

# THE LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEER NEWSLETTER • APRIL 2003

## Survey results back IBT

### Wide majority of BLE members support affiliation with Teamsters

If an election were held today, more than three quarters of BLE members would vote to support an affiliation with the Teamsters Union, according to results from both a direct membership survey of BLE members and a scientific telephone poll.

In the telephone poll conducted in January 2003, 78% of BLE members say they would vote to approve a merger with the Teamsters Union, compared to only 21% who said they would oppose it. The telephone poll, conducted of 400 randomly selected BLE members out of more than 1,000 phone calls placed, is accurate to +/- 4.9%.

One-third of the BLE members, approximately 11,000, returned mail surveys during February and March 2003. The mail surveys indicated support for the Teamster affiliation equivalent to the scientific poll.

Nearly 77% of BLE members returning mail surveys said they thought the Teamsters and the BLE were a "good match," and 78% said they were comfortable with "the prospect of a



merger of the BLE and the Teamsters Union."

In both the poll and the survey, BLE members indicated that they saw an affiliation with the Teamsters as generating new strength in collective bargaining, organizing, and political action.

"The poll and member survey conclusively demonstrates that BLE members feel they will benefit by becoming part of a larger and stronger union," BLE International President Don Hahs said. "BLE members are especially supportive of the affiliation because they felt that it will allow them to share in the strength of the Teamsters while maintaining autonomy."

In the poll, 89% of BLE members felt that joining with the 1.4 million-

### The Survey Says....

A sampling of what BLE members had to say in a recent survey regarding the proposed merger with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

- Would vote to approve a merger with Teamsters — 78%
- Felt BLE, IBT were a "good match" — 77%
- Had a positive image of BLE — 74%
- Had a positive image of Teamsters — 72%
- Had a positive image of their Local Chairman — 83%

member Teamsters union would give the BLE "added strength at the bargaining table, in the political arena, and in organizing," and felt that these were convincing reasons to affiliate.

BLE members were equally convinced that joining with the largest transportation union would give both the Locomotive Engineers and all transportation workers "more clout at all points in the process of transporting goods, people and services."

In the poll, BLE members had a high 74% positive image rating of the BLE and a 72% positive image of the Teamsters. Moreover, 83% of BLE mem-

bers have a positive image of their Local Chairman.

Poll and survey results were announced on April 16 at the BLE's Western General Chairman's Association annual meeting, and were presented by LRA Consulting, a New York City based union consulting firm retained by the IBT and BLE to determine member opinions on merger prospects.

Members of the BLE's Advisory Board and the National Association of State Legislative Board Chairmen were in attendance, along with mostly all General Chairmen. •

## BLE gets landmark FELA win at Supreme Court

### In major asbestos ruling, BLE stops carrier attempts to undercut worker protection laws

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers played a key role in protecting the Federal Employers Liability Act — and the rights of all railroad workers — in a landmark Supreme Court decision issued on March 10.

Most media attention focused on the Supreme Court's ruling that some railroad workers who were exposed to cancer-causing asbestos can win money damages in court even though they do not yet have cancer and may never get it.

The BLE, however, focused its legal eyes on other portions of the railroad's lawsuit, which attempted to undermine and critically weaken FELA.

While the Respondent and other amici briefs focused largely upon issues regarding asbestosis and fear of cancer, the briefing offered by the BLE was unique in emphasizing that the position advocated by the railroad industry would critically undermine, and at times entirely negate and destroy, important rights and protections afforded to injured railroad workers by Congress under FELA.

The BLE's briefing made clear that the railroad industry was attempting to weaken FELA in funda-

mental respects, seeking to accomplish through a judicial decision that which it had been unable to accomplish legislatively over the decades.

The Court was clearly aware that the railroad industry was seeking to undermine and weaken FELA, and refused to let it do so.

Although the decision was divided regarding asbestosis, the justices were unanimous in rejecting the railroad's attempt to eliminate portions of FELA. The justices held that if a railroad's negligence plays any part in a worker's receipt of injury, the worker may recover all damages sustained from the railroad, and need not seek compensation from potentially liable third parties. The court held that the burden should remain upon the railroad to seek reimbursement from any potentially negligent third party, and refused to shift this burden to the worker.

In reaching its decision, the Court made clear that it gave credence to the BLE's argument and declined to weaken or recast FELA in the manner urged by the railroad industry.

"This decision constitutes a landmark victory for

injured railroad workers under FELA, largely because of the BLE's willingness to address issues others had ignored," said BLE International President Don Hahs. "We made an important stand on behalf of injured railroad workers and our Amicus Brief played an important role in the Supreme Court's decision."

The ruling was a blow to Norfolk Southern and to big business generally. The railroad and its backers had hoped the conservative-leaning high court would use the case to curb the burgeoning asbestos-related lawsuits in state and federal courts.

Big companies are asking Congress for protection from an estimated \$200 billion in asbestos liability. There are more than 600,000 asbestos-related lawsuits before courts today and it is expected that many more will be filed.

The BLE's position was presented by Bill Jungbauer of Yaeger, Jungbauer, Barczak & Vucinovich.

The BLE filed an Amicus Brief in the case, Norfolk & Western Railway versus Ayers, 01-963. •



# BLE NEWS

## Evansville, Ind., says no to remotes

The Evansville, Ind., City Council unanimously passed a resolution opposing remote control locomotives on April 7, becoming the 15th U.S. city to take action against unmanned trains.

The resolution states that, "The members of the Evansville City Council are concerned about the public safety of the citizens of Evansville, and... the use of remote control locomotives is known to present significant dangers to persons and property from the possibility of collisions, derailments, and the release of hazardous materials."

The City Council also unanimously agreed that the Federal Railroad Administration should conduct a comprehensive and thorough review of the safety of remote control locomotives, and that it should de-

velop comprehensive regulations (not "guidelines") to ensure that citizens are not at risk by their use.

The resolution also formally requests that remote control operations not be implemented or used in Evansville until the FRA develops more comprehensive guidelines to ensure public safety.

William M. Verdeyen, Chairman of the BLE's Indiana State Legislative Board, said that Division 742 Legislative Representative Ray Ford did a "fantastic job in talking to all members of the City Council" regarding remote control operations.

Evansville joins 14 other U.S. cities and seven counties in citing public safety concerns in the adoption of resolutions to restrict the operation of remote control locomotives in their communities.

The other 14 U.S. cities to pass resolutions op-

posing remote control locomotives are Belen, N.M., Alliance, Neb., Bakersfield, Calif., Beardstown, Ill., Baton Rouge, La., Shreveport, La., Detroit, Mich., Marysville, Mich., Boston, Mass., Cleveland, Ohio, Pine Bluff, Ark., North Little Rock, Ark., Woodbridge, N.J. and Maple Heights, Ohio.

In addition to the 15 cities, seven counties have passed resolutions against remote control operations — Douglas County, Wisc., West Baton Rouge Parish, La., Point Coupee Parish, La., Cuyahoga County, Ohio, Huron County, Ohio, Whitley County, Ky., and Unicoi County, Tenn.

A copy of the Evansville resolution is available on the BLE website at:

<http://www.ble.org/pr/pdf/evansville.pdf> •

## Dupo, Ill., 16th U.S. city to oppose remotes

As of April 17, 16 cities and seven counties pass anti-remote control resolutions

The Village of Dupo, Ill., became the 16th U.S. city to approve a resolution prohibiting the use of remote control locomotives.

Sixteen cities and seven counties have now adopted resolutions that call for improved safety of remote control operations.

The resolution, passed on April 7, urges the Federal Railroad Administration to develop comprehensive regulations governing the use of remote control.

Members of the group Railroad

Employees for Safety/Quality (RRESQ) worked for the passage of the resolution along with members of the BLE. BLE Illinois State Legislative Board Chairman C.E. Way attended the meetings in support of the resolution.

Dupo Mayor Ron Dell said use of remote control locomotives is "known to present significant danger to persons and property with respect to collision, derailment and possible release of hazardous material." He added that the risk is especially worrisome in the face of a federal government safety alert re-

lated to vandalism and terrorist threats against railroads.

"It has been reported that in the past year, there have been 37 separate rail accidents, including two fatalities, involving one or more cars operated by remote control technology," said Dell.

A copy of the resolution is on the BLE website at:

<http://www.ble.org/pr/pdf/dupo.pdf>

(The Cahokia-Dupo Journal contributed to this article.) •

## Maple Heights, Ohio, addresses remotes

The City of Maple Heights, Ohio is the 12th U.S. city to take action against remote control. Maple Heights is an eastern suburb of Cleveland.

The Maple Heights action is a "resolution encouraging members of the Ohio State Legislature to introduce and pass legislation addressing security and safety concerns surrounding the use of remote control locomotives and encouraging state and federal agencies that regulate railroad operations to work with the Department of Homeland Security to establish regulations addressing safety and security concerns arising from the use and operation of remote control locomotives, and declaring an emergency."

The resolution is an emergency measure for the city and took effect as soon as it was approved by the mayor in March.

The resolution came about after a speech by Ohio State Legislative Board Chairman Jim Ong at the Cleveland Central Labor Council in February. Ong was joined at that meeting by BLE Division 3 (Cleveland) Legislative Representative Bill Ellert and Rich Nieman of BLE Division 3, who are both delegates to the Labor Council. At the meeting, they met Maple Heights City Councilman Richard Taylor, who brought the matter up with the mayor of Maple Heights. The resolution was jointly introduced by Taylor and Mayor Santo T. Incorvaia.

Chairman Ong would like to thank Brothers Ellert and Nieman for their hard work. He would also like to thank Mayor Incorvaia and Councilman Taylor and the other co-sponsors of the resolution.

Maple Heights joins Bakersfield, Calif., Beardstown, Ill., Baton Rouge, La., Shreveport, La., Detroit, Mich., Marysville, Mich., Boston, Mass., Cleveland, Ohio, Pine Bluff, Ark., North Little Rock, Ark. and Woodbridge, N.J. in passing resolutions against remote control locomotives. Also, four U.S. counties have passed resolutions banning remote control trains — Cuyahoga and Huron Counties in Ohio, Whitley County in Kentucky, and Unicoi County in Tenn.

A copy of the resolution is on the BLE website at:

<http://www.ble.org/pr/pdf/mapleheights.pdf> •

## President Hahs statement of support for troops

BLE International President Don M. Hahs issued the following statement concerning the war in Iraq:

"As the war in Iraq develops, hundreds of thousands of brave men and women in uniform find themselves in harms way thousands of miles from their homes and loved ones. They deserve our respect, admiration and support.

"American prayers were answered on April 13 when the seven prisoners of war in Iraq were returned to the freedom of coalition forces. It was a very welcome sight to see them in good condition and out of harm's way.

"After the daring rescue of PFC Jessica Lynch, these seven prisoners were on the minds of millions of people all across the globe. We are hopeful that those service men and women listed as Missing In Action will soon be accounted for.

"On behalf of the entire membership of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, I extend a heartfelt 'welcome home' to the former prisoners of war and express our most sincere thank you for the service you have provided in defending freedom against hostile forces. Your strength and courage are to be admired by all who em-

brace freedom.

"Furthermore, I ask that all BLE members, regardless of whether they support or oppose the war, pray for our troops in Iraq and in other places around the world. They are making great sacrifices on our behalf and on behalf of freedom. We should not let those sacrifices go unnoticed.

"I am very proud of each and every man and woman in uniform today — protecting our country and our way of life. They have my full support and best wishes for a speedy return to their homes and loved ones." •

## Oberstar, Hahs talk at AFL-CIO



In February, BLE International President Don M. Hahs (right) met with Congressman Jim Oberstar (D-MN) at the AFL-CIO winter meetings in Florida. He is the senior Democrat on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

## BLE scholarship info available on website

Members planning to apply for financial assistance through the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers' regional meetings can find application forms at [www.ble.org](http://www.ble.org).

The Southwestern Convention Meeting (SWCM) has an interactive PDF application form available, meaning applicants may type their information directly on the computer screen before printing. It is at: <http://www.ble.org/pdf/swcmapp.pdf>

Also, the Eastern Union Meeting Association's scholarship application form is available at:

<http://www.ble.org/pr/pdf/eumasch.pdf>

## BLE honors 30-year employee Linda Thomson upon retirement

BLE International President Don M. Hahs and the officers and staff of the International Division honored staff member Linda Thomson, who retired on March 26 after 30 years of service to the Brotherhood.

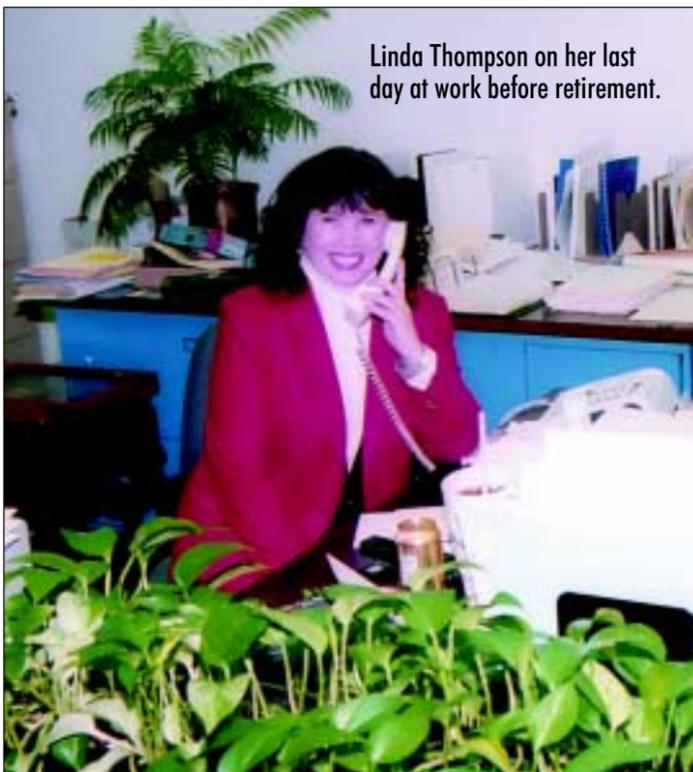
She has worked in various capacities with the BLE, including Director of Personnel and her current position in the Tax Compliance Department. For many years, Thomson has been in charge of the division elections and health and welfare benefits. She began her career at the BLE in July 1973.

During her retirement, she

plans to visit her two sons and their families in Arizona and Texas. She also enjoys working outdoors and playing golf. While she is looking forward to retirement, she says that it will be an adjustment.

"Linda will be missed by the officers and staff of the International Division, and by all of the members whom she has come into contact with over the years," President Hahs said.

She was presented with a commemorative clock by President Hahs and was given a plaque and a clock by Director of Compliance Dr. Elaine Reese. •



Linda Thomson on her last day at work before retirement.

## S-T workshop approved for college credits

The BLE's Secretary-Treasurer Training class was recently accredited for two college credits at the George Meany Center-National Labor College (GMC-NLC).

The S-T Training class is the second class offered by the BLE's Education & Training Department to win approval for college credits through the National Labor College. The Local Chairman's workshop has been accredited since the late-1990s.

In January, Education & Training Coordinator Ken Kroeger applied to the GMC for accreditation for the Secretary-Treasurer Training class, which was first offered by the BLE in January 1998. In March, the Meany Center accredited the course for two college credits. The four-day course is titled "Union Finance," Class No. LBST2993.

The BLE's Local Chairman's workshop, a five-day intensive workshop, is accredited for three college credits. The George Meany Center titled the workshop "Intro to Union Administration (BLE)," Class No. LBUA2919. The BLE Education & Training Department offers the course at least three times a year at the GMC-NLC, and also at other venues around the country on an as-needed basis.

In order to receive college credits for these courses, students are required to pay an additional \$90 for the Local Chairman's Class, and \$60 for the S-T workshop.

In addition to the Local Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer classes, BLE members may also take a four-day Hazardous Materials workshop for college credit. The hazmat class, worth three college credits, is titled "Four-day Hazardous Waste/Chemical Emergency Response Training," Class No. LBSH3400.

For working union members wishing to pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree in Labor Studies, the GMC-NLC offers a complete degree program, which is open to all members of AFL-CIO-affiliated unions. The program is designed for those who cannot be served by traditional educational institutions and conventional educational mechanisms.

"This is a great opportunity for BLE members to continue their education," BLE President Don Hahs said.

For further information or to register for an upcoming class, please contact Ken Kroeger at (216) 272-0986 or [Kroeger@ble.org](mailto:Kroeger@ble.org). •

### ✓ DO BUY

**Spring is in the Air:  
Think Union for Lawn and Garden  
Needs, Sporting Goods and Vacations**

#### Sporting Goods, Recreation Equipment

**Baseball Bats and Golf Clubs:** Louisville Slugger; Powerbilt

**Boats:** Alumina-Weld; Xpress; Riviera Cruiser pontoon boats



**Boat Parts/ Accessories:** ITT Jabsco; North & Judd (Brands: Anchor, Wilcox-Crittenden); Darc (boat ropes); Charles Rice (boat covers)

**Camping Trailers:** Coleman

**Fishing Equipment:** Big Poly

**Fishing Tackle Boxes (& Automotive Floor Mats and Household Products):** Rubbermaid

**Fishing Rods & Reels:** True Temper

**Golf Club Heads:** Callaway; Tommy Armour; Titleist



**Golf Carts:** Toro

**Gym and Recreational Equipment:** Roadmaster

**Horse Riding:** North & Judd

**Hockey, Ski Equipment, Ice Skates, Snow Boards, In-line Skates:** Bauer; Micron; Dauoust; Mega; Lange; Cooper; Flak, Hillerich & Bradby Louisville hockey sticks

**Life Vests:** Kent; Boat Mate; Body Glove; Cascade; Connelley; Full Throttle; HO; ICONN; Jet Pilot; JOBE; Kawasaki; Kidder; Mobby's Motorcycle Stuff; O'Brien; O'Neill; SeaDoo; Ski Limited; Slippery When Wet

**Boat Motors, Outboards:** Evinrude

**Photo Equipment:** S/V

**Pool Accessories:** ITT Jabsco

**Rifle Scopes, Scope Mounting Hardware and Iron Rifle Sights:** Redfield

**Tennis and Racket Balls:** Penn

**Scuba Tanks:** Luxfer

**Scuba Suits:** Bare

**Shooting Sports:** Colt, Remington Arms (clay pigeons)

**Swimming Pools:** Clayton & Lambert

#### Gardening, Household Tools

**Axes, Crow Bars, Hammers:** Collins Axe; Cotter Axe; Craftsman; Warwood

**Assorted Household Brushes:** Osborn manufacturing marketed under name of Black & Decker, Compo Industries, United Abrasives, KD Tools, Phend

**Batteries:** Ray-o-Vac (packaged alkaline batteries, heavy duty C, D and AA batteries)

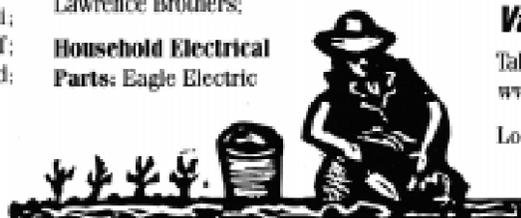
**Garden Accessories:** Green Thumb, Yard'N Garden; Trail Blazer; Flex Be

**Generators:** Onan portable generator

**Hand Tools:** Armstrong Bros. Tool Co.; Blue Point; Central Tool; Cold Metal Products; Clauss Cutlery; Craftsman; Channellock; Cooper Industries; Hanson-Whitney; Gam; Huck; Klein Tools; Mac Tools; Mephisto Tool Co.; Rotor Tool; Sioux City Inc.; Snap-On; Stanley Tools; Startevant Richmond (Div of Reyerson); Union Fork & Hoe; Utica Tool Co.; Vermont American

**Hardware (General):** Lawrence Brothers;

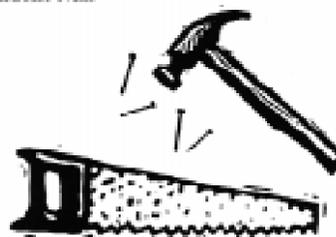
**Household Electrical Parts:** Eagle Electric



**Ladders (wood and aluminum):** Cramer Co. (Div of Olix); Keller; Reynolds; Raycan

**Lawn Mowers:** Cub Cadet; Jacobsen; John Deere; Snapper; Lawn Boy; Outboard Marine Corp; MTD; Scott Fetzer; Toro

**Nails (Finished-All Types):** Independent Nail



**Painting Equipment/Supplies:** Dap Silicon Caulking—Dow Corning; American Tape Co. (masking tape, electrical tape); Red Devil; Hyde; Stanley Tools (scrapers, wallpaper cutters)

**Paint Brushes, Rollers:** EZ Paint; Masterset; Baker Master Painter; Maryland Brush; Gold Stripe

**Paints/Stains:** Samuel Cabot; Flexstone Multicolor Paint

**Plastic Storage Boxes:** Buckhorn

**Power Saw Blades:** Huther

**Rivets, Rivet Tools:** Pop

**Saws, Woodworking Products:** Delta

**Screws (Metal):** Robertson; Service Supply (clips, screws, nuts and bolts)

**Shovels:** Ames

**Staple Guns, Nails, Staples, Fasteners, Wire:** International Staple

#### Vacations, Travel

Taking a Trip? Check: [www.unionvacations.com](http://www.unionvacations.com)

Look for a Union Hotel: [www.hereunion.org/hotelguide/](http://www.hereunion.org/hotelguide/)

MARCH/APRIL 2003

# BLE NEWS

## Military service and Railroad Retirement

Many railroad employees have at some time served in the Armed Forces of the United States. Under certain conditions, their military service may be credited as rail service under the Railroad Retirement Act.

The following questions and answers provide information on how military service may be credited towards railroad retirement benefits.

### 1. Under what conditions can military service be credited as railroad service?

The intent behind the crediting of military service under the Railroad Retirement Act is to prevent career railroad employees from losing retirement credits while performing active duty military service during a war or national emergency period. Therefore, to be creditable as railroad service under the Railroad Retirement Act, active duty service in the U.S. Armed Forces must be preceded by railroad service in the same or preceding calendar year. With the exceptions noted later, the employee must also have entered military service when the United States was at war or in a state of national emergency or have served in the Armed Forces involuntarily. Military service is involuntary when an employee is required by law, such as Selective Service System conscription, or troop call-up from a reserve unit, to leave railroad service to perform active duty military service.

Only active duty military service is creditable under the Railroad Retirement Act. A person is considered to have been on active duty while commissioned or enrolled in the active service of the Armed Forces of the United States (including the U.S. Coast Guard); or while ordered to Federal active duty from any reserve component of the uniformed Armed Forces.

### 2. What would be some examples of creditable service performed by a member of a reserve component, such as the Army Reserve?

Any military service a reservist was required to perform as a result of a call-up to active duty, such as during the current partial mobilization, would be creditable under the Railroad Retirement Act, so long as the military ser-

vice was preceded by railroad service in the same or preceding year.

Annual training duty as a member of a reserve component of a uniformed service is also considered active duty and may be creditable, provided the employee service requirement is met. The period of active duty for training also includes authorized travel time to and from any such training duty. However, weekend alone or evening reserve duty is not creditable.

Active duty in a State National Guard or State Air National Guard unit may be creditable only while the reservist was called to Federal active duty by the Congress or President of the United States. Emergency call-up of the National Guard by a governor for riot or flood control would not be creditable.

### 3. What are the dates of the war or national emergency periods?

The creditable periods that affect current retirements are:

- September 8, 1939, through June 14, 1948.
- December 16, 1950, through September 14, 1978.
- August 2, 1990, to date as yet undetermined.

If military service began during a war or national emergency period, any active duty service the employee was required to continue in beyond the end of the war or national emergency is creditable, except that voluntary service extending beyond September 14, 1978, is not creditable.

Railroad workers who voluntarily served in the Armed Forces between June 15, 1948, and December 15, 1950, when there was no declared national state of emergency, can be given railroad retirement credit for their military service if they:

- performed railroad service in the year they entered or the year before they entered military service, and;
- returned to rail service in the year their military service ended or in the following year, and;
- had no intervening nonrailroad employment.

### 4. How can military service be used to increase benefits paid by the Railroad Retirement Board?

Railroad retirement annuities are based on length of service and earnings. If military service is creditable as railroad service, a person will receive additional earnings credits for each month of creditable military service and railroad service credit for each active military service month not already credited by actual railroad service.

Creditable military service may be used in addition to regular railroad service to meet certain service requirements, such as the basic 10-year or 5-year service requirements for a regular annuity, the 20-year requirement for an occupational disability annuity before age 60, the 25-year requirement for a supplemental annuity, or the 30-year requirement for early retirement benefits.

### 5. Can United States Merchant Marine service be creditable for railroad retirement purposes?

No. Service with the Merchant Marine or civilian employment with the Department of Defense is not creditable, even if performed in wartime.

### 6. Are railroad retirement annuities based in part on military service credits reduced if other benefits, such as military service pensions or payments from the Department of Veterans Affairs, are also payable on the basis of the same military service?

No. While railroad retirement employee annuities are subject to reductions for dual entitlement to social security benefits and, under certain conditions, Federal, State, or local government pensions, as well as certain other payments, railroad retirement employee annuities are always exempt from reduction for military service pensions or payments by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

### 7. Are the unemployment and sickness benefits payable by the Railroad Retirement Board affected if an employee is also receiving a military service pension?

Yes. The unemployment and sickness benefits payable by the Board are affected if a claimant is also receiving a military service pension. However, payments made by the Department of

Veterans Affairs will not affect railroad unemployment or sickness benefits.

When a claimant is receiving a military service pension or benefits under any social insurance law for days in which he or she is entitled to benefits under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, railroad unemployment or sickness benefits are payable only to the extent to which they exceed the other payments for those days. In many cases, the amount of a military service pension precludes the payment of unemployment or sickness benefits by the Board. Examples of other such social insurance payments are civil service pensions, firefighters' and police pensions, and workers' compensation payments. Claimants should report all such payments promptly to avoid having to refund benefits later.

### 8. Can proof of military service be filed in advance of retirement?

Railroad employees are encouraged to file proofs of their military service well in advance of retirement. The information will be recorded and stored electronically until they actually retire. This will expedite the annuity application process and avoid any delays resulting from inadequate proofs.

If employees do not have an official record of their military service, their local Railroad Retirement Board office will explain how to get acceptable evidence. All evidence brought or mailed to a Board office will be handled carefully and returned promptly.

### 9. How can an employee get more information about the crediting of military service by the Railroad Retirement Board?

For more information, an employee should contact the nearest office of the Railroad Retirement Board. Most Board offices are open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.

Employees can find the address and phone number of the Board office serving their area by calling the automated toll-free RRB Help Line at (800) 808-0772. They can also get this information from the Board's Web site at [www.rrb.gov](http://www.rrb.gov).

## Upcoming Railroad Retirement Board informational conferences

The U.S. Railroad Retirement Board will offer free informational conferences for elected BLE officers during 2003. Registration for all conferences begins at 8 a.m. The program will begin promptly at 8:30 a.m. and end at 12:30 p.m.

**April 25 • Baldwin Park, Calif.**  
San Gabriel Valley Hotel  
14635 Baldwin Park Towne Center

**April 25 • Newark, N.J.**  
Hilton Gateway, Gateway Cntr., Raymond Blvd.

**May 9 • Kansas City, Mo.**  
Embassy Suites  
7640 N.W. Tiffany Springs Parkway

**May 9 • Little Rock, Ark.**  
Holiday Inn Airport, Command-Aire Meeting Room,  
3201 Bankhead Drive

**May 9 • Golden, Colo.**  
Holiday Inn-Denver West Village  
14707 East Colfax Ave.

**May 16 • Atlanta, Ga.**  
Holiday Inn Select-Capitol Plaza, 450 Capitol Ave.

**May 16 • Independence, Ohio**  
Holiday Inn, Cleveland South/Independence  
6001 Rockside Road (I-77 & Rockside)

**May 16 • Eagan, Minn.**  
Yankee Square Inn, 3450 Washington Drive  
I-35 & Yakee Doodle Road

**June 13 • Ashland, Neb.**  
Eugene T. Mahoney State Park, Nebraska Room  
28500 W. Park Highway

**September 12 • Fort Worth, Texas**  
Holiday Inn South, 100 East Alta Mesa Blvd.

**November 7 • New Orleans, La.**  
Holiday Inn Metairie  
3400 I-10 & Causeway Blvd.

# Tennessee county opposes remote control

The Unicoi County Commission in Tennessee unanimously passed a resolution on March 24 against the use of remote control locomotives, becoming the fourth county to do so in the United States.

In part, it reads:

"Whereas, this legislative body is aware that there are significant safety problems relating to the movement of rail cars through remote control devices;

"Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Unicoi County Legislative Body that it supports any and all municipal, state or federal legislation to prohibit the use of remote control devices for movement of rail cars within Unicoi County."

In addition to four U.S. counties, 11 cities have adopted resolutions that condemn remote control operations. Some of the resolutions call for a ban of remote control. All of the resolutions

ask the Federal Railroad Administration to step up and make remote control operations safer.

Unicoi County Executive Larry Rose told The Erwin Record newspaper, "I have gotten several, several requests from people at the railroad, not just engineers, who question the safety of the remote controls."

Officials from CSXT, which operates through Unicoi County and the city of Erwin, Tenn., gave county and city leaders demonstrations of the remote control technology. The city officials, however, did not like the show.

"I went to the demonstration and I worked for the railroad for about nine years," Commissioner Kenneth Garland told the *Johnson City Press* newspaper. "With everything that is going on in the world and the tracks running by a nuclear facility, I just don't think it's safe."

Board Member Edgar Rice also watched a demonstration and told the newspaper he was not satisfied with what he saw.

BLE Division 781 Legislative Representative John Little spent nearly three months lobbying local officials in support of the resolution. He thanked Unicoi County Executive Larry Rose, who presented the resolution to the Board. Brother Little noted that the city of Erwin, Tenn., is currently considering a similar resolution of its own.

Brother Little thanked the following people in assisting to obtain the Resolution: the members of BLE Division 781, their family members and friends; the community of Erwin, Tenn; BLE Division 781 Local Chairman Matt Thornton; Division 781 President Steve Fox; Division 781 Secretary Rasnick; Division 781 Retired Member David Wilson; Co-Committee Remote Chair-

men Brothers Meehan and Wilcox; Tennessee State Legislative Board Chairman Jimmy Brittain; TSLB Secretary-Treasurer John Norman; and Louisiana State Legislative Board Chairman, Mike O'Brien.

"Brother John Norman's support was invaluable," Brother Little said. "Our association with the AFL-CIO, CLC also brought support and resources that we look forward to in the future."

"This was a great experience although exhausting," he continued. "I am truly overwhelmed by the response of 5,000-plus letters faxed to the County alone. This shows that people, resources and good fortune can bring about results."

(The Johnson City Press and The Erwin Record contributed to this report.) •

# Belen, N.M., becomes 13th city to pass remote resolution

The city of Belen, N.M., is the 13th U.S. city to take action against remote control locomotives, adopting a resolution to ban their operation within city limits until certain safety requirements are met.

Twelve other cities and seven counties in the U.S. have adopted similar resolutions against remote control locomotives.

The resolution, which the Belen City Council passed on April 7, blocks the implementation of the remote control technology until BNSF can prove it meets safety standards set by the city. The resolution also requests that in the interest of public safety, the Federal Railroad Administration develop comprehensive regulations for the use of remote control locomotives.

"We got word that there was a possibility that the railroad will bring remote control operations here. We did check into it with different newsletters and the Internet, and right now it's not something we are comfortable doing,"

Belen Mayor Ronnie Torres told the *Valencia County News-Bulletin*.

The safety of trains that come through the city, including those carrying dangerous chemicals, Torres said, poses a concern for the public's safety.

"There are dangerous chemicals that come through here everyday," Torres said. "I'd rather have people who are trained watching the trains until it can be proven that it is safe."

A group of railroad employees, including members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and the United Transportation Union, provided safety information to the Belen City Council regarding remote control operations, which prompted the resolution.

The resolution states that no railroad shall operate remote control locomotives until all of the following safety conditions are met:

1. Any railroad operating a remote control locomotive must notify the Office of the Mayor before implementing such operations.

2. Remote control locomotives cannot be used to transport hazardous materials, switch cars containing hazardous materials, or switch other cars on or near tracks occupied by hazardous materials.

3. Remote control locomotives cannot be operated over or under a public or private highway rail crossing without a person occupying the cab of the locomotive who has the required skills to stop the locomotive and its attached

equipment.

4. A railroad must provide effective and reliable protection at the point of movement in any location accessible to the general public for any remote control operation.

A copy of the resolution is available on the BLE website at:

<http://www.ble.org/pr/pdf/belen.pdf>

(The Valencia News-Bulletin contributed to this report.) •

## EUMA 2003 Golf Outing

### Tuesday, July 1, 2003

*Greystone Golf Course*

The cost is \$75 per person, which includes bus transportation, luncheon at the course, EUMA golf towel and hole prizes. Shotgun start-scrabble-tee off at 8 a.m. Proper golf attire only (no t-shirts, tank tops, gym or sweat pants; shorts are OK).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Chk. #: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Names: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks or money orders payable to "EUMA 2003" and mail to:  
**Sonny Kertesz**  
**EUMA 2003 Golf Chairman**  
**2 Debbie Dr.**  
**Brick, NJ 08724**  
**(732) 458-7642**

## 65th Annual Eastern Union Meeting Association

### Baltimore, Md. • June 29-July 3, 2003

#### Registration Form

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS**  
 Hyatt Regency-Inner Harbor: (800) 233-1234  
 (BLE Room rate is \$163 per night, plus tax: Deadline for reservations is May 22)

**EUMA INFORMATION**

Name of Attendee: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

BLE Division: \_\_\_\_\_ Office: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ GIA Division: \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION FEE (Make Checks Payable to EUMA 2003)**  
 \$100 per person; Includes meals and activities (Cost is \$55 each for children under 12)

**BANQUET MEAL CHOICES, JULY 2, 2003**

Names	Salmon	Prime Rib
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____

**For additional information, contact:** Arrangements Chairman Fred Cox at:  
 (717) 244-4855 or <euma03@aol.com>

**Mail this form to:** Fred Cox • 4295 Brush Lane • Felton, PA 17322

# BLE NEWS

## Two Louisiana counties oppose remote control

Two counties in Louisiana have joined the growing list of communities to adopt safety-related resolutions regarding remote control locomotives.

Formally known as Parishes in Louisiana, West Baton Rouge Parish and Point Coupee Parish recently passed resolutions that call for improved safety of remote control locomotives. Nationwide, six counties and 12 cities have now adopted resolutions that condemn, ban or oppose current remote control operations.

The Point Coupee resolution "objects" to the operation of remote control locomotives within Parish boundaries. The West Baton Rouge resolution calls upon the Federal Railroad Administration to develop comprehensive regulations for the use of remote control locomotives.

According to Louisiana State Legislative Board Chairman Michael F. O'Brien, the Point Coupee resolution passed despite a personal presentation by Union Pacific Railroad officials. It was adopted unanimously.

Brother O'Brien also reported that the West Baton Rouge Police Jury heard the BLE's presentation on February 12 — the same day as a Kansas City Southern remote control locomotive derailed in Baton Rouge and shut down Interstate 110 for several hours.

Brother O'Brien expressed special thanks to Brother Dale Guillot, Local Chairman of Division 531; Paul Lilly,

Legislative Representative of Division 531; and Brother Lawrence Henagan, Legislative Representative of Division 755 in representing the Louisiana State Legislative Board.

Text of the resolutions are as follows:

### RESOLUTION West Baton Rouge Parish, La.

A Resolution requesting the Federal Railroad Administration in the interest of the safety of the citizens of West Baton Rouge to develop comprehensive regulations for the use of remote control locomotives.

WHEREAS, railroads operate within the geographical boundaries of West Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, over public and private highway crossings, and

WHEREAS, railroad equipment is known to present significant danger to persons and property from collision, derailment, and possible release of haz-

ardous material.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the West Baton Rouge Parish Council does hereby request in the interest of safety of the citizens of said Parish the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) develop comprehensive regulations for the use of remote control locomotives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution also be forwarded to the Louisiana Congressional Delegation for their expression of support in the development of these regulations for the use of remote control locomotives.

APPROVED 8-0, March 13, 2003

### RESOLUTION Point Coupee Parish, La.

WHEREAS, It is the intention of the Union Pacific Railroad Company to use remote-controlled locomotives within their railyard beginning in 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Point Coupee Par-

ish Police Jury is concerned for the safety of its citizens should an accident involving toxic materials occur; and

WHEREAS, it is a substantiated fact that accidents do occur with these remote-controlled locomotives, as with the February 12, 2003 derailment in Baton Rouge, Louisiana: Therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Point Coupee Parish Police Jury does interpose objections to the operation of remote-controlled locomotives in Point Coupee Parish; and be it

RESOLVED further, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the United States Senators John Breau and Mary Landrieu, House of Representative Richard Baker, State Senator Robert Marionneaux, Jr., Representatives Robert Carter and Donald Cazayoux, Jr., and municipalities within our Parish for their support of this endeavor.

APPROVED February 25, 2003 •

### BLE mourns loss of Rodney Stutes

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers is deeply saddened by the loss of one of its exemplary members, R.J. "Rodney" Stutes. Brother Stutes, 56, passed away on February 22 after suffering a massive heart attack the previous week.

A member of Division 366 (Houston, Texas) since 1972, Brother Stutes was a primary member of the BLE's Safety Task Force (STF) and a member of the Brotherhood's National Mobilization Team.

BLE International President Don M. Hahs expressed the deep sadness felt by all who knew Brother Stutes.

"Rodney was a remarkable member," said Hahs. "He served this organization with an extraordinary amount of dedication. He was best known for his activities with the Safety Task Force and the Mobilization Team, but he was always willing to lend a hand to any of the BLE's activities. His contributions to this organization have been myriad and he will be sorely missed.

"Our deepest condolences go to his family and friends. I ask all members to continue to keep his family in their prayers."



## SMA 2003 Registration Form

### 76th annual Southeastern Meeting Association

### Pigeon Forge, Tenn. • June 16-20, 2003

#### HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Contact the Grand Resort Hotel & Conference Center in Pigeon Forge (P.O. Box 10, 3171 Parkway, Pigeon Forge, TN 37868) for reservations by calling: (800) 251-9752. The BLE room rate is \$69.77 per night plus tax. Please make reservations early in order to be assured a room. For more details, visit: <www.grandresorthotel.com> or <www.mypigeonforge.com>.

#### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration costs/activity fee is \$60 per person attending, not including \$20 SMA dues per active BLE member.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Division: \_\_\_\_\_ BLE Officer/Title: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ GIA Title & Auxiliary No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Ages: \_\_\_\_\_

**In order to approximate the number of members and families wishing to attend/participate in events and entertainment, please indicate by checking the blocks below that are of interest to you:**

1. _____ Tour of Great Smokey Mountains National Park	5. _____ Country Music Theater
2. _____ Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies	6. _____ Shopping outlets, malls
3. _____ Dollywood, 118-acre theme park	7. _____ Tour & picnic at Cades Cove
4. _____ Golf	8. _____ Other

9. \_\_\_\_\_ Several members are interested in a motorcycle run. If there is enough interest, we will make arrangements for the event. If we do not have an organized event, then there are many places to tour on your own.

#### Registration Fees

Activity fee: \$60.00 per person attending • SMA Dues: \$20.00 per active BLE member

**Please mail this form, along with check or money order payable to "W.M. Overton Jr., 76th SMA Chairman" to:**

W.M. (Bill) Overton Jr.  
Chairman, 76th SMA  
P.O. Box 885  
Powell, TN 37849-0885

**For additional information:** Contact Brother Overton at: (865) 945-5027; or email: <wmo4719@hotmail.com>.

Arrival Date: Sunday, June 15, 2003. Check out: Friday, June 20, 2003  
Please print your name and division as clearly as possible on this for so that your name tag will be correct.

# Deadlines near for IWC-03, Sparks

## Bountiful activities in store for 63rd annual International Western Convention

IWC Chairman Jeffrey Valentine and members of BLE Division 158 will host the 2003 IWC at John Ascuaga's Nugget, Northern Nevada's premiere Hotel Resort & Casino.

This luxurious property has all the amenities, including eight restaurants, indoor pool, full service spa and nightly entertainment. The has secured a room rate of \$89 per night, which is valid from Friday, May 30 through Saturday, June 7. For reservations, please call (800) 648-1177 and mention IWC '03 or BLE to receive the special room rate. Reservations should be made by May 1 in order to ensure availability.

The annual golf tournament will be held on June 2 at Wildcreek Golf Club, a short distance from the Nugget.

For the non-golfers, there will be a short bus trip to historic Virginia City, Nevada — location of the great silver boom of the 19th century — on June 2. Travelers will enjoy shopping and sightseeing at the bustling "ghost town."

A sunset dinner on June 3 — aboard the M.S. Dixie on Lake Tahoe — promises to be the social highlight of the convention.



Unscheduled attractions include: the National Automobile Museum in Reno; the Ponderosa Ranch (Home of the "Bonanza" television series) in nearby Incline Village;

Wild Island theme park; and Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City and the Portola Railroad Museum (both are less than one hour away).

Travel to Sparks is easily made on I-80 by automobile; on Amtrak's Cali-

fornia Zephyr by train (Sparks depot is walking distance from the Nugget); and by most major airlines to Reno/Tahoe International Airport. Transportation to and from the airport is included when room reservations are made. Rental cars are available, but are not a necessity. The Nugget also has RV parking (no hook-ups) available to guests at no charge.

Air and Travel arrangements can be secured by contacting: Rebecca Schalla at Travel Services of Nevada (775) 629-0568 Or e-mail: Rebecca@travelservicesofnevada.com.

For more details about the 2003 IWC, members may contact chairman J.L. Valentine at: (775) 857-2013 or jval@accutek.com.

### 2003 IWC — Sparks Tentative Itinerary

**Sunday, June 1, 2003 (Arrival Day)**  
• Registration 3-7 p.m.

**Monday, June 2**  
• Registration, 7 a.m.-11 a.m. (\$65)  
• Golf Tournament, 8 a.m. (\$70)  
• Virginia City Tour, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. (\$19)  
• Registration, 3 p.m.-6 p.m.  
• FELA reception, 5 p.m.-7 p.m.

**Tuesday, June 3**  
• Registration, 7 a.m.-10 a.m.  
• Continental Breakfast, 8 a.m.- 9 a.m.  
• Opening Ceremonies, 9 a.m. - Noon  
• Luncheon, Noon-1 p.m.  
• BLE/GIA closed mtgs., 1 p.m.- 4 p.m.  
• Dinner Cruise on Lake Tahoe, bus leaves at 4:30 p.m. (\$60)

**Wednesday, June 4**  
• Continental Breakfast 8 a.m.-9 a.m.  
• IWC delegates mtg., 9 a.m.-11 a.m.  
• FELA luncheon, 11a.m.-1 p.m.  
• Local Chairman's Workshop, Part 1, 1 p.m.- 5 p.m.  
• United Health Care, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.  
• Barbecue, outside at the Nugget, 6 p.m.-10 p.m. (\$20)

**Thursday, June 5**  
• Continental Breakfast 8 a.m.-9 a.m.  
• Local Chairman's Workshop, Part 2, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.  
• Secretary-Treasurer's Workshop, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
• Legislative Rep's Workshop, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
• Convention closes



An outside view of John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, location of the 2003 IWC.

## IWC 2003 Registration Form

### 63rd annual International Western Convention

### Sparks, Nevada • June 1-5, 2003



#### HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Contact John Ascuaga's Nugget at (800) 648-1177 and ask for the IWC rate of \$89 per night, or identify yourself as a BLE member. Rates are good for May 30 (Friday) thru June 7 (Saturday). Reservations should be made by May 1 to ensure availability.

#### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration cost will be \$65 per person until May 20, 2003. After this date, the cost will increase to \$75 per person. Cost will be \$75 per person upon arrival at the hotel if not pre-registered.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Division: \_\_\_\_\_ BLE Officer/Title: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

#### These events provided with the cost of registration:

- FELA cocktail reception, June 2 (Monday), 5-7 p.m.
- Continental breakfast, June 3, 4 & 5 (Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday)
- FELA luncheon, June 4 (Wednesday)
- Division officers' workshops, June 4 & 5 (Wednesday & Thursday), including luncheon
- United Health Care and Railroad Retirement Seminar, June 4 (Wednesday)

#### These activities require an additional cost:

- June 2 (Monday), 8 a.m., golf tournament, Wildcreek (includes transportation & barbeque), \$70 each
- June 2 (Monday), 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Virginia City, Nevada, bus tour, \$19 each
- June 3 (Tuesday), 5 p.m., dinner cruise on Lake Tahoe (includes transportation), \$60 each
- June 4 (Wednesday), 6 p.m., barbecue buffet (outside at Nugget), \$20 each

#### Calculation of fees (please include payment with this form):

Registration at \$65 per person: .....	\$65.00/person	X No. of People	= \$ _____
Golf Tournament at \$70 per person: .....	\$70.00/golfer	X No. of Golfers	= \$ _____
Virginia City bus tour at \$19 per person: .....	\$19.00/person	X No. of People	= \$ _____
Lake Tahoe dinner cruise at \$60 per person: .....	\$60.00/person	X No. of People	= \$ _____
Barbeque buffet at Nugget at \$20 per person: .....	\$20.00/person	X No. of People	= \$ _____
<b>Total Amount Enclosed:</b> .....			<b>\$ _____</b>

Please mail this form, along with check or money order payable to "IWC-'03," to:

Brother S.M. Barnett  
Sec.-Treas. IWC'03-Sparks  
6208 Black Cinder Ct.  
Sparks, NV 89436

**For additional information:** Contact IWC Chairman Jeffrey L. Valentine at: (757) 857-2013 or email: jval@accutek.com.  
**For travel arrangements:** Contact Travel Services of Nevada at: (757) 629-0568 or e-mail: rebecca@travelservicesofnevada.com

# BLE NEWS

## Alliance, Neb., resolution takes aim at remotes

The city of Alliance, Neb., is the 14th city in the United States to pass a resolution restricting the operation of remote control locomotives.

The resolution imposes five safety requirements on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway before it can begin using remote control trains in Alliance. One of the requirements mandates that remote control engines handling hazardous materials can travel no faster than 5 mph at public crossings or over/under passes.

The Alliance City Council's action is significant because all of its members work for the railroad (two locomotive engineers, two conductors and one machinist) and are highly familiar with the issue of remote control. Members of the Council cited safety concerns as the main reason for adopting the resolution.

Councilman Dan Kusek is a 33-year railroad veteran who works as a locomotive engineer. He drafted the resolution, which the Council approved by a 4-1 vote. He also introduced the resolution, citing safety reasons and outlining concerns with radio interference, practical jokers and even hazardous materials in the hands of terrorists.

Mayor Mike Dafney, a locomotive engineer who said he would abstain if

the vote were based on job security, voted in favor of the resolution based on safety issues. Dafney and Kusek are engineers, Councilmen Kevin Dahlstedt and Gary Goodell are conductors, and Councilman Dan Dickenson is a machinist.

Dahlstedt, who also holds the title of Alliance Vice Mayor, cast the lone vote against the resolution. He is a former company officer and member of the United Transportation Union.

Two local BNSF officials plus two BNSF officers from Lincoln and Denver presented some facts about remote controlled engines to the council. Bob Munguia, BNSF Director of Government Affairs, made a video presentation touting remote control safety.

BNSF is scheduled to begin remote control training on April 28 in Alliance with implementation expected by May 12.

The city of Alliance joins 13 other cities and seven counties in passing resolutions to restrict the operation of remote control locomotives.

A copy of the Alliance resolution is on the BLE website at:

<http://www.ble.org/pr/pdf/alliance.pdf>

(The Associated Press, Alliance Times-Herald, and ExpressNews.com contributed to this report.) •

## Seventh U.S. county opposes remote control operations

The Douglas County, Wis., Board of Supervisors voted to oppose the use of remote control locomotives in the county on March 20, becoming the seventh U.S. county to enact such a resolution.

The resolution was submitted by two BLE members who are members of the County Board of Supervisors, James J. O'Brien of BLE Division 494 (Minneapolis) and James P. Cosgrove of BLE Division 861 (Itasca, Wisc.), along with another member of the Board of Supervisors, John Shepard, Sr.

O'Brien, a former Wisconsin State Legislative Board Chairman, was an outspoken proponent of the resolution and has been actively supporting further study of the safety and effectiveness of remote control locomotives.

The Board cited the contributions of the railroad industry to the economy of Douglas County, but acknowledged the dangers of unmanned operations. The Board agreed that the safety and well-being of their citizens and the environment merited further study of remote control.

The Board cited a lack of safety evidence in its decision to prohibit remote control operations in Douglas County.

Along with Douglas County, two parishes in Louisiana, West Baton Rouge Parish and Point Coupee Parish, recently passed remote control resolutions. Cuyahoga and Huron Counties in

Ohio, Whitley County in Kentucky, and Unicoi County in Tenn. have also passed resolutions against remote control operations in recent months. In addition to the seven counties, 12 U.S. cities have passed resolutions opposing remote control locomotives — Bakersfield, Calif., Beardstown, Ill., Baton Rouge, La., Shreveport, La., Detroit, Mich., Marysville, Mich., Boston, Mass., Cleveland, Ohio, Pine Bluff, Ark., North Little Rock, Ark., Woodbridge, N.J. and Maple Heights, Ohio.

A copy of the resolution is on the BLE website:

<http://www.ble.org/pr/pdf/douglascounty.pdf> •

## APRIL 2003 CALENDAR & EVENTS

**JUNE 1-5, 2003... 63rd Annual International Western Convention in Sparks, Nevada**  
Jeffrey Valentine and members of BLE Division 158 welcome BLE and GIA members to Sparks, Nevada, for the 2003 International Western Convention. The 63rd annual IWC will be held at John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel & Casino in Sparks. For reservations, call (800) 648-1177 and ask for the IWC room rate, or identify yourself as a BLE member. A rate of \$89 per night has been secured from May 30 through June 7. Those wishing to contact Chairman Valentine may do so by phone, (775) 857-2013, or by e-mail, <jval@accutek.com>. **See Page 7 of this issue for IWC pre-registration form.**

**JUNE 15-20, 2003... 76th Annual Southeastern Meeting Association in Pigeon Forge, Tenn**  
Chairman W.M. "Bill" Overton and the members of BLE Division 239 (Knoxville, Tenn.) will host the 2003 SMA at the Grand Resort Hotel & Convention Center in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. (hotel website: [www.grandresorthotel.com](http://www.grandresorthotel.com)). Members can make reservations by calling: (800) 251-9752. Room rates are \$69.77 per night (plus tax). Registration is on June 15; the banquet is on June 19. For details, contact Brother Overton at: (865) 945-5027 or by e-mail, wmo4719@hotmail.com. **See Page 6 of this issue for SMA pre-registration form.**

**JUNE 29-JULY 3, 2003... 65th Annual Eastern Union Meeting Association in Baltimore**  
Arrangements Chairman Fred Cox and the members of BLE Division 52 will host the 2003 EUMA at the Baltimore Hyatt Regency in the inner harbor area of Baltimore. Early bird reservations can be made by calling (410) 528-1234. For more details, contact Brother Cox at (717) 244-4855 or e-mail: euma03@aol.com. **See Page 5 of this issue for EUMA pre-registration forms.**

**JULY 12-16, 2003... BLE International Association of State Legislative Board Chairman**  
The BLE's provincial and state legislative board chairmen will gather in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. for their annual conference. Meetings will take place at the Woodlands Inn and Resort, 1073 Highway 315, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. The telephone number for reservations is: (800) 762-2222.

## Advisory Board March Activity

*By action of the delegates at the Fifth Quinquennial Convention, summaries of BLE Advisory Board members' activities are published monthly:*

**International President Don M. Hahs**—International Office: General supervision of BLE activities; General office duties; Mtgs. w/ VP Steve Speagle & BNSF GC Dennis Pierce, Cleveland; TTD mtg., D.C.; Rally w/ Teamsters at FRA headquarters, D.C.; Mtgs. w/ rally speakers (R. Trumka, J. Hoffa, P. Friend and E. Wykind); Mtgs. w/ Indiana & Ohio to sign contract w/ VP Merle Geiger, Cleveland; Indiana Southern local chairman mtg., Cleveland; Mtgs. w/ VPs G. Halle & G. Hucker, Teamsters issues.; Various mtgs. regarding Teamsters.

**First Vice-President & Alternate President Edward W. Rodzwick**— Assisted President in general operation of ID office; Various correspondence and telephone calls; VP assignments; DM&E Railroad organizing, Minnesota and South Dakota; TTD mtg., Washington D.C.; BLE/IBT remote control rally, Washington D.C.; Vacation; BLE/IBT merger subcommittee mtgs.; Mtg. w/ Canadian Vice-Presidents Halle & Hucker.

**General Secretary-Treasurer William C. Walpert**—General supervision of BLE financial, record depts.; ID office; BLE Education & Training Dept.; Internal Organizing, Mobilizing & Strategic Planning Dept.; Safety Task Force; Meetings with vendors and financial institutions; General Secretary-Treasurers' mtg., D.C.; Remote control rally, Washington D.C.; Remote control rally, North Platte, Neb.

**Vice-President Paul T. Sorrow**—Attended division mtgs., Divisions 216, 92, 648, 498, 306, 447, 257 & 263; Jacksonville, Fla.-employee member SBA 1116 & SBA 894; CSX Central General Committee, Norfolk, Va.; Employee member SBA 1063, NS Northern Lines, Jacksonville, Fla.; Employee member, PLB 6468, CSX Western Lines; Assisted Grand Trunk, CSX and NS-Northern Lines GCofAs with various issues; General office duties.

**Vice-President Richard K. Radek**— ID Office; BLE Decertification Helpline services; Director of Arbitration Dept; National Railroad Adjustment Board (NRAB); Illinois Central; Wisconsin Central; Indiana Harbor Belt; METRA; Belt Rwy. of Chicago; Paducah & Louisville; Chicago Central & Pacific; Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Rwy.; CN/WC general assistance, Madison, Wisc.; Div. 520 mtg./NRAB, EJ&E, Calumet City, Ill.; Executive cmte. mtg., Chicago; IHB general assistance, Chicago; Div. 394 mtg., BRC, Tinley Park, Ill.; L/M mtg., CN/IC/WC, Rosemont, Ill.; Sec. 3 subcmte. mtg., Chicago; 152-6th mtg./CN/IC, IHB, Chicago; NY Dock claims, CN/IC, Rosemont, Ill.; Div. 184 mtg./conference, Homewood, Ill.; Pre-trial conferences, Rosemont, Ill. (FRA/UP); L/M mtg., CN/WC, Oak Brook, Ill.; IHB, Hammond, Ind.; FRA Part 240.409 dockets this month: EQAL 95-06; 00-51, 01-16, 01-23, 98-84, 01-04, 01-23, 00-82, 01-27, 00-67, 01-18, 01-36, 01-91, 01-06, 01-29.

**Vice-President Dale McPherson**— CP Rail; Port. Term. RR; Longview Portland & Northern; Longview Switching Co.; Indiana RR; Missouri & Northern Arkansas RR; Utah Railroad; UP Eastern Dist.; UP former CNW; BLE National Bargaining Cmte.; BLE/IBT Constitution & Bylaws Cmte. mtgs., Philadelphia; PLBs 5604, 5681, 5721, 6040, 6281, 6449, 6589; UP work/rest projects; RSAC positive train control cmte.; General office duties; Div. 403 mtg.; DM&E member mtgs.; Mtg. w/ GC Priestner, CP Rail contract; Div. 671 mtg.

**Vice-President & U.S. Nat'l Legislative Representative Raymond A. Holmes**— Washington D.C. office; General office duties; AFL-CIO admin. mtg.; TTD conference calls; Hearing, Transportation Programs Reauthorization (Receptions: Cong. Castle, (R-DE), Oberstar (D-MN), Cong. Obey (D-WI), Michaud (D-ME), Majette (D-GA), Boswell (D-IA), Young (R-AK), DeLauro (D-CT), Moran (R-KS), Hoeffel (D-PA), Doyle (D-PA), Sherman (D-CA), Ryan (D-OH), DeGette (D-CO), Dingell (D-MI), Rothman (D-NJ), Pomeroy (D-ND), Quinn (R-NY), Spratt (D-SC), Holden (D-PA), Berry (D-AR), Senators Shelby (R-AL), Reid (D-NV), Mikulski (D-MD), Murray (D-WA); TWU congressional reception; DSCC dinner; Highway & Transit Reauthorization briefing; TTD/Raid Div. mtg.; Remote control rally at FRA; Hearing, DOT FY 2004 appropriations; Mtg. w/ Cong. Mica (R-FL); re: Amtrak; BLE-IBT merger cmte. mtgs., Cleveland.

**Vice-President Merle W. Geiger Jr.**—Assigned to: Kansas City Southern; Gateway Western; Midsouth Rail; Southrail; Texas-Mexican Rwy.; Springfield Terminal; Delaware & Hudson; Indiana & Ohio RR; Indiana Southern RR; New York, Susquehanna & Western; Mtg. w/ RailAmerica, Fort Worth; Mtg. w/ Indiana & Ohio RR and BLE Division officers to sign initial contract, Cleveland; Mtg. w/ KCS & General Chairman Parker, Kansas City; General office duties, research & correspondence.

**Vice-President Stephen D. Speagle**—General office duties; Division 391 mtg., Ft. Madison, Iowa; Div. 391 mtg.; Mtg. w/ President Hahs, H. Ross, D. Pierce, P. Williams; PLB 6540, Fort Worth; Mtg. w/ GCA on BNSF; Mtg. w/ W.A. Morrison, P. Williams, carrier, re: ID runs; Div. 214 mtg. w/ P. Williams; Mtg. w/ GC Williams & A. Fox, President, PHL; On property negotiations, BNSF, Fort Worth; Div. 919 mtg.; Mtg. w/ UP, Omaha.

**Vice-President E.L. "Lee" Pruitt**— Assisted general chairmen & members of: UP-Western Lines; UP-Western Region; UP-Central Region; UP-Southern Region; UP-Tacoma Belt; General office duties, telephone paperwork, filing; WJPA negotiations, Cajon Pass helpers from UPRR to BNSF; UPWL-Hannah, Dallas-Fort Worth; Advisory Board mtg., Miami; Mtgs. w/ LC Divisions 277, 236 and PTRR division merger and RCO. UPWR-Dornigan, Portland, Ore.; Ebb & flow, reserve board & application bid mtgs., UPWL-Hannah, Phoenix, Ariz.; La. hub ID arbitration, UPWL-Hannah, Phoenix.

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