

BMWED

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

JOURNAL

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Third Regular BMWED National Division Convention re-elects Simpson and Geller by Acclamation

Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division President Freddie N. Simpson and Secretary-Treasurer Perry K. Geller Sr. were re-elected by acclamation at the Third Regular Convention of the BMWED June 24. The re-election of President Simpson and Secretary-Treasurer Geller was met with overwhelming support from the delegation gathered in Las Vegas, sent there to represent the Brotherhood's

506 active lodges.

"I assure you that I will do everything in my power to invest in you, and to provide you with the tools and skills necessary to carry forward the principles and ideals of our great union," President Simpson said. "Together, we will deliberate as Brothers and Sisters, together we will make important decisions, and together we will exit this convention hall strong, united and determined to advancing the cause of our members and all of Rail Labor."

Secretary-Treasurer Geller said, "I am proud

of the accomplishments of the Secretary-Treasurer's Department over the last 10 years. We weathered the economic downturns and have emerged in good financial shape each

Convention, Continued on Page 7

Membership input on bargaining sought Please complete survey at www.bmwedsurvey.org

"Section 6" notices can be served on the Carriers anytime on or after Nov. 1, 2014 seeking changes in the 2012 National Agreement. Traditionally, we sent a printed questionnaire to members' homes seeking rank and file input on the important bargaining issues for the upcoming negotiations. This year, we are trying something different – more 21st Century – using an on-line questionnaire that will permit members to fill out the survey anywhere they have access to a computer or use of their smartphones.

Filling out the survey is easy. Log on to this website <http://www.bmwedsurvey.org> and follow the on-screen instructions. For those members accessing the site with a smartphone, the website has been optimized when you log in with a phone or tablet and can be accessed by scanning the QR code on this page. You will be prompted to include a unique code number placed on the *Journal's* address label. That number is randomly generated, it **does not** act as an identifier of who input any particular response. We are using the unique numbers to prevent someone from "stuffing" the survey and skewing the results.

The website will be up and running by the time you receive the *Journal*. Additionally, you can request a printed survey be mailed to your home by calling: 1-800-320-5159. The website will remain up and running until Oct. 8; however we strongly suggest you fill out the survey at your earliest opportunity. The deadline for returning the printed survey will also be Oct. 8. Your participation in this survey is an important part of the bargaining process.



Well over 400 delegates, many first timers, debated and decided the future of the BMWED at the 3rd Regular Convention.



Secretary-Treasurer Perry K. Geller Sr. (left) and President Freddie N. Simpson (center), pictured with IBT General President James P. Hoffa, were re-elected by acclamation.



Newly elected National Division Officers and Executive Board Members are: Top (L-R) E-Board Member Roy Miller, E-Board Member Staci Moody-Gilbert, E-Board Member Gary Marquart, Vice Pres. Sean Gerie, E-Board Member Jack David, E-Board Member Jed Dodd, E-Board Member Dennis Albers. Bottom (L-R) Vice Pres. David Scoville, Vice Pres. David Joynt, Sec.-Treas. Perry Geller, Pres. Freddie Simpson, Vice Pres. Roger Sanchez, Vice Pres. Bruce Glover.



IN MEMORIAM

Charles L. Blackmon

Brother Charles L. Blackmon passed away April 23, 2014 at the age of 86. He was a machine operator and a long-time member of Allied Federation Local Lodge 702.



A life-long resident of Castleberry, Ala., Brother Blackmon is survived by his wife, Maudell, a daughter and son-in-law, two granddaughters, and three great-grandchildren.

"My condolences go out to the Blackmon family upon the passing of Brother Charles," BMWED Pres. Freddie Simpson said. "Our brotherhood is saddened by the loss of our colleague and friend. Please accept my deepest sympathies."

Trinidad F. Lopez

Brother Trinidad F. Lopez passed away peacefully in Hayward, Calif. May 1, 2014. Brother Lopez was 101 years old.



Brother Lopez was a member of the BMWED Unified System Division Local Lodge 407 since Sept. 25, 1937. He retired as a track foreman in the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1974.

Born on May 26, 1912 in Mexico, Brother Lopez immigrated to the United States as a young child, became a Naturalized Citizen as a young man, and began work on the railroad while taking evening college courses. He was preceded in death by his wife of 42 years, Antonia.

"Brother Lopez was a hard-working railroader who lived to a grand age of 101 years," BMWED Pres. Freddie Simpson said. "Rail-

road retirement was good to Brother Lopez, and Brother Lopez was good to his family, friends, and Brotherhood. Our deepest sympathies go out to his family and friends."

Ronald F. "Ron" Liberty

Brother Ron Liberty passed away Thursday, July 3, 2014, in Winnipeg, MB Canada, surrounded by his loving family. He was 65.

Brother Liberty began his railroad employment on the Ontario Northland Railway in 1969 and held positions as a laborer, bridgeman, oiler helper, truck driver, painter and painter foreman.



A member of Lodge 2697, he was elected and served as Local Chairman in 1974, Joint Protective Board Member in 1976, Executive Board Member in 1979 and General Chairman-Secretary-Treasurer of the Western System Federation in 1983 prior to becoming System Federation General Chairman in 1995.

Brother Liberty was elected to Vice President, Canada at the 44th Grand Lodge Convention in July 2002 and held that position up until his retirement from the union in 2005. After his retirement, Ron served as manager and president of Canadian Legion Branch 252 in Winnipeg.

Brother Liberty leaves behind his loving wife Jo Anne, his three daughters, two sons, twelve grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

"Brother Ron was a good man with a big personality and an even bigger heart," BMWED Pres. Freddie Simpson said. "He was a strong and devoted supporter of our Brotherhood and of the rights of railroaders, not just in his native Canada, but wherever in this world men and women drove spikes. Brother Ron will be greatly missed and my deepest and most sincere condolences go out to his lovely wife, Jo Anne, and the remainder of the Liberty family."

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!



How to Use QR Codes

To access the information, you will need to download one of several free QR Code reader apps on your smartphone. When you see a QR Code, focus your camera on the image and the application will recognize the code and automatically open up the link to display the web content.

LOCAL LODGES

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

Call (248) 662-2660 extension 636.

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Freddie N. Simpson
President and Editor

Perry K. Geller, Sr.
Secretary-Treasurer

C. Clark Ballew
Associate Editor

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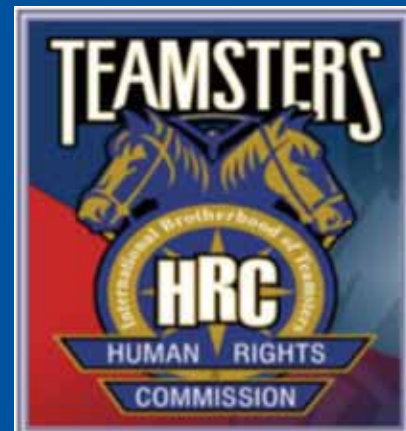


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Learn more about the Teamsters Human Rights Commission and how you can participate.

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



Tragically, over the four years since our last Convention in 2010, 28 of our Brothers died while working on the railroad. Their deaths are somber reminders that the work we engage in daily is fraught with danger and peril. We miss our friends, our colleagues, and our Brothers. They will never be forgotten. Below is BMWED Vice President Henry Wise's remarks during the Convention, along with the names of our fallen Brothers.

Thank you, brothers and sisters. This is the most difficult yet most appropriate business of our convention, and I thank Brothers Simpson and Geller for scheduling this memorial service during the opening of our convention as a sign of respect for our fallen members.

Today we pause to pay tribute and honor to those brothers and sisters who paid the ultimate price at the cost of a paycheck since our last convention. Our fond memories of these individuals are etched in our hearts. Their time came much too soon and they had so much left to do. They were our friends and family. They were our co-workers. They were our neighbors. But, most importantly, they were our brothers and sisters, and they were just like us.

Just like each of us, they worked long, hard days to put bread on the family table and a roof over their heads. They suffered through the stifling heat and bone-chilling cold to do their part for the railroad and their country. They've been taken away from us way too soon, and these brothers and sisters will forever live in our hearts.

Let us pay our solemn respect to those who have gone on before us in the line of duty. We pray that God Almighty will watch over their loved ones and give them strength and protection. Brothers and sisters, I ask you to please stand for this memorial service in tribute of our fallen.

Vice President Wise read the following:

Brother Robert Ramirez;
Baldwin Park, California; March 20,
2010.

Brother Norman Hicks; Orange, New Jersey; August 16, 2010.

Brother Andrew Weaver; Cool Rapids, Minnesota; September 1, 2010.

Brother Craig J. Aasan; Onawa, Iowa; June 30, 2011.

Brother Elmer Hulse; Abilene, Kansas; August 28, 2011.



Brother Bernard T. Burrows;
Harve De Grace, Maryland; Sep-
tember 19, 2011.

Brother Fidel Arias; Denver, Colorado; October 8, 2011.

Brother Neil "Tommy" Touvell;
Amarillo, Texas; January 9, 2012.

**Brother Carter L. Perry; St.
Louis, Missouri; January 25, 2012.**

Brother Brian Honeycutt;
Charlotte, North Carolina; May 21,
2012.

Brother Jack Gronewold; Camp Point, Illinois; June 21, 2012.

Brother Jason L. Lacy; Eagles Nest, Arizona; July 27, 2012.

Brother Loren Daswood;
Nelson, Illinois; August 15, 2012.

Brother Alejandro V. Baroni;
Bayonne, New Jersey; August 22,
2012.

**Brother Max Alvarez; Arizona;
October 15, 2012.**

Brother William G. Fidler, Jr.;
Gladsprings, Virginia; December 5,
2012.

Brother Joseph Drewnoski;
Black Mountain, North Carolina;
May 5, 2013.

Brother Robert Luden; West Haven, Connecticut; May 28, 2013.

Brother Luis Mercado; Chicago, Illinois; July 5, 2013.

Brother Jeremy Westfall;
Philadelphia, PA; July 15, 2013.

Brother Randolph Kemp;
Philadelphia, PA; July 15, 2013.

Brother Thomas F. Tarchak;
Harpursville, New York; August 26,
2013.

Brother Arnaldo G. Barrera, Jr.;
Corpus Christi, Texas; September 4,
2013.

**Brother Eloy Vigil; Socorro,
New Mexico; October 17, 2013.**

Brother Stanley Chandler;
Cuba, Missouri; November 5, 2013.

**Brother Paul Castle; Fostoria,
Ohio; November 12, 2013.**

Brother Terry Fitzgerald;
Quincy, Florida; December 12, 2013.

Brother Carl Harris, Luther,
Oklahoma; February 28, 2014.



From your Apple device, open the App Store, single click the Search button that is in the bottom, right corner. At the top of the screen, type "rss" in the search field and click Search. Scroll down the results until you get to XFeed RSS Reader and click it. You will be presented with more info on the application. Single click the Free button so it changes to say Install. Single click the Install button so the app is added to your phone. Once finished, click the icon to start the app. Single click the Plus button at the bottom of the screen and type <http://www.bmwe.org/rss.xml> in the feed URL box. Single click Search so the feed can be found.

Open the Market. Single click the Search button in the upper, right hand corner. At the top of the screen, type rss in the search field and click Search. Scroll down until you get to "gReader (Google Reader / RSS)" and click it. Single click the Download button. Single click the "Accept & download" button. Once downloaded click the "Open" button. Select your Google account and click "Allow." Single click the + in the upper right-hand corner and type <http://www.bmw.de.org/rss.xml> in the feed URL box. Select Search. Once the feed is found click the + sign to add the feed.



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BMWED news

S.C. Railroad Retirement Club flourishing

The RRC formed a local chapter outside of Florence, S.C. in order to stay connected throughout their retirement years. In the words of RRC Pres. and co-founder James Williams:

We the members of the Railroad Retirement Club were brought together through our various employment within the railroad industry. During our many years of working together, we shared a variety of experiences, from logging thousands of miles up and down the highways and byways to sharing the same meals and sleeping quarters.

We began our careers in our early years hoping to enhance our ability to provide for our families. The railroad industry provided us a means of upward mobility. But, along with that upward mobility came various challenges, everything from hard work to enduring extreme working conditions. Because the pay was above average, so were the demands, work schedules that were different from those experienced in most other industries, to enduring weather and conditions that test a person to the core of their very existence. During it all, having to tolerate some people who took it upon themselves to



Railroad Retirement Club officers and membership, along with BMWED President and RRC member Freddie Simpson, met earlier this year in Kingstree, S.C. to discuss important topics pertaining to retired railroaders. From left, Joe Myers, Ralph Allison, RRC Pres. James W. Williams, Chester Wilson, BMWED President Simpson, and David White.

try and make things even more difficult than they needed to be.

*Through all of the challenges and experiences we formed lasting relationships and brotherhoods. One of the brotherhoods was based on a need for someone to advocate for better working conditions, pay, healthcare, retirement benefits, etc. These are a few of the many reasons we continue to have strong feelings toward the **Brotherhood of***

Maintenance of Way Employees – IBT, because we can all attest to the fact that without the “Brotherhood” being a constant support for us and our families, many of us would not have survived the difficulties involved in negotiating with company officials who are trained to do what is in the best interest of the company.

BMWED Pres. Simpson agreed: “I share the same views and

beliefs of the members and leadership of the Railroad Retirement Club of Florence, South Carolina. Their commitment to the local community and to our Union are ideals that should be a model for other BMWED retirees around the country. Supporting those who labor, and our retirees is something we should all care about.”

FRA Issues New Rules for Adjacent Track Protection

After a long series of delays, protestations by the industry, and several petitions for reconsideration, the Federal Railroad Administration issued a Final Rule for adjacent track protection on Jan. 9, 2014 with an effective date of July 1, 2014. All railroads were required to complete training on the new adjacent track rule prior to the July 1st effective date.

Roughly 25 percent of all roadway worker fatalities since 1997 have occurred on an adjacent controlled track with track centers of 19 feet or less. Therefore, the Final Rule is intended to improve roadway work safety by requiring certain mandatory safety measures when adjacent controlled tracks are present and a roadway worker on the ground is engaged in a common task with one or more Roadway Maintenance Machines on an “occupied track.”

The Final Rule adopts several important new definitions: “Adjacent controlled track,” means a controlled track whose track center is spaced 19 feet or less from the track center of the occupied track. “Occupied Track” means a track on which on-track, self-propelled

equipment or coupled equipment is authorized or permitted to be located while engaged in a common task with a roadway work group with at least one of the roadway workers on the ground.

The revised regulation unfortunately contains a myriad of exceptions which have been incorporated into the Final Rule by FRA in response to petitions for reconsideration filed by the Association of American Railroads (AAR), American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA) and the American Public Transit Association (APTA). All three petitions for reconsideration claimed the rule was too restrictive and too costly to implement. The Final Rule, published Jan. 9, 2014, was amended by FRA in response to the AAR, ASLRRA and APTA petitions.

In the end, however, the Final Rule does provide several of the core improvements that BMWED fought to gain over the past eight years. Despite several broad exceptions incorporated into the rule by FRA, many more members will have the benefit of mandatory adjacent track protection under the Final Rule than existed prior to July

1, 2014. What are these core improvements?

1. Mandatory adjacent controlled track protection under most conditions when a roadway worker(s) on the ground is engaged in a common task with a least one Roadway Maintenance Machine on an occupied track and track centers are 19’ or less.
2. Section 214.336(d) provides full discretion to the Roadway Worker in Charge to protect adjacent tracks outside of the mandatory requirements of the new rule:
 - (d) **Discretion of roadway worker in charge.** Nothing in this subpart prohibits the roadway worker in charge from establishing on-track safety on one or more adjacent tracks as he or she deems necessary consistent with both the purpose and requirements of this subpart.
3. The on-track safety briefing must include information about any adjacent tracks, on-track safety for such tracks, if re-

- quired by this subpart or deemed necessary by the roadway worker in charge, and identification of any roadway maintenance machines that will foul such tracks.
4. A requirement that all on ground personnel and machines **cease work and occupy a predetermined place of safety** upon receiving Train Approach Warning (watchman/lookout) or, alternatively, a notification that the roadway worker in charge intends to permit one or more train or other on-track equipment movements through the working limits on the adjacent controlled track, when trains pass on an adjacent controlled track at greater than 25 MPH (freight) or 40 MPH (passenger). Work may only resume after the **entire movement** clears each component of the gang.
5. Restrictions on the type and location of work allowed to be performed when trains pass on an adjacent controlled track at less than 25 MPH (freight) or 40 MPH (passenger).

For additional information about this new FRA regulation, please see 49 CFR 214.336 or contact the BMWED Department of Safety in Washington, D.C. at 202-508-6449.

2014 BMWED SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT; ENROLLMENT NOW OPEN

BMWED members and their dependents encouraged to apply

Pursuant to BMWED Resolution #38, reaffirmed by the 2014 BMWED Convention, two annual scholarships in the amount of \$2,000.00 each will be awarded in November 2014 to BMWED members or eligible dependents, with preference given to applicants enrolled or scheduled to enroll in an accredited college or university in the pursuit of labor-related studies. The annual scholarship award is designed to encourage and recognize the achievements of BMWED members and their dependents, and to assist them in obtaining a college education.

"This is an especially important benefit to BMWED families in light of the escalating cost of higher education," said BMWED President Freddie Simpson. "For many working families, the cost of a college education has become largely unaffordable. The BMWED scholarship is intended to help educate the future leaders of our nation and our unions, and will serve to strengthen Organized Labor's efforts to protect workers' rights and preserve the middle class."

ELIGIBILITY:

Applicant must be: (1) a dependent of a BMWED member in good standing who is a high school senior enrolled or planning to enroll in an accredited college or university, or a full-time undergraduate or graduate student enrolled at an accredited college or university; or, (2) a BMWED member in good standing enrolled as an undergraduate or graduate student at an accredited college or university.

Preference will be given to applicants pursuing the study of labor-related subjects or pursuing a degree in labor-related subjects.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

To apply for the BMWED scholarship, an applicant must meet all the eligibility requirements and submit via mail the following: (1) A completed application form (available on line at www.bmwe.org); (2) Most recent academic transcript (if applicable); (3) College entrance examination, i.e., ACT and/or SAT scores (if applicable); (4) A list of extra-curricular, community service and/or union activities; (5) A statement of 300 words or less written by the applicant outlining his or her employment history and career goals; and, (6) A statement of 300 words or less written by the applicant explaining how the BMWED has impacted his or her life.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

Three (3) applications verified to meet all necessary criteria will be selected by random draw from the pool of applications received by the close of business on October 31, 2014. The selected applications will be copied and distributed to the BMWED Vice Presidents who will independently review and rank each application on a scale of 1 - 3, with 3 being the highest ranking and 1 being the lowest ranking. The two applicants garnering the highest aggregate rankings will receive notice of the scholarship award in November. Any tie in ranking score will be decided by the National Division President based upon his final review of the tied applications.

The BMWED Scholarship award check will be made out directly to the college or university where the award recipients are enrolled or accepted for enrollment. Upon notification of the

award, it will be necessary for each recipient to furnish the National Division President with information to facilitate the issuance of the award check payable to the accredited college or university where the applicant is accepted or enrolled.

Application materials must be submitted by mail* (USPS or UPS only) and be received by BMWED at the address below no later than the close of business October 31, 2014. Faxed or emailed applications will not be accepted. Please submit to:

BMWED Scholarship
Attn: Rick Inclima
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
25 Louisiana Ave., NW, 7th Floor
Washington, DC 20001

An application form and a complete description of the application procedures and eligibility requirements can be downloaded from the Brotherhood's website at www.bmwe.org. Any questions regarding the BMWED Scholarship or application process may be forwarded via e-mail to BMWED Director of Safety Rick Inclima at Ricki@bmwe.org or by calling 202-508-6449.

**Note: Pursuant to Teamster policy, delivery of any package or mail by non-union carriers will not be accepted by the Teamster's shipping/receiving department. Therefore, to assure delivery please mail through the United States Postal Service [USPS] or United Parcel Service [UPS] only.*

Congress Needs to Declare Independence from Trade Deal

Millions of Americans joined in on the celebration of the 238th birthday of this great nation in July. But while we honored U.S. independence, a proposed 12-nation Pacific Rim trade deal could take away the federal government's ability to enforce a law allowing it to favor American companies when purchasing goods.

The "Buy American" procurement program has been on the books for more than 80 years. But it has become a target, thanks to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) deal currently being negotiated. The pact would remove the ability of the U.S. to prioritize companies located in this country when making government purchases.

There is an estimated \$1,500 that every state taxpayer sends each year to Washington to procure goods. Much of that money is funneled back into American jobs thanks to Buy American. But the TPP would allow foreign companies to compete for the tax dollars of Michigan residents.

Under the trade agreement, the U.S. government would be required to grant all firms operating in any TPP country the same access as American companies to federal government procurement contracts over a certain value. The ban on preferential treatment for U.S. firms on obtaining government contracts would result in



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

the offshoring of hundreds of millions in tax dollars now recycled into the U.S. economy.

In essence, the U.S. would be trading preferential access to the \$556 million U.S. federal government procurement in exchange for just \$53 billion worth of new national procurement markets overseas. That seems like a bum deal.

The TPP would allow Chinese-government-owned firms in Vietnam to undercut American businesses in order to gain U.S. government business. They can do that because the average minimum wage salary in Vietnam is 52 cents an hour. But does it make sense to allow such Communist-owned companies to handle work dealing with, for instance, U.S. national security? Hell no!

America became the world power that it is today by taking tough stands. Congress needs to assert U.S. independence now by standing firm against this TPP provision and allowing the Buy American program to flourish.

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RETIREMENT CHANGES DURING 03/01/2014 TO 04/30/2014

*** May 2012 ***					JERRY D HAMAKER	USD	1709	UTAH	01/24/2014										
ROBERT L. CHRISTIAN	BURL	2643	BNSF	05/31/2012	JOHN D CULBERTH	AF	2915	FEC	01/28/2014										
					LLOYD W PYE	AF	1064	CSXT	01/29/2014										
*** March 2013 ***					KENNETH D JEFFERS	ASF	0888	NS	01/31/2014										
GORDON K KRESS	AT&SFF	2402	BNSF	03/31/2013	KEVIN R DENNER	USD	1227	UP	01/31/2014										
					DENNIS T MC INTOSH	USD	0686	UP	01/31/2014										
*** April 2013 ***					LUKE MC THIAS	USD	1862	UP	01/31/2014										
LAWRENCE E SMITH	PENN	3075	NRPC	04/30/2013															
					*** February 2014 ***														
*** June 2013 ***					JAMES R MILLER JR	BURL	0509	BNSF	02/01/2014										
FREDERICK J BANFORD JR	PENN	3012	NRPC	06/29/2013	ARTURO T RAMIREZ	BURL	0798	BNSF	02/01/2014										
					WILLIAM C SNELL	BURL	0798	BNSF	02/01/2014										
*** July 2013 ***					DALE C HUDYMA	BURNOR	1189	BNSF	02/01/2014										
FRANK W BARNES	AT&SFF	0493	BNSF	07/01/2013	GARY J KARNOWSKI	BURNOR	1296	BNSF	02/01/2014										
JASPER L SKEENS	ASF	0551	NS	07/31/2013	RICHARD A LYNCH	SOU	0546	NS	02/01/2014										
					DELAND O HUMPHERYS	USD	0369	UP	02/01/2014										
*** August 2013 ***					STEVEN D DUMOND	BURNOR	0706	BNSF	02/02/2014										
GERALD BULLIS	PENN	3005	NRPC	08/02/2013	BERNARD L MARTINEZ	AT&SFF	0204	BNSF	02/03/2014										
STEVE HOLMES	PENN	3039	NRPC	08/08/2013	JAMES B MASHEK	BURL	1108	BNSF	02/04/2014										
					EDWARD L EMERICK	AF	1556	CSXT	02/05/2014										
*** September 2013 ***					ISIDRO G ESPINOZA	BURNOR	0159	BNSF	02/06/2014										
JAMES G CLARK JR	SOU	0542	NS	09/01/2013	GUS BLANKS JR	BURL	1302	BNSF	02/07/2014										
ALBERT J HILL	CRSF	0882	CSXT	09/28/2013	JAMES B LANIER	BURL	0798	BNSF	02/08/2014										
					RANDY A PICKEL	BURL	0509	BNSF	02/10/2014										
*** October 2013 ***					MICHAEL T BRUSKI	BURL	1302	BNSF	02/11/2014										
MAURICE LOWRY	C&EI	1003	UP	10/01/2013	GARY L SWANSON	BURL	1214	BNSF	02/15/2014										
MICHAEL D DEVITT	CRSF	1978	CSXT	10/18/2013	ROGER L THOMPSON	BURL	1108	BNSF	02/15/2014										
JAMES W KILIAN	CRSF	0866	CSXT	10/26/2013	JAMES W BATES	BURL	2852	BNSF	02/21/2014										
					RONALD G ROUNDS	CRSF	0882	CSXT	02/21/2014										
*** November 2013 ***					GARY HEISER	ASF	0226	NS	02/24/2014										
SAMUEL H WILSON	PENN	3014	NRPC	11/07/2013	GLEN D MANIER	AF	0725	CSXT	02/28/2014										
					JACK R TENNIS	AT&SFF	0518	BNSF	02/28/2014										
*** December 2013 ***																			
SALVADOR VALENCIA JR	AF	1254	UP	12/01/2013	JOHN M BURESH	BURL	2920	IAIS	03/01/2014										
RONALD W COLLINS	CRSF	1350	NS	12/01/2013	CHARLES F PITZEN	BURL	0509	BNSF	03/01/2014										
M C MONAGHAN	CRSF	0891	CSXT	12/04/2013	RONALD J SABATA	BURL	1320	BNSF	03/01/2014										
RONALD J PAGOTTO	CRSF	1350	NS	12/11/2013	WALTER T DUNHAM	BURNOR	0750	BNSF	03/01/2014										
DONALD L ANDERSEN	USD	0342	UP	12/27/2013	WILLIAM D DYKHOF	BURNOR	1326	BNSF	03/01/2014										
JAMES O WADE	AT&SFF	0518	BNSF	12/28/2013	DANIEL J HELBLING	BURNOR	0306	BNSF	03/01/2014										
JAMES E MORRIS	AF	1064	CSXT	12/30/2013	GARY L MILLER	BURNOR	0104	BNSF	03/01/2014										
RONALD A LISZEWSKI	PENN	3012	NRPC	12/31/2013	DANIEL L ACETA	CRSD	2906	NJT	03/01/2014										
MICHAEL J GANZER	USD	1879	UP	12/31/2013	THOMAS G STERF	BURNOR	1280	BNSF	03/03/2014										
JAMES A GRISS	USD	0899	UP	12/31/2013	DAVID G CABLE	USD	0239	UP	03/04/2014										
					CARSON JONES	AF	1376	CSXT	03/06/2014										
*** January 2014 ***					PATRICK B GRAYBILL	ASF	0599	NS	03/07/2014										
STEVEN R PALMER	BURL	1832	BNSF	01/01/2014	TERRY E COVEN	BURL	0014	BNSF	03/07/2014										
GARY J WALTER SR	PENN	3016	NS	01/02/2014	KENNETH D COLE JR	BURL	1214	BNSF	03/15/2014										
EARNEST R ADKINS	SOU	0523	NS	01/03/2014	WILLIAM F VAN CLEAVE	AF	0409	CSXT	03/19/2014										
DONALD REDMOND	USD	0377	UP	01/06/2014	J D MC KINSEY	USD	0686	UP	03/23/2014										
PAUL MATTHEWS	PENN	3039	NRPC	01/09/2014	BRADLEY C OLSON	USD	0437	UP	03/24/2014										
JERRY B MORGAN	USD	1879	UP	01/09/2014	JON P HARKENDORFF	BURL	1316	BNSF	03/25/2014										
JEFFREY C LOINING	WCSD	1710	WCL	01/09/2014	MICHAEL A HUNT	CRSF	1396	NS	03/29/2014										
RUDOLPH TREVINO	USD	0899	UP	01/10/2014	BRUCE D LIPPERT	USD	0216	UP	03/31/2014										
LAWRENCE R TRNKA	USD	0278	UP	01/10/2014															

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 BMWED.org.

Convention, from page 1

time. Through prudent investments and portfolio diversification, we have reaped the benefits of a rebounded stock market and I am proud to report that your Brotherhood today is on sound financial footing with a stable membership and a bright future."

Newly elected Vice Presidents Sean Gerie (Northeast Region), Bruce Glover (Northwest Region), and David Scoville (West Region) join re-elected Vice Presidents David Joynt (At-Large) and Roger Sanchez (South Region) to fill out the National Division Officers. Executive Board members elected on Tuesday include Jack David (At-Large), Staci Moody-Gilbert (At-Large), Dennis Albers (South Region), Jed Dodd (Northeast Region), Gary Marquart (West Region), and Roy Miller (Northwest Region).

Sister Gilbert made history

within the BMWED by becoming the first female elected to the union's Executive Board in its 127-year history. Gilbert has been a member of the BMWED for more than 20 years and is currently the Chairwoman of the Burlington System Division.

In accordance with the bylaws of the BMWED, the quadrennial convention is held to review the work and accomplishments of the Brotherhood during the past four years. Additionally, delegates convene in order to consider legislation for the benefit and advancement of the membership, amend the National Division Bylaws, elect National Division officers, and to act upon other business that may come before the board.

On the first day of convention, the delegates and guests filled the convention hall to hear key note speeches by Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa, Teamsters Rail

Conference President Dennis Pierce and Teamsters Rail Conference Director John Murphy.

Hoffa, the keynote speaker, brought greetings from the 1.4 million brothers and sisters of the Teamsters and congratulated the BMWED on the 10-year anniversary of the merger.

"It's been 10 years since the merger and it has made us both stronger. My father, James R. Hoffa, had a vision that the Teamsters would be the largest transportation union in the United States. And, when you joined as part of the Rail Conference, we accomplished that goal. We now represent hardworking employees at the ports, on the rails, on the highways, and in the air," he said.

The Director of the Rail Conference and IBT Vice President, John Murphy, told the delegates of the many accomplishments the Rail Conference has made: bargaining national contracts, publication of the

High Alert rail safety reports and working together with the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen to fight for funding in Congress for High Speed Rail. "The California High Speed Rail project will, once funded, provided 20,000 full-time jobs during construction and 450,000 jobs when the project is up and running."

Dennis Pierce, President of the Rail Conference and the President of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainman, a division of the Teamsters Rail Conference, also told the BMWED delegates how important they were as part of the Rail Conference. "I thank the members of the BMWED for the fighting spirit you bring to the Rail Conference. This spirit is needed as we fight back against the War on Workers that is before us."

Day three of the Convention included presentations from Mike Collins of the Railroad Retirement

Convention, Continued on Page 9





Thanks to your essential support, DRIVE remains strong



Director of Government Affairs
Charlie Hogue

Brothers and sisters, as we all know, decisions made by our elected political leaders and the laws they pass have a profound impact on the lives of our members and their families. The BMWED, your union, is committed to supporting the election of political leaders who understand and support the passage of legislation that will advance the wages, working conditions, and improve the quality of life for railroad workers and their families. Therefore, being a part of a strong political action committee like DRIVE is essential. It's critical. DRIVE is the acronym for our Political Action Committee fund and it stands for "Democrat Republican Independent Voter Education."

Our DRIVE fund guarantees our unified voice is heard in the halls of Congress, which is essential in advancing the wages, working conditions, and livelihoods of our families. That's our job. This is why your participation and contributions to DRIVE are critical.

None of us have millions of dollars sitting around to compete individually with the Koch brothers, Rupert Murdoch, and other uber-wealthy corporate bankrollers in affecting political campaigns, judicial decisions, and legislation. But that doesn't mean that together we can't make a real difference. All of us doing what we can in a unified effort has made a difference in the past and can continue to make a difference in the future.

Brothers and sisters, BMWED members have always stepped up, and going forward we need to step up again. Donating to DRIVE is our collective opportunity to make a tangible difference for ourselves and our families. President Freddie Simpson, Secretary-Treasurer Perry Geller, Teamsters General President James Hoffa, and I thank all of our members who have donated in the past. We're grateful for your generosity and your continued support of Drive.

Every contribution helps us to support those lawmakers who support us and to fight those lawmakers who oppose us and oppose labor's agenda for working Americans.

Remember what I've said two or three times already: The Legislative Department — and all of us in this Brotherhood — our job for our members is to advance the wages, improve the working conditions, and protect the livelihoods of our families. That's what it gets down to, and we can't do it without being politically active.

★ ★ ★

Every year the BMWED is proud to recognize our top DRIVE contributors, and this year is no different. The announcement of winners of the DRIVE awards follows. Each and every contributor to DRIVE is appreciated and your devoted support assuredly goes toward the betterment of all union-represented workers in various professions across our great country. Our deepest and most sincere thanks go to each of you.

Highest contributing member, Francisco J. Escareno, Local Lodge 922, Unified System Division. (Not pictured)



Highest contributing officer, George Loveland, Vice General Chairman, Burlington System Division.



Highest contributing system or division, Louis Below, General Chairman of the Unified System Division.



System or division with the highest dollar amount per capita, Stacy Moody-Gilbert, General Chairwoman, Burlington System Division.



Highest contributing state, Illinois, Eric Dismuke, State Legislative Director, Local Lodge 818, Allied Federation.



Highest contributing local lodge, Ron Chand, Alternate Delegate, Local Lodge 922, Unified System Division.



Local lodge with the highest dollar amount per capita, Local Lodge 1107, Delegate Robert Odle, Jr., Affiliated System Federation.

State with the highest dollar amount per capita, Iowa, Ron Hoffman, State Legislative Director of Iowa, Local Lodge 1847, Unified System Division. (Not pictured)

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)



RRB Announces Additional Pre-Retirement Seminars for Railroad Workers, Spouses in Pittsburgh, St. Paul, and Kansas City

Additional locations have now been added to the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board's (RRB) schedule of Pre-Retirement Seminars for railroad employees and their spouses.

Designed for railroad employees and spouses planning to retire within five years or less, the seminars will familiarize attendees with the retirement benefits available to them, and also guide them through the application process. The program is sponsored by the RRB's Office of the Labor Member, and began earlier this year on a pilot basis with seminars held in several locations. Additional seminars, to be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., have been announced for the following dates and at the following locations:

- **October 3:** Moorhead Federal Building, 1000 Liberty Avenue, Room 1310, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222.
- **October 9:** Jerome Hill Theater (1st floor), 180 E. 5th Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.
- **October 31:** Richard Bolling Federal Building, 601 E. 12th Street, Cafeteria Conference Room (ground floor), Kansas City, Missouri 64106.

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, and selecting the Office of the Labor Member's Educational Materials link in the Spotlight section of the homepage. Seminar space is limited and registration is being 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.

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.

Letter: Union members must stick together

Dear Editor,

I'm writing today, even though I'm retired, because I still have a strong love for the BMWED. Even today, we continue to have members who will make a deal with a roadmaster or supervisor to benefit themselves. I always wonder why?

How can someone make a deal with the devil, I ask? When the deal goes sour, you will go crying to the union rep, who cannot fix something they had no part in. When you cozy up to management, all you are doing is undermining every union man or woman who came before you. You're undermining the very people who worked hard to establish rights and make it fair and good for all, not just good for one.

The managers love people who do this, because now they own you and know you will do anything they want. How can you sit back and dishonor all the brothers and sisters before you who worked hard to have good agreements, who worked hard to hammer out rules that positively benefit our members? Just think about that friend, or perhaps a family member, who got you a job on the railroad and was, or still is, a good union member.

All you do when you make such shortsighted deals with the boss is totally dismiss that person who originally helped you get hired. I'd just like to know why anybody would go behind the Brotherhood's back to make such deals. All you are doing is showing the carrier that there is a weak link and they can chip away at it. Maybe a non-union railroad is such a place for you to work, so the managers can do what they want to who they want, at any old time? So think about it.

Tom Nall
Westerly, R.I.

Convention, from page 7

Board, BMWED Director of Safety Rick Inclima and BMWED General Counsel Bill Bon, who spoke to the need to stay vigilant in the face of a relentless and targeted attack on unions from the political right.

"Some of those people in the Tea Party that talk about returning to constitutional government, those are really dog whistles for people that want to literally undo every progressive law that has been put in place for working class people since the beginning of the last century," Brother Bon said. "What they're looking to do in terms of the interpretation and application of the Constitution of the United States would make illegal wage and hour laws, would make illegal the Federal Employers Liability Act, would make illegal the Railroad Retirement Act. That's where these folk are coming from. They're really looking to roll us back to a time to make this country look like it did in the post-Civil War period. They are dangerous and they need to be stopped, and they're our mortal enemies."

Throughout the convention, the

delegation discussed and debated a handful of submitted bylaw amendments and proposed resolutions and acted upon each. Bylaws that were adopted will become binding on officers and the membership and will become part of the permanent record. All members are encouraged to check with their local representative and review the convention minutes for a complete and detailed rundown of the proceedings.

A proposed resolution that would have established single federations for each of the Class 1 railroads and created a single passenger rail federation created much debate before it eventually failed. Proponents of the failed Resolution No. 66 claimed it would have modernized the BMWED structure reflective of the current times, providing a "strength in larger numbers" approach. Opponents prevailed in their argument, rallying against the proposal by insisting that federations continue to decide on a case-by-case basis on the merits of merging.

A large contingent of this

conventions delegation were first-time participants. Delegates both young and old clearly worked together without disruption, a good sign for the progress of our union.

"I always come away proud of our membership and the delegation they send to convention," President Simpson said. "The youth movement of our union is a wonderful sight. There was an obvious sense among those in attendance that the BMWED is moving ahead with purpose and vision for all railroad track workers. I am honored and grateful to have the opportunity once again to lead this great Brotherhood forward and excited to be doing so with a fine group of officers."

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

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



A Detailed Review of the RRB Appeals Procedures

Persons claiming retirement, disability, survivor, unemployment or sickness benefits from the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) have the right to appeal unfavorable determinations on their claims. The following questions and answers describe the appeals process for persons whose claims under the Railroad Retirement Act or Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act are denied, or who are dissatisfied with decisions on their claims.

1. How does a person initiate a review of an unfavorable decision on a claim and what are the time limits?

For all claims under the Railroad Retirement and Railroad Unemployment Insurance Acts there is a three-stage review and appeals process within the RRB.

An individual dissatisfied with the initial decision on his or her claim may first request reconsideration from the RRB unit which issued that decision. An individual has 60 days from the date on which notice of the initial decision is mailed to the claimant to file a written request for reconsideration. This step is mandatory before an appeal may be filed with the RRB's Bureau of Hearings and Appeals.

In cases involving overpayments, an individual has the right to request waiver of recovery and also a personal conference. In order for recovery of the overpayment to be deferred while a waiver request is pending, the waiver request must be in writing and filed within 60 days from the date on which notice of the overpayment was mailed to the beneficiary. A request for waiver received after 60 days will be considered but will not defer collection of the overpayment, and any amount of the overpayment recovered prior to the date on which the waiver request is filed will not be subject to waiver.

2. What are the second and third stages of the appeals process and their time limits?

If dissatisfied with the reconsideration or waiver decision on a retirement, disability, survivor, unemployment or sickness claim, a person may appeal to the RRB's Bureau of Hearings and Appeals, which is independent of those units responsible for initial and reconsideration decisions. An appellant has 60 days from the date on which notice of the reconsideration or waiver decision notice is mailed to the claimant to file this appeal. This appeal must be filed using RRB Form HA-1, which may be obtained from the RRB's field offices or the agency's website, www.rrb.gov. The Bureau of Hearings and Appeals may, if necessary, further investigate the case and obtain reports through the RRB's field representatives, designated medical examiners, and others who may be in a position to furnish information pertinent to the appellant's

claim. If the appeal involves questions of fact, the appellant has the right to an oral hearing before a hearings officer. In cases where an in-person hearing is held, it may be conducted in the RRB office closest to the appellant's home. In some cases, video conferencing or phone hearings are held.

If not satisfied with the Bureau of Hearings and Appeals' decision, an appellant may further appeal to the three-member Board, which heads the agency, within 60 days from the date on which notice of the Bureau of Hearings and Appeals' decision is mailed to the appellant. The three-member Board ordinarily will not accept additional evidence or conduct a hearing.

3. What are the criteria applied to requests for waivers of retirement, disability, or survivor benefit overpayments, and unemployment or sickness benefit overpayments?

A person's obligation to repay any erroneous benefit payments may be waived only if the following conditions are met:

(1) The person was not at fault in causing the overpayment; and (2) recovery of the overpayment would cause financial hardship to the extent that he or she would not be able to meet ordinary and necessary living expenses, or recovery would be against equity or good conscience. "Against equity or good conscience" is defined in the regulations of the RRB as meaning that the claimant has, by reliance on the payments made to him or her, or on notice that payment would be made, relinquished a significant and valuable right or changed his or her position to his or her substantial detriment.

In cases involving unemployment or sickness benefits, there is an additional requirement that the overpayment must be more than 10 times the current maximum daily benefit rate.

Persons requesting waiver may be asked to complete a financial statement on a form provided by the RRB.

4. What happens if a person's appeal is not filed within the prescribed time limit?

Failure to request reconsideration or to file an appeal within the allocated time period will result in forfeiture of further appeal rights, unless there is good cause for the delay. Some examples of good cause include: serious illness; a death or serious illness in the appellant's immediate family; destruction of important or relevant records; failure to be notified of a decision; an unusual or unavoidable circumstance which demonstrated that the appellant could not have known of the need for timely filing or which prevented the appellant from filing in a timely manner; or the claimant thought that his or her represen-

tative had requested reconsideration or appeal. If good cause is not established, further appeal is forfeited, except that the appellant may contest the determination that the request for reconsideration or appeal was not filed timely.

5. Are there avenues of appeal beyond the RRB?

Appellants dissatisfied with the three-member Board's final decision may then file a petition with the appropriate U.S. Court of Appeals to review the Board's decision. In cases involving retirement, disability or survivor claims, the petition for review must be filed within one year after notice of the three-member Board's decision has been mailed to the appellant. In cases involving claims for unemployment or sickness benefits, the petition for review must be filed within 90 days of the Board's decision notice.

6. Can employers contest the claims of their employees for unemployment and sickness benefits?

When an employer is a party to the claim for benefits, that employer may protest the payment of benefits, but such protests do not prevent the timely payment of benefits. However, an employee may be required to repay benefits if his or her employer's protest is ultimately successful. The employer also has the right to appeal an unfavorable decision to the RRB's Bureau of Hearings and Appeals.

7. Where can a person obtain retirement, disability, survivor, unemployment or sickness benefit appeals forms and assistance in completing the forms?

Requests for reconsideration of an initial decision must be in writing, but do not have to be on any specific form. The appropriate form for waiver of recovery of a benefit overpayment is ordinarily enclosed with the overpayment notice. As stated earlier, RRB Form HA-1, which must be used to appeal to the Bureau of Hearings and Appeals and the three-member Board, is available from the RRB's Bureau of Hearings and Appeals, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092, or online at www.rrb.gov. This form can also be obtained from any RRB field office, as can assistance in filing a request for review at each of the administrative levels.

Persons wishing to contact an RRB field office can call the RRB's toll-free phone number at 1-877-772-5772. Claimants can also find the address of the RRB office serving their area by calling this toll-free number. Most RRB offices are open to the public from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays. Field office locations can also be found by visiting www.rrb.gov.





A tribute in verse to railroaders

By Arley M. Bischoff, Lodge # 104, BMWED Burlington Northern System Federation, Spokane, Wash.

Brother Arley M. Bischoff is a proud 55-year lifetime member of the BMWED, Burlington Northern System Federation Local Lodge 104. Brother Bischoff took the time to pen a moving poem that pays tribute to the railroaders who came before him.

Or in his own words: "I felt a need to honor those hard-working gentlemen who served their time in hell! (Below) is my tribute to those 'giants' who came before me. They surely paved the way for a better tomorrow."

We couldn't have said it better, Brother. Thank you for your submission to the Journal. We are proud to run it below:



AN OLD GANDY PASSED AWAY

An old gandy passed away, and as I stood solemn at his grave,
I remembered how the railroad, had worked him like a — slave!

I recalled how he was treated, it was oft — like he was dirt!
He never missed a day of work, though his aching back would hurt.

And no one really gave a damn, how much steel this gandy laid,
Or the ties he hand dug in, and tamped tight with a spade.

Yes — as I began to reminisce, the age of steam meandered by,
Along with things this man endured, swinging pick and spiking tie.

How sweat profusely dripped, lifting rail and ties with tong.
It was a six day work week, the day — ten hours — long.

How he suffered in the winter, he wore but tattered clothes.
His feet were always numb, his hands felt like they were froze.

He swept the switch points clean, during the blizzard's storm.
There was no thing as wind chill, no one cared if he was warm.

Forced to eat his lunch in misery, in the snow and in the rain.
His railroad home — a box car, but ne never did complain.

Lord — the switches he helped lay — he shoveled tons of ballast!
He often smelled of creosote, his hands were rough and callused.

He kept the track bolts tight, he did swing a spike maul hard,
As he labored on the extra gangs, from Spokane to Appleyard.

I doubt if even God could count, the spikes this man has driven,
Just so he could feed his family, eking out a meager livin'.

This old timer couldn't sign his name, he could barely read.
He never failed to pay his dues, he was a rare and special breed.

His customs, his religion, they were different, it was said.
He spoke with heavy accent, still, like mine, his blood flowed — red!

This old G. N. gandy was a brother, Italian, Filipino, Greek,
From Wenatchee or from Harrington, perhaps Lamona — Wilson Creek.

Yes, because of men like him, the track was smooth and straight.
Trains ran at their normal track speed, and they were seldom late.

St. Peter handed him a halo, he passed this life's grueling test,
For the lowly gandy is, the kind of man — that God loves — best!

DEATH BENEFIT DEPARTMENT

REPORT OF DEATH BENEFIT CLAIMS PAID DURING MARCH AND APRIL, 2014

NAME	CITY/STATE	LODGE/SYSTEM/RR	D.O.D.
CARL W. DRAWBOND	BUENA VISTA, VA	0599 ASF/LIFE	03/03/14
MARVIN G. GOULD	WASHINGTON, KS	1316 BURL/LIFE	02/19/14
RICHARD J. GRAY	FINDLAY, OH	1376 AF/LIFE	12/28/12
RICHARD H. HAHN	READING, PA	2780 CRSF/LIFE	03/14/14
CECIL E. ISAACS	NIXA, MO	1353 AF/LIFE	03/01/14
ALVAR R. JARVI SR.	MINOT, ME	0633 NE/LIFE	03/04/14
CARL J. KNUTSON	BILLINGS, MT	0297 BURNOR/LIFE	01/10/14
GEORGE B. LINN SR.	FAIRMONT, WV	0061 AF/LIFE	12/30/12
JUDE F. MAYO SR.	HELENA, MT	0158 BURNOR/LIFE	02/19/14
CHARLES H. MC CLURE	DUBOIS, ID	1402 USD/LIFE	01/24/14
RAYMOND J. MEERIAN	HANOVER, KS	1316 BURL/LIFE	10/19/13
JOHN L. NELSON	PLENTYWOOD, MT	1481 BURL/LIFE	10/12/13
CIRIACO G. NIETO	LA MARQUE, TX	1058 AF/LIFE	07/11/13
ROBERT H. PARKINSON	CENTRALIA, IL	0017 ICGF/LIFE	03/13/14
JOSEPH B. SIMMONS	GRUNDY, VA	0571 ASF/LIFE	02/15/14
ROBERT L. STANDIFER	JACKSONVILLE, FL	0547 AF/LIFE	02/06/14

PAID MARCH 1, 2014 TO APRIL 30, 2014	\$ 8,000.00
AMOUNT PREVIOUSLY PAID	\$45,467,307.75
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID TO DATE	\$45,475,307.75
NUMBER OF CLAIMS PAID – 16	

REPORT OF DEATH NOTICES RECEIVED DURING MARCH AND APRIL, 2014

RANDOLPH O. CORTEZ	LARAMIE, WY	0686 USD/UP	03/18/14
DAVID L. DE FORGE	MISSOULA, MT	0272 BURNOR/BNSF	03/31/14
DAVID W. DUNCAN	TUCSON, AZ	0508 USD/UP	03/22/14
TERRY W. JOHNSON	BERRYTON, KS	2404 ATSFF/BNSF	02/23/14
RON NEELD	SPRING HILL, KS	0518 ATSFF/BNSF	04/28/14
MICHAEL VANACORE III	FT. PIERCE, FL	2915 AF/FEC	11/24/13
DENNIS WILCOX	IRVINGTON, NJ	2905 CRSD/NJT	01/16/14
LYLE L. WILLS	WISCONSIN RPDS, WI	0239 USD/UP	12/25/13

JOB OPENING

Assistant to the President

The BMWED-IBT National Division Headquarters is seeking applicants for the position of Assistant to the President, with the assigned duties of assisting the Director of Safety and Education Rick Inclima. The position will be headquartered in the BMWED-IBT Washington, D.C. office. Candidates must have strong communication, writing, and analytical skills, excel in their attention to detail and accuracy, be driven, self-motivated, organized, and committed to the ideals and goals of organized labor and the BMWED.

Duties of the support position will vary and will be determined and assigned by the President and/or the Director of Safety and Education.

The BMWED is currently accepting applicants for this position. If you are energetic, confident, motivated and well-organized, we would like to hear from you immediately. Benefit package includes health, dental and optical insurance. Salary is commensurate with duties.

The BMWED is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Resume should detail any safety/regulatory experience and/or adult education and training experience.

Please send resume to:
BMWED/IBT
Attn: Freddie N. Simpson, President
41475 Gardenbrook Road
Novi, MI 48375
fns@bmwe.org

*Note: If sending by mail, please choose USPS or UPS.



RRB Financial Reports
August 2014

The Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) is required by law to submit annual financial reports to Congress on the financial condition of the railroad retirement system and the railroad unemployment insurance system. These reports must also include recommendations for any financing changes which may be advisable in order to ensure the solvency of the systems. In June, the RRB submitted its 2014 reports on the railroad retirement and railroad unemployment insurance systems.

The following questions and answers summarize the findings of these reports.

1. What were the assets of the railroad retirement and railroad unemployment insurance systems

last year?

As of September 30, 2013, total railroad retirement system assets, comprising assets managed by the [National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust](#) and the railroad retirement system accounts at the Treasury, equaled \$26.7 billion. The Trust was established by the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2001 to manage and invest railroad retirement assets. The cash balance of the railroad unemployment insurance system was \$192.5 million at the end of fiscal year 2013.

2. What was the conclusion of the 2014 report on the financial condition of the railroad retirement system?

The overall conclusion was

that, barring a sudden, unanticipated, large decrease in railroad employment or substantial investment losses, the railroad retirement system will experience no cash-flow problems during the next 25 years. The long-term stability of the system, however, is still uncertain. Under the current financing structure, actual levels of railroad employment and investment return over the coming years will largely determine whether corrective action is necessary.

3. What methods were used in forecasting the financial condition of the railroad retirement system?

The 2014 report projected the various components of income and outgo of the railroad retirement system under three employment

assumptions, intended to provide an optimistic, moderate and pessimistic outlook, for the 25 calendar years 2014-2038. The projections of these components were combined and the investment income calculated to produce the projected balances in the railroad retirement accounts at the end of each projection year.

Projecting income and outgo under optimistic, moderate and pessimistic employment assumptions, the valuation indicated no cash-flow problems occur throughout the 25-year projection period under any of the assumptions.

4. How do the results of the 2014 report compare with those of the 2013 report?

The projected tier II tax rates for each calendar year are either the same or lower than in last year's report. (Railroad retirement payroll taxes, like railroad retirement benefits, are calculated on a two-tier basis.) The projected combined account balances are higher at the end of each year.

The favorable comparison with last year was due to overall favorable economic and employment experience, with the largest impacts resulting from employment exceeding the RRB's projections and actual investment return of approximately 16 percent exceeding the expected investment return of 7 percent in calendar year 2013.

5. Did the 2014 report on the financial condition of the railroad retirement system recommend any railroad retirement payroll tax rate changes?

The report did not recommend any change in the rate of tax imposed by current law on employers and employees.

6. What were the findings of the 2014 report on the financial condition of the railroad unemployment insurance system?

The RRB's 2014 railroad unemployment insurance financial report was also generally favorable. Even as maximum benefit rates increase 41 percent (from \$68 to \$96) from 2013 to 2024, experience-based contribution rates are expected to keep the unemployment insurance system solvent. Unemployment levels are the single most significant factor affecting the financial status of the railroad unemployment insurance system. However, the system's experience-rating provisions, which adjust contribution rates for changing benefit levels, and its surcharge trigger for maintaining a minimum balance,

RRB, Continued on Page 16

DEATH BENEFIT DEPARTMENT

REPORT OF DEATH BENEFIT CLAIMS PAID DURING MAY AND JUNE, 2014

NAME	CITY/STATE	LODGE/SYSTEM/RR	D.O.D.
CHARLES L. BLACKMON	CASTLEBURY, AL	0702 AF/LIFE	04/23/14
CHARLES C. BOYER	TAMAQUA, PA	1923 CRSF/LIFE	09/27/12
MATTHEW L. BROWN	FARWELL, MI	0460 AF/LIFE	09/25/13
RICHARD L. CHAMPION	MILLBURY, OH	1664 CRSF/LIFE	07/31/13
CLARENCE O. DAVIS	GLYNDON, MN	0249 BURNOR/LIFE	05/13/14
JOE DAVIS	CHESTER, PA	0695 AF/LIFE	03/28/14
CHESTER C. FROELICH	SUGARCREEK, OH	2307 CRSF/LIFE	08/12/13
WILLIAM J. GULLEY	VIENNA, IL	0017 ICGF/LIFE	05/08/14
ROBERT HODAPP	FREEPORT, IL	1393 ICGF/LIFE	08/20/13
TRINIDAD F. LOPEZ	BERKLEY, CA	0407 USD/LIFE	05/01/14
JOSEPH J. MITCHELL	SMYRNA MILLS, ME	0633 N E/LIFE	04/27/14
RUSSELL W. MOBRY	FAIRMONT, MN	0036 BURL/LIFE	03/03/14
EDWARD C. PAYTON	ROSEDALE, IN	3060 PENN/LIFE	04/30/14
MARION M. SPACKMAN	MORGAN, UT	0918 USD/LIFE	04/11/14
JOHN T. ROBBINS	PINEVILLE, KY	2606 AF/LIFE	04/10/14
LESTOR L. TISOR	BEACH, ND	0297 BURNOR/LIFE	03/17/14
HOWARD R. TREASE	KELLOGG, IA	0067 ICGF/LIFE	05/13/13

PAID MARCH 1, 2014 TO APRIL 30, 2014	\$ 8,500.00
AMOUNT PREVIOUSLY PAID	\$45,475,307.75
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID TO DATE	\$45,483,807.75
NUMBER OF CLAIMS PAID - 17	

REPORT OF DEATH NOTICES RECEIVED DURING MAY AND JUNE, 2014

MICHAEL W. BATES	DIXON, IL	1152	USD/UP	05/12/14
PATRICK BROUILLETTE	STERLING, IL	1152	USD/UP	05/24/14
DONNIE L. CHANDLER	MARSHALL, NC	0525	SOU/NS	06/21/14
M. HARRIS	AMARILLO, TX	2413	AT&SFF/BNSF	05/27/14
ALLEN J. HAVENS	GRAND JUNCTION, CO	0779	USD/UP	04/11/14
THOMAS J. LOVELL	TORRINGTON, WY	1142	BURL/BNSF	06/10/14
JOHN W. MC PILLIPS	RAPID CITY, SD	2852	BURL/BNSF	05/07/14
PAUL H. MILLER	TULALIP, WA	1426	BURNOR/BNSF	05/12/14
RUDOLPH MOMENT	TAMPA, FL	0547	AF/CSXT	05/26/14
SEAN T. O BRIEN	DERBY, KS	2405	AT&SFF/BNSF	05/20/14



Affiliated System Federation holds convention, elects officers

The Affiliated System Federation held its Quadrennial Convention in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. on May 28-29, 2014. In the two days of convention, the delegates and officers accomplished all the necessary federation business and attended several educational meetings. An election of officers was held and full-time positions were filled with: Jack E. David elected as General Chairman; Johnny Long elected as 1st Vice Chairman; and Justin Blankenship elected as Vice Chairman.

Shortly after the convention opened, the delegates were addressed by National Division President Fred Simpson and Secretary-Treasurer Perry Geller. Other speakers included David Andrzejewski with the Railroad Retirement Board, Charlene Payne with United Healthcare, David Pascarella from our National Division Arbitration Department and Mr. J. P. McNalley with the DARS program.

Also in attendance at convention was BMWED Vice President Randy Cook. General Chairman David said, "Randy Cook has always been a true brother. He has always been there when we needed him and has served our members very well. I am proud to have him as a friend. As he approaches retirement, I want to thank him for his many years of support and we send our best wishes to Brother Cook and his family."

The law firms of Blunt and Associates and Pratt and Tobin also attended the convention. General Chairman David made the following statement, "I wish to thank them, and all of our designated law firms on the national list, for representing our injured members so well."

General Chairman David stated, "Although the convention was a success, the retirements of Brothers Rick Procise and Tom McCoy took with them a wealth of valuable knowledge and a combined 85 years of experience. They most certainly will be missed. It is my wish that their retirement brings with it the very best that life can offer our two brothers and their families."

He continued saying, "I know the challenges that our federation will face in the near future, but the delegates at convention got it right when they elected Vice Chairmen Johnny Long and Justin Blankenship. These two young men continue to impress and inspire myself, as well as all who come in contact with them. They are quick to learn and eager to serve. They have all the qualities needed to help lead this federation into the future."

"I appreciate all of the support received from our National Division Officers, System Officers, our delegates and guests. Together we achieved our goal of conducting a successful convention. The future of our Great Federation looks promising and I am confident that our membership will be well represented," commented General Chairman David.



The ASF held its convention this May. Elected as General Chairman was Jack E. David. Vice Chairmen Johnny Long and Justin Blankenship were also elected by the membership.



ASF General Chairman Jack David congratulates retiring Vice Chairman Rick Procise.





Freddie N. Simpson

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Excerpts from the President's keynote address to the Delegates at the Third Regular BMWED Convention, June 23, 2014

Brothers and Sisters, honored spouses and distinguished guests:

Welcome to the Third Regular Convention of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division of the Teamster Rail Conference.

It has been 127 years since the founding of our Brotherhood in 1887. On that fateful Sunday morning, the seeds of unionism were sown.

It is from that humble beginning that we find ourselves gathered here today: Strong, United, Determined; 127 years of progress and still on track.

Today, you are the ones who put your necks on the line to represent the men and women who earn their living between the 56½-inches of steel. You are the ones who rise up and demand fairness and justice for your members on the property every day. You are the face, and the backbone, of this great union, and it is because of you that BMWED is still on track and still making a difference in the lives of those we represent.

Today, maintenance of way work is still dangerous and unforgiving. Railroad management continues to be ruthless and unrelenting. And the challenges of the future will continue to be formidable and test our resilience and tenacity like never before. That is why I and your National Division Officers, have aggressively embraced the responsibility of assuring that our present and future union leaders are educated and trained in the ways of union leadership, union administration, and union ideals.

Since our last convention the National Division has conducted dozens of Local Chairman and Lodge Secretary-Treasurer seminars with hundreds of attendees at locations around the nation. Building progressively on our education and training efforts, National Division has also developed an Advanced Officer Training program. These programs are intended to prepare BMWED's next generation of leaders to fight the important battles ahead and keep this great union on track as a progressive and effective advocate for Maintenance of Way Employees nationwide.

I thank each and every one of you for standing strong, for standing tall, and for standing on the principles of unity and solidarity. We could not have achieved these victories on the freight railroads or Amtrak without you!

A changed railroad industry structure has required us to look internally at our own union structure and find ways to adjust to the new realities of a consolidated and powerful U.S. rail system. At the beginning of my presidency in 2004, there were 28 BMWED System Federations and Divisions. Today, there are 16 BMWED Federations and Divisions; larger, stronger, more cost-effective and united. This consolidation among Systems has come

about through a series of voluntary mergers and affiliations since 2004.

Voluntary mergers and affiliations continue to be a priority of my Administration. My goal as President is to have each of the "Big Four" railroads under single property agreements with the best work rules and highest rates of pay preserved for our members on each individual property.

Employment stability is also a priority of my Administration. Over the last four years, BMWED membership has increased approximately 3.4 percent. Additionally, in the last round of bargaining, National Division raised MW pay rates by 19.1 percent over six years and negotiated contracts with various railroads containing provisions that reduce contracting out of maintenance of way work and guarantee the annual hiring of maintenance of way employees.

We bargained the last national contract as part of a Rail Labor Bargaining Coalition. We duplicated this success recently on Amtrak when the BMWED and the BRS joined together in a Passenger Rail Labor Bargaining Coalition to break the Amtrak "wage pattern" and deliver a better contract than would have been possible without that solidarity. Against significant odds, the BMWED delivered higher wages and back pay for our members, with no onerous work rule changes.

I thank each and every one of you for standing strong, for standing tall, and for standing on the principles of unity and solidarity. We could not have

achieved these victories on the freight railroads or Amtrak without you!

As I look around this Convention Hall, I feel good about the future of this great union. I see a lot of new faces; younger members who are attending their first convention as elected delegates. I see our future President, our future National Division and System Officers, and our future appointees. In short, I see the future of this union here before me at this Convention.

The spirit of the emerging generation of BMWED leaders is strong, and you will need every bit of that strength in the months and years ahead. The railroad industry will not be easy on you, just as they have not been easy on any previous generation. You will be severely tested and you will, at times, find your backs up against the wall. And that is when you will realize that your greatest strength lies within yourselves, bound together as Brothers and Sisters by your unity and solidarity.

I assure you that I will do everything in my power to invest in you, and to provide you with the tools and skills necessary to carry forward the principles and ideals of our great union. With your help, dedication, and leadership, I am absolutely confident that BMWED will build upon the progress of the past 127 years and remain on track for generations to come.

God Bless you all, God Bless our Brotherhood, God Bless our troops, and God Bless America. Thank you.



ROLL OF HONOR

10^{year}
MERIT AWARD

ENRIQUE J ALEJO JR	AF-SW	1099	2004
R D ALSUP	AF-SW	2729	2004
MARION L BAILEY	AF-SW	1353	2004
CHARLES R BARKER	ASF	0551	2004
RILEY L BARNES	USD	1020	2004
JUSTIN D BISHOP	AF-SE	0061	2004
CLINTON H BRANCH	AF-SW	1338	2004
QUINCY L BRATCHETT	AF-SW	1058	2004
JONATHAN J BROCK	BURNOR	0389	2004
CHARLES A BROOKS	AF-SW	2286	2004
EDWARD J BROUSSARD	AF-SW	1048	2004
JASON A BUDRECKI	PENN	3005	2004
DEREK L BUTLER	PENN	3012	2004
J M CARLOS	AF-SW	1338	2004
CHRISTOPHER CARRINGTON	AF-SW	1193	2004
ANDREW M CHAVEZ	USD	0874	2004
JASON O COLLIE	AF-SW	2762	2004
BURL R COOK	ASF	0551	2004
WINFRED C CRABTREE	AF-SW	1175	2004
ADAM T CRIGGER	ASF	0568	2004
KENNETH Q CROON	AF-SW	0601	2004
F M CROSS	AF-SW	1099	2004
JEFFERY R DIRDEN	AF-SW	1058	2004
CHAD M DIXON	AF-SW	1175	2004
WILLIAM DRAPER JR	PENN	3095	2004
CHRIS H EDWARDS	AF-SW	0927	2004
HERMAN R ENGLAND JR	ASF	0551	2004
PERCY E FEURTADO JR	ICGF	2154	2004
JOEL T FISHER	AF-SW	1058	2004
M A GARCIA	AF-SW	0644	2004
ROBBY J GARMAN	AF-SW	0345	2004
KEVIN GASKINS	PENN	3014	2004
NELSON GILMORE	AF-SW	1715	2004
LLOYD G GIPSON	AF-SW	0965	2004
MARK GRAY	PENN	3012	2004
JOSHUA R GROUNDS	AF-SW	1058	2004
MARTIN M GUZMAN	AF-SW	0345	2004
JEFFREY S HARBAUGH	AT&SFF	0745	2004
COREY L HARRIS	ASF	0599	2004
JEFFERY A HARSANYNE	ASF	0551	2004
JOHN P HEATH	AF-SW	0203	2004
CARLTON J HENSON	AF-SW	1058	2004
A J HERITAGE	AF-SW	1338	2004
BRICE L HERRON	AF-SW	0601	2004
DUSTIN C HIGGINBOTHAM	CRSF	0076	2004
TONY D HILEMAN	ASF	0571	2004
J D HOLBROOK	AF-SW	0927	2004
R L HOLLAND III	AF-SW	1338	2004
JOSEPH HOLT	AF-SW	0564	2004
JAMES D HOLZER	PENN	3012	2004
TYDRICK J HOPE	AF-SW	1252	2004
KENNETH R HORNE	ICGF	0637	2004
RICKY HOWELL	PENN	3068	2004
FRANK HUGHES	PENN	3068	2004
SCOTT J JOHNIVAN	CRSF	0507	2004
WILLIAM J JOHNSON	AF-SW	2762	2004
G D JOHNSON	AF-SW	0203	2004
AARON JONES	PENN	3012	2004
SEAN P JONES	AF-SW	1058	2004
L JOSEPH JR	AF-SW	1058	2004
MARTIN L KENDRICK	AF-SW	1353	2004
JOSEPH C KUNZE	AF-SW	1058	2004
DAN W LAKE	BURNOR	0272	2004
JOE R LERMA	AF-SW	1058	2004
WILLIAM S LINDSEY	USD	1054	2004
DWAYNE H LOCKHART	ASF	0551	2004
ARTURO L LUJAN	AF-SW	0115	2004
WILLIAM MAHURIN	AF-SW	1058	2004
RONALD B MALDONADO	AF-SW	0675	2004
CODIE C MC FARLANE	AF-SW	2286	2004
DANNY L MELTON	AF-SW	2729	2004
JACKIE D MIDDLETON	AF-SW	2717	2004
MICHAEL C MITCHELL	USD	1227	2004
RICKY L MULLINS JR	ASF	0599	2004
SAMUEL A NETTLES	AF-SW	2286	2004
DARRELL J NEUNER	AF-SW	1353	2004
ROBERT M O NEAL	AF-SW	1338	2004

ANTHONY W OWENS	ASF	0551	2004
ROBERT M PALMER	ICGF	0654	2004
SAMUEL D PAYNE	AF-SW	1041	2004
JESSIE POOLE	AF-SW	0927	2004
DEREK E PREECE	ASF	1464	2004
BRIAN K PUCKETT	CRSF	0507	2004
ERASMO PUEBLA	AF-SW	2754	2004
JOSHUA RAY	AF-SW	0644	2004
DERRICK L RENFRO SR	AF-SW	1058	2004
DENNIS F RICHARDSON	ASF	0571	2004
RICKY L ROBERTSON	AF-SW	1058	2004
DERRICK A ROBINSON	ASF	0551	2004
MAX H SALAIS	AF-SW	2432	2004
PEDRO R SANTOS	PENN	3068	2004
MICHAEL R SCHORI JR	BURNOR	0309	2004
JOEL T SEIBERT	CRSFNP	1664	2004
MICHAEL L SIMMONS	AF-SW	1041	2004
TED D SIMPKINS JR	ASF	0613	2004
JAMES A SNOW	AF-SW	1338	2004
ROBERT J SUTTON	AF-SW	0450	2004
FREDERICK D SYKES	AF-SW	1252	2004
PATRICK E TATE	BURNOR	0389	2004
JOE D TAYLOR	AF-SW	2762	2004
C A THOMAS	AF-SW	1099	2004
BENNY E TILLER	ASF	0551	2004
NICHOLAS C VAUGHN	AF-SW	0944	2004
JOSH D VIERS	ASF	0571	2004
KEN A VOSS	AF-SW	0345	2004
FRANKLIN D WADE	AF-SW	1353	2004
RICHARD E WALLER JR	ASF	0572	2004
WILLIAM C WARBURTON	ASF	0551	2004
ALBERT W WARD	AF-SW	2762	2004
RAYMOND L WARREN	AF-SW	1048	2004
STEVE S WARWICK	BURNOR	0309	2004
TIMOTHY J WATERFIELD	PENN	3012	2004
JOSHUA A WEBB	ASF	1464	2004
JAMES F WILFONG	AF-SW	1353	2004
YARIN WILLIAMS	PENN	3012	2004
V D WILLIS	AF-SW	1058	2004
CLINTON J WRIGHT	ICGF	0654	2004
STEVEN S WYATT	AF-SW	0345	2004

20^{year}
MERIT AWARD

NATHAN S BARRON	BURL	0230	1994
LEON A BERNAL	USD	1381	1994
JEROLD E BUTTRILL	AT&SFF	2409	1994
GREGORY D CHANDLER	BURNOR	0297	1994
LONNIE CURTIS JR	AF-SW	1193	1994
REGINALD L DAY	AF-SW	1715	1994
RALPH C EDGAR	PENN	3082	1994
SCOTT A FEIGNER	BURL	1316	1994
DAVID C GARZA	BURL	1108	1994
GLEN L HACKMAN	BURL	2852	1994
MEDFORD D HARDIN	ICGF	0616	1994
EDDIE L HENDRICKS	ICGF	0616	1994
KENT JEFFREY	PENN	3068	1994
JOHN A JOHNSON	BURL	1142	1994
THOMAS J LATHROP	BURL	2852	1994
JODY A LOZA	BURL	1351	1994
ROBERT S MARTENS	BURL	2852	1994
STEVE B MEEK	AT&SFF	0518	1994
BRUCE A NEPPER	BURL	1108	1994
DOUGLAS W NEWTON	BURL	0788	1994
MICHAEL G NORBERG	AT&SFF	2419	1994
CURT A OTERO	BURL	2857	1994
DANIEL E PALMGREN	BURL	2852	1994
JIMMY L PARNELL	AT&SFF	0493	1994
WILLIAM H PATRICK	ICGF	0616	1994
DENNIS A PHOENIX	BURNOR	0104	1994
GEORGE L PROSENICK	BURL	2852	1994
BRADLEY W RALSTON	BURL	0798	1994
MATTHEW B RODRIGUEZ	BURL	2852	1994
STEVEN R SCHEERER	BURL	0800	1994
THOMAS E SHAW	ICGF	0616	1994
CLINTON W SIEBER	BURL	2852	1994
PAUL SILIS	N E	0090	1994
MICHAEL J SIMMONS	BURL	1105	1994
DENNIS J SLATTERY	USD	1020	1994

MARTIN A SMYTH	BURL	1351	1994
JAMES T STOVER	BURL	2852	1994
ROBERT A SWAIN	BURL	1142	1994
WILFRIDO L TAPIA	USD	1709	1994
WILLIAM R TAYLOR	BURL	1108	1994
WILLIAM J TRUAX	BURL	1074	1994

30^{year}
MERIT AWARD

MELVIN J BATISTE	AF-SW	1048	1984
MARVIN L BEGAY	AT&SFF	2400	1984
BURRIS D BEGAYE	AT&SFF	2417	1984
JOHN H BOWES	CRSD	2910	1984
DOUGLAS A BRADLEY	AF-SW	2762	1984
KENNETH B COUTEE	AF-SW	1176	1984
TYRONE COWARD	PENN	3068	1984
WILLIE S DAUPHINE	AF-SW	1176	1984
FRANK DAVID	AT&SFF	2417	1984
WILLIE P DAVIS	AF-SW	1011	1984
RANDALL R EDEN	USD	1227	1984
ANTHONY C GIGLIO	CRSD	2910	1984
LEWIS J GOMEZ JR	AF-SW	1176	1984
ROBERT R GONZALES	USD	0227	1984
WILLIAM K GRIFFITHS	AF-SW	1176	1984
R A GURROLA	AT&SFF	2418	1984
WILLIE HALEY	AT&SFF	2417	1984
TONY M HINES	AF-SW	1011	1984
ROY HOSTEEN	AT&SFF	2400	1984
REX W JACKSON	AT&SFF	2412	1984
STEVE W KAUFMANN	AT&SFF	2412	1984
SABINO LOPEZ III	AT&SFF	2418	1984
PHIL LYNN	AT&SFF	2417	1984
A A MACIAS	USD	0686	1984
ROBERT H MAES	USD	1862	1984
JOSE MARTINEZ JR	USD	1862	1984
JOSEPH S MEJIA	AT&SFF	2418	1984
ROBERT J MUCCI	PENN	3082	1984
CARL A MULLEN	CRSD	2910	1984
SERGIO F MUNOZ	AF-SW	1011	1984
JASON R NULL	AF-SW	1011	1984
WILLIAM P OLKJER	USD	0922	1984
FRED A PAYNE	ASF	0572	1982
JOHN M PRICE	SOU	0536	1984
K R ROBINSON	SOU	0660	1984
WALTER D ROHNER	CRSD	2910	1984
ALVIN M SAM	AT&SFF	2400	1984
EUGENE B SAM	AT&SFF	2400	1984
JOSEPH P SCHMELZER	CRSD	2910	1984
VALE E SIDMAN	USD	1862	1984
ANDERSON SKEET	AT&SFF	2400	1984
R W SNOW	SOU	0537	1984
THOMAS E STEVENS	AF-SW	1176	1984
JOSEPH F TRUSCLAIR	AF-SW	1048	1984
KENNETH R VASQUEZ	AT&SFF	2418	1984
HEZEKIAH WASHINGTON JR	AF-SW	1176	1984
JACQUELIN WATSON	CRSD	2910	1984
GARY D WILLIAMS	AT&SFF	2418	1984
LARRY YAZZIE	AT&SFF	2417	1984

40^{year}
MERIT AWARD

J L AARON	SOU	0523	1974
RANDY A BLEDSE	CRSF	1396	1974
RUSSELL BOONE	AF-SE	0025	1974
FRANCIS J BROWN	PENN	3063	1974
CLETUS R BROWN	AF-SW	0450	1974
FRANK A CASADOS	USD	0941	1974
ROBERT L CHRISTIAN	BURL	2643	1974
GREGG A CLAY	BURL	0798	1974
TOMMY COCKERELL	SOU	0302	1974
BOBBY COLEMAN	ICGF	0694	1974
JAMES R CONNOR	AF-SE	0670	1974
J CRAIG CONTI	PENN	3084	1974
RICKEY C COTTON	AT&SFF	2410	1974
MICHAEL D CUPP	AF-SE	0665	1974
MARK L DEMARAIS	BURNOR	0706	1974
MARK L DERSHAM	CRSF	0887	1974
LEONARD J DOEBELE JR	USD	1133	1974

W C DREWS	AF-SW	1338	1974
MICHAEL J DRIGGINS	USD	1788	1974
RICHARD L EADS	PENN	3097	1974
DAVE R EALY	AT&SFF	2413	1974
JOHN P EPPENBACH	USD	0369	1974
PAUL T EVANS	BURNOR	1426	1974
JOHN M FLAHERTY	BURNOR	0144	1974
JOHNNY FLORES	AT&SFF	2421	1974
ARTHUR FLORES	AF-SW	1058	1974
LARRY A FLOWERS	AF-SE	1155	1974
MICHAEL D FLOWERS	CRSF	1984	1974
TERRY A FLOYD	BURL	0788	1974
STEVEN R FLOYD	CRSF	0427	1974
CHARLES E FORBES JR	AT&SFF	0518	1974
ROBERT J GERLACH	ASF	0594	1974
JIMMY C GRUBER	USD	1216	1974
FRANK M GUDMAN	PENN	0935	1974
DEAN A HALL	CRSF	0505	1974
WILLIAM L HARDESTY	AF-SE	0818	1974
MARVIN O HARGIS	CRSF	0505	1974
RANDY HIGGS	ICGF	1210	1974
STEPHEN K HOPKINS	AT&SFF	2404	1974
LARRY D HOPPE	USD	0508	1974
JOHNATHAN D HORN	BURL	1832	1974
JAMES D ICE	AF-SE	1155	1974
CHARLES J JASPER	USD	0473	1974
HOMER G JEFFERS	SOU	0567	1974
D D KLEMPNAUER	AT&SFF	2403	1974
MARK S KRILEY	BURL	1105	1974
FLOYD D LEE	AF-SE	0665	1974
MICHAEL LUC JR	PENN	3016	1974
JEFF E LUGINBILL	AT&SFF	2405	1974
WILLIAM B LYLE	ASF	0572	1974
STEVEN W MARTIN	CRSF	0505	1974
JERRY V MARTINEZ	AT&SFF	2406	1974
MICHAEL MONTECALVO	AF-SE	1432	1974
JAMES M MUNSON	BURNOR	1426	1974
DANIEL A NOVACK	BURNOR	0144	1974
MARK G O BRENNAN	PENN	3011	1974
LARRY J OHTOLA	AF-SE	1432	1974
PETER R OLLI	BURL	1489	1974
DWIGHT W ORTEN	AF-SE	0818	1974
CHARLES A PATTERSON	AF-SE	1064	1974
TIMOTHY R PATTON	ASF	0580	1974
EARNEST E PAYTON JR	AF-SW	0564	1974
NOEL A PEINE	BURNOR	0104	1974
ROBERT E POFFENBERGER	ASF	0577	1974
MICHAEL H PORTER	AT&SFF	2600	1974
MARVIN D PURCELL	USD	1788	1974
VERNON A RICHARD	AF-SE	2655	1974
ROGER H RINHOLEN	BURL	0331	1974
JOSEPH R ROBERTS	PENN	3097	1974
PAUL SALDANA	USD	0922	1974
JERRY V SANCHEZ	AT&SFF	2406	1974
DAVID A SAUL	ASF	0599	1974
ROBERT D SEVERS	ICGF	0017	1974
ROBERT L SPURGEON	AF-SE	1162	1974
HARRY STUBBS	AT&SFF	0518	1974
ROGER D SUMMERS	AF-SE	1376	1974
ALAN B SUNDBERG	BURNOR	1092	1974
BERT SWANN JR	AF-SE	0992	1974
LEE A TAYLOR	AT&SFF	1600	1974
RONALD D TEANEY	BURL	0788	1974
CAYON L THOMAS	CRSF	1978	1974
DAVID A VOGT	USD	0899	1974
STEPHEN R WILLIAMS	AF-SE	1035	1974
JOHN S ZIMINSKI	AF-SE	1155	1974

50^{year}
MERIT AWARD

WILLIE L SMITH	AF-SE	2655	1964
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Roll of Honor, Continued on Page 16



RRB, from page 12
help to ensure financial stability in the advent of adverse economic conditions.

Under experience-rating provisions, each employer's contribution rate is determined by the RRB on the basis of benefit payments made to the railroad's employees. Even under the report's most pessimistic assumption, the average employer contribution rate remains well below the maximum throughout the projection period.

While no surcharge is in effect in calendar year 2014, this year's report predicts a 1.5 percent surcharge in calendar years 2015 and 2016. A surcharge of 1.5 percent is also likely in calendar year 2017.

7. What methods were used to evaluate the financial condition of the railroad unemployment insurance system?

The economic and employment assumptions used in the unemployment insurance report corresponded to those used in the 2014 report on the financial condition of the retirement system. Projections were made for various components of income and outgo under each of the three employment assumptions, but for the period 2014-2024, rather than a 25-year period.

8. Did the 2014 report on the railroad unemployment insurance system recommend any financing changes to the system?

No financing changes were recommended at this time by the report.



Roll of Honor, From Page 15



CHARLES A ALEXANDER	AT&SFF	2416	1954
JOHN E BARKER	ICGF	0654	1953
WILLIAM J COOK	BURNOR	1092	1954
MAJOR CREWS	ICGF	0616	1953
I G DE LA CRUZ	USD	1054	1953
VICTOR M GONZALEZ	AF-SW	0366	1954
BRYCE L HALL	AF-SE	0130	1954
ROBERT HODAPP	ICGF	1393	1954
WILLIE JACKSON	AF-SE	2167	1954
H F KOVAR	AF-SW	1338	1953
ALFONSO J MARTINEZ	BURNOR	0159	1954
WILLIAM H PAYNE	ASF	0551	1953
HAROLD THEDE	ICGF	0626	1953
JUAN T TORRES	USD	0227	1953

Union Leaders Encourage Administration To Look Again At Steel Imports

Teamsters General President James P. Hoffa and top leaders with the union's railway conference are calling on the Department of Commerce to fully weigh the concerns of the U.S. steel industry as it continues its anti-dumping probe looking at cheap imports being brought into this country by South Korea and eight other nations.

In a letter sent to Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker, Hoffa was joined by Dennis Pierce, president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) as well as Freddie Simpson, president of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division (BMWED), in raising objections to a preliminary ruling regarding Oil Country Tubular Goods (OCTG)

imported into the U.S.

The Teamsters join the United Steelworkers, the U.S. Steel Corporation and the Alliance for American Manufacturing in voicing concerns about the ongoing investigation.

OCTG production is a critical segment of the steel industry and helps provide solid middle-class jobs to several sectors, including the 70,000 members of the BLET and BMWED. But those are threatened when others are allowed to dump cheap product in the U.S. OCTG imports have doubled since 2008 and Korea is responsible for almost half of the increase.

"American steel producers employ 8,000 workers across the country making OCTG and each of those jobs supports seven more in

the supply chain," Hoffa, Pierce and Simpson wrote. "The steel produced for the U.S. energy market accounts for ten percent of domestic production. It is imperative that American OCTG producers have a level playing field on which to compete."

Noting that the agency is set to make a final ruling next month, the Teamsters urged Pritzker to devote "all available resources" to make sure the information sought from the countries being investigated is accurate. Hoffa, Pierce and Simpson also suggested that Commerce officials review and revise its preliminary decision so that it incorporates "the true costs of production and profit margins among the Korean producers of high-end OCTG pipes."

The John Edgar Thomson Foundation

Founded 1882

THE RITTENHOUSE CLARIDGE, SUITE 318

201 SOUTH 18TH STREET

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19103

Sheila Cohen, Director

Phone: (215) 545-6083
(800) 888-1278
Fax: (215) 545-5102

- 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:

Sheila Cohen, Director
The John Edgar Thomson Foundation
201 S. Eighteenth Street, Suite 318
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103
Telephone (215) 545-6083
(800) 888-1278
Fax (215) 545-5102
E-mail: sjethomson@aol.com





Perry K. Geller, Sr.

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Excerpts from the Secretary-Treasurer's keynote address to the Delegates at the Third Regular BMWED Convention, June 23, 2014

Brothers, Sisters and honored guests:

It has been my privilege to serve you as Secretary-Treasurer since 2004. As a Brotherhood, we have persevered through several rounds of difficult national bargaining, delivering wage increases and benefits to our members. We have improved rail safety and whistleblower protection through our regulatory and legislative efforts, but we still have much more to do in these life-critical areas. And we have organized new properties, recently settled the contract at Amtrak, and grown our membership by 3.4 percent since our last convention.

The Secretary-Treasurer's Department continues to support our System Divisions/Federations and Local Lodges by administering payroll, investments, and government reporting requirements. We have introduced new software programs and computer upgrades, and instituted a higher level of cyber security which allows us to service our Local Lodges and System Divisions/Federations quicker, safer, and with more accuracy. We have updated our website to better serve and inform the membership. And we have compiled an e-activist list of nearly 5,000 members that allows us to communicate important news nationwide with virtually a push of a button. I encourage you to visit the BMWED website and sign up for e-activist "News Alerts" if you have not done so already.

The railroad industry has changed dramatically over the past 20 years. Where there were

once dozens of Class I freight railroads, there are now only seven large and powerful mega-carriers that dominate the industry. And where Amtrak was created in 1974 to assume passenger service once operated by the Class I's, we are now seeing more and more passenger rail operators, both foreign and domestic, entering the U.S. passenger service market. We are going to have to deal with these new and largely unknown corporations; we are going to have to understand their corporate mentality; and we are going to have to fight for our work, fight to organize these emerging operators, and fight to negotiate good contracts for BMWED members on these new properties.

The railroad industry is strong and financially and politically powerful. WE—MUST—BE—THE—SAME!

Over the past eight years, National Division has expanded and accelerated our educational outreach to prepare our union and its current and future leadership to carry on the important work of this Brotherhood. The National Division continues to provide substantial financial assistance to Local Lodges so they can send Local Officers and activists to these training programs. This way, all Local Lodges, large and small, can afford to educate their officers and give them the tools and skills necessary to effectively represent the membership.

The cost of not educating our officers far exceeds the investments we have made in education and training. Every

dollar spent on educating and training Local Lodge and System Officers comes back to the membership many times over. The claims won, the jobs restored, the members put back to work, the wages and benefits negotiated, the contractors kept off the property, the safety and legislative improvements achieved are all the result of our investment in education and training.

As local and system officers and union activists, everyone in this room knows what they are up against day in and day out. You fight with heart, and you fight with guts, but you also have to fight smart and understand the shape of the battlefield and the tactics of your adversaries. That is why we have invested nearly 1 million dollars annually over the past eight years in leadership development and training. It's not for me or my generation; it's for you and future generations of Maintenance of Way Brothers and Sisters.

In 2012 we invested in a new home for the BMWED National Division in Novi, Michigan to ensure that our great union remains on track in the years ahead. Your new headquarters is customized with state of the art technology and a classroom outfitted for member and officer education and training programs. This new, 100-percent union-renovated facility has improved the overall performance and effectiveness of National Division operations in meeting the needs and demands of the membership. It is a home you can all be proud of!

I am proud of the accom-

plishments of the Secretary-Treasurer's Department over the last 10 years. We weathered the economic downturns and have emerged in good financial shape each time. Through prudent investments and portfolio diversification, we have reaped the benefits of a rebounded stock market and I am proud to report that your Brotherhood today is on sound financial footing with a stable membership and a bright future.

You can be assured that, as your Secretary-Treasurer, I will continue to protect the financial resources of our Brotherhood and keep our treasury strong through wise investments. My investment philosophy is simple; seek the highest rate of return with the least amount of risk.

As I look to the future, I know we cannot lose our focus on fiscal responsibility. The railroad industry is strong and financially and politically powerful. WE—MUST—BE—THE—SAME! National Division is committed to maintaining the financial wherewithal to fight the battles that undoubtedly lie ahead. We are committed to training the next generation of BMWED leaders and activists to represent the membership in the collective bargaining arena, in the halls of Congress, and in the statehouses and tool houses across this great nation. And finally, we are committed to leaving this convention strong, united and dedicated to both the current and future generation of maintenance of way employees.

Thank you, may God Bless you, and may God Bless America!



Around the Brotherhood

Allied Lodge 2388 meets, Brothers Steve and Gary Sanders presented with retirement plaque

Brothers Steve (left) and Gary Sanders, who both retired Aug. 1, were presented with a plaque commemorating their railroad careers at the Allied Federation Local Lodge 2388 meeting in Bowling Green, Ky. July 18. General Chairman Dennis Albers performed the honors. Brother Steve served terms as Lodge 2388 President and Secretary-Treasurer for many years and both Sanders brothers were very strong and dedicated union guys. Congrats to Steve and Gary on their retirements!



Wedding congrats to Brother Robert Fiacco and wife, Molly

Warmest congratulations go out to Brother Robert Fiacco and his wife, Molly, who tied the knot in Norwood, N.Y. on May 17, 2014 after 18 years. Brother Fiacco is the President of Consolidated Rail System Federation Local 0910 in Watertown, N.Y.



USD Lodge 216 hold meeting in Omaha

Unified System Division Local Lodge 216 convened in Omaha on June 5 for a regularly scheduled meeting. "Dropping in" on the brothers and warmly welcomed to the meeting were BMWED Pres. Freddie Simpson, Western Region Vice President Dave Tanner, Director of Safety Rick Inclima, and USD General Chairman Louis Below.



AT&SFF hold E-Board meeting

On May 12 - 15, 2014, officers and Executive Board members of the AT&SFF Federation met at the AT&SFF Headquarters in Newton, Kansas to conduct their annual Executive Board Meeting. All told, it was a very productive and informative meeting.



Officers are (front row L-R): Corey Wilbanks, David Taylor, General Chairman Gary W. Marquart, Vern VanAusdall, Donald Lee and Thomas Blackwell. (Back Row L-R): Brian Poston, Shane Lindsey, Nicholas Haiston, Randy Lunow, Rex Proctor and Jeff Fry.

Allied Fed congratulates Brother Ribbing upon retirement

Brother Jerry Ribbing retired this summer after 38 years of service with the former Missouri Pacific Railroad (now Union Pacific). A member of BMWED Allied Federation Local Lodge 450 in Park Hills, Mo., Brother Ribbing is pictured with his wife and step-daughter after receiving a watch from Lodge 450 Secretary-Treasurer Gregory Hawkins. Brother Ribbing worked in the B&B department. Congrats, brother, on your retirement!





Rail Workers **Hazardous Materials Training Program**

Peer trainers dedicated to providing quality education & awareness of hazardous materials, empowering rail workers & communities.

Rail Hazmat Chemical/Emergency Response Training Programs

The Rail Workers Hazardous Materials Training Program is pleased to announce the following HazMat/Chemical Emergency Response Training Programs. This training addresses OSHA and DOT required training in addition to procedures, different levels of response and worker protection in a hazardous materials emergency or release, weapons of mass destruction awareness and the incident command system. The training also provides completion of the OSHA 10-Hour General Industry Outreach requirements. The programs are delivered using interactive classroom instruction, small group activities, hands-on drills and a simulated hazmat response in full safety gear.

The Rail Workers Hazardous Materials Training Program is funded to provide this training by a federal grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). This five-day hazmat training course will provide rail workers the essential knowledge, skills, and response actions in the case of an unintentional release. These tools will allow rail workers to protect themselves, their co-workers and their communities.

The funding provides the following student expenses: air travel, lodging and meals. In addition, an incentive of \$120.00 per day is available to all training participants of these programs, except those who are able to secure regular pay through their employer, or are paid union officers. Training will be conducted at the Houston Fire Department's Val Jahnke Training Facility, 8030 Braniff Street Houston, TX 77061.

Programs begin Sunday evenings* at 5:30 p.m. and conclude Fridays at 1:00 p.m. Students may be asked to travel on Saturdays to meet program start times or where substantial reductions in airfare warrant. When registering, please select dates in order of preference:

10/25-30, 2014- Saturday 5:30 p.m. orientation, Thursday departure

Sunday 5:30 p.m. orientation, Friday departure
December 7-12, 2014 February 22-27, 2015
March 15-20, 2015 April 12-17, 2015

Register now at: <http://railworkertrainingprogram.org>.

You may also request an application form by contacting Henry Jajuga at: bsafe2day@gmail.com

For additional information please contact Henry Jajuga via e-mail. For phone inquiries please call (281) 812-6436 Monday through Friday between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. central standard time.

Rail Workers Hazardous Material Training Program





Rail Workers **Hazardous Materials Training Program**

Peer trainers dedicated to providing quality education & awareness of hazardous materials, empowering rail workers & communities.

Rail HazMat-DOT Hazardous Material Instructor Training (Train the Trainer)

The Rail Workers Hazardous Materials Training Program prides itself on providing the most valuable worker safety training available and most of it is delivered by peer trainers. A major goal of the Rail Program is to build a nationwide pool of skilled peer trainers to deliver hazardous materials training at their jobsites, union meetings, and in their communities.

The DOT-funded Hazardous Materials Instructor Training (HMIT) consists of an 8-hour hazardous materials awareness course followed by five days of train-the-trainer instruction, providing participants the skills and knowledge necessary to deliver hazardous materials training at the local and regional levels.

The funding provides the following student expenses: Air travel, lodging and meals. In addition, an incentive of \$175.00 per day is available to all training participants of these programs, except those who are able to secure regular pay through their employer, or are paid union officers. Training will be conducted at: Holiday Inn Houston-Hobby Airport, 8611 Airport Blvd, Houston, TX, 77061

Programs begin Monday mornings and conclude Saturdays at 1:00 p.m. Students will be required to travel/arrive on Sundays to meet program start times. When registering, please select dates in order of preference:

- **September 29 through October 4, 2014**
- **October 12 through 18, 2014**
- **November 16 through 22, 2014**

Register now at: <http://railworkertrainingprogram.org>.

You may also request an application form by contacting Henry Jajuga at:
bsafe2day@gmail.com

For additional information please contact Henry Jajuga via e-mail. For phone inquiries please call (281) 812-6436 Monday through Friday between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. central standard time.





**BMWED - 127 Years of
Progress and Still...**

ON TRACK

2014 Las Vegas

Third Regular Convention of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division Announced

The Third Regular Convention of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters was held June 23 - 25, 2014, at the Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.



Continued on Page 22





Convention, from Page 21





BMWED Director Randall Brassell retires after 40-year career

BMWED Director of Communications and Education Randall Brassell retired July 1, wrapping up a long and dedicated career of service to our Brotherhood.

Recently, Brother Randall served in a “jack-of-all-trades” role, writing and producing the BMWED Journal and directing the educational classes of the Brotherhood since 2011. Many of this union’s newest officers attended classes conducted by Brother Randall, ensuring that his mark on the BMWED will continue for decades to come.

Brother Randall began work for the old Louisville & Nashville Railroad on March 6, 1974 at Radnor Yard in Nashville, Tenn. He worked at a number of locations on the former Tennessee Central Railroad, which was a part of the Nashville Terminal Seniority District, and held every position in the track subdepartment, mostly working as a foreman. His last job on the track was with CSX in July 1991 as the foreman of the CSX panel plant in Nashville.

Throughout the 1980s, Brother Randall held several local officer positions. First elected as local president of Lodge 670 in Nashville, Randall was later elected local chairman and held that position until his full-time election as a Vice Chairman on the former Dixie Federation in July 1991.

From there, Brother Randall served as Vice Chairman Secretary-Treasurer for the former Southeast System Federation and Vice Chairman for the former Allied Eastern Federation. He was elected to General Chairman of the Allied Eastern Federation on July 1, 2002, and also served as a trustee for the BMWED Health and Welfare Plan for Occupationally Disabled Em-

ployees from January 2004 until retirement.

Sister Jackie Brassell, Randall’s wife, also retired from her position with the Allied Federation this spring. A 12-year employee of the BMWED, Sister Jackie has also left a legacy in this organization that will be difficult to replicate.

The two retirees are already settling into the retired life at their home in Hendersonville, Tenn. They both intend to spend most days “hanging out” with their grandchildren and enjoying some down time. They also have plans to travel, and Brother Randall is looking forward to dusting off his fishing tackle box.

“I cannot find adequate words to describe the admiration, respect, and love I have for those two and will miss seeing them in the physical presence working for the Brotherhood, but will always hold them very close in my heart and mind, knowing they are always there watching my back and challenging me to do my best,” President and longtime friend, Freddie Simpson said. “They are great union people, dedicated, thoughtful and kindhearted, and they are, and will continue to be, my friends. Good luck and God speed to Randall and Jackie. A retirement well-deserved.”

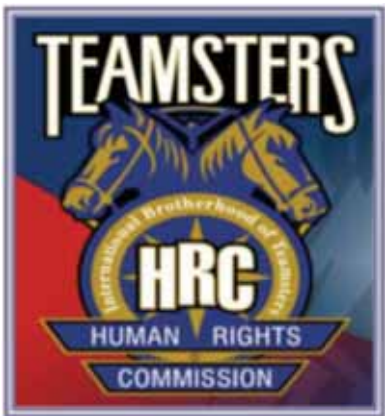
Editor’s note: Many, many thoughtful and genuine words have been relayed to both Randall and Jackie upon their retirement, so I won’t get too overwrought with sentiment here. I’d just like to state in print that Randall was as great a mentor and leader as someone could ask for in this job. Thank you both for your friendship and guidance. I look forward to seeing you in a boat somewhere soon. –CB



BMWED Allied Federation bid adieu to two longtime leaders in July. General Chairman Dennis Albers presented Randall and Jackie Brassell with plaques upon their retirement. The couple enters retirement after several decades of union service.



IBT Human Rights Commission Volunteers Needed



The Teamsters Human Rights Commission (HRC) was established to assist local unions promote

diversity, eliminate discrimination and bring together groups to celebrate their contributions to the fabric of our union.

The Human Rights Commission needs rank-and-file volunteers to serve as representatives from the BMWED. If your BMWED Local Lodge has not yet appointed a representative to serve on the HRC you are strongly encouraged to volunteer.

There are a number of resources that are available to our members but HRC Volunteers are needed to help distribute that information. As a HRC volunteer

you will be able to get that message to our members.

The Human Rights Commission Representative will network with the leaders and members in your area on Human Rights issues, making sure they know about Teamster programs that provide assistance to the membership.

For example, the Teamsters Disaster Relief Fund, the James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund, IBT Community Service, and the Helmets to Hardhats programs all fall under the umbrella of the Human Rights Commission.

BMWED Southwest Region Vice

President Roger Sanchez serves as the BMWED Human Rights Commissioner for the Teamsters and coordinates the program with the local BMWED representatives.

BMWED Members interested in volunteering should contact their Local Lodge officers.

Should you have any questions about the HRC, please contact:

Robert D. Sanchez,
Vice President (South)
P.O. Box 2250
Porter, TX 77365
(281) 354-4812
FAX: (281) 354-6613
lodge1507@aol.com





Your Track to Health

Portion Distortion: What is a normal serving size?

One of the biggest challenges to weight management is related to food portion size. Portion size has grown so much in recent decades, it's hard to even imagine what a normal serving looks like. In many popular restaurants and fast-food chains, the cost difference between the regular size options and the supersize options often creates a perception that the "value is better when you go big."

The downside is that this can cause you to consume more calories than the daily amount needed, resulting in excessive weight gain. This may lead to prediabetes and/or diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and other serious health problems.

Become a "portion pro"

If you know what a healthy portion size should be, you will be able to make smarter choices whenever you're preparing your plate or selecting a snack.

Use the serving size guide to the right to better understand what a "healthy" portion size should

look like. Perhaps carry it with you wherever you eat, including at home, at a friend's home, at the office, on the go or at a restaurant.

Right-size your portions
Here are a few additional tips to help aid in eating healthier and right-sizing your portions:

- Resist the urge to "super-size" any item.
- Avoid "combo" meals.
- Think "half" . . . half a sandwich, half a wrap, half an entrée or half a portion when available.
- Read food labels and pay attention to the actual serving size and servings per package, especially on "snack size" packages. The servings per package may actually be for more than one serving, which means you should only be eating a portion of the bag.
- When dining with a friend, consider ordering one meal and sharing it.
- Order a "cup" instead of a "bowl."
- Despite what your parents may have taught you, you don't have to finish everything on your plate.

Call a health coach
As part of your Railroad ben-

efits, a health coach can help you better understand nutrition and how to eat healthier so you can maintain or lose weight, depending on your specific needs. To connect with a health coach, contact your medical benefit administrator today:

Aetna members: Railroad Employees National Plan: 1-800-842-4044; NRC/UTU Plan: 1-888-332-8742

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield members: 1-866-267-3320
UnitedHealthcare members: 1-866-735-5685

By making smarter food choices, you may be able to see first-hand the positive impact it can have on your ability to maintain a healthy weight, improve your overall health status and even reduce your health risks.

For more information about nutrition, portion control and tips on how to maintain a healthy weight, visit ChooseMyPlate.gov.

Be sure to discuss any health-related concerns with your doctor whenever you meet with him/her and also as part of your annual routine physical. The material contained in this article has been selected to provide background and

useful information. It is not designed to replace either medical or advice or medical treatment.



Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division
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