In December, the BLET Safety Task Force (STF) dispatched two teams of responders to assist the National Transportation Safety Board with investigations following derailments in Cas- selton, N.D., and Keithville, La. On December 30, a BNSF Railway grain train derailed and a train traveling in the opposite direction carrying crude oil struck the derailment and derailed. There was a significant post-crash fire, which sparked the evacuation of 2,300 residents within a five-mile radius of the derailment site. BLET Safety Task Force responder D.B. Kenner, Division 195 (Forsyth, Mont.), represented the BLET as part of the NTSB investigation. The wind chill factor at the accident scene was about 34 degrees below zero. Following the Casselton derailment, an NTSB accident summary reported that 400,000 of crude oil spilled, making it one of the largest rail-related oil spills in the U.S. Also on December 30, a Union Pacific train collided with a parked BNSF train near Keithville, La. Multiple crew members were injured, according to media reports. BLET Safety Task Force responders Russell Elley, Division 197 (San Antonio, Texas) and Timothy Dickerson, Division 216 (Tampa, Fla.) represented the BLET during the NTSB investigation.

The BLET Safety Task Force assists federal agencies in the investigation of rail accidents, helping to determine probable causes and making safety recommendations. The STF will study the accident from the viewpoint of locomotive engineers and trainmen to help determine how the accident occurred and how to prevent similar accidents from happening in the future. The NTSB will handle release of details regarding these derailments as the on-site investigation unfolds.

A MASS TRANSIT SUPER BOWL

The NFL’s grand finale this year is being called the “mass transit” Super Bowl. It will be played at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., on February 2, 2014. Fans are being encouraged to take trains to Super Bowl XLVIII — particularly New Jersey Transit and Amtrak — so it’ll be up to the professional members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen to get everyone to and from the game in a safe and efficient manner. Here, an Amtrak Acela trainset and a NJ Transit train observe a station stop at Linden, N.J. Photo: courtesy Chase Gunnoe

STF Teams Launched

Safety Task Force dispatched to North Dakota oil train fire, Louisiana derailment

BLET members to keep Health FSA plan for 2014

Members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen will keep their Health Flexible Spending Accounts (Health FSA) through 2014 thanks to an increased level of participation in the money-saving plan.

A negotiated benefit obtained in the 2012 National Agreement, the Health FSA allows members 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. The plan could allow members to save hundreds of dollars per year in taxes. The 2012 Agreement stipulates that at least 5% of eligible engineers must participate in the Health FSA in the 2014 Plan Year or the Carriers would have the right to terminate the plan. Following the conclusion of the Open Enrollment for 2014, 8.45% of eligible BLET members had enrolled in the program. In 2015 and future Plan Years, participation levels must reach and maintain a minimum of 7.5%.

Except as noted at the end of this paragraph, members eligible for the plan include locomotive engineers and Tex-Mex train service employees covered by the Health & Welfare portion of the most recent National Agreement, dated January 5, 2012. The national Health FSA is distinct and separate from the on-property BNSF Health FSA plan. The participation rates identified in this News Flash do not apply to BNSF engineers. BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce thanked all BLET members who are participating in the plan and credited the efforts of the BLET’s National Mobilization network and the grass-roots approach of our local officers for helping to organize the Railroad to reach the necessary participation level this year. He also encouraged more members to sign up for the 2015 Plan Year and beyond.

“I believe this is a good program that will help members save money,” President Pierce said. “I am optimistic that participation levels will increase as members spread the word about its benefits and become more familiar with the positive aspects of the plan.”
A LOOK BACK AT 2013

With the year 2013 now behind us, I am proud to look back at our many accomplishments during the past year. It was truly a remarkable and historic year for our Brotherhood.

Fittingly, the year drew to a close with my attendance at a Brotherhood meeting in the field. Following through on my commitment to attend as many regular Division and Town Hall meetings as possible, it was my pleasure to participate in a Town Hall meeting hosted by BNSF Division in Kansas City, Mo., on December 10, followed by another Town Hall meeting and retirement luncheon on December 11 hosted by the UP Divisions representing the Kansas City Hub.

I was proud to represent the National Division at these Town Hall meetings, where many of the future leaders of our Brotherhood were on hand to honor the careers of several dedicated retirees. These young Brothers and Sisters are steadily gaining experience and wisdom necessary to take the throttle of leadership and power our Brotherhood into the next century. It was a pleasure to do my part in helping nourish the growth of our future strength, and also to recognize the contributions of the generation of members that are reaching retirement age.

The year 2013 also saw our historic 150th anniversary. It was a significant milestone not only for the BLET, but for the entire labor movement. As the oldest labor union in North America, we proudly marked our 150th anniversary on May 8, 2013, with a day-long celebration featuring 24 guest speakers and a commemorative 150th anniversary video.

It was our goal to have a multi-district-wide celebration that recognized not just the contributions of the Brotherhood, but more importantly the contributions of the proud members, active and retired, who are the backbone of the union. Our guest speakers in Detroit included other union Presidents, carrier officers, and regulatory agency directors.

We succeeded in creating one day in 150 years where every multi-district spokesperson in attendance publicly recognized and hailed the contribution that the men and women of the BLET make to the industry, the nation’s commerce, and to building a strong middle class America. From each and every speaker, we heard personal stories about the ways in which the BLET and its membership had made a difference, and are still making a difference. That to me was especially rewarding, because there is no union without the membership.

To me, honoring the contributions of our Brothers and Sisters today as well as those who came before us over the past century was the highlight of our anniversary celebration.

We selected Detroit as the host city for our celebration because that’s where we were founded in 1863. Members who could not make it to Detroit were still included in our anniversary celebration. All active and retired members were mailed a BLET history book and a specially designed key chain to commemorate the Brotherhood’s historic achievement.

This summer, we bid a fond, yet bittersweet farewell to three of our retired leaders. Vice President William Knight, Special Representative Jim Bradford, and Special Representative and Coordinator of Education & Training Ken Kroeger retired. The National Division lost 135 years of institutional knowledge and experience when those three Brothers retired, and they are now enjoying a well-earned and much deserved retirement. Thankfully new leaders are stepping forward each day in our Brotherhood, and I am just as proud of the new Brothers and Sisters on our team today as I was over summer when we first welcomed them aboard. Our members are all benefitting from the dedication and hard work of National Vice President Rick Gibbons, Special Representative Megan Mead, and Special Representative and Coordinator of Education & Training Jason Wright, as well as Temporary Special Representative Matt Kranyak and Kevin Sexton.

It was not all pomp and circumstance during 2013, however. Apart from the festivities, your elected BLET leadership spent much of the year fighting for safety improvements, and the two main themes throughout the year were Positive Train Control and two-person crews.

Sadly, it often takes a major tragedy before the public at large pays attention to railroad safety. Such was the case on July 6, 2013, when a train carrying crude oil derailed in the town of Lac-Megantic, Quebec. The resulting fireball completely engulfed the town’s core and caused 47 fatalities. The train was operated by a lone employee.

In response, the BLET strongly and publicly denounced the operation of trains by a single-person crew. Working jointly with the SMART Transportation Division (former UTU), we successfully lobbied Congress to introduce sweeping legislation that would mandate by federal law that two qualified individuals are in the cab of each freight train operating in the United States. The Safe Freight Act, H.R. 3040, was introduced by Michael Michaud (D-ME) and Chellie Pingree (D-ME) on August 2. In late November, the BLET and SMART-TD jointly lobbied on Capitol Hill to encourage more legislators to sign on as co-sponsors of the bill. That effort was followed by a BLET Mobilization campaign, which launched a grassroots effort by active and retired BLET members, the BLET Auxiliary, and their families to encourage their legislators to sign on as co-sponsors of the Safe Freight Act.

More days after that effort, yet another tragic turned nation’s attention to railroad safety. On December 1, 2013, a Metro-North train derailed in The Bronx, leaving four passengers dead. In their initial findings, investigators have indicated that Positive Train Control likely would have prevented these fatalities. The BLET once again stepped into the national spotlight and demanded the immediate implementation of PTC. We also drew public attention to our Safe Freight Act and the need for two-person crews on all freight trains throughout the United States.

2013 also was a year of membership action. In June, our members at Tacoma Rail ratified a new 5-year contract agreement. In August, we successfully organized a new short line railroad — the Texas-Pacifico in West Texas. In September, about 100 BLET members struck the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway throughout Ohio and Pennsylvania.

But not everything in 2013 was good news. Our fight against inward facing cameras in locomotive cabs is just beginning, while War on Workers is continuing to rage, and our opponents are fighting tooth and nail to halt the expansion of high-speed rail. As I look back on last year, I can say I’m proud of all we accomplished as a Brotherhood. While it is plain that we have much more difficult work in store, and beyond, I am optimistic about our future. Looking ahead, I am confident that all BLET members will continue working together.

The year 2013 was truly a remarkable and historic year for our Brotherhood. Much of the year fighting for safety improvements, and the two main themes throughout the year were Positive Train Control and two-person crews.

I am proud to represent the National Division at these Town Hall meetings, where many of the future leaders of our Brotherhood were on hand to honor the careers of several dedicated retirees.

DENNIS R. PIERCE
BLET National President
Congress erred in December when it approved a budget compromise that did not extend long-term unemployment benefits for some of the nation’s most vulnerable citizens. Across the U.S., 1.3 million people lost their benefits on Dec. 28, and that number will grow as more people surpass the lower threshold for the program. For most, that is 26 weeks.

The problem is not with the American worker. Time and time again, men and women with middle-class dreams have stepped up and done as they were supposed to do at the workplace. Many took cuts to both their salaries and retirements and took on added responsibilities as needed. But due to the implementation of bad trade policies like NAFTA, their jobs were increasingly shifted overseas and these hard workers were left with two options — bad and worse.

The federal government needs to support hardworking Americans who are having a tough time getting back on their feet in an economy that is still unforgiving for many in the middle class. What can’t be allowed to happen is letting millions of people fall by the wayside. Besides the 1.3 million who have lost unemployment benefits already, an additional 73,000 people a week will lose benefits as well. Beyond those initially affected, there are an additional 3.6 million who will get less aid than they would if the program isn’t extended.

GOP leaders in the House and Senate need to step up and do what is right. For years, they have focused their efforts on helping corporate cronies looking for tax breaks whose companies in turn take in record profits and then sit on them and pay bonuses to their top executives. They don’t create jobs.

Republicans should stop trying to divide the nation on this question of giving assistance to those still looking for work. This is a situation that knows no color, education level or income bracket. Leaving the unemployed holding the bag is not a solution that better America.

Fraternally,

James P. Hoffa
Teamsters General President

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Southern Hospitality

Savannah Hosts BLET for 87th Annual SMA

The historic city of Savannah, Ga., will host the BLE and its members for the Southeastern Meeting Association’s (SMA) 87th annual convention. The 2014 SMA runs from June 15-19. Guests will stay at the Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort and Spa. Brother D.C. Dickey, Local Chairman of Division 646, will show BLET members some true southern hospitality as Arrangements Chairman of the 2014 SMA. For hotel information, visit www.westinsavannah.com. Anyone with questions may email Brother Dickey at: darylcdickey@yahoo.com. More details regarding the 2014 SMA will be available soon! Photos courtesy Savannah Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Attention Retirees:
Information about GA-23111 Plan F

Retired BLET members are being advised of the availability of coverage in addition to Medicare for railroad employees, their dependents, parents and parents-in-law.

If you or your dependents are covered by Medicare and become confined in a hospital, Medicare Part A and Part B pay a large portion of your hospital and physician charges. However, you will still owe the hospital the Medicare Part A deductible. In addition, you will also be responsible for the Medicare Part B deductible and generally 20% of the amount Medicare approves as covered for physician charges. Depending on the nature of the medical/surgical treatment you receive, you or your dependents could be responsible for hundreds or even thousands of dollars.

Through UnitedHealthcare, you can secure coverage for a substantial portion of these expenses by enrolling in Group Policy GA-23111 Plan F regardless of your current health status.


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EACH YEAR, THE BLET NATIONAL DIVISION COMPILES A LIST OF SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO THE CHILDREN OF BLET MEMBERS. NUMEROUS SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED HERE IN THE 2014 BLET SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTORY. THE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES VARY WIDELY. THE FOLLOWING COMPREHENSIVE LIST PROVIDES MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES WITH CONTACT INFORMATION FOR EACH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. THE BLET NATIONAL DIVISION DOES NOT MAINTAIN ITS OWN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, SO INTERESTED PARTIES ARE ADVISED TO CONTACT THE INDIVIDUAL SCHOLARSHIP PROVIDERS LISTED BELOW FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

THE 2014 BLET SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTORY IS AS FOLLOWS:

**James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship**

The James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund awards scholarships annually to outstanding high school seniors. The deadline for this year’s program is March 31, 2014.

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. One category of awards totals $20,000 each. These four-year scholarships are disbursed at the rate of $2,500 per year and are renewable annually. Other awards are one-time $1,000 grants. These scholarships are disbursed to the college or university at the beginning of the recipient’s freshman year.

Due to the highly competitive nature of the program and the large number of applicants, students should visit the Teamster website and carefully consider the criteria before submitting an application. The JRF Scholarship Fund has established some guidelines to be used by students when deciding whether or not to apply for this program. Applicants should: 1. Rank in the top 15 percent of their high school class; 2. Have either an excellent SAT or ACT scores; and 3. Demonstrate financial need.

**Full list of specific eligibility requirements can be found on the Teamster website: [teamster.org/benefit/jrh-scholarship](http://teamster.org/benefit/jrh-scholarship)**

**If you need additional assistance, please contact:** James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund, 25 Louisiana Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001, Phone: (202) 624-8735, Email: scholarship@teamster.org.

**BLET Auxiliary and International Western Convention (IWC) Scholarships**

The BLET Auxiliary and the International Western Convention (IWC) offer $1,000 scholarships annually to help the children of BLET and Auxiliary members realize their goals in life.

For the second year in a row, the BLET Auxiliary has two additional $1,000 scholarships for the school year 2014-2015 to award to children of members of both the Auxiliary and BLET — the Leona A. Lou Memorial Scholarship and the John O. & Brenda Casteel Scholarship.

There are two very strict guidelines that must be met in order to be eligible for Auxiliary scholarships. Applicants must be a son or daughter of a BLET Auxiliary member and a Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen member (living or deceased), with each being a member for at least two years, and who has been accepted by an accredited school for admission. (Exception: Children of a single parent who has been a BLET member for at least two years and has maintained at least two years of membership as a BLET Auxiliary Associate Member are eligible to apply for a BLET Auxiliary scholarship.)

In addition to its own scholarship program, the BLET Auxiliary administers the school scholarship program for the International Western Convention (IWC). One thousand dollar scholarships are available for the children and grandchildren of BLET members whose division belongs to the IWC (International Western Convention). The BLET Divisions that are eligible to participate in the IWC are located in the following states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Auxiliary membership is not a requirement to apply for the IWC-Only scholarships.

If the applicant is a graduate student or returning to school as a sophomore, junior, or senior, or she or he must have a 3.0 grade point average or better to be considered. The applicant must also be accepted to an accredited school. Scholarship application materials must be received by April 1, 2014, to be accepted. Late applications will not be considered. These requirements apply to both the BLET Auxiliary scholarships as well as the IWC-only scholarships.

Auxiliary application forms are available online at: [http://www.bletáuxiliary.org](http://www.bletáuxiliary.org), or you can link to the Auxiliary website from the BLET website under “Departments.” Please check the website for updated scholarship information and forms. In addition to the application, the Auxiliary website provides scholarship applicants with more detailed instructions on the application process.

Please remember that the applicant must have one parent who is a member of the BLET and one parent who is a member of the Auxiliary in order to apply for a BLET Auxiliary scholarship.

**Mail completed forms to:**

**LAMANA POST**

BLET Auxiliary National Secretary

1394 Bywood Court

Sumner, GA 30024

For details or clarification of eligibility call (770) 497-8848 or email Sister Lamana at lewp2007@bellsouth.net.

**Eastern Union Meeting Association (EUMA)**

The Eastern Union Meeting Association awards several scholarships each year, ranging in value from $1,000 to $2,000, including memorial scholarships honoring the memories and accomplishments of Brothers Robert F. Donohue, Robert W. Godwin and Robert T. Pentland. The scholarships are awarded based on academic excellence and financial need. Only children of BLET members (living or deceased) belonging to divisions participating in the EUMA are eligible to apply. Division must be square on the books for the child to qualify. States represented in EUMA are Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Washington D.C., and West Virginia.

The 2013 EUMA scholarship application and due deadline is July 7, 2014. Send completed applications to Jim Louis, EUMA Vice Chairman, Conrad SAA/CsxT Northern District, GCA, 1807 Elmswood Ave, Suite #179, Buffalo, NY 14207.

For more details, contact Brother Louis at: (716) 876-2503 or louieblt5@verizon.net.

**Applications are available on the BLET website: [www.ble-t.org/pr/pos/EUMA_Scholarship_App_2013.pdf](http://www.ble-t.org/pr/pos/EUMA_Scholarship_App_2013.pdf)**

**Southwestern Convention Meeting (SWCM)**

The Southwestern Convention Meeting (SWCM) awards approximately three dozen scholarships annually based on academic achievement and financial need, granting 37 awards in 2013 totaling $26,500.

Applications must be the child of an active, retired or deceased BLET member whose division belongs to the Southwestern Convention Meeting. Applicants must be accepted for admission to an accredited college, university or institution of higher learning. Only divisions belonging to the SWCM are eligible.

SWCM application forms can be filled out on your computer screen with the interactive PDF form available on the BLET website. Deadline is August 1, 2014. The 2014 convention begins on September 7, and Divisions must have paid their annual SWCM convention dues for applicants from their Division to be eligible.

Beginning in 2014, the SWCM Scholarship Committee created two application forms — one for incoming freshmen and one for current college students. Be sure to use the correct form when applying as incorrect applications will not be accepted.

Download application instructions: [www.ble-t.org/pr/pos/SWCMsch.asp](http://www.ble-t.org/pr/pos/SWCMsch.asp)

**Application form for incoming freshmen:**

[www.ble-t.org/pr/pos/2014Incoming_Freshman_APP.pdf](http://www.ble-t.org/pr/pos/2014Incoming_Freshman_APP.pdf)

**Application form for current college students:**

Southeastern Meeting Association (SMA)
The Southeastern Meeting Association (SMA) Scholarship Committee award scholarships to the children of active or retired BLET members whose divisions participate in the SMA. Please check with your division Secretary-Treasurer to ensure that your division participates. In general, the SMA includes divisions located in the states east of the Mississippi River, and south of the Ohio River and the Mason-Dixon Line. Also, Divisions must be current with their SMA dues in order for the applicant to be eligible. No fax or electronic copies of the application will be accepted.

SMA scholarship winners are usually selected and announced at the SMA’s annual business meeting held during the convention. This year’s SMA will be June 15-19 in Savannah, Ga. Please see your division officers for an application or for more details. Deadline this year is June 1, 2014.

**Application forms are available here:** [www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/sma_2014_scholarship_APP.pdf](http://www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/sma_2014_scholarship_APP.pdf)

California State Legislative Board
The BLET’s CSLB will again be awarding a scholarship to a graduating high school senior who will attend a college/trade/vocational school in 2014. The applicant’s parent or guardian must be a member in good standing in a BLET division represented by the CSLB.

Last year, the Board awarded a $1,000 scholarship. Rules, applications and deadline information are available on the Board’s website: [www.cslb.ws](http://www.cslb.ws).

All applications should be mailed to the CSLB home office address: California State Legislative Board, BLET/IBT, 601 Auburn Ravine Rd., Suite C, Auburn, CA 95603.

New for 2014! Illinois State Legislative Board
The BLET’s Illinois State Legislative Board is currently accepting applications for its Don Little Memorial Scholarship Fund, which was established in 2013.

One $1,000 and two $500 scholarships will be awarded to applicants whose parent or guardian is a BLET member in good standing with a BLET Local Division represented by the Illinois State Legislative Board. Applicants must be 16 years of age or younger.

Brother Don Little was a locomotive engineer with Metra commuter rail in Chicago and a proud member of BLET Division 294 (Bensenville, Ill.) for 35 years. Brother Little also worked in Illinois for more than 10 years on the Executive Committee of the Illinois State Legislative Board and always had a dream of establishing a scholarship program for the family members of fellow Brothers and Sisters who worked in Illinois. Unfortunately, Brother Little passed away before his dream was realized.

In 2013, Paul Piekarzki (Chairman of the Illinois State Legislative Board) and Timothy Dunn (Secretary-Treasurer of the Board) helped make Brother Little’s dream a reality.

It is with great pleasure that we can announce that the Illinois State Legislative Board has established the first annual Don Little Memorial Scholarship Fund. Few people were more devoted to family, friends and public service than Don. Don’s legacy is one of a great union Brother, husband, father, friend and colleague. This scholarship not only honors his name but also represents what he had in his heart: an unsurpassed passion to help people who are trying to get ahead in life yet may not have the resources to accomplish their dream.

Scholarship applications and all accompanying documents must be received by June 30, 2014. Specific eligibility requirements, detailed instructions and application forms (PDF) are available for download from the BLET National Division website: [www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/Ill_SLB_Scholarship_2014.pdf](http://www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/Ill_SLB_Scholarship_2014.pdf)

For questions or assistance in completing the application, contact Brother Dunn at (618) 755-4929 or dunnsrun1@yahoo.com.

Midwest Rail Craft Scholarship Foundation (MWRCSF)

Thanks to the generosity and hard work of many people, including its Board of Directors, the Midwest Rail Craft Scholarship Foundation (MWRCSF) is able to help several children of railroaders each year with their educational expenses. Scholarships from the MWRCSF are available to children of railroaders from all crafts and union affiliations. Applicants must hold residence in Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Oklahoma, Texas, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio River and the Mason-Dixon Line. The Foundation, established in 2004, is led by a diverse Board of Directors representing several different railroads and labor unions. The Foundation’s mission “is to collectively use the generous resources of many to ensure the further education of those blessed with knowledge, but burdened with need. In addition, we strive to unite all railroads/railroad crafts throughout the Midwest in a valiant effort to give of their time and resources so the future of our children will be bright and productive.”

Greg Shy, President of MWRCSF and a retired member of BLET Division 777 (Argentine, Kan.) said MWRCSF awarded $8,000 in scholarships last year to students who are connected to the various railroad crafts throughout the Midwest.

“Our objective is to concentrate the scholarship applicants geographically in correspondence to the enormous support we have had from railroad workers in these states.” Shy said. “This is a great opportunity for those railroad families in need of financial support for the higher education of their children.”

The scholarships are funded through an annual golf tournament, contributions and sponsorships. This year’s golf tour...
The union spirit has been an amazing inspiration to me. “For me it is not a matter of if I can make it, it’s a question of how much I can.”

Holly LaCount

Union Plus Scholarships

For more information about Union Plus, call 1-800-514-0010 or visit www.unionplus.org.

Online application now available! Apply May 31.

Scholarship recipients announced: Deadline to apply: Recipients will receive $500 to $4,000.

Scholarship amounts: Any student who is a U.S. college, university, community college, or a technical/trade school is eligible. Applicants must be 27 years of age or older. The Brotherhood’s Relief and Compensation Fund (BR&CF) has awarded over $3.5 million in scholarships and auxiliary scholarships every year.

Who can apply: Current and retired participating union members, their spouses and their children.

What kind of school is eligible: Union Plus is proud to provide financial help to students to pursue their goals.

To receive mobile text alerts for deadlines and information, text “PAST SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS” to 25387. To stop text messages, reply STOP to any text message. Msg & Data Rates May Apply. Reply HELP for help.

Visit UnionPlus.org/Education to learn more and apply for the scholarship program.

PAST SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Auxiliary Scholarship: Mark Willard, son of Kenneth and Kathy Willard

Auxiliary Scholarship: Marijn Burbola, daughter of Oscar and Susie Burbola

Auxiliary Scholarship: Allyson Booth, daughter of James and Anne Booth

Auxiliary Scholarship: Max Wilmesher, daughter of James and Kay Wilmesher

Auxiliary Scholarship: John O. & Brenda Caster Scholarship: Ariel Johnson, daughter of Owen and Beate Johnson

Auxiliary Scholarship: Alexander Evans, son of James and Nancy Evans

Auxiliary Scholarship: Kyle Willard, son of Kenneth and Kathy Willard

Auxiliary Scholarship: Kyle Radzke, son of James and Marme Radzke

Auxiliary Scholarship: Morgan Rosow, daughter of Peter and Beth Rosow

Please donate to help daughter of BLET member

To read more about Vanessa’s medical condition and to make a tax-free personal donation, please visit: www.brcf.org

http://www.becomeunion.org

LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS & TRAINMEN NEWS

September 2014

LECMPA job insurance is your ticket to value.

- You receive the difference in wage if you are decertified and accept a lower paying job.
- Claim payments are deposited in your account every week.
- Payment up to your policy limits even if you sign a waiver.

(800) 514-0010
www.lecmpa.org

Transportation workers protecting each other since 1910.

Vanessa Tice, right, with her younger sister.

Above left: Vanessa Tice, right, with her younger sister.

Above right: Vanessa’s high school senior photo.

The family is asking for donations to help daughter Vanessa Tice, who suffers from Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS), a disease which affects her entire body. The family is asking for donations to help their daughter with medical treatments.

Please donate to help daughter of BLET member

To read more about Vanessa’s medical condition and to make a tax-free personal donation, please visit: www.brcf.org

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Above left: Vanessa Tice, right, with her younger sister.

Above right: Vanessa’s high school senior photo.

The family is asking for donations to help daughter Vanessa Tice, who suffers from Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS), a disease which affects her entire body. The family is asking for donations to help their daughter with medical treatments.

Please donate to help daughter of BLET member

To read more about Vanessa’s medical condition and to make a tax-free personal donation, please visit: www.brcf.org

http://www.becomeunion.org

LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS & TRAINMEN NEWS

September 2014

LECMPA job insurance is your ticket to value.

- You receive the difference in wage if you are decertified and accept a lower paying job.
- Claim payments are deposited in your account every week.
- Payment up to your policy limits even if you sign a waiver.

(800) 514-0010
www.lecmpa.org

Transportation workers protecting each other since 1910.

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BLET JOB BANK: MONTANA RAIL LINK

Montana Rail Link has contacted the BLET National Division to advise that the railroad is recruiting 10 certified locomotive engineers. Applications are being accepted through February 28, 2014. A PDF flyer announcing the job vacancies and explaining application process is available here on the BLET website: www.blet-t.org/pr/pdf/MRL.pdf

MRAIL LINK

Mark Your Calendars!

3pler BLETED

June 15-19, 2014
87th Annual Southeastern Meeting Association (SMA)
SAVANNAH, GA.
Arrangements Chairman D.C. Dickey, Local Chairman of Division 646, welcomes all BLET members to beautiful Savannah, Ga., for the 2014 SMA. At the Watham Savannah Harbor Golf Resort & Spa. More details to come!

June 29-July 3, 2014
74th Annual International Western Convention (IWC)
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.
Arrangements Chairman David K. Brown, Chairman of the Minnesota State Legislative Board and Legislative Rep. of Division 517, will host the 2014 IWC at the Hilton Minneapolis. More details to come!

August 4-8, 2014
76th Annual Eastern Union Meeting Association (EUMA)
CLEVELAND, OHIO.
Arrangements Chairman Patrick Redmond, Local Chairman of Division 607, and Co-Chair James R. Blum, Legislative Rep. of Division 526, welcome all BLET members to Cleveland for the 2014 EUMA. Guests will stay at the newly-renovated Westin Downtown Cleveland, within easy walking distance of BLET National Division headquarters. More details to come!

September 7-11, 2014
79th Annual Southwestern Convention Meeting (SWCM)
ST. LOUIS, MO.
Arrangements Chairman Dave W. Grimes, Local Chairman of Division 42, will host the 2014 SWCM at the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark Hotel. For more information, visit the SWCM website: bletswcm.org.

Register at www.ble-t.org to get Brotherhood news emailed to you.

Stay up-to-date with the latest Brotherhood news by going to the BLET website and signing up to receive BLET News Flash alerts via email.

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.ble-t.org.

It is a great way to keep informed on the most recent issues impacting your job, your contract and your Brotherhood.

Sign up for BLET News Flashes!

Third Annual Report on BLET Education & Training Fund

When delegates attending the BLET’s Second National Convention in Reno, Nevada, established a dedicated fund for Education and Training in October of 2010, they stipulated that an annual accounting of funds be published in the January issue of the BLET’s newsletter.

Specifically, members pay $3 per month to fund and maintain an Education and Training Department. Section 7 (g) – National Division Rules of the BLET Bylaws (Pg. 25) reads as follows:

“All members in active service, including those holding official positions with the carrier and those employed exclusively by the BLET, shall pay $3.00 per month due to establish and maintain and education and training fund, subject to the provisions of Section 29 – National Division Rules. Funds received from such dues shall be used for education and training classes and/or work shops for officers and members of the BLET. A balance report outlining the disbursements from the fund will be published in the newsletter each January.”

Education and Training Fund Balance Report for 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUND BALANCE AT JANUARY 1, 2013</th>
<th>$33,763</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REVENUES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUCATION AND TRAINING FUND DUES</td>
<td>$382,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REIMBURSED EXPENDITURES</td>
<td>$152,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL REVENUES</td>
<td>$534,985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPENDITURES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAGES, TAXES, AND BENEFITS</td>
<td>$393,678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUSINESS TRAVEL</td>
<td>$175,819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAILING EXPENSE</td>
<td>$3,572</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEETING EXPENSES</td>
<td>$71,878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</td>
<td>$679,942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET EXPENDITURES EXCEEDING REVENUES</td>
<td>$138,962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUND BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 2013</td>
<td>$105,199</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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.

There is a difference.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Daily Benefit Level</th>
<th>$100</th>
<th>$150</th>
<th>$200</th>
<th>Difference on $200 With BR&amp;CF You Save</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BR&amp;CF</td>
<td>$38.00</td>
<td>$57.00</td>
<td>$76.00</td>
<td>$41.25 every month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LECMPA (*)</td>
<td>$39.50</td>
<td>$87.50</td>
<td>$117.25</td>
<td>$56.00 every month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTU</td>
<td>$66.00</td>
<td>$99.00</td>
<td>$132.00</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The BR&CF and UTU rates are accurate and effective on date of print.

Register at www.brcf.org or visit our web site at www.brcf.org or call us toll free at 800 233-7080.
CSX POWER: CSX locomotive 3052 powers a coal train from Madisonville, Ky., to the Tennessee Valley, Anthony's Whiskey Creek, Powell, a photo just outside of Nashville on April 17, 2013.

Photo of the Month: January 2014

Are you a photographer? The National Division’s Public Relations, Department of the Rail Conference, has received numerous inquiries lately from BLET members volunteering to contribute their images to the “Plants of the Month” section of the News. If you’d like to submit a photo for consideration, you may call 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 employer’s policies regarding the use of cameras and other electronic devices while on duty.