



# UTU News

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The Official Publication of the United Transportation Union

## Re-election of Obama, Biden a victory for working families

Working families realize that they cannot match the political contributions of corporations and other anti-worker forces.

That is what made the re-election of Barack Obama and Joe Biden so special: it was the triumph of common sense over dollars and cents.

"In this election, corporations and special interests contributed hundreds of millions of dollars in support of conservative candidates who oppose collective bargaining rights and want to privatize Medicare and submit Social Security and Railroad Retirement benefits to the risks of the stock market so they might eliminate our defined benefit pensions," UTU National Legislative Director James Stem said.

"Their massive contributions were for naught, because, in our democracy, it is the power of the ballot box that determines elections – and union families were joined by a diverse coalition of workers, a large majority of women, educators and environmental groups to re-elect President Obama and Vice President Biden.

"This coalition also kept control of the U.S.



Senate with worker-friendly Democrats who staunchly oppose extremist politics for the wealthy as advocated by Mitt Romney, Paul Ryan and Tea Party candidates.

"The House of Representatives remains under conservative control only because in 2010, conservative interests were able to win majorities in enough

state legislatures to permit redrawing of congressional districts to benefit their candidates.

"If our coalitions remain together and energized in the next general election, we can and will change the composition of state legislatures and the House of Representatives. American voters have made clear that a strong rightward tilt is not the direction in which the majority wants this nation to move. More Americans cast their vote in this election for Democratic congressmen than for Republicans.

"One key is early voting. Working families are especially disadvantaged by a single day of voting because many cannot take off from work or stand

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## Thompson to retire as GS&T Dec. 31

Kim Thompson, general secretary & treasurer of the UTU International and the UTU Insurance Association since 2008, will retire Dec. 31.



Thompson

The UTU Board of Directors has elected International Vice President Delbert Strunk to succeed Thompson Jan. 1. Strunk will retain his position as a UTU International vice president.

Also, International Vice President Paul Tibbit will retire Dec. 1, but the UTU board has not yet elected a successor.



Strunk

UTU International President Mike Futhey praised Thompson as "one of the most dedicated union officers I have had the honor and privilege to work with. Kim's stewardship of UTU and UTUIA finances is a principal reason both organizations have meaningfully improved their bottom lines in spite of this lengthy economic downturn.



Tibbit

"Delbert Strunk is one of the most loyal and hardworking of International officers," Futhey said. "His experience at all levels and facets of this organization will ensure a seamless transition.

"The retirement of Paul Tibbit will be felt throughout the UTU, as his assistance to general committees in negotiating contracts and successfully pursuing grievances has earned him deep respect from all who have benefited from his expertise and advice," Futhey said.

Thompson, who will be 65 in January, began his railroad career in 1966 as a brakeman on the Moberly Division of the former Wabash Railway (later merged into Norfolk & Western, and now

**"There is always someone in need of help."**

part of Norfolk Southern). He was promoted to conductor in 1972 following four years of U.S. Navy service.

In 1975, Thompson was elected president and chairperson of Local 226, Moberly, Mo., representing conductors, brakemen and yardmen, and was elected by his local as a delegate to two UTU conventions. He was elected legislative representative of his local in 1976.

In 1985, Thompson was elected a full-time vice general chairperson (GO 719, merged in 1998 into GO 687), and elected general chairperson of GO 719 in 1989, representing conductors, brakemen, yardmen, firemen and engineers.

Thompson was elected to the UTU Interna-

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## UTU International seeks dues hike for convention costs

As the initial SMART Transportation Division convention will be held in 2014 – one year earlier than a UTU quadrennial convention that no longer will take place owing to the merger – plus a second SMART convention, UTU delegates are being asked to approve a \$1 monthly UTU International dues increase to be deposited into the convention fund.

The increase, if approved, will become effective Feb. 1, 2013.

Delegates will be participating in two conventions in 2014: the SMART Transportation Division convention and the initial SMART convention.

In a letter to delegates, UTU International President Mike Futhey said: "Not only will the time between the 2011 UTU convention and these conventions be reduced from the usual four year period, delegates will be participating in two separate conventions in 2014.

"Obviously, the total expenses are expected to increase substantially and available funds will be insufficient due to the shortened time period.

"As a result, the UTU Board of Directors voted to present to the delegates the \$1 dues increase to be placed in the convention fund. The UTU board said it is their recommendation 'to adopt the needed increase, assuring your voice will be heard.'

Delegates have until Nov. 30 to return their ballots.

## UTU Executive Board has two new members



Craig

Phil Craig, vice general chairperson of Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern GO 270 and a member of Local 64 in Huron, S.D., has been elevated by the UTU Board of Directors to the UTU Executive Board as a result of the retirement of George Millward. Craig formerly had served as alternate to the board.



Adams

Chad Adams, general chairperson of BNSF Railway GO 393 and a member of Local 331, Temple, Texas, was elected by the UTU Board of Directors to the position of alternate to the UTU Executive Board.



# Around the UTU

## Local 32, Glendale, Calif.

UTU-represented engineers from Local 1846 at West Colton, Calif., have transferred to Local 32 and have formed a new local committee of adjustment, Local Chairperson **Tim Baccari** reports. Baccari now serves as local chairperson of LCA 887A, and **Ryan Williams** serves as the secretary of the new local committee of adjustment. Members of the local held their second meeting Nov. 8 at Twohey's Restaurant, located at 1224 N. Atlantic Blvd. in Alhambra. Baccari said the local has also established a new website at [www.local32westandeast.com](http://www.local32westandeast.com).

## Local 199, Creston, Iowa

Member **Keith Hoepker** retired in September after 39 years of service, Local Chairperson **Billi Vavra** reports. Hoepker hired out as a brakeman in Creston with Burlington Northern in 1973 and was promoted to conductor in 1976. "Keith stayed in Creston his whole career," Vavra said. "He was dependable and always had a smile on his face every time he showed up to work. He will be missed by everyone." Vavra also noted that the local's "caboose" float, decorated by members of the UTU Auxiliary, won first prize in Creston's Fourth of July parade and sends thanks to Nebraska State Legislative Director **Bob Borgeson** for use of his caboose.

## Local 200, North Platte, Neb.



Member **Jared Arensdorf**, center, purchases a disability income replacement insurance policy from UTUIA Field Supervisor **David Landstrom**, right, at Railfest in North Platte Sept. 14. The annual event celebrates the bond between Union Pacific Railroad, its employees and the community. For information about next year's event, visit [www.nprailfest.com](http://www.nprailfest.com).

## Local 240, Los Angeles

The monthly meeting time and place for this local's December meeting has changed, according to Local Chairperson **Harry J. Garvin Jr.** The meeting will be held at Ozzie's Diner at 7780 E. Slauson Ave. in Los Angeles off of 5 FWY between 710 FWY and 605 FWY, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. The diner's telephone number is (323) 726-0300. A new permanent meeting location will be discussed.

## Local 243, Fort Worth, Texas

Member **Steve Cline** informs his fellow brothers and sisters that this Union Pacific local's website address has changed to [www.utu243.org](http://www.utu243.org). Cline was recently appointed the local's new webmaster.

## Local 587, Greenfield, Mass.

Families of the members represented by this local chartered a new lodge of the Auxiliary of the UTU last month at North Adams, Mass., named Mohawk Trails Lodge 587, according to Local Chairperson **James Falandes**. Dawn Falandes was elected president of the lodge, which will hold meetings on the second Saturday of the month. Contact Falandes for more information at [jfalandes@roadrunner.com](mailto:jfalandes@roadrunner.com)

## Local 653, Blue Island, Ill.

Family and friends of former member Ray Keane will be holding a benefit March 3, 2013, on his behalf, with proceeds going to offset his medical and long-term care expenses, according to Illinois Legislative Board Chairperson **John O'Brien**. Keane, a former Illinois Central and Metra conductor, has been diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Since receiving his juris doctor in 2004, he has been work-



UTU member **Chuck Pona**, left, receives a plaque recognizing his three million miles of safe driving from Adirondack, Pine Hill and New York Trailways President **Eugene Berardi**, in front of Trailways Vice President of Finance **Mark Boundgard**.

## 'Awareness' makes member the three million-mile man

Driving from New York City to Los Angeles 1,093 times without a fender bender is a pretty decent testimony to one's driving ability. Doing it in a charter bus full of passengers, in all kinds of weather conditions, makes that record even more exceptional. But that is what Adirondack, Pine Hill and New York Trailways bus operator **Chuck Pona** has done. Sort of.

A member of Local 1582 at Albany, N.Y., Pona was recognized by the company, his peers and others at a Trailways' safety awards dinner this past summer. He was presented with a plaque in recognition of his three million miles on the road without a chargeable accident.

A UTU member and bus operator since 1964, Pona also received a plaque from Local 1582, a commendation from New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and numerous other mementos.

For all those years, he has operated a Trailways' bus throughout the state of New York and in Canada. He drove a tour bus into Canada for 17 years, then over-the-road routes from Albany to Binghamton, N.Y., and Albany to New York City.

At the time of the presentation at the Century House in Latham, N.Y., Pona had 3,036,370 miles of clean driving.

"Chuck Pona personifies what everyone expects when they ride with Adirondack Trailways. He is neatly dressed, speaks to everyone with a courteous greeting and above all, he is an especially safe and considerate driver. We all hope that Chuck stays around for another million or two," said **Bill Dederick**, Trailways executive assistant to the vice president of operations and safety.

While other drivers were honored at the event, Pona said he was the "center of attention."

"I was really befuddled. I was not expecting this. I received a lot of articles of recognition, but the leather jacket from Motorcoach Industries really made my night," Pona said. "The safety bonus was nice, too."

He credits his on-the-road performance to his awareness of what's happening around him.

"Things have really changed. In today's world, with texting and cell phones and all the new technology, you really have to be aware. I have a better view of things and I see what's going on. I see truckers on their computers, too. You have to be aware every second. I'm always learning something new, every day."

His wife Karen's illness is part of what keeps Pona going. "Unfortunately, without health insurance, we couldn't make it," he said. "As long as I can go on healthwise, I'll keep going. But if there comes a time when I might jeopardize someone, it'll be time to call it quits."

ing as an attorney with UTU designated legal counsel in Chicago. Donations can be sent to Caring for Keane, c/o Archer Bank, 3435 W. 111th St., Chicago, IL 60655, or visit [www.caringforkeane.com](http://www.caringforkeane.com) for online donations and further information.

## Local 762, Montgomery, Ala.

**Randy Pullen** retired after 40 years on Atlanta & West Point Railroad, a CSX subdivision. He was elected as general chairperson of GO 025 in November 1982, the only office he ever held in the UTU. "I would like to thank God for all that He has done for me and would also like to thank the International for all the help provided over the last 30 years. Also, I would like to thank all of my members for allowing me to be a part of their lives as general chairperson," Pullen said.

## Locals 807, 1800, Tucson, Ariz.

Members from UTU Locals 807 and 1800 gathered in Tucson in September for two days of educational seminars, Local 807 President **Liz Knepp** reports. GO 887 General Chairperson **Jay Smith** and Vice General Chairperson **Gary Crest** presented classes to members about the time-claim process, and former UTU member **Angela Alter** presented classes on hazardous materials. Designated Legal Counsel **Lloyd "Chip" Rabb** educated members about the laws that protect them from the carrier, and UTUIA Field Supervisor **Charlie Skidmore** was available to discuss insurance needs. "Everyone gained something from the experience and we look forward to running another meeting in the spring," Knepp said.

## Local 1344, Mandan, N.D.

A fund has been established to aide the family of BNSF engineer **Bob Olson**, who lost their home and all of its contents to a fire Oct. 24, Local President **Tan Davis** reports. The Railway Credit Union in Mandan has volunteered to be the collection point for cash and material goods. Donations can be made to the Bob Olson Family Fund, Railway Credit Union, 1006 E. Main St., Mandan, ND 58554. "Please consider helping Bob and his family through this tumultuous time by donating what you can. One hundred percent of the donations will go immediately to help the family," Davis said.

## Local 1813, West Colton, Calif.

Local President **Richard Acuna** notes the deaths of three retired members in the past year: **Alfred C. Mathews** (86), **Winston Martin** (71) and former Local Chairperson **Roy H. "Rusty" Morgan III** (64).

## Local 1933, Washington, D.C.



This Amtrak local has commissioned a plaque to hang in the crew room at Track 7 commemorating the deceased members of the local, Legislative Rep. **Samantha Taylor** reports. "Over the course of time, many of our members have passed away, leaving us to grieve silently and rebuild with a new generation. We decided that not only would it be honorable, but loyal, to have a visual reminder of those who paved the way for us," Taylor said. Pictured, from left, are Local Chairperson **William Bates**, Secretary & Treasurer **Ronald Teidemann**, **Reginald Evon**, **Melvin Johnson Jr.**, President **Eric Mohan** and Vice President **Brian Eden**.

## UTU Auxiliary Lodge 331



Pictured, from left, are Texas Blue Bonnet Auxiliary Lodge 331 officers **Teresa Schauf**, **Tracy Hopkins**, **Caitlin Hopkins**, **Pam Neal** and **Linda Light**. Sworn in at the Portland regional meeting, the members now meet at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month at the VFW Hall on Airport Rd. in Temple.



# Open enrollment for RR GA-23111 health plans

During the months of November and December 2012, UnitedHealthcare will hold an open enrollment under Group Policy GA-23111.

During this period, any individual who is eligible for coverage under one of the GA-23111 plans can enroll and will be accepted for coverage without any medical underwriting or requirement of good health.

There are no limitations for pre-existing conditions.

Enrollment in November and December 2012 will be for coverage effective Jan. 1, 2013.

Only those applicants whose completed enrollment form is postmarked in November or December 2012 will be considered for open enrollment.

This open enrollment is being held for former railroad employees (and their dependents) who:

- Were previously covered under any railroad health plan and were represented by a railway labor organization, or
- Were members in accordance with the constitution or bylaws of one of the participating railway labor organizations, when coverage under their applicable group health plan ended.

If someone you know meets these GA-23111

eligibility provisions, open enrollment provides an opportunity for them to become covered.

Other eligible members of your family may also enroll if they are not currently covered. In addition, open enrollment under Plan F is available for railroad employees' parents or parents-in-law who are eligible under Medicare.

Anyone interested in enrolling should call one of the following phone numbers to get additional information about these plans:

- For persons eligible for Medicare, call (800) 809-0453;
- For persons not eligible for Medicare, call (800) 842-5252.

You may also visit [www.rrinfodepot.com](http://www.rrinfodepot.com) and click on "Retirement Center."

An enrollment form can then be viewed and printed by clicking on "To-Do List, Forms and Information" and then clicking on "Supplemental Insurance."

Plan	Current monthly rate	Applies to:
A	\$355	Persons eligible for coverage under GA-23111 except persons eligible under Medicare, and persons eligible under GA-46000
B	\$485	Persons eligible for coverage under GA-23111 except persons eligible under Medicare, and persons eligible under GA-46000
C	\$625	Persons eligible for coverage under GA-23111 except persons eligible under Medicare, and persons eligible under GA-46000
E	\$207	Persons eligible under The Railroad Employees National Early Retirement Major Medical Benefit Plan (GA-46000)
F	\$185	Persons eligible for full Medicare coverage

*Note: Each June 1 adjustments to the premium rates for all plans under GA-23111 may occur. Additionally, if you are enrolled in Plan B or C and a change in the premium amount you pay does occur, you will be allowed at that time to switch to a plan with a lower premium (Plan A or B).*

## Gary Railway members ratify six-year deal

UTU-represented yardmen, hostlers and yardmasters employed by Gary Railway, all members of Local 1383 at Gary, Ind., have ratified separate six-year agreements.

The contracts provide for annual wage increases, lump-sum percentage back pay, improved bereavement leave, sickness/disability insurance and a reduced monthly health and welfare contribution.

Also included is enrollment in the Transtar insurance benefit program.

UTU International Vice President Dave Wier, who assisted with the negotiations, congratulated General Chairperson **Cory Mayberry** (GO 329), Local 1383 Chairperson **Tommy Collins** and Vice Local Chairperson **Brian McWilliams** for "the exceptional effort put forth during the negotiations and ratification process that resulted in agreements with substantial improvements in wages and benefits."

Gary Railway, a Transtar property, is a Class III switching carrier operating 63 miles of yard track in Gary, Ind., primarily serving U.S. Steel.

## UTU email addresses changed to SMART

Email addresses at the UTU International have changed as a result of the creation of the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Union (SMART) through the merger of the UTU with the Sheet Metal Workers International Association.

A directory of email addresses for the Transportation Division of SMART, including individuals and departments, can be found on the "Contact UTU" page of [www.utu.org](http://www.utu.org).

All mailing addresses are unchanged.

Also, the email addresses for the Auxiliary of the UTU have changed. Those can be viewed on the Auxiliary page of [www.utu.org](http://www.utu.org).

Most email addresses for the UTUIA also have changed. See [www.utuia.org](http://www.utuia.org) for details.

For all Auxiliary Minnesota Life insurance members: All checks have been mailed out. If you didn't receive yours, please contact the grand lodge. Many checks have been returned due to bad addresses. For some beneficiaries the Auxiliary has no address or phone number.

## EJ&E rail workers ratify new deals

UTU-represented yardmasters and hostlers employed by the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway have ratified separate new six-year agreements by overwhelming majorities.

The new agreements provide for annual wage increases and back pay; establish 401(k) retirement plans, disability insurance and prior rights; increase life insurance, and place those members under the national railroad health and welfare plan that includes dental and vision coverage and provides for early retirement major medical coverage.

UTU International Vice President Dave Wier, who assisted with the negotiations, congratulated General Chairperson **Cory Mayberry** and Vice General Chairpersons **Kevin Wright** and

**Tommy Collins** (all GO 329) for "their dedication to the membership in negotiating and explaining contracts that provide for improvements in wages and benefits and deliver employment security and parity."

In September, UTU-represented brakemen, conductors and yardmen employed by Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway ratified a new agreement that also was negotiated with the assistance of Wier.

## IC yardmasters ratify first pact

UTU-represented yardmasters employed by Canadian National Railway's Illinois Central Railroad have ratified their first collective bargaining agreement.

The four-year agreement, reached following mediation assistance by the National Mediation Board, provides for hourly wage increases, coverage under the UTU National Health Care Plan, a signing bonus and wage parity for all yardmasters.

Negotiations were led by UTU International Vice President Paul Tibbit and UTU General Chairperson Doyle Turner (GO 347), who heads the UTU's shortline outreach program.

## Metra conductors subdue would-be thief

BNSF Railway passenger conductor **Anthony Davis**, a member of Local 171, Aurora, Ill., is being lauded after he and Local 171 member **Joe Dalberti** subdued a would-be thief.

Davis was attacked aboard his Chicago-bound Metra train by a creep who though he could grab some cash fares Davis had collected.

"He put his hand on me," Davis told the *Chicago Tribune*. "He said, 'I have a knife. Don't do anything stupid.'"

But Davis was ready. As soon as the passenger touched him, Davis grabbed his arm. A fight ensued.

The tussle was observed from several cars away by Dalberti, who rushed to Davis' aid. With the assistance of two more BNSF employees who were working nearby, the attacker was held until police arrived.

The attacker faces 'aggravated' charges because the victim was a transit employee on duty. Illinois law was recently amended, with the support of the UTU, to make any assault on an employee of a public transit system on transit property an automatic felony.

Illinois State Legislative Director **Bob Guy** told the *Tribune* that railroaders of different crafts look out for one another.

"It's always a good idea to keep your eyes open and be aware of your surroundings and your fellow employees when you're on the job," Guy told the *Tribune*. "It's not just about crime. It's about safety."

### 2013 railroad paid holiday schedule

Rail employees working under the national agreement between the UTU and the National Carriers' Conference Committee (NCCC) will receive 11 paid holidays in 2013. They are:

- **New Year's Day**, Tuesday, Jan. 1
- **President's Day**, Monday, Feb. 18
- **Good Friday**, Friday, March 29
- **Memorial Day**, Monday, May 27
- **Independence Day**, Thursday, July 4
- **Labor Day**, Monday, Sept. 2
- **Thanksgiving Day**, Thursday, Nov. 28
- **Day after Thanksgiving**, Friday, Nov. 29
- **Christmas Eve**, Tuesday, Dec. 24
- **Christmas Day**, Wednesday, Dec. 25
- **New Year's Eve**, Tuesday, Dec. 31

**"We should measure the success of our economy by the breadth of our middle class and the scope of opportunity offered to the poorest child to climb into that middle class."  
- Former AFL-CIO President John Sweeney**

# No place for drugs, alcohol in workplace

We all know that drug and alcohol use can have a negative impact on users, fellow employees and the transportation industry.

That said, it must be emphasized that SMART members are to be commended for setting a compliance standard that places our airline, bus and rail members as leaders, second to none, in striving to achieve the drug- and alcohol-free workplace that is essential to the safe and effective operation of our nation's trains, planes and buses.

Data show that our members take very seriously the responsibilities of their employment – the incident-free transport of passengers and freight and the safety of co-workers and the public with whom we interact on a daily basis.



## Officers' Column

By Assistant President/Vice President

**John Previsich**

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employees may remember a time, just like in society as a whole, that tolerances were different than they are today. But society has moved on, and so has our industry. There is no place in today's transportation business for drug or alcohol use in violation of federal regulations or company policy.

We are all aware of the challenges we face daily – from unpredictable work requirements and unscheduled

disciplined for laying off on the call. The industry needs to change and you can rest assured that your union is doing everything to promote that

legal use of drugs in a manner that conflicts with the requirements of their employment is one word: DON'T!

For a member who struggles with compliance, we strongly encourage you seek help immediately.

Dependency is a medical issue and there are many avenues available to you.

From utilization of your health plan for professional assistance, to family, friends, church and co-work-

**If you need help, make the call.  
There are experts ready to assist you**

change in the quickest way possible, both at the local and national levels.

Our message to members who decide to experiment casually with illegal use of drugs, or with alcohol or

ers, help is just a phone call away. Please make that call now – the safety of you and your co-workers, your job and even the economic security of your family depends upon it.

## Our members second to none in compliance with alcohol and drug regulations

We do, however, see occasional spikes that are cause for concern. Although infrequent, our attention is too often drawn to the needs of a member who has failed a drug or alcohol test or who is in need of assistance due to personal struggles with substance abuse.

Sometimes it is an experienced worker who made an error in judgment. Other times, it is a newly hired employee who may be coping with personal issues. Longer-term

(or non-existent) off days to being on call 24/7. The ability to balance work and off time can be difficult, at best, if not downright impossible at times.

Poorly conceived availability policies often put pressure on employees to report for service at times they shouldn't, and the absence of meaningful RedBlock-type programs on many carriers leave the employee who received the surprise call no choice but to report for service or be



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**For the latest news, visit [www.utu.org](http://www.utu.org); also, sign up on the UTU website to receive news alerts via email.**

# UTU and UTUIA: Stronger than ever

A lot has occurred in the past five years, from the UTU being declared dead on arrival to being stronger than ever.

In fact, UTU International operating funds increased from \$3,790,355 on Jan. 1, 2008, to \$5,295,872 on Sept. 30, 2012, an increase of nearly 40 percent. Finances remain within budget for 2012.

The UTU Discipline/Income Protection Plan (DIPP) ended 2007 with a loss of more than \$2 million amid concerns that the program would be liquidated. Today, we have a balance of almost \$11 million in



## Officers' Column

By General Secretary & Treasurer

**Kim Thompson**

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In 2010, the UTU introduced group short-term disability plans to rail and bus members, providing a cost-effective income supplement for those unable to work due to sick-

As GS&T, it is necessary to utilize general oversight in day-to-day operations of the UTU offices, and to counsel with the International president on matters of finance and policy. In this cooperative atmosphere, the goals of the organization are accomplished while also ensuring

transparency of expenditures. The UTU has demonstrated the expertise and value of its information technology and accounting departments with knowledge and skills that can reap generous savings as operations are coordinated. It is expected that sharing existing resources will enable a more efficient and cost-effective operation for both.

Although not included in the merger, the UTUIA is recognized as being a significant partner to the UTU in assuring quality insurance products are available to its members. The combined operations enhance the viability of both organizations, and it is intended that this relationship will continue.

## United Transportation Union Insurance Association assets continue to grow; the surplus remains strong

DIPP assets, which greatly exceed the current benefit liability.

United Transportation Union Insurance Association (UTUIA) assets continue to grow and the surplus remains strong.

The UTU has not only survived the worst economic time since the Great Depression, but has improved its financial standing through strong leadership and management of financial resources. Barring an unknown catastrophe, every indication is that this pattern of success will continue for the foreseeable future.

ness or injury. Nearly 39,000 members participate in these plans, which have paid out nearly \$30 million in needed benefits.

UTU employs a skilled staff that accounts for every dollar received in the interest of representing our members. Additionally, experts are engaged to advise in the allocation of UTU and UTUIA funds, which seek the greatest return permitted from conservative investments. The current policies that have produced lucrative, yet secure, results will be continued.

## We are evaluating all aspects of both organizations to better serve the combined membership

security of assets.

As with any merger, now that the UTU has partnered with the SMWIA, we are evaluating all aspects of both organizations' operations to identify best practices that can better serve the combined membership.

The UTU has already adopted some reporting procedures utilized by the SMWIA that improve the

We have come a long way in five years, and as we get to know our new partner, we have the opportunity to help each other fulfill the goal of improving our members' lives. We have to understand that we are temporary caretakers of this institution and must make choices in the best interest of our members. To do otherwise is to invite failure, and that is unacceptable.



# State Watch

## News from UTU State Legislative Boards

### North Carolina

Assistant State Legislative Director **Glenn Lamm**, a member of Local 1129 at Raleigh, has retired.



Lamm

Lamm started railroading on Seaboard Coast Line (now part of CSX) in 1972. He was elected local chairperson for engineers in 1982 and held a variety of offices in his local.

He was elected secretary of the state legislative board in 2000 and served three terms as assistant state legislative director.

"I just want to say one thing to the working men and women: Work efficiently, follow the rules and, above all else, don't let anything or anyone jeopardize your safety," Lamm said.

"The members in North Carolina have benefited from his service to the UTU," State Legislative Director **Dickie Westbrook** said. "As director, Glenn has always been at my side. They say a good leader surrounds himself with people that make him look good. Glenn has been that for me. I wish him the very best in his retirement. The UTU will miss his leadership."

### Missouri

State Legislative Director **Kenny Menges** reports that State Rep. John Rizzo, a Democrat who represents part of Jackson County (District 40) in the Missouri House of Representatives, attended the meeting of Local 1780, Kansas City, where he discussed issues of interest to UTU members and their families.

"Rep. Rizzo represents the district that encompasses the KCS yards in Kansas City," Menges said. "He is a huge supporter of Amtrak and has helped us with our van legislation in the past two legislative sessions. We have always supported him with UTU PAC donations, and it is paying off for UTU members in the area."

### Alabama



State Legislative Director **Neal Elders** (above left) and retired State Legislative Director **Noah Flanagan** (above right) met with state Senate minority leader Roger Bedford to discuss issues of importance to UTU members and their families.

"Roger Bedford has been a long-time friend of the UTU and always supports legislation that is labor friendly," Elders said. "We discussed state and national politics and the difficulties that have occurred due to the current atmosphere of partisan politics."



Left to right are Local President **Travis Rogers**; Local Chairperson **R. Jason Brown**; retired Missouri State Rep. **Howard Rizzo**; **John Rizzo**; Local Legislative Rep. **Dan Coleman** and Local Chairperson **Doug Scott**.

### Michigan

Assistant State Legislative Director **Jerry D'Ortenzio** retired Nov. 1.

He hired on at CSX in 1971 as a brakeman. He was elected secretary & treasurer of Local 1760, Detroit, in 1982 and held most all local union offices. He has served as local legislative representative since 2002 and assistant state legislative director since 2004.



D'Ortenzio

D'Ortenzio, who turned 60 two days before retiring, said he is not going to miss railroading, but he is going to miss the men and women with whom he worked.

"Being a part of a union for all those years, I realize all the good we have done for people. I am going to miss that part of the job immensely," he said.

"The job is so much safer now than when I hired on, thanks to the UTU working with the company to raise awareness," he said.

"I consider Jerry a close friend and therefore am happy that he is able to retire healthy and under his terms, but at the same time, realize what a tremendous leader and resource that we are losing as an organization," State Legislative Director **Jerry Gibson** said.

"Jerry was a great union activist, holding several positions within his local. He was a friend, mentor and counselor to many and a devoted family man. The positions he held within the UTU will be filled, but the intangibles he brought will be hard to duplicate.

"For all of the UTU Michigan members, we thank Jerry for his years of dedicated service and wish his wife Rene and Jerry all the best," Gibson said.

## Local union treasurers sharpen skills at workshop



The UTU International hosted a local treasurers' workshop, and many took advantage of the educational opportunity.

The class was conducted by UTU International auditors **Mike Araujo** and **Bobby Brantley**, with the assistance of **Steve Noyes**.

The group learned how to work their local billings, their tax responsibilities, and how to utilize WinSTABS and iLink. Representatives from the U.S. Department of Labor also briefed them on their responsibilities. The group was also addressed by UTU International representatives on issues such as elections and interpreting the UTU Constitution.

Front row, left to right, are **Steve Wheeler** (L-265, Pocatello, Idaho); **James Jackwak** (L-1438, Lincoln Park, Mich.); **Walter Howard** (L-1438); **Mike Araujo** (L-756, San Antonio); **Jesse Beha** (L-1386, Parkersburg, W. Va.); **Robert Theisen** (L-1760, Detroit); **Bobby Brantley** (L-1291, Birmingham, Ala.); second row, left to right: **Russell Moss** (L-378, Cleveland); **Alan Shaffer** (L-792, Cleveland); **Milton Driver III** (L-1290, Chicago); **Lee Ostendorf** (L-259, St. Joseph, Mo.); **Clay Sneed** (L-1346, Nashville, Tenn.); **Brenda Rock** (L-933, Jefferson City, Mo.); Marilyn Spangler (director of UTU International's updating and auditing departments); **Kevin Groll** (L-377, Salamanca, N.Y.); **David Urie** (L-225, Bellevue, Ohio); third row: **Chris Coleman** (L-1376, Columbus, Ohio).

## Bus Department

By Bonnie Morr, vice president  
bonniemorr@sbcglobal.net

### Looking back, but moving ahead

As we approach year end, I wish everyone happy holidays and a healthy and prosperous new year.

During 2012, we have had wonderful success negotiating 11 new contracts, and others are in the negotiating process.

I could not be more proud of the negotiating and educational skills demonstrated by general chairpersons who protected our members, and efforts of our alternate vice presidents who assisted in some of the negotiations.



Morr

As we prepare for 2013, we face seven agreements due to expire next year.

Also during 2012, we organized several new properties and look forward to organizing more bus and transit properties in 2013.

Also on the positive side, public transit ridership has risen substantially as gasoline prices have increased. Agencies nationwide are planning for even more riders in 2013, which will mean more public transit jobs.

Our National Legislative Office, with assistance from state legislative directors, will be working to educate lawmakers at the national, state and local levels on obtaining necessary funding for new equipment and routes.

Many localities already are tackling the challenge of finding new sources of public transit revenue in their communities. We can also count on MAP-21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century), which passed Congress in 2012 and was signed into law by President Obama. That law provided a new two-year federal funding stream for mass transit and means more jobs.

As we move forward in 2013 under the new banner of SMART, we will benefit by having a stronger voice in Congress and access to the SMWIA's numerous training facilities throughout the United States.

As you plan for 2013, keep in mind our regional meetings (July 1-3 in Boston; July 29-31 in Anaheim, Calif.) that will feature improved workshops for local officers and members seeking to improve negotiating, organizing and grievance-handling skills.





# The photography of UTU member Stephen Noyes



**BNSF 6935 at Valley Center, Kan.:** "I was up early in the morning; it was rainy and cool, around dawn, and I caught this north-bound grain train going by the old grain elevator."



**Off to pick up grain cars:** "This was an old SP engine rebadged as TP&W. The train was coming into Remington, Ind. I liked the composition with the elevator in the back."



**DM&E conductor on point:** "I was standing by some tracks in Rapid City, S.D. I like to get rail workers doing their jobs because I work on trains. I happened to catch this local switcher."



**NS 9156 evening train at Berea, Ohio:** "I was visiting the UTU International in Cleveland and after work I went out and found these tracks. You want to take photos at sunset or sunrise; that's the best time."



**CSX 7754 at Waverly, Mo.:** "I was out driving around and caught this train. It's an eastbound from Kansas City, Mo., to St. Louis on the River Subdivision at Waverly. This line follows the Missouri River from Kansas City to Jefferson City, Mo., where it combines with the Sedalia Subdivision."



**Tankers at Lashburn, Sask.:** "I liked the colors and the style of these cars. They were getting readied to be loaded at the elevator. I liked the contrast of the colors."



**Sleepy Eye, Minn.:** "These are DM&E gondolas on the siding in front of a grain elevator on a CP line. I liked the writing on the elevator with the colors of the cars."



**Little red engine:** "This engine is used by the grain elevator company to help load and build grain trains for the railroad to pick up. This was at the MFA elevator in Higinville, Mo. Many elevators now have switch engines. I highlighted the red engine."



UTU member **Stephen Noyes** calls his photography hobby "ambush photography."

Now a full-time auditor and software developer for the UTU International, Noyes travels all over the nation and, when he's not working, you can generally find him stalking out the best place in town to take a railroad photo.

Noyes was born in Kansas City, Mo., in 1948 and attended Kansas University from 1967 to 1971. He joined Santa Fe Railroad (now part of BNSF Railway) in 1967 as a brakeman. He joined Local 477 at Newton, Kan., where he served as local treasurer from 1981 to 1989.

He transferred to Amtrak in 1987 and worked as a conductor until 2004, when he became a full-time UTU International auditor.

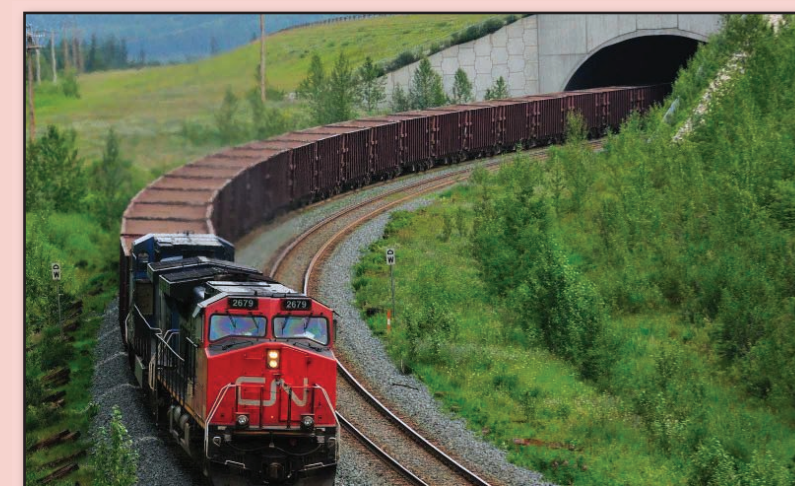
His love of photography started in 1964, when he worked for a newspaper as a photojournalist and stringer for Associated Press.

Noyes now lives in Lee's Summit, Mo., and has two daughters and a granddaughter.

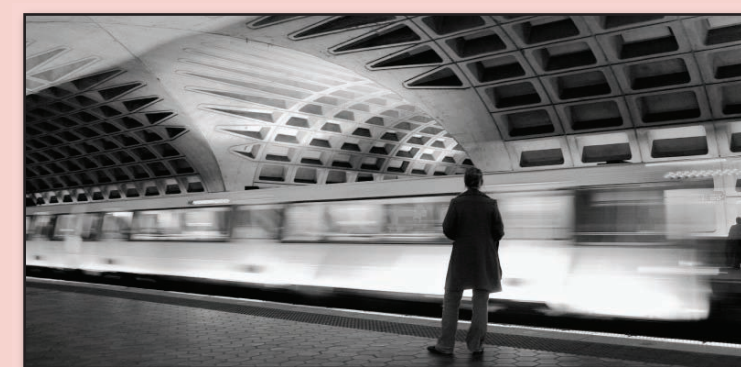
The captions below the photos are Stephen's own words.



**Grain elevator on BNSF transcontinental line at Norbonne, Mo.:** "This was taken on the BNSF main line between Chicago and Los Angeles. I like old grain elevators. I like the older buildings, for the history."



**Herzog rock train:** "I caught this westbound empty rock train outside of Edmonton, Alberta, headed for Jasper, Alberta. It was about 3 p.m. I was standing up on a bridge. I was driving ahead of the train so I pulled over."



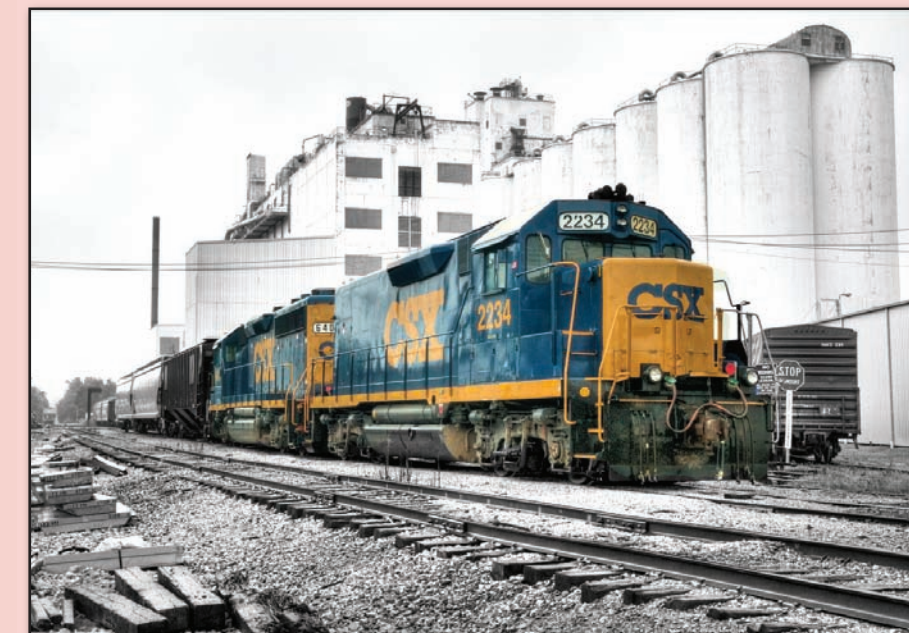
**Passing Metro train:** "This was taken at a Metro station in the District of Columbia. It was a slow exposure. I was trying to get the light and the motion. I liked the nice architectural detail and structure."



**Number 3 arrives at Kansas City, Mo.:** "This was an Amtrak train from Chicago, bound for Los Angeles. The engineer going off duty was talking with the relieving engineer. It was about 1 a.m."



**Passing train in Texas:** "This was taken east of Amarillo, at a control point. The conductor was watching a passing train for defects. It was about 5:30 in the morning on a summer day."



**Paris, Ill., grain switching:** "I liked the colors and composition of this CSX train. Color is so important. And light. This photo had the right combination of both."



**Winter run Minnesota:** "This is a Minneapolis-bound UP train, running on the north/south main line that runs from Mason City, Iowa, to Minneapolis. It was taken near Albert Lea, Minn. It was about 8 a.m. I picked out a point on the curve and waited."



**CP 5672 leaving Dubuque, Iowa:** "This was a CP local running along the Mississippi River. It was entering the main track under throttle."



UTU Alumni

UTU Alumni Association

News, information for members of the UTU Alumni Association

# Retiree works to keeps railroad history alive

He kept trains rolling while working, now **John Hartmanstorfer** keeps railroad history alive while retired.

Hartmanstorfer, of Local 322 in Milwaukee, volunteers at a local railroad museum in Caledonia, Wis.

He started railroading in 1956 as a switchman on Chicago & North Western, now part of Union Pacific. He served the members of his local for many years as secretary.

After retiring 12 years ago, Hartmanstorfer started helping out at the museum, which features a 1906 Milwaukee Road depot and caboose, as well as a 1927 Lake Superior & Ishpeming caboose. The museum also features uniforms from passenger-train conductors, pocket watches, switch keys, uniform buttons, railroad tools and timetables.

“The depot was moved from Sturdivant, Wis., to the park years ago, and it needed a ton of



Hartmanstorfer

work,” he said. “It was a unique depot because it served at a diamond, so it accommodated passengers from two different directions.

“I dress as an old-time conductor with bib overalls, striped shirt and kerchief, and talk about the old days on the railroad,” he said. “We also have a group of old railroaders who go to nursing homes, schools, wherever we can get 15 people or more, to talk about railroading.”

“What else can you do when you are my age, besides give blood every two months?” he said. “I have given 66 pints since I retired. It all keeps me kind of busy.”

## Former ATSF GC Merlyn Hicks dies

Retired UTU General Chairperson **Merlyn Hicks**, 85, died Sept. 15 in Arkansas City, Kan.

A U.S. Marine Corps veteran of World War II, Hicks was employed by the former Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway (now part of BNSF) for almost 30 years before his election as secretary to Santa Fe General Committee of Adjustment 009 (Kansas City).

He was elected general chairperson in 1980 and retired in 1991. Hicks also served as a delegate, representing Local 464, Arkansas City.

Hicks was preceded in death by his wife, Charline, and is survived by two children and numerous grandchildren.

A memorial in his name has been established with St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

## UTU offers motorcoach tour of Ireland

The UTU Alumni Association’s Travelers’ Club is offering a “Country Roads Tour of Ireland.”

Travelers will depart May 19 and return May 31, 2013.

This is a deluxe, 40-seat motorcoach tour with stops in Dublin, Belfast, Carrickfergus, Londonderry, Belleek, Galway, Connemara, Limerick, Killarney, Dingle Peninsula, Cahir and Kilkenny.

The package includes 11 full breakfasts, one celebration dinner and four three-course evening meals.

Participants will visit the Custom House in Dublin, the Belleek Pottery Center, the Titanic Museum, and a variety of castles, cathedrals and other attractions.

The cost is \$2599.00 per person/double occupancy, plus air fare. If you pay in full by Dec. 21, 2012, you can save 10 percent.

All arrangements are being handled by Landfall Travel, the Alumni Association’s designated travel provider.

For more information call (800) 835-9233, or see the Alumni Association page at [www.landfalltravel.com](http://www.landfalltravel.com). You do not need to be a member of the Alumni Association to take advantage of this offer.



## Most members eligible for death benefit

If you retired from railroad service on or after April 1, 1967, you may be eligible for a \$2,000 retiree life insurance benefit.

For more information, call **MetLife** at (800) 310-7770.

## THE FINAL CALL

Following are the names of recently deceased members who maintained annual membership in the UTU Alumni Association, according to reports received at UTU International Headquarters. These brothers and sisters will be missed by their many friends and by fellow UTU Alumni Association members.

Local	Name	City/State	Local	Name	City/State	Local	Name	City/State
1	Burdick, Clyde R.	Burt, N.Y.	378	Fitzgerald, William F.	Erie, Pa.	1117	Pierson, Dan H.	North Las Vegas, Nev.
2	Burkey, Chester J.	Curtice, Ohio	386	Kitchin, Richard R.	Sebastian, Fla.	1137	Kaste, Glynn T.	Staples, Minn.
14	Burbrink Jr., Elmer B.	Cincinnati, Ohio	412	Lambert, G.L.	Emporia, Kan.	1168	Parker, Walter T.	Carlsbad, N.M.
44	Winslow, Robert L.	Long Island, Kan.	426	McKay, Larry P.	Spokane, Wash.	1216	DeGraeve, Albert W.	Kansas City, Kan.
78	Crabtree II, Robert F.	Pocatello, Idaho	440	Krekeler, Thomas L.	Blanchester, Ohio	1238	Farrar, Clarence E.	Molalla, Ore.
171	Paradis, Robert E.	Montgomery, Ill.	462	Pierce Jr., Harvey C.	Pine Bluff, Ark.	1241	Lindsey, Eldo W.	Fallon, Nev.
199	Herren, Robert C.	Creston, Iowa	464	Hirschberg, Robert V.	Lawrence, Kan.	1294	Norton, Harold W.	Saint George, Utah
202	Martin, James E.	Thornton, Colo.	492	Brewer, Owen E.	Sacramento, Calif.	1366	Lesley, Elmo D.	Ogden, Utah
202	Taullie, Samuel J.	Topeka, Kan.	544	Dolan, Robert C.	Havre, Mont.	1375	Kolodziej, Leon J.	New Hope, Pa.
204	Jones, David E.	Bountiful, Utah	590	Bottoni, James L.	East Troy, Wis.	1390	Urgolo, Dempsey J.	Lyndhurst, N.J.
206	Montgomery, C.F.	Montpelier, Ohio	600	Bell, Donald S.	Scottsdale, Pa.	1433	Jeanneret, Robert J.	Ludlow, Miss.
206	Quigley, William F.	Peru, Ind.	643	Leake, Richard E.	Lexington, Ky.	1554	Nipko, Tucker R.	Willard, Utah
212	Daniels, Walter A.	Germantown, N.Y.	650	Ericksen, Donald C.	Minneapolis, Minn.	1567	Roaden, James S.	Corbin, Ky.
240	LaPierre, Lorenzo	Oceanside, Calif.	656	Brimmer Jr., Augusta	Pine Bluff, Ark.	1672	Cerreto, Louis M.	New London, Conn.
265	Ward, Wayne L.	Nampa, Idaho	794	Bixler, Melvin L.	Waynoka, Okla.	1813	Matthews, Alfred C.	West Colton, Calif.
283	Wilson, Thomas W.	Eugene, Ore.	830	Wiland, Richard F.	East Berlin, Pa.	1892	Jones, Harry M.	Kingwood, Texas
292	Burchill, Thomas W.	Kirkville, N.Y.	847	Wilson, Coleman C.	Hanceville, Ala.	1910	Tinker, Tommy R.	Flintstone, Ga.
293	Canada, Elisha P.	Smithville, Texas	970	Peeler, Fred V.	Abbeville, S.C.	1972	Meadows, Stanley Q.	Verbena, Ala.
318	VanDusen, Claude A.	Penn Yan, N.Y.	977	Peters, E.N.	Spokane Valley, Wash.	1978	Brown, Martin H.	Mount Vernon, N.Y.
318	Zarambo, Leonard J.	Nanticoke, Pa.	982	Taft, Ralph W.	Lyons, N.Y.			
376	Locke, Charles H.	Louisville, Ky.	1058	Warren Jr., Roy L.	Olalla, Wash.			
378	Case, Richard C.	Gilmer, Texas	1067	Rask, Raymond A.	Virginia, Minn.			





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# Railroad Retirement benefits to rise in January

Most Railroad Retirement annuities, like Social Security benefits, are scheduled to increase in January 2013 on the basis of the rise in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from the third quarter of 2011 to the corresponding period of the current year.

## UTU establishes fund for hurricane victims

The UTU has established a fund to aid UTU members and their families who were victims of Hurricane Sandy.

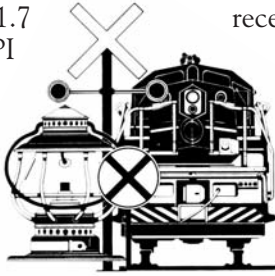
“UTU members can collectively do our part by helping our brothers and sisters as we have in past disasters,” UTU International President Mike Futhy said. “We encourage all UTU members, locals, general committees, and state legislative boards to give generously to help our brothers and sisters in need.”

The UTU disaster relief account was established in 2005 to aid our brothers and sisters in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, and has retained that identity as a reminder that we can all do something to lessen the pain and suffering of others.

Contributions should be sent to: Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund, United Transportation Union, Attn: Cheryl Sneed, Suite 340, 24950 Country Club Blvd., North Olmsted, OH 44070-5333.

Cost-of-living increases are calculated in both the Tier I and Tier II benefits included in a Railroad Retirement annuity. Tier I benefits, like Social Security benefits, will increase by 1.7 percent, which is the percentage of the CPI rise. Tier II benefits will increase by 0.6 percent, which is 32.5 percent of the CPI rise. The vested dual benefit payments and supplemental annuities also paid by the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) are not adjusted for the CPI rise.

In January 2013, the average regular Railroad Retirement employee annuity will increase \$32 a month to \$2,386 and the average of combined benefits for an employee and spouse will increase \$45 a month to \$3,417. For those aged widow(er)s eligible for an increase, the average annuity will increase \$19 a month to \$1,249.



However, widow(er)s whose annuities are being paid under the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2001 will not receive annual cost-of-living adjustments until their annuity amount is exceeded by the amount that would have been paid under prior law, counting all interim cost-of-living increases otherwise payable. About 35 percent of the widow(er)s on the RRB's rolls are being paid under the 2001 law.

For most beneficiaries covered by Medicare, the standard Part B premium generally deducted from monthly benefits is likely to increase from the 2012 amount, with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services expected to announce the 2013 premium amounts in the coming weeks.

# AT&T offers discounts on cellphone service

Active and retired UTU members are entitled to a 15 percent discount on select cellphone rate plans and features from AT&T.

AT&T has business agreements with hundreds of unions, so it is able to offer substantial savings on their wireless service.

- AT&T offers:
- 15 percent monthly service discount on qualified charges;
  - Discounts on select wireless devices;
  - You can keep your unused minutes month-to-month with Rollover®, only from AT&T;
  - AT&T says it offers the best global coverage worldwide, with the most phones that work in the most countries;
  - You can add a line for only \$9.99.

Not only will you be saving, you'll be supporting union workers and their families. AT&T is the only unionized major U.S. wireless provider with one of the largest full-time union workforces of any company in America. Communications Workers of America (CWA) represents some 40,000 AT&T Mobility employees.

Switching to AT&T is easy; you can even keep your current cellphone number. Visit [www.att.com/wireless/unionmembers](http://www.att.com/wireless/unionmembers) to sign up. Or, to find the AT&T store closest to you, visit [www.att.com/find-a-store](http://www.att.com/find-a-store). Mention code: 3508840.



**Correction**

There is a correction to the September issue of *UTU News* regarding UTU's policy concerning fees objectors. The percentage of chargeable fees determined for the California State Legislative Board, LO 005, was reported as 20.8 percent. The correct amount is 72.6 percent.



# UTU members lead voter-registration drive

Most UTU members take voting pretty seriously. Some more than others.

The officers and members of Local 202 in Denver fall into the latter group, and by Colorado State Legislative Director and Local Legislative Rep. **Carl Smith's** measure, the local's voter registration drive was a resounding success.

Using iPads on loan from the Colorado AFL-CIO, the officers of Local 202 reached out to more than 200 UP and BNSF employees from all crafts in their respective rail yards.



Smith

The iPads provided a means for each employee to check their voter eligibility status, register to vote or request an absentee ballot at the state's one-stop "Go Vote Colorado" website.

"We gave them access to iPads so they could check their status. If you did not vote in the 2010 election, you were automatically made inactive, so this was an opportunity for these people to change their status," Smith said.

"By my figures, almost 100 railroaders were registered to vote, but had voter status changed from inactive to active. Through the website, they were able to change their status and request permanent absentee ballots.

"We reached across union and craft lines by offering the use of the iPads to members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, the railroad carmen, maintenance-of-way employees, clerks and yardmasters, as well as the contract crew transport employees.

"We were also able to help our UTU brothers from Local's 201, 204 and 945, as Denver is the

away-from-home terminal for these members," Smith said.

Smith said this was also an opportunity to collect email addresses to contact members about union business, local meetings and Colorado State Legislative Board news.

"I thank all the officers of Local 202 and all the local chairpersons from the UP and BNSF for their hard work, dedication and sacrifice to make this event successful.

"I also thank the members of Local 202 who passed the motion to make this event possible and supported it financially. The officers include President **Michael Seliquini**, Vice President **Kevin Feller**, Secretary **Jeff Maxfield**, Treasurer **Don Wood** and Local Chairpersons **Brent Conlin**, **Michael Pierce**, **Scott DeAngelis**, **Ken Mason**, **Michael Harbin**, **Marlin Milligan** and **Cullen Kemper**," Smith said.

## Legislative rep. doubles local's UTU PAC donations

Local 311 (LaCrosse, Wis.) Legislative Rep. **Rick Hauser** has recently earned the nickname "Pac-Man," and it's not because he's hooked on the old video game.



Hauser

Wisconsin State Legislative Director **Craig Peachy** reports that Hauser has been working tirelessly over the past year signing up new contributors to UTU PAC, the union's political action committee.

"Personally, I like to call Rick "PAC-Man," Peachy said. "He is the real thing when it comes to speaking on behalf of UTU PAC and our union. Just take a look at Local 311's PAC pledges over the last few months," Peachy wrote in a memo to Alternate National Legislative Director John Risch.

But it is not just Local 311 members that 20-year Navy veteran Hauser is signing up.

Peachy said he recently invited Hauser to speak to employees at Local 1293's new hire meeting because of how he talks to people and gets his message across about the importance of UTU PAC pledges.

"Rick simply emphasizes to the new members that they are entering one of the best job markets out there, and the UTU helped to create those high-paying jobs with great benefits," Peachy said.

Hauser said his local has doubled its UTU PAC contributions over the last few months.

"Union members are becoming an endangered species. As an individual, I can't give the amounts to election campaigns that a Matt Rose or a Hunter Harrison can give. But if we band together, if we play the game by the rules, we can make a difference.

"When we give to our UTU PAC fund, we are giving to people who protect our paychecks, our pensions, FELA. I'm grateful to our members. They are the ones stepping up to the plate."

"I wish I could clone this guy," Peachy said, "and I plan to request his presence at future UTU PAC drives. I am very proud to have Brother Hauser as my SMART brother."

## Use of in-network providers important for care

The national railroad plans ("plan") allow you to see any doctor in your plan administrator's network, including specialists, without a referral. This means that you have the freedom to choose a physician or specialist without first seeing a primary care physician.

There are two levels of coverage under the plan. Your level of coverage is determined each time you receive care and whether you use an in-network provider or an out-of-network provider. Your out-of-pocket costs under both levels of coverage may include office visit copayments, deductibles, and coinsurance whether you are using services under the Managed Medical Care Program (MMCP), the Comprehensive Health Care Benefit (CHCB) or the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Care Benefit (MHSA).

### MMCP and MHSA benefits

**In-network:** This level of benefit will apply when you use a physician, specialist, laboratory or other provider who is a member of your plan administrator's network.

When you use in-network providers, your out-of-pocket expenses, deductibles, and coinsurance will be lower.

**Out-of-network:** This level of benefit will apply when you use a physician, specialist, laboratory or other provider who is not a member of your plan administrator's network. The plan provides coverage if you use an out-of-network provider, but your out-of-pocket expenses, deductibles, and coinsurance will be higher than if you use an in-network provider. In addition, you will be responsible for any amounts in excess of the covered charges.

### CHCB benefit

Under CHCB, the plan pays a percentage of eligible expenses for covered health services. You will pay lower deductibles and out-of-pocket expenses if you use preferred providers. Preferred providers are health care providers the plan has special arrangements with who agree to discount their charges.

By using a provider where a special discount arrangement exists, the amount of the eligible expense that is your responsibility will generally be less than if a non-preferred provider is used. This is because the eligible expense will not be subject to a usual, customary and reasonable charge determination for a particular service in a particular ZIP code area. The covered charge will be based on the discounted charge, after your calendar year deductible is satisfied, leaving you with a lower out-of-pocket expense. Your medical ID card shows if you are entitled to these discounts. If you are, you must make sure the provider sees your ID card and knows that you are covered under one of these discount programs.

### For more information

If you do not have online capability, call the phone number located on the back of your member ID card for assistance, or see [www.utu.org](http://www.utu.org) for complete details.

## Obama re-election

*Continued from page 1*

for hours in voting lines. Where polls were open in advance, and on weekends until evening hours to permit early voting, we saw strong majorities supporting worker-friendly candidates. SMART, all of labor and our friends in other coalitions are going to work non-stop to encourage more widespread early voting in the future," Stem said.

"We understand why the Republicans are trying every way they can think up to make it difficult to vote and to end absentee ballots and early voting. They don't want you to vote. The conservative Republican leadership doesn't care if you are registered Republican, Democrat or independent. They are determined to stop workers from casting ballots.

"In Florida, the Republican governor and conservatives in the legislature cut the early voting period in half, resulting in tens of thousands of workers not being able to cast a vote.

"We will also advance the application of new

technology that helped us register hundreds of thousands of new voters, educate all registered voters as to the issues, and encourage them to go to the polls in battleground states," Stem said.

"We brought a level of professionalism to our election communications with our members that had not previously been seen, and much credit goes to UTU Director of Political Action **Dean Mitchell**, who coordinated our efforts with UTU state legislative directors, local officers, other unions, and other interest groups friendly to the concerns of working families.

"Considerable credit goes to UTU International President **Mike Futhey** for actively participating in this process in addition to making the resources available for this effort," Stem said.

"The effort included focusing on assuring our members and their families registered to vote, sharing absentee and early voting procedures, and using telephones and direct mail to deliver our message.

**We have broken the back of efforts to reduce our benefits**

"In Ohio, which was a key battleground state, 42 percent of voters cast early ballots, and the number of voters increased by almost 10 percent.

"The bottom line is that we have broken the back of efforts to prevent collective bargaining, privatize Medicare, turn Social Security into a bet on the stock market, and reduce Railroad Retirement benefits to the level of Social Security benefits," Stem said.

"Our great country has many problems that need the full attention of our

leaders immediately, including our national debt. The unfortunate attempt to lower the wages and benefits of workers by the wealthy conservatives failed.

"Let's hope that the words 'cooperation' and 'compromise' will no longer be considered dirty words.

"As Mike Futhey observed after viewing election results, 'In football terms, we moved the chains forward. We will, together, continue to make forward progress.'"



# Railroads report mixed 3Q results



## BNSF RAILWAY

**Profit increase 22%**  
(3Q 2012 vs. 3Q 2011)  
**Operating ratio 68.3%**  
(3Q 2012)

BNSF reported a 22-percent increase in profit for the third quarter 2012 versus third quarter 2011, citing improved intermodal (trailers and containers on flat cars) and automotive traffic.

BNSF's third quarter 2012 operating ratio of 68.3 percent was a significant improvement

over the 71.7 percent for third quarter 2011.

BNSF operates in 28 states and two Canadian provinces



## CANADIAN NATIONAL

**Profit decrease >1%**  
(3Q 2012 vs. 3Q 2011)  
**Operating ratio 60.6%**  
(3Q 2012)

Canadian National reported a less than one percent drop in profit for the third quarter 2012 versus third quarter 2011.

CN's third quarter 2012 operating ratio of 60.6 percent increased from 59.3 percent from third quarter 2011.

CN is primarily a Canadian railroad. Its U.S. holdings include what were formerly Detroit, Toledo & Ironton; Elgin, Joliet & Eastern; Grand Trunk Western; Illinois Central, and Wisconsin Central.



## CANADIAN PACIFIC

**Profit increase 20%**  
(3Q 2012 vs. 3Q 2011)  
**Operating ratio 74.4%**  
(3Q 2012)

Canadian Pacific reported a 20 percent improvement in profit for the third quarter 2012 versus third quarter 2011. The railroad attributed the improvement to cost cuts, efficiency improvements and an increase in automotive traffic.

CP's third quarter 2012 operating ratio of 74.4 percent was an improvement from the 75.8 percent operating ratio for third quarter 2011.

Canadian Pacific is primarily a Canadian railroad. Its U.S. holdings include Class I Soo Line and regional railroad Delaware & Hudson.



## CSX

**Profit decrease 2%**  
(3Q 2012 vs. 3Q 2011)  
**Operating ratio 70.5%**  
(3Q 2012)

CSX reported a two percent drop in profit for the third quarter 2012 versus third quarter 2011, citing lower overall freight volume and lower fuel-cost recovery even as export coal, automotive and intermodal shipments (trailers and containers on flat cars) showed increases.

The CSX third quarter 2012 operating ratio of 70.5 percent was virtually unchanged from the 70.4 percent for third quarter 2011.

CSX operates some 21,000 route miles in 23 states and the District of Columbia.



## KANSAS CITY SOUTHERN

**Profit decrease 9.8%**  
(3Q 2012 vs. 3Q 2011)  
**Operating ratio 68.7%**  
(3Q 2012)

Kansas City Southern reported a 9.8 percent drop in profit for the third quarter 2012 versus third quarter 2011, even as carloads rose and operating ratio improved. The railroad cited as the reason an almost 70 percent higher tax bill in Mexico stemming from a rise in the value of the peso against the dollar and continuing rebuilding expenses two years after Hurricane Alex damaged rail facilities south of the border.

About half the railroad's revenue flows from its operations in Mexico.

KCS's third quarter 2012 operating ratio of 68.7 was a 2.6 percentage point improvement from third quarter 2011, and the best in company history.

KCS operates some 3,500 route miles in 10 states in the Central and South-Central U.S., as well as Kansas City Southern de Mexico, a primary Mexican rail line.



## NORFOLK SOUTHERN

**Profit decrease 27%**  
(3Q 2012 vs. 3Q 2011)  
**Operating ratio 72.9%**  
(3Q 2012)

Norfolk Southern reported a 27 percent decline in profit for third quarter 2012 versus third quarter 2011, citing reductions in coal and merchandise volume. The slump in coal shipments has resulted in employee furloughs.

NS's third quarter 2012 operating ratio of 72.9 was a more than five percentage point increase over the third quarter 2011 operating ratio of 67.5.

Norfolk Southern operates some 20,000 route miles in 22 states and the District of Columbia.



## UNION PACIFIC

**Profit increase 15%**  
(3Q 2012 vs. 3Q 2011)  
**Operating ratio 66.6%**  
(3Q 2012)

Union Pacific profit rose 15 percent in third quarter 2012 compared with third quarter 2011. The railroad said price increases and more automotive and chemical shipments overcame a drop in coal loadings.

Union Pacific's third quarter 2012 operating ratio of 66.6 percent was 2.5 percentage points better than third quarter 2011, and a 0.4 percentage point improvement from the previous record set in the second quarter 2012.

Union Pacific operates some 32,000 route miles in 23 states in the western two-thirds of the U.S.

*Operating ratio is a railroad's operating expenses expressed as a percentage of operating revenue, and is considered by economists to be the basic measure of carrier profitability. The lower the operating ratio, the more efficient the railroad.*

## Thompson retires

*Continued from page 1*

tional's Executive Board in 1987, and served as board chairperson for eight years.

In 1995, he was elected UTU International first alternate vice president for the South, and elevated to UTU International vice president in 1997.

He served as vice president until he was elected general secretary & treasurer at the UTU International convention in 2007. He assumed office Oct. 1, 2007, upon retirement of GS&T Dan Johnson.

"My impending retirement comes with mixed feelings," Thompson said.

"There is always another task to do. There is always someone in need of help. But I have learned that there is someone to step up as I once did and the time comes for them, just as it did for me.

"I am indebted to **Jim Oliver** of Local 881, Montpelier, Ohio, a vice general chairperson who taught me that preparation fosters success. I am also thankful for Tom DuBose, who taught me to take care of business and the rest will take care of itself. And I will forever be thankful to Mike Futhey for his leadership through the most challenging time faced by this organization.

"I am thankful for the love and support of my bride, Connie, and her sacrifices in following my dream and I look forward to our time being ours."

Thompson and his wife, Connie, have five children and five grandchildren.

**"I will forever be thankful to Mike Futhey for his leadership"**

Strunk, 62, began his career in 1973 as a brakeman on the Cleveland Division of New York, Chicago & St. Louis (Nickel Plate, which later merged into Norfolk & Western and is now part of Norfolk Southern.) He was promoted to conductor in 1977.

In 1975, Strunk was elected legislative representative of Local 225, Bellevue, Ohio. Over the next 35 years, Strunk held the offices of vice local chairperson, local chairperson, alternate legislative representative, legislative representative, general secretary (GO 687) and delegate to the 2007 UTU convention.

In 1983, Strunk was elected as general secretary of GO 687; he was elected full-time general chairperson in 1989. Strunk served as general

chairperson for the next 20-plus years.

In 1998, Strunk merged GO 719 (former Wabash) into GO 687 (former Nickel Plate), forming what is now one of the largest general committees on Norfolk Southern. Strunk was elected alternate vice president-East in 2007, was elevated to International vice president in July 2009 and was elected International vice president in 2011.

He was elected as vice chairperson for the District No. 1 General Chairpersons' Association and was elevated to the position of chairperson when the former chairperson retired.

Strunk has been appointed to the last three UTU national negotiating committees, as well as appointed to the National Wage and Rules Panel. He served as chairperson of the 2007 UTU

Constitution Committee and is a member of the UTU Board of Directors.

Strunk and his wife, Diane, have four children and 16 grandchildren.

Paul Tibbit, 65 and from Texarkana, Tex., is a member of Local 331 at Temple, Tex.

He served in the U.S. Navy from 1965 to 1968 and began his rail career with Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe (now part of BNSF) in 1971.

He has served the UTU as a local secretary & treasurer, local chairperson and general chairperson of GO 393.

Tibbit was elected alternate vice president-West in 2007, elevated to International vice president in 2009, and elected an International vice president at the 2011 quadrennial convention.

## UTU needs your photos

**The UTU International is seeking good railroad, bus and airline photos, taken by its members, for the annual calendar and other uses.**

**High-resolution digital photographs should be emailed to "utunews@utu.org."**

**Printed photographs should be mailed to UTU News, 24950 Country Club Blvd., Suite 340, North Olmsted, OH 44070-5333.**

**Include the photographer's name and local number, the name(s) of the person(s) in the photo (left to right) and any other information.**

**All photographs submitted become property of the UTU.**







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Please recycle

## Photo of the month

The UTU International is always looking for good photos, and awards UTU gear to monthly photo winners.

The UTU seeks photographs or digital images 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, 24950 Country Club Blvd., Suite 340, North Olmsted, OH 44070-5333.

High-resolution digital photographs should be in the JPEG format and emailed 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 photo was taken by Norfolk Southern conductor **Christopher Rinker**, a member of Local 744, Lafayette, Ind. "These are two Norfolk Southern engines painted in the livery of Reading Railroad and Lehigh Valley Railroad, to commemorate NS's 30th anniversary. They are pulling an empty coal train at Oakwood, Ohio," Rinker said.



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The Official Publication of the United Transportation Union

# Obama win offers brighter future

By *UTU International President*  
**Mike Futhey**

For UTU members employed in the airline, rail and transit industries, the Obama/Biden victory and U.S. Senate election results translate to:

- More, and more secure, transportation jobs;
- More support to increase funding for public transit, Amtrak, and high-speed and higher-speed rail;
- Strengthened protections of collective bargaining rights and the right to organize



the unorganized;

- Assurance of a safer workplace;
- Protection of Social Security, Railroad Retirement and Medicare programs as we know them;
- Retention of the Affordable Care Act's provisions that allow children to remain on your health insurance policy until age 26, prohibit insurers from limiting maximum patient care payments to those with serious chronic illnesses, prohibit denial of coverage for pre-existing conditions, prohibit copays for certain preventive care procedures, and require insurance carriers to spend at least 80 percent of premiums on patient care.

Moreover, continued control of the U.S. Senate by labor-friendly Democrats better ensures that presidential nominations to federal regulatory agencies are more likely to be approved, and that anti-labor legislation exiting the House of Representa-

tives more likely will be blocked by the Senate.

We have many contacts within the Obama administration who understand the concerns and needs of transportation workers.

A few of the most outrageous members of Congress were defeated. Our National Legislative Office and state legislative departments look forward to working with the new Congress to help resolve the major issues facing our nation.

We will continue to deliver a clear and consistent message to all members of Congress.

The vote re-electing President Obama and Vice President Biden was a clear victory for the middle class over the privileged landed gentry's candidate, who was out of touch with working families.

We will continue to develop good working relationships with the leadership of Congress on both sides of the aisle, and our partners in the rail and public transit industries to grow our transportation alternatives with improvements in rail passenger service, rail freight service and all public transportation services.

We are thankful that many of our friends in the Republican leadership in the House were returned to office.

The most important function of a labor union is to advance the job security, wages, benefits, working condi-

tions, and retirement security of its members.

The re-election of Barack Obama and Joe Biden, and the continued labor-

friendly control of the Senate, will help to advance those objectives.

**FORWARD.**

**The re-election of Barack Obama and Joe Biden, and the continued labor-friendly Senate, will help to advance our objectives.**