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

STRIKE AVERTED... FOR NOW

OBAMA APPOINTS PEB 243 TO INVESTIGATE BLET CONTRACT DISPUTE

On October 6, President Barack Obama established Emergency Board (PEB) No. 243 to investigate and make recommendations for settlement of the current dispute between the Rail Labor Bargaining Coalition (RLBC) and five other unions, and the National Carriers Conference Committee (NCCC). The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) is one of the 6 unions that comprise the RLBC.

The PEB was empanelled effective October 7, 2011, just hours before the BLET and its members would have gone on a national strike.

In total, the 11 rail labor unions involved in the dispute represent 75 percent of all rail workers in the United States who work for major Class I railroads.

The five-member PEB now has 30 days to investigate the dispute and make recommendations to President Obama regarding a settlement of the contract disputes. There is another mandatory 30-day cooling off period that follows. PEB 243 will conduct hearings in Washington, D.C., beginning on October 13 and they are expected to last until October 20.

If the PEB recommendations fail to lead to a voluntary settlement, then the parties would be free to engage in self-help once again at the expiration of the second 30-day cooling off period, which would be December 6, 2011.

It is possible for Congress to intervene and legislatively mandate a settlement. If this is done, Congress typically would take the recommendations of the PEB and write them into law.

President Obama appointed the following individuals to the PEB: Ira F. Jaffe, Chair; Robert Golick, Member; Joshua M. Javits, Member; Gil Vernon, Member; and Arnold M. Zack, Member.

The ongoing dispute over wages and health care benefits dates to early 2009 when negotiations began between the BLET and NCCC for a new collective bargaining agreement.

The Railway Labor Act (RLA) governs contract negotiations between the parties. The appointment of the PEB comes at the close of the mandatory 30-day cooling off period, a step in the RLA process that began on September 20, 2011. That’s when the National Mediation Board (NMB) released the BLET and the 10 other RLBC unions from mediation with the rail carriers.

At the expiration of the cooling off period, either party could have engaged in self-help: a strike by labor or a lock-out by management, at 12:01 a.m. EDT on Friday, October 7. To that end, the BLET conducted a strike authorization vote that concluded on October 3. An overwhelming 97 percent of BLET members voted in favor of the strike.

There is another 30-day cooling off period, a step in the RLA process that began on September 20. The BLET is free to engage in self-help once again at the expiration of the second 30-day cooling off period, which would be December 6, 2011. During the next 60 days, it is imperative that we continue our efforts to strengthen our networks and remain vigilant to the fact that we may face circumstances similar to today’s on December 6th.

“I speak for all of us here at the National Division in passing on our thanks for everyone’s continued support in our efforts to bring this bargaining round to a successful conclusion.”

The RLBC is comprised of: Teamsters Rail Conference members BLET and the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division; the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen; International Brotherhood of Boilermakers; International Conference of Firemen and Oilers of the Service Employees International Union; and the Sheet Metal Workers International Association.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen represents 55,000 professional locomotive engineers and trainmen throughout the United States. The BLET is the founding member of the Rail Conference, International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

BLET opens 76th annual SWCM

Strikes a hot topic of discussion at convention

The BLET’s 76th annual Southwestern Convention Meeting (SWCM) opened in El Paso, Texas, on September 20 with nearly 200 BLET members and officers in attendance.

BLET National President Dennis Pierce delivered the keynote address, giving members a brief update regarding the national strike authorization vote currently underway as a result of the impasse reached during the latest round of collective bargaining.

“The railroads’ demands that our membership give concessions on health and welfare benefits when railroads are making record profits is just one more example of the war being waged against the working men and women of this country. Our members can count on one thing throughout this process,” President Pierce said. “We will fight with every tool we have to protect the compensation and benefits that we have fought for decades to win.”

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President’s Message

Thanks for Joining the Fight

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BLET Photo Album

Highlights from annual EUMA, IWC and SWCM conventions

In the Line of Duty

BLET Member

Todd Burchard, 35

President’s Message

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BLET National Division Electronic Communications Policy

Official communications between BLET members and the National Division require a hard copy of the correspondence, being received by the National President to be considered an "official communication." This is to provide that the actual (question) is 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 membership. It is a safeguard for the membership if a response is necessary, without needlessly expending limited BLET resources.

Adopted at Cleveland, Ohio on July 22, 2010. 88
Fighting Back to Rebuild America

I told a Labor Day crowd in Detroit that there’s a war on workers—a war we didn’t start, but one we intend to fight.

No one disagrees with me that a sustained, coordinated attack on workers is being waged here in the United States. They might disagree with me about a few other things, but not with that.

Rich corporations are outsourcing the jobs of long-time workers or demanding concessions as never before—just because they think they can. Corporate-backed politicians give lip service to shared sacrifice even as they balance their budgets on the backs of working families. Public sector jobs are being cut, collective bargaining rights attacked and essential services slashed—sometimes to pay for corporate tax breaks.

But we’re fighting back. That’s what Teamsters do—we stand up for what is right.

Teamsters have marched in California, collected signatures in Ohio, rallied in the streets of New York, gone to court in Florida, stormed the Statehouse in Wisconsin, walked picket lines around the country and even driven a copy of a Maine labor mural to an art exhibit in Maryland. This fight is about the economy; it’s about jobs and it’s about rebuilding America. As I said recently, we all have to vote in order to take anti-worker politicians out of office.

The jobs crisis is an American problem. It isn’t President Obama’s problem and it isn’t a Republican or Democratic problem. All Americans need to come together to create good jobs for the good of our economy and the good of our great country.

I stand by my criticism of elected officials who are out to destroy the middle class. I will never apologize for standing up for my fellow Teamsters and all American workers.

Fraternally,

James P. Hoffa
Teamsters General President

Kearsing reelected Legislative Board Chairman in New York

D avid Kearsing was reelected by acclamation to his first full term as Chairman of the New York State Legislative Board at quadrennial meeting in Long Island, N.Y., July 31-August 1, 2011.

Brother Kearsing is a member of BLET Division 46. He began serving as Chairman in July of 2010, filling the office vacated by Chairman James P. Louis. Brother Kearsing was elected to the office of 1st Vice Chairman in 2007.

Also reelected by acclamation during the meeting were: 1st Vice Chairman John Brodnick, Division 382; Secretary-Treasurer Greg Lund, Division 421; and Alternate Secretary-Treasurer James Libruk Jr., Division 867.

Ryan McGovern, Division 11, was elected by acclamation to his first term as 2nd Vice Chairman.

BLET National President Dennis Pierce and Vice President & National Legislative Representative John Tolman addressed the assembled delegates on behalf of the BLET National Division.

“Congratulations to Brother Kearsing and all members of the New York State Legislative Board,” President Pierce said. “I know they will continue doing an excellent job of representing the members in the proud state of New York.”

Additional BLET guests included: Jim Louis, Conrail/CSXT Northern District General Chairman; Matt Kromyak, New Jersey State Legislative Board Chairman; Ken Kertesz, Pennsylvania State Legislative Board Chairman; Vince Verna, Director of Regulatory Affairs; and Ken Kroeger, Special Representative and Coordinator of the Education and Training Department. Representing the BLET Auxiliary was Sereena Hogan, National Vice President/National Legislative Representative.

“It was an honor to have President Pierce here as well as the numerous guests from throughout the Brotherhood and Auxiliary.” Chairman Kearsing said. “I am grateful to the delegates for their support and look forward to working with the officers of the New York State Legislative Board.”

Members elected to serve on the Executive Board include: David Statz, Division 382; Bill Fleischman, Division 752; James Libruk, Division 867; Brian Burns, Division 87; and Jerome Carhart, Division 169.

Members elected to serve on the Audit Committee were: James Libruk, Division 867; Bill Fleischman, Division 752; and Jerome Carhart, Division 169.

The New York State Legislative Board represents approximately 1,200 members throughout New York, including both freight and passenger lines. ©
The BLET’s 73rd annual Eastern Union Meeting Association (EUMA) kicked off in Long Island on August 3 with a solemn memorial service to mark the 10-year anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

During the convention’s opening ceremony, a memorial wreath was placed at the front of the convention hall and BLET members held a moment of silence to commemorate those who lost their lives on 9-11.

In spite of the bravery shown by union workers on that tragic day, the country’s attitude towards unions has changed over the past 10 years — and not for the better.

“Union police officers and firefighters who gave their lives in the line of duty on 9-11 were considered heroes,” BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce said. “Today, unfortunately, unions and union members are under attack in a national War on Workers.”

During his opening remarks, President Pierce discussed legislation in Wisconsin, Ohio and other states to destroy unions by stripping away their members’ collective bargaining rights. While these attacks by extremist politicians have been harmful to unions, workers have risen to the occasion and become more active than they have in decades.

“These attacks have brought people together to fight for their rights,” President Pierce said. “We cannot match the financial clout of these huge corporate entities, but our persistence, dedication and political activity can help to make up for it.”

His words were echoed by U.S. Representative Carolyn McCarthy (D-N.Y), the convention’s keynote speaker. She shared a message of unity and political activism in the face of attacks against unions.

“We are Americans and we are proud of the work we do,” she said. “When you go back home, please continue the fight. Continue to organize and talk to your member of Congress.”

EUMA Chairman Mark Kenny (Amtrak General Chairman) opened the convention and welcomed everyone to Long Island. The members of BLET Division 269 hosted the 73rd annual EUMA, with Brother Jim Brown acting as Arrangements Committee Chairman, and Scott Decker and John Bove acting as Arrangements Committee Co-Chairmen.

Also during opening ceremonies, BLET members heard presentations by Anita Caruso, BLET Auxiliary National President; and Margo Storsteen, BLET Division 57 and BLET Representative on the Teamsters Human Rights Commission.

During the closing meeting that followed, BLET members enjoyed a presentation by Teamsters International Vice President John Murphy, who serves as Director of the Teamsters Rail Conference. Members also heard a detailed report from National President Pierce, as well as updates from First Vice President Lee Pratt, National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert, Vice President & National Legislative Representative John Tolman, Vice President Mike Terry, Vice President Gil Gore, Vice President Cole Davis, and Vice President Steve Bruno.

It was announced during the closing meeting that the 2012 EUMA will be held in Atlantic City, N.J., August 19-24, 2012, to be hosted by Matt Kronyak and the members of BLET Division 235. EUMA delegates also voted to hold the 2013 EUMA in Baltimore, Md., to be hosted by Fred Cox and the members of BLET Division 52.

While opening ceremonies were held on August 3, the convention began with workshops on August 2. Members participated in a workshop for Legislative Representatives, conducted by Ohio State Legislative Board Chairman Tim Hardly, and a hazardous materials training workshop conducted by Carl W. Fields, Coordinator of the BLET Safety Task Force. Many members also attended a workshop regarding the Federal Railroad Administration’s new passenger rail Hours of Service regulations.

Additional workshops were held on August 5 and 6, and included training for BLET Secretary-Treasurers, Local Chairmen, and a workshop regarding the BLET’s Mobilization Network.

Additional photos from the 2011 EUMA are available here: www.flickr.com/photos/bletuunion/sets

BLET recognizes 10th anniversary of 9-11 at EUMA convention in Long Island
Nearly 200 members and officers of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen kicked off a week of educational meetings on August 23 during opening ceremonies of the 71st annual International Western Convention (IWC), in San Luis Obispo, Calif.

The meeting began with a ceremony to remember the BLET Brothers and Sisters who have given their lives in the performance of their duties. Tim Smith, Chairman of the California State Legislative Board, delivered the invocation and listed the names of BLET members who died during on-duty accidents over the past 12 months.

BLET National President Dennis Pierce delivered the keynote address, focusing on the recent attacks against organized labor and updating the members on the status of national negotiations.

"Railroads are trying to piggy back on what’s happening to government workers," President Pierce said. "While state governments are having trouble making ends meet, the railroads cannot make that argument. They came out of the recession with a profit."

Members also heard presentations by Mike Collins, Railroad Retirement Board; Anita Caruso, National President, BLET Auxiliary; and Sereena Hogan, National Vice President, BLET Auxiliary. IWC Secretary-Treasurer Jim Lance (Division 228, Pocatello, Idaho) opened the convention and welcomed everyone to California on behalf of Arrangements Chairman Mike Galvani and the members of Division 664.

The afternoon concluded with a closed meeting for BLET members, who heard detailed reports from National President Pierce; First Vice President Lee Pruitt; National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert; National Vice President & National Legislative Representative John Tolman; National Vice President Mike Priester; and National Vice President Cole Davis.

Members took advantage of numerous educational workshops throughout the remainder of the week. There was a Secretary-Treasurer workshop; Local Chairman/Mock Investigation workshop; Legislative Representative workshop; two Mobilization workshops; Hazardous materials workshop; and a Trustees workshop.

It was also announced that next year’s IWC will be in Billings, Mont., July 29-August 2, 2012.

Additional photos from the 2011 IWC are available here: www.flickr.com/photos/bletunion/sets
Larry and Becky Schneider are serving as arrangements chairs for the meeting with support from the members of BLE Division 192 (El Paso) and El Paso Area Auxiliary 591. Brother Schneider, President and Legislative Representative of Division 192, opened the convention and welcomed everyone to El Paso.

He also introduced guest speakers State Representative Joe Pickett, District 79; and Karl McElhaney, Congressional aide to U.S. Representative Silvestre Reyes (D-Texas).

Additional speakers included Anita Caruso, National President of the BLE Auxiliary; and Tim Smith, Chairman of the California State Legislative Board. Brother Smith led the assembled group in prayer to open the meeting, and later introduced a video about the history of the BLE and its importance to the livelihood of all members throughout the United States.

The afternoon session on September 20 concluded with a closed meeting for BLE members, who heard detailed reports from National President Pierce; First Vice President Lee Pruitt; National Secretary-Treasurer Bill Walpert; National Vice President & National Legislative Representative John Tolman; National Vice President Mike Tornado; National Vice President Gil Gore; and National Vice President Cole Davis. Members participated in numerous educational workshops on September 21. There was a Secretary-Treasurer workshop; Local Chairman workshop; Legislative Representative workshop; and Health & Welfare workshop. Representatives from the Railroad Retirement Board and Federal Railroad Administration made presentations, and there was also a Post Traumatic Stress Disorder presentation. On Monday, September 19, numerous members participated in an event recorded/electronic evidence reading workshop and a mobilization workshop.

The 77th annual SWCM will be held in Galveston, Texas, September 9-13, 2012.

Additional photos from the 2011 SWCM are available here: www.flickr.com/photos/bletunion/sets
In the Line of Duty
TODD BURCKHARD

BLET MEMBER TODD BURCKHARD, 35, was killed in the line of duty on August 19, 2011, when he was riding the railroad. He was involved in a collision near Fraser, Mont.

Brother Burckhard was a BNSF locomotive engineer and member of BLET Division 595 in Minot, N.D. He first joined the Brotherhood on November 1, 2010. He was 97 years of railroad experience.

Also killed in the accident was BNSF conductor Blaine Mack, 56, who had more than 36 years of service with the railroad.

The crew driver, a contractor, was hospitalized for minor injuries. The crew was traveling westbound on Highway 2 when it was struck by an eastbound pickup truck and dragged under the westbound lane of traffic.

"This tragedy is an example of the risks our members face each and every day in crew transportation," BLET National Director Dennis Pierce said. "Our deepest sympathies go out to the Burckhard family, particularly Brother Burckhard's wife and Todd's two young children.

This tragedy has deeply touched our local BLET family in Minot and we want them to know that they are in our thoughts and prayers as well."

Brother Burckhard is survived by his wife, Carie; children Marty and Matthew; parents David and Peggy Burckhard; grandparents; and several brothers and sisters.

Instead of flowers, the family asks that memorials be sent to an educational fund for Brother Burckhard's two children, c/o their mother, Carrie Burckhard, 1510-12th St. S.E., Minot, ND 58701.

Tribetically, Brother Burckhard is the sixth BLET member killed in the line of duty thus far in 2011 (Stanley L. Watts, February 8, 2011; Thomas J. Ken- nedy, March 23, 2011; Tom Anderson, April 17, 2011; Stephen L. Carpenter, May 1, 2011; and James G. Hadden, May 24, 2011).

OBITUARIES

LONG-TIME BLET MEMBER ROGER PEACE PASSES AWAY

Roger Peace, son of the late BLET National Executive Board member, BLET Division 598 (Greenville, S.C.) Chairman Earl Peace, was born in October of 1931. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in June of 1953, serving in Airman 1st Class, in the information field. After serving his country, he returned to Greenville, where he married his wife, Corrie Peace, and raised his family.

Roger was an active community and union member, serving as Local Chairman of BLET Division 598 for several years. He was also a charter member of the BLET Labor-Management Committee on CSX, and his work helped improve the working conditions for the nonmember locomotive engineers and trainmen.

He was the BLET’s Florence Division Safety Coordinator for SENSE. ‘The Brotherhood lost a great leader and a dedicated Brother who will be remembered for his commitment to safety,” BLET National President Dennis Pierce said. “I extend deepest sympathies to Brother Peace’s family and friends.”

Brother Peace is survived by his wife, Karen, and two sons: Justin (wife Christie) and Keir (wife Karli). He is also survived by his sisters Donna, the great love and pride of his life.

Peace Funeral held in 1973 as a fireman on the Seaboard Coast Line and an employee engineer a short time later. He first joined the Brotherhood on October 1, 1973.

BLET FEES OBJECTOR POLICY

SCHEDULE OF BLET FEES

1. EMPLOYEES’ RIGHTS
   a. Any employee covered by a union or agency shop agreement in the United States has the legal right to refuse to remain a member of the Union. Nonmembers have the legal right (i) to object to the entire Union, or (ii) to object to the specific section from which you must re- turn your objection each year to the specific section in question (filing period is usually December 1-15).

2. PUBLICATION OF POLICY

A. The BLET shall be published annually in the BLET newsletter in the month preceding the objection notice period and mailed annually to each member. Refusal by the BLET to provide a copy of the BLET newsletter to any member who has not paid his or her dues for the current year, or who is more than thirty (30) days delinquent in payment, shall constitute a refusal to provide a copy of the BLET newsletter to such member. In the event the member is delinquent in payment for more than sixty (60) days, the member’s name shall be removed from the BLET newsletter mailing list.

B. All objections shall be filed on a Form 966, available from the AAA, with the appropriate chapter(s). The form shall be submitted to the chapter(s) in which the objection is filed. Each chapter shall set forth in the decision notice the amounts of the fees that are chargeable to the objector.

3. DETERMINATION OF CHARGEABLE EXPENSES

The BLET shall perform an independent audit of the records of the National Division. The BLET shall determine the per- centage of expenditures that fall within the categories specified in Section 4 of the exempt as exempt.

A. All expenses that fall within the Section 4 of the exempt as exempt.

4. DETERMINATION OF CHARGEABLE EXPENSES

All objections shall be filed on a Form 966, available from the AAA, with the appropriate chapter(s). The form shall be submitted to the chapter(s) in which the objection is filed.

5. DISCONTINUATION OF OBJECTOR POLICY

a. The BLET shall have the right to require any member, who has been determined to be chargeable to the objection, to cease and desist from any actions that constitute a violation of the objection. The BLET shall have the right to terminate the objection, and the objector shall be subject to the disciplinary action of the BLET.

b. The BLET shall have the right to require any member, who has been determined to be chargeable to the objection, to cease and desist from any actions that constitute a violation of the objection. The BLET shall have the right to terminate the objection, and the objector shall be subject to the disciplinary action of the BLET.

6. MAJOR CATEGORIES OF CHARGEABLE EXPENSES

a. All objections shall be filed on a Form 966, available from the AAA, with the appropriate chapter(s). The form shall be submitted to the chapter(s) in which the objection is filed.

b. The BLET shall have the right to require any member, who has been determined to be chargeable to the objection, to cease and desist from any actions that constitute a violation of the objection. The BLET shall have the right to terminate the objection, and the objector shall be subject to the disciplinary action of the BLET.

7. CONTINUATION OF OBJECTOR POLICY

a. All objections shall be filed on a Form 966, available from the AAA, with the appropriate chapter(s). The form shall be submitted to the chapter(s) in which the objection is filed.

b. The BLET shall have the right to require any member, who has been determined to be chargeable to the objection, to cease and desist from any actions that constitute a violation of the objection. The BLET shall have the right to terminate the objection, and the objector shall be subject to the disciplinary action of the BLET.

8. MAJOR CATEGORIES OF CHARGEABLE EXPENSES

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b. The BLET shall have the right to require any member, who has been determined to be chargeable to the objection, to cease and desist from any actions that constitute a violation of the objection. The BLET shall have the right to terminate the objection, and the objector shall be subject to the disciplinary action of the BLET.

9. PAYMENT OF REDUCED FEES

All objections shall be paid in full as of the date of filing. Interest on a reduced fee is not available. A reduced fee is only available for amounts that are not chargeable.

10. DISCONTINUATION OF OBJECTOR POLICY

a. The BLET shall have the right to require any member, who has been determined to be chargeable to the objection, to cease and desist from any actions that constitute a violation of the objection. The BLET shall have the right to terminate the objection, and the objector shall be subject to the disciplinary action of the BLET.

b. The BLET shall have the right to require any member, who has been determined to be chargeable to the objection, to cease and desist from any actions that constitute a violation of the objection. The BLET shall have the right to terminate the objection, and the objector shall be subject to the disciplinary action of the BLET.

11. DISCONTINUATION OF OBJECTOR POLICY

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b. The BLET shall have the right to require any member, who has been determined to be chargeable to the objection, to cease and desist from any actions that constitute a violation of the objection. The BLET shall have the right to terminate the objection, and the objector shall be subject to the disciplinary action of the BLET.
Brother Faulkner is a CSX locomotive engineer and member of BLET Division 41 (Nashville, Tenn.). He also serves his Division as Secretary-Treasurer and Legislative Representative. He joined the Brotherhood on August 1, 1978, and has held continuous membership ever since. He is also the mayor of Cross Plains, Tenn., the town where he lives.

Rusty Jones, BLET Division 239 (Knoxville, Tenn.), was reelected by acclamation to continue serving as Secretary-Treasurer. Elected by acclamation to their first terms were: 1st Vice Chairman Doug Ford, Division 239 (Knoxville, Tenn.); 2nd Vice Chairman Justin Wilcox, Division 781 (Erwin, Tenn.); and Alternate Secretary-Treasurer Jason Lane, Division 620 (Chattanooga, Tenn.). Chairman Faulkner fills the office vacated by Brother J.T. Little, who is retiring.

National President Dennis R. Pierce addressed the assembled delegates in Nashville and discussed various issues of importance on the national level, including contract negotiations. The delegates were honored by the attendance of special guests Paul Wingo and Don Moates, both retired as well as brothers and sisters in the Brotherhood.

Mr. Todd also addressed the group.

Faulkner elected Chairman of Tennessee State Legislative Board

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arrt J. Faulkner was elected by acclamation to serve as Chairman of the Tennessee State Legislative Board at the quadrennial meeting in Nashville, Tenn., September 6-9, 2011.

Advisory Board June 2011 Activity

In accordance with the BLET Bylaws, summaries of BLET Board members’ activities are published monthly.

National President Dennis R. Pierce

National Division Office, General office duties, Correspondence and internal organizing; Conference call w/ GC Gibbons, Las Vegas; CP Rail GCA mtg. w/ GC Semenek, Las Vegas; Mtg. w/ carrier & GC Wilson, Chicago, Ill.; work on DM&E contract; work on Mid South agreement.

National Secretary-Treasurer William C. Walton

General supervision of accounting and records, dept. records, dept. services, dept. tax compliance, dept. Education and Training Dept.; Internal Organizing; Safety Task Force, Mountains and Financial Builders; Communications; Rail Safety Conference Policy Committee; REPC (RRC); CP Rail GCA Meeting. Member of National Nominating Committee; UFBR on property negotiations, Omaha, Neb.; 2011 SMB, Arlington, Va.; 2011 EBT.

National Vice President of Trainmen E.L. “Lee” Pruitt

National Railways include SunRail Florida; Downtown KCS; Shoreline Organizing Dept.; Trainsman’s Dept.; National Publications Committee; LOTCP; National Legislative Board; Nominating Committee; UFBR on property negotiations, Omaha, Neb.; 2011 SMB, Arlington, Va.; 2011 EBT.

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Vice President of the Convention

Larry James, BLET System Liaison CSXT and SENSE Safety Coordinator, was also in attendance.

Additional special guests included Tennessee State Senator Joe Haynes, Tennessee Democratic Vice Party Chairman Elisa Parker, and Tennessee State Representative and Tennessee AFL-CIO President Gary Moore. The new legislative Reps were trained the day before the quadrennial meeting’s official open of business, successfully completing a workshop conducted by Ken Kroeger, Coordinator of the BLET Education & Training Department.

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