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

The final vote was certified this week by the American Arbitration Association. Of the 2,963 ballots mailed to BMWED Amtrak members, 1,419 were returned (48 percent). Of those, 1,371 voted to ratify, with 46 voting against and two voided. Ratification of the CBA passed on 95 percent of the returned ballots. The Brotherhood expects the new pay rates and retropay to go into effect by the end of June.

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

Reaching agreement and achieving ratification was a great success for the BMWED, which was lead by Penn Fed General Chairman Jed Dodd, along with BMWED President Freddie Simpson and General Chairmen Dale Bogart (NESF), Louis Below (USD), Jason Graham (CRSF), Hayward Granier (ICGF), and Dennis Albers (Allied).

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

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

The rates of pay increases are as follows:

- 1.25 percent effective July 2015
- 1.5 percent effective July 2016
- 1.5 percent effective July 2017
- 2.75 percent effective July 2018
- 3.0 percent effective July 2019
- 3.75 percent effective July 2020
- 3.75 percent effective July 2021
Keep up with BMWED on Facebook

For the latest News, Photos, Job Openings, and Everything Brotherhood

Log on to www.facebook.com

Search for “Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes”

And LIKE our page!

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.

Sign up for BMWED News Alerts and get the latest news sent directly to your email account. To sign up visit the BMWED webpage at www.bmwe.org, or send your name and email address to dinclima@bmwe.org, along with a request to be added to the BMWED News Alert list.

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

BMWED members help out victims of last year’s hurricanes

A HELPING HAND
Financial Assistance for Families of Deceased Railway Employees

The John Edgar Thomson Foundation, established in 1882 and endowed by the will of Mr. Thomson, third President of the Pennsylvania Railroad, offers limited financial assistance to daughters of a deceased parent. The parent, regardless of gender, must have been in the active employ of a railroad in the United States at the time of death. The cause of death need not be work-related and the parent, while on the active role of the railroad, may have been receiving disability or sick leave benefits. Whatever grant is awarded usually serves to benefit all members of the family. Eligibility is dependent upon the daughter and surviving parent remaining unmarried.

The monthly allowance made under the grant may cover the period from infancy to age 18, under certain circumstances to age 24, to assist grantees who are pursuing higher educational goals. The Foundation also offers special health care benefits.

The funding for the work of the Foundation is completely independent of any railroad. It neither solicits nor receives funds from the public. Further information and applications may be obtained by writing to:

Linda Deenski, Director
The John Edgar Thomson Foundation
201 S. Eighteenth Street, Suite 318
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

Telephone (215) 545-6083
Fax (215) 545-5102
E-mail: tjthomson@aol.com

www.jethomsonfoundation.com

We can also be found on Facebook and Google+.
ARTICLE I, (CHANGE) SECTION 4 (1ST PARAGRAPH) TO READ:

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

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

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

1. Candidates for office shall mail their declaration for office via certified mail, return receipt requested, into the National Division Secretary Treasurer between January 1, and January 31 of the year of the election and declare for the office they are seeking. A candidate may only declare his/her candidacy for one National Division office in any election year.

2. In the March issue of the Brotherhood Journal or similar monthly Brotherhood publication that is mailed by the National Division to each member in good standing, the Brotherhood shall print information in a uniform format for each candidate: pictures; position they are seeking; age; current position in the hierarchy; railroad occupation(s); home railroad; lodge and System Division; previous positions held in the Brotherhood; educational background; and other positions held in the Trade Union movement. Candidates shall provide this information via certified mail to the Journal’s Associate Editor complying with reasonable time limits established by the Associate Editor.

3. The Brotherhood Journal or similar publication shall print statements provided by each candidate in each issue for the months of March, April and May as follows:

   a. 1000 words or less in each of the March, April and May issues of the Journal or similar monthly publication, written by each candidate for National Division President and National Division Secretary Treasurer.

   b. 750 words or less in each of March, April and May issues of the Journal or similar monthly publication, written by each candidate for National Division Vice President.

   c. 500 words or less in each of the March, April and May issues of the Journal or similar monthly publication, written by each candidate for Grand Lodge Executive Board.
Candidates for National Division Office

Freddie N. Simpson and John Mozinski Jr. (candidates for President)

Freddie N. Simpson

It is an honor to serve as BMWED President, a privilege I take with utmost importance. During my tenure, I’ve worked closely with your National Division Officers in moving our Brotherhood forward and securing our place as a progressive and strong union.

Recently, organized labor has encountered repeated attempts to implement right-to-work and other detrimental legislation at both the state and national levels. Through the establishment of the BMWED Internal Organizing program, and with the assistance of our Systems and Federations, we’ve built a stronger voice and greater unity amongst our rank-and-file membership. Within the halls of Congress, our Brotherhood has maintained the influence needed to help construct laws that protect the rights and safety of our members.

Hello my name is John Mozinski Jr. I am honored, humbled, and so excited to be announcing my candidacy for the position of National Division President.

I believe now is the time to make changes. I am the best candidate for the position. We must evolve as a union while making sure to get all members involved. I have been a BMWED member for twelve years. I’m a fifth generation railroader and fourth generation union member. I’m not going to bore you with a long paragraph. I could go on forever. By the time you receive this I will have put out roughly six to seven videos and the same number of newsletters going in depth about myself and my beliefs. I’m doing all my campaign information online with a weekly newsletter and a weekly video. If you don’t do stuff online call me or text 701-741-4316. If you’re online, please add me:

Facebook: John Mozinski Jr.
Snapchat: jmozinski
YouTube Channel: John Mozinski Jr.
Email: jmozinski@gmail.com

VOTE Mozinski 2018!
Putting the WE back in BMWED!

David D. Joynt (candidate for Secretary-Treasurer)

David D. Joynt

This is to advise I am seeking the position of National Division Secretary-Treasurer and am respectfully asking for your support.

I am seeking this office as I feel I can help advance the S-T Department while working in unison with the President’s Department. There are some great people in the S-T Department and I believe with the proper leadership they can thrive and move the Department forward. The S-T Department does a great job of servicing our Locals and System/Federations today, but change is always necessary to keep improving and to provide the best service possible.

We all know the ever-present threat of National Right-To-Work Legislation and if it would become reality, I feel that I have the experience and the working relationship with all departments of the BMWED to lead us through such difficult times.

While I have spent most of my career working in the protective side of the Brotherhood, I believe I’ve always had a good working relationship with the S-T Department and the personnel there.

This Brotherhood has been very good to me over the years and my only goal as I near the end of my career is to do whatever I can to strengthen our union and make it the best that it can be when I leave.

I strongly believe where I can make the most positive contributions to improving the BMWED is in the S-T position. I am asking for your vote at the National Division Convention.

Fraternally yours,
David Joynt
Bruce Glover, Jed Dodd, Louis Below (candidates for Vice President)

Bruce Glover

Experience Knowledgeable Confidence
I am running for National Division Vice President, Northwest Region. This is what I bring to the position.

As a first-term Vice President, not one day went by where an Officer of the Region didn’t seek my advice, history of an Agreement, help crafting a letter, or help advocating for a position. At times, they just want moral support when the going gets rough. I am anxious to continue to offer my experience because it helps our Members and helps our Union.

Union Officer jobs are not as easy as you might hope. Looking forward, we are going to face challenges that, if handled improperly, can put our Union, its Members, and our future in peril. If you want a Union with the ability to fight for you, that has the cunning and expertise you expect and pay for, you need Officers that have “been there,” know the tricks from the traps, and can lead the way. Today is not the day for mistakes that are borne from lack of knowledge or experience. I am your Candidate that can hit the ground running and contribute; fighting the battle we face every day, in our effort to improve the lives of BMWED Members.

My record is proven, my knowledge established, and I am ready to work for you with the confidence and integrity you deserve. I am asking for your support at the 4th Regular BMWED convention this June.

Thank you.

In Solidarity,

Bruce Glover

Jed Dodd

It is my desire to use my 42 years of experience, knowledge and tactical skills to advance our collective struggles. I have served as President and Local Chairman of Lodge 3068. As General Chairman of the Pennsylvania Federation, I have chaired the Amtrak and Conrail Bargaining Committees since 1983 and the Norfolk Southern Bargaining Committee since 1999.

In these positions, I have argued before Presidential Emergency Boards and testified before Congress with good results. I have led many local strikes including a Conrail safety strike that forced the FRA to issue regulations to protect Roadway Workers from moving trains and equipment. I chaired the committee that negotiated these regulations with the FRA and the railroad industry. I have been the Labor member arguing hundreds of cases before various arbitration boards. These awards established good precedent in contracting out-of-work disputes, work-week issues, and returned hundreds of fired workers back to work. I earned a BA degree in Labor Studies from Livingston College and a MS Degree from Cornell/Baruch Universities while working on the railroad. I have been arrested dozens of times defending our Union.

If elected I will pursue militant, class-based tactics and ideologies to protect our Union and to advance the working class. To this end, we must further democratize the decision making within our rank-and-file and join our natural allies in the broader working class struggles to ensure a decent standard of living for all Americans.

Louis Below

I would like to announce that I am submitting my name for nomination to the position of Vice President-West Region. I do not make this announcement half-hearted or without any regard to the importance of the position. I am very excited, concerned and anxious about the future of this organization. I will work to ensure that the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes Division (BMWED) moves in a forward direction with the best possible representation and leadership that I can provide.

I won’t make you a campaign promise to do this or that. I won’t promise to make one thing or another happen. Campaign promises are for those who are insecure or unsure of their own abilities. My pledge to you is to work for our members to the best of my ability and to utilize all of the tools available to me for the best possible representation.

I also know that I can’t do it alone. It takes a great team to succeed in this anti-labor atmosphere and I think the USD has one of the best in the BMWED. Yes, it takes an experienced, dedicated and hard-working team to fight all of those who wish to tear us down. That’s why I’m excited to be part of one of the most experienced teams in Rail Labor.

Should you decide to join me in my pledge to work with President Simpson and the experienced Rail Labor Leaders on his team, I would be honored to have your support.
Rober Sanchez, Sean Gerie (candidates for Vice President)

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

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

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

I have served since 2006 as one of your Vice Presidents and can assure you that the BMWED has taken positive steps to ensure that all the members will be represented by a strong union with a viable future.

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

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

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

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

I have been a member of this Union for virtually my entire adult life. I was twenty years old when I first started working on the railroad. Raised in a pro-Union family, attending Union meetings and supporting the Brotherhood was not something that I ever had to think about — it’s simply what you do.

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

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

Since then I have also been elected to serve as Executive Board Chairman, Vice Chairman/Treasurer, Assistant State Legislative Director, General Chairman, and in 2014, I was elected to the office I currently hold and am seeking re-election to — Vice President of the Northeast Region.

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

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

I thank you and respectfully ask for your vote.

In Unity,
-Sean

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

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

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

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

I look to carry these principles as your next Northeastern Region Executive Board Member. I humbly and respectfully ask for your support.
David L. Carroll, Dennis R. Albers, Jack E. David (candidates for Executive Board)

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

My chance to serve the membership began as a Local Chairman of Lodge 104 in Spokane, WA. I was elected to a Vice General Chairman’s position on the Burlington Northern System Federation and then re-elected to the same position. In 2014 during the intern I was elected to the General Chairman’s position for the Burlington Northern System Federation, and again re-elected in 2016. Subsequently, I have since been elected to the position of President of the BNSF General Chairman’s Association and Vice Chairman of the BMWED Northwest Region Association. It is with great honor and dignity that I serve those positions for which the membership has entrusted me with.

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

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

David L. Carroll

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

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

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

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

Dennis R. Albers

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

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

The experience and knowledge that I bring to the table is almost equally divided between my time as a member working for NS and my time working as a union representative for the BMWED. If re-elected, I will continue to use my experience and involvement to make common sense decisions for the betterment and good of ALL the membership.

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

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

Brothers and Sisters,

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

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

Since, I have served our union as a Local Lodge Officer and Arkansas State Legislative Director. As the State Legislative Director, I helped advance legislation and candidates that benefited our union brothers and sisters. I have also served as a part-time and full-time ATSFF System Federation Officer. In June 2017, during our ATSFF Quadrennial Convention, I was elected as the General Chairman of the ATSFF System Federation. Later, in October 2017, I was elected to the BMWED National Division Executive Board from the West Region and still maintain both positions.

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

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

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

Thank you.

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

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

Working with the members and officers of this union, serving our Brothers and Sisters as Local Lodge 1214 Secretary-Treasurer, as a Vice General Chairwoman and current second term General Chairwoman of the Burlington System Division, Secretary-Treasurer of the Northwest Region Association, and Secretary of the National Division Executive Board has given me the opportunity to gain experience by being appointed to different committees, gaining experience at the bargaining table, and daily opportunities to fight for the rights we have today as union members, to improve wages and working conditions for our members and improve the general well-being of our members and their families.

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

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

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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)
It was Benjamin Franklin that once said, “An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.” Anyone who has even the slightest idea about who good ‘ole Ben was and what he contributed to our Nation would most surely agree – he was a very intelligent man.

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

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

As far back as 1996, some medical professionals started to change their approach to what they called “pain management.” There was a growing trend that sought to add a patient’s level of pain to the list of the already existing four vital signs (blood pressure, body temperature, heart rate, and breathing).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Automobile accidents, work place, and sports-related injuries comprise the biggest percentage of people who develop addictions to opioids.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Let’s work collectively in the BMWED to invest in this knowledge and help our Brothers and Sisters collect on the interest.
2018 BMWED SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

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

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

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

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

My mother works as homeless liaison for Batesville School District. Her work has inspired my love of social work. Her career as an educator, and working to make sure homeless students receive an equal education, has inspired me to look beyond impossibilities. My mother often goes above and beyond to serve her students to the best of her ability. I contribute much of my success and aspirations to my parents. I envision becoming a business woman with the strength of my father, and loving nature of my mother, with a big twist of my own individuality. Thank you all for this opportunity!

Elisabeth "Lissy" Shortall

BMWED JOURNAL

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

NEWS ALERT

Sign up for BMWED News Alerts and get the latest news sent directly to your email!

To be added visit www.bmwed.org and submit your name to E-Alert signup, or send your name and email address to Dinclima@bmwed.org, with a request to be added!
BMWED Scholarship Essay Excerpts

*How the BMWED has impacted my life*

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

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

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

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

“Unions are an important piece of the puzzle for middle class Americans. They are the backbone that guarantees full-time job security, safety in the workplace, health insurance, and probably most important, in my opinion, they are the key negotiator on an employee’s behalf. Overall, all unions are beneficial but the BMWED has directly affected my life. The BMWED has given my father and the rest of my family a voice in the BNSF railroad.”
Darren L.—Mullen, NE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**QR Codes**

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

4. The election shall be supervised by an honest ballot counting association such as the American Arbitration Association or other generally recognized honest ballot counting association. The ballot counting association shall be selected by the National Division President and approved by a vote of the National Division officers.

5. Ballots shall be mailed on June 1, 2019 and each member eligible to receive a ballot shall be provided with a prepaid return envelope in which to mail their ballots back to the Honest Ballot counting association. Ballots shall be counted on June 25 at 6:00 PM. If June 25 is a Saturday, Sunday or national holiday the ballots shall be counted at 6:00 PM on the next regular business day following June 25. The candidate receiving the most votes in each category shall be declared the winner.

6. The winners shall be assume office on September 1 of the election year. Winners who are not incumbents shall be compensated as if they were already assuming office for their positions during the interim of July and August and the departing officer shall cooperate fully with the winner during the interim month of office to insure an orderly transition.

7. The President, Secretary Treasurer and Vice President at Large shall be elected at large in the general membership. Other National Division officers shall be elected by the members in the regions for which they are seeking election.

8. This new procedure will take effect immediately. Current incumbent officers shall remain in office pending election in 2019. Any language in the By-Laws which are in conflict with this new language will be amended to reflect the meaning and substance of this new language.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ARTICLE VII (ADD), SECTION 6 TO READ:

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

Sign up for BMWED News Alerts and get the latest news sent directly to your email account. To sign up visit the BMWED webpage at www.bmw e.org, or send your name and email address to dinclima@ bmwe.org, along with a request to be added to the BMWED News Alert list.
2018 PROPOSAL NO. 7
BMWED LEGISLATIVE BOARDS
SUBMITTED BY NATIONAL DIVISION

ARTICLE XII (ADD) SECTION 15 TO READ:

Section 15. Neither elections of officers nor any other business of a State Legislative Board shall be valid unless a quorum is present. A Legislative Convention quorum, at minimum, requires that at least one half of all Local Lodges eligible to be represented by a Local Legislative Representative must have such Representative or alternate in attendance.

If the positions of State Legislative Director or Assistant State Legislative Director are unﬁlled, due to a failure to conduct valid elections, the National Division President may appoint a member, otherwise eligible to hold such ofﬁce, to serve the remainder of the then-current term.

2018 PROPOSAL NO. 8
RECEIPTS FOR DUES, FEES AND ASSESSMENTS PAID
SUBMITTED BY NATIONAL DIVISION

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

The payment of fees, assessments and monthly dues shall be received for by a monthly serially-numbered ofﬁcial dues receipt card furnished by the National Division and bearing the National Division logo, provided, however, that in the case of employees of employers who are subject to dues check-off agreements, such individual payroll check stubs shall serve as their ofﬁcial dues receipt and evidence of the payment of dues. In addition to the foregoing, the National Division shall provide each remitter on checkoff with an annual dues receipt following January 1 of each year, reﬂecting the dues paid by each remitter during the preceding 12-month period. Any such receipt must be completely ﬁlled out showing actual date of payment, name of remitter, identiﬁcation number, date of birth, occupation, employer, Lodge number, month to which paid, amount paid and signature in full of the Local Lodge Secretary-Treasurer or authorized representative. An ofﬁcial receipt so issued and showing no erasure or alteration shall be recognized as evidence of good standing in the BMWED. No receipt for fees, assessments or dues other than on the ofﬁcial form furnished for this purpose by National Division shall be recognized as evidence of good standing in the BMWED. The National Division Secretary-Treasurer shall prescribe regulations to govern the issuance and reporting of ofﬁcial dues receipts, which regulations shall be rigidly complied with by all bonded Ofﬁcers and representatives of the BMWED.

2018 PROPOSAL NO. 9
CLARIFICATION OF RATIFICATION OF SYSTEM AGREEMENTS
SUBMITTED BY BYLAWS COMMITTEE

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

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

RETIREMENT CHANGES DURING 03/01/2018 TO 04/29/2018

| J OSEPH A BOBB | AF | 1232 | UP | 06/09/2017 |
| ROBERT H GOMEZ | AF | 1021 | UP | 06/24/2017 |
| GLEN L HACKMAN | BURL | 2852 | BNSF | 06/27/2017 |

| LONNIE HESLIP | AF | 1338 | UP | 07/01/2017 |
| TEODORO SALAZAR | AF | 2734 | UP | 07/16/2017 |
| ESPINOZA | AF | 0015 | UP | 07/24/2017 |
| EDWARD F RIBBING | AF | 0669 | UP | 07/25/2017 |

| ROBERT L DUKES | AF | 1549 | UP | 08/01/2017 |
| ALEJANDRO M GONZALEZ | AF | 0644 | UP | 08/24/2017 |

| CECIL L DAWSON | AT&SF | 2409 | BNSF | 09/01/2017 |
| WILLIAM L CUNNINGHAM | AF | 1252 | UP | 09/02/2017 |
| PATRICK H PICKENS | AF | 0450 | UP | 09/11/2017 |
| MICHAEL E TRUJILLO | AT&SF | 2415 | BNSF | 09/25/2017 |
| MARCUS P BEECK | AT&SF | 2410 | BNSF | 09/30/2017 |
| JIMMY M WOSS | AT&SF | 1082 | BNSF | 09/30/2017 |

| ALVIN Larkin | AF | 1549 | UP | 10/07/2017 |
| DANIEL D ROSENWINKLE | AF | 1099 | UP | 10/31/2017 |

| LINDAL B PEACE | AF | 1099 | UP | 12/06/2017 |
| JAMES W ROMANOWSKI | USO | 0591 | BRC | 12/11/2017 |
| JAMES M SAVAGE | USO | 0508 | BRC | 12/28/2017 |
| JAMES R WOODY | USO | 1020 | BRC | 12/31/2017 |

| DONALD J WESTBROOK JR | USD | 0686 | UP | 01/01/2018 |
| PHILLIP P BURIDGE | SOU | 0696 | NS | 01/04/2018 |
| W S STEELE | SOU | 0636 | NS | 01/08/2018 |
| GARY J LOWRY | AF | 0665 | UP | 01/08/2018 |

| DONALD P TIPTON | BURL | 1162 | BNSF | 02/02/2018 |
| KIRT D DOUSE | BURNOR | 1426 | BNSF | 02/03/2018 |

| RANDAL | HARDENBROOK | PENN | 0785 | BNSF | 02/08/2018 |
| FRANCIS L BARDO | PENN | 0300 | NS | 02/08/2018 |
| CHARLES M GRIMM | PENN | 0306 | NS | 02/08/2018 |
| TERRANCE A NOVAK | PENN | 0347 | NS | 02/08/2018 |
| LOUIS J SACHER | SOU | 0660 | NS | 02/08/2018 |
| L J MILLER | SOU | 0546 | NS | 02/08/2018 |

| ROBERT A GROOFS | AF | 0601 | UP | 02/09/2018 |
| JUDE J M SALMANS | ASF | 0226 | NS | 02/09/2018 |
| RICHARD W MURROW | AT&SF | 2852 | BNSF | 02/17/2018 |
| JIMMY E GAEDKE | BURL | 1108 | BNSF | 02/27/2018 |
| RANDALL K DICKERSON | BURL | 1108 | BNSF | 02/27/2018 |
| MICHAEL A M COY | USD | 1356 | UP | 02/28/2018 |
| ROBERT F Pohlner | USD | 0437 | UP | 02/28/2018 |

| MARK A ABERCOMBIE |半岛 | BURL | 1490 | USD | 03/01/2018 |
| MICHAEL J GETTER | URM | 2852 | BNSF | 03/01/2018 |
| D R LEIBNER | URM | 1108 | BNSF | 03/01/2018 |
| JEFF G BIEDLER | URM | 0306 | BNSF | 03/01/2018 |
| MARVIN DALE | URM | 0295 | BNSF | 03/01/2018 |
| DENIS N PHOENIX | URM | 0104 | BNSF | 03/01/2018 |
| JONATHAN D STEWART | W C JONES | URM | 2825 | BNSF | 03/01/2018 |
| LARRY T MASCARENAS | ROSA | 0585 | NS | 03/01/2018 |
| DAVID G ZABOKRTSKY | ROSA | 1123 | NS | 03/01/2018 |
| DOUGLAS D DAWSON | ROSA | 1464 | NS | 03/01/2018 |

| PORFIRIO OLIVAS | WCO | 2929 | WCL | 04/01/2018 |
| DANIEL J WELCH | N E | 1158 | DH | 04/05/2018 |
| BILL WAKEFIELD | URM | 1046 | UP | 04/16/2018 |

2018 PROPOSAL NO. 10
ARTICLE XII (ADD) SECTION 15 TO READ:

If the positions of State Legislative Director or Assistant State Legislative Director are unﬁlled, due to a failure to conduct valid elections, the National Division President may appoint a member, otherwise eligible to hold such ofﬁce, to serve the remainder of the then-current term.
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Please notify the BWM ED National Division of the passing of any retired BWM ED member.

Call (269) 626-2660, ext. 6363.
DEATH BENEFIT DEPARTMENT

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

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

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

REPORT OF DEATH NOTICES RECEIVED DURING MARCH AND APRIL 2018

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

We all must stand committed to workplace safety

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Continued on Page 16
Obituary: Brother Luke J. Gsell

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

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

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

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

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

President’s Perspective, From Page 15

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

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

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