

# BMWED

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

# JOURNAL



Volume 124 ■ Number 1

www.bmwe.org

January-February-March, 2015

## BMWED offering training seminars to Local Lodge Officers *Lodge officers that have never before attended seminars are encouraged to apply*

The BMWED National Division is proud to announce the scheduling of three, two-day training seminars, aimed at assisting Local Lodge Officers (Local Presidents, Local Secretary-Treasurers, and Local Chairmen) fulfill their duties and responsibilities.

Only Local Lodge officers who have **never attended** a previous seminar session are asked to apply. If you have participated in a previous educational seminar, please disregard this announcement.

The scheduled 2015 seminars are:  
*April 28-29 in San Antonio, Texas*  
*June 9-10 in St. Louis, Missouri*  
*Sept. 15-16 in Phoenix, Arizona*

Local officers interested in attending one of the scheduled trainings are asked to contact BMWED Project Coordinator Katie Fruzynski at 202-508-6446, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. EST. Applications will be prioritized on a first-come, first-served basis, and our subject to approval. **Travel arrangements should not be made until you have been notified by National Division of your acceptance for the seminar.**

Each seminar will commence at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday and will conclude no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday. Registration will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday morning. Breakfast and lunch will be provided by the BMWED National Division each day.

For those traveling from outside a reasonable daily commuting distance, National Division will provide participants with up to three nights of overnight accommodations (i.e., Monday, Tuesday, and, as necessary, Wednesday evenings) at no cost to you or your Local Lodge.

For those choosing to drive, National Division will provide mileage reimbursement to and from the seminar at the current allowable rate, up to a maximum of \$500.00. For those traveling from outside a reasonable driving distance, National Division will reimburse participants, up to a \$500.00 maximum, toward the cost of one round trip coach airline ticket. Airline tickets should be purchased at least 21 days in advance, if possible, to get the best fare. Reimbursement for airfare will require a receipt. An ES-1 Form for air travel or mileage reimbursement will be provided at the seminar.

Reimbursement by National Division is contingent upon your presence throughout the entire two-day seminar. **Except as provided above, National Division will not be providing additional reimbursement for lost wages, meals, taxi/shuttles, parking, or other expenses.** You or your Local Lodge will be expected to assume any additional costs related to such lost wages, meals and other expenses.

As a Local Lodge Officer, you are a vital link in our Brotherhood's operation, having day-to-day contact with our membership at the local

level. As such, your position is one of great responsibility and importance to our Brotherhood and its members. We encourage you to take full advantage of this opportunity for training and look forward to your active participation.

### BMWED Diversity Committee participates in MLK Day community projects

Members of the BMWED Diversity Committee traveled to Atlanta over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend, where they helped community activists on a home construction project, participated in a MLK march and attended several workshop presentations on Union activism.

Continued on Page 5



BMWED Diversity members worked on a home construction project over the MLK holiday weekend.

## Elgin, Joliet & Eastern System Division re-elects DelMuro General Chairman

Brother Rolando DelMuro was re-elected as General Chairman of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern System Division at a meeting of the Joint Protective Board on Dec. 11, 2014 in Tinley Park, Ill.

Also re-elected to new terms at the meeting were Secretary-Treasurer John Werr and Vice General Chairman Dave Christian.

The EJ&E System Division represents members who work on the Canadian National Railway and on the Gary Railway.

"My congratulations go to Brothers DelMuro, Christian and Werr upon their respective re-elections, and to the members of the EJ&E System Division who will continue to have strong union leadership," BMWED Vice President At-Large David D. Joynt said. "I look for-

ward to working closely with them on all matters that benefit our membership."



EJ&ESD officers, led by re-elected General Chairman Rolando DelMuro, were chosen by membership in December.



IN MEMORIAM

John F. Schroth



The Brotherhood is sad to report that Brother John Schroth, a 22-year member of the BMWED Commuter Railroad System Division Local Lodge 2910, has passed away at the untimely age of 58.

Brother Schroth held the position of Local 2910 Secretary Treasurer/Recording Secretary for a number of years and was a friend to many in the CRSD. He worked for Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) as a B&B carpenter.

BMWED Vice President (North-east Region) Seán D. Gerie worked with Brother Schroth and counted him as a close friend.

"Brother John had a remarkable spirit, a sharp mind, and a heart of gold. The Brotherhood

meant the world to him and it showed in how he treated and represented every member," Vice President Gerie said. "I am fortunate to have worked with John, both on the railroad and within the Brotherhood and the friendship that I developed with him and his wife, Rita, is one that I will always cherish. John was truly one-of-a-kind."

In addition to Brother Schroth's dedication and service to our Brotherhood, he was also a proud member of the Horsham, Pa. VFW Post 9788 and Rising Sun, Pa. VFW Post 2819.

The BMWED sends its sincerest condolences to Brother Schroth's wife and extended family. Brother John will be missed.

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](mailto:lodge1507@aol.com).



Change of Address Request

Please remember to notify your System Office or the National Division of any change of address or telephone number. It is vital that this information be kept current. Railroad employers do not always provide this information to the BMWED. Phone numbers can be found at [BMWE.org](http://BMWE.org).

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Do you have an interesting hobby or a great story to tell? Pictures from a recent lodge meeting or event? We want to hear and see them. Contact the Journal at:

[cballew@bmwe.org](mailto:cballew@bmwe.org)

QR Code

A QR code (Quick Response Code) is a two-dimensional code that can be scanned with a mobile phone to gain access to specific information via the mobile web.



Scan me to Visit the BMWED website!

# A Vice President Speaks

## BMWED: Stand tall and protect your livelihood



Seán Gerie  
Vice President  
Northeast

Fellow BMWED Brothers and Sisters,

Perhaps no other workers in the entire country are more affected by the results of political elections than those of us who make our living in the railroad industry.

Railroad workers' retirement system was created and continues to be regulated by federal lawmakers. The same can be said for our unemployment benefits, sickness benefit, our entire process of negotiating labor agreements and the filing claims and grievances over applications of those contracts under the Railway Labor Act.

The National Mediation Board is an agency ran by the Federal Government. They handle our claims, grievances, disciplinary arbitrations and representational elections. It is important to note, the NMB's Board of Directors is appointed by none other than the President of the United States.

Of course, we're all familiar with the Federal Railroad Administration, which is responsible for the oversight of safety standards and codes pertaining to the safe passage of trains.

The National Transportation Safety Board, Department of Transportation, and several Con-

gressional committees all weigh in on how we conduct business as an industry.

Then there is the issue of local, state, and federal subsidies – guess who decides those, too? Elected politicians.

One in ten railroad workers in the United States is employed by AMTRAK. Take a look at how hotly debated the issue of funding AMTRAK gets on Capitol Hill.

The Federal Employer's Liability Act is also a legal protection for railroad workers – a federal law that protects the safety of railroad workers and permits them to recover losses in the event of injuries. Roadway Worker Protection, something we use each and every day when working on the tracks, was enacted and regulated by federal law.

These are actually just a handful of the many examples the average BMWED member should consider when they fill out their ballot. For better or for worse, the political process has to become a major priority in our lives.

Whether we like to admit it or not, our very livelihoods are at stake if and when the wrong people get elected. Electing representatives unsupportive of labor, and especially rail labor, could — and most likely would — have an adverse effect on BMWED members and their families.

If I told the average American that there was a group of people out there who would stop at nothing to steal everything you've worked for and everything that you hope to obtain, I'd grab your attention, right? And if I said there are people running for and currently holding office that want to eliminate every chance that your

children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews have to live a comfortable life, you would instantly become upset, and would certainly take actions to ensure that didn't happen, correct?

Well, therein lies the problem in our society. Many working people do believe that, but they may very well be blaming the wrong people. Once misinformed, too many are rewarding those that would do the most harm to them politically.

Over the course of the last three decades, America's wealth has shifted so drastically that the statistics are staggering. Let's take a look:

According to an article in the April 2014 issue of Forbes business magazine, the average CEO pay has risen to 331 times that of the average worker, and 774 times the minimum wage. Is one person, however "important" he or she may be, really worth 331 more paychecks to your one? Does that seem greedy to you, or is that just me? When "real wages" are adjusted for inflation, most workers are left far behind where they should be.

Make no mistake, there are groups of people out there working very hard to steal everything the working class has gained in the last 50-plus years. Gains that were aided in very large part to strong Unions.

Corporations and the ultra wealthy have been stealing from us for years and they keep coming up with more and more ways to do it. ALEC and the Koch brothers, the Heritage Foundation, all ruses designed to get people to vote against their own self interests.

We need to recognize these shams and work collectively against them.

While these modern-day robber barons continue with their smash and grab, they somehow find a way

to blame the poor and working class for the nation's ills.

There is an all out attack on working people taking place right now, but not everyone is seeing it.

And what's worse? The very same people that stand to lose the battle are helping the other side win!

Our standard of living is in jeopardy, if not our entire livelihoods.

Right now there are people hard at work trying to steal your voice in the workplace, in your government, and in your community. Politicians are using cute names for these sneaky, deceitful bills, names like "paycheck protection" and "right to work."

I call them "paycheck deception" and the right to work **for less**. These tactics are solely intended to weaken Unions and further eradicate the standard of living of most Americans – to the benefit of the wealthy few.

We cannot afford to sit idly as these people try to take away the gains that our forefathers in the Labor movement fought so hard to obtain for the working class. Current labor laws, such as our vitally important Railway Labor Act, were not enacted into law by sheer coincidence. These laws were fought for out of absolute necessity. We cannot squander our railroad Union predecessors' hard and dedicated work.

Just as importantly, we must not allow ourselves to be manipulated into the lies and propaganda that are being promulgated so fiercely in this day and age. We have an obligation to our families and our communities to vote for people who understand and respect our needs and will represent our best interests in the political arena.

History has shown what BMWED members can do when they work together. I am confident that we will stand strongly united this time around as well. We have no other choice.

## Brother Kip Lytle retires

BMWED Burlington System Division Local Lodge 1214 President Kip Lytle recently retired after 41 years of service. Kip was president of his Local Lodge



1214 in Nebraska for over 10 years.

"We thank Brother Lytle for his dedicated service to the Brotherhood and the members, and congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement," BSD General Chairwoman Staci Moody-Gilbert said. "Brother Kip will be missed. He did a great job. But we are happy for him and wish him an enjoyable retirement."

You can now visit the BMWED on *Facebook* at **Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes**, and follow us on *Twitter* at **BMWEDIBT**.

UNEMPLOYMENT DUES RATES - 2015				
EFFECTIVE: January 1, 2015				
	Total	National Division	System	Lodge
Class I	\$17.33	\$15.33	\$1.00	\$1.00
Class II	\$15.13	\$13.13	\$1.00	\$1.00
Non-Rail (NRTK)	\$12.27	\$10.27	\$1.00	\$1.00

Reminder to all Local Lodge Officers: According to BMWED By-laws, in order to be re-elected to any Local Lodge officer position, one must stay current in dues. If you miss any privileged time from work, due to furlough or any other reason, your eligibility to run for office requires a payment of unemployment dues at the current rates seen here. Please call National Division at (248) 962-2662 with any questions.



Perry K. Geller, Sr.

# SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

## *The Power of Collective Bargaining*

The new political buzzwords of the moment are “wage stagnation” and “income inequality.” Newspapers and the media have been all over this issue lately. President Obama talked about wage stagnation and income inequality in his last State of the Union address. And the Republican rebuttals to the State of the Union also talked about wage stagnation, but in a different context.

Despite a steadily strengthening U.S. economy, there is stark evidence that average U.S. wages continue to stagnate even as the economy grows, profits soar, and hiring improves. The income gap between the rich and the rest of us continues to expand, with the richest 1 percent taking home 24 percent of all U.S. income in 2010.

Over the last several decades, worker productivity has grown substantially, but on average the wages of the typical American worker have grown much less so. Why has the U.S. economy failed to reward American workers for their productivity and contributions to corporate profits? Put simply, it is because state and national socio-economic policies fail to address a fundamental human trait: Greed.

Greed is the driver of wage stagnation and the great barrier to addressing income inequality in America. Understandably, the goal of corporations and their stockholders is to amass wealth. That is how our capitalist society functions. However, to safeguard against the inherent excesses of the capitalist system, government leaders must support public policies which counteract the human propensity towards greed. Otherwise, wealth will continue to amass at the very top and the income inequality gap will continue to expand.

There are proven public policy ideas that could help close the gap. President Obama talked about some of these in his State of the Union address, including increasing the minimum wage and providing workers paid sick leave, gender pay equity, and affordable health care. These are ideals that have been championed by Organized Labor in the public policy arena and at the bargaining table for decades. In his State of the Union, President Obama publicly acknowledged the critical role of unions in closing the income equality gap, stating, “We still need laws that strengthen rather than weaken unions, and give American workers a voice.”

History has proven the benefits of unionism on workers and the American economy. During the post-World War II period through about 1970, nearly 30 percent of American workers were union members, and the rising tide of collective bargaining helped lift all boats. As proud members of the BMWED, we today are among a small minority of American workers who still have the right to collectively bargain. As a direct result, BMWED wage rates negotiated under the last National Agreement increased 18.6 percent between 2010-2015, while the wage rate of the typical non-union worker remained virtually unchanged (stagnant) during that same period. That, my Brothers and Sisters, is the “Union Difference” and the power of collective bargaining!

A January 6, 2015, study published by the Economic Policy Institute (EPI) had this to say about the connection between income inequality and the decline in unionism: “When unions are able to set strong pay standards in particular occupations or industries through collective bargaining, the employers in those settings also raise the wages and benefits of non-union

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## Fast Track Will Hurt Working Americans

For years, big business has pushed for fast-track trade promotion authority so it can get secret trade deals it helps craft like the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) enacted. Congressional leaders want to move on fast track, and soon. That means those standing up for the interests of hardworking Americans must step up their efforts. After all, not everyone is aware of the consequences that a quick up-or-down vote on the 12-nation Pacific Rim trade deal will bring. It will devastate not only wage earners, but their families as well.

The Teamsters and our fair-trade friends have seen the damage fast track and bad trade deals like the TPP can do. Millions of middle-class jobs nationwide have been lost, and they are not coming back. It is time for all of our elected leaders to do everything within their power to support and expand the nation's middle class. It is for exactly this reason that the President and free trade supporters in Congress need to change their position on fast track.

The good news is there is a strong bipartisan collection of lawmakers who, like the Teamsters,



James P. Hoffa, General President, International Brotherhood of Teamsters

have made it clear fast track does not lead to fair trade. Repeatedly, they have written the U.S.

Trade Representative, held press conferences and spoken out publicly about speeding trade deals through Congress. Fast track will hurt hardworking Americans by shipping their jobs overseas and endangering their health with unsafe imported food and products.

With Congress set to consider fast track soon, there is no time to waste in letting both the public and elected officials know about the dangers of unfair trade. Less jobs, lower pay, less worker protections and unsafe food and products isn't good for anyone – except big business.

American workers are facing turbulent times. Corporations are trying to ship U.S. jobs overseas in an attempt to lower the wages they pay. Having seen the costs with the implementation of NAFTA, the Teamsters and their allies cannot let that happen. This nation doesn't need any more free trade agreements; it needs fair trade agreements. But that will only happen if pro-worker advocates stand up to the big business bullies and demand that lawmakers say no to fast track and bad trade agreements like the TPP.

## RRB announces Spring 2015 dates for informational conferences and new pre-retirement seminars

(Source: U.S. Railroad Retirement Board)

CHICAGO — The U.S. Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) has announced a schedule of dates for the agency's spring 2015 Informational Conferences and Pre-Retirement Seminars.

Informational Conferences will be held in 22 locations across the country, beginning March 13 in Covina, CA. Started nearly 60 years ago by the RRB's Office of the Labor Member, the conferences provide rail union officers with a comprehensive overview of the provisions and financing of the railroad retirement and unemployment insurance systems. These officials, in turn, pass on to their fellow rail labor membership the information acquired at the conferences.

Pre-Retirement Seminars are planned for several locations during the spring, with the first to be held April 17 in Albuquerque, NM. Designed for railroad employees and spouses planning to retire within 5 years or less, the seminars familiarize attendees with the retirement benefits available to them, and also guide them through the application process. The program began in 2014 on a pilot basis.

Informational Conferences are open to union officials and their spouses by invitation only. Labor representatives who do not receive an invitation to a conference in their area should contact the RRB toll-free at 1-877-772-5772 and request that they be added to the agency's invitation database. Registration for each conference begins at 8 a.m., with the program starting at 8:30 a.m. and concluding at 12:15 p.m.

Pre-Retirement Seminars are open to the railroad public. However, persons wishing to attend are asked to print and complete a registration form, which is available by visiting the RRB's website at [www.rrb.gov](http://www.rrb.gov), and selecting the Office of the Labor Member's Educational Materials link in the

Spotlight section of the home page ([http://www.rrb.gov/lmo/educational\\_materials.asp](http://www.rrb.gov/lmo/educational_materials.asp)). Seminar space is limited and registration is accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Completed forms should be mailed or faxed to the RRB office listed on the form as soon as possible. Check-in for each seminar begins at 8 a.m., with the program starting at 8:30 a.m. and concluding at 12:30 p.m.

Individuals who have not previously submitted documents required when filing a railroad retirement annuity application, such as proofs of age, marriage, or military service, are encouraged to bring this material (original documents or certified copies required) to the seminar. Attendees should also bring along an additional copy of each item to leave with the RRB field personnel leading the seminars.

Those unable to attend the seminars but still seeking pre-retirement information should contact the RRB. Individual retirement counseling is available in person at an agency field office, or by phone by contacting the RRB toll-free at 1-877-772-5772.

Dates and locations for the agency's fall schedule of Informational Conferences and Pre-Retirement Seminars will be released this summer.

### Spring 2015 Informational Conference Schedule

MARCH  
13 - Covina, CA  
20 - Baltimore, MD  
27 - Oakland, CA  
27 - Birmingham, AL

APRIL  
10 - Richmond, VA  
16 - Westbury, NY  
17 - St. Louis, MO  
17 - Newark, NJ  
24 - St. Paul, MN  
24 - Detroit, MI

RRB, Continued on Page 7

## Secretary-Treasurer, Continued from Page 4

workers toward the standards set through collective bargaining. Thus, the weakening of the collective bargaining system as had an adverse impact on the compensation of both union and non-union workers."

The most obvious solutions to America's income inequality and wage stagnation are the dual mechanisms of strong unions and the ability to collectively bargain. These mechanisms have served BMWED members well since our founding in 1887. Today, I call on the new House and Senate majorities to pass legislation enacting President Obama's appeal for "laws that strengthen rather than weaken unions and give American workers a voice." For the Union makes us, and the U.S. economy, strong!


## BMWED Diversity Committee, Continued from Page 1

"The theme of the weekend was 'Dream Big, Love All, Act Now' and that is what our committee aims to do," BMWED South Region Vice President Roger Sanchez said. "Our Brotherhood is proud to support the ideals and aspirations of Dr. King and participating in the community-themed weekend honoring his legacy was a terrific way to spread his message."

The Diversity Committee endeavors to erase discrimination and prejudice within our membership and work places by energetically crossing the barriers of division. For more information on the Diversity Committee please contact VP Sanchez at (281) 354-4812 or email at [lodge1507@aol.com](mailto:lodge1507@aol.com).



BMWED Diversity Committee members represented our Brotherhood by marching in the MLK Day Parade in Atlanta.



## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

### 2015 LOCAL LODGE OFFICER TRAINING SEMINARS

BMWED National Division has set the dates for this year's Local Lodge Officer Training Seminars. The dates and locations are as follows:

**April 28-29, San Antonio, TX**  
**June 9-10, St. Louis, MO**  
**September 15-16, Phoenix, AZ**

The purpose of these training seminars is to assist Local Lodge Presidents, Secretary-Treasurers and Local Chairman in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities as Local Lodge Officers. The training is intended to enhance the knowledge and skills of Local Lodge Officers and strengthen representation and membership participation at the Local Lodge level.

A notice of these training seminars and an application form has been mailed to each Local Lodge President, Lodge Secretary-Treasurer and Local Chairman. Applications to attend will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Space is limited and successful applicants will receive written confirmation from National Division.

Local Lodge Officers are a vital link in our Brotherhood's operation, having day-to-day contact with our membership at the local level. As such, Local Lodge Officers are of great importance to our Brotherhood and its members. BMWED National Division encourages Local Officers to take full advantage of this opportunity for training and we look forward to your active participation.

For additional information, Local Lodge Officers should refer to the recently mailed recruitment notice. Questions may be directed to Katie Fruzynski at [Katie@bmwe.org](mailto:Katie@bmwe.org) in our Washington, DC office.

## RICHARD LAU



Former BMWED Vice President Brother Richard Lau passed away Jan. 1, 2015. He was 62.

Brother Lau began his railroad career with the Southern Railway Company on March 8, 1971, where he held seniority in the Track and Heavy Equipment Sub-department. He became Local Chairman of Lodge 34 in 1972 and held that position till 1980. Lau was also a member of the Southern System Division's Executive Board during part of that time from 1976 until he was elected to a full-time officer position as a Vice Chairman in 1983.

In 1986, Lau was appointed to the serve as Administrative Assistant to the Grand Lodge President at the time, Geoffrey Zeh. Brother Lau was elected as a Vice President of the BMWED at the 1998 Convention. He retired from the BMWED January 2002.

"The Brotherhood's officers, staff and membership send our heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the family of Vice President Lau," BMWED President Freddie N. Simpson said. "Brother Lau service to our Union was strong and sincere. He will be missed."

Brother Lau was also a Mason, member of West Gate Lodge #738. He is survived by two sons, Kyle Lau and wife Tonya of Denver, N.C., and TSgt. Christopher Cook and wife Larissa of Incirlik AB, Turkey; a brother, Vince Lau and wife Bev of Huntingburg, Ind.; a sister, Diana Owen and husband Rocky of Indiana; four grandsons, Chandler Williams, Vance Cook, Quinn Cook, and Kasen Lau; and one granddaughter, Marlow Cook.

Teamsters now have access to a leading brand of tax preparation software, TurboTax. Buying TurboTax through the Teamster page, you'll receive a discount, plus a portion of what you pay goes toward the James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund. <http://ibt.io/turbotax>

### TurboTax products feature:

- A step-by-step interview with easy-to-understand questions;
- Forms automatically filled out using your answers; and
- 100-percent accurate calculations guarantee.

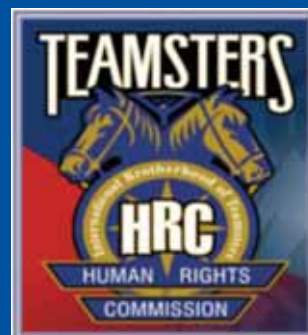
### Teamsters Benefit: Discount on TurboTax



Keep more of your hard-earned money this tax season. You can access the Teamster TurboTax page at <http://ibt.io/turbotax>

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](mailto:lodge1507@aol.com).



# RETIREMENT CHANGES DURING 11/01/2014 TO 12/31/2014

*** January 2014 ***				*** September 2014 ***				*** November 2014 ***						
MICHAEL J VASELEWSKI	CRSF	1466	CSXT	01/03/2014	DANIEL K LEFHOLZ	AF	1353	UP	09/01/2014	STEVEN R WICKUM	BURNOR	0016	BNSF	10/31/2014
TERRY S VAN SICKLE	CRSF	2779	CSXT	01/04/2014	Q A LANE	SOU	0627	NS	09/01/2014	DONALD F TURNER	N E	1323	DH	10/31/2014
WILLIAM T LAPINE JR	CRSF	1980	CSXT	01/07/2014	WILLIAM P ROBERSON	USD	0899	UP	09/01/2014	JOSEPH D BURTON	USD	1133	UP	10/31/2014
*** February 2014 ***				*** October 2014 ***				*** December 2014 ***						
LARRY D LANE	CRSF	0887	NS	02/04/2014	JOHN D KING	BURL	1965	SOO	09/02/2014	DENNIS J HERBERT	USD	1054	UP	10/31/2014
PETE MERCADO JR	BURL	0014	BNSF	02/27/2014	JERRY D YOUNG	CRSF	0505	CSXT	09/03/2014	TERRY K LALLY	USD	1133	UP	10/31/2014
*** May 2014 ***				*** August 2014 ***				*** January 2015 ***						
PHINES VAUGHN	CRSF	1629	NRPC	05/31/2014	RICHARD A BELANGER	WCSO	2926	WCL	09/03/2014	JEFFREY C SNYDER	USD	1002	UP	10/31/2014
*** June 2014 ***				*** July 2014 ***				*** February 2015 ***						
JAMES J BATTLES	SOU	0645	NS	06/01/2014	ANDREW M PAPPAS	WCSO	1710	WCL	09/09/2014	THOMAS J TRUELLE	USD	0239	UP	10/31/2014
DENNIS E ALLEN	CRSF	2225	NRPC	06/03/2014	MARLON L GAUNT	BURL	1214	BNSF	09/13/2014					
DONALD RIVERS	CRSF	1934	NRPC	06/11/2014	DANNY A BARBER	USD	0779	UP	09/15/2014					
JOHN A DORAZIO	CRSF 1	650	CSXT	06/27/2014	FLOYD D WARD	USD	0779	UP	09/15/2014					
LARRY KUYKENDALL	AF	1127	UP	06/30/2014	CALVIN T SKEET	USD	0508	UP	09/16/2014					
DAN J CONNICK	USD	0700	UP	06/30/2014	TIMOTHY R DADOSKY	ASF	0580	NS	09/26/2014					
MICHAEL D JAMES	AF	1021	UP	07/01/2014	MICHAEL K MILLER	CRSF	1900	CSXT	09/27/2014					
FRED HOYT	CRSF	1657	CSXT	07/01/2014	HOLLAND E TIDMORE	SOU	0585	NS	09/27/2014					
HERMAN E MOORE	CRSF	2225	NRPC	07/01/2014	ROBERT M MILINKOVICH	WCSO	1710	WCL	09/27/2014					
RONNIE D CALDWELL	SOU	0525	NS	07/01/2014	THANE K FRIEDL	USD	1034	UP	09/30/2014					
DONALD W JOHNSON	CRSF	0887	CSXT	07/02/2014										
ROBERT J BRICE	CRSF	0866	CSXT	07/03/2014										
MYRON SYDOR	CRSF	1350	CSXT	07/03/2014										
ROBERT DE FEDERICIS	CRSF	0866	CSXT	07/05/2014										
LAWRENCE S SMITH	CRSF	1978	CSXT	07/11/2014										
MYRON L JOHNSON SR	WCSO	2926	WCL	07/12/2014										
DAVID J DEBOER	BURL	1965	SOO	07/31/2014										
SCOTT WAGNER	BURL	2643	SOO	07/31/2014										
KENNETH J BUTLER	N E	0090	NRPC	07/31/2014										
NICHOLAS GUDZ JR	N E	0090	NRPC	07/31/2014										
JEROME R MOWKA	CRSF	1037	CSXT	08/01/2014										
JAMES S DALTON	SOU	0537	NS	08/01/2014										
MARK D RICHARDS	WCSO	2929	WCL	08/01/2014										
DOUGLAS MILLS	CRSF	2225	NRPC	08/02/2014										
STEVEN W MARTIN	CRSF	0505	CSXT	08/08/2014										
THOMAS W ROGERS	WCSO	2928	WCL	08/19/2014										
CLIFFORD F HARNESS JR	CRSF	1562	CSXT	08/20/2014										
WILLIAM C MOEHLENBROCK	WCSO	1710	WCL	08/23/2014										
THOMAS BEGAY	USD	0227	UP	08/28/2014										
RAYMUNDO M DURAN	USD	1096	UP	08/30/2014										

RRB, Continued from Page 5

## MAY

- 8 - Omaha, NE
- 8 - Little Rock, AR
- 15 - Kansas City, MO
- 15 - Cleveland, OH
- 29 - Denver, CO
- 29 - Cincinnati, OH

## JUNE

- 5 - Billings, MT
- 5 - Indianapolis, IN
- 12 - Portland, OR
- 12 - Huntington, WV
- 19 - Chicago, IL
- 19 - Fargo, ND

## Spring 2015 Pre-Retirement Seminar Schedule

(Visit [www.rrb.gov](http://www.rrb.gov) and select the Office of the Labor Member's Educational Materials link in the Spotlight section of the home page for registration forms and contact information for the following seminars.)

Albuquerque, N.M.  
Friday, April 17, 2015  
Location: U.S. Courthouse  
421 Gold Ave. SW, Room 410  
Albuquerque, NM 87103  
Phone: 877-772-5772

Salt Lake City, Utah  
Wednesday, April 22, 2015  
Wallace F. Bennett Federal Bldg  
125 South State Street,  
Room 5102  
Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1137  
Phone: 877-772-5772

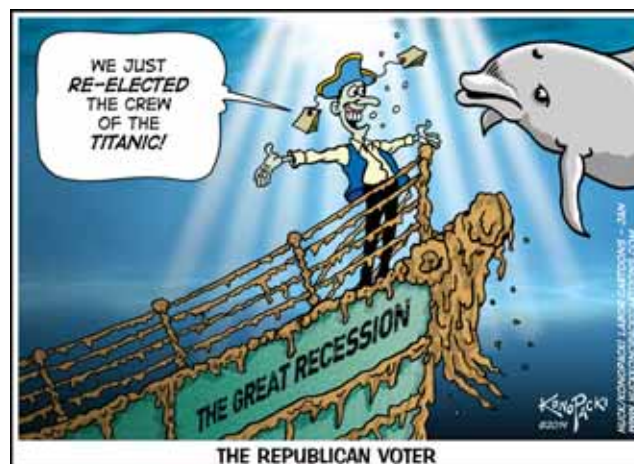
Indianapolis, Ind.  
Wednesday, May 6, 2015  
United Transportation Union  
619 East St. Clair Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202  
Phone: 877-772-5772

Westbury, N.Y.  
Friday, May 15, 2015  
Alfonse M. D'Amato  
U.S. Courthouse  
175 Federal Plaza, GSA Training Rm  
Central Islip, NY 11722  
Phone: 877-772-5772

Mesa, Ariz.  
Friday, May 15, 2015  
Sheet Metal Workers  
Local #359  
2604 E. Adams St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85034  
Phone: 602-273-1388

Des Moines, Iowa  
Friday, June 5, 2015  
UAW Local 450  
4589 Northwest 6th Drive  
Des Moines, IA 50313  
Phone: 877-772-5772

Atlanta, Ga.  
Friday, June 19, 2015  
Peachtree Summit  
Federal Building  
Summit Exchange - 1st Floor  
401 West Peachtree Street  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
Phone: 877-772-5772





Fatality Analysis of Maintenance-of-Way  
Employees and Signalmen

January 2, 2015

**Dedication:**

The FAMES Committee dedicates its efforts to all roadway workers who have lost their lives in the performance of duty and to the families, loved ones, and coworkers they have left behind.

# Fatalities Involving Roadway Maintenance Machine Strikes

**Mission**

The Mission of the Fatality Analysis of Maintenance-of-way Employees and Signalmen (FAMES) Committee is to analyze all fatalities and selected related incidents in order to make recommendations to reduce the risk of future occurrences and eliminate fatalities to roadway workers.

**Statement:**

**Recommendations:**

- Job briefings should include information regarding hazards of the work area, especially the zone to the front and rear of RMMs.
  - RMM operators and Roadway Workers must establish a clear means of communication when working in close proximity.
  - RMM operators must clearly communicate signals for slowing, stopping, and changing direction.
  - RMM operators should communicate whenever an RMM is stopped for repairs or supplies and consider using warning devices, such as safety cones or flags, or flagmen.
- Roadway workers on the ground must communicate with and receive a response from the RMM operator before entering the work area to the front or rear of an RMM.
  - Employees should be mindful that impact collisions between RMMs can result in one of the RMMs being propelled into roadway workers on the ground.
- Identify, discuss, and mitigate the risks associated with environmental conditions (e.g., wet, icy, oily/greasy rails) which can affect the stopping distance of RMMs.
- Track grade, speed, and sight distance, as well as the number and weight of push carts or coupled equipment, must be considered in determining stopping distances.
- Maintain a safe distance between RMMs when traveling or working.

The FAMES Committee consists of safety representatives from a cross section of rail labor, railroad management, and federal regulators. FAMES is a continuous improvement process that relies on the candid sharing of available data and the views of its participants. To enable the process, FAMES explicitly refrains from making any findings regarding whether any past or present practice or protocol satisfies any legal duty or standard of care.

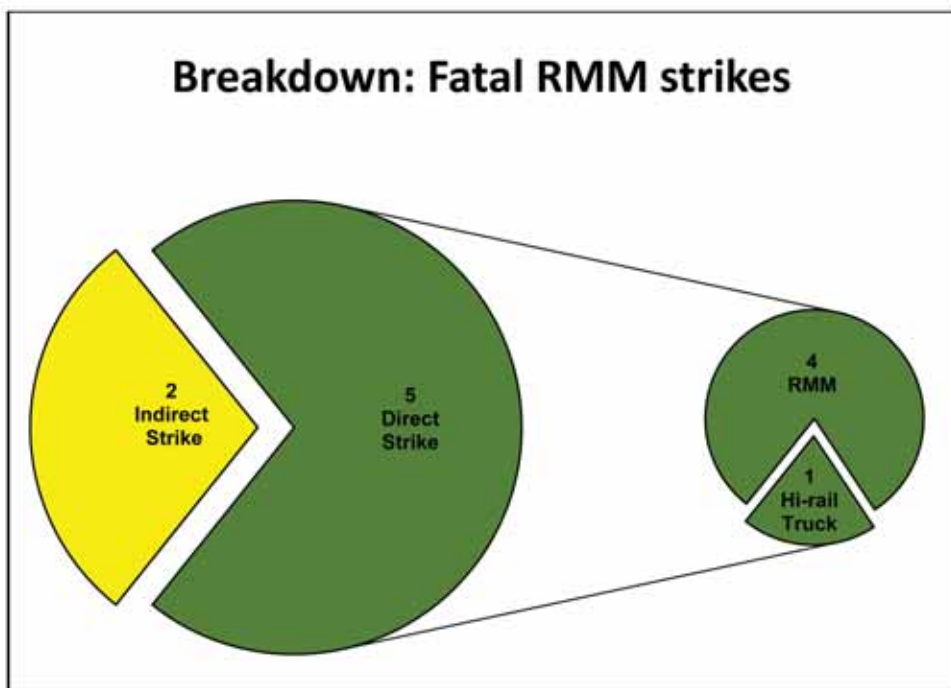
The views, opinions, and recommendations contained in this report are those of the FAMES Committee and do not necessarily represent the views, opinions, or recommendations of any specific railroad, labor organization, or governmental agency.

**Fatalities Involving Roadway Maintenance Machine Strikes**

Since the implementation of the Roadway Worker Protection (RWP) regulations in 1997, there have been too many RWP accidents in which Roadway Workers were killed or injured. To date, FAMES has analyzed 41 Roadway Worker fatalities; 7 involved strikes by Roadway Maintenance Machines (RMMs), which includes hi-rail vehicles.

**Findings:**

- In 2 of the fatalities, the roadway worker on the ground was struck by an RMM that was impacted by another RMM (i.e., indirect strike).
- In 4 of the fatalities, the roadway worker was struck by an RMM (i.e., direct strike).
  - In 3 of these 4 fatalities, the RMM was making a reverse move.
- In 1 of the fatalities, the roadway worker was struck by a hi-rail truck (i.e., direct strike).



**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 [cballaw@bmwe.org](mailto:cballaw@bmwe.org) or send by U.S. Mail to:

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c/o Clark Ballew  
41475 Gardenbrook Road  
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Texas-Mexican Railway Company  
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Cincinnati, New Orleans and Texas Pacific Railway Company  
Georgia Northern Railway  
Georgia Southern and Florida Railway Company  
Kentucky & Indiana Terminal Railroad Company  
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Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway Company  
Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad  
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Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway Company  
Minneapolis Industrial Railway  
Chicago and Western Indiana Railroad Company  
Escanaba and Lake Superior Railroad Company  
Harbor Belt Line Railroad  
McCloud River Railroad  
Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company  
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Peoria and Pekin Union Railway Company  
Petrolina and Santa Rosa Railroad Company  
Portland Terminal Railroad Company  
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Pages 9 - 12 contain the official directory of the National Division and System Officers and State Legislative Directors of the BMWED as of January, 2015. The directory is published twice annually.



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# DEATH BENEFIT DEPARTMENT

## REPORT OF DEATH BENEFIT CLAIMS PAID DURING NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER, 2014

NAME	CITY/STATE	LODGE/SYSTEM/RR	D.O.D.
GURVES CITIZEN	KINDER, LA	0944 AF/LIFE	07/07/14
MARION DAVIS	BOGUE CHITTO, MS	1539 ICGF/LIFE	08/01/14
AUSTIN S. KINNEY	HOULTON, ME	0633 NE/LIFE	04/25/14
HAROLD E. PLOCKER	ST. PAUL, MN	1879 USD/LIFE	01/15/14
ALFRED M. RUSH	WATSON, IL	2834 ICGF/LIFE	09/27/14
MERLE E. SCARBERRY	BARBOURSVILLE, WV	0112 AF/LIFE	11/04/13
RALPH E. WARD	NAMPA, ID	1381 USD/LIFE	11/05/14

PAID NOVEMBER 1, 2014 TO DECEMBER 31, 2014 ..... \$ 3,500.00  
 AMOUNT PREVIOUSLY PAID ..... \$45,494,307.75  
 TOTAL AMOUNT PAID TO DATE ..... \$45,497,807.75  
 NUMBER OF CLAIMS PAID - 9

## REPORT OF DEATH NOTICES RECEIVED DURING NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2014

JOHN E. CLEAVES	QUINCY, IL	0783	BURL/BNSF	10/11/14
HAROLD T. COTTRELL JR.	OSCEOLA, IA	1832	BURL/BNSF	12/01/14
KEVIN W. DAILEY	PASADENA, MD	3028	PENN/NRPC	12/02/14
LORRIN B. LA PALM	SPRINGFIELD, MA	0612	CRSF/CSXT	09/07/14
JAMES E. MANDEL	W. ST. PAUL, MN	1879	USD/UP	11/05/14
CHRISTOPHER M. MANNING	HAMILTON, NJ	3014	PENN/NRPC	08/06/14
DONALD T. MARTINEZ	DEMING, NM	1862	USD/UP	10/05/14
LEE MINCIC	TRINIDAD, CO	0204	AT&SFF/BNSF	11/26/14
JAMES R. PICCIOTTI	GLENOLDEN, PA	3012	PENN/NRPC	10/31/14
DAVID B. RAPP	DRUMMONDS, TN	2600	AT&SFF/BNSF	11/10/14
PERRY F. RICHTER	SPOONER, WI	0239	USD/UP	12/14/14
SCOTT L. SCHULTZ	GREEN BAY, WI	2928	WCSD/WCL	11/13/14
JERRY W. TOM	BLUE GAP, AZ	1020	USD/UP	12/25/14

### QR Codes

A QR code (Quick Response Code) is a two-dimensional code that can be scanned with a mobile phone to gain access to specific information via the mobile web.



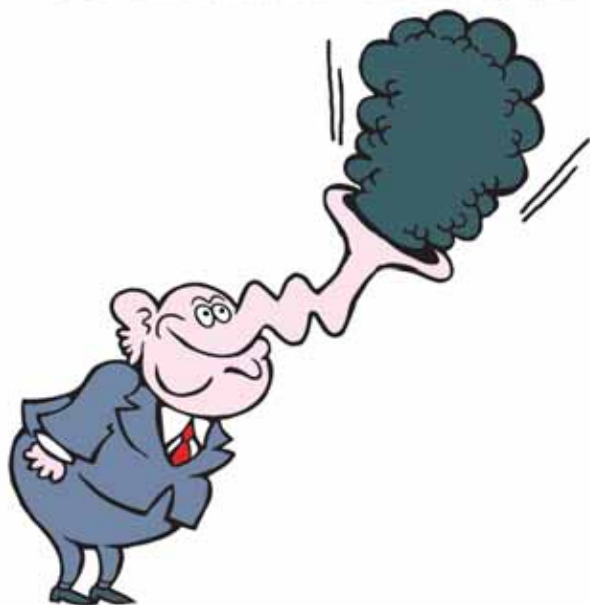
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### How to Use QR Codes

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**Blowing Their Own Horn and Smoke at the Same Time**  
 GOP Takes Credit for Economic Upturn



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# Around the Brotherhood

## CRSF Local 1056 meets in Kendallville, Ind.

BMWED Consolidated Rail System Federation members from Local Lodge 1056 met Dec. 23, 2014 to elect local lodge officers, conduct new and old business, and discuss the good and welfare of the Brotherhood. CRSF Assistant General Chairman Perry Geller Jr. (far left) was on hand to swear-in the newly elected local lodge officers.



## CRSF Local 1234 holds Christmas meeting, recognizes career of S-T Bob Marroulis

BMWED Consolidated Rail System Federation Local Lodge 1234 held its annual Christmas meeting in Girard, Ohio on Dec. 13, 2014. Retiring 1234 Lodge Secretary-Treasurer and CRSF Joint Protective Board Member Brother Bob Marroulis was presented with a retiree pocket watch. Pictured with Brother Bob is CRSF General Chairman Ed Long. Congrats on retirement, Brother Bob!



## CRSF Local 1806 meets in Valparaiso, Ind.

Members of the BMWED Consolidated Rail System Federation met on Dec. 10, 2014 in Valparaiso, Ind. to conduct local lodge offices and discuss general business.



## BSD Local Lodge 783 meets in Macomb, Illinois

Members of the Burlington System Division Local Lodge 783 (below) convened for a meeting on Saturday, Jan. 12, 2015 in Macomb, Ill. BSD General Chairwoman Staci Moody-Gilbert and Vice General Chairman George Loveland were also in attendance.



ATB, Continued on Page 19





Freddie N. Simpson

# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

## *There is strength in a Union—and the Union needs you*



Starting this year, the BMWED is mounting an outreach program targeted at you – the rank-in-file membership. It is our goal to reach every member personally over the course of the next two years, in an effort to listen and learn, inform and inspire, and engage in the prosperity of our Union. Suffice to say, this will not be an easy task, but I have assembled a team of internal organizers that I am confident will be up to this essential assignment.

But, mostly, the success of this program – and, in turn, the success of the BMWED – begins and ends with you. Time and again, the feedback from lodge meetings, in-person conversations, and the results from any number of our past membership surveys, consistently reports that you want to hear from your union, see and meet your union, and speak to your union. We hope that coming to visit you will open this dialogue and

address this occasional and undesirable disconnect. We want to see you personally and we hope it will be engaging, productive, and beneficial. Together, through thoughtful and constructive meetings, we can build upon the strength of our Union.

This internal organization project has already begun. On Dec. 9 and 10 of last year, around two dozen BMWED members of various System/Federations and railroads gathered at the National Division office in Novi, Mich. The idea was to develop a plan of action that aims to improve communications with their elected Union officers, develop stronger engagement with rank-and-file members, and strengthen our Union.

From that meeting, we have brought in and worked closely with internal organizing experts, with the objective of reinforcing our Brotherhood's unity. We have and will continue to study, discuss and

diligently consider all avenues, plans and suggestions. The BMWED takes great pride in its members and the value our collective action brings through bargaining and protective representation, wage premiums, health and welfare benefits, seniority job protection and due process rights. But, in order to protect what we have already earned through decades of hard fights and strenuous bargaining, we want to reignite a flame of unity.

Our internal organizers — Roy Miller in the Northwest, Roy Morrison in the West, Renato Rufo in the Northeast, Matt Weaver in the South and At-Large organizer Jason Richert, along with their coordinator Carey Dall and our Director of Organizing, Tim McCall — are working hard at the outreach. Events in Atlanta and Kansas City, in addition to a few location visits near the Novi, Michigan office, represent our initial reach outs, with several more to follow.

The response from membership has been encouraging.

In addition to internal organization, the Brotherhood will continue to offer our two-week Advanced Officer Training courses in Hendersonville, Tenn. and our two-day Local Lodge Officer seminars in San Antonio in April, St. Louis in June, and Phoenix this coming September. Those classes have traditionally strengthened our membership and provided an increased amount of knowledge to those who have sought an advance role in our Brotherhood. For more info on these courses, I encourage you to contact your System's General Chairperson or contact BMWED Education Director Rick Inclima at (202) 508-6449.

The BMWED is you. This Union is comprised of us all, brought together to provide strength, security and viability. We are at our strongest when we are organized and committed as a unified force.

## LOCAL LODGES

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

Call (248) 662-2660  
extension 636.

You can now visit the BMWED on *Facebook* at **Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees**, and follow us on *Twitter* at **BMWEDIBT**.

## 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)



# ROLL OF HONOR

## 10 year MERIT AWARD

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COLTEN R ARGYLE	USD	0918	2004
JOHN D AVILA	USD	1862	2004
KYLE E BADER	USD	0473	2004
JEDIDIAH E BANGE	AF-SE	0695	2004
CHARLES M BARNETT	AT&SFF	2600	2004
TIMOTHY P BASCO	AF-SW	1048	2004
TIMOTHY P BEAHM	PENN	3009	2004
CHRISTOPHER P BEARD	AT&SFF	2405	2004
TODD E BEEBE	PENN	3061	2004
TRAVIS H BEEMAN	AT&SFF	2405	2004
CHRISTOPHER M BENNETT	ASF	0551	2004
JAMES BERRY	AF-SW	0601	2004
CHRIS R BLACK	AT&SFF	2417	2004
ALLAN D BLACKBURN	AF-SE	1643	2004
JASON A BLIZZARD	CRSFNP	2307	2004
EDWARD A BOERSMA	BURL	2857	2004
JONATHAN R BOUNDS	AF-SW	0345	2004
LOUIS S BOUVIER	AF-SE	0061	2004
JOHN R BOWERS	USD	0968	2004
WILLIAM P BRADSHAW	SOU	0586	2004
LOREN R BRIDGEWATER	AT&SFF	2418	2004
TIM A BROCK	SOU	0636	2004
VERNON L BROOKINS	AF-SW	2286	2004
OTTO M BROWN	ASF	0551	2004
BRETT C BROWN	ASF	0226	2004
NADAN D BROWN	SOU	0636	2004
MATTHEW P BURR	BURL	0783	2004
FREDDIE BUTTS JR	PENN	3095	2004
JOHN C CADWELL	BURL	0798	2004
JAMES CALDWELL	CRSF	0991	2004
MITCHELL G CAMPBELL	SOU	0302	2004
RAMON A CANALES-MOLINA	CRSD	2905	2004
RONALD CARROZZINO JR	PENN	3082	2004
EDWARD U CATANO	AF-SW	0044	2004
DONALD M CHEEK	AF-SE	0885	2004
ANDREW D CHMURA	EJ&E	0358	2004
BRIAN CICHA	WCSD	2929	2004
MICHAEL A CLOUD	SOU	1618	2004
DAVID CONTRERAS	AT&SFF	2418	2004
KOJO COOMSON	CRSD	2905	2004
LUTHER COTTINGHAM JR	SOU	0585	2004
REQUISE CUMMINGS	AF-SE	1643	2004
MARK A CUSICK	AF-SE	0885	2004
JUSTIN M DALASKA	BURL	0420	2004
CHARLES A DANIELS	AF-SW	0345	2004
JEFFREY DAVIS	AF-SE	0563	2004
THERON C DAVIS	ASF	0551	2004
ETHAN C DAVIS	PENN	3017	2004
ADAM R DEAN	AF-SE	0547	2004
JOSEPH M DETER	AF-SE	0993	2004
MATHEW K DEXTER	SOU	0546	2004
PAOLO A DURIGHELLO	USD	0227	2004
RICHARD L ENGELKEN	AT&SFF	2406	2004
ERIK P ESTRADA	AF-SW	0044	2004
DAVID L FANNIN	ASF	0287	2004
JOHN C FIALA	AF-SW	1012	2004
ELI R FIELDS IV	AF-SE	0547	2004
JOAQUIN V FRAIRE	USD	1096	2004
RUBEN P FRANCO JR	AF-SW	0601	2004
BENJAMIN FRAZIER	PENN	3041	2004
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KENNETH GRAN	WCSD	2929	2004
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JOSHUA A HAGAN	AF-SE	0061	2004
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RAPHAEL D HARRIS	SOU	0808	2004
TERRY L HART	ASF	0571	2004
AARON D HAVERON	USD	0968	2004
VICTOR HERNANDEZ	BURL	2857	2004
REYES N HERRERA	BURL	2857	2004
STEPHEN R HIBSHMAN	CRSF	0991	2004
NICHOLAS D HOFFMAN	USD	0591	2004
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STANLEY M HUTCHENS II	CRSFNP	1362	2004
DAVID J ISAACSON	USD	0343	2004
DEREK JAUHOLA	WCSD	0472	2004
ROGER L JOHNSON	AT&SFF	2405	2004
ERIK S JOHNSON	BURL	0798	2004
KENNETH M JONES	PENN	3011	2004
CLINT B JONES	AF-SW	1025	2004
JAMES A JOSLIN	AF-SW	2717	2004
BENJAMIN R KADOW	PENN	3041	2004
MICHAEL W KIM	AF-SW	0450	2004
JEFFREY C KNICKERBOCKER	USD	1216	2004
KEVIN S KRUPP	CRSFNP	2307	2004
KENT S LAMBERT	AT&SFF	2405	2004
DAVID L LAMPE	AT&SFF	2406	2004
JODY D LAW	PENN	3047	2004
MARK N LE CLERC	PENN	3005	2004
CHARLES H LEFEW	ASF	0568	2004
JOSEPH A LEICHTMAN JR	CRSF	0991	2004
MICHAEL T LEWIS	USD	0591	2004
TRAVIS L LIEDL	AT&SFF	2405	2004
MICHAEL S LINDSEY	AT&SFF	1600	2004
BRANDON D LONG	USD	0875	2004
KEVIN T LOUIS	AF-SW	1012	2004
ROBERT R LUCAS	USD	1096	2004
JOHN A LYTLE	AF-SE	1162	2004
JOHN J MACHAIN	USD	0875	2004
WILLIE L MADLOCK	USD	0875	2004
CLAYTON S MANLY	AF-SW	0944	2004
JOHN L MARQUIS	BURL	0788	2004
SAMUEL D MARTIN JR	AF-SW	1176	2004
KYLE G MC DONALD	USD	1246	2004
JEFFREY D MC PHERSON	ASF	0551	2004
SAMUEL L MEDLIN	AF-SE	0563	2004
ALBERT R MEYERS	USD	0692	2004
WADE B MILLER	ASF	0572	2004
LAWRENCE MONTEGUT	AF-SW	1011	2004
MICHAEL J MONTGOMERY	ASF	0580	2004
JEFF A MORGAN	BURNOR	1426	2004
KEITH H MORRIS	ASF	0599	2004
JIM R MORSE	BURNOR	0144	2004
DEQUAN L MURPHY	ASF	0551	2004
JASON R MYERS	CRSD	2907	2004
JEFFREY T NALLEY	BURL	0798	2004
DONALD D NAPIER	ASF	0571	2004
BENJAMIN NELSON	WCSD	2929	2004
TYSON M NOTTINGHAM	CRSFNP	1362	2004
KEVIN M O NEAL	AF-SE	0667	2004
JOHN C OLSON	BURL	0798	2004
DANIEL J OSBORNE	BURL	1533	2004
MARVIN J OWENS	PENN	3082	2004
JOHN M PEROT	AT&SFF	2407	2004
JOSEPH M PHILBIN	CRSD	2907	2004
DAVID S PIERSON	BURNOR	0389	2004
DWAYNE M PINAR	WCSD	2926	2004
RICKY W PIPKIN	AT&SFF	1600	2004
GARVYE J PLACIDE	PENN	3041	2004
DANIEL PRESTON	PENN	3005	2004
JACOB B QUIGLEY	BURL	1533	2004
C S RAINEY	AF-SW	0345	2004
JESUS M RAMIREZ	AT&SFF	2416	2004
CASEY R RAMSEY	SOU	0542	2004
DAN A REEL	PENN	3095	2004
JEFFREY REYNOLDS	WCSD	2929	2004
VINCENT G RICHARDSON	AF-SW	1099	2004
RICKY A RIDER	AT&SFF	1251	2004
C D RIEMANN	USD	0899	2004
JAMES E ROBINS	ASF	0551	2004
ALBERT A RODRIGUEZ	USD	1096	2004
MARIO O RODRIGUEZ	USD	1517	2004
KENNETH W ROSS JR	BURL	1832	2004
RICARDO F SANCHEZ	AT&SFF	2409	2004
DAVID J SANDOVAL	USD	0107	2004
NOEL SANTIAGO	CRSD	2905	2004
THOMAS P SCHWARTZ	CRSD	2905	2004
LARRY L SCOTT	USD	0216	2004
JEFFERY D SEGELKE	USD	0899	2004
DARREN D SHONKWILER	PENN	3061	2004
RICHARD A SIBIO JR	CRSD	2907	2004
JUSTIN N SIMONS	USD	0692	2004
JUSTIN W SMITH	USD	1402	2004
DONALD G SMITH	AF-SW	1011	2004
JUSTIN W SPEAKMAN	CRSF	0991	2004

SCOTT D ST JOHN	USD	1847	2004
DENNY L TATE	BURL	1302	2004
RONNIE J TAYLOR	AF-SW	0522	2004
MICHAEL R THOMAS	AT&SFF	2413	2004
MICAH L TIMS	SOU	0660	2004
MICHAEL TOMKA	USD	0692	2004
JOHN M TREXLER	ICGF	0017	2004
DAVID L UELMAN	USD	0591	2004
CORT C VAN ARSDALE	AT&SFF	2405	2004
JOSHUA K VANCE	ASF	1464	2004
LORENZO D VERDUGO JR	USD	1862	2004
AARON K WALKER	USD	0918	2004
MONROE E WALL	N E	2957	2004
SEAN E WALLEY	USD	1096	2004
CHARLES E WARD	AT&SFF	0361	2004
STEVEN T WARE	CRSFNP	1664	2004
CHRISTOPHER S WATSON	AF-SW	2762	2004
LOUIS D WEBER	ICGF	1393	2004
CHRISTOPHER WEISZ	WCSD	0472	2004
RICKY J WELLMAN	ASF	0613	2004
AARON J WILLIAMS	PENN	3097	2004
CRAIG A WILLIAMSON	AF-SW	2762	2004
RHON L WILLSON	AT&SFF	2418	2004
ROGER L WISEMAN JR	USD	1196	2004
ROBERT A WOLFORD	BURL	0798	2004
CHRISTOPHER V WOODSIDE	BURL	0783	2004
LOREN E WRIGHT	SOU	0536	2004
DANILL J WRIGHT	USD	0107	2004
BILL A YANAVOK	CRSD	2907	2004
STEPHEN YEARWOOD	AF-SE	0056	2004

## 20 year MERIT AWARD

ALFRED R ADAME	AT&SFF	2414	1994
ANDREW J ALLEN	BURNOR	0104	1994
ERNEST ANDERSON	N E	2957	1994
KENT ANDERSON	BURNOR	0706	1994
ROGER R ANDERSON	N E	2957	1994
STEVEN P BECENTI	AT&SFF	2400	1994
KENNETH A BENJAMIN	PENN	3005	1994
ROBERT L BONSELL	USD	1071	1994
PETER J BROUILLETTE	CRSF	0201	1994
MELVIN C BROWN	BURNOR	0389	1994
COURTNEY BUTLER	PENN	3075	1994
JOSE L CAMPOS	BURNOR	0389	1994
JOSE L CANTU	AT&SFF	2405	1994
MICHAEL F CERMINARA	PENN	3095	1994
DAVID C CLARK JR	BURNOR	0309	1994
FLOYD CLEAVER	AT&SFF	2413	1994
THAYER E CURRIE	BURL	1302	1994
EDWARD F DERRICK	N E	2957	1994
WILLIAM E EICHENFELS	BURNOR	0158	1994
ANTHONY W FITZGERALD	BURNOR	1453	1994
WILLIAM R FOX	CRSF	1980	1994
CURTIS J FREY	BURL	1498	1994
LEONARD J GALLAGHER	PENN	3039	1994
KENNETH J GARDNER	N E	2957	1994
DAVID K GARVER	AF-SE	1432	1994
PAUL D GEORGE	CRSF	0201	1994
TIMOTHY P GRAHAM	BURNOR	1092	1994
DAVID E HARDY	CRSF	0987	1994
ERIC J HARDY	USD	2431	1994
ROGER M HENDRICKS	BURNOR	0706	1994
BRIAN S HOKE	AT&SFF	0493	1994
BLAKE A HORSTMAN	BURL	1965	1994
KENNETH D HOUSMAN	BURNOR	1055	1994
PETER N HUTCHINS	N E	2957	1994
ROBERT J KELLEY	CRSF	0987	1994
C E KING	AF-SE	1857	1994
ALLEN J KLECAN	USD	1133	1994
TERRY R KLEIN	BURNOR	0104	1994
GUY P KOSLOUSKI	CRSF	0987	1994
WILLIAM R LANFAIR	N E	2957	1994
TRAVIS K MARTIN	AT&SFF	2405	1994
WILEY D MASTERSON	AT&SFF	2419	1994
DANIEL MOLLOY	PENN	3014	1994
MILTON D MONROY	BURNOR	0104	1994
CHRIS A MONTOYA	AT&SFF	2418	1994
MARC F MOQUIN	CRSF	0987	1994
NEIL A MUNRO	CRSF	0987	1994
TERRILOU B NELSON	USD	1071	1994
STEVE A NORWOOD	AT&SFF	2413	1994
GLENN W OLEKSAK	N E	2957	1994
CHRIS L ORTIZ	AT&SFF	2414	1994

JOSEPH T PERILLI	CRSD	2910	1994
OSCAR M PETERSON	CRSF	0507	1994
RUFFINO RAMOS	N E	2957	1994
MICHAEL C RODRIGUEZ	AT&SFF	2404	1994
GEORGE SANCHEZ	PENN	3012	1994
PATRICK SCHAUB	N E	2957	1994
CHARLES F SCHOENLEIN	N E	2957	1994
PAUL E SHARPER	ICGF	1165	1994
J DAVID SMITH	AT&SFF	1600	1994
EARL J SMITH	PENN	3095	1994
ROBERT T SPARKS	AT&SFF	2403	1994
NICHOLAS STEVENS	N E	2957	1994
CHAD A STOLL	USD	0899	1994
THOMAS L THORNE	N E	2957	1994
RICHARD L TOWNSEND	AT&SFF	2405	1994
JAMES I TRAMMELL	CRSF	0507	1994
STEVEN C WALLACE	CRSD	2910	1994
ROGER A WARD	ASF	0532	1994
WILFRED A WARREN	PENN	3068	1994
RICHARD D WATSON	AT&SFF	0493	1994
MATTHEW A WEAVER	AF-SE	2624	1994

## 30 year MERIT AWARD

STANLEY W ADAMS	AF-SW	0601	1984
CURTIS P BACH	AF-SW	1127	1984
RANDALL E BALL	AF-SW	0601	1984
JOSEPH J BERTUCCI JR	AF-SW	1100	1984
LARRY J BRANDT	AF-SW	1041	1984
RICHARD CHAVEZ	AT&SFF	2418	1984
JERRY L COVINGTON	AF-SW	0944	1984
MARK CRUZ	AF-SW	0366	1984
TATO DEJESUS	CRSF	0482	1984
M N DELGADO JR	AT&SFF	2419	1984
LARRY D DENTON	ASF	0226	1984
JIMMY M ESQUIVEL	AF-SW	1021	1984
RANDY J GOLDEN JR	AF-SW	2729	1984
T Q HARRELSON	SOU	0804	1984
PAUL D HARTON	AF-SW	0601	1984
DANIEL A HORNUNG	PENN	3014	1984
JEFF JACKSON	N E	1743	1984
PHILLIP D JOHNSON	AF-SE	0338	1984
KERRY M LENARD	AF-SW	0944	1984
G A MONTANO	AT&SFF	2405	1984
TOM MULLINS	USD	0227	1984
RODOLFO B NINO	AF-SW	1021	1984
JOSE B REYES	AF-SW	1021	1984
TERRY W ROBLEZ	AF-SW	1365	1984
P H SCHIEDLER	AF-SW	1100	1984
HAROLD J SIMS	AF-SW	1100	1984





## Roll of Honor, From Page 16

DAVID L BOWMAN	ASF	0287	1974	TERRY L GLENN	USD	1152	1974	RUBEN D LUJAN	BURL	1351	1974	M E SANDOVAL	AT&SFF	2418	1974
SCOTT BRADLEY	BURNOR	1280	1974	BRUCE G GLOVER	BURNOR	0144	1974	DANIEL R MACHAIN	USD	0875	1974	RICHARD L SANTO	BURL	1316	1974
RAYMOND M BRENNAN	BURL	1320	1974	FRANCIS H GOECKEL	USD	1133	1974	GARY J MALONEY	BURNOR	1055	1974	DAVID J SCHLICHTING	BURNOR	1296	1974
LESLIE R BRIONES	PENN	3007	1974	SEFERINO GOMEZ	AF-SW	0044	1974	DAVID E MAMMONE	PENN	3018	1974	DONALD L SCHMIDT	AF-SW	1338	1974
DEVEN W BRUNNEMER	USD	1196	1974	CURTIS GRIFFIN	ICGF	1171	1974	MICHAEL R MARCHBANK	PENN	3004	1974	DANIEL H SCHMIDT	CRSF	1657	1974
MICHAEL T BRUSKI	BURL	1302	1974	MICHAEL E HABERER	BURL	1214	1974	GIUSEPPE MARINELLO	CRSF	0176	1974	FRANCIS V SCHMITZ	BURNOR	0144	1974
E L BURK	AT&SFF	0493	1974	ROGER D HARDIN	ASF	0613	1974	LYLE R MARSH	BURNOR	1092	1974	ROBERT E SECHRIST	BURNOR	0389	1974
BRIAN L BURKMAN	BURNOR	0706	1974	RANDY N HARDIN	BURL	1214	1974	ANTHONY MASZGAY	PENN	3023	1974	MICHAEL D SHANNON	BURL	1108	1974
JOSEPH D BURTON	USD	1133	1974	JIMMY D HART	ICGF	0652	1974	DAVID L MC ELROY	AT&SFF	0493	1974	ELVA D SHEETS	BURL	1832	1974
JAMES J BUSENGA	BURNOR	0249	1974	HENRY J HAYENGA	BURNOR	1296	1974	JAMES V MC GARRY	BURNOR	1092	1974	ROBERT D SHOWALTER	BURL	0798	1974
JOSEPH R BUTLER	BURNOR	0144	1974	GEORGE L HEDGLIN	BURNOR	0158	1974	BILLY K MILLER	AF-SW	0450	1974	WAYNE E SILKENSON	BURNOR	0908	1974
GUILHERMO CANALES	AT&SFF	0361	1974	LAWRENCE H HENKEL	BURNOR	1296	1974	ROY C MILLER	CRSF	1350	1974	BRADFORD D SITZMAN	BURL	1105	1974
JAMES M CARBAUGH	ASF	0568	1974	DAVID C HEUSMAN	BURL	1316	1974	JACK J MITCHELL	AT&SFF	2600	1974	JAMES B SNELL	USD	0473	1974
ROYCE G CARLISLE	AT&SFF	0493	1974	BERT E HIGHLAND JR	WCSD	1710	1974	DUANE D MITCHELL	BURL	1105	1974	RICHARD L STEELE	N E	0633	1974
GLEN T CARLSON	BURNOR	1426	1974	STEVEN R HOLM	BURNOR	0908	1974	MELVIN A MOORE	AT&SFF	2404	1974	RICHARD A STRECKER SR	BURL	1316	1974
NELSON CARPENTER	AF-SE	0885	1974	RONALD A HOLMAN	PENN	3094	1974	CHARLES M MORGAN	USD	1517	1974	RANDAL L STROSNIDER	USD	0922	1974
DOUGLAS D CARRUTHERS	USD	0216	1974	JOHN J HOPKINS	PENN	3063	1974	WAYNE E MORROW	USD	0918	1974	TOM V SURA	BURNOR	1296	1974
THOMAS J CARTWRIGHT	C&EI	0063	1974	GREGORY R HOWARD	AF-SE	0695	1974	MICHAEL J MURPHY	PENN	3097	1974	TIMOTHY J SWALBOSKI	BURNOR	0706	1974
CHARLES R CATON	AF-SW	1353	1974	STEPHEN L HUTCHINS	SOU	0546	1974	CHARLES T NELSON	BURNOR	0320	1974	HERMAN H TACKETT	AF-SE	0424	1974
H D CAUDILL	CRSF	1396	1974	DANNIE L IDLEMAN	AF-SW	0376	1974	VANCE A NELSON	SOU	0034	1974	RANDY J THILMONY	BURNOR	0297	1974
JOE F CHAPMAN	AF-SW	1365	1974	DENNIS JACKSON	AF-SW	2921	1974	THOMAS D NEWTON	PENN	0935	1974	LUCIO P TORRES	USD	0922	1974
BRIAN P CHATTEN	BURL	0509	1974	DONALD W JACKSON	AF-SW	0564	1974	GENE A NORD	BURNOR	0249	1974	JESUS E TOVAR	BURNOR	0159	1974
EDWARD R CLINE	BURL	1832	1974	RONALD I JACOBS	ASF	0301	1974	ABUNDIO NUNEZ	AT&SFF	2401	1974	JOHN A VACHA	BURNOR	0249	1974
FRANK T COLEMAN	AF-SE	0547	1974	LAWRENCE T JAGIELSKI	CRSF	2780	1974	EDWARD M OBREGON	BURNOR	1280	1974	STANLEY J VINGLAS	PENN	3047	1974
WILLIAM D CORNWELL	USD	2854	1974	LARRY R JAHNS	WCSD	2927	1974	ALFONSO OCHOA	BURL	2857	1974	ANTHONY M VITALE	PENN	3008	1974
GARVIN C CROSSLEY	AF-SW	0203	1974	DONALD W JAY	CRSD	2907	1974	DAVID D OHMURA	BURNOR	1426	1974	PAUL E WALDRON	BURL	1105	1974
BRIAN S DAIGLE	CRSF	0347	1974	RONALD H JEFFERS	BURL	0509	1974	BOYD L OPPEGAARD	BURNOR	0364	1974	WILLIAM WALKER	SOU	0808	1974
BRIAN K DANBY	AT&SFF	2405	1974	BRADLEY R JOHNSON	BURNOR	0144	1974	R K ORR	AF-SE	0676	1974	ROBERT C WALKER	AF-SE	1035	1974
CHARLES A DANSBY	ICGF	1171	1974	WILLIAM R JOHNSON	AT&SFF	2600	1974	KERRY W PAGE	PENN	3097	1974	JESSE WALKER JR	AF-SW	1058	1974
JERRY DIBBLE	BURL	2852	1974	LARRY W JONES	BURL	1214	1974	DALE R PAULSON	USD	0343	1974	WYATT WATSON III	PENN	3061	1974
ROGER G DILLON	ICGF	0654	1974	DAVID D JOYNT	BURL	1214	1974	STEVE F PENA	CRSFNP	1664	1974	JON A WELCH	BURL	1832	1974
JEFFREY M DISE	BURNOR	0908	1974	DAVID G JUSTICE	SOU	0542	1974	MICHAEL PETRONIO	CRSF	1234	1974	MICHAEL R WESTERN	BURL	2621	1974
EUGENE DOBBS	SOU	0525	1974	RALPH B KARR	AF-SW	1365	1974	MARK A POSS	BURNOR	0908	1974	DOUGLAS C WILCOX	CRSF	0704	1974
RICHARD D ERNZEN	AT&SFF	2407	1974	ANDREW KLEMASH JR	N E	1551	1974	STEVEN V POWERS	USD	1046	1974	DELMAR E WILSON JR	USD	1133	1974
RALPH EVANS	AF-SE	2067	1974	JAMES D KNIGHT	AF-SE	2067	1974	DEWEY R PRESCOTT	BURL	0798	1974	ALAN E WRIGHT	BURL	1320	1974
THOMAS J FARINHA	USD	0922	1974	RONALD M KOCH	BURL	1214	1974	THOMAS B RAKES	BURNOR	0297	1974				
JAMES A FERGUSON JR	AF-SW	1127	1974	DANIEL W KOLODZESKE	BURNOR	0320	1974	ARTHUR G REED	SOU	0585	1974	ELMER B CASSADY	USD	0342	1964
MICHAEL E FOWLER	BURL	1832	1974	JOSEPH J KRALJIC	BURNOR	0908	1974	MICHAEL P REYNOLDS	BURL	1320	1974	WILLIAM F GLANDON	BURL	1832	1964
JERRY C FRANCKE	BURL	1320	1974	JOHN A KROL	EJ&E	0463	1974	DAMON B ROACH	BURL	1105	1974	ARIE E POELSTRA	BURNOR	0104	1964
RICHARD A FRIMML	USD	0381	1974	MARK W KUHNHENN	BURNOR	1326	1974	GARY W ROARK	AT&SFF	2433	1974	RAYMOND A REINHART	AT&SFF	2405	1964
JAMES F GANLEY JR	CRSF	0201	1974	MICHAEL A LANE	BURL	1320	1974	EDWARD J ROBINSON	AF-SE	2912	1974	WILLMONT L SMITH	CRSF	0505	1964
FIDEL O GARCIA	BURL	1302	1974	JOEL C LECY	BURNOR	0144	1974	MICHAEL T ROBISON	SOU	0302	1974				
THOMAS D GARMAN	CRSD	2910	1974	CLIFFORD LEE	BURL	1302	1974	JOSE P RODRIGUEZ	CRSF	0109	1974				
RILEY J GARNER	AF-SE	0563	1974	MARK R LENNARTSON	WCSD	1710	1974	CALVIN D ROGERS	BURL	0230	1974				
GARY L GEISS	BURNOR	1426	1974	MICHAEL A LEWIS	AF-SE	1038	1974	JOHN F ROLLER	BURNOR	0306	1974				
DAVID L GELLERSON	CRSF	0866	1974	MICHAEL D LOGSDON	BURL	0788	1974	WALTER V ROWLAND	AT&SFF	2402	1974				
FREDDIE GERMANY SR	AF-SE	1643	1974	NORMAN E LONG JR	CRSF	0201	1974	ROY K SAM	AT&SFF	2400	1974				
CRAIG A GIACOMETTI	AF-SW	1540	1974	CLYDE H LOWE	BURNOR	0706	1974	DOUGLAS W SANDERSON	C&EI	0063	1974				



# Statement by US Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez on the Bureau of Labor Statistics 2014 Union Membership Report

WASHINGTON — U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez issued the following statement on the department's Bureau of Labor Statistics report released today on union membership in 2014:

"Today's report confirms what we've always known: that belonging to a union makes a powerful difference in people's lives, providing greater economic security and helping them punch their ticket to the middle class.

"The 2014 BLS data show that among wage and salary workers, those in a union have median weekly earnings of \$970, compared to \$763 for those not in a union. That's not pocket change — it amounts to greater than \$10,000 a year more for union members. There is also a smaller gender pay gap for unionized workers — women who are in a union come

closer to parity with their male counterparts than do non-union women. The report also finds that the union membership rate was 11.1 percent last year, 35.7 percent for public-sector workers.

"The economy is resurgent, with an unemployment rate well below 6 percent and job growth we haven't experienced since the late 1990's. The challenge we face now is creating shared prosperity, ensuring that our growing economy works for everyone. To do that, we need to turn up the volume on worker voice.

"There is a direct link throughout American history between the strength of the middle class and the vitality of the labor movement. It's not a coincidence. When unions are strong, working families thrive, with wages and productivity rising in tandem. But when the percent-

age of people represented by unions is low, there is downward pressure on wages and the middle class takes it on the chin.

"President Obama said in the State of the Union that middle-class economics requires 'laws that strengthen rather than weaken unions, and give workers a voice.' That means protecting and strengthening collective bargaining rights, and it also means exploring new organizing strategies and other innovative approaches to empowering workers in a modern economy.

"Across the country at the grass-roots level, workers and their advocates are doing just that. Whether it's auto workers emulating the German works council model, or the dynamic movement of fast-food workers seeking a raise, or efforts by taxi drivers and

home health care workers to stand up for their rights, we are seeing more people seeking creative ways to make their voices heard.

"Doing so can and must be done in collaboration with employers. We reject the old false choice and zero-sum thinking — the kind that suggests either workers or their employers can thrive, but not both. Unions succeed not at the expense of business, but in partnership with business. Forward-looking employers recognize that they can give their workers a voice while giving their bottom line a boost.

"To maintain robust economic growth, to create more shared prosperity and a better life for millions of middle-class families, we need full-throated worker voice."



# Comparison of Benefits Under Railroad Retirement and Social Security

Employers and employees covered by the Railroad Retirement Act pay higher retirement taxes than those covered by the Social Security Act, so that railroad retirement benefits remain higher than social security benefits, especially for "career" employees who have 30 or more years of service.

The following questions and answers show the differences in railroad retirement and social security benefits payable at the close of the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014. They also show the differences in age requirements and payroll taxes under the two systems.

## 1. How do the average monthly railroad retirement and social security benefits paid to retired employees and spouses compare?

The average age annuity being paid by the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) at the end of fiscal year 2014 to career rail employees was \$3,180 a month, and for all retired rail employees the average was \$2,535. The average age retirement benefit being paid under social security was nearly \$1,305 a month. Spouse benefits averaged \$945 a month under railroad retirement compared to \$635 under social security.

The Railroad Retirement Act also provides supplemental railroad retirement annuities of between \$23 and \$43 a month, which are payable to employees who retire directly from the rail industry with 25 or more years of service.

## 2. Are the benefits awarded to recent retirees generally greater than the benefits payable to those who retired years ago?

Yes, because recent awards are based on higher average earnings. Age annuities awarded to career railroad employees retiring at the end of fiscal year 2014 averaged about \$3,710 a month while monthly benefits awarded to workers retiring at full retirement age under social security averaged nearly \$1,815. If spouse benefits are added, the combined benefits for the employee and spouse would total \$5,135 under railroad retirement coverage, compared to \$2,720 under social security. Adding a supplemental annuity to the railroad family's benefit increases average total benefits for current career rail retirees to nearly \$5,170 a month.

## 3. How much are the disability benefits currently awarded?

Disabled railroad workers retiring directly from the railroad industry at the end of fiscal year

2014 were awarded almost \$2,870 a month on the average while awards for disabled workers under social security averaged over \$1,235.

While both the Railroad Retirement and Social Security Acts provide benefits to workers who are totally disabled for any regular work, the Railroad Retirement Act also provides disability benefits specifically for employees who are disabled for work in their regular railroad occupation. Employees may be eligible for such an occupational disability annuity at age 60 with 10 years of service, or at any age with 20 years of service.

## 4. Can railroaders receive benefits at earlier ages than workers under social security?

Railroad employees with 30 or more years of creditable service are eligible for regular annuities based on age and service the first full month they are age 60, and rail employees with less than 30 years of creditable service are eligible for regular annuities based on age and service the first full month they are age 62.

No early retirement reduction applies if a rail employee retires at age 60 or older with 30 years of service and his or her retirement is after 2001, or if the employee retired before 2002 at age 62 or older with 30 years of service.

Early retirement reductions are otherwise applied to annuities awarded before full retirement age, the age at which an employee can receive full benefits with no reduction for early retirement. This ranges from age 65 for those born before 1938 to age 67 for those born in 1960 or later, the same as under social security.

Under social security, a worker cannot begin receiving retirement benefits based on age until age 62, regardless of how long he or she worked, and social security retirement benefits are reduced for retirement prior to full retirement age regardless of years of coverage.

## 5. Does social security offer any benefits that are not available under railroad retirement?

Social security does pay certain types of benefits that are not available under railroad retirement. For example, social security provides children's benefits when an employee is disabled, retired or deceased. Under current law, the Railroad Retirement Act only provides children's benefits if the employee is deceased.

However, the Railroad Retirement Act includes a special mini-

mum guaranty provision which ensures that railroad families will not receive less in monthly benefits than they would have if railroad earnings were covered by social security rather than railroad retirement laws. This guaranty is intended to cover situations in which one or more members of a family would otherwise be eligible for a type of social security benefit that is not provided under the Railroad Retirement Act. Therefore, if a retired rail employee has children who would otherwise be eligible for a benefit under social security, the employee's annuity can be increased to reflect what social security would pay the family.

## 6. How much are monthly benefits for survivors under railroad retirement and social security?

Survivor benefits are generally higher if payable by the RRB rather than social security. At the end of fiscal year 2014, the average annuity being paid to all aged and disabled widow(er)s was \$1,515 a month, compared to \$1,220 under social security.

Benefits awarded by the RRB at the end of fiscal year 2014 to aged and disabled widow(er)s of railroaders averaged more than \$1,990 a month, compared to almost \$1,170 under social security.

The annuities being paid at the end of fiscal year 2014 to widowed mothers/fathers averaged \$1,800 a month and children's annuities averaged \$1,025, compared to \$920 and \$815 a month for widowed mothers/fathers and children, respectively, under social security.

Those awarded at the end of fiscal year 2014 averaged \$1,925 a month for widowed mothers/fathers and \$1,425 a month for children under railroad retirement, compared to \$885 and \$805 for widowed mothers/fathers and children, respectively, under social security.

## 7. How do railroad retirement and social security lump-sum death benefit provisions differ?

Both the railroad retirement and social security systems provide a lump-sum death benefit. The railroad retirement lump-sum benefit is generally payable only if survivor annuities are not immediately due upon an employee's death. The social security lump-sum benefit may be payable regardless of whether monthly benefits are also due. Both railroad retirement and social security provide a lump-sum benefit of \$255. However, if a railroad em-

ployee completed 10 years of creditable railroad service before 1975, the average railroad retirement lump-sum benefit payable is \$1,005. Also, if an employee had less than 10 years of service, but had at least 5 years of such service after 1995, he or she would have to have had an insured status under social security law (counting both railroad retirement and social security credits) in order for the \$255 lump-sum benefit to be payable.

The social security lump sum is generally only payable to the widow(er) living with the employee at the time of death. Under railroad retirement, if the employee had 10 years of service before 1975, and was not survived by a living-with widow(er), the lump sum may be paid to the funeral home or the payer of the funeral expenses.

## 8. How do railroad retirement and social security payroll taxes compare?

Railroad retirement payroll taxes, like railroad retirement benefits, are calculated on a two-tier basis. Rail employees and employers pay tier I taxes at the same rate as social security taxes, 7.65 percent, consisting of 6.20 percent for retirement on earnings up to \$118,500 in 2015, and 1.45 percent for Medicare hospital insurance on all earnings. An additional 0.9 percent in Medicare taxes (2.35 percent in total) will be withheld from employees on earnings above \$200,000.

In addition, rail employees and employers both pay tier II taxes which are used to finance railroad retirement benefit payments over and above social security levels.

In 2015, the tier II tax rate on earnings up to \$88,200 is 4.9 percent for employees and 13.1 percent for employers.

## 9. How much are regular railroad retirement taxes for an employee earning \$118,500 in 2015 compared to social security taxes?

The maximum amount of regular railroad retirement taxes that an employee earning \$118,500 can pay in 2015 is \$13,387.05, compared to \$9,065.25 under social security. For railroad employers, the maximum annual regular retirement taxes on an employee earning \$118,500 are \$20,619.45, compared to \$9,065.25 under social security. Employees earning over \$118,500, and their employers, will pay more in retirement taxes than the above amounts because the Medicare hospital insurance tax is applied to all earnings.



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## Burlington System Local 1074 elects officers

BMWED Burlington System Division Local Lodge 1074 in Sheridan, Wyo. elected lodge officers at a meeting on Nov. 6. Pictured from left are Local Chairman Mike Sutphin, Secretary-Treasurer Mark Simmons, and Local President Chad Penn.



## Burlington System Local 1142 elects officers

BMWED Burlington System Division Local Lodge 1142 elected local lodge officers at a meeting on Nov. 1, 2014. From left, Local Secretary-Treasurer Tom Miller, Local Chairman Craig McCoy, President Lori Teniente, Vice President Kristy Delgado.



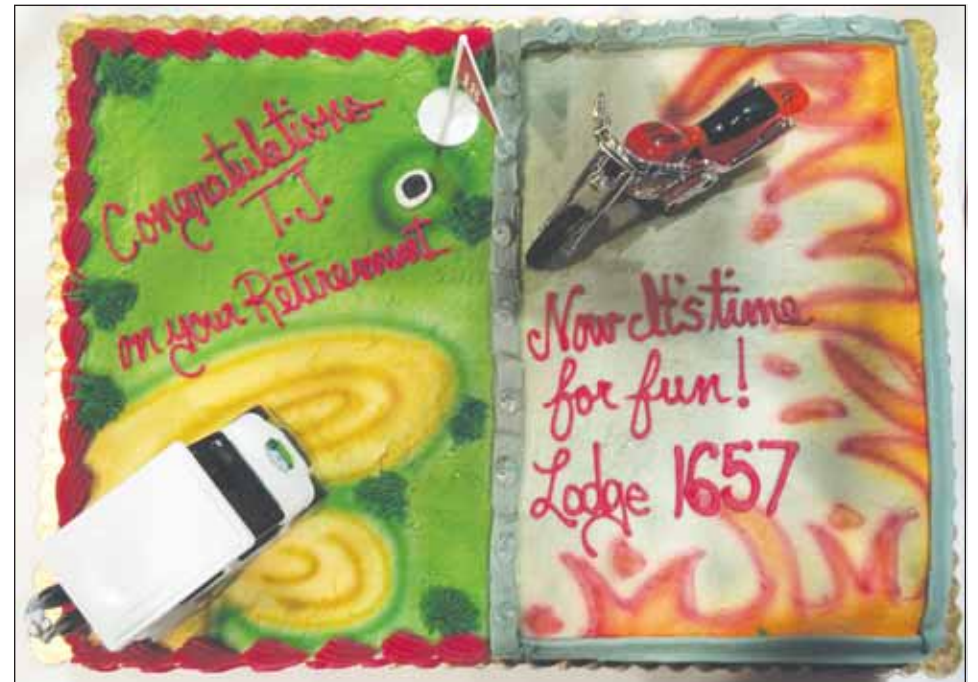
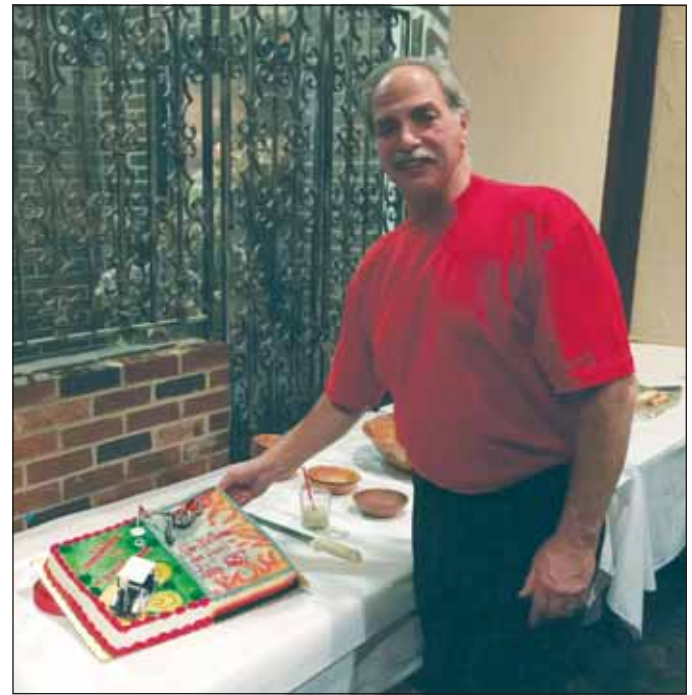
## Allied Fed Local 153 Brother Danny Robinson wedding

Congratulations to Allied Fed Local 153 Brother Danny Robinson on his recent marriage to lovely bride, Lisa in Kill Devil Hills, NC. Pictured with Brother Danny are railroaders Kevin Critzer, Ronnie Payne, David Naper, and Danny's father, retired Track Foreman, Angus "Joe" Robinson. All told, that's over 150 years of railroad service in attendance.



## Retired CRSF General Chairman T.J. Nemeth honored at Lodge 1657

Members of BMWED Consolidated Rail System Federation Local Lodge 1657 held a retirement celebration for former CRSF General Chairman and BMWED Executive Board member Brother T.J. Nemeth at their local meeting in Cleveland, Ohio. Brother Nemeth retired last year after 38 years of railroad and Union service. Congrats to Brother T.J. on his well-earned retirement!



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## BMWED Allied Fed Lodge 818 makes charity donations

Allied Federation Local Lodge 818 member Pat O'Bryan (right) makes the lodge's holiday contribution to Tri- State Food Bank Assistant Director Steve Marchand (left) in Evansville, Indiana.



Allied Federation member Pat O'Bryan (right) makes the lodge's holiday contribution to Doug Duell (left) Vice President of the Santa Clothes Club in Evansville, Indiana.



## CRSF Local 1664 conducts meeting in Toledo, Ohio

Members from BMWED Consolidated Rail System Federation Local Lodge 1664 in Toledo, Ohio met on Dec. 17, 2014 to elect lodge officers, conduct new and old business, and discuss the good and welfare of the Brotherhood. Joining the Brothers for the meeting was CRSF Second Vice Chairman Jeff Bainter.



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