CAMERAS IN THE CAB

**Federal judge sides with KCS on inward-facing cameras**

In an Opinion released on July 25, the United States District Court in Shreveport, La. ruled that the decision by Kansas City Southern Railway (KCSR) to install two inward-facing cameras in the cabs of its locomotives presents a “minor” dispute under the Railway Labor Act, paving the way for the railroad to install the cameras immediately.

The ‘minor’ dispute ruling is significant because the Railway Labor Act prevents Unions from exercising self-help over minor disputes.

The finding by Judge Elizabeth Erny Fote against the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen and the United Transportation Union (now SMART Transportation Division) was that the Carrier had an arguable contractual justification for its actions. According to the ruling, the contractual justification is based on the Carrier’s existing use of stationary surveillance cameras in various train yards and other locations, inward-facing cameras in crew vans that transport KCSR crews to and from train assignments, and procedures for monitoring and recording phone calls between train crew employees and crew management regarding reporting to work. The Judge also held that it was not “frivolous to argue that the safety challenges posed by employees using personal electronic devices on the job necessitate the camera and review system proposed by KCSR.”

Once it was determined the case was a “minor” dispute, the Unions then argued for a “status quo” injunction pending resolution of the dispute before an arbitrator. Judge Fote denied the Unions’ argument.

BLET President Dennis R. Pierce expressed disappointment at both aspects of the ruling, but vowed that the Union would continue the fight. “The Judge’s ruling is a big disappointment, but in this day and age, it comes as no real surprise,” Pierce said. “It is extremely difficult to convince any federal court that an RLA dispute is ‘major’. We will continue to assist the KCS General Chairmen in their struggle. As the Judge explained, ‘At the end of the day, the Unions may prevail regarding interpretation of the [Collective Bargaining Agreement].’ We will now do our utmost to prove to an arbitrator that this outrageous intrusion in the lives of locomotive engineers and trainmen is well beyond what the contract allows KCSR to do.”

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**BLET, Tacoma Rail sign new 5-year agreement**

Members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen have signed a new five-year contract with Tacoma Rail, retroactive to July 1, 2012.

This agreement covers about 20 locomotive engineers and contains a signing bonus and significant wage and paid time off improvements, as well as health and welfare benefits equal to other city workers in Tacoma, Wash. The agreement also provides (for the first time) regular 5-day bid assignments, a job application method of assigning work, a displacement rule, set lunch periods and an extra list with a 48 hour guarantee. In addition, the agreement has improved discipline claims, and grievance rules. BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce recognized the negotiating team with a signing bonus and significant wage and paid time off improvements, as well as health and welfare benefits equal to other city workers in Tacoma, Wash. The agreement also provides (for the first time) regular 5-day bid assignments, a job application method of assigning work, a displacement rule, set lunch periods and an extra list with a 48 hour guarantee. In addition, the agreement has improved discipline claims, and grievance rules. BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce recognized the negotiating team with a signing bonus and significant wage and paid time off improvements, as well as health and welfare benefits equal to other city workers in Tacoma, Wash. The agreement also provides (for the first time) regular 5-day bid assignments, a job application method of assigning work, a displacement rule, set lunch periods and an extra list with a 48 hour guarantee. In addition, the agreement has improved discipline claims, and grievance rules. BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce recognized the negotiating team with a signing bonus and significant wage and paid time off improvements, as well as health and welfare benefits equal to other city workers in Tacoma, Wash. The agreement also provides (for the first time) regular 5-day bid assignments, a job application method of assigning work, a displacement rule, set lunch periods and an extra list with a 48 hour guarantee. In addition, the agreement has improved discipline claims, and grievance rules. BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce recognized the negotiating team with a signing bonus and significant wage and paid time off improvements, as well as health and welfare benefits equal to other city workers in Tacoma, Wash. The agreement also provides (for the first time) regular 5-day bid assignments, a job application method of assigning work, a displacement rule, set lunch periods and an extra list with a 48 hour guarantee. In addition, the agreement has improved discipline claims, and grievance rules.

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**BLET President’s Message**

Why I am a Proud Union Member pg. 2

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**2015 Triennial Elections**

A reminder that continuous good standing is required for 24 months pg. 3

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**Photo Albums**

2013 EUMA and IWC pgs. 5 & 6

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**Register for News Flash email alerts at: www.ble-t.org**
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s you know by now, the BLET National Division launched a campaign many months ago to internally mobilize our members, young and old, to be more interested and more involved in our union. Our “Proud to be American. Proud to be Union” campaign has made a real difference in that internal mobilization effort, and the interaction I have had with mem-

bers across the country has convinced me that our efforts are making a difference.

That is not to say that we have accomplished our goal that all members take an active interest in their union, or that our work towards that goal will stop. To the contrary, we have much work to do, and the Officers that I am proud to serve with on the Advi-

sory Board are continuing in their efforts to be out in the field, meet-

ing with the membership to hear first-hand about the issues im-

portant to them. Whether it be our attendance at a Division meet-

ing, a General Committee Meet-

ing, a State Legislative Board meet-

ing, or at a Town Hall meet-

ning organized by several Divi-

sions, I remain convinced that our membership will better un-

derstand our mission as a union— and the role that they can play in our effort— when we take the time to meet face to face with Broth-

ers and Sisters.

Unfortunately, and in large

due part to work and family ob-

ligations— all further compli-
cated by the ‘carrier’s outrageous and overbearing attention pol-

icies’— I know that many mem-

bers cannot get to their Division’s regular meetings, or take the meetings attended by the Of-

ficers of the National Division. That does not mean that they do not play an important role with-
in our union’s effort. They too can show their pride in the union movement, whether on the job or in their off duty time, and this Newsletter message is to again invite those members to be more involved in their union.

As I have shared this message across the country, I have counted the many members ask candid and direct questions not only as to why they should be involved, but also many who have never worked in a union represented work place ask why they should even be in a union at all. It is apparent from some of these exchanges that the forces that are waging the war on working class Americans have done a very good job of turning working class Americans against unions. That is true in spite of the fact that it is only because there is a “union pay scale” that the wages and benefits paid to non-union employees as high as they are. In fact, the ripple effect unions create throughout the economy is the very reason that the corporate interests who work to destroy labor unions are waging this war. Their goal is actu-

ally quite simple: less for working class Americans means more for corporate America.

It is also clear to me that we have an obligation to provide an-

swers to those who have fallen victim to the anti-union rheto-

ric in this country, and are not con-

vinced that they need a union to do their work to day. In fact, the un-

ified workforce is a strong force that is not available. The only way to prevent that from hap-

pening in our lifetimes is to make the union movement stronger in the face of all the attacks against us— and that’s where you play a huge role. Become involved in your union; join me and show your employer that we all stand tall and are proud to be union.

DENNIS R. PIERCE

BLET NATIONAL PRESIDENT

WHY I AM A PROUD UNION MEMBER

In fact, the ripple effect unions create throughout the economy is the very reason that the corporate interests who work to destroy labor unions are waging this war. Their goal is actually quite simple: less for working class Americans means more for corporate America. BLET National Division Electronic Communications Policy

Official communications be-

tween BLET members and the National Division require a hard copy of the correspon-
dence, bearing a signature, being re-

ceived in future correspondence.

The volume of e-mails received makes it impossible for the National President to be aware of all unofficial communications. Therefore, it is the policy of the BLET that e-mails addressed to the National Presi-

dent will be reviewed and forwarded to the appropriate officer or staff for a time-

ly response; however, an e-mail message is not considered an official communication.

Moreover, anonymous e-mails and e-

mails that do not provide sufficient in-

formation concerning the sender to en-

able National Division staff to confirm the sender’s membership status will not receive any reply or acknowledgement. This poli- cy is intended to allow the National Presi-

dent to be aware of the opinions and sug-
gestions of the membership, while at the same time providing a timely response to the members. The BLET will use e-mail communication if a response is necessary, without need-

lessly expending limited BLET resources.

ADOPTED AT CLEVELAND, OHIO ON JULY 22, 2010 86

BLET PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE BY DENNIS R. PIERCE

President Pierce at the 2013 SWCM in New Orleans.
A revolution against poverty

Even though Triennial elections for BLET Divisions won’t be held again until 2015, members are reminded of the 24-month continuous good standing requirement and how it can impact their ability to serve the Brotherhood in an elected office.

Nominations will be held at each Division’s first regular meeting in September of 2015. To be nominated for a division office you must have paid your dues for 24 consecutive months prior to the election. This “24-month rule” includes all dues the member is required to pay.

In other words, only members who have 24 consecutive months of good standing may be nominated to run for office. This means a member must have paid all required dues to any BLET division from August 2013 through August 2015.

However, there is an exception. Those in active duty as a reserve component of the military or the National Guard for a period lasting more than 30 days but not more than 24 consecutive months are not required to pay dues during such period to maintain their continuous good standing.

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters Constitution provides that members are eligible to run for election only if they are “in continuous good standing… and actively employed in the craft… for a period of twenty-four (24) consecutive months prior to the month of nomination” (IBT Constitution, Article XI, Section 4(a)(1), as codified in the Note to Section 1 – National Division Rules of the BLET Bylaws).

In general, “continuous good standing” means the member has paid his or her dues for each of the 24 months during the applicable period together with no interruptions in active service during that period.

Should you have any questions about this calculation, please contact the BLET National Division, Office of the National Secretary-Treasurer. Questions involving the interpretation of the BLET Bylaws must be referred to National President Dennis R. Pierce.

Prepare now for 2015 Triennial elections

BLET scores organizing win at Texas Pacifico

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) scored a short line organizing victory in August as a majority of workers at Texas Pacifico Transportation Ltd., voted to make the BLET their designated collective bargaining representative. The National Mediation Board certified the election results on August 22. The organizing victory brings about 25 new train and engine service employees into the ranks of the BLET.

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce welcomed the new Texas-Pacifico members, noting that to make the BLET their designat- ed collective bargaining representative, the employees had to vote their preference over approximately 380 miles in West Texas, from San Angelo Junction to Alpine Junction. It also operates from Alpine to Alpine Junction, and from Alpine to Alpine Junction.

The new Texas Pacifico members are at the Texas Pacifico interchanges with Ferro Mex and several other major carriers.

The program Adobe Acrobat is required to download and view the documents, which are available here: www.blet.org/2014election.

The website provides interested members with all election-related documents in one convenient location. Section 48 of the National Division Rules of the BLET Bylaws governs the election of National Division Officers. Pursuant to Section 48, the National Secretary-Treasurer has issued these Election Rules, which were approved by the BLET Advisory Board on May 7, 2013.

The documents being made available on the new website include the Election Rules, interpretations of the Election Rules (also known as Election Rules Advisories), nomination forms, forms for members to declare their candidacy for office, and various other financial reporting forms that are required by the Election Rules.

The BLET’s Third Quadrennial National Convention is slated for September 24 through October 2, 2014, at the Rio Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.
Herbert Harris Jr. was reelected by acclamation to continue serving as Chairman of the BLET’s District of Columbia State Legislative Board at the group’s quadrennial convention on July 11, 2013. The Honorable Vincent C. Gray, Mayor of the District of Columbia, attended the meeting and designated the day “Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen Day” in the Nation’s Capital. 

Brother Harris is an Amtrak locomotive engineer and member of BLET Division 482 (Washington, D.C.). He has been a BLET member since 1997 and was first elected Chairman in 2005. Also elected by acclamation during the convention were: 1st Vice Chairman Bruce K. Evans, Division 14 (Washington, D.C.); 2nd Vice Chairman Carlyle L. Smith, Division 482 (Washington, D.C.); Secretary-Treasurer Christopher S. Dort, Division 14 (Washington, D.C.); and Assistant Committee Chairman Peter J. Sullivan, Division 482 (Washington, D.C.).

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce extended congratulations to Brother Harris and all members of the District of Columbia State Legislative Board. He expressed regret that he could not attend the meeting himself.

Also elected were: Kimberly Craver, Virginia State Legislative Board Chairman; Fred Cox, 2nd Vice Chairman, Norfolk Southern-Southern Lines General Committee of Adjustment; Chris Brown, President and Legislative Representative of Division 52 (Baltimore, Md.); and Amy Sine, Local Chairman of Division 14 (Washington, D.C.).

Brother Harris has represented the BLET clocks to Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D.C.), Mayor Gray, and Ms. Drake. Ms. Drake also presented her views on the CSX Locomotive Agreement's quadrennial meeting were BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce and National Vice President E.W. (Bubba) Rice Jr., Division 165 (Louisville, Ky.); Western Regional Vice General Chairman Chad M. Shipp, Division 472 (Evansville, Ind.); and Southern Regional Vice General Chairman E.W. (Bubba) Rice Jr., Division 140 (Mobile, Ala.).

Brother Harris presented a commemorative booklet containing important provisions of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations. The booklets were funded through a collaborative effort between the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and the Federal Railroad Administration.

The booklets were presented to all active BLET members and officers of the District of Columbia State Legislative Board for their ongoing commitment to the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen.”

“I have every confidence that Brother Harris and his team of officers will continue doing a professional job of representing the best interests of our members in the Washington D.C. area.”

—— Dennis R. Pierce

From left: Chris Dort, DCBCT S&T; Peter Sullivan, DCBCT Audit Committee; Jeffery Buse, DCBCT Audit Committee; Bruce K. Evans, DCBCT 1st V.C.; Joe Boardman, Amtrak President & CEO; Herb Harris, DCBCT Chairman; John Tolman, BLET VP & N.R.; Tim Craver, ASBCT Chairman; Fritz Eder, outgoing DCBCT S&T; Brian Gablaffger, Director-Amtrak; and Vice Vera, BLET Director of Regulatory Affairs.
More than 200 members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen convened in Baltimore on July 29 for opening ceremonies of the 75th annual convention of the Eastern Union Meeting Association (EUMA). EUMA Chairman Mark Kenny opened the ceremonies while Arrangements Chairman Fred Cox welcomed all members and their families to Baltimore on behalf of BLET Division 52.

After presentation of the flags by the color guard and the singing of the national anthem, Brother Cox led the group in a prayer. Anita Causse, National President of the BLET Auxiliary, led a ceremony to remember BLET members killed in the line of duty. An empty chair, as well as other tools of the engineers’ craft, were left at the front of the meeting hall to symbolize the Organization’s departed Brothers and Sisters.

Guest speakers included Ernie Grecco, President of the Metropolitan Baltimore Council of the AFL-CIO, and Donna F. Edwards, U.S. Representative for Maryland’s 4th Congressional District. Rep. Edwards, who sits on the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, spoke about the need to put Americans back to work with good-paying middle class jobs rebuilding the nation’s crumbling infrastructure. She also spoke about national health care improvements, raising the minimum wage, and the importance of the upcoming 2014 elections.

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce introduced members of the BLET Advisory Board and National Division staff who were in attendance. President Pierce also spoke about the Organization’s 150th anniversary and introduced the commemorative video presentation, which was well received by the audience. The video is available on the National Division’s YouTube page: http://www.youtube.com/user/BLETUnion.

The week continued with numerous educational opportunities. Workshops featured specialized training for BLET Legislative Representatives, Secretary-Treasurers and Local Chairmen. There was an informational presentation on the BLET health & welfare plan as well as a workshop on the BLET’s national mobilization network.

Members and their families enjoyed a welcome reception at the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum on July 28 and an evening at Camden Yards for a Baltimore Orioles baseball game on July 30. The 2013 EUMA concluded with a dinner banquet and dance the evening of July 31.

The 76th annual EUMA will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, from August 4-8, 2014.

In August 2, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET/IBT) and the Transportation Division of the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation International Association (SMART) jointly announced that legislation requiring at least two crew members on all freight trains in the U.S. has been filed in Congress.

Initial sponsors for the legislation are Representatives Michael Michaud (D-ME) and Chellie Pingree (D-ME), and the bill, which has been assigned number H.R. 3040, is expected to be assigned to the House Transportation and Infrastructure (“T&I”) Committee for consideration. The legislation reflects heightened concerns over crew size arising from the tragic July 6 derailment of a Montreal, Maine & Atlantic (MM&A) fuel train in Lac Mégantic, Quebec, which killed 47 and destroyed the center of the town. The MM&A train was crewed by a single person.

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce called on the House to take up the bill at its earliest opportunity. “The American people are justifiably concerned that the single-person crewing practice used on MM&A and some other short line railroads places the public safety at risk,” Pierce said. “We urge Chairman Schuster and the T&I Committee to hold hearings on this issue after the recess.

SMART Transportation Division President Mike Futhey said, “This is a responsible piece of legislation that recognizes the correlations between the consist of crews and public safety. We thank Representatives Michael Michaud (D-ME) and Chellie Pingree (D-ME) and urge more Representatives to join in support.”
SAN FRANCISCO HOSTS BLET FOR 73RD ANNUAL IWC

BLET members convened in San Francisco on July 16, 2013, for the 73rd annual International Western Convention (IWC). Event co-chairmen Oscar A. Burrola (Local Chairman, Division 839) and Luis Chavez Jr. (Local Chairman, Division 283), along with the members of their Arrangements Committee, welcomed all to San Francisco. The convention was held at the Hilton San Francisco Financial District. Six educational workshops were held for members attending the 2013 IWC, including training classes for Secretary-Treasurers, Local Chairmen and Legislative Representatives. There was also a hazardous materials workshop, a BLET mobilization workshop, and a conductor certification workshop.

Events included the traditional opening ceremony, a golf tournament at the Presidio Golf Course. The 73rd annual IWC concluded with a dinner banquet and dance. Next year, the 74th annual IWC will be held in Minneapolis, Minn.

LECMPA provides job insurance to union transportation workers, protecting members and their families from wage loss.

- Generous Loyalty Appreciation Program that rewards long-time members.
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www.lecmpa.org

Transportation workers protecting each other since 1910.
Health FSA open enrollment begins October 1

ENROLLMENT MUST REACH 5% OR BENEFIT MAY BE LOST

pen enrollment will run from October 1, 2013 until November 2, 2013, for the Health Flexible Spending Account Plan (Health FSA), which is available to BLET represented engineers who work at participating railroads, and all train service employees of Texas Mexican Railway.

This important health care benefit, secured by the BLET during the most recent national contract, is in danger of falling by the wayside unless membership participation increases. At least 5% of eligible engineers must participate in the Health FSA in the 2014 Plan Year, and 7.5% in the 2015 and subsequent Plan Years, or the Carriers will have the right to terminate the plan beginning with the following Plan Year. The deadline to register for the 2014 benefit year is November 2, 2013, and the BLET is encouraging all members to sign up.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Except as noted at the end of this paragraph, locomotive engineers and Tex-Mex train service employees of Texas Mexican Railway who are represented by BLET are eligible to participate.

WHAT IS THE FSA PLAN?

The FSA Plan, administered by United Healthcare, is designed to allow you to use pretax dollars to pay for certain medical expenses that are not covered under any health plan (including a railroad health & welfare plan) or any other source. You are thus reimbursed for eligible expenses from your FSA, which means you’ll be using pretax dollars to pay for those expenses. A PDF on the National Division website has more information.

WHAT CAN YOU SAVE?

You could save hundreds of dollars in taxes each year with a health FSA. The amount you could save in taxes depends on how much you set aside and the amount of your expenses. A specific example can be found in a PDF on the BLET website: www.blet.org/pr/pdf/Health_FSA_Savings_2013.pdf

WHY YOU SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

The FSA program will allow you to put aside your own dollars on a pre-tax basis to be available for reimbursement — to you — of eligible and qualified health care expenses not covered by your medical, vision, or dental plans, as well as other approved Health and Welfare expenses, for which coverage is not afforded.

WHAT IS COVERED?

Certain medical, pharmacy, dental and vision expenses are eligible for the program. A complete list of covered items and procedures is in a PDF on the BLET website: www.blet.org/pr/pdf/FSA_Eligible_Expenses_list_2013.pdf

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Information to sign up for the Health FSA is contained in the open enrollment packets. Eligible members will receive this information in the near future, prior to the open enrollment period, which runs from October 1, 2013 until November 2, 2013. This year, open enrollment is again being done on-line (www.yourtrackshealth.com). Please call Railroad Enrollment Services at 1-888-298-9754 if you have any questions.

USE IT OR LOSE IT?

Per federal regulations, you must use all the money in your Health FSA for expenses incurred during your Period of Coverage (for the 2014 Plan Year, the period from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014) or you will forfeit the unused portion. This provision is typically referred to as “use it or lose it” and any unused funds will be diverted to pay for the plan’s administration costs. Members are advised to keep this in mind when making their elections for how much money to put into the plan at first so that you know for certain that you will easily spend all the funds. However, this should not be a reason to not take advantage of a great benefit such as this, especially because you can put as little as $10 per month ($120 total for the Plan Year) to the minimum to participate in the Health FSA.

The new plan year begins January 1, 2014, but you will need to make your elections during the upcoming open enrollment period or you will miss the train on this one!

For more information, visit the BLET website: www.blet.org/pr/pdf/Health_FSA_Eligibility_2013.pdf

To apply for membership and become a part of the BR&CF, contact the organization to help make things better for all of us. The BR&CF is a not-for-profit organization with a proven track record of giving back to members and the rail labor community. The BR&CF created the North American Railway Foundation to help make things better for all of us.

The BR&CF is the least expensive protection when disciplined for eligible occurrences and is committed to remaining affordable. You could save up to $672 each year. The BR&CF offers you the best price, value and service.

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Compare apples to apples. It’s clear the BR&CF works for you.

To apply for membership and become a part of the BR&CF... act today... ask a BR&CF member where you work for an application or visit our web site at www.brcf.org or call us toll free at 800 233-7080

Daily Benefit Level $100 ($102*) $150 $200 ($201*) Difference on $200 With BR&CF You Save
BR&CF $38.00 $57.00 $76.00
LECMPA (*) $59.50 $87.50 $117.25 $41.25 every month
UTU $66.00 $99.00 $132.00 $56.00 every month

LECMPA and UTU rates are accurate and effective date of print.

The BR&CF is the least expensive protection when disciplined for eligible occurrences and is committed to remaining affordable. You could save up to $672 each year. The BR&CF offers you the best price, value and service.

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There is a difference.

Compare monthly costs. Get the best value from the BR&CF.

BR&CF $38.00 $57.00 $76.00
LECMPA (*) $59.50 $87.50 $117.25 $41.25 every month
UTU $66.00 $99.00 $132.00 $56.00 every month

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There is a difference.
The TEAMStar Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program can help you with those costs. If you are a BLET retiree, spouse or dependent of a BLET retiree and entitled to Medicare Part B and/or enrolled in Medicare Part D, you are eligible to apply for the TEAMStar Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program (PDPM). You are entitled to this program regardless of your health history or the drugs you are currently taking.

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pending in the U.S. for prescription drugs was $259.1 billion in 2010, and is projected to double over the next decade. The TEAMStar Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program can help you with those costs.

If you are a BLET retiree, spouse or dependent of a BLET retiree and entitled to Medicare Part B and/or enrolled in Medicare Part D, you are eligible to apply for the TEAMStar Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program (PDPM). You are entitled to this program regardless of your health history or the drugs you are currently taking.

The TEAMStar Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program is a voluntary Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program that meets the federal government requirements for creditable coverage. It is not available to the general public and is designed to help Medicare eligible BLET members, retirees and their spouses reduce their prescription drug costs and ensure them against high prescription drug expenses in the future. This program was introduced in 2006 and thousands of TEAMStar Teamster retirees have chosen to enroll during the program’s first seven years.

The enrollment period for the TEAMStar Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program runs from October 15, 2013 to December 7, 2013. We hope that you will take advantage of this affordable prescription drug plan, which enables BLET members to save as much money as possible.

You can get more detailed information and also register for the program at www.teamstarpartd.com or call 1-866-524-4173.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR MEDICARE ELIGIBLE BLET MEMBERS AND RETIREE

Are you a photographer? The National Division’s Public Affairs archives this newsletter each month, so we encourage you to submit your photographs to the newsdesk. In the past year, BLET members have shared hundreds of images

Important Announcement for Medicare Eligible BLET Members and Retirees

DID YOU KNOW?

90% of INDIVIDUALS AGED 65+ HAVE PRESCRIPTION DRUG EXPENSES

(AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY, www.meps.ahrq.gov/

Open Enrollment Begins October 15, 2013

PREScription Drug prices have grown 22-44% FROM 2000 to 2009

(Prescription Drug Trends, Kaiser Family Foundation, May 2010)