

# **Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters**

*For Immediate Release*  
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## **BMWED Systems Vote to Merge** *Unified System Division approved by Joint Protective Boards*

Denver, CO - The Chicago & North Western System Federation convened its regular quadrennial Joint Protective Board meeting in Denver yesterday, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>. The Union Pacific System Division Joint Protective Board met simultaneously in a Special Joint Protective Board meeting at the same location. The primary order of business for these two bodies was to consider and act upon a merger agreement which would combine these two systems.

The twenty-seven Chicago & North Western System Federation Local Lodge Delegates and the nineteen Union Pacific System Division Local Lodge Delegates separately and in a joint session approved the merger agreement by an overwhelming margin and established the Unified System Division of the BMWED. The combination of these two former Systems spans a geographic territory from Chicago to Seattle and the Los Angeles Basin representing 3,685 members and 50 Local Lodges.

The incumbent principal Officers of the two former Systems were candidates for the Unified System Division officer positions. All of the candidates were elected by acclamation demonstrating the appreciation of the Officer's efforts to reach a merger agreement and the depth of the support by the Delegates for the merger. The Unified System Division officers are: General Chairman, Wayne E. Morrow; First Vice Chairman Secretary - Treasurer, Kent L. Bushman; Region 1, District 2 Vice Chairman D. Joe Dean; Region 1, District 3 Vice Chairman, Charles R. Hogue; Region 1, District 4 Vice Chairman, David R. Scoville; Region 2, District 2 Vice Chairman, Rod D. Mulder; Region 2, District 3 Vice Chairman Stan W. Waldeier and Region 2, District 4 Vice Chairman, W. "Bill" C. Jorde.

Elected to the Executive Board were: Chairman Paul Chamberlain; Secretary Ron Hoffman; Members, Mike Gekas, Garry Purkey, Brandon Louis, Al Steffen and Jeff Rankin.

According to General Chairman Morrow, "This merger is not about bigger, it's about better representation for our Brothers and Sisters busting their butts on the rails." First Vice Chairman Secretary - Treasurer Kent Bushman added, "I'm convinced that the right thing was done for the membership. Vice Presidents Fenhaus and Tanner started this over 9 years ago."

Vice President Western Region Dave Tanner's response to the merger was, "These two systems have made a choice to move forward into the future. With their combined resources they will increase service to the membership. I congratulate them on making this difficult and right decision."

Vice President North West Region Leon Fenhaus stated, "While it is correct that this process began more than 9 years ago, the Officers are to be commended for remaining focused on achieving the goal that was accomplished. I believe this merger will bring about benefits for the members greater than the obvious. I hope that what these two bodies have accomplished will serve as an incentive and model for other Systems to merge."

President Simpson congratulated the officers and hailed the merger. "I congratulate the Officers and Protective Board members for consummating this merger within the BMWED. Establishment of the Unified System Federation is the culmination of years of work that will pay strong dividends to the membership through consolidation of services and improved representation. It just proves once again that reasonable men and women can work in harmony for the greater good of our members and our union."

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