

BMWED

BROTHERHOOD OF MAINTENANCE OF WAY EMPLOYEES DIVISION
of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

JOURNAL



Volume 127 ■ Number 2

www.bmwe.org

April-May-June, 2018

BMWED Amtrak MOW employees ratify new contract

Amtrak members of the BMWED-IBT have ratified a new collective bargaining agreement with the railroad that raises wages by a compounded 18.8 percent over the life of the contract, resolves health insurance benefits, and protects work rules.

The final vote was certified this week by the American Arbitration Association. Of the 2,963 ballots mailed to BMWED Amtrak

members, 1,419 were returned (48 percent). Of those, 1,371 voted to ratify, with 46 voting against and two voided. Ratification of the CBA passed on 95 percent of the returned ballots. The Brotherhood expects the new pay rates and retro pay to go into effect by the end of June.

“Overall, we protected the members against the vicious and sustained assault Amtrak management pursued through most of the bargaining round” . . .

Reaching agreement and achieving ratification was a great success for the BMWED, which was lead by Penn Fed General Chairman Jed Dodd, along with



BMWED President Freddie Simpson and General Chairmen Dale Bogart (NESF), Louis Below (USD), Jason Graham (CRSF), Hayward Granier (ICGF), and Dennis Albers (Allied).

In a political environment that is increasingly difficult for collective bargaining, this ratified agreement protects work rules, is not overbearing on the members in the form of health insurance cost-sharing, and provides for modest but consistent wages raises. It also avoids additional mediation and/or a potential Presidential Emergency Board, as well as a repeat of binding arbitration, which settled the last bargaining round on Amtrak in 2014.

“Overall, we protected the members against the vicious and sustained assault Amtrak management pursued through most

of the bargaining round,” Penn Fed General Chairman Dodd said. “While it isn’t every single thing we wanted, our wage increases are not eaten up by increases in healthcare cost-sharing, co-payments or deductibles. Our work rules, which Amtrak has aggressively targeted are unchanged and protected for at least another 3-1/2 years.”

The rates of pay increases are as follows:

- 1.25 percent effective July 2015
- 1.5 percent effective July 2016
- 1.5 percent effective July 2017
- 2.75 percent effective July 2018
- 3.0 percent effective July 2019
- 3.75 percent effective July 2020
- 3.75 percent effective July 2021

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Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees IBT





2018 Las Vegas

2018 PROPOSAL NO. 1 ELECTION, TERM OF OFFICE, ELIGIBILITY AND RIGHTS OF CANDIDACY FOR NATIONAL DIVISION OFFICE SUBMITTED BY PENNSYLVANIA FEDERATION JOINT PROTECTIVE BOARD

ARTICLE I, (CHANGE) SECTION 4 (1ST PARAGRAPH) TO READ:

The National Division Officers shall be members of a BMWED lodge and shall be nominated and elected at the regular quadrennial Conventions of the National Division by a representative majority vote of the duly accredited delegates elected by secret ballot. ~~In the event balloting results in no candidate winning a majority vote (a number greater than half of the total possible votes), the candidate garnering the fewest votes shall be dropped from the ballot, and a run-off ballot will be conducted. If there is only one nominee for an office, there shall be no ballot for that position, and the nominee will be declared elected.~~ **The five (5) Vice Presidents and the five (5) members** Four (4) Vice Presidents and four (4) members of the Executive Board shall be from a System Division or Federation in his respective region and shall be nominated **and elected** by delegates from his respective region. **Provided, further, that the National Division President, the National Division Secretary Treasurer and the National Division Vice President at Large shall be nominated and elected by a representative majority vote of all of the delegates.** Vice President and two (2) members of the Executive Board shall be from any System Division or Federation and may be nominated by any delegate, regardless of region. Those officers so nominated at election may be referred to as "at-large." National Division Officers shall serve for a term of four (4) years unless removed by death, resignation or for cause, and shall be eligible for re-election. They shall be installed during the session of the National Division Convention in which they are elected, their installation and term of office to be effective commencing September 1 following election except in the case of filling an unexpired term, when such Officer shall take charge of his office immediately upon being elected and he shall serve for the remainder of the term; provided, however, that the term of office of any temporary National Division Officer will expire immediately upon the election and installation of his successor. Any vacancy in such office, temporary or permanent in nature, shall be filled in accordance with the terms of these Bylaws.

Executive Board shall be from a System Division or Federation in his respective region and shall be nominated by delegates from his respective region. Vice President and two (2) members of the Executive Board shall be from any System Division or Federation and may be nominated by any delegate, regardless of region. Those officers so nominated at election may be referred to as "at-large." National Division Officers shall serve for a term of four (4) years unless removed by death, resignation or for cause, and shall be eligible for re-election. They shall be installed during the session of the National Division Convention in which they are elected, their installation and term of office to be effective commencing September 1 following election except in the case of filling an unexpired term, when such Officer shall take charge of his office immediately upon being elected and he shall serve for the remainder of the term; provided, however, that the term of office of any temporary National Division Officer will expire immediately upon the election and installation of his successor. Any vacancy in such office, temporary or permanent in nature, shall be filled in accordance with the terms of these Bylaws.

Article I, (ADDITIONAL) Section 4 (1st Paragraph) TO READ:

The first rank and file election of National Division officers shall occur in 2019 and shall be by mail ballot rank and file vote of the members in good standing in the following manner:

- Candidates for office shall mail their declaration for office via certified mail, return receipt requested, into the National Division Secretary Treasurer between January 1, and January 31 of the year of the election and declare for the office they are seeking. A candidate may only declare his/her candidacy for one National Division office in any election year.**
- In the March issue of the Brotherhood Journal or similar monthly Brotherhood publication that is mailed by the National Division to each member in good standing, the Brotherhood shall print information in a uniform format for each candidate: candidates picture; position they are seeking; age; current position in the brotherhood; railroad occupation(s); home railroad; lodge and System Division; previous position(s) held in the Brotherhood; educational background; and other positions held in the Trade Union movement. Candidates shall provide this information via certified mail to the Journal's Associate Editor complying with reasonable time limits established by the Associate Editor.**
- The Brotherhood Journal or similar publication shall print statements provided by each candidate in each issue for the months of March, April and May as follows:**
 - 1000 words or less in each of the March, April and May issues of the Journal or similar monthly publication, written by each candidate for National Division President and National Division Secretary Treasurer.**
 - 750 words or less in each of March, April and May issues of the Journal or similar monthly publication, written by each candidate for National Division Vice President.**
 - 500 words or less in each of the March, April and May issues of the Journal or similar monthly publication, written by each candidate for Grand Lodge Executive Board.**

2018 PROPOSAL NO. 2 ELECTION, TERM OF OFFICE, ELIGIBILITY AND RIGHTS OF CANDIDACY FOR NATIONAL DIVISION OFFICE SUBMITTED BY PENNSYLVANIA FEDERATION JOINT PROTECTIVE BOARD

ARTICLE I (CHANGE) SECTION 4, (1ST PARAGRAPH) TO READ:

The National Division Officers shall be members of a BMWED lodge and shall be nominated and elected at the regular quadrennial Conventions of the National Division by a representative majority vote of the duly accredited delegates elected by secret ballot. **elected by secret ballot of the rank and file in a mail in ballot.** ~~In the event balloting results in no candidate winning a majority vote (a number greater than half of the total possible votes), the candidate garnering the fewest votes shall be dropped from the ballot, and a run-off ballot will be conducted. If there is only one nominee for an office, there shall be no ballot for that position, and the nominee will be declared elected.~~ Four (4) Vice Presidents and four (4) members **The five (5) Vice Presidents and the five (5) members** of the

Continued on Page 12



Rober Sanchez, Sean Gerie (candidates for Vice President)



Roger Sanchez

I am announcing my candidacy for Vice President South Region of the BMWED/IBT and respectively ask for your support. I began my railroad carrier in 1974 on the Southern Pacific Railroad.

During my years in the Brotherhood, I've served as a Local Lodge President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, Assistant-State Legislative Director (Texas), General Chairman, Assistant General Chairman, and Executive Board member of the former Southern Pacific Atlantic Federation.

I currently serve as an advisor for the BMWED Diversity Committee. I was also appointed in 2005 as a Commissioner of the IBT Human Rights Diversity Commission by General President Hoffa and BMWED President Simpson.

I have served since 2006 as one of your Vice Presidents and can assure you that the BMWED has taken positive steps to ensure that all the

members will be represented by a strong union with a viable future.

I am happy to be part of that process and have worked closely with other National Division Officers, System/Division Officers and especially the membership since having the opportunity to hold this position to ensure the right course for the future of our union.

I appreciate your trust and confidence in allowing me to serve as your Southern Region Vice President. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank each of you for your support as I seek re-election.

I understand the need to listen to the membership's voice in order to represent and serve our entire membership equally and fairly as your Southern Region Vice President.



Sean D. Gerie

Brothers and Sisters,
I'm Sean Gerie and I am running for the office of Northeast Region Vice President.

I have been a member of this Union for virtually my entire adult life. I was twenty years old when I first started working on the railroad.

Raised in a pro-Union family, attending Union meetings and supporting the Brotherhood was not something that I ever had to think about — It's simply what you do.

Immediately becoming active in the Union, I quickly gained a reputation for standing up to the bosses and fighting on behalf of the members.

At age 25, I was elected President of Local 2910 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Since then I have also been elected to serve as Executive Board Chairman, Vice Chairman/Secretary -Treasurer, Assistant State Legislative

Director, General Chairman, and in 2014, I was elected to the office I currently hold and am seeking re-election to — Vice President of the Northeast Region.

The satisfaction that I have gotten from serving on behalf of the membership and receiving their confidence to continue doing so cannot be measured. I am extremely grateful for the support that I have received over the years.

I ask for your support because I have a proven track record as an effective leader and also because I have the courage and commitment to address the next round of issues that face us in the future as well.

I thank you and respectfully ask for your vote.

In Unity,
-Sean

Dale E. Bogart, Jr. (candidate for Executive Board)



Dale E. Boart, Jr.

With honor and enthusiasm, I formally announce my candidacy for Member of the National Division Executive Board for the Northeast Region.

My railroad career began as a Trackman on CP Rail (Former Delaware & Hudson) in 1999, where I eventually worked as Machine Operator and Track Foreman. I have actively served this Union almost as long as I have been member. Over the past 16 years I have had the honor and privilege of serving the membership in many Local and System roles up to and including my current role as NESF General Chairman, which I've held since 2012. In that time, NESF has secured over \$3 million in lost wages for our members in Rules & Discipline Claims.

As General Chairman of a smaller System Federation, and with assistance of the NESF JPB, I continue to handle all business and

administrational issues for the NESF, where the memberships' interests remain our top priority. I believe that having the right people ready to take on the challenges we are certain to face — not only from the Carriers, but also from outside political forces intent to destroy labor — is key to protecting our accomplishments and ensuring continued success. As a Member first, then Officer, my commitment remains to continue working with others to achieve future victories for our Members and continued success for this Brotherhood.

I look to carry these principles as your next Northeastern Region Executive Board Member. I humbly and respectfully ask for your support.





David L. Carroll, Dennis R. Albers, Jack E. David (candidates for Executive Board)



David L. Carroll

I am honored to take this opportunity to announce my candidacy for re-election to the position of Member to the BMWED National Division Executive Board, Northwest Region. I began my railroading career in June of 1976 working as Maintenance of Way Employee belonging to the BMWED. I was hired by BN in May of 1979. From the onset of my railroading experience the old heads diligently taught me the importance of a strong Union and you must be involved to make the Union stronger. It takes us All to accomplish this feat.

My chance to serve the membership began as a Local Chairman of Lodge 104 in Spokane, WA. I was elected to a Vice General Chairman's position on the Burlington Northern System Federation and then re-elected to the same position. In 2014 during the interim I was elected to the General Chairman's position for the Burlington Northern System Federation, and

again re-elected in 2016. Subsequently, I have since been elected to the position of President of the BNSF General Chairman's Association and Vice Chairman of the BMWED Northwest Region Association. It is with great honor and dignity that I serve those positions for which the membership has entrusted me with.

My longevity and experience, along with knowledge gained from those I work with and those who came before me, has taught me that it certainly takes us All to fight the greedy Carriers.

I respectfully ask for your support as I seek re-election for this position.

David L. Carroll



Dennis R. Albers

I am honored to announce my candidacy for re-election to the position of National Division Executive Board Members from the BMWED South Region.

I was hired by the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad 46 years ago and have been an active member ever since. I have served our union in one capacity or another almost since the day I first became a member. I served as Secretary Treasurer for Local Lodge 1162, and on the Joint Protective Board for the former B&O System Federation prior to election to the position of Vice Chairman for the former CSX Federation. I have held every position within the federation structure and currently serve as General Chairman for the Allied Federation, a position I have held for twelve years. During this time the Allied Federation has more than doubled in membership. I also currently serve on the National Division

Executive Board as Chairman, the position I am now again seeking.

Over the past few years I have worked closely with representatives to assure that our union remains strong and focused. I believe I have the experience and knowledge to continue helping move our union forward. If allowed to remain in this position, I will continue to work with your leadership to secure the future of our Organization.

I would like to take this opportunity to express appreciation to the membership for allowing me to serve this great Brotherhood, and humbly ask for your support as I seek reelection to the National Division Executive Board.



Jack E. David

It is both an honor and privilege to announce my candidacy for re-election to the position of BMWED National Division Executive Board Member.

I have been a proud member of the BMWED since 1976 when I hired onto the Norfolk Southern Railroad. During my time I have served as Local Chairman of Lodge 301, Vice General Chairman of the former Wabash Federation, First Vice Chairman of the Affiliated System Federation, my current position as General Chairman of the Affiliated System Federation and for the last four years as member of the BMWED National Division Executive Board.

The experience and knowledge that I bring to the table is almost equally divided between my time as a member working for NS and my time working as a union representative for the BMWED. If re-elected, I will continue to use my

experience and involvement to make common sense decisions for the betterment and good of ALL the membership.

The last four years has allowed me the opportunity to share my passion for the Union cause while working with other National Division Officers. It has truly been educational and rewarding to serve in this capacity. I would be greatly honored, motivated and eager to serve my Brothers and Sisters for another four years. Humbly, I ask for your support as I seek this office for a second term.





Jeffery L. Fry, Staci Moody-Gilbert (candidates for Executive Board)



Jeffery L. Fry

Brothers and Sisters,
 It is my desire to serve this Union as the BMWED National Division Executive Board Member from the West Region. I humbly ask for your support. My experience will allow me to be an asset to this great Organization as we move into the future.

I hired onto the BNSF Railway in March 1998 in Jonesboro, AR. I immediately became an active member by attending my local lodge meetings, doing my part as a union member to support this great organization.

Since, I have served our union as a Local Lodge Officer and Arkansas State Legislative Director. As the State Legislative Director, I helped advance legislation and candidates that benefited our union brothers and sisters. I have also served as a part-time and full-time ATSFF System Federation Officer. In June 2017, during our ATSFF Quadrennial Convention, I was

elected as the General Chairman of the ATSFF System Federation. Later, in October 2017, I was elected to the BMWED National Division Executive Board from the West Region and still maintain both positions.

I have worked in the various sub-departments of the Maintenance of Way craft. I know firsthand the life of a railroader and what it means to our families.

In these difficult times, I will bring my experience and dedicate it to protecting our union.

I respectfully ask for your support as I seek re-election to the position of the BMWED National Division Executive Board from the West Region.

Thank you.



Staci Moody-Gilbert

I am honored to announce my candidacy for election to the BMWED National Division Executive Board At-Large. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the Brothers and Sisters of this great Brotherhood for the past four years as Executive Board Secretary.

My experience began twenty-five years ago when I was hired on the Burlington Northern Railroad as a track laborer. Since that first day I have understood the importance of a strong union and the protection it provides me and my co-workers.

Working with the members and officers of this union, serving our Brothers and Sisters as Local Lodge 1214 Secretary-Treasurer, as a Vice General Chairwoman and current second term General Chairwoman of the Burlington System Division, Secretary-Treasurer of the Northwest Region Association, and Secretary of the National Division Executive Board has given

me the opportunity to gain experience by being appointed to different committees, gaining experience at the bargaining table, and daily opportunities to fight for the rights we have today as union members, to improve wages and working conditions for our members and improve the general well-being of our members and their families.

I will continue to keep the best interest of the hard-working men and women of this union first and foremost in our daily struggles as each and every member deserves better wages, better working conditions and better benefits!

Once again, I respectfully and humbly request your support and ask that I may continue serving our members in this capacity.

A Reminder on Holiday Rules

If you are a furloughed employee of a railroad covered by the U.S. National Agreement with at least 60 days of seniority or 60 calendar days of continuous service preceding a covered holiday, and if you had compensation paid by the carrier credited to 11 or more of the 30 calendar days immediately preceding the holiday, you may be entitled to pay for that holiday even though you are furloughed.

For detailed information contact your General Chairperson.

The complete list of holidays are:

- New Year's Day
- President's Day
- Good Friday
- Memorial Day
- Fourth of July
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Day after Thanksgiving
- Christmas Eve (the day before Christmas is observed)
- Christmas Day
- New Year's Eve (the day before New Year's Day is observed)



A Vice President Speaks

Let's work together to help end "pain pill" addiction



Sean D. Gerie
Vice President - Northeast Region

It was Benjamin Franklin that once said, "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."

Anyone who has even the slightest idea about who good 'ole Ben was and what he contributed to our Nation would most surely agree - he was a very intelligent man.

Knowledge can be a tricky thing though. People may very much "think" that they "know," only to find out later that they were either misinformed, uneducated, or flat out lied to about the issue at hand.

Let's take the issue of "pain management" for instance. BMWED members routinely perform duties that can occasionally result in unfortunate injuries and/or medical conditions that cause discomfort or pain.

As far back as 1996, some medical professionals started to change their approach to what they called "pain management." There was a growing trend that sought to add a patient's level of pain to the list of the already existing

four vital signs (blood pressure, body temperature, heart rate, and breathing).

Physicians were encouraged to check those vitals - as they had always done - but they were also told (possibly *made*) to additionally ask what level of pain a patient felt and to give a rating of a range from one to ten.

It was also right around this time that new drugs were being manufactured, marketed, and distributed with the promise of a new dawn in the world of - you guessed it - "pain killers."

It is not my intention or desire to politicize the issue or to place blame with this column. My true aim is to give a review over what we "thought" we "knew" about pain meds and what we really should be paying attention to today.

Our country is experiencing an opioid crisis that is worse than ever - and many indications are that it is about to get even worse. In March of 2018, the National Institute on Drug Abuse reported that more than 115 people die every day in the United States from opioid overdoses. That statistic only includes fatalities. There are countless other overdoses that take place as well.

Why write about this issue in the *Journal*? Maybe a better question would be why not?

BMWED members come from all over the country and from all kinds of backgrounds. If there is one thing that needs to be understood about the opioid crisis it is this: it does not discriminate. This is not an issue that only affects any one group of people or populace.

While recreational drug use can contribute to the problem, you may be surprised to learn that the vast majority of people who developed opioid addiction did not voluntarily get there through so-called "gateway" drugs.

Automobile accidents, work place, and

sports-related injuries comprise the biggest percentage of people who develop addictions to opioids.

A core principle of any Labor Union is to protect their members and to advance causes that best serve their interests. We cannot just pretend that this problem does not exist and simply hope for the best. We must bring awareness to this epidemic and look for ways to help protect our members and their families. We have a responsibility to educate ourselves and to help our Brothers and Sisters.

It was also Ben Franklin that said, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

Talk with your friends and families about the dangers of these highly-addictive medications. Dispel the notions that is "just a pill" or that it is "OK to use because it was prescribed."

Advocate for treatment that does not require their use. Studies have shown that opioids only mask or hide the pain and actually do not alleviate pain any better than acetaminophen (Tylenol) in most instances.

Carefully monitor your medicine cabinets in your homes. Human nature often lends itself to curiosity. Remove temptation by properly discarding any leftover medications.

If you or someone you know is struggling with this issue, urge them to seek treatment. We must do a better job of removing the negative stereotypes and stop condemning people when we should be helping them.

For more information regarding substance abuse treatment, contact your System and Federation officers. They will help you find assistance and care.

Let's work collectively in the BMWED to invest in this knowledge and help our Brothers and Sisters collect on the interest.

WE
WANT TO
HEAR
FROM
YOU

If you have a special hobby or talent, hold public office, or have a story you would like to share, we would like to hear from you. Share your story with our BMWED Brothers and Sisters in the *BMWED Journal*.

Please send us your pictures and brief details along with a name, address and telephone number.

You may email cballew@bmwe.org or send by U.S. Mail to:

BMWED Journal
c/o Clark Ballew
41475 Gardenbrook Road
Novi, MI 48375-1328

2018 BMWED SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Elisabeth "Lissy" Shortall

Elisabeth "Lissy" Shortall, 17, daughter of BMWED member Stephen Shortall. Brother Shortall is a member of Northeastern System Federation Local Lodge 228 and works on AMTRAK out of Rhode Island. His daughter Lissy is graduating high school in June and has not yet decided on which college she will be attending. However, when speaking about her future endeavors in her scholarship application, Lissy stated: "I wish to dedicate my life to painting a narrative for others to view and interpret in their own ways, ideally through advertising and/or film."

BMWED: What are your career aspirations? Where do you see yourself going in your career? What do you hope to accomplish?

Lissy Shortall: Throughout my life I have considered myself a creator. Any school assignment in which I have to create something outside of the box such as a poster, brochure, video project, or slide show automatically compels me to make an amazing piece of art to wow my teacher and peers. It's important to me that my future career allows me to use my creative energy and can challenge me, and after researching for years, I have decided that the advertising industry will allow me to use such creative energy along with consistency so I can eventually provide for a family of my own someday. I am a very diligent worker dedicated to putting forth my best effort, thus I can only see myself succeeding in this industry, hopefully becoming more and more skilled as time goes on. I hope to become a successful worker but above all, I hope to be happy everyday while going to work.

BMWED: If you become a business owner or a manager of people within a company, how do you plan to treat your employees?

Lissy Shortall: If I were to become a business owner or manager of people within a company I would simply treat my employees the way I would want to be treated. It is important that we have mutual respect for one another and have a positive attitude toward work and the company. I would get to know my employees and their work habits, strengths, and weak-

nesses so that I better understand how they function as employees and how they can generate their best work for the company. It is also important to me that excellent work does not go unrecognized and I would be sure to constantly have a positive attitude, rewarding those worthy with bonuses, vacation days, etcetera.

BMWED: How has your parents' working careers influence what you envision for yours?

Lissy Shortall: My parents working careers has influenced me by demonstrating that in order to obtain nice things and live the life you want, you must work for it. By observing their working habits, I have learned that you get out of life what you put into it. Though work at times may seem exasperating it is simply a necessity to becoming a more well-rounded person. With hard work, education, and persistence great things can ultimately be obtained. Rather than wishing and hoping for better, I have learned that the only way to get better is to work for your goals.



Anna Williams

Anna Williams, 19, daughter of BMWED member Adam Williams. Brother Williams is a member of lodge 2729 of the Allied Federation and works on Union Pacific out of Arkansas. His daughter Anna will be attending the University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville. Anna plans to keep furthering her education and find a career in the Human Resources area, where she can utilize the invaluable lessons about support and community she learned growing up in a union household.

BMWED: What are your career aspirations? Where do you see yourself going in your career? What do you hope to accomplish?

Anna Williams: Currently, I'm pursuing a business degree. My goal is to become a Human Resources Manager. Throughout high school I had an interest in social work, and after working in retail and insurance, I have an equal interest in business. I hope to study how to connect employees with jobs where they can find success and happiness.

BMWED: If you become a business owner or a manager of people within a company, how do you plan to treat your employees?

Anna Williams: I plan to treat my employees with fairness and respect. I believe that understanding accountability is the key to success, and I will work to ensure that employees are mindful of how their individual job performance impacts the overall success of the company. I will strive to create a positive working environment where problems are discussed openly and solved effectively.

BMWED: How has your parents' working careers influenced what you envision for yours?

Anna Williams: My father has worked for Union Pacific Railroad for almost 17 years. He is a dedicated railroader, dedicated husband, and most of all a dedicated father. I admire my father's work ethic and he has taught me to always put passion into my work. I've watched him advance in his career through the years, and our family shares in the pride he has for his work. My father's career has allowed our family to live a comfortable life, travel, pursue our education, and receive good healthcare benefits. I hope to find equal security in my future career. My father was diagnosed with cancer in October and the support he has received from his union and co-workers has been overwhelming. We are forever grateful for every word of encouragement my father has received from his brothers during this difficult time. He is now in remission and will continue to fight until he is cancer free.

My mother works as homeless liaison for Batesville School District. Her work has inspired my love of social work. Her career as an educator, and working to make sure homeless students receive an equal education, has inspired me to look beyond impossibilities. My mother often goes above and beyond to serve her students to the best of her ability.

I contribute much of my success and aspirations to my parents. I envision becoming a business woman with the strength of my father, and loving nature of my mother, with a big twist of my own individuality. Thank you all for this opportunity!

On the following page are BMWED Scholarship essay excerpts from applicants on how the BMWED has impacted their lives.

BMWED Scholarship Essay Excerpts

How the BMWED has impacted my life

Based upon the 2017 scholarship applications received, it is clear that the children and dependents of BMWED members understand and appreciate the role of the BMWED in their personal lives. The BMWED Scholarship program requires each applicant to submit an essay of 300 words or less describing "How the BMWED has impacted my life." Below are some selected excerpts drawn from student essays submitted with their BMWED Scholarship applications. All excerpts are from children and dependents of BMWED members.

"Knowing/seeing how hard my dad has worked for [Union Pacific], and for our family gives me tremendous gratitude to the [union] and to my dad as well. Without this [union] my dad wouldn't be able to provide for his family like he has and still does. Not just financially, but physically and mentally."
Julisa A.—Searcy, AR

"The BMWED has impacted my life in more ways than one—from the protection they provide my father while he is on the job, to the dentist we are able to visit every six months. They have helped provide services and opportunities in my life, and my family's life, that many people do not get the opportunity to have themselves."
Hollie B.—Buchanan, VA

"By being a member of the BMWED our family has been able to get our feet securely on the ground because of the wonderful protections and compensation my father was awarded because of the contract the BMWED had secured for him and his union brothers."
Christian L.—Quinton, VA

"Unions are an important piece of the puzzle for middle class Americans. They are the backbone that guarantees full-time job security, safety in the workplace, health insurance, and probably most important, in my opinion, they are the key negotiator on an employee's behalf.

Overall, all unions are beneficial but the BMWED has directly affected my life. The BMWED has given my father and the rest of my family a voice in the BNSF railroad."
Darren L.—Mullen, NE

"The BMWED has impacted my life by allowing me to witness the dedication and exertion that is necessary in any profession to be successful as well as contribute to the greater good of society."
Ashley C.—Plymouth, IN

"Without the benefits they provided to him I would not have grown up in a comfortable middle-class lifestyle. Thanks to the BMWED my family has never has to worry about paying for medical or dental bills...The BMWED has greatly impacted my life by always standing up for hard-working middle-class employees such as my father."
Austin R.—Saint Clair, MO

"Being the son of a BMWED member has impacted my life in several ways. First and foremost, my father's job supports our family. In becoming older you realize the true price and difference in "wants" and "needs." Not only has my father's job allowed us to have a "roof over our head and food to eat," but his dedication to his job allowed me to participate in many sports activities and hobbies over the years."
Nate W.—Smithton, MO

"A few ways BMWED has impacted my life is providing quality healthcare, allowing reasonable living wages, and displaying the significance of standing together...Thousands of BMWED members nationwide stand together to achieve ambitions. Standing united has proven that whatever you set your mind to, you will achieve."
Jayden R.—Trenton, MO

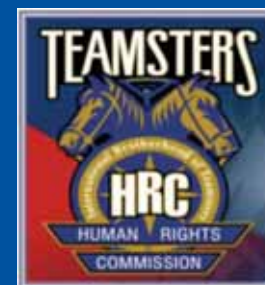
"My dad being a member of the BMWED has given my family and me opportunities and benefits of a life time. They have provided my father with a steady, positive working environment that also allowed him to still spend quality time with his family."
Megan B.—Dupo, IL

"It has offered [my dad] many benefits, which have also had a positive impact on my life. The BMWED has given my dad job security, paid vacations, and eight-hour work days' this has allowed him to spend more quality time with me while I was growing up."
Kara S.—Ft. Gay, WV

"[Thanks] to the BMWED there are rules and regulations that keep [my dad] safe on the job so that my family doesn't have to worry about his safety."
Louis B.—Buchanan, VA

Learn more about the Teamsters Human Rights Commission and how you can participate.

Contact BMWED Vice President Roger Sanchez at (281) 354-4812 or by email at lodge1507@aol.com.



QR Codes

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Candidates shall provide these written positions via certified mail to the Journal's Associate Editor complying with reasonable time limits established by the Associate Editor. Each candidate shall have the right under this provision to provide three different statements for publication, one for each issue of the Journal or similar publication for the months of March, April and May. Each candidate shall be treated equally and with respect to this section.

4. The election shall be supervised by an honest ballot counting association such as the American Arbitration Association or other generally recognized honest ballot counting association. The ballot counting association shall be selected by the National Division President and approved by a vote of the National Division officers.
5. Ballots shall be mailed on June 1, 2019 and each member eligible to receive a ballot shall be provided with a prepaid return envelope in which to mail their ballots back to the Honest Ballot counting association. Ballots shall be counted on June 25 at 6:00 PM. If June 25 is a Saturday, Sunday or national holiday the ballots shall be counted at 6:00 PM on the next regular business day following June 25. The candidate receiving the most votes in each category shall be declared the winner.
6. The winners shall be assume office on September 1 of the election year. Winners who are not incumbents shall be compensated as if they were already assuming office for their positions during the interim months of July and August and the departing officer shall cooperate fully with the winner during the interim month of office to insure an orderly transition.
7. The President, Secretary Treasurer and Vice President at Large shall be elected at large in the general membership. Other National Division officers shall be elected by the members in the regions for which they are seeking election.
8. This new procedure will take effect immediately. Current incumbent officers shall remain in office pending election in 2019. Any language in the By-Laws which are in conflict with this new language will be amended to reflect the meaning and substance of this new language.

In 2019 and each successive four years, election of National Division officers shall be by mail ballot and file vote of the members in good standing in the same manner.

**2018 PROPOSAL NO. 3
HANDLING OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS
SUBMITTED BY WISCONSIN CENTRAL SYSTEM DIVISION
GENERAL CHAIRMAN JOE LETIZIA**

ARTICLE III, (CHANGE) SECTION 16 (2ND PARAGRAPH), TO READ:

Section 16 (2nd Paragraph). The National Division President shall not have the power to enter into any agreement other than national agreements without the written consent of the affected General Chairmen (Chairman). If the National Division President is not able to receive the written consent of all affected General Chairmen, he shall have the right to submit such agreement directly to the affected rank and file. either national or otherwise resulting from a Section 6 notice without the approval of the majority of those members in good standing participating by a ratification vote. Such ratification vote shall be by mail ballot referendum to all members in good standing covered by such agreement. Such vote will be conducted by an impartial ballot counting company. If the agreement is ratified, the National Division President shall be empowered to enter into the agreement.

**2018 PROPOSAL NO. 4
DUES STRUCTURE
SUBMITTED BY LOCAL LODGE #320**

ARTICLE XV (CHANGE) SECTION 3 (1ST PARAGRAPH), TO READ:

Section 3 (1st Paragraph). Each member shall be required to pay all BMWED dues and assessments. National Division dues shall be adjusted each January to reflect one and three-tenths (1.3) of the average straight time hourly rate of pay for each of the three rate classifications listed in Paragraph 3.8 of the Merger Agreement. The average straight time hourly rate of pay for standard contracts will be based on the information reflected in the annual statement published by the National Railway Labor Conference which shall be used as an equivalent formula. In the event that the National Railway Labor Conference ceases to publish the annual statement or alters it materially, and for non-standard and non-rail contracts listed in Paragraph 3.8 of the Merger Agreement, an alternate equivalent formula shall be adopted so as to accurately reflect increases in rates of pay provided for under Agreements during the appropriate measurement period. Said amounts shall be rounded to the nearest 25 cents, which additional sum shall be taken into consideration when calculating any dues increase for the following year. Provided, however, that notwithstanding a rail carrier's classification as Class II or III, where the average weighted straight time hourly rate on such property falls within the range of hourly rates of standard contracts. National Division dues shall be that applicable to members working under standard contracts.

**2018 PROPOSAL NO. 5
HANDLING OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS
SUBMITTED BY LOCAL LODGE #320**

ARTICLE III, (CHANGE) SECTION 16 (2ND PARAGRAPH), TO READ:

Section 16 (2nd Paragraph). The National Division President shall not have the power to enter into a National Agreement without a majority vote by the General Membership. The National Division President shall not have the power to enter into any agreement other than national agreements without the written consent of the affected General Chairmen (Chairman). If the National Division President is not able to receive the written consent of all affected General Chairmen, he shall have the right to submit such agreement directly to the affected rank and file. Such ratification vote shall be by mail ballot referendum to all members in good standing covered by such agreement. Such vote will be conducted by an impartial ballot counting company. If the agreement is ratified, the National Division President shall be empowered to enter into the agreement.

**2018 PROPOSAL NO. 6
SALARIES OF NATIONAL DIVISION OFFICERS AND PERSONNEL
SUBMITTED BY NATIONAL DIVISION**

ARTICLE VII (ADD), SECTION 6 TO READ:

Section 6. National Division Officers and designated representatives shall receive a lump-sum allowance, in an amount determined from time to time by the Executive Board, which shall be paid monthly from the General Fund. This allowance is to compensate the Officer or representative for the expense and inconvenience of maintaining a BMWED office at his home base, and to cover incidental expenses incurred on the BMWED's behalf at home or while traveling, which are not otherwise claimed for reimbursement in accordance with Section 5 of this Article. It shall be paid and reported as part of the recipient's annual salary, but shall not be adjusted in the manner prescribed by Section 1 of this Article.

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ROLL OF HONOR

10year
MERIT AWARD

LUKE D ALBRIGHT	PENN	3006	2008
GABRIEL ALVAREZ	USD	1002	2008
BRET D ARCHIBALD	USD	1227	2008
BRENDAN BAYLOR	N E	0228	2008
THOMAS S BELL	ASF	0532	2008
RICHARD BELTON	AT&SFF	2600	2008
JOHN D BERRY	AF-SE	0061	2008
BRANDON R BISHOP	AT&SFF	2433	2008
WILLIE M BLASH	SOU	0808	2008
JOSEPH E BOGGS	ASF	2434	2008
JESS G BORDERS JR	BURNOR	0104	2008
CHRISTOPHER D BRADLEY	SOU	0567	2008
MICHAEL R BRADLEY	ASF	0568	2008
CHRIS A BRITTHOUER	AT&SFF	2600	2008
JAMES A BROOKS	AF-SE	0562	2008
JOHN H BROWN JR	ICGF	0652	2008
MATHEW D BROWNING	USD	1216	2008
ANTHONY C BUGLIO	CRSF	1259	2008
MICHAEL T BULLICK	PENN	3002	2008
NICHOLAS J BUTLER	USD	1196	2008
GILBERTO CAMPUZANO	CRSF	1532	2008
LEO R CARDILLO	PENN	3063	2008
KENNY M CARPENTER	AF-SE	0424	2008
TODD S CARY	USD	1402	2008
STEPHEN D CHAPUT	N E	0228	2008
MICHAEL A CHARCALLA	PENN	3084	2008
HENRY K CHUKWUDI	SOU	0627	2008
SEAN K CLAPACS	CRSF	1650	2008
JEFFREY R CLEVELAND	AF-SE	2388	2008
JUSTIN R COFFMAN	PENN	3008	2008
CHARLES E COLLINS	AF-SW	1365	2008
CHRISTOPHER G CONOVER	BURNOR	1426	2008
MATTHEW J COPPER	CRSFNP	1362	2008
PATRICK M CROSBY	AT&SFF	0361	2008
AARON DAVIS	N E	0228	2008
DENNIE L DAVIS	SOU	0542	2008
JOSEPH J DIMARCO	CRSD	2906	2008
CHRISTOPHER L DOVE	AF-SE	0702	2008
DAVID W EAVES	ICGF	0654	2008
DANIEL J EVANS	CRSF	1562	2008
MATTHEW P FARRELL	PENN	3063	2008
DAVID S FITE	CRSFNP	1363	2008
WAYNE A FITTRO	USD	0473	2008
MARC F FORD	USD	1152	2008
JUSTIN T FREDERICK	SOU	0636	2008
BILLY R FREED	PENN	3008	2008
MICAH C FREELAND	BURNOR	0159	2008
CHARLES FREEMAN	N E	0228	2008
RUSSELL V GOOLSBY	SOU	0804	2008
DYLAN S GRANT	AF-SW	1353	2008
JAMES L HABENICHT	USD	0941	2008
MELVIN L HARDY	N E	0228	2008
PAUL L HARMON	ICGF	0637	2008
CLINTON B HARRIS SR	SOU	2003	2008
JERRY R HARTLEY JR	SOU	0627	2008
DENNIS HEELLEN	N E	0228	2008
EDGAR HERNANDEZ	USD	0591	2008
TYREL L HITE	USD	0899	2008
DAVID R HOLDREAD	CRSFNP	1363	2008
TIMOTHY W HOOD	AF-SW	0450	2008
GREG A HOWARD	ASF	1599	2008
BLAKE M HOWELL	SOU	0645	2008
KENNETH HUDSON	PENN	3012	2008
KAIRIS C HUERTA	USD	0508	2008
KEVIN D HUFF	AF-SE	2388	2008
JAMAINE M JACK	AF-SW	1012	2008
CRAIG S JASINSKI	CRSD	2910	2008
CHRIS J JIMENEZ	CRSFNP	1362	2008
BEN R JOHNSON	USD	1227	2008
KING E JOHNSON JR	AT&SFF	2600	2008
JEREMIAH J JONES	CRSF	0882	2008
BELINDA S JUSTICE	AT&SFF	2033	2008
JOHN M KEMPER	PENN	3061	2008
ROBERT L KIBLER II	PENN	0935	2008
BRIAN T KLICE JR	CRSF	0895	2008
EDWARD G KOTERMANSKI	PENN	3023	2008

THOMAS D LAVER	CRSD	2905	2008
OMAR F LEDEZMA	AF-SW	2286	2008
RONALD J LEGGETT	AT&SFF	1082	2008
RANDALL T LEWIS	CRSD	2905	2008
CHRISTOPHER LONG	AF-SE	0916	2008
TOD M LOVE	USD	0134	2008
JUAN A LYMUUEL	AF-SW	1100	2008
JOSEPH J MANZO	CRSF	1532	2008
AVERY L MARSHALL	AF-SW	1365	2008
SHAWN D MATTOX	USD	1216	2008
LEONARD MC CLAIN	PENN	3012	2008
JACKIE B MC COY	AF-SE	2388	2008
JOEL S MC CRARY	AF-SE	0670	2008
DALE E MC CULLOUGH II	SOU	0585	2008
PAUL E MC DERMOTT SR	CRSF	0704	2008
SEAN P MC DOWELL	ASF	1701	2008
JOHN A MC GREGOR	SOU	2838	2008
CHAD P MC INTOSH	AT&SFF	0493	2008
CHARLES K MC KAY	USD	0941	2008
JOHN S MC PHERSON	SOU	0537	2008
MATTHEW METTA	CRSD	2906	2008
CODY L MICHAELIS	USD	1196	2008
RICK MOLINAR	AF-SW	1012	2008
LEE R MONTGOMERY	AT&SFF	1600	2008
ROBERT D MORRIS	AF-SE	0562	2008
GREGORY N MULLIS	SOU	0808	2008
RAYMOND C NADEN	CRSF	1259	2008
ROBERT C NEILSON	USD	1381	2008
DAVID I NORMAN JR	AF-SE	0563	2008
SERGIO A OCHOA	AT&SFF	2402	2008
JEROME P ORBAN	PENN	0400	2008
RORY B OVENS	BURNOR	0104	2008
ZACK D PARKER	BURNOR	0159	2008
ALLEN S PERRITT	AF-SW	0564	2008
JUSTIN R PETERSON	ASF	1599	2008
TARAKI PILGRIM	PENN	3068	2008
BRANDON E PITTS	AT&SFF	0518	2008
CHRISTOPHER A PROFFITT	AT&SFF	0493	2008
MICHAEL A PROROK	AF-SW	0450	2008
MICHAEL S PURVIS	SOU	0660	2008
JOSE L QUESADA	CRSD	2905	2008
JEREMY T RATLIFF	AF-SE	0670	2008
CRAIG A RENDON	CRSF	0427	2008
KYLE J RITTER	USD	0227	2008
LARRY ROBERSON JR	AF-SE	2167	2008
QUENTIN D ROBERTS	USD	2933	2008
JOHN D ROBINSON JR	PENN	0400	2008
ROMULO S RODRIGUEZ	USD	0134	2008
MARTIN L SARFINE	PENN	3091	2008
WILLIAM E SCHAFFERT	CRSF	0427	2008
KENNETH SCOTT	N E	0228	2008
BRANDON C SCOTT	PENN	3012	2008
MARK A SERFASS	PENN	0935	2008
ROBERT SIGGERS	AT&SFF	1600	2008
MICHAEL L SMITH	ASF	0301	2008
BRETT L STEPHENS JR	ASF	1081	2008
DAN R STEWART	BURNOR	1426	2008
STEVE L STRANG	BURNOR	0389	2008
GARY R SUTTER	BURNOR	1763	2008
RANDALL D TENNANT	USD	0922	2008
KEVIN M VALENTINE	CRSF	1532	2008
JAY P VANDERLIP	BURNOR	1426	2008
ANTHONY C VILLANOVA	CRSD	2906	2008
BRIAN J VOYTEK	CRSF	1234	2008
SCOTT J WANGELIN	CRSF	0427	2008
WILLIAM G WATSON	ASF	0598	2008
KEATON R WESTFALL	AT&SFF	1251	2008
DAVID G WICKERT	USD	0874	2008
JEREMY R WILSON	AF-SE	0670	2008
MICHAEL D WINKLER	USD	1517	2008
MITCHELL T WOOD	USD	0914	2008
MARK A WRIGHT	SOU	0808	2008
DARTELL L WRIGHT	BURNOR	0389	2008
STEPHEN D WYLAND	SOU	0034	2008
JOHN J YOCUM	AF-SE	1155	2008
JUSTIN J YOUMANS	SOU	0619	2008
JOSHUA T YOUNG	AF-SE	0670	2008
ARTHUR P YOUNG	ICGF	0657	2008

LOCAL LODGES

Please notify the BMWED National Division of the passing of any retired BMWED member.

Call (248) 662-2660, Ext.636.

20year
MERIT AWARD

ANDRES AGUINIGA	USD	1002	1998
ANTONIO V ANAYA	USD	0686	1998
ROBERT M ANDERSON	AT&SFF	0361	1998
GARY W AUGUSTUS	AT&SFF	2600	1998
EFRAIN AYALA	USD	0473	1998
DELBERT P BLAYLOCK	USD	0874	1998
RODNEY A BLESSING	BURL	0800	1998
THOMAS BOCCHIMUZZO	AF-SE	2912	1998
PAUL J BORDELEAU	CRSF	0201	1998
FELIX M BORRUEL	USD	1002	1998
SCOTT A BRADY	PENN	3011	1998
JERRIATE BROOKS	AT&SFF	2410	1998
DAVID J BROWN	N E	0090	1998
BRYAN S BROWN	N E	0228	1998
CHAD A BURTCHAELL	AF-SE	2912	1998
RICHARD F BUSSEY	CRSF	0201	1998
ROBERT C CALLENDER	PENN	3068	1998
TIMOTHY P CAPEHART	AT&SFF	0361	1998
CLIFFORD W CARIGNAN	N E	1718	1998
T D CARPER	ASF	0551	1998
LLOYD W CARTER	AF-SW	1176	1998
RICHARD J CHAVES	CRSF	0987	1998
SIDNEY E CLARY	USD	0914	1998
JOHN D COOPER	PENN	3041	1998
J S CUNNINGHAM	ASF	0580	1998
TIMOTHY R DANNAR	USD	1216	1998
C S DEHAVEN	ASF	0551	1998
JOSEPH R DIGIORGIO	PENN	3014	1998
ALEXANDER DIXON JR	PENN	3014	1998
KYLE L DOCK	USD	1096	1998
MICHAEL A DOERING	PENN	3095	1998
JOSEPH P DONNELLY	PENN	3012	1998
DENNIS M DOSS	ASF	1464	1998
BRADLEY E DOUGLAS	USD	0227	1998
GEORGE M DUARTE	USD	0407	1998
WALTER DUKES	PENN	3012	1998
STEVEN R DYE	SOU	0636	1998
STEVEN E ECKHARDT	USD	1381	1998
WAYNE R EDWARDS	USD	1246	1998
BRIAN D ELAM	BURL	0800	1998
JONATHAN ELLIS	AF-SW	1058	1998
DAVID C EVERS	USD	0216	1998
CODY L FOSTER	USD	0899	1998
PAUL D FREEMAN	USD	0325	1998
KEVIN M GILLERY	N E	0228	1998
JEFFERY K GOINS	ASF	0571	1998
ALFRED K GORICH	N E	0228	1998
DARREN M GRAHAM	USD	1096	1998
GEORGE GRANT JR	AF-SW	1058	1998
JEFFREY B GREVER	USD	1381	1998
R M HAGAN	ASF	0226	1998
DEREK A HAGUE	USD	0922	1998
ANGELO R HAROLD	PENN	3012	1998
C HAZELWOOD	ASF	0598	1998
LEO J HENAUULT III	N E	0090	1998
ALBERTO A HERRERA	USD	1002	1998
JEFF E HOWELL	USD	1246	1998
RON L INGLIS	BURL	0230	1998
GENO R JAMES JR	AF-SW	1175	1998
STERLING JAMURATH	PENN	3014	1998
LUKE L JAROSZ	USD	0473	1998
RONALD J JARRETT	PENN	3012	1998
KARL A JAY	AT&SFF	1547	1998
ALAN K JIMINEZ	AF-SW	1254	1998
AARON JOHNSON	PENN	3012	1998
CHAD A JOHNSON	AT&SFF	0518	1998
RALEIGH D JONES	USD	0227	1998
MICHAEL E JOSEPH	PENN	3068	1998
RICHARD D JOURNET	AT&SFF	2411	1998
EARL KNIGHT	PENN	3012	1998
CHRISTOPHER M LAATSCH	PENN	3011	1998
SEAN A LANGSTON	PENN	3012	1998
ANTHONY LEPRE	PENN	3011	1998
ANDREW R LETH	USD	0216	1998
DARRELL LEWIS	PENN	3068	1998
RAFAEL A LIEVANOS	AT&SFF	2418	1998
RANDALL E LOUDON	USD	0473	1998
MARK A LUCKY JR	AF-SW	2286	1998
CHAD L LUX	USD	1216	1998
VASSILY LYASHKO	PENN	3014	1998
JOSEPH C LYNN	AF-SE	2162	1998

JOHN MAGALETTA	PENN	3068	1998
BRIAN D MASON	USD	1097	1998
DARIN L MC COY	ASF	1464	1998
MICHAEL P MC FADDEN	PENN	3041	1998
DOUG O MC NEW	USD	1196	1998
DANNY G MC QUEARY	SOU	0636	1998
CASEY MEINTS	USD	0216	1998
CHARLES D MELLO	USD	0922	1998
ALBERT MICHAUD	N E	1718	1998
DUSTIN G MIDDLETON	PENN	3012	1998
TODD J MONTGOMERY	USD	1196	1998
MCKIN L MOORE	BURL	0800	1998
TYRONE A NELSON	PENN	3012	1998
BARRY E NEWPORT	USD	0686	1998
EDVARDO ORTIZ	USD	1862	1998
J L PACK	ASF	1464	1998
PETER R PAGLIA	CRSF	0201	1998
DAVID G PALU	USD	0473	1998
CHRISTIAN L PATTON	ASF	0551	1998
JAMES T PAULY	USD	0473	1998
MARCUS R PEECHER	ASF	0566	1998
RAPHAEL O PENAHERRERA	PENN	3068	1998
CLINTON C PERRY	USD	1381	1998
B A PLEMMONS	SOU	0525	1998
JASON PRIETO	AT&SFF	2418	1998
MICHAEL J PULIDO	USD	1002	1998
JESUS REYES	USD	0227	1998
BRUCE E RHODES	PENN	3011	1998
FREDERICK J RICE	CRSF	0201	1998
TRAVIS A RIGGS	ASF	0568	1998
ISMAEL RIVERA	PENN	3014	1998
RUSSELL RIVERS	PENN	3012	1998
EDWARD J ROHAN	USD	0473	1998
TIM E RYSER	USD	0686	1998
KENNY R SALMONS JR	ASF	1464	1998
JOHN T SAUNDERS	CRSF	0987	1998
JAMES B SCOTT	USD	1402	1998
KEVIN A SELBY	PENN	3012	1998
JAMES A SHANK	PENN	3011	1998
CHRISTOPHER L SHELTON	SOU	0034	1998
GARY E SHIPLEY	AF-SE	2912	1998
JOSE M SILVA	CRSF	0201	1998
STEVEN C SLATE	AT&SFF	2411	1998
MICAH B SMITH	N E	0090	1998
KIRT J SMITH	USD	1402	1998
DELL W SNOW	USD	1709	1998
CHAP E SOUTHERN	ASF	0551	1998
JOSEPH R STANTON	CRSF	0987	1998
KENT A STEINER	USD	0686	1998
AUGUSTINE J SUAZO	USD	0686	1998
LESLIE G SWANN	PENN	3041	1998
STEVEN D TWOMBLY	PENN	3041	1998
LEE H VAN TASSEL	USD	1002	1998
ISRAEL VELAZQUEZ	PENN	3068	1998
JAVIER S VILLALPANDO	USD	1227	1998
DANIEL R WADE	N E	0090	1998
FREDERICK D WARD	AF-SW	2762	1998
HEATH A WEBB	ASF	1464	1998
MICHAEL R WELSH</			

DEATH BENEFIT DEPARTMENT

REPORT OF DEATH BENEFIT CLAIMS PAID DURING MARCH AND APRIL, 2018

NAME	CITY/STATE	LODGE/SYSTEM/RR	D.O.D.
LEONARD RIGGANS	NEW CASTLE, PA	1432 AF/CSXT	02/12/18
JERRY A. WOLCOTT	CHEROKEE, IA	0626 ICGF/RETI	02/27/18
VIRGIL B. SWORD	DUNSMUIR, CA	1196 USD/RETI	03/20/18
THURMAN E. LAWSON	SPOUT SPRING, VA	0572 ASF/RETI	01/20/18
LEON JONES	AURORA, CO	1517 USD/RETI	02/26/18

PAID MARCH 1, 2018 TO MAY 1, 2018	\$ 2,500.00
AMOUNT PREVIOUSLY PAID	\$45,558,307.75
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID TO DATE	\$45,560,807.75
NUMBER OF CLAIMS PAID – 16	

REPORT OF DEATH NOTICES RECEIVED DURING MARCH AND APRIL 2018

NAME	CITY/STATE	LODGE/SYSTEM/RR	D.O.D.
JOHN M. SHOPINSKI	WALNUT HILL, IL	0788 BURL/BNSF	03/14/18
ANDREW J. STANGLAND	SUPERIOR, WI	1108 BURL/BNSF	03/12/18
TATE D. SATTERFIELD	TEHACHAPI, CA	1096 USD/UP	03/12/18
WILLIAM D. MILLER	BINGHAMTON, NY	1632 NE/NS	02/27/18

Merit Awards, from Page 14

A R ALBRITTON	SOU	0546	1978
DON A ANDERSON	AT&SFF	1547	1978
DAVID ARCHULETA	USD	0968	1978
ARNOLD J BANDS	PENN	3005	1978
ED E BLACKBURN	AT&SFF	2433	1978
MICHAEL BURNS	N E	0090	1978
BRIAN S BURNS	AF-SE	1854	1978
ROGER D DAVIDSON	SOU	0804	1978
TERRY W DE MOSS	AF-SW	0345	1978
ROGER D EATON	SOU	0567	1978
BRUCE L HACKBARTH	USD	0437	1978
ROBERT W HALLADAY	USD	0381	1978
SPENCER N HARDY	AF-SE	0695	1978
TONY M JAMES	AF-SE	2163	1978
DERYL T MAULDEN	SOU	0627	1978
ALVIN MELTON	AF-SE	1857	1978
OB EY L NELSON	AT&SFF	2410	1978
TERRY L NICELY	AF-SE	0075	1978
STEVEN W O BRIEN	PENN	3098	1978
JOSHUA H OLVERA	USD	1096	1978
TIMOTHY W PATOCKA	AT&SFF	0361	1978
WILLARD RICE	SOU	0636	1978
MICHAEL W ROBINSON	ICGF	1171	1978
LEROY SANFORD	BURNOR	0309	1978
RICHARD N SCHNEIDER	PENN	3014	1978
GARY J SCOTT	BURL	0788	1978
PATRICK H SENF	AT&SFF	2417	1978
MARTIN L SHIRK	CRSF	0166	1978
JEFFREY L SMITH	SOU	0567	1978
ROBERT B STARR	PENN	3075	1978
RONNIE STEVENS	AF-SE	2163	1978
JOHN M SWARTZ	AF-SE	1035	1978
RAFAEL S TORRES	USD	0134	1978
VINCENT L WARREN	USD	0918	1978
DALLAS K WHITE JR	PENN	3095	1978
DARRELL D WICK	WCSD	1710	1978

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DALE ERMEY	ICGF	1393	1968
DONALD L REITZ	USD	0692	1968
ROBERT E SANDERS JR	USD	1097	1968



Freddie N. Simpson

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

We all must stand committed to workplace safety

On April 24, 20-year-old BMWED Brother Luke Gsell was fatally struck by an Amtrak train while performing gang watchman duties. He was a proud member of Pennsylvania Federation Local Lodge 3012 for eight months.

Brother Luke, best known on the railroad by his nickname "Sledge," was by all accounts a go-getter with a desire to learn. In his short time of the railroad, Sledge had built a reputation as a hard-worker, a quick learner, and was universally well-liked by his Brothers and Sisters on Amtrak. He will be greatly missed.

While it is still too early to accurately determine the cause of this senseless and tragic accident, Penn Fed officers and BMWED Director of Safety Roy Morrison are in close contact with Amtrak, the NTSB and the FRA and we will continue to monitor the investigation.

It is no secret that the railroad is a dangerous occupation. The BMWED remains committed to making it a safer place and we work every day to ensure that injuries and deaths, like that of Brother Gsell, never happen again.

These efforts have been painstaking at times, the work relentless, but there is no question that labor's presence in the halls of Congress has saved worker lives. Yet, as the terrible news from April 24 indicates, we still have much more work to come.

Tides shift in Washington. Currently, the tide of derugulation is the trend du jour. It seems that many lawmakers view federal regulation as a complete impediment to corporations and their ability to make money.

However, many federal regulations are – sadly – written in blood. It

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could be argued that practically every rule, code and law enacted by either the railroad itself, or by the federal government, that pertains to worker and public safety was passed or implemented because the job or task at hand was too dangerous and/or reckless. Most of these regulations slowed down railroad operations, in turn costing the company productivity. In many cases, it took the passing of legislation to ensure that the railroads would protect the safety of their employees and the general public over that of their profits.

Brother Luke is our latest tragedy. His untimely passing was announced during a BMWED Local Lodge Officer training in Nashville that very morning. As the room of over 100 BMWED members learned of his death, a pall cast over the crowd. We all understood the tragedy. It was our young brother that morning. It could be any one of us next. We all grieved.

Brothers and sisters, I ask that you remember Brother Luke and all the fallen BMWED and rail employees that have sadly come before him. Look out for each other, take care of each other, and stand up for each other when work conditions feel unsafe and out-of-place. The BMWED and its officers will stand with you. We must ensure that each and every one of us stay safe at work.

Obituary: Brother Luke J. Gsell

On the morning of April 24, at around 9 a.m., BMWED Pennsylvania Federation Local Lodge 3012 Brother Luke Gsell was fatally struck by Amtrak Train 86 at the Bowie, Md. Station while performing gang watchman duties. Brother Gsell was 20 years old. He began membership with our Brotherhood in October of last year.

Eight months is not a long time on the railroad, but Brother Luke had already made an impression on his fellow Brothers and Sisters on Amtrak. His reputation was growing as a committed, ambitious, hard-worker, who leaped at opportunities to learn something new and showed great aptitude and drive. His loss is a heavy burden to all of us today.

Officials with the BMWED's Penn Fed, along with our Director of Safety, are working with Amtrak and the NTSB to determine the cause of this accident. But our deepest concerns are with Brother Luke's family and friends. We ask that you keep them in your thoughts.

Brother Luke was a 2016 graduate of Garnet Valley (Penn.) High School. He is survived by his parents, Ernest and Jacquelyn Winters Gsell, siblings, Natalie, Ernest Jr., Gabrielle and Victoria Gsell, paternal grandparents, Craig and Janet Gsell, maternal grandmother, Sharon Winters, maternal great grandfather, William Winters, and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

As always, please be careful and look after one another out there. The railroad can be a dangerous place to work and we — as Brothers and Sisters — can be our safest line of defense. Let's be our Brother's Keeper.



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