

UTU News

The Official Publication of the United Transportation Union

WELCOME TO THE "VOICE OF TRANSPORTATION LABOR"

"The UTU is proud to be the first international union to use the Internet to deliver major live events to its members and the world."

- UTU Assistant President Byron A. Boyd, Jr.



Unification Poster Inside:
"THE POWER OF UTUIA"

News & Notes

Driver comments sought

CLEVELAND - The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and the UTU are seeking comments from commercial vehicle drivers on fatigue. The FMCSA is proposing to revise its hours-of-service rules to require motor carriers to provide drivers with better opportunities to obtain sleep with the aim of reducing the risk of drivers operating commercial vehicles while drowsy, tired or fatigued. Drivers should submit comments to Fatigue Reports, UTU Bus Dept., 14600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44107-4250, no later than July 15, 2000. Please include your name, address and UTU local number. "This issue will be discussed during the Bus Department's open chairpersons' workshop at the UTU/UTUIA Regional Meetings, in mailings and in future issues of the *UTU News*," Bus Department Vice President Bernie McNelis noted.

Drivers, aides vote UTU

CLEVELAND - A recent vote by 190 school bus drivers and aides employed by Laidlaw Transit was decided in the UTU's favor by a more than 2-to-1 margin. Employees have already met with Chairpersons Karen Belcher and Jim Harford to discuss contract proposals. In other organizing news, the National Labor Relations Board has scheduled representation elections for drivers employed by Alex's Transportation, who transport rail crews in six states. The Bus Department also has filed an election petition for school bus drivers, trainers and aides employed by Laidlaw Transit in Hesperia, Cal. A tentative date of June 23 has been set for an election.

Dividend clarification

CLEVELAND - The May issue of the *UTU News* featured an item about a UTUIA dividend increase. The dividend increase, from 6.0% to 6.25%, relates only to the interest-crediting rate for flexible-premium annuities, Traditional IRA annuities and Roth IRA annuities.

UTU to make history with webcast of speech

President Little's "State of Union" speech to be on Internet

CLEVELAND - On June 12, the UTU will become the first major North American International labor union to webcast its annual "State of the Union" speech on the Internet.

President Charles L. Little's opening "State of the UTU" speech at the Reno, Nev., Regional Meeting will be available on the Internet for all UTU members, and other interested persons, to watch. In addition, the UTU's new video, "The Power of One," will also be webcast.

"The UTU is proud to be the first international union to use the Internet to deliver major live events to its members and the world," said Assistant President Byron A. Boyd, Jr., who spearheaded the webcasting project. "Now, our 135,000 members, as well as the thousands of others interested in the UTU and its activities, will have the opportunity to see for themselves what we are all about."

How to see webcast

The live webcast leading up to President Little's "State of the UTU" speech will begin at 8:30 a.m. PDT (11:30 a.m. EDT) on Monday, June 12. In order to see it, you must do the following:

- Make sure that your computer has either Microsoft Media Player or RealPlayer installed. If you don't already have this software, you should add it at least one day before the webcast. Links will be provided on the UTU website, www.utu.org, so you may download this software for free.

- Go to the UTU website, www.utu.org, and follow the directions to watch the webcast.

The webcast will begin at 8:30 a.m. PDT (11:30 a.m. EDT) on Monday, June 12. (See sidebar above for details on how to view the webcast.)

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Amtrak begins peer counseling

Operation RedBlock, carrier agree on plan

CLEVELAND - Amtrak management and the Operation RedBlock Executive Committee last month agreed to fund and support Phase II Peer Counseling as a means of implementing the first program in the transportation industry that will result in full-time positions for union members to serve as peer counselors.

Operation RedBlock is a labor-developed and company-adopted drug prevention and intervention program. It emphasizes awareness, education and prevention via union member peer committees, and aims to change attitudes, to reduce the tolerance of nonusers to job-related drug and alcohol use, and to encourage users to seek assistance.

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Conrail probe pays off big

UTU investigation leads to \$3 million for workers

CLEVELAND - An audit of a major Conrail productivity trust fund by the UTU means that hundreds of former Conrail trainmen will split an additional \$3 million later this year.

An investigation instigated by GO-687 General Chairperson Delbert Strunk into the total payments to a Conrail Productivity Savings and Sharing Trust Fund, now administered by Norfolk Southern Railroad, revealed a shortfall of approximately \$3 million due to be paid to UTU-represented trainmen.

In December, Strunk's committee noticed productivity payments to the fund lower than they believed should have been made. Strunk appointed Associate Chairperson F.R. Pickell

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Around the UTU

News from around the U.S. and Canada

Local 84, Los Angeles, Cal.

Members are mourning the recent death of Amtrak and Metrolink Commuter Service conductor **Carl Bryant**, who lost his battle with leukemia on May 2, according to Secretary and Treasurer **Richard J. Albitre**.

Local 141, Jacksonville, Fla.

This newly chartered local is comprised of JRTS van drivers, who recently secured their first contract and elected officers and a local committee of adjustment (LCA). The LCA includes Chairperson **Jim Forgione** and Vice Chairpersons **Jack McCallister**, **Harry Nevin**, **Art Jones**, **Tom Mitchell**, **Don Davis** and **Judy Daniels**.

Local 168, Chicago, Ill.

Local member and Designated Legal Counsel **Bob Harrington** recently hosted a special meeting in Indianapolis, Ind., where investigator **Steve Robbins** addressed concerns of those working out of the newly established Amtrak crew base there, according to Treasurer **Lee Channing**. Meanwhile, the regular meeting for June has been rescheduled for June 21 to allow members to attend the UTU Regional Meeting in Reno, Nev. Flying for the first time in his life to attend the meeting will be Local President **Tim Harrigan**.

Local 240, Los Angeles, Cal.

Missed by members of the local is **Carl T. Rogoza**, who died a victim of a heart attack suffered while on duty March 18, said Secretary and Treasurer **Fred. G. Comeau**. Brother Rogoza, a dedicated father with a profound love for his church and his model railroad club, was just three months away from retirement.

Local 471, Eugene, Ore.

The Fourth Annual **J.C. Anderson** Memorial Golf and BBQ Tour has been scheduled for August 7 at the Diamond Woods Golf Course in Monroe, Ore., according to Legislative Representative **Greg Boam**. The event, sponsored by Designated Legal Counsel **Yaeger**, **Jungbauer**, **Barczak**, **Roe** and **Vucinovich**, brings together all crafts, retirees, wives and children to remember fellow rails whose lives were taken while on duty. For information, contact Boam at (541) 461-5407, fax him at (541) 461-5428, or send e-mail to <wrlclas@televar.com>.

Local 492, Sacramento, Cal.

The Furlough Agreement applicable in the Roseville Hub and the Extra Board Work-Rest Supplemental Agreement are available on the local's website in PDF format thanks to the hard work of **Mike McGuigan**, said Secretary and Treasurer **Daryl Stinchfield**. Also available there are reports from the safety complaint database. View the website at <<http://www.calweb.com/~w6thw/utu492.html>>.

Local 771, Needles, Cal.

Members recently voted unanimously to contribute a total of \$600 from the local's voluntary California and Arizona Recreational Funds to help the Colorado River Area Girls Softball League refurbish their playing field.

Local 1088, Jackson, Miss.

Local Chairperson and Vice General Chairperson **Robert W. Snow** is urging new members wishing to learn more about the UTU to attend meetings held the fourth Monday of each month at 4 p.m. at the LeQuinta motel on Terry Road in Jackson, Miss.



Be Part of
Join Hands Day
June 17, 2000

The UTU/UTUIA is proud to join together with the 88 other not-for-profit fraternal benefit societies comprising the National Fraternal Congress of America to sponsor a new volunteer day of service established in partnership with The Points of Light Foundation.

Join Hands Day, set for Saturday, June 17, gives members a chance to mobilize to make life better for those less fortunate, and to prove again that UTU/UTUIA members are the greatest volunteers in the world.

Participation can take any number of forms, from cleaning streets or helping seniors, to repairing playground equipment, painting over graffiti, or removing trash from streams. The important thing is to do something — and tell us about it! Photos and stories about your projects will appear in a future edition of the *UTU News* to let others know how we participated to make **Join Hands Day** a success.

Send photos and stories to: **Sandra J. Kranick**, fraternal coordinator, UTU/UTUIA, 14600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44107. Be sure to identify those who appear in photos, and include a description of the activity and how you were able to make a difference. Indicate where you performed your volunteer service, how many were involved, and the approximate period of time devoted to your service.

No project is too small, and the possibilities are as unlimited as your imagination. Ideas to consider: Homelessness or poverty (prepare and distribute sandwiches, or organize a food drive); environmental concerns (clean a park, or volunteer at a recycling center); health issues (deliver meals to the homebound, or visit hospital patients); schools and education (hold a book drive for school libraries, or paint a mural on school walls), and humane animal treatment (walk dogs at an animal shelter).

UTU/UTUIA would like to thank its many volunteers who give so unselfishly of themselves all year long for participating in **Join Hands Day**. For more information, contact Sandra J. Kranick at (216) 228-9400, Ext. 203.

Local 1137, Fargo, N.D.

BNSF brakeman **William Loosmore, Jr.**, is proud to note that his son, **Josh**, a marathon runner scheduled to graduate high school last month, recently ran 50 miles to raise \$2,000 for the Hospice of the Red River Valley, which needs \$10,000 for operating expenses. Josh's grandfather is **William Loosmore, Sr.**, a BNSF retiree and member of Local 855 in Spokane, Wash. Those who wish to help the cause

should make checks or money orders payable to "Hospice of the Red River Valley," and send them to P.O. Box 10613, Fargo, ND 58103.

Local 1558, Bergenfield, N.J.

Local Chairperson **Rich Deiser** is challenging a new medical form Rockland Coaches drivers and mechanics are required to fill out when undergoing biannual physicals required by the Department of Transportation (DOT). International Vice President **Bernie McNelis**, director of the UTU Bus Department, along with Deiser and UTU Designated Legal Counsel **Larry Mann**, are working on the issue and feel it may represent a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act, as well as requirements stipulated by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and DOT.

Local 1594, Upper Darby, Pa.

Contract negotiations led by Alternate Bus Vice President-East **Carolyn Scarsella** have begun for school bus drivers and aides working for Del-CO School Bus Company in Darby, Pa. Assisting are **Ron Koran**, **Ernie Davis** and **John Crossan**.

Local 1637, Wishram, Wash.

The local's website, which serves employees of Burlington Northern Santa Fe, has received the CompuServe TrainNet Forum's Web Gem Award for excellence, becoming the second UTU local to win this distinction. Visit the website at <<http://jaysworks.com/1637/>>.

Local 1895, Chicago, Ill.

Members working for Norfolk Southern send their sympathy and condolences to **Vernon Gillian**, whose wife **Ruby** recently passed away, according to Secretary and Treasurer **Tom Radovich**. Meanwhile, the local is planning to stage a picnic on August 26 and welcomes any ideas that will make it a memorable and successful event. The local also recently welcomed more than 20 new members to its ranks.

GO-020, BNSF

Local Chairpersons **Fred Wade** of Local 811, San Bernardino, Cal., and **Norbert Naworski** of Local 1581, Bakersfield, Cal., who will soon retire, will be honored by the committee at a special event to be held Sunday night, June 11, at the Reno Hilton following the official Regional Meeting reception, according to General Chairperson **C.D. "Bud" Davis**.

Yardmasters

The Yardmaster General Chairperson Council recently met in Nashville, Tenn., where Chairperson **J.R. Cumby** (GO-342), Vice Chairperson **J. Eschmann** (GO-340), and Secretary and Treasurer **D.K. Turner** (GO-347) were re-elected by acclamation to lead the group for the next four years. Sponsoring the meeting was Designated Legal Counsel **Yaeger**, **Jungbauer**, **Barczak**, **Roe** and **Vucinovich**.

Monthly winner

This month's lucky winner of her choice of any item of apparel bearing the UTU logo is **Gloria Burt** of Local 1741, San Francisco, Cal., which represents Laidlaw employees working in the San Mateo School District. These items are awarded every month by random drawing as a show of appreciation to the many members who have been supported by the UTU throughout the years.

State Watch

News from UTU State Legislative Boards

California

The UTU General Committee of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority had the highest percentage of TPEL contributors last year among all general committees throughout the state, reported Legislative Director **James P. Jones**.

The LACMTA General Committee is made up of UTU Locals 1563, 1564, 1565, 1607 and 1608.

According to Jones, a recent "membership sign-up campaign" by General Chairperson **James A. Williams** was responsible for a significant increase in the state's TPEL annual income. He added that the committee has decided to include a presentation on TPEL participation in its employee/driver union orientation program for new hires.

"This innovative procedure is a first for any UTU general committee in California and shows the commitment of our officers and members to our TPEL program. Special thanks to Chairman Williams and his committee of adjustment for their tireless efforts at improving our TPEL program," Jones said.

Indiana

Governor Frank O'Bannon has signed into law H.B. 1316, which will require drivers who transport rail crews from location to location to obtain a passenger chauffeur's license, meet certain physical and mental requirements, and limit the hours of service that drivers can operate on a daily and weekly basis.

The legislation also established a summer



Legislative Director James E. Carrico, standing on right, looks on as Indiana Governor Frank O'Bannon signs the "UTU Safety Bill" into law. The law takes effect on July 1, 2000.

Colorado



Legislative Director Jack Shaver, left, and Assistant Legislative Director Rick Johnson recently met with Buffie McFadyen and endorsed her candidacy for the 45th District of the Colorado House of Representatives. McFadyen, wife of UTU member Paul E. Ray of Local 202 at Denver, Col., has served on numerous Democratic campaigns in southern Colorado and was described by a party official as "one of our rising stars." She serves as president of the Young Democrats of Southern Colorado.

study committee which will address the need for safety inspections of the vehicles used to transport railroad employees.

Legislative Director **James E. Carrico**, who dubbed the legislation the "UTU Safety Bill," credited Assistant Director **Thomas Hensler** (490), **P.R. Everhart** (1518), Chairperson **Steve Filbert** (1620) and **Bruce Babbitt** (298) for the success in getting this law through both houses of the assembly.

"I would also like to personally thank State Representative Linda Lawson, UTU Assistant General Counsel Dan Elliott, and the International for their assistance," Carrico said.

Ohio

At the Eighth Quadrennial meeting of the Ohio State Legislative Board, the following Executive Committee members were elected by acclamation: **William J. Thompson** (693), legislative director and chairperson; **Joseph A. Boda** (693), assistant director; **Luther Newsom** (1549), 1st vice chairperson; **Billy Parker** (404), 2nd vice chairperson; and **David Otten** (1962), secretary.

Also elected to the Executive Committee by acclamation were: **Gary Elkins** (792), **Stuart Gardner** (225), **Joey D. Jones** (496) and **Larry D. Valentine** (586).

Wyoming

At the state's Democratic Party convention last month, Legislative Director **George Bagby** was elected national committeeman and will serve as a "super delegate" to the party's national convention in Los Angeles later this year.

"Under the wise leadership of President Little, our union was the first large labor organization to endorse Al Gore for president. I urge all UTU members at every level to become involved. The next president will possibly appoint three Supreme Court judges, so our mission is clear: We must have TPEL drives in every local and we must register new voters. Your vote will count in this election...and the job you protect may be your own," Bagby said.

Bagby and the Wyoming Legislative Board defied the odds earlier this year and convinced both houses of the state legislature to pass a UTU-sponsored two-man train crew bill. However, Gov. Jim Geringer vetoed the legislation at the last moment.

After praising the efforts of **Terry Ungricht** (951) and **Vern Whitfield** (866) in that legislative battle, Bagby said the state's Democratic Party platform now includes support of two-man crew legislation.

Iowa



Legislative Director Pat Hendricks presents a UTU baseball cap to Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack, who addressed the members of the UTU's state legislative board there at the opening of the board's 2000 quadrennial meeting. The cap was added to the Vilsack's personal collection of caps on display at the governor's mansion in Des Moines.

Bus Department

By Bernie McNelis

Contracts up for negotiation

The Bus Department has several contract negotiations that are either underway or soon will be.

UTU's largest general committee of adjustment, which represents the operators in Los Angeles, has begun negotiations and will be facing some very tough issues. I visited with General Chairperson James Williams and his committee as they were preparing for those negotiations and I can say that Chairperson Williams and his committee are well prepared to handle those negotiations and to meet any challenge the LACMTA may bring. The current contract expires on June 30, 2000.

The officers of Local 759 at O.N.E. Bus Company in Newark, N.J., are in the process of putting together their proposals and expect to meet with company representatives in the very near future to present them. Chairperson Joe Frierson and his committee surveyed their members for the upcoming negotiations to ascertain what changes they would like to see. The current contract expires on July 31, 2000.

Local 1670 at Valley Transit Company in Harlingen, Tex., is also preparing its proposals for contract negotiations. Local Chairperson Tony Urbina, Jr., and his committee will be assisted by Alternate Vice President Percy Palmer. That contract expires June 30, 2000.

As in every negotiation, the committees need the support of their members. We may have differences, but during contract negotiations, and the time preceding those negotiations, members must be united and in support of their committee. Unity plays an important role in negotiations. Unity shows the company that the committee has the support of its members at the bargaining table, and that means strength for your committee.



Yardmasters

By Don Carver

Yardmasters reach new agreement

The BNSF yardmaster committee, led by General Chairperson William J. Cobean, has achieved an agreement that expands jurisdiction of the BN yardmaster contract to cover the entire system.

The agreement expansion includes newly established seniority districts to cover the territory that comprised the former ATSF property. Dedication and hard work bring positive results for the membership.

A tentative agreement also has been reached with the Norfolk Southern on a single-system agreement for yardmasters. General Chairperson William B. Headrick, Jr., and General Chairperson Robert J. Cooper have negotiated a single agreement that will cover the yardmaster craft on the entire NS system.

The tentative agreement contains a training agreement which provides for a \$15-a-day training allowance for yardmasters who train new yardmasters. Also, paid meal provisions are expanded systemwide. If meal periods are not allowed, pay in lieu is required. Calling procedures and exercise of seniority also have been clearly defined. The discipline rule has been revised to firm up procedures and to expedite the appeals process to achieve final resolution in a shorter time period. Yardmaster positions have been grouped into three wage-rate categories, from the existing 16 wage-rate categories, with varying amounts of basic daily rate increases. The three basic daily rate groupings are \$188, \$183 and \$178. For some positions, the new rates represent as much as a \$14 basic daily rate increase. Numerous other rules also have been clarified.

A membership ratification ballot has been distributed, which will be tallied at the International. We are confident the proposed agreement will receive the members' support.



UTU News

Charles L. Little, International President

Byron A. Boyd, Jr., Assistant President

Paul C. Thompson, General Sec./Treas.

James Brunkenhoefer, Nat. Legislative Dir.

Keep up the fight for Railroad Retirement

Last month we told you about the campaign by 11 labor unions and several rail-retiree organizations, who represent more than three million Americans, to convince Congress to make the most significant improvements to the railroad retirement system in a generation.

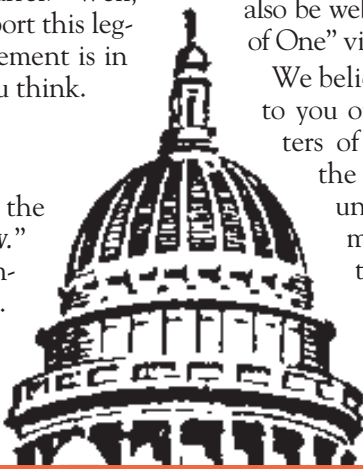
This month we are urging you to continue the fight. Call and write your Congresspersons and Senators and tell them to vote for the "Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2000." Available to you on the UTU website are addresses and phone numbers for your Washington representatives, and also sample letters that you can print out, sign, and send to them.

What remains puzzling is how any union can try to wreck legislation that will make railroad widows and widowers financially whole, lower the retirement age with healthcare, lower vesting to five years, and offer other significant improvements. But two unions – the BLE and BMW – are, for their own bizarre reasons, intent on hurting millions of current and future rail retirees. The letter on the opposite page gives you some idea of the misinformation campaign being waged against you by these unions. We also suggest you read, if you haven't already, a May 9 letter from TCU International President Robert A. Scardelletti regarding the misinformation put forward by the BMW and BLE against Railroad Retirement legislation. It is available on our website, www.utu.org.

The old saying goes, "Don't let a rotten apple spoil the barrel." Well, unless all of you tell your Congresspersons and Senators to support this legislation and ignore the two rotten apples, your improved retirement is in jeopardy. And while you're at it, tell the rotten apples what you think.

And the gold goes to...

Congratulations to all involved in winning a gold medal for the UTU's latest video, "Labor Unions and Railroads: Then and Now." This great video has been honored with a First Place Gold Camera Award at the U.S. International Film and Video Festival. Earlier this year, the video won a Telly Award after being selected for the honor from a field of more than 11,000 entries. This year, there were more than 1,600 entries from 30 countries eligible for a Gold Camera Award.



WASHINGTON WATCH

By James Brunkenhoefer

UTU: The power in the transport labor movement

There is only one great world power today: the United States.

We all know that there are some countries that do not like the role that the U.S. plays as world leader, but their hostility cannot change the facts.

Today, in the transportation labor-union movement, the United Transportation Union, under the leadership of President Charles L. Little and Assistant President Byron A. Boyd, Jr., plays a similar role. We are the leaders. We always lead at the bargaining table and in every other forum.

UTU is the only organization whose membership enjoys the benefits of a fraternal insurance association. UTUIA is the oldest department of our union and it has grown to become the envy of all other transportation labor unions. UTUIA provides additional evidence that shows the UTU sets the pace for others to follow. UTUIA benefits not only those who have policies, but all members of this great union.

The UTU legislative departments in both the U.S. and Canada are the class leaders in their field. They work cooperatively because what happens in one country has a definite impact on the other. UTU's two legislative departments work well together and have more victories than any other labor union with a similar operation.

No matter where you go in Washington, D.C., whether it is to the Surface Transportation Board, the National Mediation Board, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) or the halls of Congress, everyone wants to

The Power of the Internet

UTU is always looking for new ways to communicate with its members. One of the primary jobs of a labor union is to deliver important information in as many timely ways as possible in order to better inform you.

Over the last four years, we have improved the UTU News, established the UTU website – www.utu.org – as the No. 1 site on the Internet for rail-transportation news, produced award-winning informational videos, and have started publishing a series of "white papers" on issues of importance in our industry, beginning with Dan Johnson's excellent "A Race to the Bottom."

On June 12, the UTU is taking the next step in providing you with the latest information. As you read on page one of this newspaper, the UTU will become the first major North American international union to use the Internet to "webcast" live my annual "State of the UTU" speech from the Reno Regional Meeting.

I do hope you will join us either in person in Reno – or on the Internet – as we highlight the "Power of One" theme at the first of our three annual Regional Meetings. In fact, we will also be webcasting our new "Power of One" video that same day.

We believe that talking directly to you on the Internet on matters of importance is vital to the future well being of our union. While we expect more than 1,000 people to attend our Reno meeting from June 12-14, we wanted to make sure that thousands of others have access to the same

information. Today, people expect to be able to know what is going on immediately, and the UTU will be using the Internet more actively in the future to keep you up-to-date.

We are told that the UTU website is the most influential and most-visited website in the rail-transportation industry. Every day, thousands of UTU members, members of other unions, media, Washington decision makers, carrier officials, and others click on www.utu.org to get the latest industry news and to find out what our position is on important issues.

Last summer we also promised to expand our education and training initiative to bring information to you where you live. In order to accomplish that goal, the UTU also will be using the Internet to make available many of our award-winning videos. That means you will be able to visit the UTU homepage and have access whenever you want, using our new "video-on-demand" capability. We believe the UTU also is the first union to provide this type of service to its members. And, unlike some other unions, we will not restrict access to our website. We invite all union members – no matter what union they belong to – to watch our videos on-line.

As the Internet becomes a bigger part of our daily lives, it will assume greater importance in our communications with you. As we have said repeatedly, the UTU is the premier transportation union of the 21st Century. By offering you live webcasts, video on demand, and other on-line services, we are doing what no other union in our industry is doing. There is a lot to be said for "The Power of One."



By Charles L. Little



know what the UTU position is on any given issue. They ask us first. Most of the time, they don't even ask what the other rail-transportation unions think.

At the Federal Railroad Administration, the UTU is involved in every facet of that agency, whether it is the development of the nation's rail policy or working to improve the safety of America's railroads. No other union has more people involved, and no other union has gained more respect from this agency.

The UTU is deeply involved in many areas that affect you. General Secretary and Treasurer Paul Thompson plays an active and vital role in our efforts to secure a better railroad retirement program.

Only one other union has an operation comparable to our NTSB investigative team, operated under the guidance of UTU Vice President David Hakey. UTU Vice President Rick Marceau works to seek improvements in fatigue management through collective bargaining. Vice President Bernie McNelis leads our Bus Department and his efforts have resulted in better contracts for bus members while gaining thousands of new members through proactive organizing efforts. Our new commuter vice president, Tony Iannone, is blazing new trails in passenger rail operations, safety and collective bargaining.

Under the leadership and direction of Charlie Little and Byron Boyd, we have accomplished a great deal. But there are more victories to be won.

Just as this nation leads the other nations of the world, your UTU continues to set the standard by which other transportation labor organizations are judged.

Union chiefs slam BLE, BMWÉ misinformation

Following is an Apr. 24, 2000, letter from 11 railroad labor union officers to Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers President Edward Dubroski, who, with Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way officers, has attempted to spread misinformation about proposals to improve the Railroad Retirement System. This letter attempts to set the record straight.

Dear Mr. Dubroski:

This is in response to your April 17, 2000, letter addressed to various rail union leaders. You express "grave concern" about certain features of the proposed (Railroad Retirement) legislation.

You state that Section 105 "contains no cap on the amount of Tier II funds that may be privately invested" and you suggest that investment in equities should be limited to 50%. Apparently you are unfamiliar with the "prudent man" language incorporated in the very section you object to. If you were familiar with that concept, you would know that the "prudent man" standard does not contemplate 100% investment in equities.

We are surprised at your suggestion that somehow not capping investments in equities at 50% could lead to, in your words, "disastrous consequences for all railroad workers." Why is it then that BLE supported BMWÉ's motion to increase the equity investment percentage in GA-23111 from 50% to 60%? Surely you didn't do this believing that it would have "disastrous consequences" for the health insurance fund.

For months, you have circulated misleading propaganda that only BLE and BMWÉ supported commissioning "an independent study" and that was one reason why you allegedly would not support the agreement. At the same time you were aware that all of rail labor commissioned an "independent study" by KPMG Associates on investment strategy for Railroad Retirement. BLE itself participated in that study; why is it then that you choose to ignore your own study, which states:

"The current assumption in the model uses an asset mix of 50% U.S. equities and 50% Fixed Income, which is a fairly conservative mix relative to other plans of similar size and nature. For instance, the average equity exposure of public funds with over \$5 billion in assets is approximately 61%. The impact on increasing the equity allocation of the portfolio can be significant...for instance, moving the portfolio from an initial asset mix of 50/50 (equities/fixed income) to 60/40 increases the rate of return of the portfolio from 8.0% to 8.4%."

During discussion with the carriers, we relied on what KPMG called "a conservative asset mix and return assumption" – i.e., 50% in equities, producing an 8% return. That never meant we would not try to achieve higher returns based on a prudent investment strategy. After all, you continually criticize the agreement for not reducing the retirement age enough. The way to get further age reduction is by achieving higher rates of return. We share the goal of reducing the retirement age further, consistent with keeping the fund solvent.

The ability to keep the fund solvent is precisely what the proposed bill reflects. We guarantee the fund's solvency by getting the carriers to agree to absorb all future tax increases to keep the fund above "four times funding." This is unprecedented, yet you never mention this fact in your public attacks on the agreement.

We then incorporated a "prudent man" standard in order to maximize investment returns to make future benefit improvements possible. In doing this we looked at other state and federal pension plans. For example, CalPERS is 67% invested in equities; the New York State Common Retirement Fund is 60% so invested; and the Florida Retirement System is 64% so invested. On the federal level, the Federal Reserve System Retirement Plan is 66% invested in equities, and the TVA Retirement System is 62% so invested.

Thus, by trying to limit investment to 50%, the only result you can possibly have, if successful, is to lower rates of return for the Railroad Retirement fund and thereby prevent our members from getting future benefit improvements.

In your letter, you also profess shock that the proposed bill assumes investments from the Railroad Supplemental Account and the SSEB Account. Yet it was projected to invest those funds from the earliest discussions with the carriers. Again, the KPMG study reflects this:

"In both the actuarial reports and in the model, the ultimate balance necessary to fund plan benefits is a combination of the plan balance plus the SSEB balance. The SSEB balance is treated as an asset that can be used at any time. Since this asset is growing without any cash flow drain, the balance grows substantially over the years and dominates the ultimate balance used for benefits..."

"... [I]f the SSEB Account Balance was not added into the final balance, the fund would be reporting negative balances."

In other words, for you to now suggest that the SSEB account balance not be invested is tantamount to saying that no improvements will ever be possible. The only other time we have heard this objection is from certain Congressmen who oppose the bill because they want to privatize Railroad Retirement.

Our agreement and proposed legislation adheres to the original premise: there will be no investment in equities of Tier I funds.

We are extremely disappointed that you have chosen to spread misinformation and resort to scare tactics as part of your campaign to derail this Bill. If you succeed, you will have no one but yourself and the BMWÉ to thank for keeping the retirement age at 62, and for depriving surviving spouses of the improvements they so desperately need. You are attacking the prudent investment of funds in equities. You are only echoing those in Congress who are saying "no benefit improvements without privatization." We are fighting that battle, and your efforts are having the opposite effect.

Sincerely,

F. Leo McCann, president
American Train Dispatchers Department, BLE

Robert Roach, Jr., general vice president
International Association of Machinists

Sonny Hall, president, Transport Workers Union

Dan L. Davis, director of the Railroad Department
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

George J. Francisco, Jr., president
National Conference of Firemen and Oilers,
Service Employees International Union

W. Dan Pickett, president, Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen

Joseph A. Stinger
Administrative assistant to the president,
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers

Robert A. Scardelletti, president
Transportation Communications International Union

Charles L. Little, president, United Transportation Union

Isaac Monroe, administrative assistant to the president,
Hotel Employees & Restaurant Employees International Union

Don C. Buchanan, director of railroad and shipyard workers,
Sheet Metal Workers International Association

UTUIA scholarship winners chosen for 2000/2001

This year more than 1,500 students applied for a UTUIA scholarship, and below are the names of the recipients of 50 UTUIA scholarships for the 2000/2001 school year. The selection was made in a recent random drawing. Each student will receive \$500 a year for four years to help pay education costs.

District 1

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont

Jessica F. Tamraz, daughter of Nora F. Fortune of Local 722, Babylon, N.Y.; Amanda E. Hartford, granddaughter of Francis J. Hartford of Local 352, West Springfield, Mass.; Joshua Knight, grandson of Charles W. Knight of Local 1473, Boston, Mass.; Christopher Hurst, son of Russell M. Hurst of Local 1978, New York, N.Y.; Katiria J. Maldonado, daughter of Wilfredo Maldonado of Local 645, Babylon, N.Y.

District 2

Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania

David A. Nogacek, Jr., son of David A. Nogacek of Local 1374, New Castle, Pa.; Katherine M. Purper, granddaughter of John R. McMillan of Local 610, Baltimore, Md.; Brandon P. Bilohlavek, grandson of John B. Bilohlavek of Local 1628, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Kacy M. Dovich, granddaughter of Earl B. Dillensnyder of Local 830, Harrisburg, Pa.; Thomas R. Suhey, son of Robert P. Suhey of Local 1558, Bergenfield, N.J.

District 3

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia

Traci L. Westerlund, daughter of Ernest R. Westerlund, Jr., of Local 847, Birmingham, Ala.; Donald J. Tapley, son of Donald N. Tapley of Local 1972, Birmingham, Ala.; Michael G. Hobbs, son of James A. Hobbs, Jr., of Local

1031, Savannah, Ga.; Monica R. Suber, daughter of Claude R. Suber of Local 1814, Spartanburg, S.C.; Candice L. Crosby, granddaughter of Charles W. Baines of Local 1031, Savannah, Ga.; Marjorie E. Strickland, daughter of James M. Strickland of Local 1053, Selma, Ala.; Alicia M. Harrison, granddaughter of Jack W. Seward of Local 339, Jackson, Tenn.; Travis C. Perry, son of Kendrick B. Perry of Local 1314, Etowah, Tenn.

District 4

Indiana, Michigan, Ohio

Brandy N. Chester, granddaughter of Charles E. Bagley of Local 298, Garrett, Ind.; Michael A. Roth, son of William H. Roth of Local 586, Willard, Ohio; Danny Kozlowski, grandson of Raymond J. Kozlowski of Local 378, Cleveland, Ohio; James C. Norman, son of James A. Norman of Local 27, Cleveland, Ohio; Levi J. Graham, son of Louis V. Graham of Local 376, Louisville, Ky.; Bonnie J. Marr, daughter of Robert J. Marr of Local 1948, Youngstown, Ohio.

District 5

Illinois, Wisconsin

Kimberly R. Walker, daughter of Jackie W. Walker of Local 1534, Chicago, Ill.; Ryan P. Blume, grandson of Robert E. Blume of Local 196, Beardstown, Ill.; Nathan A. Haskins, son of Hubert G. Haskins of Local 1293, Altoona, Wisc.; Gavin C. Pearson, son of Gavin Pearson of Local 1525, Carbondale, Ill.

District 6

Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas

Michael C. Tuman, son of Pat Tuman of Local 1697, Lubbock, Tex.; Heather V. Bell, granddaughter of Edward W. Browning of Local 1313, Amarillo, Tex.; David L. Lambert, grandson of Gilbert L. Lambert of Local 1042, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Leslie M. Hart, granddaughter of George T. Hart of Local 221, North Little Rock, Ark.; Justin M. Barr, grandson of

Robert H. Wilson of Local 462, Pine Bluff, Ark.

District 7

Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota

Regan L. Carrizales, granddaughter of William A. Cowden of Local 533, Osawatomie, Kans.; Nicols J. Hendrickson, son of William D. Hendrickson of Local 962, Alliance, Neb.; Liza A. Davis, granddaughter of Melvin F. Davis of Local 199, Creston, Iowa; Todd W. Wessel, grandson of Gordon W. Bond of Local 947, Chaffee, Mo.; Stephan L. Larson, grandson of Clifford G. Buoen of Local 525, Grand Forks, N.D.; Emily J. Hall, daughter of Joseph B. Hall of Local 872, Omaha, Neb.

District 8

Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah

Brooke N. Adams, daughter of Jeffrey B. Adams of Local 84, Los Angeles, Cal.; Anne E. Balluff, daughter of Steve F. Balluff of Local 202, Denver, Col.; Justin K. Bridgman, son of Kent H. Bridgman of Local 1168, Clovis, N.M.; Rhonda F. Bailey, daughter of Ronald E. Bailey of Local 1241, Richmond, Cal.; Edward W. Andrews, Jr., son of Edward W. Andrews, Sr., of Local 1581, Bakersfield, Cal.; Peter A. Cabrera, son of Peter Cabrera, Jr., of Local 1544, Maywood, Cal.; Casey G. Gird, daughter of J.G. Gird of Local 500, Grand Junction, Col.; Dana A. Bonner, daughter of Duane Bonner of Local 1564, Los Angeles, Cal.

District 9

Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming

Heather Gregory, daughter of Thomas J. Gregory of Local 324, Seattle, Wash.; David A. Howes, grandson of Boyd H. Howes of Local 265, Pocatello, Idaho; Jennifer C. Reid, daughter of Thomas G. Reid of Local 1574, Portland, Ore.

Peer counseling

Continued from page 1

UTU International President Charles L. Little offered congratulations to those who forged the agreement. "Amtrak has had peer counseling on a part-time, voluntary basis for two years," Little noted, "and it works. The RedBlock Phase II Peer Counseling effort has the full support of the UTU."

Little also drew attention to the goals of the program. "It is important to remember that it is not the intent of the Operation RedBlock program for its volunteers to become full-time counselors," Little explained.

"Rather, they are full-time employees who, in the true spirit of trade unionism, are involved in helping co-workers maintain a healthy lifestyle," Little said.

Representing the Transportation Communi-

cation Union at the meeting, American Railway & Airway Supervisors' Association President Art D'Alessandro noted his organization also fully supported the effort as a realistic approach to a complex problem.

"All research evidence," D'Alessandro pointed out, "indicates that comprehensive programs, which support an initial treatment foundation, and thorough relapse prevention planning, produce the most positive outcomes."

Amtrak Employee Assistance Program and RedBlock Director Robert Bonds said, "Full-time peer counseling will allow our professional staff to adequately handle upcoming problems that need attention while effectively treating existing cases that require immediate and intense follow-up."

Ed Adams, chairperson at Local 1732, San Jose, Cal., and an Operation RedBlock coordinator, reminded the committee that together, Amtrak, the Federal Railroad Administration

and the UTU have sponsored training for 47 peer counselors over the past three years.

According to UTU International Vice President **Tony Iannone**, the agreement has been a goal since 1988, and it couldn't come at a better time. "Managed care has decreased the amount of treatment resources, in some cases has eliminated in-patient treatment, and in most cases has reduced the lengths of stay for treatment," Iannone said.

Iannone also noted the UTU is now represented by eight peer counselors on the Amtrak system, including **Gary C. "Moe" Carlquist** and **Natalie Smith** (Local 1361, New Haven, Conn.); **Lee Channing** (Local 168, Chicago, Ill.); **Charles Cockrell** (Local 1470, Edmonston, Md.); **Gary Finnegan** (Local 898, Boston, Mass.); **Marie Hattenberg** (Local 117, Vancouver, Wash.); **Ed Isaac** (Local 1732, San Jose, Cal.), and **Idris Rahim** (Local 1933, Washington, D.C.).

Webcast

Continued from page 1

In addition to using the Internet to webcast major live events, the UTU also has announced that it will offer its training and informational videos online through "video on demand" for educational purposes.

The UTU has signed an agreement with Akamai Technologies, the foremost provider of high performance live-and-interactive

events on the Internet, which will allow the union to hold cost-effective, real-time webcasts. In addition, UTU will use Akamai's streaming media services to provide on-line education by making videos available over the Internet.

"We have made a commitment to use the Internet to better inform and educate our members," said Boyd. "This is the first step in an information revolution that will change how unions communicate with their members and the world. Naturally, the training and

education of UTU members over the Internet is a major accomplishment."

UTU also will use Akamai's "Netpodium" service that permits live and interactive Web events to be seen on the Internet without a large investment in time and capital.

"Akamai is the top company in the world in providing these services to companies and organizations and the UTU is pleased to partner with them," said Boyd.

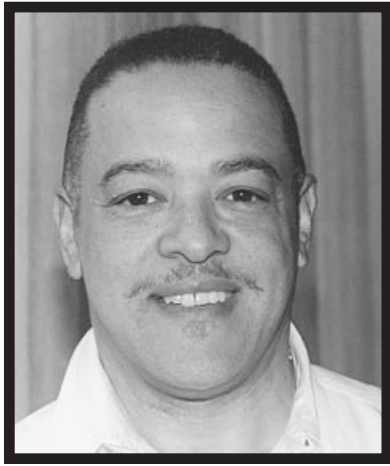
Little's speech will be available after the webcast in archival form for later viewing.

Voices: Do UTU recommendations affect your vote?



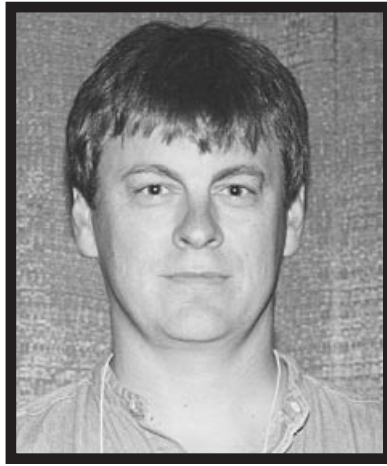
Kenny Edwards
L-744, Frankfort, Ind.

"The UTU officers know the candidates' voting records, and sometimes know them personally. I wholly trust their recommendations. I've worked for CSX for 10 years, eight of them as an engineer. I'm a registered Democrat, but I think it's irresponsible to vote a straight ticket. You're lapsing in your responsibility to do so. Your job is what protects you, so if a Republican will support your job, you should vote for him. I use local newspapers and TV to form an opinion, but I don't always have time to evaluate all the candidates. That's why I rely on the judgment of State Legislative Director Jim Carrico."



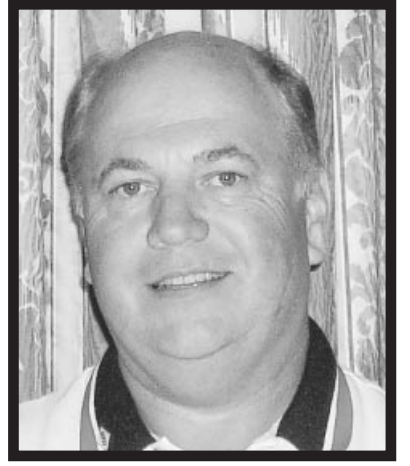
Tim Del Cambre
L-1565, W. Hollywood, Cal.

"I usually follow the union's recommendations to the letter, because I think the union is looking out for our best interests. I'm sure our legislative directors know all the candidates' views, and they've recommended the ones that will ensure the quality of life we deserve. Our local legislative representative keeps us well informed, too. I've worked for LACMTA as a bus operator for 25 years, I'm vice chairperson of my local and I'm a registered Democrat. But if a candidate is pro-union, the party affiliation doesn't matter to me. Everyone should vote because our vote represents our voice."



Kevin J. Knutson
L-465, Gillette, Wyo.

"I've worked as a conductor and brakeman for BNSF for 21 years, and serve as vice president, vice chairperson, and training coordinator for our local. As far as I can remember, I've always voted UTU, not just because the union backs the candidates, but because Wyoming is the biggest Republican state I've ever seen, and I vote Democrat just to counter it. I'm a registered Democrat and always have been, but I don't vote the party line just to vote a straight ticket. I look at newspapers and TV, and we talk about politics on the job, but my co-workers don't influence my votes. I vote my own way."



David E. Hiatt
L-734, Battle Creek, Mich.

"In my case, the recommendations always influence my vote because I've been part of the legislative board for 20 years! I've got 30 years of seniority as a conductor on the Grand Trunk Railroad, and I'm a field supervisor. I would always pay attention to what the UTU recommends because other issues don't really matter if you can't support your family. And the UTU supports candidates that support labor. I vote based on economic issues and how candidates stand on union issues. I think UTU members voting together can make a statement that brings us respect."

Conrail funds

Continued from page 1

and Local 601 Chairperson D.E. Myers to audit the fund.

"The bottom line," said Pickell, "is that there should be a large increase based on the productivity shares, and from this day forward the inclusion of 722 more trainmen contributing to the trust fund at no cost to them will also increase payments significantly."

An audit conducted in April with NS's Manager of Payroll Accounting M.W. Greene in Norfolk, Va., showed that the contributions of 722 trainmen were not paid into the fund, which caused it to be \$2.97-million short. Pickell and Myers reviewed more than 1,000 trainmen's work records and hundreds of pages of train operating records. With interest, they discovered, hundreds of UTU trainmen who formerly had worked at Conrail had an extra \$3,022,177.05 coming to them.

It is expected, according to Pickell, that Norfolk Southern will make the \$3-million shortfall payment in either May's or June's monthly contribution and it will be dispersed with this year's annual productivity disbursement in December.

"Sometimes you have to fight the carrier over a dollar," said Pickell. "But this time, Norfolk Southern and Mr. Greene were very helpful and worked with us to make sure we received what we were due in productivity fund payments. When labor and management cooperate on issues like this, in a fair and open manner, we all win. In this case, former Conrail UTU members 'won' \$3 million with interest."

Recipients of the trust fund include protected former Conrail trainmen who hired on prior to the effective date of the crew consist agreement (amended). Under the trust fund agreement, trainmen can receive up to 40% of their annual salary.

TPEL HONOR ROLL

Individuals who have begun contributing to TPEL or increased their donations to \$100 or more per year during April 2000.

| Name | Local | City | Name | Local | City | Name | Local | City |
|---|-------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------|------------------|
| PLATINUM CLUB (\$1,200 OR MORE PER YEAR) | | | | | | | | |
| Zito, Marc A. | 20 | Beaumont, TX | Chavez, Abenicio E. | 49 | Pueblo, CO | Schmidt, Carl A. | 792 | Cleveland, OH |
| Altier, Joseph P. | 29 | Babylon, NY | Edgen, Stanley R. | 113 | Winslow, AZ | Seaman, Richard C. | 792 | Cleveland, OH |
| Hajek, Francis P. | 48 | Norfolk, VA | Fugatt, Walter B. | 113 | Winslow, AZ | Stringfield, Alton L. | 792 | Cleveland, OH |
| Moody Jr., Willard J. | 48 | Norfolk, VA | Dunigan, Brenda | 168 | Chicago, IL | *Howard, Louie J. | 847 | Birmingham, AL |
| Harrington Jr., Robert | 168 | Chicago, IL | Hardesty, Carl J. | 204 | Pueblo, CO | Robinson, Alphonso | 942 | Florence, SC |
| Cox Jr., James L. | 305 | Lincoln, NE | *Choate Jr., John D. | 243 | Ft. Worth, TX | Flanery, Danny L. | 965 | Dallas, TX |
| Boling, Roy G. | 376 | Louisville, KY | Schnowske, Kenneth R. | 258 | Savanna, IL | Gunter, Ricky L. | 965 | Dallas, TX |
| Harrington, Patrick J. | 577 | Northlake, IL | Bruce, Jason D. | 259 | St. Joseph, MO | Jones, Heinrich C. | 965 | Dallas, TX |
| Albertini, Guy M. | 610 | Baltimore, MD | Kirk, Edward M. | 259 | St. Joseph, MO | *Pyle, Lester G. | 974 | Nashville, TN |
| Acker, Laurence C. | 620 | Chicago, IL | Manning, Thomas D. | 259 | St. Joseph, MO | Newell, Mitchell J. | 977 | Pasco, WA |
| Rabb III, Lloyd L. | 807 | Tucson, AZ | Driscoll, Thomas J. | 262 | Boston, MA | Page Jr., Bernard B. | 1006 | Brownsville, PA |
| Kiker, David B. | 951 | Sheridan, WY | Bowen, Billy R. | 303 | Springfield, MO | *Hitchcock Jr., Alvin | 1007 | Syracuse, NY |
| Boudreaux, Joseph N. | 965 | Dallas, TX | Lyons, David L. | 303 | Springfield, MO | *Rask, Raymond A. | 1067 | Virginia, MN |
| Barczak, Ronald J. | 1000 | Minneapolis, MN | Landon, Leslie H. | 312 | Madison, WI | Bodine III, Joseph P. | 1092 | Teague, TX |
| Gilwee, James F. | 1201 | Stockton, CA | Smith, Timothy R. | 363 | Roanoke, VA | Brown, Douglas S. | 1092 | Teague, TX |
| Warshauer, Michael | 1245 | Atlanta, GA | Baughman III, Thomas | 367 | Omaha, NE | Morris, Andrew L. | 1092 | Teague, TX |
| Callis, F. Lance | 1405 | St. Louis, MO | Kinsella, Dennis J. | 367 | Omaha, NE | Debnam Jr., Claude E. | 1129 | Raleigh, NC |
| Peirce Jr., Robert N. | 1418 | Conway, PA | Vieyra, Andrew R. | 367 | Omaha, NE | Vickery Jr., Harry D. | 1129 | Raleigh, NC |
| Feldman, Larry R. | 1422 | Los Angeles, CA | Davis, Walter C. | 376 | Louisville, KY | Crocker, Curt W. | 1261 | Atlanta, GA |
| Sophie Jr., Kenneth J. | 1433 | Elmwood Park, IL | Ruth, Darrick W. | 490 | Princeton, IN | *Harmon, John M. | 1328 | Louisville, KY |
| Hakey, David L. | 1458 | DeQuincy, LA | *Sobina, John F. | 421 | Conneaut, OH | *Kerr, Harold R. | 1374 | New Castle, PA |
| Thompson, Robert B. | 1534 | Chicago, IL | *Grover, Owen L. | 471 | Eugene, OR | Smith, Robert L. | 1397 | Columbus, OH |
| Sands, John C. | 1538 | Chicago, IL | *Nord, Frank H. | 486 | Glendive, MT | Walker, Thomas G. | 1397 | Columbus, OH |
| Nelson, Frederick L. | 1544 | Mayerwood, CA | Gibbard, James F. | 556 | Tacoma, WA | *Spahr, Albert | 1445 | Elizabeth, NJ |
| Britt, Donald C. | 1570 | Roseville, CA | Hauer, Kevin P. | 577 | Northlake, IL | Hall, Michael | 1462 | Boston, MA |
| Tello, Michael F. | 1882 | Minneapolis, MN | Wrobel, Warren | 577 | Northlake, IL | *Duff, Grady W. | 1501 | Baton Rouge, LA |
| Barish, Marvin I. | | Philadelphia, PA | Flashberger, Kenneth | 581 | Green Bay, WI | Kyle, Gregory A. | 1524 | Houston, TX |
| DOUBLE DIAMOND CLUB (\$600 OR MORE PER YEAR) | | | | | | | | |
| *Johnson, Carroll E. | 283 | Portland, OR | Hauk, William A. | 581 | Green Bay, WI | *Boston, Arthur W. | 1532 | Indianapolis, IN |
| Bloedow, Rod | 586 | Willard, OH | Heuer, Paul J. | 581 | Green Bay, WI | Navarro, Christopher | 1565 | W. Hollywood, CA |
| DIAMOND PLUS CLUB (\$400 OR MORE PER YEAR) | | | | | | | | |
| Lamm, Glenn A. | 1129 | Raleigh, NC | Johnson, Neil A. | 581 | Green Bay, WI | Hernandez, José | 1607 | Los Angeles, CA |
| DOLLAR-A-DAY CLUB (\$365 OR MORE PER YEAR) | | | | | | | | |
| Bills, Gregory L. | 78 | Pocatello, ID | Luedke, Daniel F. | 581 | Green Bay, WI | Loehn, Brian W. | 1607 | Los Angeles, CA |
| Nelson, Richard A. | 199 | Creston, IA | Tomcheck, Robert F. | 581 | Green Bay, WI | Rivas, Juan C. | 1607 | Los Angeles, CA |
| *Layton, Harlan C. | 202 | Denver, CO | Thompson, Jeff | 582 | Stevens Pt., WI | Carter, Samuel | 1608 | Chatsworth, CA |
| Kasten, Steven M. | 312 | Madison, WI | Shininger, Matthew J. | 586 | Willard, OH | Grill, Thomas E. | 1628 | Pittsburgh, PA |
| Kreifels, John | 354 | Omaha, NE | Fields, John W. | 594 | Mineola, TX | Baker, Herbert R. | 1736 | Flint, MI |
| Logan, Terry E. | 753 | Memphis, TN | Teague, Bobby L. | 594 | Mineola, TX | *Mechanico, Charles | 1760 | Detroit, MI |
| Archuleta, Diana A. | 1857 | Green River, WY | Dubois, Geoffrey G. | 607 | Thayer, MO | *Wotasak, Lawrence | 1765 | Grand Rapids, MI |
| DIAMOND CLUB (\$300 OR MORE PER YEAR) | | | | | | | | |
| Khane, Pitaya | 113 | Winslow, AZ | Howell, Tracey L. | 607 | Thayer, MO | *McLeroy, Robert W. | 1780 | Kansas City, MO |
| Donahue, Mark C. | 195 | Galesburg, IL | Rolen, Hurschel C. | 607 | Thayer, MO | Collier, Kimberley M. | 1857 | Green River, WY |
| *Layton, Harlan C. | 305 | Lincoln, NE | Fischer, Steven M. | 646 | Council Bluffs, IA | *Frenz, William G. | 1882 | Minneapolis, MN |
| Demich, Walter T. | 586 | Willard, OH | Childers, Joe A. | 656 | N. Little Rock, AR | Cook, Joseph P. | 1918 | El Paso, TX |
| Hagedorn, Bret L. | 646 | Council Bluffs, IA | *Lear, Bruce R. | 683 | Detroit, MI | Middagh, John | 1918 | El Paso, TX |
| Crum, David T. | 750 | Knoxville, TN | Hoffman, Ralph L. | 730 | Great Falls, MT | Mitchell, Timothy B. | 1918 | El Paso, TX |
| Knight, Craig B. | 1092 | Teague, TX | Cobb, Tony D. | 750 | Knoxville, TN | Cormier, Eugene T. | 1947 | Lake Charles, LA |
| *Iannone Jr., Michael | 1374 | New Castle, PA | Moss, James D. | 753 | Memphis, TN | Duhon, John L. | 1947 | Lake Charles, LA |
| GOLD CLUB (\$100 OR MORE PER YEAR) | | | | | | | | |
| *Sloan, George F. | 5 | Kansas City, MO | Vinson, Ronald L. | 753 | Memphis, TN | Gates, Steven C. | 1947 | Lake Charles, LA |
| Bartlett Jr., Luther M. | 20 | Beaumont, TX | Andrea, Marc S. | 792 | Cleveland, OH | Lebleu Jr., Fred C. | 1947 | Lake Charles, LA |
| | | | Angel, Farris D. | 792 | Cleveland, OH | Horton, Robert S. | 1974 | Ft. Worth, TX |
| | | | Ayers, April L. | 792 | Cleveland, OH | | | |
| | | | Bullinger, Richard L. | 792 | Cleveland, OH | | | |
| | | | Cairns, Dennis J. | 792 | Cleveland, OH | | | |
| | | | Condupa, Mike | 792 | Cleveland, OH | | | |
| | | | Edwards Jr., Clarence | 792 | Cleveland, OH | | | |
| | | | Elkins, Jerry D. | 792 | Cleveland, OH | | | |
| | | | Kirchner, Ray | 792 | Cleveland, OH | | | |
| | | | Nemet, James R. | 792 | Cleveland, OH | | | |
| | | | Richmond, Ivan B. | 792 | Cleveland, OH | | | |
| | | | Robinson, Angus | 792 | Cleveland, OH | | | |

* = Retired Member

CORRECTION: Alexander T. Pavlopoulos, Local 84, Los Angeles, Cal., was inadvertently omitted from the TPEL Diamond Club listing featured in our May 2000 UTU News. We regret the error.

Senior News

Retiree plunges into lifeguard job

At a physical exam just before retiring in 1982, **Jasper Rivera**'s doctor advised him to stay in the swim of things to preserve his exceptional state of health.



J. E. Rivera

Brother Rivera took his doctor's advice figuratively for about a year by traveling, doing some whitewater rafting, and staying active with his church and the Gideons. Then, in 1983, he followed the advice literally by taking the plunge and becoming a lifeguard.

"I never was certified for CPR while on the railroad," said the 79-year-old Rivera, who began his career in 1942 as a switchman for the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western (DL&W) and retired as a Conrail road conductor. "I got my skills after retirement."

A winding path led Rivera, a member of Local 1 in Buffalo, N.Y., to his current career as a lifeguard with the local YMCA in Buffalo.

"I started on the railroad just before the outbreak of World War II," said Rivera, whose first union affiliation was with Lodge #4 of the Switchman's Union of North America (SUNA), where he ultimately served as local chairperson and general secretary. "I was a switchman, went into the Army, came out and went to college to study animal husbandry. I returned to the railroad when I realized I could make more money there than the professors were making at the college."

In 1951, Rivera met and married his wife, Alice, and the two raised four boys and two girls. "One of my sons, Kenneth, is a CSX yardmaster and a member of UTU Local 1951, working in Frontier Yard in Buffalo," Rivera said with pride.

"I've always been athletically inclined, and when I learned a group here was teaching life guard skills, I took the course out of curiosity," Rivera explained. "I became head lifeguard for the Holiday Inn in Grand Island, N.Y. for almost two years. Soon after that, I worked for the Buffalo Athletic Club for about 13 years."

Rivera keeps things safe through prevention. "I had to fish some young people out of the deep end once, but so far I haven't had any serious problems on the job. I don't let people put themselves in a predicament where something bad can happen."

U.S. Rail Retirement Board selects new Medicare carrier

Palmetto Government Benefits Administrators LLC, a subsidiary of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Carolina, has been selected by the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) to process the Medicare Part B medical insurance claims for physicians' services to about 650,000 railroad retirement annuitants.



The RRB said it followed a competitive Federal procurement process to select the new Medicare carrier.

Palmetto will assume the existing Augusta, Ga., Medicare claims operations facility used by the RRB's previous carrier, Uniprise, a UnitedHealth Group company.

Uniprise in February had informed the RRB

and the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), which oversees the Medicare program, of its intention to withdraw from the Medicare program as a claims processing contractor. Uniprise will work with the RRB's new carrier in the transition of operations at the Augusta facility, which is about 70 miles from Palmetto's headquarters.

Railroad Retirement beneficiaries are covered by Medicare on the same basis as Social Security beneficiaries. The RRB, which enrolls annuitants for Part B medical coverage and collects premiums, also has authority to select a Part B carrier.

Carriers for Medicare Part A hospital insurance claims are selected by HCFA.

Railroad Dutch Get-Together going strong

Eight years ago, the late Jessie C. Gresham asked his wife to honor his memory by making sure the retiree club he'd put so much time into would continue to meet and grow when he was gone.

Keeping her promise, UTU Retiree Program member **Mrs. Hazel Gresham** continues to work diligently to keep the Railroad Dutch Get-Together going strong, and today the group continues to meet on the third Tuesday of each month (except in December, when the group meets on the second Tuesday).

According to Mrs. Gresham, the club was formed by four couples in 1974. Ten years later, her late husband, a former president and chairperson of Local 1245 in Atlanta, Ga., became involved in the group's organizational efforts.

A member of the Cherokee Rose UTU Auxiliary Lodge #606, Mrs. Gresham is quick to point out the invaluable contributions to the club made by others, including Retiree Program member **T.J. Campbell** of Local 511, Atlanta, Ga., and member **Betty Harper**.

Recently, 105 members gathered together for a candle-lit memorial service, led by **Frank Couch** of Local 1245 and **Paul Holt**, to pay tribute to those club members who passed

away in the last decade.

Members include retirees from the Seaboard Line, Norfolk Southern, CSX, and other railroads who enjoy the luncheons and other events sponsored by the group.

For information about the Railroad Dutch Get-Together, contact Mrs. Gresham at (770) 867-2215, or Betty Harper at (770) 947-9769. For information about Cherokee Rose UTU Auxiliary Lodge #606, write the Grand Lodge of the Auxiliary at Ste. 213-B, 5151 Reed Rd., Columbus, OH 43220-2553, call (614) 459-4443, or send e-mail to <AUXILIARYED@aol.com>.

Oakland Old Rails club recruits new members

Retired railroaders from the Oakland, Cal., area are invited to join the Oakland Old Rails, a club that holds meetings, presents interesting speakers, hosts dinner events, and sends members an entertaining and informative newsletter, *The Oakland Old Rails News*, edited by Retiree Program member **Dick Murdock** of Local 100, Oakland, Cal.

For information, contact Murdock at (415) 454-1771, or write to him at P.O. Box 1346, Ross, CA 94957-1346.

THE FINAL CALL

Following are the names of members of the UTU Retiree Program who have died recently, according to reports received at UTU International Headquarters. These brothers and sisters will be missed by their many friends and by fellow UTU Retiree Program members.

| Local | Name | City / State | Local | Name | City / State | Local | Name | City / State | Local | Name | City / State |
|-------|----------------------|-------------------|-------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------|----------------------|-------------------|-------|---------------------|---------------|
| 0006 | Guckert, Henry J. | Bellefontaine, OH | 0607 | Mann, Jr., Dewey G. | Jonesboro, AR | 0911 | Keene, Wayne R. | Mesa, AZ | 1570 | Sanford, Daniel W. | Roseville, CA |
| 0028 | Olsen, Harold G. | Laramie, WY | 0610 | Huffman, John H. | Westminster, MD | 1021 | Watkins, Lester A. | Durham, NC | 1594 | Geiger, Stephen C. | Darby, PA |
| 0113 | Wemhoener, Janet | Winslow, AZ | 0645 | Constant, Andrew J. | Mattituck, NY | 1035 | Barfield, Charles F. | Lakeland, FL | 1687 | Estep, Loyd D. | Belen, NM |
| 0194 | Ewing, Robert E. | Valparaiso, IN | 0646 | Jordan, Norman E. | Omaha, NE | 1088 | Dalton, Sam E. | Grenada, MS | 1694 | Foley, Joseph H. | Corona, CA |
| 0226 | Robertson, John W. | Rolla, MO | 0762 | Young, James R. | Montgomery, AL | 1327 | Vance, James E. | Peach Creek, WV | 1732 | Teerlink, Heber N. | Salinas, KS |
| 0265 | Gummersall, Floyd A. | Chubbuck, IA | 0792 | Oberholtzer, James E. | Kent, OH | 1345 | Stewart, Edward C. | Etowah, TN | 1794 | Trapp, Elwood B. | Albany, OR |
| 0329 | Grant, Jo Junior | Rockwell City, IA | 0800 | Saffioti, Joseph F. | Spring Hill, FL | 1366 | Fox, Byron O. | Plain City, UT | 1895 | Kessler, William L. | Lansing, IL |
| 0349 | Towner, Ferdy T. | Kansas City, MO | 0832 | Egnash, Raymond J. | Superior, WI | 1393 | Bell, Robert D. | Oil City, PA | 1904 | Ramsey, Louis E. | Jefferson, TX |
| 0440 | Sloan, Samuel S. | Cincinnati, OH | 0835 | Hoffman, Robert G. | Bakersfield, CA | 1469 | Sikes, William D. | Alamo, CA | 1973 | Mandziuk, Stephen | Mankato, MN |
| 0432 | Goad, Charles W. | Champaign, IL | 0857 | Lang, R.W. | Fredericksburg, TX | 1524 | Hill, Howell H. | Dayton, TX | 1974 | Mitchell, Jerome D. | Ft. Worth, TX |
| 0498 | Pierson, John A. | Rye, NH | 0894 | Adams, Clarence N. | Broken Arrow, OK | 1563 | McIlvain, Allen R. | R. Santo Mar., CA | | | |



Regional Meetings 2000

Each Regional Meeting lasts a full three days, with the President's Banquet on the evening of the third day. The \$125 advance registration fee per member or guest includes: Sunday welcome reception; Monday lunch and evening buffet dinner and entertainment; Tuesday lunch and evening theme reception and entertainment; Wednesday lunch and evening Presidential reception and banquet, as well as all training workshop materials. On-site registration is \$175 per member or guest. Your name badge will be your admission ticket to all events and festivities.

New this year are one-day registrations for those members who would like to attend the Regional Meetings but can't spare the time away from work or family. The cost of a one-day registration for any day is \$50. Payments for individual events, such as lunches and tours, can be made at each meeting. Also new this year are registration procedures, with separate registration forms for members and guests. Additionally, credit cards are now being accepted for payment of Regional Meeting fees. At this time registration is not available on the UTU website.

Make all checks (U.S. funds only, please) payable to "UTU Regional Meeting." **Send your completed forms to UTU Meeting Registration, 14600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44107-4250.** You may cancel seven full days prior to arrival with no penalty. Please fax any changes or cancellations immediately to the UTU International at (216) 228-5755.

June 12-14, 2000

Reno Hilton

2500 East Second St., Reno, NV 89595

Hotel telephone number: (775) 789-2126

Toll-free reservation number: (800) 648-5080

Room reservation deadline: **HAS PASSED**

Rooms still available at prevailing rates

Self parking: free; valet parking: tip only

July 10-12, 2000

Sheraton Hotel

2101 Civic Center Blvd., Birmingham, AL 35203

Hotel direct reservations: (205) 324-5000

Toll-free reservations: (800) 325-3535

Reservation code: UTU Regional Meeting

Room rate: \$99 single/double; \$105 triple/quad

Room reservation deadline: *Extended to June 16, 2000*

Parking: self \$7 per day; valet \$12 per day,

both with in/out privileges

August 28-30, 2000

Minneapolis Hilton and Towers

1001 Marquette Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55403

Hotel direct reservations: (612) 397-4999

Toll-free reservations: (800) 445-8667

Reservation code: UTU Regional Meeting

Room rate: \$119 single/double; additional person \$20

Room reservation deadline: July 20, 2000

Parking: self \$12.50 per day; valet \$20 per day

both with in/out privileges

Golf at Regional Meetings

Arrangements have been made for golf outings in each of the UTU/UTUIA Regional Meeting cities. They are held the Sunday before the start of each meeting at challenging local golf courses. A registration form is printed at right. Please make note of the registration deadline for each golf outing. The registration fee, \$80 per golfer for each outing, includes the greens fee and golf carts, lunch and round-trip transportation to the course from the host hotel.

Reno, Nev., golf outing

Date: Sunday, June 11, 2000; *registration available on site*

Place: The Golf Club at Genoa Lakes, Genoa, Nev.

Tee-off: 8 a.m. shotgun start

Birmingham, Ala., golf outing

Date: Sunday, July 9, 2000; *registration deadline June 30*

Place: Oxmoor Valley, Birmingham, Ala.

Tee-off: 8 a.m. shotgun start

Minneapolis, Minn., golf outing

Date: Sunday, Aug. 27, 2000; *registration deadline Aug. 17*

Place: Majestic Oaks Golf Club, Ham Lake, Minn.

Tee-off: 7:30 a.m. shotgun start



UTU Regional Meeting Registration Form

By registering in advance for the UTU/UTUIA Regional Meetings, you will speed registration procedures at the meeting sites and help organizers plan more accurately. Additionally, personalized name badges and information kits will be waiting for you upon arrival.

Which Regional Meeting will you be attending?

Birmingham

Minneapolis

UTU Local _____

Name _____

Title (if any) _____

Name for Badge (if different) _____

Home address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Daytime telephone number () _____

How will you be paying? By enclosed check

By credit card

Circle type of credit card VISA MasterCard

Credit card number _____

Expiration date _____ Amt. charged _____

Signature _____

On-site registration is \$175 per member or guest

Guest Registration Form

To be used by spouses, children and guests of UTU members attending a Regional Meeting.

Which Regional Meeting will you be attending?

Birmingham

Minneapolis

Name _____

Name of Member _____ Local _____

Relationship to member _____

Golf Registration Form

Which golf outing will you be attending?

Birmingham

Minneapolis

Name _____ Local _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Handicap or average 18-hole score _____

All courses require soft spikes, collared shirts and proper attire. The format at all golf outings will be scramble/best ball. All foursomes will be established by draw from a handicap pool; no pre-arranged foursomes will be considered. Foursomes will be made up of one golfer from each of four classes: A, B, C and D. Please complete the form and send it with your registration fee (payable to "UTU") by the applicable deadline to UTU Regional Meeting Golf Outing, 14600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44107.

New VISA® card for UTU members

UTU and National City Bank have created exciting new credit cards for UTU members.

Active and retired UTU members in the U.S. and Canada, as well as family members and friends, can choose from four new credit cards, each of which offer great savings and additional benefits.

•The **Prime Rate UTU VISA Platinum** and **Classic VISA** offer the lowest rates available. Both cards have an introductory 3.9% APR for six months on purchases and balance transfers. The rate then goes to the Prime Rate, currently 9% APR. The cards also have an interest-free grace period if the balance is paid in full each month. There is an annual fee of \$35 for the VISA Platinum and \$25 for the Classic VISA.

•Other options include the **UTU No Annual Fee**



VISA Platinum and **Classic VISA**, which offer the convenience and acceptance of VISA with no annual fee. Both cards have an introductory 3.9% APR for six months on purchases and balance transfers; then the interest rate is Prime +4.9%, currently 13.9% APR. The cards also have an interest-free grace period if the balance is paid in full every month.

•The VISA Platinum cards also have additional benefits: \$250,000 travel accident insurance, automatic rental car insurance and emergency travel assistance services.

tance services.

National City Bank will soon be sending all UTU members in the U.S. and Canada information describing the new credit cards with the opportunity to apply by mail or telephone.



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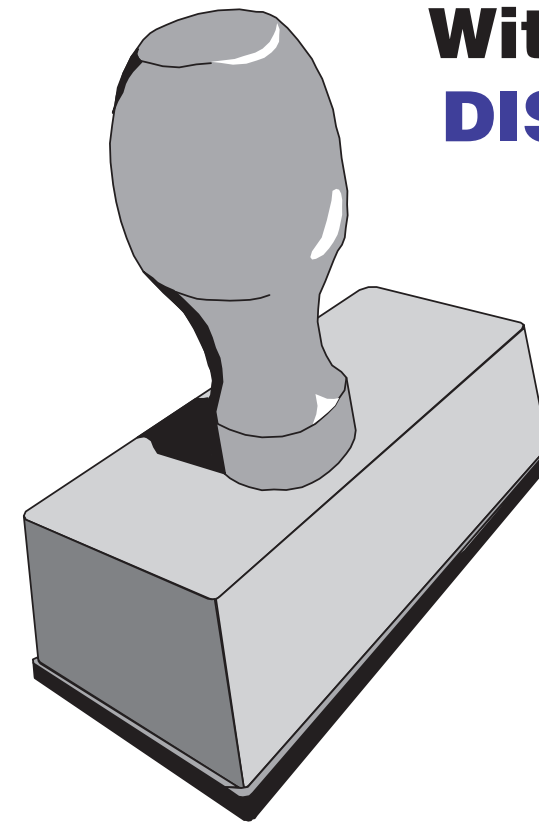


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Information, Please

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(Please Print.)

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|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
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| Address _____ | City _____ | State _____ Zip _____ |
| Telephone Number with Area Code _____ | UTU Local Number _____ | |

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6/00



the **POWER** *of* **ONE UTU**

One Union with the Power of UTUIA to Put Financial Security in Your Life

Only one union in the rail-transportation industry – the **United Transportation Union – puts the power of one of America’s largest fraternal insurance associations to work to protect the financial security of you and your family.**

Here is the success of UTUIA:

- **UTUIA has more than \$695 million of insurance in force, covering the lives of thousands of union families.**
- **UTUIA has more than \$220 million in assets, and is the only fraternal insurance company in the rail-transportation industry.**
- **UTUIA has more than \$34 million in surplus, providing the assurance of paying benefits when you need them most.**
- **UTUIA paid more than \$18 million in benefits to certificate holders in 1999.**
- **UTUIA has more than 56,000 accident and health certificates in force.***
- **UTUIA has more than 35,000 life certificates in force.***
- **UTUIA provides more than \$60,000 annually in college scholarships to the children and grandchildren of UTU members, and has done so for 28 years.**

Join the power of UTUIA and help it make a difference in the future security of all union families.

Special Unity Poster #8: Display this poster to show your support for unity among UTU and BLE members

*(Note: * denotes certificates in force at 31 December 1999.)*