

BMWED NEWS RELEASE

Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes Division – IBT
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BMWED ORGANIZES NEW MEMBERS ON SOUTH KANSAS and OKLAHOMA RAILROAD

Southfield, MI – On Friday, February 3, 2006, the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes Division of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (BMWED) was certified to be the official representative of maintenance of way and structure employees on the South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad, located in southeastern Kansas and northeastern Oklahoma. Maintenance of way employees maintain track, bridges and buildings for this railroad that is owned by WATCO Companies.

The BMWED petitioned the National Mediation Board on December 3, 2005, when enough authorization cards were secured to request an election. At the representation vote, the majority clearly said, "Yes" to joining the BMWED.

"I commend South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad maintenance of way employees who stayed focused to achieve the outcome of this election," noted BMWED Director of Organizing Tim McCall. Adding, "the diligence of part-time Organizer Mark Barbour and Missouri Pacific System Federation First Vice Chairman Malcolm Davison, as well as help from the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe System Federation Officers and Staff, BMWED Vice President Rick Wehrli and Rail Conference organizers, these employees can now look forward to making improvements in their lives, as well as gaining the respect and stability they deserve in the workplace."

"We are certainly very pleased to welcome these new members and look forward to a productive relationship with management," said BMWED President Freddie N. Simpson.

The BMWED represents approximately 35,000 rail workers that build and maintain the track, bridges and buildings on the railroads across the United States.