The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) scored a short line organizing victory in early August as a majority of workers at Illinois Railway voted to make the BLET their designated collective bargaining representative. The National Mediation Board certified the election results on August 7. The organizing victory brings 21 new train and engine service employees into the ranks of the BLET.

“T"he best way to respond to the confidence shown by our new Illinois Railway members is to help them realize the goals they identified throughout the organizing campaign by negotiating their first-ever collective bargaining agreement,” President Pierce said. “That job begins today.”

President Pierce thanked Kent Confer, BLET Special Representative and Director of Organizing, for his hard work in securing the election victory at the Illinois Railway property.

President Pierce said the Illinois Railway members will hold membership in BLET Division 682 (Hammond, Ind.) and will belong to the BLET’s Indiana Harbor Belt General Committee of Adjustment.

Illinois Railway (IR) is comprised of four track segments aggregating 113 miles of track located just west of the Chicago suburbs. IR services what is often called “the Sand Capital of the World” in northern Illinois.

Chance Jason Gober, 40, a member of BLET Division 182 (North Little Rock, Ark.), was killed in the line of duty on August 17, 2014. He was one of two crew members killed when two Union Pacific trains collided head on near the town of Hoxie, Ark. Brother Gober was born on November 12, 1973, in Sacramento, Calif. He is survived by his wife and three sons.

After serving his country in the United States Navy, Brother Gober hired out with the Union Pacific Railroad on March 1973-2014.

In the line of Duty

Chance J. Gober

Continued on page 6

BLET ORGANIZES ILLINOIS RAILWAY SHORT LINE WORKERS

BLET President’s Message

Voting for two-person train crews pg. 2

Photo Album

76th annual EUMA in Cleveland pg. 5

Aldridge Reelected

Begins third term as Chairman of Kentucky Legislative Board pg. 6

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Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/BLETNational
During the week preceding this edition of the Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen News going to press, members and officers of our great Brotherhood gathered in St. Louis for the 79th Southwestern Convention Meeting. This was the last of the four BLET regional meetings this year, and as with all of the preceding regional meetings, the turnout was tremendous. I would like to offer my personal thanks to all of the Brothers and Sisters who worked so hard to put on this year’s regional meetings. I would also like to add a special thanks to Brother David Grimes and his wife Gail who chaired the Arrangements Committee for last week’s Southwestern Convention Meeting. The Brothers and Sisters of the UP Hubs in St. Louis and Little Rock have suffered many losses in recent years, but the recognition given those who have passed too early was moving to all in attendance.

I must also thank Brother Grimes for giving me a special privilege during the SWCM Banquet on Wednesday night of the convention. As over 350 members and their families entered the banquet hall that evening, I received word that the tentative crew consist agreement between BNSF and SMART-Transportation Division failed ratification. Brother Grimes granted me the honor of announcing that news to the BLET members and families present, and the rousing ovation and ensuing celebrations amongst the BLET membership present was truly moving. It was clear to me and to all present that continuing our effort to preserve two-person crews as a minimum is not only the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do.

As I have said since the horrible and tragic accident in Lac-Mégantic, Canada last year, there are three venues that we can work in to preserve two-person crews. The first is on the legislative front, and we have labored side by side with National Representatives from SMART-TD in support of H.R. 3040 in the U.S. House of Representatives. In addition, just last week the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2014 was proposed in the U.S. Senate (S. 2784), which also includes crew size language similar to that found in H.R. 3040. BLET and SMART-TD are now working in support of that portion of S. 2784, as it will take legislation in both the Senate and the House of Representatives to make two-person crews the law of the land.

In addition, BLET and SMART-TD continue our efforts on the regulatory front. As most members are aware, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) will be issuing crew size regulations through its rulemaking process in the coming months, and we have worked long and hard to make sure that FRA knows how important this issue is to the safety of our members. The third leg in this process is Collective Bargaining. As I have said many times, the BLET National Division is prepared to work with SMART-TD in the coming bargaining round to protect two-person crews should the issue make its way to the national bargaining table. On the heels of the failed BNSF proposal, the intentions of the nation’s rail carriers should be clear to all.

The political makeup of our nation is where all three of these venues intertwine. We cannot realistically expect that certain politicians in the Senate or the House of Representative, who constantly attack unions and the working class Americans that unions represent, will support our legislative efforts. This proves true every time an effort is made to return our government to the American people instead of the 1%; politicians consistently vote along party lines, as was the case last week when the Senate took up a constitutional amendment to overturn the Citizens United Supreme Court decision. That decision opened the door for corporate America to buy election after election, ensuring that corporate interests are protected by the government at the expense of working class Americans.

These groups will work very hard this fall to take control of the Senate, and if they are successful, then your interests as working class Americans will be at risk. Further, they will work to take the White House in 2016, and if they control the House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate and the White House, then all of the laws and legal protections that working class Americans have come to count on will be in jeopardy. In addition, those at FRA who write the regulations that we labor under would be appointed by an anti-worker President. Finally, should crew size get to a Presidential Emergency Board under the steps of the Railway Labor Act, that Board would be appointed by an anti-work President. These anti-worker politicians are sponsored by the same corporate America that wants single-person crews. Those who want to preserve two-person crews must not be fooled by anti-worker politicians whose real intent is to make the richest Americans richer. They must not be distracted by that politician’s positions on the social issues of the day. These wolves in sheep’s clothing will try to convince you that they can and they will share the same position on some social issues, all the while working against your interests in the workplace. The straight truth is that these social issues will never protect you in the workplace, they will never put food on your family’s table, and they will never ensure that our workplace is the safest with two-person crews the mandatory minimum. Be heard this fall when you go to the voting booth. Don’t be fooled by politicians whose real master is the richest of Americans. Vote for candidates that will work for working class Americans.

Dennis R. Pierce
BLET National President

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These anti-worker politicians are sponsored by the same corporate America that wants single-person crews. Those who want to preserve two-person crews must not be fooled by anti-worker politicians whose real intent is to make the richest Americans richer.

BLET National Division Electronic Communications Policy

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

The volume of e-mails received makes it impossible for the National President to answer all unofficial communications. Therefore, it is the policy of the BLET that e-mails addressed to the National President will be reviewed and forwarded to the appropriate officer or staff for a time response; however, an e-mail message is not considered an official communication. Moreover, anonymous e-mails and e-mails that do not provide sufficient information concerning the sender to enable National Division staff to confirm the sender’s membership status will not receive any reply or acknowledgement. This policy is intended to allow the National President to be aware of the opinions and suggestions of the membership, while at the same time providing a timely response to the member’s unofficial communication, if a response is necessary, without needlessly expending limited BLET resources.

Adopted at Cleveland, Ohio on July 22, 2010.
Lean Times Continue for Many U.S. Workers

Labor Day is seen as a day of rest for many hardworking Americans. But for a growing set of U.S. workers, there is no break from trying to earn enough to support their families. Despite a dip in unemployment during the past few years, low pay continues to plague many employees while their corporate bosses rake in record profits.

Some naysayers have tried to brush off the income inequality discussion as a trumped-up effort to agitate Americans. However, while they might have wanted to ignore such calls from the Teamsters and other worker advocates, they cannot turn their back on the debate when their friends with ties to the financial world sound the alarm.

Standard and Poor’s -- creators of the S&P 500 index -- are just two of the more unexpected sources that recently added their voices to the debate when their friends in the financial world joined the movement.

Corporations are increasingly looking to friendly lawmakers on the Hill who are only too happy to reduce the “burden” so again, for too many in Congress, there is no limit to obstacles they will hurdle for their corporate cronies.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the average worker. That’s why we have fast-food workers who are victimized by successful companies allegedly stealing their wages. And it is also why we have thousands of low-wage workers taking to the streets over and over again to say enough.

Hardworking Americans find themselves at a crossroads. With the November elections looming, they need to carefully consider their options to help turn the U.S. economy in a positive direction. It starts with backing candidates who place the people above the powerful.

Fraternally,
James P. Hoffa
Teamsters General President

BLET families win 14 Hoffa scholarships for 2014-15 school year

Fourteen BLET families were winners of scholarships from the James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund for the 2014-15 academic year, including three top level $10,000 recipients. The $1,000 awards are renewable on an annual basis. The $1,000 awards are renewable on an annual basis.

WINNERS OF THE $10,000 SCHOLARSHIPS ARE:
• Cody Brown, son of Tommy M. Horn of BLET Division 206 (Temple, Texas), a BNSF engineer;
• Katelyn Buffett, daughter of Eric R. Buffett of BLET Division 435 (Hamlet, N.C.), a CSX engineer; and
• Jacky Mathis, son of Paul J. Mathis of BLET Division 206 (Temple, Texas), a BNSF engineer.

WINNERS OF $1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS ARE:
• Logan Barnett, son of D.L. Barnett of BLET Division 511 (Portsmouth, Ohio), a Norfolk Southern engineer;
• Monika Tarnawski, daughter of Paul Tarnawski of BLET Division 171 (Hoboken, N.J.), a New Jersey Transit engineer;
• Alec Estes, son of David P. Estes of BLET Division 60 (Seattle, Wash.), an Amtrak engineer. Brother Estes is Secretary-Treasurer of the Amtrak General Committee of Adjustment and Local Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer of Division 60;
• William Guffy, son of Timothy N. Williamson of BLET Division 858 (Pine Bluff, Ark.), a Union Pacific engineer;
• Ian Hutton, son of Thomas W. Hutton of BLET Division 171 (Hoboken, N.J.), a New Jersey Transit Engineer;
• Whitney Ledford, daughter of Martin E. Ledford of BLET Division 781 (Erwin, Tenn.), a CSX engineer;
• Zachary Martin, son of T.E. Martin, Secretary-Treasurer of BLET Division 122 (Port Huron, Mich.), a Grand Trunk Western Engineer;
• Sean Penfield, son of Brian J. Penfield, Local Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer of BLET Division 659 (Buffalo, N.Y.), a Norfolk Southern engineer;
• Angelica Previte, daughter of Peter J. Previte, Local Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer of BLET Division 136 (Logan, Utah), a Union Pacific engineer;
• Dylan Scalzo, son of Michael J. Scalzo of BLET Division 692 (Tracy, Calif.), a Union Pacific Engineer; and
• Kerry Smith, daughter of Thomas P. Smith of BLET Division 71 (Philadelphia, Pa.), a SEPTA engineer.

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIPS
The James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund awards scholarships annually to outstanding high school seniors. The application deadline is usually March 31 each year. Recipients are selected by an impartial committee of university admissions and financial aid directors based on academic achievement, SAT/ACT scores, character, potential and financial need. The Teamsters consider all applicants without regard to race, religion, gender, disability, or any other legally protected status.

For more information, please visit the Teamsters website: teamster.org/benefits/jrh-scholarship

Sign up for BLET News Flash alerts!

The News Flash alerts are news articles from the BLET National Division website that are automatically emailed to you.

To register, just go to www.blet.org. In the lower right hand corner of the page, you will find an area to enter your email address to begin receiving the most current news from the BLET National Division. It is a great way to keep informed on the most recent issues impacting your job, your contract and your Brotherhood.
Fund established to help family of BLET member injured in serious accident

BLET MEMBER JARED W. MCNEW IS IN A FIGHT FOR HIS LIFE.

Eric R. Bunch, Division 75 Local Chairman, 1976-2014

T he BLET National Division extends deepest sympathies to the family of Eric R. Bunch, BNSF locomotive engineer and Local Chairman of BLET Division 75 (Kansas City, Mo.), who died unexpectedly on July 24, 2014. He was 38 years old. He left behind his wife, Lari Sue, and two sons, Parker 10 and Lincoln 8. He also is survived by his step-father, Lindy and Tom Cummings, Grandfather, Delbert McCart, sister and broth- er in law, Debbie and Greg Beavers, sister and brother in law: Rene and Kurt Os- ttermiller, step siblings: Kelly and Bill Lowe and Kristen and PJ Russell, and Kale Cum- mings. He had many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

“Eric will be long remembered by every- one that had the pleasure of know- ing him. He will be missed by all,” said C.C. Fuller, a close friend of the family and Secretary-Treasurer of Division 75.

Eric R. Bunch earned promotion to locomotive engineer in 2003 and first joined Division 75 on March 1, 2004. He was an officer of Division 75 for over four years. He served three years as 1st Vice Local Chairman and had been the Local Chairman since January 2013. “He was very active with BLET Divi- sion 75, doing whatever he could for the Brotherhood and for his member’s safe- ty,” Brother Fuller said. “He had aspira- tions of working at the General Commit- tee level for the BLET of the former ATSF properties one day.” Those interested in supporting the fam- ily with a card, gift, or donation, please send to:

Community Bank of Missouri 1400 Hospital Dr.
Excelsior Springs, MO 64024
(Make checks payable to: Eric Bunch Memorial)

“Eric Bunch had a huge heart and a very caring soul,” Brother Fuller said. “He would help out anyone that needed help as well as take the time to explain any- thing to anyone that asked a question. If you had ever met Eric, you enjoyed his company right away. He enjoyed telling stories from his past as well as talking about his family. He enjoyed vacationing with his wife and watching their sons com- pete in sports. He helped coach them in both football and wrestling. He also en- joyed the outdoors hunting and fishing whenever he had the time.”

BLET National President extended deepest sympathies to the Bunch family. “It is so tragic to see such a young man struck down in the prime of his life,” Pres- ident Pierce said. “This young man had so much to live for, had a wonderful fami- ly and had the whole rest of his life ahead of him. He leaves behind a hole in our hearts that can never be filled. On behalf of the entire BLET, our thoughts and prayers are with Brother Bunch’s family and the members of Division 75.”

Eric R. Bunch, Division 75 Local Chairman, 1976-2014

The fees objector policy shall be

B. Save expenses related to the

E. Arbitration of challenges to the
determination.

F. Arbitration of challenges to the

determination.

A. No party shall be charged for

A. No party shall be charged for

H. Payroll of interested parties.

G. Defendant shall be responsible
for the cost of making copies of any
exhibit or document introduced by
plaintiff. The court reporter shall
make copies of all exhibits and
documents introduced at the hearing
and a list of all exhibits produced at
the hearing and shall be the

F. Arbitration of challenges to the
determination.

E. Arbitration of challenges to the
determination.

D. The court reporter shall make
a transcript of the proceedings before
the arbitrator. This transcript shall
be prepared within 15 days of the
start of the hearing and shall be the
official record of the proceedings
which may be purchased by appel- lants. If appellants do not pur- chase a copy of the transcript, a copy
shall be available for inspection in
the National Secretary/Treasurer’s
office. Appellants may, at their own
ease, re-present by counsel or any
other representative of choice. Ap-pellants need not appear at the hear- ing and shall be permitted to file writ- ten statements with the arbitrator at
the time of the hearing instead of ap- pearing in person.

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shall be available for inspection in
the National Secretary/Treasurer’s
office. Appellants may, at their own

fund established to help family of BLET member injured in serious accident

1. EMPLOYEES' RIGHTS

activities not related to collective bar- 

Union. Nonmembers have the legal

right to be or remain a nonmember of

the union or agency shop agreement

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cess by which collective bargaining

delegates; or participate in the pro-

participate in the selection of such

date; attend Union meetings; serve

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participate in the selection of such
date; attend Union meetings; serve

Approximately 200 members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen and their families convened in Cleveland for opening ceremonies of the 76th annual Eastern Union Meeting Association (EUMA) on August 5. EUMA Chairman Mark Kenny opened the ceremonies while Arrangements Chairman Pat Redmond welcomed all members, families and guests to Cleveland on behalf of host Division 607 (Cleveland).

The Color Guard from the Naval Reserve Center of Akron presented the flags and four members of the Cleveland Firefighters Memorial Pipes & Drums played a selection of music, including Amazing Grace, in honor of BLET members past and present who have fallen in the line of duty. Sandy Blum, wife of Arrangements Co-Chairman Jim Blum, led the group in prayer while Brother Blum led the empty chair ceremony. An empty chair, as well as various tools of the engineers’ craft, were left at the front of the meeting hall to honor the Organization’s departed Brothers and Sisters.

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce introduced members of the BLET Advisory Board and National Division Staff who were in attendance. His remarks touched upon the War on Workers and the need for solidarity in the labor movement. EUMA Chairman Kenny then introduced Anita Caruso, National President of the BLET Auxiliary, who spoke about the important role that the Auxiliary plays in support of all BLET members throughout the United States. Brother Kenny then introduced a video greeting from U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH), who welcomed BLET members to Cleveland.

Teamsters International Vice President John Murphy, who serves as Director of the Teamsters Rail Conference, brought greetings on behalf of Teamsters General President James P. Hoffa and General Secretary-Treasurer Ken Hall. Teamsters International Vice President Al Mixon was the second guest speaker at the 2014 EUMA, and Walt Barrows, Labor Member of the Railroad Retirement Board, was the third.

Brother B.J. Farkas, Local Chairman and Legislative Representative of Division 121 (Indianapolis, Ind.) took to the podium to donate his Division’s original charter to the BLET National Division. He said the charter, which is dated 1898, had survived a fire during its 116-year history.

The 2014 EUMA concluded with a banquet on August 7. The 2015 EUMA will be held in Boston, Mass. ®
Bryan Aldridge reelected by acclamation in Kentucky

By John Tolman, Vice President & National Legislative Representative; Bryan Aldridge, Kentucky State Legislative Board Chairman; and Dennis Pierce, BLET National President.

Bryan T. Aldridge was reelected by acclamation to his second full term as Chairman of the Kentucky State Legislative Board at quadrennial meetings in Newport, Ky., August 12-13, 2014.

Brother Aldridge is a CSX locomotive engineer and has been a member of BLET Division 78 (Louisville, Ky.) since September 1, 2003. He was elected 1st Vice Chairman in October of 2006 and was elevated to Chairman in September of 2008 following the passing of long-serving Chairman Tommy G. Mayne.

Also elected by acclamation were: 1st Vice Chairman Jeff D. Jones, Division 199 (Danville, Ky.); 2nd Vice Chairman Jason P. Cornett, Division 829 (Ravenna, Ky.); Secretary-Treasurer Daniel K. Maynard, Division 271 (Russell, Ky.); and Alternate Secretary-Treasurer David D. Martin, Division 508 (Fulton, Ky.).

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce addressed the membership regarding several issues of national importance to the Brotherhood.

“I thank Brother Aldridge and all officers of the Kentucky State Legislative Board for their commitment to the Brotherhood and our members,” President Pierce said. “I also thank them for their dedication and hard work on behalf of the Brothers and Sisters in the proud commonwealth of Kentucky.”

BLET Vice President and National Legislative Representative John P. Tolman was also in attendance, providing a legislative update and discussing the upcoming Senate race in Kentucky and a host of other key races in the November elections.

Several Legislators from across the Commonwealth attended. Jeff Dononhue, House District 37, and former public candidate for State Senate, also addressed the delegates concerning the introduction of a two-person crew bill.

The BLET’s Kentucky State Legislative Board represents more than 1,450 members from 12 different BLET Divisions. They work for Norfolk Southern, CSX and the Canadian National railroads.

OSHA ORDERS BNSF RAILWAY TO PAY $12,000 TO CONDUCTOR DISCIPLINED FOR TAKING DOCTOR-ORDERED LEAVE

BNSF Railway Co. has been found in violation of the Federal Railroad Safety Act (FRA) by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for disciplining an employee at its Murray Yard complex in Kansas City for following a physician’s treatment plan.

The company was ordered to pay the conductor $12,000 in damages, remove disciplinary information from the employee’s personnel record and provide whistleblower rights information to its employees.

OSHA’s investigation followed the allegation that the railroad disciplined the conductor, who has been employed there since 2004, in retaliation for taking leave in line with a doctor’s treatment plan. The employee was ill and notified a supervisor that he was seeing a doctor the afternoon of Nov. 18, 2013. Following his doctor’s appointment, the conductor immediately notified a supervisor that the doctor had ordered him to stay out of work for the remainder of the day, due to a personal illness. The company then accused the employee of violating its attendance policy and subsequently disciplined the employee.

BNSF Railway has been ordered to pay $2,000 in compensatory and $10,000 in punitive damages, as well as reasonable attorney’s fees. Any of the parties in this case can file an appeal with the department’s Office of Administrative Law Judges.

OSHA enforces the whistleblower provisions of the FRA. Employers are prohibited from retaliating against employees who raise various protected concerns or provide protected information to the employer or to the government. Employers who believe that they have been retaliated against for engaging in protected conduct may file a complaint with the Secretary of Labor to request an investigation by OSHA’s Whistleblower Protection Program. Detailed information on employee whistleblower rights, including fast sheets, is available at www.whistleblowers.gov.

IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Continued from page 1

00, 1998. He earned promotion to locomotive engineer on March 21, 2003, and joined the BLET on September 1, 2006.

Brother Gober loved hunting, fishing, camping and spending time with his children. He also enjoyed playing and coaching baseball. He watched and coached his sons in Little League for many years.

He is survived by his wife, Heather Glass Gober; sons, Zach Gober, 21, and his wife, Ashley; Jack Gober, 12, and Clay Gober, 10; mother and step-father, Carol and Jimmy Mullins; brother, Dustin Gober; sister, Jennifer Wells; grandmother, Jean Owen; and grandchild, Bentley Gober.

Brother Gober was preceded in death by his daughter, Este Alexandra Gober; father, Johnny Gober; grandfather, Charles Owen; and great-grandparents, Jack and Josie Owen.

Funeral services were held on August 22, 2014, and Brother Gober was interred at Leek Cemetery in Star City, Ark.

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce extended deepest condolences to the Gober family.

“The passing of this young man is a great loss to our Brotherhood and the close-knit membership of Division 182 in North Little Rock,” President Pierce said. “Our thoughts and prayers are with Brother Gober’s family following this terrible tragedy. On behalf of the entire Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, I extend our most heartfelt condolences to every member of Brother Gober’s family.”

Memorials in memory of Brother Gober may be made to White Hall Little League, PO Box 20085, White Hall, Arkansas 71602.

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• Receive your full daily benefit if you are decertified and decline to exercise your limit

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www.licomba.org

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

Brother Chance J. Gober, age 40, was killed in the line of duty on August 17, 2014. He is survived by his wife, Heather, and three sons, Zach, 21, Jack, 12 and Clay, 10. He also has one grandchild, Bentley Gober. Brother Gober enjoyed hunting and camping, but loved spending time with his children and coaching Little League baseball.

Like Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen on Facebook

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce extended deepest condolences to the Gober family.

“The passing of this young man is a great loss to our Brotherhood and the close-knit membership of Division 182 in North Little Rock,” President Pierce said. “Our thoughts and prayers are with Brother Gober’s family following this terrible tragedy. On behalf of the entire Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, I extend our most heartfelt condolences to every member of Brother Gober’s family.”

Memorials in memory of Brother Gober may be made to White Hall Little League, PO Box 20085, White Hall, Arkansas 71602.

6 WWW.BLE-T.ORG

Transportation workers protecting each other since 1910.
New Division Monthly Trustee Audit Report and Process Available

The National Division has revised the monthly trustee audit report form and audit process in order to streamline the monthly audit procedure. Under the revised process, the Division Secretary-Treasurer will provide the information contained on the monthly trustee audit report, which will then be reviewed and verified by the Division’s Trustees as required by Section 1(a) – National Division Rules of the BLET Bylaws.

This procedural change and the new monthly trustees audit report form must be used beginning with the Division’s next monthly trustee audit. Therefore, the old report will no longer be available. The new form and instructions are now available to all Division Secretary-Treasurers via the tool box located in the Secretary-Treasurer’s Online Reporting Page. The new forms and instructions are being mailed to all members of the executive board of each Division.

The revised reports will be provided in both PDF and Excel formats. There are two types of PDF files: one is a fill-in form, which performs all the necessary mathematical calculations; and the other is a blank form that must be printed and filled out by hand. The revised reports in Excel format also provide two options: one for a single month; and an extended 12-month workbook that will automatically generate a year-end report. A separate document, with line item instructions, also will be available to download as a guide to assist officers in the completion of the forms.

Once the information has been entered into the audit report form, the Secretary-Treasurer will forward the report, along with all supporting documentation (bank statements, canceled checks, check register, minutes, tax forms, etc.) to the Division Trustees for their review. Regardless of which version of the monthly trustee audit report form is used, the Division Trustees (the Vice President, the Local Chairman, and the Legislative Representative) must review and complete the report, and have or be in the possession of Local Chairmen for several years. If you are a Local Chairman who has not attended the first class but still wish to attend, please contact Jason Wright at (216) 286-4447. Such requests will be reviewed on an individual basis.

BLET officers who are interested in registering for the workshop may do so online at www.ble-t.org/lcadvance. Applicants will be sent an email confirmation with more details and hotel reservation information after the National Division has received your online application.

North American Railway Foundation

Upon successful completion of the course, attendees will qualify for a $129 stipend from the North American Railway Foundation (NARF). The stipends will be paid directly to the ST of the Division, GCA, or SLB.

The North American Railway Foundation (www.narfoundation.org) is a non-profit operating foundation formed by the Brotherhood’s Relief and Compensation Fund (BR&CF) to support rail history, education, safety and technology in the United States and Canada. With initial funding and continued Board of Directors stewardship coming from the BR&CF, NARF has supported many varied non-political projects throughout the United States and Canada over the past 16 years. The primary focus of these efforts has been in support of organized rail labor … giving back to all of the men and women of the railroad community across North America.

Focus on Value

Education and Training Department to host ST, LC Workshops

The BLET Education and Training Department will hold two workshops at the new BLET Training Center in Cleveland in October and November. An expanded Secretary-Treasurer class will be held October 13-17, 2014, and an Advanced Local Chairman class will be held November 2-7, 2014.

Secretary-Treasurer Workshop

All Division Secretary-Treasurers, Division Presidents, State Legislative Board Secretary-Treasurers and General Committee of Adjustment Secretary-Treasurers are invited to attend. Attendance is limited to the first 25 who register and those who are interested should register as soon as possible. You must register for the workshop online through the BLET website at: www.ble-t.org/st.

Local Chairman Workshop

To attend this workshop, you must be a current Local Chairman or a member of the Local Committee of Adjustment, and have completed the first Local Chairman workshop, or have been in the position of Local Chairman for several years. If you are a Local Chairman who has not attended the first class but still wish to attend, please contact Jason Wright at (216) 286-4447. Such requests will be reviewed on an individual basis.

BLET officers who are interested in registering for the workshop may do so online at www.ble-t.org/lcadvance. Applicants will be sent an email confirmation with more details and hotel reservation information after the National Division has received your online application.
Lockeotive Engineers & Trainmen News

Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen

1370 Ontario Street, Mezzanine Cleveland, OH 44113-1702

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Volume 28

NORFOLK SOUTHERN GOES GREEN, RED & BLUE: Running along the NS Central of Georgia district on April 13, 2014, NS freight train 3M is being pulled by the only two specialty painted locomotives on the NS SD60E roster. The green scheme represents “GoRail,” a NS initiative that began in 2007.

LIFE AND ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND DISMEMBERMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS UNDER BLET NATIONAL AGREEMENT

Active and retired railroad employees covered under the Railroad Employees’ National Health and Welfare Plan may be eligible for Life and Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) benefits from MetLife. For eligible active employees covered by the above policy, the death benefit is $20,000, and there may be an additional AD&D benefit that could pay up to $16,000, should circumstances permit. For eligible retired employees, the death benefit is $2,000.

To file a claim, a potential beneficiary must provide the name, birth date, Social Security number, and death certificate of the railroad employee. For active employees, the covered family member is the beneficiary. For retired employees, the beneficiary must be designated on the applicable beneficiary form.

In August 2014, MetLife released new Life and AD&D forms to all BLET members. The new forms include a beneficiary form that must be completed to designate a beneficiary for the death benefit.

To file a claim, a potential beneficiary must provide the name, birth date, Social Security number, death certificate of the railroad employee, and complete the appropriate beneficiary form.

For more information, please visit the BLET website or contact MetLife at 1-800-777-7777.

The completion and submission of the new beneficiary form is required to ensure that MetLife can properly process the claim and provide the appropriate benefit to the beneficiary.

In addition, MetLife has modified its policies and procedures to better accommodate the needs of families of eligible railroad employees.

MetLife is committed to providing prompt and efficient service to all potential beneficiaries in order to ensure that they receive the appropriate benefit and support during this difficult time.

For more information, please visit the BLET website or contact MetLife at 1-800-777-7777.