BLET members ratify national contract

By a margin of better than 2-to-1, members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) approved a new collective bargaining agreement with the National Carriers’ Conference Committee (NCCC) on January 5.

The five-year agreement covers health & welfare and other fringe benefits for over 30,000 BLET members nationwide, and rates of pay and work rules issues for a smaller number. It includes general wage increases of 18.6 percent over the life of the agreement, which compounds to 20.1 percent, and a 1% lump sum bonus payment.

The agreement is retroactive to January 1, 2010, and covers locomotive engineers employed by the following railroads: Alabama State Docks (H&W only); Arkansas & Memphis (KCS/L&A); BNSF Railway (H&W only); Canadian National (H&W only); Conrail; CP Rail-US (Soo Line); CP Rail-US (D&H) (H&W only); CSX Transportation (H&W only); Daviess & Western (H&W only); Delaware & Hudson (H&W only); Pennsylvania (H&W only); Indiana Harbor Belt; Kansas City Southern System (KCS/L&A, Gateway Western, Mid-South, South Rail, and Tex Mex); Longview Switching; Metra (H&W only); Norfolk Southern (H&W only); Portland Terminal; Union Pacific Railroad (H&W only); and Winston-Salem Southbound. It also covers all train service employees on the Texas Mexican Railway.

The agreement largely reflects the recommendations of Presidential Emergency Board 243, which was appointed on the eve of a pending nationwide strike by BLET members. The PEB recommendations provided a better outcome for BLET members than the carrier’s proposal by recommending the phasing in of the larger portions of the health and welfare changes over an 18-month period, rather than instituting all of them immediately.

The BLET National Wage Committee, led by National President Dennis R. Pierce, then secured a Flexible Spending Account benefit to help offset any possible increased costs associated with the health and welfare, as well as a clarification that a 1% signing bonus only be paid on an employee’s “straight time” earnings.

“I want to thank those who took the time to cast their vote. The BLET is a membership-driven union and our members show their strength every time they get involved,” National President Pierce said.

With the backing of a strong mobilization effort, we had a very solid turnout, considering balloting took place during the holiday season. With almost 70% of those voting casting a vote in favor of the agreement, it also is clear to me that our members took the time to study the issues before making a very careful choice.”

Download a Synopsis of the Agreement:
www.ble-t.org/agreement/BLET-NCCC_Tentative_Agreement_Synopsis.pdf

Download a Copy of the Agreement:
www.ble-t.org/agreement/BLET-NCCC_Tentative_Agreement.pdf

BLET members ratify Amtrak contract

By a nearly 4-to-1 margin, members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) ratified a new collective bargaining agreement with Amtrak. Ballots were counted January 20 and the tally was 77.5% in favor and 22.5% against.

The five-year deal provides members with 10 general wage increases totaling 14 percent, compounding to 15 percent, over the life of the contract. The agreement governs more than 1,400 Amtrak workers.

The agreement caps employee cost-sharing amounts for health and welfare coverage at $83.62 per month (as of July 1, 2011), $120 (July 1, 2012), and $130 (July 1, 2013). Additionally, vision care coverage and medical coverage is extended up to age 26 for eligible dependents.

The BLET also obtained three much-sought-after improvements to work rules. Rule 3(h) has been changed to give passenger engineers greater flexibility in how they exercise their seniority. Engineers will be able to take a second week of vacation in single days. Also, the biannual Optional Displacement rule in effect outside the Northeast Corridor will be expanded to include Work Zones 1 and 2. Other work rules for BLET members will essentially stay the same under the new agreement — an important victory considering the Carrier’s initial position.

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce thanked BLET members for participating in the voting process. He also thanked Amtrak General Chairman Mark Kenny and his negotiating team for their hard work at the bargaining table.

“I am proud of our Amtrak members for reaching an 65% turnout because our Brotherhood’s voice is leader for with each additional member who speaks,” said President Pierce. “I also want to congratulate Brother Kenny and his bargaining team for bringing the negotiations to a successful conclusion.”

“I want to thank every Amtrak member who took the time to participate in this ratification vote,” General Chairman Kenny said. “Now that we have certainty in wages, working conditions and benefits, we can refocus our attention to defeating the corporate and political forces that have targeted Amtrak for extinction.”

BLET members ratify national contract
BLET PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE  BY DENNIS R. PIERCE

THE SOLUTION FOR WHAT IS AILING AMERICA

As this month’s Headline Story says, the BLET’s voting rank and file membership has overwhelmingly ratified the Tentative National Agreement. At the same time, the voting rank and file membership on Amtrak has overwhelmingly ratified their Tentative Agreement. Both of these ratification votes are the culmination of many months of effort by the Organization — spanning the past several years — on behalf of the membership.

The solution for what is ailing America confronts us. It is a great way to keep informed on the most recent issues impacting your job, your contract and your Brotherhood.

Join me in our effort to correct the political narrative in this country with this simple truth: Unions did not cause this country’s problems and, in fact, unions and the strong middle class that they promote are the solution to this country’s problems.

BLET National Division Electronic Communications Policy

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

The volume of e-mails received makes it impossible for the National President to answer all unofficial communications. Therefore, it is the policy of the BLET that e-mails addressed to the National President will be reviewed and forwarded to the appropriate officer or staff for a timely response; however, an e-mail message is not considered an official communication.

Moreover, anonymous e-mails and e-mails that do not provide sufficient information concerning the sender to enable National Division staff to confirm the sender’s membership status will not receive any reply or acknowledgement. This policy is intended to allow the National President to be aware of the opinions and suggestions of the membership, while at the same time providing a timely response to the member’s unofficial communication, if a response is necessary, without needlessly expending limited BLET resources.

Adopted at Cleveland, Ohio on July 22, 2010.

Register at www.ble-t.org to get Brotherhood news emailed to you! Stay up-to-date with the latest Brotherhood news by going to the BLET website and signing up to receive BLET News Flash alerts via email.

The News Flash alerts are news articles from the BLET National Division website that are sent automatically emailed to you. To register, just go to www.ble-t.org.

It is a great way to keep informed on the most recent issues impacting your job, your contract and your Brotherhood.

National President Pierce speaks at a workshop for BLET Legislative Representatives at Teamster headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Fraternally,

DENNIS R. PIERCE
BLET National President
The central battleground in the war against workers today is the Indiana Statehouse. Anti-worker lawmakers are frantic to pass a bill that would weaken unions and shrink Indiana’s middle class. The legislative fight over the measure could make the Super Bowl look like a stroll in the park.

The real reason for the bill has nothing to do with rights and nothing to do with work. It doesn’t even have anything to do with improving Indiana’s business climate — already ranked sixth best in the country. The purpose of right-to-work for less is to please corporate donors who want to lower labor costs. What right-to-work for less does is limit unions’ financial resources and therefore their ability to negotiate for higher wages and benefits.

One of the more bizarre claims is that businesses would be more likely to relocate to Indiana if right-to-work for less were to become law. Now ask yourself: when was the last time you heard about a factory shutting down and moving to Oklahoma or South Carolina because they’re right-to-work states? What you do hear are stories of plants moving to Mexico and China. Gordon Lafer makes this point in his excellent study published by the Economic Policy Institute. Lafer writes: “In 2012, companies looking for cheap labor are overwhelmingly looking to China or Mexico, not South Carolina. To the extent that enacting RTW legislation ever served as an effective economic development strategy — and the evidence is weak on this point — globalization has rendered RTW irrelevant.”

Right-to-work proponents claim another study proves that it doesn’t lower compensation. As Notre Dame professor Marty Wolfson wrote, the study only compared executive compensation. Here’s what rigorous, academic studies show about right-to-work laws: They lower annual wages by $1,500 a year. It’s a sad day in our democracy when elected officials work to impoverish their own constituents.

Fraternally,
James P. Hoffa
Teamsters General President

A shameful Attack on Working Families

One of the more bizarre claims is that businesses would be more likely to relocate to Indiana if right-to-work for less were to become law. Now ask yourself: when was the last time you heard about a factory shutting down and moving to Oklahoma or South Carolina because they’re right-to-work states?

Mid-term meeting for NS/W&LE GCA

Members of the BLET’s Norfolk Southern-Northern Lines/W&LE General Committee of Adjustment held their mid-term meeting at the Sheraton Airport Hotel in Cleveland, Ohio, on November 7-8, 2011. General Chairman Bob Linsey presided over the meeting with assistance from Vice Chairman Rodney Cutlip and Secretary-Treasurer Jerry Elmore. The delegates heard reports from First Vice President E. Lee Pruitt; Vice President & National Legislative Representative John Tolman; Vice President Willard Knight; and Vice President Cole Davis. The mid-term meetings are designed to be educational and are held every four years, in between the regular quadrennial meetings.

Update from BLET Tax Compliance department

Internal Revenue Service regulations require the BLET National Division to inform its members that a certain portion of their National Division dues are not tax deductible as a miscellaneous itemized deduction on your personal tax returns. According to the National Secretary-Treasurer’s office, the portion of the National Division dues that is not subject to deduction as an itemized deduction on a Form 1040 tax return is 13.56 percent for 2011. In other words, 86.44 percent of your BLET National Division dues are tax deductible.

The 13.56 percent reflects expenses associated with political lobbying efforts by the BLET, which are not tax deductible. The non-chargeable expenses reported on the union’s Dues Objector Report provides the basis for dues not subject to deduction. © 2011 BLET Tax Compliance Department.
The James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund awards scholarships annually to outstanding high school seniors. The deadline for this year’s program is March 31, 2012.

Recipients are selected by an impartial committee of university admissions and financial aid directors based on academic achievement, SAT/ACT scores, character, potential and financial need. The Teamsters consider all applicants without regard to race, religion, gender, disability, or any other legally protected status.

Thirty-one of the awards total $10,000 each. These four-year scholarships are disbursed at the rate of $2,500 per year and are renewable annually.

Sixty-nine of the awards are one-time $1,000 amounts ranging from $500 and $1,000 and have helped as many as 28 students per year receive assistance, please visit:

For application forms and online assistance, please visit: www.ble-t.org/scholarships

The Foundation, founded in 2004, is led by a diverse Board of Directors representing several different railroads and labor unions. The Foundation’s mission “is to collectively use the generous resources of many to ensure the further education of those blessed with knowledge, but burdened with need. In addition, we strive to unite all railroads/railroad crafts throughout the Midwest in a valiant effort to give of their time and resources so the future of our children will be bright and productive.”

The MWRCSF awards scholarships in amounts ranging from $500 and $1,000 and has helped as many as 28 students per year who are connected to the various railroad crafts and locations throughout the Midwest.

“We felt that the support we had seen, especially in the Midwest, prompted us to ensure that the children of all railroad crafts and backgrounds be rewarded,” said Greg Shy, President of MWRCSF and member of BLET Division 777 (Argentine, Kan.). “We have become incorporated in Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas. Our objective is to concentrate our efforts on scholarships for children of railroad workers in these states. We also have enlisted the aid of rail management and all labor from Midwest railroads to ensure that all crafts are represented. This is a great opportunity for those railroad families in need of financial support for the higher education of their children.”

The vast majority of the monies acquired by the Foundation sponsors an annual Kansas City Golf Tourney, which will be held this summer on the Sunday and Monday after Labor Day.

Please use the scholarship application on the MWRCSF website. Fill it out electronically, print it, attach the proper signatures and mail it to the address provided. The deadline for receiving applications is June 15, 2012.

To download a copy of the application, and for other information about the MWRCSF, please visit: www.mwrcsf.org

The 2012 BLET Scholarship Directory is as follows:

BLET Auxiliary and International Western Convention (IWC) Scholarships

The BLET Auxiliary and International Western Convention (IWC) offers $1,000.00 scholarships annually to help the children of BLET and Auxiliary members realize their goals in life.

This year we have two additional scholarships to award to children of members of both the Auxiliary and BLET, the Leona A. Louis Memorial Scholarship and the John O. and Brenda Castel Scholarship. There are two very strict guidelines that must be met in order to be eligible for Auxiliary scholarships:

First, the applicant must be a son or daughter of both an Auxiliary and BLET member (living or deceased), with each being a member for two years. Second, the applicant must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an accredited university or college.

This year our former Canadian Sister Auxiliary 469 sponsored a $500 IWC Scholarships.

The Foundation's mission is to collectively use the generous resources of many to ensure the further education of those blessed with knowledge, but burdened with need. In addition, we strive to unite all railroads/railroad crafts throughout the Midwest in a valiant effort to give of their time and resources so the future of our children will be bright and productive.

The MWRCSF awards scholarships in amounts ranging from $500 and $1,000 and has helped as many as 28 students per year who are connected to the various railroad crafts and locations throughout the Midwest.

“We felt that the support we had seen, especially in the Midwest, prompted us to ensure that the children of all railroad crafts and backgrounds be rewarded,” said Greg Shy, President of MWRCSF and member of BLET Division 777 (Argentine, Kan.). “We have become incorporated in Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas. Our objective is to concentrate our efforts on scholarships for children of railroad workers in these states. We also have enlisted the aid of rail management and all labor from Midwest railroads to ensure that all crafts are represented. This is a great opportunity for those railroad families in need of financial support for the higher education of their children.”

The vast majority of the monies acquired by the Foundation sponsors an annual Kansas City Golf Tourney, which will be held this summer on the Sunday and Monday after Labor Day.

Please use the scholarship application on the MWRCSF website. Fill it out electronically, print it, attach the proper signatures and mail it to the address provided. The deadline for receiving applications is June 15, 2012.

To download a copy of the application, and for other information about the MWRCSF, please visit: www.mwrcsf.org

The 2012 BLET Scholarship Directory is as follows:

BLET Auxiliary and International Western Convention (IWC) Scholarships

The BLET Auxiliary and International Western Convention (IWC) offers $1,000.00 scholarships annually to help the children of BLET and Auxiliary members realize their goals in life.

This year we have two additional scholarships to award to children of members of both the Auxiliary and BLET, the Leona A. Louis Memorial Scholarship and the John O. and Brenda Castel Scholarship. There are two very strict guidelines that must be met in order to be eligible for Auxiliary scholarships:

First, the applicant must be a son or daughter of both an Auxiliary and BLET member (living or deceased), with each being a member for two years. Second, the applicant must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an accredited university or college.

This year our former Canadian Sister Auxiliary 469 sponsored a $500 IWC Scholarships.
arship to help children of the BLET and Auxiliary members. In addition to its own scholarship program, the Auxiliary is administering five $1,000 scholarships and one $500 scholarship for the National Western Convention (IWC) for the 2012 calendar year. This joint scholarship program is for children of members participating in the IWC and any of Divisions, Auxi-
liaries and Members-at-Large in the following states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Auxiliary membership is not a requirement to apply for any of the above IWC scholarships. If applicants are not awarded one of these scholarships and a parent is not a member of the Auxiliary, then they are not con-
idered eligible for any Auxiliary scholarships. If the applicant is a graduate student or re-
turning to school as a sophomore, junior or se-
tor, but she or he must have a 3.0 grade point av-
erage or better to be considered. The applicant must also be accepted to an accredited school.
The deadline for auxiliary administered scholarships is April 1, 2012. Late applica-
tions will not be considered. Auxiliary appli-
cation forms are online at: www.bletauxiliary.
net. In addition to the Auxiliary application forms, submit the names and addresses of two
people who can link from the BLET Website under “Departments.” In addition to the applica-
tion, the Auxiliary website provides schol-
arship opportunity is available to family mem-
bers of seriously injured railroad workers from the Our Brothers Keeper Foun-
dation (OBKF).

OBKF is planning to award four $1,000 scholarships in 2012 to family members of se-
riously injured railroad workers. One winner will be awarded a scholarship from each of the four geographic regions represented by the BLET regional meetings — Eastern Union Meeting Association, Southeastern Meeting Association, International Western Conven-
tion, and Southwestern Convention Meeting. OBKF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides consultation, referral and financial assistance to aid employees of the railroad industry and their families in times of hardship arising from accidents and inju-
ries that occur within the scope of the work-
ers’ railroad employment.

In 2006, Class I railroads reported al-
most 300 Category I & II casualties. These are on-the-job deaths or injuries so serious that they frequently result in permanent disabilities to railroad workers. These work-
ners and their families are often left without the resources needed to cover everyday liv-
ing expenses, much less provide tuition for family members who need, or would like, to further their education. OBKF is hoping to assist these families realize the goal of achieving higher education.

In pursuit of basic eligibility requirements, applicants must:
• Be a spouse, daughter or son of a serious-
lly injured railroad worker.
• Complete all sections of the application form and mail it to the designated address, no less than thirty (30) days prior to starting date for the BLET Regional Meeting territory in which the injured worker is employed, and
• Provide all supporting documents re-
quired by the application form, including proof of enrollment in an accredited college, tech-
nical, or trade school.

Additional information is provided on the application form, which is available on the BLET’s web site. The deadline for each scholarship is 30 days prior to the start of the BLET regional meetings.

• Southeastern Meeting Association (SMA) begins June 24, and the OBKF deadline is May 24.
• International Western Convention (IWC) begins July 29, and the OBKF deadline is July 19.
• Eastern Union Meeting Association (EUMA) begins August 19, and the OBKF deadline is August 9.

Since the majority of the support for OBKF’s outreach efforts currently comes from engi-
ners and train service employees, family mem-
bers of these crafts will be given preference. All scholarship applications will be carefully re-
viewed. Scholarship awards are to be based on need and fulfillment of applicant requirements.

A copy of the OBKF application form is available here: www.bletaux.org/obkf/obkfScholarship.pdf.
M.D. Frank new Alabama State Legislative Board Chairman

M. D. Frank of BLET Division 899 (Birmingham, Ala.) was elected Chairman of the Alabama State Legislative Board in April. Brother Frank has held the office of Legislative Representative for Division 899 since 2004, and is also Local Chairman of his Division.

“I am excited to serve the members in Alabama,” Frank said. “I look forward to working for the membership in Alabama.”

Brother Frank joined the BLET on April 1, 2004. He began his railroad career in 1977.

“Having had the opportunity to work with Michael over the past several months, I know he and the rest of the Board will do a great job for the membership in Alabama,” the President and National Legislative Representative John Tolman said. “I look forward to continuing to work with him.”

OUTGOING, INCOMING: VICE Verna with Nick Johnson

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen mourns the passing of Leonard Foster. He served the Brotherhood as General Chairman of the Southern Pacific General Committee of Organization Adjudication from 1978-1990.

He held out in Oakland, Calif., on the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1953 and earned promotion to Locomotive Engineer a short time later, joining BLET Division 283 in Oakland, Calif. He was also involved in the Federal Railroad Administration’s Rail Safety Advisory Committee process, specifically regarding the issue of locomotive safety standards. He also served in a variety of capacities at the Arizona State AFL-CIO and the Pima Area Labor Federation.

“Nick has been a great asset to the Brotherhood for many years,” said BLET Vice President & National Legislative Representative John Tolman said. “Nick will do a fantastic job succeeding Vince as Chairman of the Arizona State Legislative Board. I look forward to continuing to work with him in his new position.”

On November 5, retired BLET General Chairman Foster, 83, passed away in his sleep at home in Port Orchard, Ore. Brother Foster served the Brotherhood as General Chairman of the Southern Pacific General Committee of Organization Adjudication from 1978-1990.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Gladina, in December 30, 2011. He was born on December 11, 1927. Foster was a past Master Mason. Foster was also an avid golfer during some time as a switchman before leaving the industry. Additionally, his daughter Lynne worked for the Brotherhood in the Southern Pacific General Committee of Organization.

Brother Foster was very involved in the Masons and Masonic Lodge. He was also an avid golfer during some time as a switchman before leaving the industry. Additionally, his daughter Lynne worked for the Brotherhood in the Southern Pacific General Committee of Organization.

Brother Foster was very involved in the Masons and Masonic Lodge. He was also an avid golfer during some time as a switchman before leaving the industry. Additionally, his daughter Lynne worked for the Brotherhood in the Southern Pacific General Committee of Organization.

The Foster family held a private ceremony in Oregon.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen mourns the passing of Leonard Foster. He served the Brotherhood as General Chairman of the Southern Pacific General Committee of Organization Adjudication from 1978-1990.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Gladina, in December 30, 2011. He was born on December 11, 1927. Foster was a past Master Mason. Foster was also an avid golfer during some time as a switchman before leaving the industry. Additionally, his daughter Lynne worked for the Brotherhood in the Southern Pacific General Committee of Organization.

Brother Foster was very involved in the Masons and Masonic Lodge. He was also an avid golfer during some time as a switchman before leaving the industry. Additionally, his daughter Lynne worked for the Brotherhood in the Southern Pacific General Committee of Organization.

The Foster family held a private ceremony in Oregon.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen mourns the passing of Leonard Foster. He served the Brotherhood as General Chairman of the Southern Pacific General Committee of Organization Adjudication from 1978-1990.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Gladina, in December 30, 2011. He was born on December 11, 1927. Foster was a past Master Mason. Foster was also an avid golfer during some time as a switchman before leaving the industry. Additionally, his daughter Lynne worked for the Brotherhood in the Southern Pacific General Committee of Organization.

Brother Foster was very involved in the Masons and Masonic Lodge. He was also an avid golfer during some time as a switchman before leaving the industry. Additionally, his daughter Lynne worked for the Brotherhood in the Southern Pacific General Committee of Organization.

The Foster family held a private ceremony in Oregon.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen mourns the passing of Leonard Foster. He served the Brotherhood as General Chairman of the Southern Pacific General Committee of Organization Adjudication from 1978-1990.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Gladina, in December 30, 2011. He was born on December 11, 1927. Foster was a past Master Mason. Foster was also an avid golfer during some time as a switchman before leaving the industry. Additionally, his daughter Lynne worked for the Brotherhood in the Southern Pacific General Committee of Organization.

Brother Foster was very involved in the Masons and Masonic Lodge. He was also an avid golfer during some time as a switchman before leaving the industry. Additionally, his daughter Lynne worked for the Brotherhood in the Southern Pacific General Committee of Organization.

The Foster family held a private ceremony in Oregon.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen mourns the passing of Leonard Foster. He served the Brotherhood as General Chairman of the Southern Pacific General Committee of Organization Adjudication from 1978-1990.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Gladina, in December 30, 2011. He was born on December 11, 1927. Foster was a past Master Mason. Foster was also an avid golfer during some time as a switchman before leaving the industry. Additionally, his daughter Lynne worked for the Brotherhood in the Southern Pacific General Committee of Organization.

Brother Foster was very involved in the Masons and Masonic Lodge. He was also an avid golfer during some time as a switchman before leaving the industry. Additionally, his daughter Lynne worked for the Brotherhood in the Southern Pacific General Committee of Organization.

The Foster family held a private ceremony in Oregon.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen mourns the passing of Leonard Foster. He served the Brotherhood as General Chairman of the Southern Pacific General Committee of Organization Adjudication from 1978-1990.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Gladina, in December 30, 2011. He was born on December 11, 1927. Foster was a past Master Mason. Foster was also an avid golfer during some time as a switchman before leaving the industry. Additionally, his daughter Lynne worked for the Brotherhood in the Southern Pacific General Committee of Organization.

Brother Foster was very involved in the Masons and Masonic Lodge. He was also an avid golfer during some time as a switchman before leaving the industry. Additionally, his daughter Lynne worked for the Brotherhood in the Southern Pacific General Committee of Organization.

The Foster family held a private ceremony in Oregon.
The members of BLET Division 569 (Heaven, Okla.) held their Christmas party at Warehouse Willy’s restaurant in Poteau, Okla., on December 6. The annual event was well-attended by the spouses and children of BLET members, who hosted the party following their regular division meeting. Division 569 President Terry Lynch emceed the event with assistance from Local Chairman D.M. Grubbs Jr. Special guests included BLET National Vice President Cole Davis, Kansas City Southern General Chairman Sam Parker, and his wife Kay. “There was a large turnout and it was a great family event for this close-knit Kansas City Southern Division,” said Brother Davis, whose numerous assignments as Vice President include the KCS. “It was an honor and a pleasure to be invited.”

Happy Holidays: Division 569, a close-knit Kansas City Southern Division.

The BR&CF is the least expensive protection when disciplined for eligible occurrences. We are affordable. You could save up to $672 each year. A BR&CF membership offers you the best price, value and service. To apply for membership... act today... ask a BR&CF member where you work for an application or visit our web site at www.brcf.org or call us toll free at 800 233-7080.

BR&CF $38.00 $57.00 $76.00
LECMPA (*) $59.50 $87.50 $117.25 $41.25 every month
UTU $66.00 $99.00 $132.00 $56.00 every month
First annual report on BLET Education & Training fund

When delegates attending the BLET’s Second National Convention in Reno, Nevada, agreed to establish a dedicated fund for Education and Training in October of 2010, they stipulated that an annual accounting of funds be published in the January issue of the BLET’s newsletter. Members are also encouraged to review their own programs as well as education and training expenditures of the fund, subject to the provisions of Section 29 – National Division Rules. Funds received from such dues shall be used for education and training classes and/or work for officers and members of the BLET. A balance report outlining the disbursements from the fund will be published in the newsletter each January.

Members should note that even though BLET delegates ratified the above changes to the Bylaws in October of 2010, due for the Education and Training fund were not collected until June of 2011. It took several months to modify the Bylaws and secure approval from General President Hoffa that they did not conflict with IBT’s Constitution and Bylaws. Once that process was completed, there was another 60-day notice period before BLET Secretary-Treasurers could begin withholding funds, per BLET Bylaws (Section 29 – National Division Rules).

“We are still in the formulating stages for uses of the Education and Training fund. More information on the fund should be forthcoming in the near future,” said Bill Walpert, National Secretary-Treasurer and Director of the Education and Training Department.

“We have already extended most classes offered by the Education and Training Department by a day, offered more variety and new information in the classes and increased the number of classes we offer,” said Walpert.

---

**2011 BROTHERHOOD OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS AND TRAINMEN EDUCATION AND TRAINING FUND BALANCE REPORT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUES</th>
<th>FUND EXPENDITURES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUCATION AND TRAINING FUND DUES</td>
<td>$184,837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INSTRUCTORS</td>
<td>$75,670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEACHING EXPENSES</td>
<td>$8,119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENSES</td>
<td>$83,789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FUND BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 2011</strong></td>
<td><strong>$101,048</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>