BLET relaunches Perrien Fund to assist members with Hurricane Harvey relief

On August 30, the BLET’s National Division Advisory Board approved a recommendation from BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce to re-activate and expand its Gary Perrien Fund to provide financial assistance to members living in Texas and Louisiana who have been the hardest hit by Hurricane Harvey.

The Gary Perrien Fund was originally established by action of the delegates at BLET’s Second National Convention in 2010. Brother Gary Perrien, then an active member serving on the Convention’s Arrangements Committee, fell ill and the delegates passed the hat to assist in his recovery. In a televised report back to the convention from his hospital bed, Brother Perrien asked that the funds be used to help those more needy than him, leading the delegates and the Advisory Board to later create the Gary Perrien Fund. Brother Perrien recovered and retired in the years following the 2010 Convention. As part of the expansion of the Fund, the BLET Advisory Board also authorized Brother Pedigo reports that members from at least 10 BLET Division have been impacted by the storm, including members whose homes are a total loss. Texas National Guard soldiers arrive in Houston, Texas to aid citizens in heavily flooded areas from the storms of Hurricane Harvey. Photo: Lt. Zachary West, 100th MPAD

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The Advisory Board has also asked all members serving on the Convention’s Arrangements Committee, fell ill and the delegates passed the hat to assist in his recovery. In a televised report back to the convention from his hospital bed, Brother Perrien asked that the funds be used to help those more needy than him, leading the delegates and the Advisory Board to later create the Gary Perrien Fund. Brother Pedigo reports that members from at least 10 BLET Division have been impacted by the storm, including members whose homes are a total loss. Texas National Guard soldiers arrive in Houston, Texas to aid citizens in heavily flooded areas from the storms of Hurricane Harvey. Photo: Lt. Zachary West, 100th MPAD

Perrien fund raising effort on behalf of the Union’s members harmed by the storm. “BLET members have suffered catastrophic losses as a result of the storm,” President Pierce said. “The union movement is built around members helping members, and the National Division is starting this fund raising program in an effort to help as many members as possible.”

The Advisory Board has also asked all BLET General Committees of Adjustment, State Legislative Boards, Divisions, and individual members to make matching donations to at least double the size of its initial contribution. “We know that there are members who want to assist their Brothers and Sisters who have been harmed by the storm,” President Pierce said. “One hundred percent of the money raised through this effort will go directly to as many members as possible.”

In addition, the Advisory Board also approved President Pierce’s recommendation that BLET make a matching $20,000.00 donation to the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Disaster Relief Fund. “This fund was established to assist as many Teamster Brothers and Sisters as possible, and we were proud to join in that effort,” President Pierce said.

On behalf of the Advisory Board, President Dennis Pierce also thanked Brother Gary Pedigo, Chairman of BLET’s Texas State Legislative Board, for reaching out to the National Division and requesting that action be taken to assist our BLET Brothers and Sisters in their time of need. Brother Pedigo reports that members from at least 10 BLET Division have been impacted by the storm, including members whose homes are a total loss.

To make an online donation to the Gary Perrien Fund, the National Division has established the following website to accept contributions from General Committees of Adjustment, State Legislative Boards, Divisions, and individual members: www.ble-t.org/perrien

Also, checks can be made payable to the “Gary Perrien Medical Relief Fund” and mailed to:

Perrien Fund–Harvey Relief
BLET National Division
7961 East Pleasant Valley Road
Independence, OH 44131

Donations are not tax deductible. BLET members impacted by Hurricane Harvey can begin the process of applying for Perrien Fund assistance by contacting Kelly Row of the BLET National Division at rowe@ble-t.org. Only BLET members in good standing at the time of the disaster are eligible to apply for assistance from the Perrien Fund. BLET members living in certain Texas counties are also eligible to apply for assistance from the Teamsters Disaster Relief Fund (see page 8).

“I must say it again, for over 154 years now, our Brotherhood has existed on the principle of members helping members,” President Pierce said. “I challenge all our General Committees of Adjustment, State Legislative Boards, Divisions, and individual members to continue that tradition today by helping our Brothers and Sisters in Texas and Louisiana during their time of need.”
A s this edition of the Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen News goes to print, it is appropriate to look back and reflect on this year’s BLET Regional Meetings. In August, the BLET held a Regional Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, where approximately 335 members, family members and friends registered to attend. There were several moments that stand out from the meeting: one of the most rewarding for me was meeting BLET Division 226 member Sultan Holmes who serves in the National Guard.

Brother Holmes was in San Antonio as part of his service to our great Nation, and when he found out from his Local Chairman Sean Simon that the BLET Regional Meeting was in town, he made it a point to stop by and meet with the Officers and members in attendance. It is clear to me that we must do more to not only recognize our Brothers and Sisters who are on active duty, but also those who stand ready to serve if called upon.

An even greater resource to the Union movement are the BLET Brothers and Sisters who are military veterans, having served our country and then moved on to civilian life as railroad employees. Our Brotherhood benefits from the involvement of all members, but our military veterans bring with them tools that can only come from serving in the military and, I, for one, believe that the BLET is stronger if veterans are more involved in it. My recommendation to the National Division members is a simple one — we need your help and your involvement to make a better workplace for all BLET members, so please join us in our efforts.

That same message was echoed by CSS General Chairman Gary Best at our Regional Meeting in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, just a few short weeks ago, where again over 360 members, family members and friends registered to attend. The long line of military veterans in Brother Gary’s family have sacrificed time and time again for our Nation, and his recognition of those veterans in the audience brought home to all in attendance just how important it is that we recognize their service. That service is what keeps us free to pursue the American Dream, something that we can never take for granted.

One of the other key components of the BLET’s Regional Meetings is our Education and Training program. All combined at both Meetings, some 285 members and officers attended training classes put on by the National Division for Local Chairmen, Legislative Representatives and Secretary-Treasurers. Strong local officers and members are the backbone of a strong union, and it was truly moving to see so many Brothers and Sisters take time from their busy schedules to get the training they need to make them the best that they can be.

I was also very moved by the comments and remarks that were made during the Opening Ceremonies of both Regional Meetings. While one Facebook post captured our opening ceremonies “pomp and circumstance” in less than a flattering way, the message that was shared with all who attended was far from that; in fact it was just the opposite.

If there was one common theme that every speaker called for, it was their call for action by BLET members. Each of our Guest Speakers — former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julian Castro, U.S. House of Representatives Assistant Democratic Leader Jim Clyburn, Teamsters Eastern Region Vice President Sean O’Brien and retired AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Linda Chavez Thompson — spoke about the importance of members having a direct impact on their futures by getting involved in their unions. There cannot be an effective union without active members, and our strength is definitely dependent upon a strong and active membership.

Our closed member-only meetings at both Regional Meetings also were well attended, and that portion of the meetings serves an equally important role. Our current BLET Bylaws, and even BLET’s former Constitution, caution members to keep our internal deliberations private to the membership. It goes without saying that there are those in Corporate America working against our goals, and it is imperative that we have regular closed door member-only meetings so that we can freely discuss the issues that confront us on any given day.

That was the case at both Regional Meetings; the members present were given updates on the important issues of the day, including ongoing national freight contract negotiations, as well as the changing role of government and its impact on our railroad operations. All members present at these meetings were given the opportunity to seek answers to the questions that they had, as well as the questions that their Brothers and Sisters back home had sent with them. The members present also provided our National Division officers with the benefit of their experiences in taking current on what is happening in the workplace on each railroad that information that was gathered at these meetings is just as important as the information that we shared. Taken together, this two-way exchange of information makes for a stronger union as we all work together for our common goals. Without diminishing the importance of our open and closed meetings, or our Education and Training programs, of equal importance is our chance at our Regional Meetings to come together as Brothers and Sisters in our fellowship. Our railroad jobs are very unique; there are only about 40,000 Locomotive Engineers and 60,000 Trainmen in our great nation, out of a current national population of over 325,000,000 million Americans. We are a highly trained and specialized group, and I don’t have to tell you that in some cases, our family and friends will never understand what we do or why we are gone so much to do it.

BLET’s Regional Meeting program is one place where you can come and be with not only your peers, but with other rail-road operating employees who live the same life that you lead. Every time I attend our Regional Meetings, I come away re-minded of the work that we must do, but also re-energized to do that work. As I said at both meetings, the outcome of any battle is never guaranteed, but the level of the fight necessary to prevail in that battle, and we need the involvement of all BLET members in that fight.

As our national freight contract negotiations enter the final steps of the Railway Labor Act, it is even more critical that all members get involved. Bargaining rounds are never easy, but this one has been especially difficult for many reasons. Join me get involved in our BLET.org to work together as we work to close the bargaining round out. The outcome very well may come down to the strength of the message that we collectively send to all participating in and watching the process.

Denis R. Pierce
BLET National President

Building A Stronger Brotherhood

An even greater resource to the Union movement are the BLET Brothers and Sisters who are military veterans, having served our country and then moved on to civilian life as railroad employees. Our Brotherhood benefits from the involvement of all members, but our military veterans bring with them tools that can only come from serving in the military and, I, for one, believe that the BLET is stronger if veterans are more involved in it.
Proposal Gets Serious About Good-Paying Jobs

To create good jobs that will fuel economic expansion, our country needs to have a well-trained workforce. The Democrats’ “A Better Deal” proposal calls for an increase in registered apprenticeships and work-based learning programs by doubling federal funding for them.

James P. Hoffa
Teamsters General President

1. EMPLOYER’S RIGHTS

A. Any employee covered by a union or agency shop agreement in the Unit-
   States shall have the legal right to be or re-
   main a member of the Union. Non-
   members have the legal right (1) to object to paying for Union activities not
   related to collective bargaining, contract
   administration and grievance ad-
   ministration, and to obtain a reduction in
   fees for such activities; (2) to be given
   sufficient information to intelligently
   decide whether to object; and (3) to be
   provided with internal Union procedures
   for filing objections. Employees who
   choose to object have the right to be
   apprised of internal Union procedures
   related to collective bargaining, con-
   tract administration, and grievance
   administration.

2. PUBLICATION OF POLICY

Publication expenses to the ex-

B. All expenses concerning the ad-

C. Convention expenses and other

D. Social activities and union busi-

E. Expenses of litigation related to

F. Expenses for legislative and ad-

G. Expenses for administrative

H. Arbitration of Challenges

1. After the close of appeals period, the

2. BLET shall report the determin-

3. The National Division shall have

4. The arbitrator shall determine con-

5. BLET shall engage an outside

6. The arbitrator shall file a brief for

7. Challenge Procedure

8. Each person entitled to receive

9. Payment of Reduced Fees

10. Escrow of Disputed Funds

All monthly fees paid by objects shall be placed in an interest bearing escrow account pending final deter-

Pursuant to Internal Revenue Service Notice 88-120, all BLET members are advised as follows: Due, contributions or gifts to BLET are not deductible for charitable contributions. However, dues may be deductible as ordinary and necessary business expenses, except for that portion that is allocable to BLET’s lobbying and political activities.

James P. Hoffa
Teamsters General President

5. DETERMINATION OF CHARGEABLE SHARE

The BLET shall engage an outside

6. The arbitration shall commence

A. The union has the legal right to be or remain a

B. The arbitrator shall have control

C. Appellants shall have the right to file a brief within

D. A copy of the transcript shall be provided for

E. All objectors shall pay their fair share

F. The BLET shall report the determi-

G. The arbitrator shall make a transcript of all proceedings before

H. Appeals may be taken to the district appellate court on

I. The arbitrator shall have full con-

J. Escrowed funds shall be disbursed to ob-

K. The arbitrator shall have the legal right to be or remain a

L. Appeals are final and may not be

M. BLET shall make a transcript of

N. The arbitrator shall have the legal right to be or remain a

O. Any employee covered by a

P. The arbitrator shall have the legal right to be or remain a

Q. After the close of appeals period, the

R. All objectors shall pay their fair share

S. Any employee covered by a union or agency shop agreement in the Unit-

T. Any employee covered by a

U. Any employee covered by a union or agency shop agreement in the Unit-

V. Any employee covered by a union or agency shop agreement in the Unit-

W. Any employee covered by a union or agency shop agreement in the Unit-

X. Any employee covered by a union or agency shop agreement in the Unit-

Y. Any employee covered by a union or agency shop agreement in the Unit-

Z. Any employee covered by a union or agency shop agreement in the Unit-

AA. BLET shall provide a list of appellants to the Amer-

BB. BLET’s report may challenge the valid-

CC. Appeals may be taken to the district appellate court on

DD. Any employee covered by an

EE. Appeals may be taken to the district appellate court on

FF. Appeals are final and may not be

GG. After the close of appeals period, the

HH. Any employee covered by a union or agency shop agreement in the Unit-

II. Any employee covered by a union or agency shop agreement in the Unit-

JJ. Appeals may be taken to the district appellate court on

KK. Appeals are final and may not be

LL. Appeals may be taken to the district appellate court on

MM. Appeals are final and may not be

NN. Appeals may be taken to the district appellate court on

OO. Appeals are final and may not be

PP. Appeals are final and may not be

QQ. Appeals are final and may not be

RR. Appeals are final and may not be

SS. Appeals are final and may not be

TT. Appeals are final and may not be

UU. Appeals are final and may not be

VV. Appeals are final and may not be

WW. Appeals are final and may not be

XX. Appeals are final and may not be

YY. Appeals are final and may not be

ZZ. Appeals are final and may not be

AAAA. Appeals are final and may not be
Keith Kerley elected by acclamation to serve as CSXT Western Lines General Chairman

Keith Kerley was elected by acclamation to serve as General Chairman of the BLET’s CSXT Western Lines General Committee of Adjustment at the GCA’s quadrennial meeting in Gatlinburg, Tenn., on July 19, 2017. A CSXT locomotive engineer, Brother Kerley has been a proud member of BLET Division 782 (Etowah, Tenn.) since October of 1998. Immediately prior to his election to the General Chairman’s office, Brother Kerley served as Senior Vice General Chairman of the CSXT Western Lines GCA. Outgoing General Chairman Matt A. Thornton retired on July 18, 2017.

Also elected were: 1st Vice General Chairman David W. Engle, Division 463 (Corbin, Ky.); Eastern Regional Chairman Jason P. Cornett, Division 829 (Ravenna, Ky.); Western Regional Chairman A. Lee Tate, Division 129 (Nashville, Tenn.); South Regional Chairman Rod D. Crossby, Division 495 (Montgomery, Ala.); and North Regional Chairman John V. Pedro, Division 26 (Richmond, Va.). Elected by acclamation were: Secretary-Treasurer Gil L. Gore, who is assigned to the CSX Lines since October of 1998.

The delegates also elected the following Alternate officers: 2nd Vice General Chairman Steven Kiser, Division 698 (Ashland, Ky.); 3rd Vice General Chairman Justin B. Deanz, Division 365 (Louisville, Ky.); 4th Vice General Chairman Michael S. Edwards, Division 781 (Etowah, Tenn.); and 5th Vice General Chairman Mitchell K. Turner, Division 101 (Hinton, W.Va.).

Representing the National Division at the meeting was National Vice President Matt Thornton. Thank you, Brother Matt, for your years of dedicated service to our Brotherhood.

Additional special guests at the meeting included retired General Chairman Matt Thornton and Brother Rick Johnson, a retired member of Division 101 who served as Parliamentarian.

Brother Kerley hired out on CSXT in September of 1998, and has worked his entire railroad career on the AP/KD Sub Division between Etowah, Tennessee, and Corbin, Kentucky, primarily as a locomotive engineer. He transferred into engine service in November of 1999 after working as a conductor for just over one year. Although cut back to train service after completing the Apprentice Engineer program until 2001, he has held continuous membership in BLET Division 782 since October of 1998.

Prior to his election as Local Chairman in December of 2009, Brother Kerley served Division 782 in numerous elected offices over the years, including Alternate Legislative Representative, Vice President, President and Vice Local Chairman. In 2013, he was elected as the Senior Vice General Chairman for the CSXT Western Lines GCA, a position he held until he was elevated to General Chairman. Brother Kerley and his wife Tammy have been married for 30 years and they have one daughter, Hannah.

The CSXT Western Lines General Committee of Adjustment represents approximately 2,500 active members from 26 BLET Divisions who work for CSX, the Indiana Road Rail Company, and the Terminal Railway Alabama State Docks.

NEW ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND DISMEMBERMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS PROVIDED BY BLET

The BLET National Division provides all active and retired members with an Accident Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) benefit at no cost to the member. The National Division is pleased to announce that as of June 1, 2017, this benefit is now being provided through Berkley Accident and Health Insurance Company, a top-rated insurer with an AM Best Financial Strength Rating of Aa1 (Superior). As of July 1, 2017, the $4,000 AD&D policy previously provided by the BLET, through American Income Life (AIL), will be terminated.

The Accident Death and Dismemberment benefit remains $4,000 for every active and retired member. This benefit is now being administered by Cornerstone Benefits Management (Cornerstone). A beneficiary designation card will be mailed to all members in the coming weeks. If members wish to designate beneficiaries prior to the mailing, they can do so online by completing a beneficiary designation form at http://www.uniondisability.com/blet-AD&D. Completing and returning your beneficiary designation will not result in any contest from Cornerstone, unless you request additional information.

In addition to the $4,000 AD&D benefit, the BLET and Cornerstone are currently working to create a new suite of voluntary insurance products. These additional products are being created by the BLET to give active, dues paying members and their families an affordable way to minimize the financial hardship often resulting from an accident, illness or loss of a loved one.

These additional benefits will be available strictly on a voluntary basis to all active members and there is no obligation to purchase them. The BLET-provided AD&D coverage is an important benefit for all active and retired members. Unfortunately, some active members and retired members, as well as their family members, may not be fully aware of this coverage. Therefore, BLET members are asked to post this notice at appropriate work locations on their property in order to help us get the word out regarding this benefit.

For more information on the policy or how to submit an AD&D claim, call Cornerstone at (847) 387-3555 or email info@uniondisability.com.
BLET’s DC State Legislative Board concludes 4th Quadrennial Meeting

On July 25, 2017, the BLET’s District of Columbia State Legislative Board held its 4th Quadrennial Meeting at the International Brotherhood of Teamsters headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Brother Herbert Harris, Jr. was reelected by acclamation to a fourth term as Chairman. Brother Harris is an Amtrak locomotive engineer and member of BLET Division 482 (District of Columbia). He has been a BLET member since 1997 and was first elected Chairman in 2005.

“The DC SLB will continue to advocate for a strong national passenger rail system,” Chairman Harris said. “We are also committed to empowering our members to become active citizens on issues that affect safety and their families.”

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 Secretary-Treasurer William F. Broadus, Division 482 (Washington, D.C.). Elected by acclamation to serve on the Audit Committee were: Chris Edgerton, Division 482 (Washington, D.C.); Ryan Ruddell, Division 14 (Washington, D.C.); and Todd Woollam, Division 14 (Washington, D.C.).

National President Dennis R. Pierce addressed the meeting and discussed the many issues facing the Brotherhood and organized labor.

“I am pleased to offer my congratulations to Brother Herb Harris and all officers of the District of Columbia State Legislative Board,” President Pierce said. “I also thank them for making the time to serve the BLET. These Brothers play a key leadership role for the passenger and commuter members in our Brotherhood.”

First Vice President E. Lee Pruitt discussed on-going challenges and the usage of inward facing cameras on locomotives. Vice President and National Legislative Representative John P. Tolman briefed officers on congressional and legislative issues, and the importance of the upcoming 2018 elections. Vice President Tolman also discussed Amtrak funding and operational issues.

Leif Dormo, Director-Department of Transportation, discussed the newly-completed state rail plan and on-going railroad expansion projects in the District of Columbia.

Also in attendance were: Timothy Craver, Virginia State Legislative Board Chairman; Chris Dort, DC SLB Secretary-Treasurer; Herbert Harris Jr., DC SLB Chairman, William F. Broadus, DC SLB Asst. Secretary-Treasurer; Carlyle Smith, DC SLB 2nd Vice Chairman; and Peter J. Sullivan, DC SLB Audit Committee.

Members and guests attending the BLET District of Columbia State Legislative Board meeting on July 25, 2017. From left: Chris Edgerton, DC SLB Audit Committee; Timothy Craver, Virginia State Legislative Board Chairman; Chris Dort, DC SLB Secretary-Treasurer; Herbert Harris Jr., DC SLB Chairman, William F. Broadus, DC SLB Asst. Secretary-Treasurer; Carlyle Smith, DC SLB 2nd Vice Chairman; and Peter J. Sullivan, DC SLB Audit Committee.

The BLET’s DC State Legislative Board is the only state legislative board comprised entirely of passenger and commuter locomotive engineers.
BLET concludes Myrtle Beach regional meeting

On August 15, more than 360 members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen and their families convened in Myrtle Beach, S.C., for opening ceremonies of the BLET’s second regional meeting of 2017. BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce called the meeting to order. After presentation of flags by members of the Coast Guard from the Coast Guard base in Charleston, retired BLET National Vice President Paul L. Wingo delivered the invocation. Brother Wingo is a member of BLET Division 198 (Chattanooga, Tenn.) and he served as National Vice President from 2002 until his retirement in 2006. He has been a BLET member for 48 years.

President Pierce then welcomed all members, families and guests to Myrtle Beach. He introduced members of the BLET Advisory Board who were in attendance, and thanked National Vice President Jim Louis, Special Representative Matt Kronyk and Special Representative Jason Wright for their work in managing and organizing the regional meeting. President Pierce also recognized and thanked the regional meeting arrangements committee members who provided local support: Chris R. Hyde, Vice General Chairman of the CSX-Eastern Lines General Committee of Adjustment; Cecil E. Dubport; Chris R. Hyde, Vice General Chairman of Division 59 Committee of Adjustment; Cecil E. Dubport; Jason Wright for their work in managing the regional meeting arrangements committee.

“The national ‘right-to-work’ law current in Congress, as the latest threat to organized labor. I am not exaggerating when I say that H.R. 785 is an attack on the labor movement unlike any seen in this country since Ronald Reagan wiped out the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization in 1981,” President Pierce said. “The bottom line is that anti-union/anti-worker politicians want unions to go away as soon as they do, union contracts which provide greater pay, greater benefits and working conditions go away with them. Many of our members do not realize that without a union and a union contract, there is no seniority roster or seniority district. Pay rates are decided by the boss, in many cases without regard to anything but personal favoritism and nepotism. There are no work rules that limit what you can be forced to do for a day’s pay; insurance is only provided to the extent required by government, and if you complain about any of this, you are terminated without the hearing and arbitration process that your contract currently provides you.”

“We need all hands on deck, and we need to educate our membership exactly how stark are the risks we face if we don’t mount an historic struggle. But I can’t do this job alone… I need your help to spread the word, and the help of every BLET member who is willing to pitch in and do their part.”

President Pierce then introduced guest speaker Congressman James E. Clyburn (D-SC), who has represented South Carolina’s 6th Congressional District since 1993. Clyburn was previously House Majority Whip, serving in that post from 2007 to 2011. As Assistant Democratic Leader, Clyburn is the third-ranking Democrat in the House behind House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Minority Whip Steny Hoyer.

Rep. Clyburn stressed the need for our unions to conduct themselves with dignity and honor. He received more than one standing ovation for his moving and emotional speech.

Walt Barrows, Labor Member of the Railroad Retirement Board, was the final speaker on the morning agenda. Barrows discussed the health of the Railroad Retirement system. He encouraged members and their unions to maintain constant vigilance to protect the Railroad Retirement system.

“We have a pension plan that is solvent and well worth fighting for,” Barrows said. “Politicians need to keep their hands off it.”

The opening ceremony also included a memorial, during which the names of all BLET members killed in the line of duty since 1989 were shown in a solemn video presentation.

The August 15 afternoon session included a closed meeting for BLET members and an open meeting hosted by the BLET Auxiliary. Members took advantage of educational opportunities through the remainder of the week, completing specialized training classes for BLET Legislative Representatives, Secretary-Treasurers and Local Chairmen.

Next year, the BLET will host regional meetings in Monterey, California (June 18-22, 2018) and Washington, D.C. (August 13-17, 2018). More specific information is coming soon...
SAVE THE DATES!

MONTEREY & WASHINGTON D.C. WILL HOST BLET FOR 2018 REGIONAL MEETINGS

JUNE 18-22
Monterey, California

AUGUST 13-17
Washington, D.C.

The BLET National Division is hosting two regional meetings in 2018, and they are as follows: June 18-22 in Monterey, California; and August 13-17 in Washington, D.C. The Monterey regional meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency and the Washington, D.C. regional will be held at the Capital Hilton.

As with the 2017 regional meetings, the 2018 meetings will be arranged on a Monday through Friday schedule. Travel to the meeting, registration and a welcome reception for each of the two meetings will be on Monday (June 18 for Monterey and August 13 for Washington, D.C.). Meetings, training classes and other events will be scheduled throughout the remainder of the week and will include a closing banquet on Thursday night. Travel home is on Friday for each meeting (June 22 for Monterey and August 17 for Washington, D.C.).

Per the BLET Bylaws, regional meetings are held “for the purposes of membership training, education and discussion of matters of importance to the membership.” Additionally, the meetings are structured to include options for fellowship with other members and their families, entertainment, fun and relaxation.

More specific details will be announced at a later date. Registration information will be available online at the BLET National Division’s regional meeting website (www.bletregionals.org). All members are encouraged to attend one or both of these regional meetings in 2018.

SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT

for

BROTHERHOOD OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS AND TRAINMEN
DISABILITY AND WELFARE BENEFIT TRUST FUND

This is a summary of the annual report for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen Disability and Welfare Benefit Trust Fund, 30-0262584/501, for 01/01/2016 through 12/31/2016. The annual report has been filed with the Employee Benefits Security Administration as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

The plan has contracts with Metropolitan Life Insurance Company to pay certain claims incurred under the terms of the plan. The total premiums paid for the plan year ending 12/31/2016 were $6,542,450.

The value of plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan, was $11,197,192 as of 12/31/2016 compared to $10,371,597 as of 01/01/2016. During the plan year the plan experienced an increase in its net assets of $825,595. This increase includes unrealized appreciation or depreciation in the value of plan assets, that is, the difference between the value of the plan’s assets at the end of the year and the value of the assets at the beginning of the year or the cost of assets acquired during the year. The plan had total income of $7,368,045, including employer contributions of $6,243,400, employee contributions of $700,938, gains of $40,800 from the sale of assets, and earnings from investments of $382,907. Plan expenses were $6,542,450. These expenses included $422,992 in administrative expenses and $6,119,458 to insurance carriers for the provision of benefits.

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YOUR RIGHTS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

You have the right to receive a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, on request. The items listed below are included in that report:

1. An accountant’s report;
2. Financial information and information on payments to service providers;
3. Assets held for investment; and
4. Insurance information, including sales commissions paid by insurance carriers.

To obtain a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, write or call the office of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, who is Plan Administrator, at 7061 East Pleasant Valley Road, Independence, OH 44131 and at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C., or obtain a copy from the U.S. Department of Labor upon payment of copying costs.

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You have the right to receive a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, on request. The items listed below are included in that report:

1. An accountant’s report;
2. Financial information and information on payments to service providers;
3. Assets held for investment; and
4. Insurance information, including sales commissions paid by insurance carriers.

To obtain a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, write or call the office of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, who is Plan Administrator, at 7061 East Pleasant Valley Road, Independence, OH 44131, (216) 241-2630. The charge to cover copying costs will be $4.50 per page for the full annual report, or $0.25 per page for any part thereof.

You also have the right to receive from the plan administrator, on request and at no charge, a statement of income and expenses and a statement of matters of importance to the membership training, education and discussion of matters of importance to the membership. Additionally, the meetings are structured to include options for fellowship with other members and their families, entertainment, fun and relaxation.

More specific details will be announced at a later date. Registration information will be available online at the BLET National Division’s regional meeting website (www.bletregionals.org). All members are encouraged to attend one or both of these regional meetings in 2018.
Lorethenticare And Trainsmen News
Brotherhood Of Locomotive Engineers And Trainmen
7061 East Pleasant Valley Road
Independence, Ohio 44131

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Advertise information in Broth- hood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen newsletter.

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To advertise, contact: Editor John Bentley at (216) 241-2630, ext. 248, or you can email: Bentley@ble-t.org.

Please note only high resolution images can be used. Members are also encouraged to review their employers’ policies regarding the use of cameras and other electronic devices while on duty.

Teammates offer disaster relief assistance in Texas

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters is offering Disas- ter Relief assistance to members living in Texas after Hurricane Harvey damaged homes and property from August 25–27, 2017.

Available from the BLET website are Teamster “Disaster Relief Alert Notices” and “Request for Help” forms. If you live in the affected area and experienced a loss due to this FEMA-declared major disas- ter, please download and fill out the forms.

For questions, contact the Teamsters Disas- ter Relief Fund office at telephone (216) 241-2630, ext. 248, or you can email: Bentley@ble-t.org.

Please note only high resolution images can be used. Members are also encouraged to review their employers' policies regarding the use of cameras and other electronic devices while on duty.

Help form from the BLET website: www.ble-t.org/disaster

Send the request to the BLET National Disaster Relief Fund office at telephone (216) 241-2630, ext. 248, or you can email: Bentley@ble-t.org.

In August 2017, the National Division’s website, www.ble-t.org, was updated with new disaster relief information. For questions regarding the application processing, Teamsters Disaster Relief Resources can be contacted.

To help increase awareness of this valuable benefit, members who live and work in the affected areas are asked to print and post these Disaster Relief No- tices at their places of work. These notices are archived on the BLET National Division’s website, www.ble-t.org/disaster.

Also, members are advised that the BLET National Division does not administer this program. Questions regarding the application processing or other inquiries should be directed to the Teamsters Disas- ter Relief Fund office at telephone number provided above.

WWW.TEAMSTER.ORG/BENEFITS/DISASTER-RELIEF

8 AUGUST 2017