1841	Klamath Falls, Ore.
Pope, Robert B.	847	Birmingham, Ala.	Horning, Justin	544	Havre, Mont.	*Blakeley, Jimmie D.	1188	Oklahoma City, Okla.	Kersten, D. J.	1841	Klamath Falls, Ore.
Filler, Donald R.	980	Enderlin, N.D.	Kirby, Josh A.	544	Havre, Mont.	*Gaynor, Robert	1190	Ludlow, Ky.	Lake, Johnnie D. K.	1841	Klamath Falls, Ore.
Harrison, Thomas C.	1137	Fargo, N.D.	Motes-Conners, Ben	544	Havre, Mont.	*Patterson, Daniel D.	1221	Tampa, Fla.	Meek, Curtis R.	1841	Klamath Falls, Ore.
Roers, Francis A.	1137	Fargo, N.D.	Olson, David M.	544	Havre, Mont.	Swinson Jr., Macon F.	1221	Tampa, Fla.	Reed, Michael J.	1841	Klamath Falls, Ore.
Stratioti, Robert A.	1292	Proctor, Minn.	Roseburg, Donald J.	544	Havre, Mont.	*Bennington, Harry G.	1399	Terre Haute, Ind.	Tucker, Clay L.	1841	Klamath Falls, Ore.
Barrett, Andrew M.	1299	Chicago, Ill.	Smith, Kirk A.	544	Havre, Mont.	Moore, Jacob A.	1403	Kansas City, Mo.	*Catalina, Charlie	1904	Houston, Tex.
Krejchi, Charles	1366	Salt Lake City, Utah	Cunningham, Thomas P.	607	Thayer, Mo.	Smith, Michael C.	1403	Kansas City, Mo.	Granger, Jude R.	1947	Lake Charles, La.
*Steiger, Gerald L.	1503	Marysville, Kan.	Nation Jr., Michael A.	622	Birmingham, Ala.	Brooks, Carrie K.	1470	Edmonston, Md.	Santiny, Ronald P.	1947	Lake Charles, La.
Wyrick, Michael D.	1557	Memphis, Tenn.	Brown, Heath A.	626	McCook, Neb.	Kent, J.E.	1470	Edmonston, Md.	O'Donnell, Marjorie E.	1951	Albany, N.Y.
Brazda, Jason B.	1597	Chicago, Ill.	Burke, Jeffrey A.	630	Ashland, Ky.	Toben, James C.	1501	Baton Rouge, La.	McClinton, Keith B.	1974	Lake Charles, La.
*Bennett, Jay C.	1629	Phoenix, Ariz.	Elswick, Jamie	630	Ashland, Ky.	Alexander, Derek R.	1532	Kansas City, Kan.	UTU Auxiliary Lodge	70	Kansas City, Mo.
Baca, Dennis J.	1687	Belen, N.M.	Buel, Joseph E.	646	Council Bluffs, Iowa	*Brownawell, Gerald	1532	Kansas City, Kan.	UTU Auxiliary Lodge	517	Carnegie, Pa.
Betts, Sharon J.	1947	Lake Charles, La.	Nesmith, Kelly T.	646	Council Bluffs, Iowa	Lee, Joseph A.	1532	Kansas City, Kan.	UTU Auxiliary Lodge	953	Victoria, Tex.
GOLD CLUB (\$100 OR MORE PER YEAR)			Garbarino Jr., William K.	730	Great Falls, Mont.	McGill, Coland L.	1532	Kansas City, Kan.	Lewis, Ruth N.	R	Battle Creek, Mich.
*Moore, Ralph O.	9	Slaton, Tex.	Romans, Kevin C.	730	Great Falls, Mont.	Munsterman, Joshua L.	1532	Kansas City, Kan.	Luker, Lucy M.	R	Lytle, Tex.
Gabel, David F.	17	Marshalltown, Iowa	Andrews, Cody C.	744	Frankfort, Ind.	O'Keefe, Ryan P.	1532	Kansas City, Kan.			
*Lavender, Gordon L.	17	Marshalltown, Iowa	*Jernigan, Donald E.	771	Needles, Calif.	Olson, Jacob A.	1532	Kansas City, Kan.			
Pope, Thomas W.	30	Jacksonville, Fla.	Hester, Donald A.	772	Sheffield, Ala.	Stanart, Michael T.	1532	Kansas City, Kan.			
Williamson, Helen G.	30	Jacksonville, Fla.	Nash, Marcus L.	781	Shreveport, La.	Hewett, Brian P.	1544	Maywood, Calif.			
Burkert, Joseph K.	60	Newark, N.J.	Priebe, Thomas E.	792	Cleveland, Ohio	Parsons, Helaine H.	1558	Bergenfield, N.J.			
*Reizovic, Frank J.	60	Newark, N.J.	*Langley, Leslie H.	794	Wellington, Kan.	Chip Jr., George L.	1571	El Paso, Tex.			
*Cox, Warren E.	95	Rensselaer, N.Y.	*White, Ernest L.	807	Tucson, Ariz.	Adair, Kevin	1597	Chicago, Ill.			
			Pokrowka, Paul A.	830	Harrisburg, Pa.	Animashaun, Solomon	1597	Chicago, Ill.			
			Brinegar, Michael J.	847	Birmingham, Ala.	Bila, Ronald J.	1597	Chicago, Ill.			
			Penn, Keith D.	847	Birmingham, Ala.	Bledsoe, Darrell R.	1597	Chicago, Ill.			
			Roberts, Phillip K.	847	Birmingham, Ala.	Brandon, Simeon	1597	Chicago, Ill.			
			Roper, Juston C.	847	Birmingham, Ala.	Brant, Kristopher S.	1597	Chicago, Ill.			

* = Retired Member



UTU, BLET align

Continued from back page

The Republican chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Don Young, wrote the NMB that "congressional intervention in any transportation labor dispute should always be a very last resort" and certainly not before the courts have spoken on the UTU challenge to the carriers' attempt to negotiate crew consist on a national basis.

The UTU/BLET campaign, supported by all of organized labor, also is concentrating on Capitol Hill, where lawmakers are being urged to reject any PEB recommendations regarding reduced crews until the Federal Railroad

Administration can make a full study of the impact on safety of one-person crews.

Thompson and Hahs stressed:

- **Over the past three years, train collisions increased more than 42 percent and employee fatalities were up 17 percent. More than 350 people die annually in grade-crossing accidents;**

- **Railroads haul deadly chemicals** such as chlorine, nuclear weapons and other nuclear materials;

- **Terrorists have targeted railroads** in foreign countries and threatened to do so in the U.S. Having at least two people on a train enhances the number of eyes and ears on the front lines for homeland security;

- **Railroads want reduced train crews with-**

out adding new technology;

- A noted sleep scientist compares going to work fatigued with **going to work drunk, as fatigue impairs motor skills and judgment;**

- **Fatigue already is a severe problem in the rail industry.** Insufficient train crews require railroads to demand employees work up to 30 days without rest periods;

- Before Congress allows carriers to turn current labor negotiations into a congressional plebiscite on reduced crew size, **an FRA study into the safety concerns of reduced crews is essential.**

To read the Hahs/Thompson letter and to view material related to national negotiations, go to www.utu.org and click on "Rail Contract Negotiations."

Blue ribbon

Continued from page 1

support these recommendations and encourage delegates to vote in favor of these streamlining and cost-cutting measures."

Thompson appointed the Blue Ribbon Committee in July 2004, noting at the time that the combination of new technology, inroads by truckers and carrier mergers in the 35 years since the UTU was formed "have taken their toll on the UTU as they have on all other unions with large numbers of members employed in the railroad industry."

Members of the Blue Ribbon Committee are past Presidents Al Chesser and Tom DuBose; retired Assistant General Secretary & Treasurer Dan Collins; retired Executive Assistant to the President Robert McHenry; retired General Chairperson Dale Hogan; retired Canadian Vice President Larry Olson; Bus Department General Chairperson James Williams, and Local 811 officer Steve Dawson, who is also a member of the UTU Executive Board.

Following is the full-text of the Blue Ribbon Committee report:

This will serve as an interim report and a recommendation of the Blue Ribbon Committee appointed by your office to review the International operations and make recommendations to "modernize, and provide immediate financial streamlining and operational effectiveness."

The committee met in Cleveland, Ohio, at the International headquarters, on Dec. 1 and 2, 2005. Our first task was a complete review of all International officer reports for the present year. This involved all assignments, reports filed, travel destinations, and expenses. In addition, a comparison ratio was made to determine the number of full-time International officers relative to active members since 1975. The committee

determined that its first objective would be to address the number of full-time International officers that would provide quality representation for the active dues-paying membership of UTU.

Our review of International officer assignments and their annual reports clearly indicates that there is insufficient work to support maintaining the current number of full-time officers. Moreover, the current ratio of full-time officers to active dues-paying members further indicates a large disparity compared to the UTU historical record. Utilizing the GS&T annual reports, starting in 1974, and including the following year's convention action for officer reductions via attrition, a full-time officer-to-member ratio was determined. For a current update of that ratio, the committee used the active dues-paying membership numbers reported from local treasurers' August 2005 audited billings. The ratios are listed below:

Year	Members	Officers	Ratio
1974	181,237	33	1:5,492
1978	159,869	33	1:4,844
1982	128,531	33	1:3,894
1986	107,778	23	1:4,686
1990	91,276	18	1:4,804
1994	76,318	18	1:4,017
1998	76,208	19	1:3,810
2002	65,494	20	1:3,274
2005	68,124	20	1:3,406

Because of the loss of representation rights for Canadian Pacific members in Canada, a separate review of the Canadian operation and cost was also done. Currently, the UTU represents approximately 3,196 full-dues paying members in Canada. To support that operation, there are three (3) full-time International officers, an office and two staff employees.

Based upon all the data that the committee reviewed, and the immediate financial relief that is required to reduce the International's operating cost, the committee recommends that

a total of eight (8) full-time International officer positions be eliminated. At the current membership level, the full-time officer to dues-paying members would be one officer for 5,677 members. In addition, for U.S. vice presidents, except for the Bus Department, there should be no particular craft designations. The elimination of the officer positions should occur in the following manner:

Effective Dec. 31, 2007, the Canadian legislative director and the two (2) Canadian vice president positions will be abolished. Thereafter, effective Jan. 1, 2008, a new full-time Canadian officer position of vice president/legislative director will be established. Prior to Jan. 1, 2008, should vacancies occur for any reason in the current full-time Canadian officer complement, the first two (2) vacancies shall be subject to attrition.

Effective Dec. 31, 2007, four (4) United States International vice president positions will be abolished. Prior to Jan. 1, 2008, four (4) United States vice president positions shall be subject to attrition. Effective Jan. 1, 2008, two (2) United States vice president positions shall be subject to attrition.

This will result in a full-time International officer complement, effective Jan. 1, 2008, as listed below:

- **International president**
- **Assistant president**
- **General secretary/treasurer**
- **National legislative director**
- **Vice presidents:**
 - **Eight U.S. vice presidents (subject to attrition to six);**
 - **One Canadian vice president/legislative director;**
 - **One vice president (Bus Department).**

The committee will continue to review other facets of the International's operations to make further recommendations that fall within our assigned task.

Hurricane relief

Continued from page 1

members cope with the devastation caused by the storms.

UTU local and general committee officers validated claim requests. Although the amount donated was extremely large, the number of claims from UTU members suffering

economic hardship as a result of the storms similarly was large.

Almost 200 checks in the amount of \$1,000 were distributed to those suffering the largest economic losses, while another 69 checks in the amount of \$300 were distributed.

"The substantial contributions received were heartwarming and reflected the caring spirit and deep human concern of our membership for those suffering as a result of an enormous natural

disaster," said UTU International President Paul Thompson.

"It was equally heart wrenching that because of the sheer number of members affected, we were limited in the amount we could provide each devastated family," Thompson said. "Many members lost everything they had, including their homes. I pray that other avenues of assistance will also help – and are helping – these members and their families put their lives back together."

Workload eased

Continued from page 1

local treasurers, who now have the thankless and time-consuming job of individually inputting and double-checking these changes,"

said UTU International President Paul Thompson. "The UTU is moving toward greater automation in all areas."

The new procedures are designed to work most efficiently for locals using cable or DSL links to the Internet, but those locals still using dial-up connections also will be able to take advantage of these new processes designed to

make the job of the local treasurer less time-consuming.

"To encourage greater use of this new technology, locals converting their Internet connections to cable or DSL are authorized to make the additional cost of cable and DSL connections a valid expense item for treasurers," Thompson said.



FELA Update

Proving negligence under FELA

By Mark Allen
Coordinator of UTU Designated Legal Counsel

The Federal Employers' Liability Act (FELA) was enacted by Congress in 1908 to give railroad employees the right, under federal law, to recover damages from their employers for injuries occurring at work.

However, generally, there must be proof of negligence on the part of the railroad that caused or contributed to the employee's injury. Simply put, this means that the railroad must exercise reasonable care for the safety of its employees. The railroad must provide its employees with a reasonably safe place to work. Its failure to do so is negligence.

The duty to provide a safe place to work includes the furnishing of safe tools and equipment, the selection of proper methods to do the work, the furnishing of sufficient help, and the adoption and enforcement of proper procedures. The railroad may also be negligent if it fails to adopt and enforce safety rules and practices, or by allowing unsafe practices to exist. The fact that unsafe practices and customs are standard in the industry is no defense.

An exception to the requirement for proof of negligence under FELA exists when an injury occurs because the railroad has violated either the Safety Appliance Act or the Locomotive Inspection Act.

The Safety Appliance Act relates to railroad cars and their safety devices and requires devices such as couplers, power brakes, grab irons, etc., to be free from defects. The Locomotive Inspection Act requires that the railroad keep its locomotives and tenders in proper and safe condition.

If the violation of either one of these laws causes injury to an employee, proof of negligence is not required and the railroad is strictly held at fault.

When you have a question about whether an action of the railroad was negligent that caused you injury or whether proof of negligence is required, contact a UTU Designated Legal Counsel. Go to www.utu.org and click on "Designated Legal Counsel" on the left side of the page; or ask your local union officers for the list.

Plan now for the 2006 UTU/UTUIA regional meetings

It is time to get out your 2006 calendar and make plans to attend one of the UTU/UTUIA regional meetings.

The meetings will be held in Reno, Nev., at the Reno Hilton on Monday, June 19, through Wednesday, June 21, and in Asheville, N.C., at the Grove Park Inn Tuesday, Aug. 22, through Thursday, Aug. 24.

(The UTU's regional meeting golf outing will be held the day before the start of the meetings.)

Rooms at the Reno Hilton are \$92 per night. Call (800) 648-5080 (toll free) or (775) 789-2000 (direct) to make a reservation. Please refer to reservation code UTUAC06 to receive the UTU discount. The reservation cutoff date is Monday, May 29. Parking at the Reno Hilton is free.

The Reno Hilton's online reservation Web site is: <http://www.caesars.com/reservations/main.aspx?hotelid=06&special-groupcode=UTUACNT>.

Rooms at the Grove Park Inn are \$120 per night for a single or double; \$40 a night for each additional person. Call (800) 438-5800 (toll free) to

make your reservation. Please refer to reservation code 67Y8RJ to receive the UTU discount. The reservation cutoff date is Saturday, July 22. Parking at the Grove Park Inn is free.

For online booking, the Web site is www.groveparkinn.com and once on the site click the "Reserve Online" link at the top of the page; under the calendars click on "Groups Check Here," then enter the dates and the group code (67Y8RJ) and then click "Check Availability."

Links to both the Reno Hilton's and Grove Park Inn's online reservation systems have been placed on the UTU Web site under "Meetings."

Pre-registration for the regional meetings is highly recommended. Regional meeting registration fees are \$150 per person; a \$50 per person penalty fee will be assessed those who do not pre-register. To register for the regional meetings you may either access an online registration form on the UTU Web site (www.utu.org, then click "Meetings"), download a form from the UTU Web site, or use the form that will be printed in the March edition of the *UTU News*.

UTUIA seeks 2006 Volunteers of the Year

The United Transportation Union Insurance Association is looking for two special persons, a man and a woman, to honor as its 2006 Volunteers of the Year.

Do you regularly volunteer at a hospital or nursing home? Do you lead a Boy Scout or Girl Scout troop or work with the handicapped? Are you involved in some other activity that

benefits those in your community?

If so, we would like to know about it.

A panel of judges at the UTU International will review all submissions and select the 2006 Volunteers of the Year.

The individuals selected as UTUIA Volunteers of the Year will each receive a \$500 U.S.

Savings Bond and a plaque of appreciation from UTUIA.

Additionally, they will be honored at the 2006 UTU/UTUIA Regional Meeting nearest their homes (all expenses paid by UTUIA).

Also, 20 runners-up will be selected to receive certificates of appreciation for their volunteer efforts.

Deadline for submission of nominations is Monday, April 3, 2006.

The outstanding individuals will be notified by registered mail, and certificates of appreciation will be forwarded to runners-up as soon as possible.

The decision of UTUIA judges is final. Previous nominees may be nominated again; however, former Volunteers of the Year are ineligible to receive awards.

The Volunteers of the Year program is an opportunity for the men and women of the UTUIA to let their fraternal lights shine.

It also provides an opportunity for UTUIA to recognize its volunteers for their outstanding contributions to others.

The nomination forms should be mailed to: UTUIA Volunteer of the Year, Attn.: Tony Martella, UTU/UTUIA Fraternal Coordinator, 14600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44107-4250.

Do not forget to include a separate sheet of paper describing the applicant's volunteer activities.

UNITED TRANSPORTATION UNION INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

2006 Volunteers of the Year Nomination Form

Name	Local	
Address		
City	State	ZIP
Telephone number	Dates of volunteer activities	
Total volunteer time (hours, minutes)	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly	\$ Value of contribution (if applicable)

Please attach a separate sheet of paper describing volunteer activities.
The more documentation you can provide, the better.

2/06

UNITED TRANSPORTATION UNION INSURANCE ASSOCIATION, 14600 DETROIT AVE., CLEVELAND, OH 44107-4250

This month's winning photo:

The UTU Public Relations Department awards UTU gear to the union member who submits the best photograph during the previous months.

The winning photo will be published in the *UTU News*. Exceptional photographs will be included on the UTU website.

The UTU would like to see photographs or digital photographs of work-related scenes, such as railroad, bus or mass transit operations, new equipment photos, scenic shots, activities of your local, or photos of your brothers and sisters keeping America rolling.

Printed photographs should be mailed to UTU News, 14600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44107-4250.

High-resolution digital photographs should be in the JPEG format and e-mailed to "utunews@utu.org".

With each photograph, please include your name and UTU local number, the names of the persons in the photo (left to right), where the photo was taken, and all other pertinent information.

All photographs submitted become property of the UTU.

Remember to review your employer's policies regarding use of cameras on the property or during work hours.



This month's winning photograph was taken by **Lester Erickson**, a UP conductor and member of Local 492, Sacramento, Calif. It shows a UP train in a siding in the Sacramento River canyon between Lake Shasta and Dunsmuir, Calif.



www.utu.org / www.utuia.org

FEBRUARY 2006

ISSN 0098-5937

Published monthly (except for combined months of December/January and July/August) by the UNITED TRANSPORTATION UNION, 14600 DETROIT AVE., CLEVELAND, OH 44107-4250 • Periodicals postage paid at Cleveland, Ohio, and additional mailing offices • Paul C. Thompson, International President; Daniel E. Johnson, General Secretary/Treasurer • This publication available on microfilm from UMI, 300 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106 • **POSTMASTER: Send address changes to UTU News, 14600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44107-4250.**



Please recycle

2/06

Periodicals Postage
PAID at Cleveland, Ohio,
and Additional
Mailing Offices

Volume 38
Number 2

February 2006



www.utuia.org

www.utu.org

The Official Publication of the United Transportation Union

UTU, BLET join forces to fight carriers over one-person crews

Setting past differences aside, the BLET and UTU are working together on a campaign to ensure a successful outcome to the current round of collective bargaining.

In a joint letter to members of both organizations, UTU President Paul Thompson and BLET President Don Hahs strongly criticized carriers for using past differences between the two organizations as a wedge to reduce crew size.

The carriers, involved in national negotiations with the UTU, include BNSF, CSX, Kansas City Southern, Norfolk Southern and Union Pacific.

Reducing crew size puts the lives of all rail workers and the general public in danger, Thompson and Hahs said.

New technology promised by the carriers is years away from implementation and is unreliable. Reduced train crews would mean already fatigued crew members would be forced to work under even more demanding conditions on trains carrying some of the most deadly hazardous materials.

Reduced crew size also would seriously threaten the financial security of the Railroad Retirement system and the well-being of tens of thousands of retired railroad families.

The AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department, the Teamsters' Union and other rail labor organizations pledged to support, on Capitol Hill, the UTU/BLET joint campaign to oppose crew-size reduction.

They also indicated support for the UTU federal court case challenging the right of the carriers to force the UTU to negotiate nationally on crew-consist agreements that were made on a carrier-by-carrier basis.

As part of the joint campaign, UTU, BLET and other labor-organization members and retirees are being urged to telephone and fax members of the National Mediation Board and White House officials urging they not be handmaidens to the carriers who want to break off productive negotiations in an effort to force a carrier-friendly Presidential Emergency Board.

Carriers have boasted that their friends in the Bush Administration have promised them an anti-labor PEB, and conservative lawmakers would use those anti-labor recommendations to craft a law imposing a new contract for train and engine service employees.

Forced reduction in crew size to one person would virtually assure the destruction of the conductor and brakeman crafts and would be devastating to the Railroad Retirement System as tens of thousands of train operating positions were abolished.

Already, influential members of Congress have joined the UTU/BLET campaign, telling the NMB to keep the carriers at the bargaining table.

Unity necessary to stop carriers from targeting operating rail workers

Continued on page 10



Inside this issue of the UTU News:



Leon Klinghagen was not alone in his final moments. See page 2.



The UTU's Web site is a sight to see, and read, and learn from. See page 6.



When you get on this train you let out a little wine. See page 8.



UTU retiree Fox just can't stay away from trains. See Page 8.