

BMWED

BROTHERHOOD OF MAINTENANCE OF WAY EMPLOYEES DIVISION
Of The International Brotherhood Of Teamsters

JOURNAL



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BMWED SYSTEMS ANNOUNCE MERGER

CMSP&P and Soo Line Systems Join Ranks

On August 21, 2008 the governing bodies of the Chicago, Milwaukee, Saint Paul & Pacific System Federation and Soo Line System Division of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division convened and finalized a merger between the two federations. The newly created federation will be known as the Midwest System Federation.

Members of both the former Soo Line and CMSP&P Joint Protective Boards deliberated over the merger for some time and have joined with their system officers in approving the merger and the new Midwest System Federation Constitution and Bylaws.

The Midwest System Federation will represent more than 700 members of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Mark Wimmer was elected to head the new federation as General Chairman and

offered, "I am proud that our members were able to come together in unity to make this merger happen. All of our members will be better served working together toward the same goals."

The new Midwest System Federation will represent members employed by a number of railroads including the IAIS Railroad, LS&I Railroad, NICTD, METRA and the Soo Line (dba, Canadian Pacific Railway). The new federation represents members in nine states that stretch from North Dakota to Ohio.

"The added resources along with our combined efforts can only have a positive impact on our members," said former Soo System Division Federation General Chairman Gene Bell. "I look forward to working closely with General Chairman Wimmer as an officer of our new federation on behalf of all of our members."

"I would like to extend my congratulations to both General Chairman Mark Wimmer and General Chairman



The merger gets a thumbs up from the new Midwest System Federation members and guests.

Gene Bell and especially to those who will benefit most from this merger, the Midwest System Federation members," said BMWED National Division President and IBT International Vice President Freddie

Simpson.

The Midwest System Federation office will remain in Elk River MN, at the same location as the former Chicago, Milwaukee, Saint Paul & Pacific System Federation office.

METRA LABOR/MANAGEMENT PROGRAM REACHES MILESTONE

25 Years and Still Going Strong

The Chicago based commuter rail service company, Metra, met with rail union representatives and union members on September 18 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Metra Labor/Management Committee. The Metra program began in 1983 and is believed to have been the first in the commuter rail industry, and the first to receive direct start-up assistance from the Federal Railroad Administration. The Metra Labor/Management Committee may be the only commuter rail service labor/management program nationwide that is still active.

The committees meet once a month with a full day of meetings between the unions and management. Managers from almost all of the different departments are made available to the representatives from the participating unions so that issues may get the full attention of both parties. The meetings begin

with a joint meeting of all the parties and then move on to a series of meetings with the different task groups who concentrate on specific problem areas.

The BMWED was well represented at this historic meeting by BMWED National Division Vice President Randy Cook, Midwest System Federation General Chairman and BMWED National Division Executive Board Member Mark Wimmer, Affiliated System Federation First Vice Chairman Jack David and Illinois Central Gulf Local Chairman and Illinois State Legislative Director Tim Petty.

"Anyone attending the Metra LMC meetings would be impressed with the participation and cooperation between labor and management," said BMWED Vice President Randy Cook. "It was refreshing to see the committees actually resolve problems that affect our members, the public, and rail service in general."

"This is a process that has worked for both our members and the company by improving conditions for our members while helping Metra provide a safer and more reliable service to the public," said General Chairman Mark

Wimmer. "Not only does it give us an opportunity and venue to resolve issues with Metra that affect our members, it also provides an opportunity for us to get together with our union broth-

See **METRA** on Page 8



Pictured left to right BMWED Vice President Randy Cook, Affiliated System Federation First Vice Chairman Jack David, Midwest System Federation General Chairman Mark Wimmer and Illinois Central Gulf Federation Local Chairman Tim Petty.



BMWED MEMBER RUNS FOR STATE SENATE

Peter J. Simons Jr. Campaigns for Pennsylvania State Senate Seat

Democrat Peter "PJ" Symons is in a heated race for the Pennsylvania State Senate's 29th District seat against incumbent Republican James Rhoades.

Peter Symons is well known to many on the Conrail and former Reading Railroads because of his many years as an active employee in the maintenance of way and as a member of the BMWED. Symons served 21 years in the industry prior to taking leave of absence in 1996 in order to serve four terms in elected public office.

Brother Symons began his railroad career as a fourth generation railroader on the former Reading Railroad in 1974 and has held almost all of the positions available in the maintenance of way departments. Prior to his leave of absence he worked as a Track Inspector in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

He is a member of the Consolidated Rail System Federation, Local Lodge 1923, located in Gilberton, Pennsylvania and has his BMWED membership card proudly framed and on display in his office. Brother Symons says that he has lived in camp cars, worked along side of his BMWED brothers in all kinds of weather and conditions, and understands BMWED issues. "There are two things that I am proud of and are very important to me regarding my railroad career. First, keeping the Symons name synonymous with my families blue collar reputation as good hard working people and second belonging to a union that always looks out for its members," said Symons. "That is why we need to support unions so they can continue to provide good wages and benefits and a safe working environment for working



Pictured left to right, Pennsylvania Federation Vice Chairman Charlie Hansler, Candidate for State Senator Peter Symons, Pennsylvania Federation Vice Chairman and Pennsylvania State Legislative Director Bill Manning, in front of the Lockville Stone Arch Railroad Bridge over the Susquehanna River, the longest stone arch bridge in the world and a National Landmark, part of Symons former inspection territory.

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men and women."

After serving as the Prothonotary (First Officer of the Civil Court of Common Pleas) for Pennsylvania's Schuylkill County for the past 12 years, Brother Symons believes he can do more for the people of Pennsylvania and the 29th District as State Senator. The 29th District consists of Schuylkill County and parts of five more counties in the heart of Pennsylvania's coal country.

Symons has committed to supporting the Employee Free Choice Act and also commits to supporting union issues. "I come from a long line of members and supporters of unions and

have enjoyed the support of unions in my district," said Symons. "I am running for the Senate seat because I believe my opponent, a 28 year incumbent, has forgotten why he was sent to Harrisburg and is ignoring the hard working people of the 29th District."

Peter Symons, who has four grown children, lives in Butler Township, PA with his wife Michele.

The BMWED has a number of talented members who hold, or are actively seeking public office. The BMWED is proud of all of its members who decide to represent working men and women and who take the time to participate in the political process.

WATCO ROADS RATIFY FIRST CONTRACTS

As reported in the last edition of the *Journal*, the South Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad (SKOL) and the Stillwater Central Railroad, both subsidiaries of Watco, had obtained a tentative first Agreement. We can now report that Agreements for both properties have been overwhelmingly ratified.

"It has been a long hard road for our new members on both of these properties. It is very gratifying to know that their patience and support has now paid off," said BMWED Vice President Dave Tanner. BMWED

Vice President Roger Sanchez added, "Both General Chairmen, Mark Hemphill and Rick Sandlin, spent a lot of time and resources on this project because they believed the Watco employees and their families deserved better."

Stillwater Central Railroad operates over 275 miles of track within the state of Oklahoma. South Kansas & Oklahoma runs through Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri and operates over 511 miles of track. Watco operates 17 railroads in 15 states across North America.

Around the Brotherhood

IBT RAIL CONFERENCE MEETS IN ST. LOUIS

Members of the Teamster Rail Conference met September 4, 2008 to discuss a number of issues of mutual interest affecting members of both the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen.

Discussions included expansion of high speed rail around the country and how that might affect rail unions, current and pending legislation involv-

ing rail issues and the Department of Transportation's new revisions to the Drug and Alcohol Testing procedures. The Conference also discussed the joint petition for an Emergency Order for revisions to the Roadway Worker Protection (RWP) regulations made by the BMWED and Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen (BRS) concerning mandatory adjacent track protection on controlled track.



BMWED National Division President and IBT International Vice President Freddie Simpson discusses issues with BLET National President and IBT Rail Conference President Ed Rodzicz (standing) and Roland Wilder (right), Counsel to the Rail Conference.

TEAMSTER WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The annual Teamster Women's Conference was held September 11 – 14 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Cheryl Johnson, IBT Central Region Vice President, delivered the opening comments. The Keynote Address was

delivered by IBT General President James P. Hoffa. Other speakers included IBT General Secretary Treasurer C. Thomas Keegel.

BMWED/BLET members took time out from meetings for a group picture.



Front row, left to right: Nancy Bernardin, BLET, Kristina Delgado, BMWED, Lori Teniente, BLET, Shelly Andersen, BMWED. Back row, left to right: Jodi Thompson, BMWED, Lori Dewey, BLET, Margo Storsteen, BLET, Staci Moody – Gilbert, BMWED.

BMWED DELEGATION ATTENDS IBT BLACK CAUCUS MEETINGS

BMWED members, as well as other Teamsters from around the country, attended the Teamsters National Black Caucus 33rd Educational Conference in St. Louis, Mo, August 18 – 24, 2008.

A variety of informational and edu-

cational conferences were provided and a number of work shops were well attended by those present. Among the many speakers addressing the conference was IBT International Secretary Treasurer Tom Keegel who opened the conference.



BMWED Caucus Delegation pictured from left to right; front row, Danny Baisey, Bryant Moses, Nate Trawick, Greg Williams, back row, Sheldon Hope, Roger Sanchez, Herman Dixon, Tim McCall, Murphy Evans, Andrew Shelton.

BMWED TEAMSTERS ATTEND THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

A delegation of BMWED Officers and Staff, led by National Division President and IBT International Vice President Freddie Simpson, attended the Democratic National Convention held in Denver, Colorado August 25 – 28, 2008. The delegation attended the Convention

along with Teamsters from other IBT Divisions.

The Convention opened on Monday at the Denver Pepsi Center and ended Thursday night with what was to be the high point of the week, Barack Obama's acceptance speech at Invesco Field.



BMWED delegation pictured from left to right; front row, Assistant to the President Leon Fenhaus, President Freddie Simpson, Vice President David Tanner, Vice President Henry Wise, Director of Communications Randall Brassell, back row, Secretary Treasurer Perry Geller, Vice President Randy Cook, Vice President Roger Sanchez, Director of Organizing Tim McCall, Director of Education Greg Kreie, Vice President Dave Joynt, Director of Government Affairs Danny Gates.

BMWED SOUTHWEST REGION ASSOCIATION HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

The BMWED Southwest Region Association held its annual meeting in Colorado Springs, Colorado August 12 – 13, 2008. The BMWED officers and guests from around the Southwest Region met to discuss their mutual concerns and to further their goal of increasing and improving service to the membership.

The Association provided a series of informational presentations on a number of issues including current and pending legislation, changes in the national insurance plans and current rules affecting railroad retirement board sickness, unemployment and retirement benefits.

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PERSPECTIVE

President's and Secretary-Treasurer's United Perspective on 2008 Elections



Freddie N. Simpson



Perry K. Geller, Sr.

"This is the most important election we face in our lifetimes." The 2008 elections are no exception; except that for working Americans the 2008 presidential elections really are the most important election we will face in our lifetime.

This election is so important to BMWED that we decided to combine our thoughts and present to the membership our united perspective on what's at stake for BMWED members and working families across our great nation. At no time in recent history have the stakes been higher or the outcome so critical to the wellbeing of our nation's citizens, its economy, or our status in the world. Our nation is at war on two fronts, our economy is teetering on the edge of financial meltdown, 50 million Americans do not have health insurance, housing foreclosures continue to rise, and our dependence on foreign oil threatens our way of life and our national security.

The choice we make in November will have a profound and long term impact on our families, our jobs, and our nation. There are stark differences between the two major candidates for President of the United States. In this column, we will attempt to highlight the key differences between the candidates on the two most important working family issues: the economy and health care.

MCCAIN AND THE ECONOMY

As we write this column, the Congress is struggling to hammer out a \$700 billion taxpayer bailout of our financial institutions. That amounts to thousands of dollars in additional debt for every man, woman and child in the United States. How did we get into this mess? Eight years of Bush tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans, deregulation of financial markets, a costly war in Iraq, and the unbridled excesses of Wall Street millionaires who have been largely freed from meaningful government oversight by the Bush White House and their

Republican allies in Congress.

On September 15, 2008, and at least seventeen other times this year, John McCain stated, "the fundamentals of our economy are strong." September 15th was the day after Lehman Brothers failed, Merrill Lynch was taken over, AIG went belly up, and financial markets tanked nationwide and around the world. While banks were failing and the stock market nose-diving, John McCain declared that "the economy is fundamentally sound." How can anyone running for the highest office in the land make such an outlandish statement in the face of financial calamity?

Today, many American families are facing economic ruin as the value of their homes has plummeted to the point where foreclosure is their only option. John McCain claims he wants to help working people, but he voted against the Employee Free Choice Act and voted for a National "Right to Work" (for less) law that would cripple unions and collective bargaining nationwide. John McCain says he wants tough standards for lenders, but he voted against measures to discourage predatory lending practices and failed to vote on a bill that would have overhauled the mortgage lending practices of the Federal Housing Administration. John McCain's top economic strategist, former Senator Phil Gramm, championed deregulation of the financial markets during his Senate days. Deregulation has brought us to the edge of financial ruin, and now the American taxpayer is being asked to bailout the fat cats whose irresponsible and predatory lending practices have brought our nation's economy to the brink of disaster.

John McCain is not a friend of railroad employees or passenger rail. McCain has been a staunch and vocal opponent of Amtrak throughout his years in the Senate and has consistently voted with President Bush to zero out Amtrak funding and dismantle our national passenger railroad.

On October 1, 2008, John McCain (R-AZ) voted "against" the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008, and its companion, the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008. John McCain does not support unions or collective bargaining. He will carry his long history of support for "Right to Work" and "contracting out" to the White House. As a BMWED member, you must ask yourself, "Is John McCain the president I want to appoint to the next Presidential Emergency Board to decide my wages, hours, and working conditions in the upcoming 2010 round of National or Amtrak bargaining?"

OBAMA AND THE ECONOMY

Barack Obama has said that working families' current economic hardships were not inevitable. He said the current hardships "resulted from irresponsible economic policies by the Bush administration that gave tax breaks to the rich while cutting working family priorities." Barack Obama has pledged billions to increase pre-foreclosure counseling and to help responsible homeowners refinance their mortgages or sell their homes. Obama voted against Bush tax cuts for the wealthy and voted against \$50 billion in spending cuts for programs vital to working families such as Medicaid, Medicare, student aid and child support enforcement. Obama will provide a tax cut to approximately 95 percent of working families, establish a fund to prevent foreclosures, and extend unemployment insurance to workers who need it.

Barack Obama sponsored the Patriot Employer Act, which would give tax breaks to companies that stay in America and provide jobs to American workers. He has set out a 10 year plan to break us from the stranglehold of foreign oil by investing in renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, biomass fuels, and other American sources of energy. Both Obama and Joe Biden support the development of high-speed rail corri-

dors and have been consistent supporters of funding for Amtrak and mass transit. Senators Obama and Biden voted "for" the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008, and its companion, the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008. Obama is the kind of president you will need in the White House if our 2010 contract bargaining goes before a Presidential Emergency Board.

Barack Obama believes in unions and recognizes their role in building and uplifting the middle class. As President, he has pledged to support workers' rights by banning the permanent replacement of striking workers, will increase funding for the protection of workers' health and safety on the job, will punish corporations who violate workers' rights, and will ensure workers' rights to organize a union by passing the Employee Free Choice Act. Obama will protect American jobs by ending tax breaks for companies that move jobs overseas and has pledged to revise NAFTA and other so-called "free trade agreements" so that these agreements work for American workers.

MCCAIN ON HEALTH CARE

John McCain does not favor health care for all Americans. He believes that the "market" should dictate the cost and availability of health care. These are the same "markets" that he wrongly relied upon to guide our economy. How will the health care "free market" fare any better than the financial "free market?" John McCain wants to tax our employer-provided, union negotiated health care benefits. His plan would push workers without insurance into a risk pool where insurance companies can charge whatever they want and refuse to cover people with pre-existing conditions such as cancer. He also plans to give the top 10 health insurance companies \$1.9 billion in tax breaks to help the process along.

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PERSPECTIVE

Continued from Page 4

As mentioned above, the cornerstone of the McCain health care plan is to end the tax deductibility of employer-sponsored coverage. This move would have a significant impact on our coverage under the railroad National Health and Welfare Plan negotiated by the BMWED and other rail unions. This year, the carrier's total contribution toward the various elements of our benefits package — including supplemental sickness benefits — is nearly \$15,000 per employee. Ending the current preferential tax treatment for employer-sponsored insurance coverage would expose the carriers to liability for Medicare and Railroad Retirement Tier 1 and Tier 2 taxes on this sum. Depending upon an individual's taxable income, carrier costs could rise over \$3,000 per employee. This would be the equivalent of a 19.75% increase in health care costs to the railroads and will greatly increase pressure at the bargaining table for insurance relief.

This total also would subject each member to additional Medicare and Railroad Retirement taxes of up to \$2,000 or more. Our members would be further impacted in two other ways. First, the "pre-tax" status of the \$166.25 monthly employee premium contribution would end, and those contributions would have to be made by you with after tax dollars. Second, the value of the carrier's insurance contributions would be included in each member's taxable income.

For a BMWED member in the 25% marginal tax bracket — which includes single people earning in excess of \$31,850, and married people filing jointly earning over \$63,700 — the total income tax impact of the McCain plan is over \$4,500. For someone in the 28% marginal tax bracket — which includes single people earning in excess of \$77,100, and married people filing jointly earning

over \$128,500 — the total income tax impact of the McCain plan is over \$5,100.

It is our understanding that the \$2,500 individual and \$5,000 family tax credit that is part of the McCain plan applies only to non-group policies. If our understanding is accurate, then the tax credit will not be available to offset the tax increases our members will face. In any event, the increase in carrier costs, alone, will significantly affect the carriers' health-care position at the bargaining table if McCain is elected.

OBAMA ON HEALTH CARE

Barack Obama has pledged making healthcare affordable for every American. Not free, but affordable. Obama's health care plan would provide affordable coverage for all and would guarantee coverage for those who change jobs or have pre-existing medical conditions. On September 8, 2008, Barack said, "The problem with the current health care system is that it works better for insurance and drug companies than it does for the rest of us. Costs keep going up, but our coverage doesn't get any better. It would be one thing if all this money we spend on premiums and co-payments and deductibles went directly towards making us healthier and improving the quality of our care. But it doesn't, and that's what has to change."

The Obama healthcare plan provides affordable, accessible health care for all Americans, builds on the existing health care system, and uses existing providers, doctors and plans to implement the plan. Under the Obama plan, patients will be able to make health care decisions with their doctors, instead of being blocked by insurance company bureaucrats. Under the plan, if you currently have health insurance, nothing changes, except costs will likely go down, or at least stabilize, as people currently uninsured get coverage and costs are contained.

The Obama plan will require insurance companies to cover pre-existing conditions so all Americans regardless of their health status or history can get comprehensive benefits at fair and stable premiums. The Obama plan will make employer contributions fairer by requiring large employers that do not offer coverage for their employees to contribute a percentage of payroll toward the cost of their employees' health care. The Obama plan will establish a National Health Insurance Exchange with a range of private insurance options as well as a new public plan based on benefits available to members of Congress that will allow individuals and small businesses to buy affordable health coverage. Barack Obama will pay for his \$50 - \$65 billion health care reform effort by rolling back the Bush tax cuts for Americans earning more than \$250,000 per year and retaining the estate tax at its 2009 level.

OUR UNITED PERSPECTIVE ON THIS ELECTION

Working Americans have only one choice this election cycle, and that choice is Barack Obama and Joe Biden. We have had eight years of a Bush White House with little to show for it. During the 1980 presidential campaign, Republican Ronald Reagan quickly deflated Jimmy Carter's reelection bid with a simple question, asking the American people, "are you better

off today than four years ago?" The answer, at a time of high unemployment, staggering inflation, spiraling energy prices, and hostages in Tehran, was an obvious no.

Now it's George Bush's turn to face the Reagan question. We are a nation at war on two fronts, our economy is on the brink of financial ruin and you are being asked to bail out Wall Street, there are nearly 50 million Americans without health insurance, unemployment and housing foreclosures are rising at an alarming rate, our trade deficit is at an all time high, and our nation's security and economy is being held hostage by the staggering price of foreign oil.

Ask yourself this question: "Are working Americans better off today than they were eight years ago?" We are confident the answer is a resounding no. We will both be voting for Barack Obama and Joe Biden on November 4th because we believe the Obama/Biden ticket represents the best choice for working Americans and our nation.

You have entrusted us to protect your interests on the job, but we can't do it alone. We encourage you to study what's at stake in this election, understand the issues and the differences between the candidates, and then vote for your job and your future by electing Barack Obama and Joe Biden on November 4, 2008.

NEW BMWED VIDEO POSTED ON-LINE

BMWED has a new video addressed to the membership about the future of our union. The video is approximately 12 minutes long and is posted on-line. Please view the video using the following link: http://www.bmwe.org/BMWED_Lodge_Leadership_Video.htm or simply go to the BMWED website at www.bmwe.org and click on the link titled "View BMWED Lodge Leadership Video."

The National Division Officers thank you for your time and your interest in the future of our Brotherhood.

Message from Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa

ELECTION DAY AND OUR COUNTRY'S FUTURE

Everything Teamsters are doing in this election cycle, from phone banking to house visits to voter education and more, is done with one goal in mind: getting people to the polls on Election Day — Tuesday, November 4, 2008.

Time and again, just a few votes have made the difference in elections. You can bet there were plenty of people in Florida in 2000 kicking themselves after George W. Bush was declared the winner there, hence winning the presidency. Washington State is another great example. In 2004 Christine Gregoire won the governor's race by a scant 129 votes.

This election is expected to be another close shave, and it is my

hope that members of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division will join me in voting for Barack Obama. When the Teamsters Union endorsed Sen. Obama, it was only after a lengthy process where we came to the conclusion that only he could provide working families with very real and very necessary change.

So many issues important to working families and the Teamsters Union hang in the balance during this election. What's at stake? The Employee Free Choice Act. The fate of the Mexican truck program. Amtrak funding. Trade policies. The list goes on and on.

The upcoming election is about more than who has the better personality and who can generate better

sound bites. It's about the future of our country and the health of the American labor movement. That future should not be left in the hands of someone like John McCain, who recently said he "doesn't really understand economics" and that "the fundamentals of the economy are strong."

No matter what the polls are saying leading up to Election Day, it is essential that each and every one of us get to the polls and vote. As Election Day approaches I hope you will evaluate your state and local candidates with the same scrutiny with which we evaluated the candidates for president. We can't afford four more years of anti-worker politicians taking America in the wrong direction.

James P. Hoffa
Teamsters General President



On November 4

Vote
for

OBAMA
& BIDEN

“*Barack Obama has the courage and experience
to restore the American dream for the working people*”

of this country. He is the change America needs.”

— James P. Hoffa, Teamsters General President



TEAMSTERS
OBAMA
for
BIDEN★



www.TeamstersForObama.com

Access using this members-only password: Obama08
For campaign updates, text VOTE to UNION (86466)

POLITICAL POSTER — PLEASE REMOVE POSTER FROM THIS JOURNAL AND DISPLAY UNTIL NOVEMBER 4, 2008

LOCAL LODGE UPDATE

BURLINGTON SYSTEM DIVISION LOCAL LODGE HOLDS ANNUAL PICNIC

Members from Local Lodge 0788 held their annual picnic September 6, 2008 in Litchfield, Illinois. Local 0788 members,

chartered in Beardstown, Illinois, have a tradition of meeting once a year to enjoy fellowship and the outdoors.



Above: Local Chairman Ron McCarthy pictured in center proudly sports his Bush's last days tee shirt.

Right: Local Lodge Vice President Jeff Eveland. Nice hat!



BLACK HILLS LODGE 2852 HOSTS CANDIDATE FOR SENATE

Nick Carter, a candidate for the U. S. Senate from Wyoming met with Burlington System Federation, Local Lodge 2852. Carter, a Democrat visited with members in Gillette, Wyoming in an effort to gain their support.

According to Local Lodge President Glen L. Hackman, "Our local has decided to support Nick in the upcoming election. Carter opposes Republican John Barrasso, a Bush puppet."



Nick Carter, standing at right addresses members of Local Lodge 2852.

WILLIAM GASTON HUDSON DECEASED

William G. "German" Hudson, a lifetime member of Southern System Division, Local Lodge 2838, passed away suddenly on August 27, 2008 at his home in Hackleburg, Alabama. Brother Hudson was 78 years old.

Brother Hudson's railroad career spanned nearly 40 years, beginning in 1952 and ending

upon his retirement from Norfolk Southern Railway in August, 1991.

Mrs. I. V. Hudson, Brother Hudson's wife, says that he loved the railroad and the BMWED and asked that he be remembered in the *BMWED Journal*. We are glad to honor her request and also extend our sincerest condolences.

UNION PLUS 2009 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

Since 1992, the Union Plus Scholarship Program has awarded more than \$2.5 million to students of working families who want to begin or continue their post-secondary education. Over 1,700 families have benefited from the Union Plus commitment to higher education. The Union Plus Scholarship Program is offered through the Union Plus Education Foundation.

Eligibility for Scholarships:

Current and retired members of unions participating in any Union Plus program, their spouses and their dependent children (including foster children, step children, and any other child for whom the individual member provides greater than 50% of his or her support) can apply for a Union Plus Scholarship. (Participating union members from the U.S., Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands and Canada are eligible.) Members do not have to purchase any Union Plus program product or participate in any Union Plus programs to apply for the scholarships and scholarship awards are not based upon participation in a Union Plus program.

The individual must be accepted into an accredited college or university, community college or recognized technical or trade school at the time the award is issued. Note: Graduate students are now eligible.

Evaluation criteria: The schol-

arship program is open to students attending or planning to attend a college or university, a community college, or a technical college or trade school. Applicants for scholarships are evaluated according to academic ability, social awareness, financial need and appreciation of labor.

Scholarship applications are judged by a committee of impartial post secondary educators. Applications are first reviewed by a panel of independent career professionals. Semi-finalists are chosen based on a point scale, and their applications are then provided to judges for further review and selection of finalists and awards.

Program judges include representatives from the American Association of Community Colleges, the United Negro College Fund, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

Scholarship award amounts:

The amount of the award ranges from \$500 - \$4,000. This is a one-time cash award sent to individual winners for study beginning in the fall of the same year.

How to apply: The 2009 scholarship application is available for download. Simply go to www.unionplus.org and click on Education Services.

Deadline: Applications must be postmarked no later than January 31, 2009.

METRA Continued from Page 1

ers who represent the other crafts and discuss mutual issues. Obviously, it is not a place for contract issues but it has allowed us to successfully resolve all kinds of other issues such as, safety, training, employee assistance as well as other areas outside the bargaining arena."

Labor/Management Committees are not new to the rail industry but what is unusual about the Metra LMC program is the long standing and on-going commitment to the process not only by the unions but also by Metra management. Metra Executive Director Phillip Pagano is proud of the Metra LMC program and its history and takes a personal role in the process. "Given Metra's heavily unionized, multi-union work environment, we have always recognized the importance of being able to develop a cooperative, interactive process with labor," said Director Pagano. "We realized that, as a customer service-focused, market-driven organization, we had to foster a rela-

tionship that values the individual contributions all employees make toward our bottom-line success and helps to instill in our workers the sense that they each have a vested stake in our overall operational and service performance. The Labor/Management Committee has played an essential role in nurturing this sort of positive approach with employees and with the unions that represent them."

In a letter to BMWED President Freddie Simpson, Metra's Phillip Pagano expressed his gratitude for the BMWED's support of the Metra Labor/Management process over the years. President Simpson said, "The Metra Labor/Management Committee is an example of how these programs are supposed to work and provides a template for the industry. It is important that we continue to participate in programs that work so that we can help foster improvement and growth in the industry that provides our members with good pay and benefits."

ROLL OF HONOR

60 year MERIT AWARDS

Albert E. Anderson	MIDW-S	893	1947
Elmer E. Anderson	MIDW-C	420	1944
Raymond O. Anderson	MIDW-C	036	1938
Edward Arvo	MIDW-C	331	1938
Rome Baker	MIDW-C	916	1946
Bernard C. Barkow	MIDW-S	662	1944
William R. Beamish	MIDW-S	893	1945
Ivan L. Benjamin	MIDW-C	331	1939
William J. Berreth	MIDW-C	420	1932
Robert D. Bodin	MIDW-S	928	1948
Felix F. Bonuocchi	MIDW-C	643	1935
Fred E. Borem	MIDW-S	893	1945
Walter W. Bork	MIDW-C	036	1928
Ellsworth Bouillion	MIDW-C	331	1944
Kenneth E. Bray	MIDW-S	490	1939
Franklin O. Brown	MIDW-S	490	1944
Fritz Buerkle	MIDW-S	481	1941
Ovid W. Burrell	MIDW-C	036	1938
Thomas J. Campbell	SOU	003	1942
Alex J. Crivello	MIDW-C	099	1932
Charles B. Darling	MIDW-C	420	1947
Walter W. Ebersole	MIDW-C	036	1947
Clarence W. Eliason	MIDW-C	420	1941
Cleo M. Ethridge	USD-W	1381	1948
Andrew M. Fedor	MIDW-S	662	1946
John R. Fisch	MIDW-C	965	1947
Edward R. Fogal	MIDW-C	036	1942
Alex Francisco	MIDW-C	420	1938
Alvin A. Friemark	MIDW-S	893	1948
Edward H. Fryer	MIDW-C	916	1945
Melvin J. Gagnon	MIDW-S	893	1957
Adam J. Gange	MIDW-S	498	1949
Albert M. Gollnick	MIDW-C	965	1939
Elmer L. Green	MIDW-C	420	1941
Leroy J. Grow	MIDW-S	490	1944
Ernest E. Gruber	MIDW-S	662	1946
Leroy Hancock	MIDW-C	903	1942
Gordon E. Harder	MIDW-S	481	1949
Bruce Harper	MIDW-C	042	1946
George L. Herbst	MIDW-S	928	1927
Harry Hietala	MIDW-S	498	1928
William C. Huben	MIDW-C	420	1943
Herman Jacobs	MIDW-C	331	1947
Kenneth I. John	MIDW-C	036	1937
Alvin C. Johnson	MIDW-S	490	1941
Vernon Johnson	MIDW-C	036	1944
Cecil W. Kerridge	MIDW-S	893	1946
Walter Kling	MIDW-S	481	1946
Robert T. Knutson	MIDW-S	893	1944
John R. Kramer	MIDW-C	965	1937
Kenneth Krotzman	MIDW-C	643	1937
Herman Labrenz	MIDW-C	643	1940
Kasper Laches	MIDW-C	420	1947
John S. Laing	MIDW-C	036	1940
Bernard R. Landis	MIDW-S	893	1948
Carl Lindblom	MIDW-C	331	1937
Michael M. Malyuk	MIDW-S	662	1948
Clarence A. Marking	MIDW-C	420	1927
Anthony R. Mesich	MIDW-C	099	1935
Russell W. Mobry	MIDW-C	036	1941
Michael Monaco	MIDW-C	420	1929
Edward P. Morrisette	MIDW-S	490	1940
Eugene O. Nickerson	MIDW-C	903	1946
Irvin Nissen	MIDW-S	481	1938
William Novero	AF-SW	1540	1945
James M. O'Neal	MIDW-S	662	1946
Edward Oeftger	MIDW-C	643	1939
Rudolph C. Olson	MIDW-S	481	1949
Ernest Oster	MIDW-S	498	1947
John C. Otto	MIDW-S	928	1949
George Pankey	MIDW-C	916	1944
Earl S. Paquette	MIDW-S	893	1948
Harold H. Parquet	MIDW-C	036	1947
Tony Peccia	MIDW-C	420	1920
Clifford Pfannebecker	MIDW-C	036	1942
Herbert E. Pinsky	MIDW-C	906	1939
Joe Ramirez	MIDW-C	036	1944
Juan L. Ramirez	MIDW-C	036	1935
Otto Rasch	MIDW-S	481	1945
Lawrence Reichow	MIDW-C	036	1929
August J. Rettig	MIDW-S	552	1944
Leroy A. Roberson	MIDW-C	420	1947
David L. Ruggles	MIDW-S	481	1948
Angelo C. Sakelaris	MIDW-C	420	1940

Lawrence Sauerhammer	MIDW-C	331	1933
Carl V. Schmidt	MIDW-S	481	1947
Leonard Schroeder	MIDW-C	036	1940
Edward R. Schwab	MIDW-C	420	1946
Norman Severt	MIDW-S	662	1937
Ira P. Shoop	MIDW-C	420	1944
William V. Sims	MIDW-C	903	1939
Earl Snyder	MIDW-S	662	1948
Howard G. Spooner	MIDW-S	481	1929
Clarence W. Stamp	MIDW-C	420	1941
Harold D. Tanner	USD-W	0918	1948
Russell M. Tedrow	MIDW-C	420	1940
George A. Thomsen	MIDW-S	662	1939
George J. Tobias	MIDW-C	420	1947
Victor H. Tucker	MIDW-C	965	1945
George J. Vetter	MIDW-C	420	1947
Alvin J. Walters	MIDW-C	036	1945
Bruno Wienczek	MIDW-C	903	1943
Phillip F. Young Sr	MIDW-C	036	1938

50 year MERIT AWARDS

LODGE NAME	MEMBER SYSTEM	NUMBER	SINCE
Jose L. Aguilar	MIDW-C	857	1956
Melvin F. Baker	AT&SF	2408	1958
Ronald O. Brevig	MIDW-C	036	1954
Nelson Brigham	MIDW-S	893	1947
Carlos Briseno	MIDW-C	906	1954
Thomas J. Campbell	SOU	003	1942
Bernard P. Carley	MIDW-C	643	1956
Pablo Chavez	AT&SF	2416	1958
John S. Chew	MIDW-C	420	1954
Robert L. Curry	AT&SF	2419	1958
Vernon A. Eggebraten	MIDW-C	036	1942
A. C. Escoto	AT&SF	2413	1958
Alvin C. Felchle	MIDW-S	498	1956
Felix N. Fernandez	AT&SF	2415	1958
Donald A. Friauf	MIDW-C	420	1955
N Leroy Fuchs	MIDW-S	481	1953
Henry H. Gilbert	AT&SF	2418	1958
Stanley P. Goble	MIDW-S	490	1952
Danny W. Hall	MIDW-C	643	1958
James A. Harrison	AT&SF	2405	1958
Donald L. Hartman	MIDW-C	036	1955
Lowell C. Hinkle	AT&SF	2402	1958
Steve James	AT&SF	2417	1957
Sidney E. Koski	MIDW-S	489	1958
Dean Kuklinski	MIDW-C	331	1956
Raymond J. Kuntz	MIDW-S	498	1955
Eugene R. Medina	MIDW-C	857	1955
John L. Nelson	MIDW-S	481	1957
Clifford H. Olson	MIDW-S	893	1957
Beuford G. Peters	AT&SF	2405	1958
Jose F. Ramirez	AT&SF	2412	1958
David H. Ramsey	AT&SF	2405	1958
Emanuel Steinut	MIDW-S	481	1951
Jesus L. Torrez	AT&SF	2406	1958
Raymond Valadez	AT&SF	2405	1958
Eberardo S. Valladares	MIDW-C	036	1959
Wilfred M. Vandemark	MIDW-S	481	1950
Marcelo Vega	MIDW-C	042	1955
Otto J. Wagner	MIDW-C	036	1955
Ralph G. Ward	AT&SF	2407	1958
La Vern W. Weyand	AT&SF	2405	1958
Harry W. Wurzbarger	MIDW-S	552	1955
R. E. Youngblood	AT&SF	2407	1958
John W. Youngerman	MIDW-C	420	1953

40 year MERIT AWARDS

LODGE NAME	MEMBER SYSTEM	NUMBER	SINCE
Louis Alf	MIDW-C	036	1960
Daniel W. Bartels	MIDW-C	643	1968
Elden E. Berg	MIDW-C	965	1968
James R. Churchill	B&LE	1115	1968
James H. Coombes	AT&SF	2404	1968
Theodore Czech	MIDW-S	488	1966
Eldon A. Dimitroff	MIDW-C	036	1953
Richard E. Feole	CRSF	0201	1968
Herman T. Goodwin	CRSF	0201	1966
James E. Gresk	MIDW-C	099	1963
Howard R. John	MIDW-S	928	1967
William C. Jorde	USD-NW	879	1968
Gregory J. Knops	MIDW-S	893	1967
Paul L. Lewis	AF-SW	1540	1966
Richard W. McMillan	USD-NW	034	1968

Dennis L. Pouliot	MIDW-S	928	1968
Michael F. Sanchez	AT&SF	2418	1968
Vernon L. Smith	BURL	0788	1968
Rick M. Spires	AT&SF	2405	1968
Jack L. Stockrahm	MIDW-C	916	1968
Kaye Thompson	AT&SF	2418	1968
Arthur Tovar	AT&SF	2405	1968
Eberardo S. Valladares	MIDW-C	036	1959
Harland Westrud	MIDW-S	488	1962
Mike L. Wieman	AT&SF	2402	1968

30 year MERIT AWARDS

LODGE NAME	MEMBER SYSTEM	NUMBER	SINCE
Joe Acosta	AT&SF	2415	1978
Salvador L. Acosta	AT&SF	2415	1978
Bruce A. Adams	MIDW-S	490	1977
Armando L. Aguirre	USD-NW	377	1978
Rudy G. Alcaraz	AT&SF	2418	1977
Ronald C. Allen	CRSF	0201	1975
Robert L. Allgood	AT&SF	2413	1978
Edwardo R. Andrade	MIDW-C	857	1976
John G. Arroyo	AT&SF	2418	1977
Harold Atencio	USD-W	0918	1978
Paul Atencio	USD-W	0918	1978
Terry D. Baisden	AT&SF	2417	1978
Donald A. Balzano	MT&PLS	014	1978
Terrence A. Barrette	MIDW-C	906	1977
Harlan J. Belmore	MIDW-S	489	1976
Wayne L. Benson	MIDW-S	893	1975
Peter M. Berklund	MIDW-S	928	1970
Allen W. Berndt	MIDW-S	552	1974
George D. Biggs	USD-NW	381	1978
Wade D. Birnbaum	MIDW-S	552	1971
Jeffrey Bizeau	MIDW-S	662	1978
Raymond Blea	AT&SF	2414	1978
Ronald H. Bluhm	USD-W	0757	1978
Richard E. Bly	CRSF	0201	1976
David S. Bolen	USD-NW	381	1978
Ronald Bookey	MIDW-S	928	1970
Robert E. Bowers	MIDW-C	643	1978
James J. Brady	CRSF	0201	1975
J. W. Bright	AT&SF	2406	1978
Richard Brown	ASF	700	1977
Thomas D. Brown	MIDW-C	965	1975
Ronald D. Brubaker	USD-NW	381	1978
Daniel H. Brunelle	CRSF	0201	1977
Thomas C. Brzowsky	MIDW-C	965	1977
Johannie E. Buchanan	AF-SW	1540	1976
Dennis C. Buesgens	MIDW-S	928	1976
E. G. Burgess	AT&SF	2404	1977
Daniel A. Burke	CRSF	0201	1978
Kenny G. Burton	USD-W	1133	1978
John J. Callahan	USD-W	0686	1978
Serafin Y. Campos	AT&SF	2416	1978
Alan K. Carlson	AT&SF	2404	1978
Jesus C. Carmona	USD-NW	591	1978
Darryle D. Cells	AT&SF	2408	1978
Robert L. Christian	MIDW-C	643	1974
Patrick A. Cleary	MIDW-S	489	1977
Grant R. Clement	MIDW-C	643	1977
Gerald W. Clubb	AF-SW	1540	1975
Donovan G. Cohrs	MIDW-C	420	1974
Anthony T. Colacicco	MIDW-S	498	1976
Michael S. Collins	AT&SF	2404	1978
Jim S. Collura	MIDW-C	099	1974
Thomas J. Coman	MIDW-C	643	1977
Richard C. Conlon Jr	CRSF	0201	1988
David K. Corneil	AT&SF	2408	1978
Michael G. Craig	MIDW-C	965	1976
Stephen P. Craig	USD-NW	437	1978
Robert L. Crandon	USD-NW	381	1978

Johnny Cruz III	AT&SF	2410	1978
Arthur P. Cummings	MIDW-C	903	1971
Ronald L. Cummings	MIDW-C	331	1974
Paul C. Curby	USD-W	0686	1978
Donald D. Dalbey	MIDW-S	490	1974
Ronald D. Dalbey	MIDW-S	498	1978
James J. Dalton	MIDW-C	643	1977
John H. De Groat	MIDW-C	906	1976
Wayne H. De Haven	MIDW-S	928	1972
Robert L. De Smith	MIDW-S	893	1978
David J. Deboer	MIDW-C	965	1977
Brian A. Deihl	MIDW-S	490	1978
Richard J. Deschner	MIDW-C	857	1975
Joel A. Diemert	MIDW-S	552	1978
James A. Dolbear	MIDW-S	481	1977
Elmer G. Donati	CRSF	0201	1976
Santiago C. Duran	USD-W	1020	1978
Kenneth W. Eastman	MIDW-C	331	1975
Daryl Eckes	MIDW-S	498	1977
Ronald Egeberg	MIDW-S	481	1971
Steven C. Ellis	AF-SW	1540	1976
Gerald L. Emerick	MIDW-C	903	1971
Raul Escalante	AT&SF	2415	1978
John Everhart	MIDW-C	916	1975
Eric R. Ewing	ICGF	0469	1977
Gerald Fagerland	MIDW-S	481	1974
Giles J. Feigitsch	MIDW-S	481	1978
Sam N. Feil	MIDW-S	552	1976
Raymond J. Fisher	MIDW-C	965	1976
Randy L. Fitzl	MIDW-S	893	1976
Raymond A. Foltz	MIDW-S	552	1976
Hector M. Franco	AT&SF	2418	1978
Kenneth L. Frederick	MIDW-C	965	1977
Brad G. Frederick	USD-W	1216	1978
Lloyd Freebird	USD-W	1227	1978
Terry R. Freeman	MIDW-S	489	1976
Francisco F. Fuentes	MIDW-C	857	1977
Donald L. Gallegos	USD-W	0941	1978
James F. Gange	MIDW-S	481	1976
Ralph A. Gange	MIDW-S	552	1976
Cary G. Garcia	AT&SF	2419	1978
Jesus J. Garcia	AT&SF	2419	1978
Raymond R. Garcia	AT&SF	2415	1978
Earl L. Gates	MIDW-C	099	1978
Raymond Gauna	AT&SF	2410	1978
Garold L. Ghrist	ICGF	1069	1970
Gregory L. Gibbons	MIDW-C	916	1977
Robert F. Gibson	MIDW-S	490	1977
Charles E. Gilliam II	AT&SF	2417	1978
L. E. Gilpin	AT&SF	2402	1978
Bruce D. Gilseth	MIDW-S	481	1973
Jon P. Giraud	MIDW-C	965	1971
Daniel E. Goodwin	CRSF	0201	1976
Mervin Gottschall	MIDW-S	481	1973
Ernest H. Graham	AT&SF	2414	1978
Rick Green	AF-SW	1540	1977
B. J. Griego	AT&SF	2415	1977
Kevin M. Griffel	AT&SF	2402	1978
Grant A. Grindle	MIDW-C	643	1975
Darrell G. Gullickson	MIDW-S	481	1971
Melton R. Gutierrez	AT&SF	2414	1978
William H. Gutierrez	USD-W	0899	1978
Terry A. Hainer	AT&SF	2414	

ROLL OF HONOR Continued from Page 9

Gary M. Hinkel	MIDW-C	906	1976	Richard A. Palmer	MIDW-S	928	1976
Ronald T. Hoffman	USD-NW	847	1978	Bryan H. Parr	AT&SF	2413	1978
Kerry H. Hoover	BURL	0788	1978	Lindsay C. Penk	MIDW-C	420	1974
Kerry H. Hoover	BURL	0788	1978	Leandro Pesqueda	AT&SF	2412	1978
Ray F. Hoover	MIDW-C	916	1978	Dennis C. Peterson	USD-NW	148	1978
Raymond D. Hoskin	MIDW-S	481	1973	Jay L. Peterson	USD-NW	148	1978
Lloyd H. Hultberg	MIDW-S	481	1976	Willmar A. Peterson	MIDW-S	481	1971
Richard E. Huss	AT&SF	2401	1978	Dennis J. Petroff	BURNOR	297	1978
Raymond S. Hutchinson	USD-W	0918	1978	Billy J. Pettigrew	AF-SW	1540	1976
Anthony R. Jacobson	MIDW-C	643	1974	Jim D. Petty	MIDW-C	036	1977
David P. Jacques	CRSF	0201	1976	George R. Petzold	MIDW-S	662	1976
Steven V. Jaeckel	MIDW-C	643	1974	Michael D. Phillips	MIDW-C	903	1975
Hugh M. Jennerman	MIDW-S	893	1976	Andrew M. Platz	MIDW-S	481	1971
Donald D. Jennings Jr	BURL	0788	1978	Wayne K. Pine	MIDW-C	916	1974
Junior C. Jensen	MIDW-S	498	1974	Patrick L. Poeschel	MIDW-C	099	1974
Rocky Jespersion	MIDW-S	490	1973	Robert F. Pohlner	USD-NW	437	1978
Dale V. Johnson	MIDW-C	965	1971	Timm A. Pretzer	MIDW-S	498	1974
David L. Johnson	MIDW-S	099	1975	William D. Pritchert	MIDW-S	498	1977
Randy S. Johnson	MIDW-S	490	1974	Tim R. Prudom	MIDW-S	489	1975
Richard N. Johnson	MIDW-C	906	1974	James A. Quilling	MIDW-S	928	1973
Steven K. Johnson	MIDW-C	965	1976	Ronald B. Rainey	USD-NW	097	1978
Shayne J. Jonas	BURNOR	297	1978	Joe V. Ramirez	AT&SF	2419	1978
Tony L. Jones	AT&SF	2402	1978	Jeff J. Rankin	USD-NW	381	1978
Alan G. Joyce	CRSF	0201	1976	Michael L. Rankinen	MIDW-S	489	1974
Jose S. Juarez	MIDW-C	857	1975	John R. Remmers	USD-W	1133	1978
Douglas W. Kaleva	MIDW-S	489	1973	Steve P. Reust	USD-W	1133	1978
David A. Keller	MIDW-S	498	1975	Thomas P. Rezendes	CRSF	0201	1975
Wesley D. Kennedy	AT&SF	2415	1978	Harold D. Rice	AT&SF	2415	1978
Matthew B. Kenny	USD-W	0757	1978	Ricci V. Richardson	AT&SF	2402	1977
Harry L. King	ICGF	1069	1970	Rudy Rico	AT&SF	2418	1977
David S. Kingstad	BURNOR	297	1978	Roger H. Rinholen	MIDW-C	331	1974
Dixie E. Kinkade	USD-W	0686	1978	Paul G. Robertson	CRSF	0201	1976
Anthony Kinlicheenie	AT&SF	2417	1978	Jose M. Rodriguez	MIDW-C	042	1977
Ted W. Knapp	USD-NW	788	1978	Rodolfo C. Rojas	MIDW-C	099	1977
David J. Knoll	MIDW-C	903	1969	John R. Romero	AT&SF	2414	1978
Rex E. Kriedeman	MIDW-S	498	1973	Gerald D. Ronnie	MIDW-C	965	1977
Wesley M. Lampson	MIDW-S	498	1978	Randy G. Rowton	AF-SW	1540	1976
Joe C. Larez	USD-W	0686	1978	Ernest I. Rubi	AT&SF	2415	1977
Robert D. Larson	USD-NW	853	1978	E. Rubio	AT&SF	2417	1978
Steven R. Larson	MIDW-S	488	1976	Kenneth G. Samplaski	MIDW-C	643	1977
Philip G. Lavin	USD-W	1133	1978	Ernie A. Samson	MIDW-S	490	1973
Charles F. Lawson	AF-SE	2606	1978	Larry J. Samson	MIDW-S	490	1971
Everett Lawson	MIDW-C	903	1970	Jose M. Sanchez	USD-W	0874	1978
James F. Lawton	CRSF	0201	1975	Fred F. Scheppeler III	MIDW-S	893	1977
C. T. Ledesma	AT&SF	2407	1978	William T. Schmidt	MIDW-S	928	1973
David E. Legg	MIDW-S	498	1973	Edgar H. Schoenberg	MIDW-S	481	1971
Michael W. Legler	USD-W	0473	1978	James P. Schuh	MIDW-C	331	1975
Gregory Leisgang	MIDW-S	893	1978	Ricardo Segura	USD-W	0941	1978
Richard D. Lennartz	MIDW-C	643	1974	Harvey Setzer	USD-W	0918	1978
Michael D. Leon	AT&SF	2418	1977	Peter P. Sevegney	MIDW-S	489	1976
Chester J. Lewandowski	AF-SE	906	1977	Edward J. Shanley	CRSF	0201	1976
Ronnal R. Lewis	AF-SE	2606	1978	Dennis R. Shell	MIDW-C	643	1974
Vernon D. Littlecreek	AT&SF	2412	1978	Timothy S. Sherman	MIDW-C	099	1977
David B. Lorenzo	MIDW-S	928	1972	Ronald J. Shimek	MIDW-C	965	1974
Peter Lubeck	MIDW-C	331	1975	Randal Sikveland	BURNOR	297	1978
Samuel S. Lucero	USD-W	0686	1978	Froylan Silva	AT&SF	2401	1978
Ronald J. Lutkus	CRSF	0201	1975	Ignacio U. Silvas	AT&SF	2414	1978
Renardo L. Lynch	ICGF	0694	1976	Felix L. Simmons	AT&SF	2411	1978
David M. Macaulay	CRSF	0201	1976	James G. Skrhak	AT&SF	2410	1977
Rodney K. Malcolm	BURL	0788	1978	Gary Slover	MIDW-S	490	1974
John D. Malone	AT&SF	2412	1978	Clarence W. Smith	MIDW-S	928	1972
Paul L. Marion	CRSF	0201	1975	J. D. Smith	AT&SF	2410	1978
Donn A. Marschman	USD-W	1133	1978	Milton L. Smith	MIDW-C	643	1974
Michael W. Martindale	CRSF	0201	1975	Joseph S. Sommers	MIDW-S	489	1976
Emmett Martinez	USD-W	0918	1978	Allen R. Speten	MIDW-S	481	1971
Pascual Martinez	MIDW-C	857	1978	Michael W. Stagner	AT&SF	2409	1977
Ruben M. Martinez	AT&SF	2401	1978	Ernest L. Stenerson	MIDW-S	498	1978
Simon Martinez	MIDW-C	857	1976	Walter F. Stevens Jr	USD-NW	437	1978
Santos O. Mascote	AT&SF	2401	1978	Robert G. Stockton	AT&SF	2413	1978
J. J. Masem	AT&SF	2408	1978	Gary J. Stoffel	AT&SF	2410	1978
Donald L. Mc Bride	AT&SF	2404	1977	David M. Strand	MIDW-S	488	1976
Joseph K. Mc Carthy	CRSF	0201	1975	Stanley H. Strandlof	MIDW-C	906	1972
Paul D. Mc Innis	CRSF	0201	1976	Thomas M. Straseske	MIDW-C	099	1973
Dennis T. Mc Intosh	USD-W	0686	1978	Brian E. Sullivan	CRSF	0201	1977
Dale E. Mc Lain	MIDW-C	420	1972	Arne L. Sundem	MIDW-S	490	1973
Edward G. Medina	AT&SF	2418	1977	Albert A. Swanson	MIDW-S	498	1970
Alfredo P. Mendez	MIDW-C	042	1974	George A. Swanson III	MIDW-S	489	1978
Marvin L. Meredith	AF-SW	1540	1978	Douglas J. Swartz	MIDW-S	552	1973
Charles T. Merrill	MIDW-S	481	1971	Wilson Tapaha	AT&SF	2417	1978
Drew A. Meyer	MIDW-C	965	1974	Jerald Tarasewicz	MIDW-C	099	1974
Samuel Millard	ASF	700	1978	Philip A. Tenney	AT&SF	2408	1978
Geoffrey F. Mitchell	MIDW-S	490	1975	Thomas A. Ternes	MIDW-S	488	1976
Marlin Mjoen	MIDW-S	488	1975	Stanley H. Testerman	AF-SW	1540	1977
Guadalupe P. Morales	MIDW-C	099	1969	Le Roy A. Thelen	MIDW-S	481	1974
Andres Moreno	MIDW-S	498	1974	Gary W. Thomas	USD-NW	381	1978
Francisco M. Moreno	MIDW-C	042	1978	Keith A. Thomas	AT&SF	2402	1978
Raymond D. Morgan	AT&SF	2410	1978	Alan W. Tollackson	MIDW-C	965	1977
David L. Najarian	AT&SF	2418	1978	Ronald Tomchek	MIDW-C	906	1976
Bruce W. Nauber	MIDW-S	928	1971	Amado Torres	AT&SF	2410	1977
Obey L. Nelson	AT&SF	2410	1978	James R. Tuggle	AT&SF	2402	1978
William H. Nichols	MIDW-S	928	1975	Shell V. Turner	AF-SW	1540	1977
James R. Niemi	MIDW-S	489	1975	Timothy A. Tyner	MIDW-S	489	1975
Steven T. Nilsen	MIDW-S	552	1976	Alvaro Urbina	MIDW-C	906	1977
Donald J. Noble	MIDW-S	662	1977	Robin K. Utgaard	BURNOR	297	1978
Alfonso Ochoa	MIDW-C	857	1974	David R. Uthe	USD-NW	437	1978
Peter R. Olli	MIDW-S	489	1974	Ronald Vaughn	CRSF	1297	1972
Donald Ollila	MIDW-S	489	1973	Larry A. Veness	MIDW-S	893	1978
Mark D. Olsen	MIDW-C	965	1975	Randy L. Veness	MIDW-S	893	1977
Edwin L. Olson	CRSF	0201	1975	David R. Vigil	AT&SF	2415	1978
Tom D. Olson	MIDW-S	490	1973	Odilon Villagomez	MIDW-C	857	1977
William M. Ondracek	USD-W	0216	1978	Kenneth K. Walberg	MIDW-S	490	1973
Steven J. Osborn	USD-NW	152	1978	Dale R. Wendt	MIDW-S	488	1975
Evan N. Ostlund	MIDW-S	481	1971	Gary L. Wieting	MIDW-C	331	1975
Robert L. Oswald	AT&SF	2405	1978	Marion A. Williams	AT&SF	2408	1978
David C. Otis	USD-NW	437	1978	R. L. Wolken	AT&SF	2404	1977
Richard N. Pacquette	MIDW-S	489	1975	Derek T. Wood	CRSF	0201	1975

Nathaniel Wright	MIDW-C	903	1977
Andrew O. Yandow	CRSF	0201	1978
Patrick D. Zehel	MIDW-C	099	1975
Ervin D. Zietlow	MIDW-S	552	1974
Larry J. Zima	MIDW-S	490	1974



LODGE NAME	MEMBER SYSTEM	NUMBER	SINCE
J. D. Anderson	AF-SW	1540	1987
Martin R. Arevalo	USD-W	1227	1988
Jesus Baray	USD-W	1020	1988
Epifanio Castillo	USD-W	0899	1988
Jorge Castillo	USD-NW	377	1988
John M. Cronin	CRSF	0201	1985
Larry E. Darity	AF-SW	1540	1987
Jerry L. Downs	MIDW-C	903	1985
Timothy P. Georges	CRSF	0201	1979
Arthur J. Gerrish Sr	CRSF	0201	1987
Mark F. Gorman	CRSF	0201	1988
David R. Haskins	CRSF	0201	1985
Jaime Hernandez	USD-W	0134	1988
Curtis A. Jordan	CRSF	0201	1988
Richard D. Mc Donald	MIDW-C	906	1988
Ron W. Moseman	MIDW-C	916	1986
Dave N. Mullaney	CRSF	0201	1987
John P. Perrin	CRSF	0201	1987
Mark A. Pfeiffer	MIDW-C	916	1979
Enrique S. Ruiz	MIDW-C	857	1986
Robert Shanley	CRSF	0201	1988
Robert Shaponick	CRSF	0201	1987
Jerry L. Sheets	MIDW-C	920	1981
Derrick E. Six	MIDW-C	857	1988
David A. Sjostrand	MIDW-S	490	1984
Frederick J. Smith	MIDW-C	903	1980
Daniel J. Stayback	MIDW-C	903	1984
Bruce A. Thomas	MIDW-C	903	1986
Mark A. Vazquez	MIDW-C	857	1987



LODGE NAME	MEMBER SYSTEM	NUMBER	SINCE
Julie K. Aberle	MIDW-S	0928	1998
Arthur J. Abner	CRSF	0201	1997
Raymond D. Ailey	AT&SF	2408	1997
Scott T. Alexander	MIDW-C	2857	1994
Gary D. Allen	AT&SF	2408	1998
Russell L. Anaya	AT&SF	2416	1998
Charlie M. Ancheta	USD-W	0473	1998
Robert M. Anderson	AT&SF	2408	1998
Anthony S. Baca	AT&SF	2415	1998
Robert E. Baca	AT&SF	2414	1998
Darren L. Bachmeier	MIDW-S	1481	1991
Arlie T. Back	MIDW-C	1903	1994
Arvell W. Bailey	MIDW-C	2857	1994
Greg A. Bailey	MIDW-S	1488	1997
Gabriel J. Barrera	USD-W	1381	1998
Thomas E. Beaudry	MIDW-S	1489	1989
Kenneth A. Beaver	AT&SF	2408	1997
Richard A. Beckman	MIDW-C	1965	1994
Leonard W. Bell	AT&SF	2411	1998
Scott P. Berger	MIDW-C	1906	1998
Frank A. Bethune	AT&SF	2413	1998
Michael A. Bianco	MIDW-C	1903	1996
Loren M. Bjerke	MIDW-S	1552	1995
Allan W. Blair	USD-NW	1097	1998
James J. Blakeman	USD-W	0941	1998
Robert Blocker	CRSF	0201	1997
Troy A. Blumhagen	MIDW-S	1481	1991
Christopher M. Bogenreif	USD-NW	0700	1998
Randy J. Bond	MIDW-S	1488	1997
Jay D. Bonebrake	MIDW-S	1481	1996
Luis R. Boneta	MIDW-C	2857	1997
Travis Bonham	USD-NW	1788	1998
Paul J. Bordeleau	CRSF	0201	1998
Anthony J. Bossi Jr	CRSF	0201	1997
Kurth J. Bremer	MIDW-C	1965	1995
Cole A. Broadwell	MIDW-S	1498	1995
Douglas J. Broich	USD-NW	0692	1998
Christopher J. Brossart	MIDW-S	1481	1997
Jason M. Buchanan	AT&SF	2408	1997
Shanon J. Buchmiller	MIDW-S	498	1997
Terry A. Burke	MIDW-C	1965	1997
Nathan S. Bush	MIDW-C	1965	1998
Richard F. Bussey	CRSF	0201	1998
Bobby J. Cake	AT&SF	2417	1998
Marty A. Carlson	MIDW-S	1552	1991

Jeffrey E. Carroll	USD-NW	788	1997
Lorenzo E. Castillo Jr	AT&SF	2416	1997
Robert E. Castillo Jr	AT&SF	2416	1998
Anthony J. Catino	CRSF	0201	1998
Roco Cervantes	MIDW-C	857	1997
Michael S. Chastain	USD-W	1216	1998
Alejandro Chavez	USD-W	0686	1997
Miguel A. Chavez	MIDW-C	857	1994
Vicente Chavez	MIDW-C	857	1994
Ronald H. Christ	CRSF	0201	1997
Brad J. Clark	MIDW-C	857	1997
Courtney A. Clark	CRSF	0201	1998
Darwin D. Claus	MIDW-S	552	1991
Frank A. Cogliano	CRSF	0201	1998
Albino Contreras	MIDW-C	857	1997
Benjamin Contreras	MIDW-C	857	1997
Melvin A. Cordova	SP ATL	254	1998
Kenneth E. Davis	AT&SF	2413	1998

U. S. Railroad Retirement Board Announces Reorganization of Field Offices

The U.S. Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) has announced a major reorganization of its field service to be effective October 1, 2008.

The agency's 53 field offices will no longer be organized under 3 regional offices, but will instead be under a nationwide management structure located in its Chicago headquarters. With the elimination of the 3 regional offices, the RRB's field service will be reorganized into 12 networks. A network is a team of 4 or 5 district offices that partner to distribute telephone calls and other work equitably among the claims representatives in that network. This restructuring of the field service is preparatory to the RRB's implementation of a nationwide toll-free telephone service

early next year, which will provide the RRB's customers with easy access to the agency's field offices. Through the implementation of toll-free service and the employment of a wider work distribution system through the field service reorganization, the RRB believes it will be able to provide a high level of personal service to all of its customers across the country.

The networks, their respective managers, and the offices comprising each network are:

Network 1—Network Manager:
Tom Hammersley (Milwaukee)
Offices: Chicago, Decatur, Indianapolis, Joliet, Milwaukee

Network 2—Network Manager:
Phil Dissek (Buffalo)
Offices: Buffalo, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Pittsburgh

Network 3—Network Manager:
Bob Ralston (Scranton)
Offices: Altoona, Baltimore, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Scranton

Network 4—Network Manager:
John East (Newark)
Offices: Albany, Boston, Newark, New York, Westbury

Network 5—Network Manager:
Linda Koester (Roanoke)
Offices: Charlotte, Huntington, Richmond, Roanoke

Network 6—Network Manager:
Mike Core (Birmingham)
Offices: Atlanta, Birmingham, Jacksonville, Tampa

Network 7—Network Manager:
Ada Foster (Kansas City)
Offices: Kansas City, Louisville, Nashville, St. Louis

Network 8—Network Manager:
Barbara Gettman (Fort Worth)
Offices: Fort Worth, Houston, Little Rock, New Orleans

Network 9—Network Manager:
Joe Gray (Denver)
Offices: Albuquerque, Denver, Omaha, Wichita

Network 10—Network Manager:
Tom Hamm (Oakland)
Offices: Covina, Mesa, Oakland, Sacramento

Network 11—Network Manager:
Ron Kaminski (Billings)
Offices: Bellevue, Billings, Portland, Salt Lake City, Spokane

Network 12—Network Manager:
Brian Running (St. Paul)
Offices: Des Moines, Duluth, Fargo, St. Paul

ROLL OF HONOR Continued from Page 10

Kevin L. Kroupa	USD-NW	692	1998	Frederick J. Rice	CRSF	0201	1998
David B. Krumwiede	MIDW-S	481	1991	Kenny R. Richerson	AT&SF	2416	1998
Mark G. Kuberra	USD-NW	239	1998	Shane M. Rickert	USD-W	0473	1998
Muri G. Kuhlman	AT&SF	2407	1998	Jon T. Riggs	AT&SF	2414	1998
Jason M. Kuss	MIDW-S	928	1998	Ronnie O. Riley	ICGF	1171	2007
Quentin W. La Fontain	MIDW-S	498	1998	James T. Ripley	CRSF	0201	1997
Kevin H. Landry	CRSF	0201	1996	Jaime Rodriguez	AT&SF	2412	1998
John Larry	USD-W	0686	1998	Brian J. Rumler	USD-NW	343	1998
Rick F. Leach	AT&SF	2407	1998	Jesus Salazar	MIDW-C	857	1997
Glenn L. Lehtomaki	MIDW-S	489	1992	Lucio J. Samora	AT&SF	2416	1998
Jerad D. Lemer	MIDW-S	481	1998	Scott A. Sand	MIDW-S	490	1991
Kent M. Lettenmaier	MIDW-S	552	1991	Steven R. Saunders Jr	USD-NW	847	1998
Fletcher L. Lewis	AT&SF	2411	1998	Curt J. Schmidt	MIDW-S	552	1998
Rafael A. Lievanos	AT&SF	2418	1998	Donald E. Schminkey	USD-NW	847	1998
T. D. Littlefield	USD-W	1381	1998	Jarred K. Schmitt	MIDW-S	498	1998
Juan H. Lopez	USD-W	0686	1998	Gary J. Schuldheisz	MIDW-S	552	1995
Michael D. Lovato	BURNOR	297	1998	Pedro C. Segovia	MIDW-C	857	1997
Clarence E. Lowe	MIDW-C	903	1997	Rory A. Severson	MIDW-S	481	1991
Luis E. Loya	USD-W	0686	1998	Ira R. Seybold Jr	AT&SF	2417	1998
Archie L. Lux	MIDW-S	481	1991	Nathan K. Sheppard	ICGF	1393	1998
John R. Lydon	CRSF	0201	1998	Jose M. Silva	CRSF	0201	1998
Manuel Machado	CRSF	0201	1997	Dennis J. Sinclair	AT&SF	2416	1998
Mark L. Maguire	USD-W	1227	1998	Jamie A. Skroch	MIDW-S	928	1992
Jason A. Mann	MIDW-S	498	1996	Steven C. Slate	AT&SF	2411	1998
Glenn J. Martin	CRSF	0201	1998	James T. Smith	MIDW-C	857	1994
Johnny L. Martinez	AT&SF	2415	1998	Michael S. Smith	MIDW-S	552	1996
Robert E. Martinez	AT&SF	2415	1998	Scott M. Smith	MIDW-C	906	1998
Tracey J. Mc Connell	MIDW-S	498	1991	Leroy Soares	CRSF	0201	1997
Michael S. Mc Donough	MIDW-S	928	1990	John M. Soma	MIDW-S	552	1997
Darrell L. Mc Guire	ICGF	0017	1997	Michael L. Sparks	AT&SF	2403	1998
Keith A. Mc Keever	AT&SF	2413	1998	Dave M. Speldrich	MIDW-S	498	1991
Marty L. Mc Merrick	USD-W	1227	1998	Fredrik R. Staples	MIDW-S	488	1998
Daniel L. Michaels	MIDW-C	903	1996	Shawn G. Stevens	AT&SF	2404	1998
Antonio Mieszanek	MIDW-C	857	1998	Ryan J. Stewart	USD-W	0686	1998
Adrian J. Miller	MIDW-S	481	1991	James R. Stoeckly III	MIDW-C	965	1998
Joseph F. Munro	CRSF	0201	1998	Gary E. Stransky	MIDW-S	928	1990
Brian D. Neals	MIDW-C	857	1998	Sam A. Struhart	MIDW-C	857	1997
Jo Ann Nelson	MIDW-C	906	1998	John C. Sutherland	AT&SF	2405	1996
Len A. Nelson	MIDW-S	552	1994	Richard A. Sweetman	CRSF	0201	1998
Clarence P. Newell	AT&SF	2419	1997	Darin R. Syverson	MIDW-S	552	1991
Scott Niemi	MIDW-S	489	1989	Dale O. Tangen	MIDW-S	488	1995
Steven A. Niziol	USD-NW	788	1998	Kenneth W. Tanksley	MIDW-C	903	1995
Michael J. Norton	CRSF	0201	1997	Sherman E. Tate	USD-NW	377	1998
Carlos R. Ochoa	MIDW-C	857	1994	John F. Thomas	MIDW-C	857	1996
Steven D. Oliver	USD-W	1227	1998	Shannon W. Thomsen	MIDW-S	662	1997
Cayler B. Olson	MIDW-S	490	1998	Bobby G. Tindell	AT&SF	2418	1998
Stoney W. Orr	AT&SF	2415	1998	Diego P. Trujillo	AT&SF	2415	1998
Osvaldo Ortiz	USD-W	0473	1998	Alex Tso Jr	USD-W	1227	1998
Curt A. Otero	MIDW-C	857	1994	Steven L. Tyler	AT&SF	2408	1997
Willie J. Owens	MIDW-S	489	1993	Jake E. Tyner	MIDW-S	489	1995
Peter R. Paglia	CRSF	0201	1998	Chad M. Urlaub	MIDW-S	481	1996
Juan M. Palacios	MIDW-C	857	1997	Fidel R. Valdez Jr	AT&SF	2415	1998
Michael W. Palmieri	CRSF	0201	1997	Steven M. Van Horn	MIDW-S	489	1993
Bruce W. Pearson	MIDW-S	490	1989	Raymond Villarino	AT&SF	2417	1997
Steven W. Pederson	MIDW-S	552	1998	C. Von Niederhausen	MIDW-S	490	1998
Paul C. Peterson	USD-W	1227	1996	Dean O. Wangrud	MIDW-S	552	1995
Garry A. Pfau	MIDW-S	481	1991	Benton S. Warnke	USD-NW	692	1998
Kriston G. Pohlman	AT&SF	2405	1998	Kurt T. Weber	MIDW-S	481	1976
Jose A. Portillo	SP ATL	254	1998	Randy M. Weber	USD-NW	847	1998
Joshua L. Pospisil	USD-NW	788	1998	Raymond J. Welcome	CRSF	0201	1979
Bernard R. Powell	MIDW-C	857	1998	Michael R. Welsh	AT&SF	2417	1998
Jason Prieto	AT&SF	2418	1998	Ronald K. White	AT&SF	2417	1997
Ronald Proulx Jr	CRSF	0201	1998	Paul I. Whitfield	MIDW-C	857	1998
Steven N. Radford	AT&SF	2419	1998	Robert L. Whitten	CRSF	0201	1998
Agustin C. Ramirez	MIDW-C	857	1997	Darrell L. Wineinger	USD-W	0899	1998
Ernesto Ramirez	MIDW-C	857	1994	Dylan J. Winne	AT&SF	2417	1997
Alvin D. Ramsey	MIDW-S	552	1995	Brandon E. Woolsey	USD-W	0686	1998
Larry M. Rasanen Jr	MIDW-S	489	1989	Oscar R. Zavala	AT&SF	2418	1997
Matthew J. Rebik	USD-NW	381	1998	Darrell E. Zawistowski	USD-NW	239	1998
Chris R. Reynolds	USD-W	1381	1998				

Around the Brotherhood Continued from Page 3

BURLINGTON SYSTEM DIVISION JOINT PROTECTIVE BOARD MEETING

The Burlington System Division held its Joint Protective Board meeting July 23, 2008 in Rapid City, South Dakota. Former General Chairman David Joynt's election to the National Division Vice President position made it necessary for the

Board to hold elections. Brother Dennis L. Craft was tapped to fill the General Chairman position. Vice General Chairmen Don Willing, Tony Archibald and Roy Miller will continue representing their respective BSD Regions.



BMWED Vice President Dave Joynt, far right, performs swearing in of officers

ALLIED FEDERATION HOLDS ANNUAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The annual meeting of the Allied Federation Executive Committee was held in Memphis, TN September 9 – 10, 2008. This was the first Executive Committee meeting held since the former Allied Eastern Federation and the former Missouri Pacific System Federation merged.

General Chairman Dennis Albers took the opportunity to schedule an

educational conference with a number of speakers who addressed the attendees on a range of issues. According to General Chairman Albers, "The purpose of the educational was to be able to send our committee members back to their locals with a better perspective on contractual issues, RRB benefits, insurance and other membership benefits."



Allied Federation Officers and Executive Committee members



BMWED Legislative Issues – 110th Congress

Amtrak Funding FY 2009

The House continued to debate on a bill that would authorize a dramatic surge in funding for Amtrak.

On Wednesday, October 1, 2008, the Senate cleared the first Amtrak reauthorization bill (HR 2095) since 1997. Reportedly, on October 2nd, President Bush said he would sign legislation providing \$13 billion for Amtrak and tightening rail safety oversight.

This bill authorizes new funding for Amtrak at \$5.3 billion in capital grants, \$2.9 billion in operating grants, and \$1.9 billion for intercity passenger rail over five years.

To clear the measure for the President's signature, the Senate voted, 74-24. Although earlier versions of the bill had been threatened to be vetoed; this bill had overwhelming support in both houses.

Not surprisingly, the handful of dissenters included GOP presidential nominee John McCain, who has been a long-time Amtrak critic. Democratic nominee Barack Obama voted yes.

Tom Coburn (R-OK), who, last week, blocked the Senate from clearing the bill by unanimous consent over objections to \$1.5 billion in authorized funding over a decade for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, which runs the capital city's Metro subway system was among those voting against the Amtrak bill.

In June, the Bush administration threatened to veto a House-passed Amtrak bill because it lacked "meaningful reforms in Amtrak's governance

or operations" and would not base the allocation of money on public demand. The White House urged action to promote competition and make Amtrak more accountable.

This would be Amtrak's first new authorization since 1997.

Rail Safety

On October 17, 2007, the \$13 billion Amtrak authorization was added to a rail safety measure that the House first passed by a vote of 377-38. The Senate passed the bill by voice vote August 1, 2008, after adopting a substitute amendment that was based on a modified Senate version of the bill.

This bill would reauthorize and reinforce rail safety programs, including directing rail companies to equip cars with sensors to help avoid crashes. The recent September 12th collision between a passenger train and a freight train in California that killed 25 people and injured many more, made this an urgent provision. Some experts have argued that if the trains had been equipped with the anti-collision sensors, the accident could have been avoided.

The bill would require railroad companies to submit a plan to equip trains with the systems by the end of 2015. The bill would authorize \$50 million in grants to help implement the technology; and, it would authorize \$1.6 billion over five years for the FRA and other rail safety needs. The bill would also direct the Department of Transportation to issue rules requiring certain railroads to evaluate and manage safety risks.

Railroads would be required to limit shifts to 12 hours and to give workers at least 10 consecutive hours off in a 24-hour period. The bill would authorize \$3 million annually from fiscal 2010 through fiscal 2013 for highway-rail grade crossing safety grants.

High-Speed Rail

The bill would also authorize funds for states to improve or add intercity passenger service and it would allow for private companies to bid on high-speed rail projects that would connect Washington, D.C., and New York City.

According to CQ Today, ranking member John L. Mica (R-FL) had been negotiating with the Bush administration for weeks. He said he told White House staff that he'd succeeded in getting reforms, privatization and more competition. "I don't know how I could have done any better," he said.

Now Mica said he is trying to convince Bush to sign the bill as quickly as possible so that it will be the Republican administration overseeing request for proposals from private companies for the development of high speed rail. The provision is Mica's brainchild.

LIFETIME MEMBER CELEBRATES 100TH BIRTHDAY

Joseph J. Hobbs, a member of Consolidated Rail System Federation Local Lodge 1350 and a lifetime member of the BMWED, will celebrate his 100th birthday on October 20, 2008.

Brother Hobbs began his railroad career as a Track Repairman in 1925. He retired from the Erie Lackawanna Railroad as a Crew Driver on December 5, 1972, after 48 years of service. Besides being a lifetime member of the BMWED he also holds a lifetime membership with the Avoca, Pennsylvania, Hose Company #1.

Brother Hobbs, who still resides in Avoca, has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren and 3 great, great grandchildren.

Happy birthday Brother Hobbs!



Joseph J. Hobbs



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