



UTU News

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The Official Publication of the United Transportation Union

News and Notes

Accidents take members

Three UTU members – **Eli A. Locklear**, **James Wilson**, and **David C. Goolsby** – have been killed in separate incidents.

Locklear, 46, a CSX conductor and member of Local 1011 at Hamlet, N.C., was killed May 26 when he was crushed by tons of coal while unloading a train. He was part of a two-person crew that was unloading a 97-car train at Progress Energy's Weatherspoon Plant when he either fell or was pulled down into the coal.

Wilson, 35, a UP conductor and member of Local 923 in Dalhart, Texas, was riding on top of a train car that was being pushed in an Amarillo, Texas, yard when he fell and was hit by the train. He died at the scene.

Goolsby, 47, a Union Pacific switchman, was killed June 8 in Houston, Texas, when a train ran him over during a switching accident. He was a member of Local 1892 in Houston.

First Coast workers sign

Employees of First Coast Railroad, Fernandina Beach, Fla., a property of rail holding company Genesee & Wyoming, have voted to be represented by the UTU.

The 31-mile switching railroad was acquired from CSX in April 2005 by G&W subsidiary Rail Link. It provides switching services at the Port of Fernandina, Fla.

Organizing assistance was provided by retired General Chairperson **Warner Biedenharn Jr.** (GO 433), and General Chairperson (GO 347) **Doyle Turner** (Local 1962).

U.S. rail members ratify UTU national agreement

By overwhelming margins within each craft, members of the United Transportation Union have ratified a new national rail agreement covering wages, rules and working conditions.

The ratified agreement is retroactive to Jan. 1, 2005, and remains in force through Dec. 31, 2009.

"In the face of recurring news reports of overall wage declines in American industry, tens of thousands of American job losses, and reductions in health-care benefits and pensions for millions of workers, UTU members covered by this agreement gain a 17-percent wage hike, retroactive pay, no change in work rules, an increase in the meal allowance, and a cap on health-care contributions with no reduction in health-care benefits," said UTU International President Mike Futhey.

Effective Jan. 1, 2010, new hires will gain health-care coverage in just 30 days, rather than the previous 120 days.

"The ratified agreement also provides for arbitration to settle the dispute over entry rates tied to training, and with arbitrators we will have a hand in choosing," Futhey said. The arbitration process will begin within 30 days under terms of the ratified agreement.

"Additionally," said Futhey, "the UTU was the only union to gain continuation of a COLA, beginning in 2010, while a new agreement is being negotiated. The COLA put some \$7 more per day in members' pockets while we were at the negotiating table this round."

"We also retained, undisturbed, our locally negotiated crew-consist agreements, and the carriers retreated from their attack on the Federal Employers' Liability Act (FELA)," Futhey said.

Voting closed at midnight, June 9, and the American Arbitration Association, which conducted and tabulated the telephone balloting, reported that 18,076 votes were cast, with 15,313, or 85 percent, voting in favor of the agreement. Some 45,000 ballots were mailed, meaning 40 percent of those eligible to vote cast ballots.

The tentative agreement sent out for ratification was reached Jan. 23, following more than 38 months of negotiations with the National Carriers' Conference Committee, which represents BNSF, CSX, Kansas City Southern, Norfolk Southern, Union Pacific and numerous

Continued on page 10



Federal court urges SMART constitution

AKRON, Ohio – A hearing was held in federal district court here May 28 on a motion by former UTU International President Paul Thompson, six UTU International vice presidents, and the UTU national legislative director to intervene in the case challenging the merger between the UTU and the Sheet Metal Workers International Association.

The merger would create the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation (SMART) Workers.

The merger's scheduled Jan. 1, 2008, implementation was halted Dec. 27 when Federal District Court Judge John R. Adams issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) in response to a complaint that UTU members had not been given a SMART constitution with the voting materials.

As a result, the complainants said, UTU members did not have sufficient information on which to make an informed decision when they

voted last year to approve the SMART merger. UTU members were unaware, for example, of conflicts between the two constitutions.

By agreement of the parties, the TRO has been extended twice. On April 10, the TRO was extended into early June to permit Judge Adams to rule on the motion to intervene, and it will remain in effect for 10 days following his ruling. Judge Adams did not say when he would rule.

At the May 28 hearing, Judge Adams heard testimony from some of the proposed interveners, as well as from UTU International President Mike Futhey.

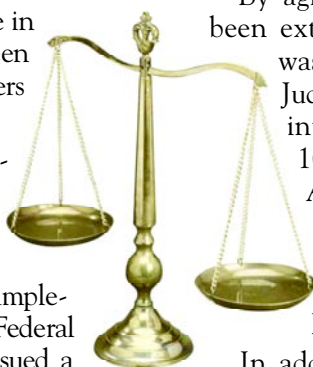
In addition to deciding whether to permit Thompson and the others to intervene, the judge must rule on whether to grant a preliminary injunction, which would supplant the TRO.

Judge Adams said he now has sufficient information to make his ruling on a preliminary injunction. A preliminary injunction would keep

the merger on hold until the case, and any appeals, run their course.

Futhey said he understood the judge to say that "it would be in the best interests of all concerned to put together a SMART constitution and resubmit the merger to the UTU members for ratification."

"Failure to do that," said Futhey, recalling the judge's words, "could result in lengthy litigation and cause the memberships' dues to be spent on legal fees. The judge said that there has got to be a better way to spend union dues money."



Railroad Retirement Board hikes benefit rate

The maximum daily benefit rate payable for claims under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act increases to \$61 from \$59 in the new benefit year, which begins July 1, 2008, the Railroad Retirement Board reports.

Benefits are normally paid for the number of days of unemployment or sickness over four, in

14-day registration periods, so maximum benefits for biweekly claims will total \$610.

Application forms for unemployment and sickness benefits may be obtained from railroad employers, railroad labor organizations, any Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) office, or the agency's Web site at www.rrb.gov.

Warning issued on Chantix

The Federal Aviation Administration has banned the use by pilots and air traffic controllers of the anti-smoking prescription medication varenicline, which is sold by Pfizer under the name Chantix. On June 6, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration sent the following advisory to medical examiners:

"While we do not name any medications, such as Chantix, in FMCSA regulations, it appears that medical examiners should not certify a driver taking Chantix because the medication may adversely affect the driver's ability to safely operate a commercial motor vehicle."

A DOT official told the UTU June 4 that the Federal Railroad Administration and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration may soon issue their own ban, which would affect rail workers and bus operators.

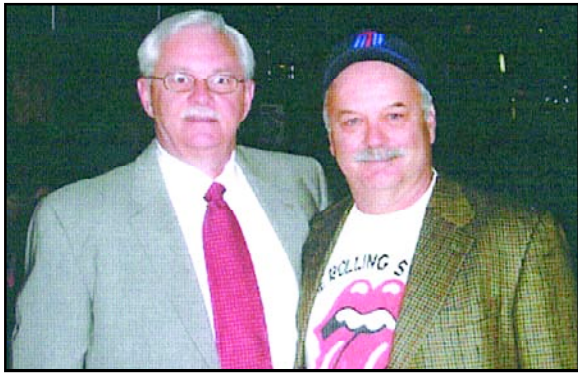
Around the UTU

Local 23, Santa Cruz, Calif.

Member **Rhiannon Axton** reports that the local has put together a yearbook entitled *The Transit Tribune* for co-workers employed by the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District.

Local 171, Aurora, Ill.

Local Chairperson **Chris Taus** served as coordinator for the sixth annual Tri-State Rail Conference held in Rolling Meadows on May 17. Speakers at the meeting, which promotes unity and constructive relationships among UTU locals, included International President Mike Futhey, International Vice President John Babler, State Legislative Director **Joe Szabo**, Federal Railroad Administration Rep. Mike Long and UTUIA Field Supervisor **Aaron Combs**. "I believe this conference was a total success and, if anything, proves what activism and unity can achieve," said **Alan Schoo**, who organized the first conference in 2003.



UTU International President Mike Futhey, left, meets retired UTU member Alan Schoo at the Tri-State Rail Conference.

Local 195, Galesburg, Ill.

This BNSF local will once again be participating in the Galesburg Annual Railroad Days Celebration to be held June 27-29 in Galesburg, reported Legislative Rep. **Ralph W. Linroth**. The event features a carnival with children's rides and games, a rib cook-off, a flea market, tours and entertainment. For more information, visit www.galesburgrailroaddays.org.

Local 590, Portage, Wisc.

Alternate Legislative Rep. **Steven James** reports that the local, along with BLET Div. 253, will be holding its Union Railroaders' Annual Summer Golf Outing on August 2 at Christmas Mountain Village Golf in Wisconsin Dells. The cost is \$57 for greens fees and cart and the tournament is open to members of all railroad crafts throughout Wisconsin. For information, contact Autumn at (608) 254-3944 or call Local President **Dan Stanley** at (608) 742-4296.

Local 597, Des Plaines, Ill.

The members of this Union Pacific local are urged to contribute to a food drive being held from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sat., June 28, at the carrier's Proviso Yard in Melrose Park, Ill. Non-perishable items, or cash donations, will be collected that day at the East 5 yard office, Local Vice President **Harry Lewis Jr.** reports. For information contact Lewis at (630) 790-8432.

Local 750, Knoxville, Tenn.

Victoria Love Houston, age 3, daughter of UTU Assistant Tennessee State Legislative Director **Brian Houston**, and his wife, Valisha, died May 14 following a courageous two-year battle with cancer. A fund was established in 2007 to assist the family: the Victoria Love Houston Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 70707, Knoxville, TN 37938. Cards may be sent to the Houstons at their home, 6622 Springer Dr., Knoxville TN 37918-6227.

Local 771, Needles, Calif.

Members **Wade Evans** and **Greg Yeager** helped guide the Needles High School Mustangs baseball team to the Nevada State Baseball Championship title May 17 in Lovelock, Nev. Evans and Yeager dedicated a great deal of time and resources to the effort as coaches, General Chairperson **William "Butch" Young** reported. It is the fourth state title the school has won this year, including football, girls' basketball and girls' softball championships.



UTU Kentucky State Legislative Director David Miracle, left, congratulates UTU member Mark Bruker after the members of UTU Local 1190 presented Bruker with a UTU jacket for his heroic actions. They are joined by Legislative Rep. Andy Volpenhein, second from left, and Engineers' Local Chairperson Jeff Mitchell.

Engineer's quick thinking halts collision course

Mark Bruker is not faster than a speeding bullet, and he can't leap tall buildings in a single bound. But his attentive eye and quick thinking did stop two powerful locomotives and likely averted a railroad catastrophe.

On March 18, Bruker, a Norfolk Southern engineer and member of Local 1190 at Ludlow, Ky., was operating an NS train from Fayette, Ky., to Greendale, Ky. He was traveling at 55 mph at about 5 p.m. as he and the train's conductor rounded a bend saw what appeared to be a clear signal. At the time of day, Bruker said the sun's glare makes it difficult to see the signal. "It's clearly visible at night," he said.

The signal was clear.

Traveling on the same track in the opposite direction, at about 41 mph, was another train barreling directly at Bruker's No. 230. Bruker could see it in the distance. He immediately put his train into emergency and radioed the opposing locomotive cab to do the same.

"From what I understand, he had a bunch of hazardous material on the head end. There was a propane company near the tracks and we were in what is a residential area," Bruker said.

The trains stopped just 1,200 feet apart.

"I was told the signal maintainers had been upgrading the signal earlier in the day and had apparently crossed wires," Bruker said. The signal showed green when it should have showed yellow, and yellow when it should have showed green, he said.

Later in the day, Bruker said the trainmaster "saw for himself it was a clear signal." He and his conductor were not charged with any violations and were returned to service.

In honor of his actions, the officers and members of Local 1190 recognized Bruker at the next local meeting and presented him with a UTU jacket. The local arranged for a round trip (a day off).

"I congratulate Brother Bruker for his actions that most likely saved numerous lives and countless dollars in property damage," Kentucky State Legislative Director **David Miracle** said. "Mark is a hero in my eyes and those of his fellow employees."

"I think the whole reason I was honored by the local was because I was paying attention, but it's part of my job," Bruker said. "The day off was really nice too. My wife and I don't get a lot of time together."

Local 898, Boston, Mass.

Member **Alan T. Smyth Jr.**, 28, a conductor for the Massachusetts Bay Commuter Railroad, passed away recently, Vice Local Chairperson **Roberta Ward** reported. Smyth was the son of MBCR engineer Alan Sr. and MBCR dispatcher Christine. "Al was a lot of fun and the kind of guy who filled the room when he entered it," Ward said.

Local 1168, Clovis, N.M.

On May 1, Vice President John Previsich and General Chairpersons **John England** and **Jim Huston** presented the proposed national railroad agree-

ment to approximately 60 members and their wives. The UTU Auxiliary provided a barbecue meal and the law firm of Rossi, Cox, Vucinovich, Bremseth & Flaskamp provided refreshments and snacks, Legislative Rep. **Randy Dunson** reported.

Local 1529, Walbridge, Ohio

Members of this CSX local are working to assist brother **Joe Lisk**, who lost a leg in a switching accident after a truck ran a crossing and struck him, Secretary & Treasurer **Mike Obrock** reported. Individuals interested in helping Lisk can send donations in his name to the CanDo Credit Union, 113 S. Main St., Walbridge, OH 43465, or call (419) 666-3113. "Brother Lisk was a good union and family man and we are doing what we can to help him out," Obrock said.

Local 1594, Upper Darby, Pa.

Local President **Ron Koran** reports that members are mourning the deaths of fellow employees **Tabitha "CoCo" Fasanya** and **Georgette Washington**. Koran also noted the passing of former member **Joseph Staedt**, who had retired from a management position several years ago, and retired member **Ernest DePrizio**. "Although Staedt was in management when he retired, he was a union member at heart," Koran said.

Local 1846, West Colton, Calif.

Former Vice Local Chairperson **Phil Naucner** passed away April 17. Naucner, who began his railroading career in 1950 on the Southern Pacific, had served the local for 12 years, Local President **Richard Escamilla** reported. In other news, Escamilla said that conductor **Tobie Irving Jr.** retired on June 1 after 36 years of service. He was presented with a retirement watch at the local's June meeting.

Local 1874, Winnipeg, Manitoba

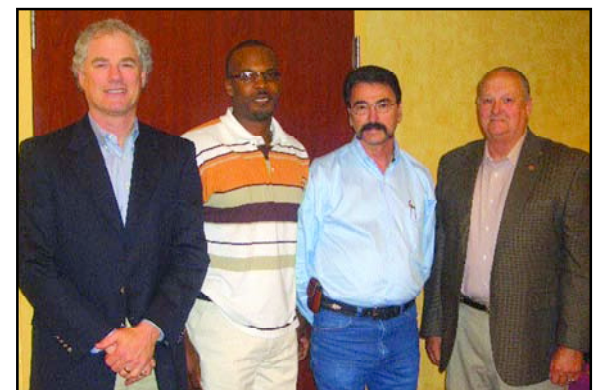
UTU International Auditor **Charles W. "Bill" Dance** passed away Saturday, April 5. He had just turned 55 years of age the day before and was said to be anticipating retirement. Dance served as local chairperson, delegate and local treasurer for his CN Rail local. Cards to the Dance family should be sent to 18 Lancelot Pl., Winnipeg, MB R2C 1K9.

Local 1972, Birmingham, Ala.

The locomotive engineers and conductors employed on the Alabama & Tennessee River Railway have elected **Geoff Holder** as vice local chairperson, according to General Chairperson **Doyle Turner**. "These shortline department members now have someone to represent them and to help them enforce their hard-earned collective-bargaining agreement," Turner said. "We are proud to have these fellow railroaders as members of the UTU."

Local 1957, Silsbee, Texas

This BNSF local held an informational seminar for all members and crafts, hosted by Legislative Rep. **LaShon Proctor**, on March 28, reports Secretary & Treasurer **Steve Soffes**. Representatives at the meeting, sponsored by Designated Legal Counsel Steve Young of the firm Tavormina & Young, included State Legislative Director **Connie English**, UTUIA Field Supervisor **Joe Solito**, General Chairperson **Paul Tibbit** and representatives from the Railroad Retirement Board and C.A.R.E.



Participation from (left to right) Designated Legal Counsel Steve Young, LaShon Proctor, Paul Tibbit and Connie English made Local 1957's informational seminar a success.

Railroads' trash is UTU member's treasure

An old adage states, “Art begets art.” It inspires other artists to create.

In the case of UTU member **Lola “Michelle” Winder**, that old saying bears truth.

Winder, a yard foreman with the BNSF Railway and an amateur photographer since her youth, has for years been photographing graffiti painted on railroad boxcars.

Much of that graffiti is very elaborate and eye-catching and her photographs have earned her showings at two different art galleries and coverage in various Dallas/Fort Worth newspapers and magazines.

At about age 11, Winder expressed a desire to take up photography. Her father introduced her to family friend and gallery



BNSF Railway yard foreman and amateur photographer Lola “Michelle” Winder, with her pet moluccan cockatoo, Valentino.

owner Perry Caldwell and her amateur career has been on track since.

“I started photographing anything back then – family porch shots, buildings, my older brother in sports,” Winder said.

Soon, Caldwell had her photographing million-dollar works of art.

After graduating from Arlington Heights High School in Fort Worth, Winder attended East Texas State University in Commerce, Texas.

Eventually, she became employed at BNSF.

The boxcar images were captivating and soon Winder was snapping photos of the graffiti with her Nikon 885 digital camera. The images were edited on Winder’s computer to her liking.

The first boxcar graffiti Winder remembers photographing is “The Skull” pictured on this page. That was the photo that started it all.

She showed the images to her mentor, Caldwell, and he said “Man, this is great. I really think you’ve got something here.”

He had suggested a showing of her work and even mused about a book, Winder said. So she continued to photograph the rolling canvases.

Her fondness for photography soon led her to Colorado, where she assisted teaching forensic photography at the Beth-El School of Nursing at the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs.

In Colorado, Winder befriended Cherokees of Manitou Gallery owner Sharon Dahlen, who offered to show Winder’s work at the gallery. Winder landed a two-day showing at the gallery – a one-day showing of her photographs of exotic birds taken at the Gabriel Foundation (a bird sanctuary) – and a one-day display of her railroad art.

In the fall of 2007, Winder’s work was on display for just over a month at the Heliotrope Gallery in her hometown of Fort Worth. A special showing of her work entitled “Out on a Rail” was held during Fort Worth’s annual “Gallery Night,” the biggest night of the year for aspiring artists.

Heliotrope is owned by Debby Stein and Jan Edmonds. “The graffiti show was extremely popular, bringing to the Fort Worth community a new light to the artistic value of graffiti,” Edmonds said.

Winder said approximately 300 people saw her photos on Gallery Night and “everyone just loved it.” There was even some talk of a documentary on Winder’s work. She esti-

mates she sold about 20 photos. Her work is still on display at both galleries.

Winder recognizes that the graffiti is illegal. “In reality,” she said, “it is vandalism. But nobody really says anything to them (the artists).”

The UTU does not condone the destruction of railroad property either, but it does recognize that Winder’s work is appreciated by many and is acknowledging the coverage she has already received.

Winder expressed great appreciation to the galleries that have shown her art and she still hopes to have her work published as a coffee table book. “We now have a publisher,” she said.



The Skull



Mountain



The Robber



Deco



Space



L.A.



Underdog



Engine

Constitution, autonomy worth defending

Let me make clear my role with the UTU-member plaintiffs who gained a federal court restraining order halting implementation of the SMART merger.

My motivation is a solemn commitment to honor and defend the UTU constitution and this union's cherished craft autonomy and general committee autonomy.

My initial support for the merger was based on two representations made by Paul Thompson, whom I had no reason to doubt at the time.

One was that our union faced a financial crisis; that if we did not merge immediately, we faced financial ruin.

But I learned, after gaining access to our books, that UTU finances were far from dire.

We realized a \$1-million surplus after the convention, and our finances have been improving dramatically after wasteful spending was eliminated.

The second false representation



International President's Column

By Mike Futhey, International President

made by Paul Thompson was that the UTU constitution would be inserted intact into the SMWIA constitution, and our cherished

be eliminated, and the authority of general chairpersons to make agreements would be eliminated.

Last October, at a meeting of

My motivation is a solemn commitment to honor and defend the UTU constitution and this union's cherished craft autonomy.

craft autonomy, general committee autonomy and UTU autonomy would be preserved.

We later learned that, under the merger agreement, autonomy would

UTU Western general chairpersons, Paul Thompson said – and this was recorded – that “autonomy has served its purpose” and has become “antiquated” and the merger with

the SMWIA would make changes to the UTU constitution that “we know can't be accomplished at a convention” through a delegate vote.

Our UTU constitution guarantees that any constitutional changes will be made only by UTU delegates.

I took an oath of office to honor and defend the UTU constitution, and that is precisely what I am doing in support of the UTU-member plaintiffs who obtained the temporary restraining order.

To read my deposition in support of the UTU-member plaintiffs – and to stay up to date on the court decisions – go to www.utu.org, click on the “SMART merger temporarily halted” link, and then click on “President Futhey's deposition.”

I also urge you to sign up for UTU e-mail alerts by clicking on that option on the UTU home page at the Web site, www.utu.org.

Our use of “Afro-American”

A recent issue of *UTU News* used the term “Afro American” in a headline, upsetting some members. We regret that.

UTU's Human Rights Committee Director Ray Cunningham (Local 1933) finds nothing derogatory in the term. While “African American” is used in articles, space limitations sometimes make it necessary to abbreviate headlines.

Webster's *Third New International Unabridged Dictionary* and the Associated Press *Style Guide* consider the term acceptable.

UTU editors also note that *Black Enterprise* magazine supports an Afro-American History and Genealogical Society; a well-respected newspaper in the Baltimore/Washington area is *The Afro-American*, and the University of Virginia, the University of Wisconsin and Yale University have departments of Afro-American studies.

– UTU News editorial staff



utunews@utu.org

Mike Futhey, International President

president@utu.org

Arty Martin, Assistant President

asstpres@utu.org

Kim Thompson, General Secretary and Treasurer

gst@utu.org

James M. Brunkenhoefer, National Legislative Director

utunld@aol.com

Contact the UTU:

Phone (216) 228-9400; Fax (216) 228-5755

Tax and spend, or borrow and spend?

“Conservatives brag about their high ethics and family values, but they are hypocrites. Many who were pointing a finger and blaming were far from being ethical examples themselves.”

Eight years ago, the nation elected two conservatives who promised America could have it all and painlessly. They were going to run the government by conservative principles, and even promised a tax cut.

What happened? The very rich did get tax cuts, and now we have budget deficits larger than the entire budget of Jimmy Carter.

We have gone from few mortgage foreclosures to many, and the stock market and value of the U.S. dollar have tanked. The mortgage foreclosure situation is so bad that the Federal Reserve dug deep in its pockets to save the banks and the bankers, while doing very little for those who were being kicked out of their homes. Under the Bush administration, the unemployment lines are growing.



Brunkenhoefer

The two conservative oilmen, who were complaining about gasoline selling at \$1.50 per gallon, promised an energy policy that would solve our energy crisis. I just bought a tank full of \$4+ per gallon gasoline.

The energy policy has worked very well for some. Billions of dollars are being pumped into the coffers of countries that are not our friends and may never be our friends.

Some of the money is going from those governments into the pockets of terrorists who are being trained to kill our children.

Seven years ago, much was said about Bill Clinton being a draft dodger. Of course, our two conservative leaders couldn't quite find their way to Vietnam, either.

But they have led us into a war that soon will be

longer than the United States involvement in both World War I and World War II combined. Many of our children have not come back, more will not come back, and many of those who have come back have lost limbs or have head injuries that won't heal.

The conservatives brag about their high ethics and family values, but they are hypocrites. Many of those who were pointing a finger and blaming were far from being ethical examples themselves.

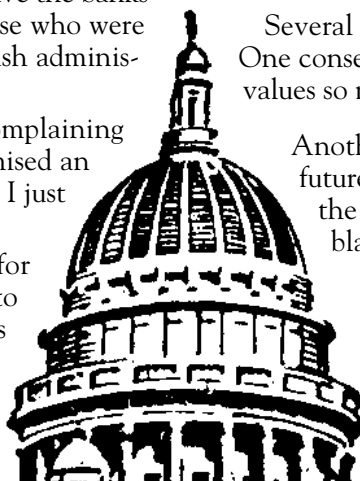
Several conservatives got caught taking cash from a lobbyist's black bag. One conservative congressman got into trouble because he respected family values so much he had two of them.

Another member with conservative values was overly interested in the future of young boys. One conservative was charged with seeking sex in the men's room. Another conservative's name was found in a madam's black book.

Yes, liberals have problems, also. They just don't play the role of hypocrites.

The conservatives, again this election year, will beat their chests about values. They will do all they can to spread fear. Even after destroying our nation's economy, they will point the finger at liberals and talk about tax and spend, while they borrow and spend us into a recession.

They want you to believe them and forget reality and history, and just vote with your emotion.



WASHINGTON WATCH

By James M. Brunkenhoefer

State Watch

News from UTU State Legislative Boards

Alabama



Members of the State Legislative Board recently attended the Alabama Senate Democratic Caucus Reception to speak one-on-one with lawmakers and regulators about issues of importance to UTU members and their families, State Legislative Director Ron Clements reports. Pictured above, left to right, are Clements; Neal Elders (president and legislative representative, Local 622, Birmingham); Sen. Quinton Ross, chairperson of the state's Commerce, Transportation & Utilities Committee; Danny Joe Massey (assistant state legislative director); Noah Flanagan (retired state legislative director) and Dale Barnett (president and legislative representative, Local 762, Montgomery.)

Minnesota

State Legislative Director **Phil Qualy** reports that H.F. 3800, the Transportation Policy Omnibus Bill, which includes the Railroad Walkway Safety Act and the creation of a state railroad safety inspector position for tracks and bridges, has been passed.



Qualy

"With this bill we have taken a significant step forward in protecting the safety of our members," Qualy said. "We have set in place strong standards for walkways in yards."

The state rail inspector will work with FRA representatives to enforce existing state and federal laws on rail right-of-ways, Qualy said. The cost of the inspector is assessed on the four Class I railroads operating in the state.

"Also, for the first time, the carrier's on-prop-

South Carolina



The South Carolina Legislative Board took time from its recent reorganization meeting in Washington, D.C., to meet with several members of the South Carolina delegation to discuss issues important to UTU members. Those lobbied included Sen. Lindsey Graham, Rep. James Clyburn (who serves as the majority whip); Rep. John Spratt (chairperson of the Budget Committee); Rep. Henry Brown and Rep. Joe Wilson, State Legislative Director Jack Ramsey reports.

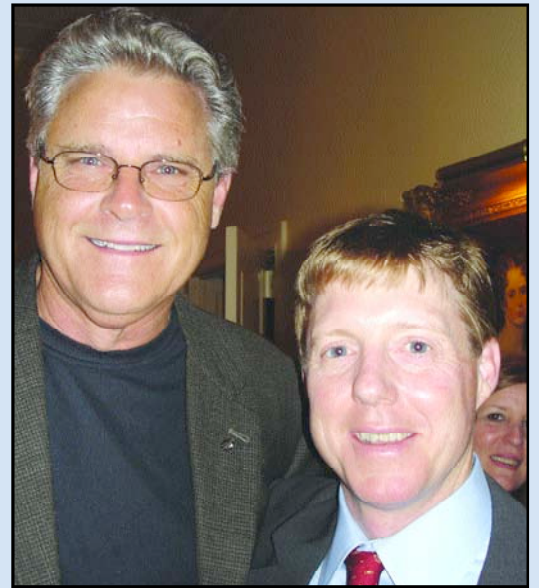
Shown outside the UTU national legislative office are, left to right, Steve Cox (legislative rep., vice local chairperson, Local 931, Greenville); Gary Walls (assistant state legislative director; legislative rep., delegate, S&T, Local 793, Columbia); Ramsey; Steve White (legislative rep., delegate, S&T, Local 1814, Spartanburg); Greg Shaw (alt. legislative rep., president, Local 942, Florence) and Matt Gambrell (Local 970, Abbeville).

erty safety committee process and working relationship with the safety representatives of organized labor will be held accountable for producing physical plant improvements," Qualy said.

Also contained within the legislation is the Statewide Freight and Passenger Rail Plan, Qualy said. "The UTU intends to focus on restoration of key line segments, interlocking, passenger and commuter service, St. Paul Union Depot and Roadrailer service," he said.

"Make no mistake: This is the power of your UTU PAC in action," Qualy said. "Thanks to all locals in the state for contributing to the passage of these important laws."

Louisiana



Don Cazayoux has been elected to Congress from Louisiana, and State Legislative Director Gary Devall (above, left) couldn't be happier.

"May 3 was a great day in Louisiana for the Democratic Party and all of labor," Devall said.

"Don Cazayoux was elected congressman in the 6th District, a seat the Republicans have held for 33 years. This is what UTU PAC money can do," Devall said.

"It was not only money, it was a lot of hard work put into this election. I would like to thank a group of retirees who have been continuously phone-banking for two months. They are former state director A. B. 'Sonny' Woodall (L-976, Shreveport), Fred Perault (L-1501, Baton Rouge), Sammy Hollis (L-1501), Bobby Byrd (L-1501), Kinzey Reeves (L-1501), J.P. Wood (L-1501) and A.K. Valentine. This group called thousands of union members during the last two months to get them out to vote.

"Thanks to their efforts and the work of all the other labor unions, we now have a friend in Washington from the 6th District," Devall said. "However, we will not be able rest very long because we have to do it all over again in November. My hope is that this group of volunteers has set an example for the rest of us in future elections."

Bus Department

By Vic Baffoni, vice president/director
v_baffoni@utu.org

UTU wins grievances, helps pass paid-leave law

Congratulations to Local 1900 Chairperson **Albert Colie** and President **Juan Ucanan** at Parsec in Florida on their success in winning four of five grievances.

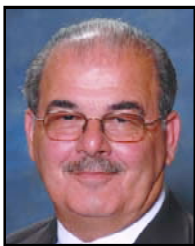
Kudos also go to Local 172 Chairperson **Theresa Costantini** and Trustee **Kathleen Sitongia** at Delco Transportation in Pennsylvania. They successfully resolved contract grievances resulting in reinstatement of a member and assurances for others of pay for lost work.

A special commendation goes to the New Jersey State Legislative Board and State Legislative Director **Dan O'Connell** for their efforts in helping to gain passage of legislation – signed by Gov. Jon Corzine – providing up to six weeks of paid family leave. They worked with the New Jersey State AFL-CIO and many community organizations to secure the legislation after 13 years of previously unsuccessful efforts.

Because of continued strong employer opposition, a compromise was required to gain legislative passage of the new law. Thus, the worker requesting family leave first must use two weeks of vacation or sick leave. This benefit will be paid out of New Jersey's Temporary Disability Income Fund, with employees paying \$33 annually to ensure the coverage.

The New Jersey Legislative Board unsuccessfully sought to gain coverage for rail workers in the state, but because they do not pay into the disability income fund, they were not included in coverage. The new benefit will commence July 1, 2009.

Our Organizing Department is in contact with bus operators and mechanics on numerous properties around the nation who have shown interest in representation by the UTU. If you know of unorganized workers seeking representation, please let me know, or call our Organizing Department at (216) 228-9400.



Yardmasters, stewards ratify new contracts

Yardmasters employed on the Union Pacific and Amtrak, as well as dining-car stewards employed on Amtrak, have recently ratified contracts with their employers.

On the Union Pacific, yardmasters are jointly represented by the United Supervisors Council of American (USCA), which is made up of representatives from the UTU and the Transportation Communications Union (TCU), a division of the International Association of Machinists.

Almost 500 yardmasters are represented by the USCA. Of that, about 260 yardmasters are represented on the UP by the Western Railroad Supervisors Association, a division of TCU.

The vote for the new contract was overwhelmingly in favor of ratification, said Vice President J.R. "Jim" Cumby, who assisted in the negotiations.



Cumby said he appreciated all the hard work of UTU General Chairpersons **Dave Just** and **Mike Thompson** during the negotiations. Cumby also praised the efforts of TCU Vice President John Lydon and General Chairperson Brian O'Reilly.

On Amtrak, the yardmasters ratified an agreement that is in line with the deal recently ratified by other Amtrak employees.

Cumby thanked Amtrak General Chairperson **Bob Keeley** "for all his efforts and hard work in securing a good contract for his membership."

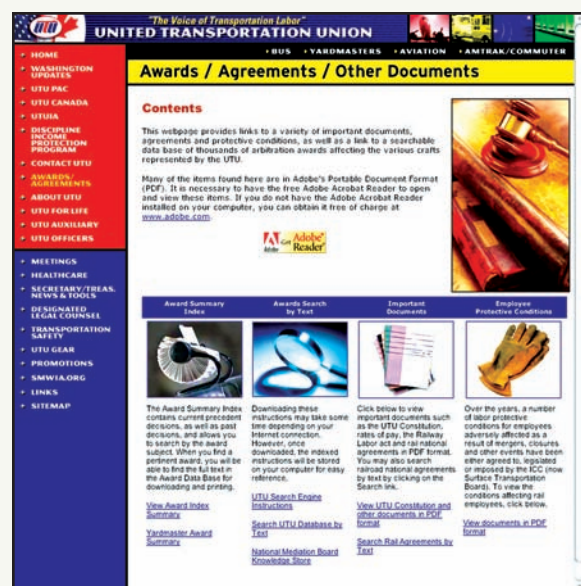
UTU members employed by Amtrak as dining car stewards have ratified a new agreement with the carrier, said Acting General Chairperson **Bill Weber** (GO 743).

The agreement mirrors recent presidential emergency board recommendations that formed the basis of a ratified agreement of UTU-represented Amtrak conductors and assistant conductors in March.

The dining car stewards' agreement on wages, rules and working conditions guarantees retroactive pay, provides additional general wage increases and avoids any work-rules givebacks. It is retroactive to Jan. 1, 2000, and extends through Dec. 31, 2009.



Visitor's guide to the United Transportation Union Web site



Awards/Agreements

Clicking on "Awards/Agreements" takes you to a page providing a variety of important documents, agreements and protective conditions, as well as linking you to a searchable database of thousands of arbitration awards affecting the various crafts represented by the UTU. It's almost like having a law library at your fingertips. And there's more – because if it's not in the UTU database, we provide a link from here to the National Mediation Board's Knowledge Store.

Want to read the UTU Constitution? This is the place. You can also find the Railway Labor Act, forms listing the fringe benefits provided under the national railroad agreement, railroad rates of pay, and railroad craft agreements dating back to 1921.

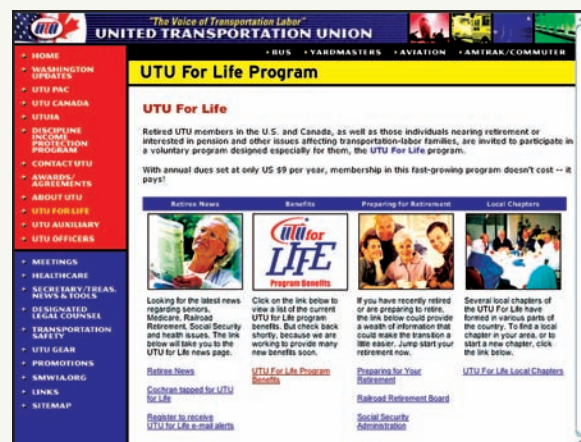


About UTU

Most of your questions about the UTU can be answered here. There is a link to a complete history of the UTU and its predecessor organizations and a link to UTU-produced videos and publications. Nine publications and four videos are currently online. There are links to UTU applications for membership and a link explaining the various credit cards offered by your union. The cards offer great rates and the money generated through this program is applied to membership education and training at regional meetings.

You can also view a document explaining just how your UTU dues money is spent.

Want to know about any job openings in the railroad industry? One click of the mouse will take you to the Railroad Retirement Board's job bank.



UTU For Life

The UTU was built by previous generations, and further progress will be secured by future generations. Retired UTU members remain part of the family, and they can make the most of that relationship through the UTU for Life program.

Formerly known as the UTU Retiree Program, UTU for Life is a voluntary program for retirees that offers additional benefits for a nominal, annual fee.

For information about program benefits, a membership application, UTU for Life local chapters, retiree news and more, visit the UTU for Life page and start making the most of your retirement. At just \$9 per year, membership in the program doesn't cost – it pays!



The Auxiliary of the UTU

The Auxiliary of the UTU is an organization of persons of all ages (16 years and over) who are related to members of the UTU or UTU Auxiliary. Membership in the Auxiliary brings an association with people of similar interests. It will help you to better understand the work of the UTU and the importance of the union to your spouse or relative's job.

The Auxiliary of the UTU is nonsectarian and nonpartisan and provides an opportunity to participate in community affairs and become informed on important legislation affecting railroad and bus families.

The Auxiliary page on the Web site has links to the organizations bi-monthly newsletters, as well as to its history, its officers and its scholarship program.

The UTU Web site is the International's most important communication tool for getting news and information to the UTU membership. The UTU's homepage is updated by 10 a.m., Monday through Friday, and is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



Bus

A link to the Bus page on the Web site can be found at the top of the homepage and near the top of each page on www.utu.org. The Bus page offers the latest news from the bus industry, columns by Bus Vice President Vic Baffoni and links to bus company Web sites and important government Web sites.

Yardmasters

The Yardmaster page features yardmaster news, disability claim forms, supplemental sickness benefit information and yardmaster awards, agreements and protective conditions.

Amtrak/Commuter

A links to the Amtrak/Commuter page on the Web site can be found at the top of the homepage and near the top of each page on www.utu.org. The latest news articles from around the country regarding Amtrak and the commuter rail industry are just a click away.

Headlines

The homepage of the UTU Web site almost always features our two top stories, front and center. But, there is much more news than that. In the gray-colored box labeled Headlines, readers will find more stories of importance to our union and our members. And that's just the tip of the iceberg. Click on More Headlines and find the latest 175 news article added to the UTU site.

Leadership Messages

This link offers the latest communications from International President Mike Futhey, Assistant President Arty Martin and General Secretary & Treasurer Kim Thompson.

Meetings

The Meetings link on the UTU Web site offers one-stop shopping for anyone planning on attending a UTU regional meeting. Here, members or guests can register to attend a regional meeting, get important information about the host hotel and the regional meeting city, and, in most instances, make their hotel reservations online with a click of the mouse.

There are also links to airline and car-rental discount offers, the regional meeting agenda, the UTU's regional meeting golf tournament and any additional activities or family tours that the union has planned.

If you haven't made plans to attend the Nashville regional meeting at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel, visit the Meeting page today. You may still have time to make a reservation.

Healthcare

This page provides links to health and welfare companies that administer medical, dental, vision, prescription drug, mental health/substance abuse and life insurance benefits under the nationally negotiated benefit plans. It also includes toll-free telephone numbers and claim mailing addresses for each of these providers.

In addition, you will find information about features offered on the providers' web sites to assist you in obtaining "on-line" eligibility, claim and benefit status, as well as general health and wellness information. Other documents featured here include "Important Information When Considering Retirement," "Important Information for Retired Employees and Dependents Becoming Eligible for Medicare" and "Questions and Answers on the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage." A link to articles written by Norman K. Brown, the UTU's medical consultant, can also be found here.

Promotions

There are a variety of offers available to UTU members on the Web site's Promotions page, the most valuable of which is probably the Union Plus program. **Union Plus** is brought to you by Union Privilege, established by the AFL-CIO, to provide consumer benefits to members and retirees of participating labor unions.

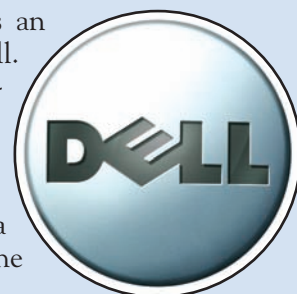
As a result of UTU's membership in the AFL-CIO, UTU members are eligible for a variety of benefits provided by the Union Plus program. Union Plus benefits stand for quality and service – with prices working families can live with.

Benefits include discounted tickets to popular theme parks, discounts on air fares, cruises, hotels, credit counseling, online tax services, Goodyear tires and service, flowers and much more.

The **Dell Employee and Affiliate Purchase Program** is an exclusive discount program brought to you by UTU and Dell. This program, available to UTU members and UTU employees, enables you to realize significant savings on Dell computers and related equipment.

To participate in this program, UTU members and employees must validate their affiliation with the UTU through a secure link on the UTU's server. They can then proceed to the Dell Web site.

The UTU has arranged with the **Avis** rental car company a discount rental program that provides exclusive benefits for UTU members and officers renting vehicles for personal or business travel. On top of reduced rates, the program allows UTU members to participate in the company's Preferred Service program. Once you enroll, you will receive an Avis Wizard Number that lets us quickly access your rental preferences. As a Preferred member, your car and paperwork will be waiting for you when you arrive because Avis takes care of everything in advance.



UTU for Life

News, information for members of the UTU for Life program

Reply to keep getting UTU News

To counter spiraling printing and postage costs and to increase the value of *UTU for Life* membership (the money-saving program offered UTU retirees that is different from lifetime UTU membership), the UTU International has sent letters to all retirees who do not belong to the *UTU for Life* program or who do not contribute to UTU PAC, asking if they wish to continue receiving the *UTU News*. If yes, they must detach and return the bottom portion of the letter by June 30, 2008.

MEDCO offers auto-debit plan

MEDCO has announced that those Medicare-eligible retirees who participate in MEDCO's Medicare Part D prescription drug offerings now have the option of authorizing direct payment from their checking accounts for the monthly premium payment.



UTU retirees who prefer this method of payment can call MEDCO's Medicare Part D Auto Debit department toll-free at (800) 455-7542 and begin the automatic monthly debit from their checking accounts over the phone.

Also, there is a section on the MEDCO remittance form where participants can write the required information and submit it with their payment to establish this automatic payment process.

It should be noted that the UTU neither sponsors nor endorses the MEDCO Part D auto debit program and any questions or concerns regarding the program should be directed to MEDCO by calling (800) 455-7542.

UTU retirees keep history alive by starting railroad museum



Seated, left to right, are Jones Gamblin, John Hancock, Alvin Wheeler, James Cruce, and Tommy Allen (L-339, Jackson, Tenn.). Standing, left to right, are Kenneth Mulcahy (L-339, Memphis, Tenn.); Jack Haddad (L-1557, Memphis, Tenn.); Wilburn Allen (L-1557, Memphis, Tenn.), Terry Beadles, and Pete Algee. All are retired from the Illinois Central Railroad.

Three retired railroaders, all UTU and UTU for Life members, are working to keep the glory days of railroading alive.

James Cruce, who retired in 1991 after 47 years as a brakeman and conductor with the Illinois Central (now CN Rail); **Jones Gamblin**, a retired IC engineer with 45 years of rail experience, and **Charles Thompson**, who worked out of Memphis for the IC, have fired up the Twin Cities Railroad Museum in Fulton, Tenn.

Cruce (nicknamed "Railroad Rabbit" for his quick switching abilities) and Gamblin are members of Local 339, Jackson, Tenn.; Thompson (nicknamed "Short" because he's tall) is a member of Local 1557 at Memphis. All are members of the UTU for Life program.

"Fulton is a railroad town," Cruce said. "The big rail yard is just across the state border in Fulton, Ky. There were 500 people employed by the railroad here in 1911. Now there are about 15 working the first shift. We once had 32 passenger trains a day through here. Today we have two. It's a shame they let that die."

What will not die is the desire by these three to keep rail history alive.

"I was in a little rail museum in Oklahoma and they had it full of stuff, including one room full of dining car silverware and china. I decided to try the same thing," Cruce said. "I just picked up a few thing here and there over the years, and my collection is the basis for this museum."

The museum will feature "anything that has to do with railroad history," Cruce said, "including timetables, books, maps, history books, photos, railroad lanterns, switch keys, switch locks, uniforms, maybe a hand car, all kinds of history. I even have a big mural painted on the wall of the old depot that they tore down in 1979."

The Twin Cities Railroad Museum, at 700 Milton Counce Dr. in South Fulton, Tenn., is open two or three days a week, staffed by volunteers like himself, Gamblin and Thompson, Cruce said.

"We are just a couple of railroaders who want to keep railroad history alive," Cruce said.

THE FINAL CALL

Following are the names of recently deceased retirees who maintained annual membership in the *UTU For Life* program (formerly known as the *UTU Retiree Program*), according to reports received at UTU International Headquarters. These brothers and sisters will be missed by their many friends and by fellow *UTU for Life* members.

Local	Name	City/State	Local	Name	City/State	Local	Name	City/State
1	McCarthy, Daniel J.	Derby, N.Y.	507	Dunbar Jr., Robert C.	Oklahoma City, Okla.	1081	Bragg, Ingram R.	Phoenix, Ariz.
5	Graham, W.O.	Mound City, Kan.	525	Opacich, Steve	Grand Forks, N.D.	1137	Meyer, Kenneth E.	Mesa, Ariz.
28	Fleenor, Charles	Delta, Col.	528	Prybil, Donald	Crystal Lake, Ill.	1138	Eidenire, Vernon R.	Black Mountain, N.C.
48	Graeff, Robert C.	Virginia Beach, Va.	535	Brown, George W.	Brunswick, Ga.	1221	Keen, Leon F.	Lakeland, Fla.
202	Robinson, S.H.	Lakewood, Col.	535	Evans, Wyatt C.	Waynesville, Ga.	1245	Andrews, Murray E.	Talking Rock, Ga.
254	Shaw, William E.	Medford, Mass.	569	Mitchell, Walter B.	Murchison, Texas	1370	Maroon, Joseph F.	Somerset, N.J.
259	Duke, Milton A.	St. Joseph, Mo.	587	Bylow, Oland V.	N. Haverhill, N.H.	1393	Alvord, Ronald G.	East Buffalo, N.Y.
265	Farris, Walter R.	Blackfoot, Idaho	605	Bailey, Maynard B.	Craigsville, W. Va.	1433	Gordon, Arthur L.	Sun City, Ariz.
298	Moody, Robert L.	Naperville, Ill.	610	McDonough, John K.	Bel Air, Md.	1470	Hollifield, Joseph R.	Little River, S.C.
300	Lang, William T.	Gulfport, Fla.	706	Maloney, John R.	Roanoke, Va.	1518	Allen, Max W.	Plainfield, Ind.
367	Nielsen, James C.	Bella Vista, Ark.	811	Hafley, Raymond L.	Helendale, Calif.	1544	Allen, Joseph J.	Pasadena, Calif.
377	Tersine, George J.	Indiana, Pa.	818	Anderson, Shirley J.	Fort Worth, Texas	1628	Day, Robert A.	Elizabeth, Pa.
445	Callahan, James H.	Montrose, Iowa	835	Carr, Warren E.	Fresno, Calif.	1672	Tregoning, Robert H.	East Haven, Conn.
469	Leigh, Robert D.	Jefferson City, Mo.	847	Sharit, Grady	Birmingham, Ala.	1813	Drexel, William R.	Grand Terrace, Calif.
495	Smith, R.R.	Great Bend, Kan.	891	Schendel, A.W.	Bozeman, Mont.	1929	Moulton, James E.	Wood River, Ill.
498	Kincaid Sr., John A.	Bethlehem, Pa.	997	Andreoli, Antonio	Mechanicsburg, Pa.	1962	Schmidt, Carl E.	Sandusky, Ohio
506	Taylor, Edward E.	Wichita, Kan.	1000	Yilek, Leo J.	St. Paul, Minn.			
506	Timm, Paul B.	Woodbine, Kan.	1003	Yagow, Erhard G.	Albuquerque, N.M.			

UNITED TRANSPORTATION UNION INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

NOTICE OF PRIVACY POLICY

At the United Transportation Union Insurance Association, protecting your privacy is very important to us. The reason we collect information is to better serve your needs. Having accurate information about you permits us to provide you with an appropriate range of insurance products.

The non-public personal information that we collect about you varies according to the products, services or benefits you request, and may include:

- Information we receive from you on applications or other forms, such as name, address, Social Security number, assets and income;
- Information about your transactions with us, our affiliates or others, such as name, address, Social Security number, policy coverage, premiums and payment history;
- Information we receive from consumer reporting agencies, such as a credit history.

We may share the above non-public personal information we have about you with the United Transportation Union. Sharing this information assists us in:

- Processing the payment of your insurance premiums;
- Maintaining your insurance policies in force;

- Providing you with better customer service.

We may share the above non-public personal information we have about you with persons or companies that perform services on our behalf and to other financial institutions with which we may have joint marketing agreements.

We may share this non-public personal information with affiliated or non-affiliated third parties as permitted by law. We do not disclose personal medical information about you except as permitted by law or as you may authorize.

We restrict access to non-public personal information about you to those employees who need to know that information in order to provide products or services to you.

We are, and will continue to be, vigilant in safeguarding your personal and medical information.

We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards that comply with federal regulations to guard your non-public personal information.

This privacy policy applies even if you no longer have any policies or a relationship with us.

6/2008

UTUIA announces scholarship winners

District 1: *Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont*

Jacob M. Kennedy, son of James E. Kennedy of Local 394, Albany, N.Y.; **Michael J. Abbaticchio**, son of Diana M. Abbaticchio of Local 645, Babylon, N.Y.; **Patrick D. Hare**, stepson of Richard A. Chartrand of Local 254, Fitchburg, Mass.; **Elizabeth A. McGrath**, daughter of James T. McGrath of Local 1978, New York, N.Y.; **Daniel J. Cantone**, son of Peter N. Cantone of Local 254, Fitchburg, Mass.

District 2: *Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania*

Eric L. Sheldrake, grandson of Howard W. Sheldrake of Local 172, Darby, Pa.; **Tanya E. Teijaro**, granddaughter of John J. Teijaro of Local 386, Reading, Pa.; **Eric R. Duncan**, grandson of Earl M. Duncan of Local 1373, Philadelphia, Pa.; **Jacqueline A. Maldonado**, daughter of Linda A. Maldonado of Local 60, Newark, N.J.; **Lisa M. Tomasiak**, daughter of Matthew R. Tomasiak of Local 1006, Brownsville, Pa.

District 3: *Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia*

Maryanne M. Hancock, granddaughter of M.D. Peevy of Local 762, Montgomery, Ala.; **Kerry R. Corp**, daughter of Patrick A. Corp of Local 706, Roanoke, Va.; **Ebony A. David-Sims**, granddaughter of James C. David of Local 1011, Hamlet, N.C.; **Elizabeth A. McLeod**, granddaughter of Jasper N. McLeod of Local 1031, Savannah, Ga.; **Andrew S. Marion**, grandson of Norman L. Proffitt Jr. of Local 363, Roanoke, Va.; **Brad E. Partain**, son of Max E. Partain of Local 1261, Atlanta, Ga.; **Jennifer A. Stroud**, daughter of Carlton A. Stroud of Local 674, Augusta, Ga.; **Kirstan V. Gillespie**, granddaughter of Joe N. Ryan of Local 847, Birmingham, Ala.; **Johnathan L. Jones**, grandson of Edgar A. Nolen of Local 706, Roanoke, Va.

District 4: *Indiana, Michigan, Ohio*

Adriana C. Lekan, granddaughter of Daniel L. Marker of Local 145, Columbus, Ohio; **Katie L. Johnson**, granddaughter of Roger G. Kuzak of Local 886, Marquette, Mich.; **Kayla L. Nowak**, granddaughter of Richard A. Nowak of Local 320, Saginaw, Mich.; **Kyle J. McElvany**, grandson of John W. Chadwell of Local 1529, Walbridge, Ohio; **Cayla M. Kaiser**, granddaughter of John D. Shilling of Local 194, Elkhart, Ind.

District 5: *Illinois, Wisconsin*

Krista T. Kneip, daughter of Michael J. Kneip of Local 1433, Elmwood Park, Ill.; **Ashley L. Stabenow**, granddaughter of Melvin G. Weltzin of Local 1433, Elmwood Park, Ill.; **Matt M. Burica**, son of Michael M. Burica of Local 1973, Chicago, Ill.; **Ryan G. Hale**, grandson of Samuel C. Hale of Local 1290, Chicago, Ill.

District 6: *Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas*

Tyler D. Franklin, son of Randy G. Franklin of Local 656, North Little Rock, Ark.; **Shavonne R. Jessup**, granddaughter of Marvin R. Koehler of Local 857, San Antonio, Texas; **James A. Snider**, son of John A. Snider of Local 965, Dallas, Texas; **Christopher R. Pharis**, stepson of Charles M. Johnson of Local 1458, DeQuincy, La.; **Chelsea M. Peek**, daughter of William S. Peek of Local 781, Shreveport, La.

District 7: *Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota*

Rachel L. Mattison, daughter of Bradley G. Mattison of Local 650, Minneapolis, Minn.; **Ashley E. Pruett**, daughter of Donald E. Pruett of Local 1216, Kansas City, Mo.; **Laura L. Tack**, granddaughter of Walter G. Wockovich of Local 525, Grand Forks, N.D.; **Aaron M. Esterling**, son of Bruce M. Esterling of Local 1000, Minneapolis, Minn.; **Joshua B. Cleveland**, son of Blaine E. Cleveland of Local 495, Salina, Kan.; **Ashley A. Terwilliger**, daughter of Randy L. Terwilliger of Local 306, Eagle Grove, Iowa.

District 8: *Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah*

Tonnisha L. Hawes, daughter of Shelia A. Houston of Local 1564, Los Angeles, Calif.; **Nicole M. Haugh**, daughter of Patrick S. Haugh of Local 1422, Los Angeles, Calif.; **Nicholas J. Schieving**, son of Mark E. Schieving of Local 1366, Salt Lake City, Utah; **Breana V. Phillips**, daughter of Ramona P. Phillips of Local 811, San Bernardino, Calif.; **Allison A. Langdon**, stepdaughter of Robert H. Bond of Local 239, Oakland, Calif.; **Elizabeth R. Dunning**, daughter of David W. Bates of Local 202, Denver, Col.; **Cionne K. Soester**, daughter of Larry L. Soester of Local 771, Needles, Calif.; **Elena Bertolucci**, granddaughter of Terry A. Bertolucci of Local 694, Dunsuir, Calif.

District 9: *Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming*

Kathrynn J. Nichols, granddaughter of Martin J. Shallow Jr. of Local 324, Seattle, Wash.; **Tracie Powell**, granddaughter of Hyrum S. Powell of Local 1058, Nampa, Idaho; **Andrew D. Sheridan**, son of John J. Sheridan of Local 471, Eugene, Ore.



UTU BUS LINES

News items culled from the UTU's Daily News Digest, posted every weekday morning on the UTU Web site, www.utu.org.

High gas prices lead to surge in bus transit

The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) reported last month that Americans took 2.6 billion trips on public transportation in the first three months of 2008, almost 85 million more trips than the same period last year.

Last year 10.3 billion trips were taken on U.S. public transportation – the highest number of trips taken in 50 years. In the first quarter of 2008, public transportation continued to climb and rose by 3.3 percent.

Light rail had the highest percentage of ridership increase among all modes, with a double digit 10.3 percent increase for the first quarter. Commuter rail posted the second largest ridership increase at 5.7 percent. Heavy rail (subways and elevated trains) ridership increased by 4.4 percent. Bus ridership saw an increase of 2 percent nationwide, with the highest increases in San Antonio, Denver and Minneapolis.

Group calls for school bus safety improvements

A transportation group is accusing the N.Y. Education Department of not keeping its training programs for school-bus drivers up to date.

Members of the New York Association for Pupil Transportation said that the state's 50,000 school-bus drivers need training that reflects current public-safety needs, such as how to handle bullying and how to detect terrorist threats.

Without that, the more than 2.3 million children who ride the 54,000-plus yellow school buses each weekday in New York are potentially at risk, they said.

The state annually sets aside \$400,000 for school-bus-driver safety training through the Education Department and a database of accidents. In 2007-08, more than \$159,000 of the total was not spent, said Peter Mannella, executive director of the Association for Pupil Transportation.

SEPTA quietly okays budget with no fare hikes

With none of the fireworks that often accompany SEPTA's financial dealings, the transit agency's board last month approved a \$1.095-billion operating budget for the year that begins July 1.

No fare increases are needed to fund the budget, which is \$73 million, or about seven percent, above the current one. Much of the increase is due to higher fuel costs; SEPTA budgeted \$21 million more for diesel for its buses, a 56-percent rise.

With ridership up, a new general manager, and a new predictable stream of state subsidies, SEPTA breezed through its budget season with unfamiliar calm.

The biggest cost, \$754 million, covers salary and fringe benefits for SEPTA's 9,358 employees. Other budgeted expenses are \$196 million for materials and services, \$35 million for injuries and damage, and \$32 million for electric propulsion power.

Contract

Continued from page 1

smaller carriers party to the agreement. UTU District 1 general chairpersons voted unanimously in February to recommend a “yes” vote.

Futhey credited the negotiating committee with pursuing a positive and cooperative interest-based bargaining approach with the carriers when stalled negotiations were resumed in January – “and the carriers responded with a positive and cooperative attitude, leading to the tentative agreement,” Futhey said.

A reconstituted negotiating committee, which sat down again with the carriers in January, included Futhey, Assistant President Arty Martin, International Vice Presidents John Babler, J.R. “Jim” Cumby and Robert Kerley, National Legislative Director James Brunkenhoefer, and General Chairpersons John Lesniewski and Delbert Strunk.

Prior to voting, the UTU International officers conducted dozens of meetings nationwide to explain the agreement and provide members opportunity to ask questions “to ensure members were fully informed as to all provisions of the contract prior to their casting a ballot,” Futhey said.

The tentative agreement also was posted in its entirety on the UTU Web site prior to its being mailed, along with agreed-upon questions and answers jointly written by UTU negotiators and the carriers.

The ratified agreement covers conductors, brakemen, engineers, firemen, hostlers, switch-

MetLife adds accelerated benefit option; United HealthCare conducts eligibilty audit

Life insurance provider MetLife has recently implemented an “accelerated benefit option” (ABO) for all active employees eligible for life insurance under the Railroad Employees’ National Health and Welfare Plan and the NRC/UTU Health and Welfare Plan. This benefit does not apply to retirees.

Under the ABO provision, an employee who is diagnosed as terminally ill as a result of an injury or sickness, with a medical prognosis of life expectancy not to exceed 12 months, will be able to immediately receive a payment of up to 50 percent of his or her life insurance benefit.

This money may be used for any purpose. Any request for ABO consideration is subject to medical review and approval by MetLife. The remainder of the life insurance benefit will be payable to the listed beneficiary(s) upon employee death.

Please note that this benefit is automatically available to all members covered by the plan;



Ratification vote by craft

Following is how each UTU craft voted in ratifying the national agreement with most major railroads. The votes were certified by the American Arbitration Association:

Craft	Total	For	Against
Conductors	10,151	8,704 (86%)	1,447 (14%)
Yardmen	4,086	3,402 (83%)	684 (17%)
Brakemen	1,394	1,211 (87%)	183 (13%)
Engineers	1,269	1,041 (82%)	228 (18%)
Firemen/Hostlers	403	326 (81%)	77 (19%)
Yardmasters	774	630 (81%)	144 (19%)
Total	18,077	15,314 (85%)	2,763 (15%)

men and yardmen. Yardmasters voted separately on an agreement similar in most respects to the national agreement covering all other crafts represented by the UTU.

Members will receive retroactive pay from the carriers within 60 days.

This was only the second national rail agreement ratified by members in the 39-year history of the UTU. The 2002 national rail agreement was ratified by all crafts, with 76 percent of those voting in 2002 favoring the agreement.

The table above shows the results of voting by craft, as reported by the American Arbitration Association after voting closed at midnight, June 9.

therefore, there is no need to take any action to elect it.

If you wish to submit a claim for consideration of this benefit, please contact MetLife at (800) 310-7770, and choose prompt #1.

In other news, **United HealthCare has taken over the eligibility audit of dependents.**

Over the past several months, Aetna has been conducting an audit of eligible dependents and requiring employees to submit proof for their eligible dependents to continue uninterrupted health-care benefits.

Those employees who failed to provide the required proof had their dependents’ coverage terminated, effective April 15, 2008.

United HealthCare has now taken over the eligibility audit process and if you receive notification that dependent coverage has been terminated, immediately call United HealthCare at (800) 753-2692 in order to obtain information about reinstating those eligible dependents.

The UTU International Staff is here to serve you

Barbara Bankston-Gavin

Barbara Bankston-Gavin has worked for the UTU since 1981. She is currently co-director of the union’s Updating and Auditing Department. She started in the Data Entry Department then moved to the switchboard for about 12 years. She was promoted to her latest position about five years ago. “I serve the members by answering their questions about dues,” she said. “I also assist local treasurers, do audits of locals, and if an auditor needs a hand, I am ready. I also serve as secretary of the UTU’s Human Rights Committee.” In her spare time, Barbara enjoys taking care of her grandchildren.



Mike Vajentic

Mike Vajentic serves both the UTU and UTUIA as a new-systems architect in the Information Services Department. Say what? In other words, he creates custom-designed software used throughout both organizations. “We look at the business processes for all UTU and UTUIA departments, then design and build software to try to improve them,” Vajentic said. Most of his work is on the new iLink Web-based applications, used both internally and by local and general committee officers.



Kathleen Spellacy

Kathleen Spellacy is the assistant director of the UTU’s Updating and Auditing Department. She started with the union in 1975 as an insurance processor in the Updating Department, but has held numerous jobs throughout the union. She settled in the Updating and Auditing Department in 1995. “I make sure the dues deductions are correct; that insurance premiums are correctly deducted, and that Disability Income Protection Program payments are accurately collected. I also train auditors, and answer written and telephoned questions members may have about their dues and premiums. I get calls for a wide variety of reasons, and try to answer them all.”

(This preceding feature will appear monthly in the UTU News.)



Meet your UTU Designated Legal Counsel

There is no more dangerous work environment than on the railroads, where injuries too often are severe. The Federal Employers’ Liability Act (FELA) makes railroads accountable for unsafe working conditions. Railroads retain skilled attorneys to protect their interests. You also have access to skilled and experienced attorneys who understand the railroad industry, its

safety hazards, and every aspect of the FELA. They are the UTU Designated Legal Counsel, chosen for their special knowledge and experience. Their job is to represent you. This continuing column introduces you to all of the UTU Designated Legal Counsel. For a complete listing, go to the UTU home page at www.utu.org and click on the blue tile, “Designated Legal Counsel.”



DANIEL J. DOWNES
Daniel J. Downes, P.C.
111 W. Washington St., Ste. 1100
Chicago, IL 60602-2705
(312) 781-1852
(800) 624-2121 toll free
dan@dandownes.com

“UTU members injured on the job are protected by the Federal Employers’ Liability Act. The employee, or his/her attorney, must prove the railroad was at fault before damages can be awarded. That is why injured members should seek the advice of UTU Designated Legal Counsel, who have proven experience in dealing with the FELA and railroads.”



JAMES L. FARINA
Hoey & Farina
542 S. Dearborn, Ste. 200
Chicago, IL 60605
(312) 939-1212
(888) 425-1212 toll free
info@hoeyfarina.com

“If you needed a tumor removed from your brain, you would not hire a podiatrist. With so much at stake, you would seek the professional with the most specialized knowledge and experience. That is what UTU Designated Legal Counsel offer you. We are simply the best people for the job.”

Regional meetings offer information, fraternity

The 2008 UTU/UTUIA regional meetings have been designed to provide a grand sense of fraternalism, lots of worthwhile education and tons of fun for the whole family.

As before, each regional meeting will run for 2 1/2 days, ending early on the afternoon of the third day. The evening of the first day has been left unscheduled so you, your family and friends will be free to explore and enjoy the many offerings of the regional meeting cities.

Neither Denver nor Nashville has been designated the joint U.S./Canadian regional meeting; Canadian members are free to attend the meeting that interests them.

All those attending the regional meetings must be registered in order to attend any planned social function. Children ages 11 and under who are pre-registered are complimentary. The registration form is printed on the right.

A completed registration form listing each attendee, regardless of age, and complete payment in U.S. funds must be received at the UTU International Headquarters, 14600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44107, 30 days prior to the scheduled start of the meetings or the registrant will be charged an on-site registration fee of \$200.

The pre-registration fee for the 2008 regional meetings is \$150 per member, spouse or child over age 11. Additional fees apply for the golf outings. You must make your own room reservations, and certain deadlines apply.

The \$150 registration fee covers all workshop materials; a welcoming reception the night before the meeting; two lunches; one evening meal, and a breakfast buffet. Those wishing to attend only the workshops do not need to pay the registration fee. No one-day registrations will be offered.

You may cancel your regional meeting registration 10 days prior to the first day of the meeting or the golf outing without penalty. Please fax any changes or cancellations immediately to the UTU International at (216) 228-5755.

NASHVILLE, TENN.
AUG. 18-20, 2008
GAYLORD OPRYLAND RESORT
2800 OPRYLAND DR.,
NASHVILLE, TN 37214
www.oprylandhotels.com

Hotel reservations: (866) 972-6779 toll free; (615) 889-1000 direct; (615) 871-7741 fax
Reservation code: "N-UTU8"
Daily room rate: \$125 single/double, \$20 each additional person. Room rates are good three days before and after the meeting, based upon availability.
Reservation deadline: July 15, 2008, or until all rooms held for UTU are reserved.
Parking: \$12.00 per day; \$20 valet.
Golf outing: The regional meeting golf outing will be held Sunday, Aug. 17, at the Gaylord Springs Golf Links in Nashville. The cost is \$80 per golfer, which includes transportation, golf, lunch and much more.

UTU spouses, guests to tour Grand Ole Opry, Hermitage

Spouses and guests attending the Nashville regional meeting will get a rare opportunity: A behind-the-scenes tour of the famous **Grand Old Opry**, followed by lunch at **Ellendale's**, then a tour of the mansion, grounds, garden, church and museum that make up **The Hermitage**, the plantation home of President Andrew Jackson which is situated on 650 acres of rolling meadows. The cost is \$25 for registered spouses and guests, \$50 for non-registered spouses and guests. Register on the form at right or online at www.utu.org/meetings.

Belden memorial ride

The Third Annual Scott Belden Memorial Motorcycle Ride will be held Aug. 17 in Nashville. Contact Tennessee State Director Jerry Anderton at (615) 264-1117 or ututslb@bellsouth.net.

UTU REGIONAL MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

Registering before the regional meetings speeds sign-in procedures at the meeting site, helps organizers plan more accurately, and saves on meeting costs. These savings will be passed on to each pre-registered attendee. **Each person attending the regional meeting, including family members and guests, MUST be registered in order to attend any planned event. Please note that these meetings last 2 1/2 days and conclude on the afternoon of the third day.** Registration fees are \$150 per person; children 11 years of age and under are complimentary. On-site registration will be \$200 per person. All fees must be paid in U.S. funds. Canadian funds will be returned, possibly delaying your registration. If you have questions, consult your bank. Registration forms with payment must be received 30 days prior to the start of the meeting.

Which regional meeting will you be attending? ☐ Denver ☐ Nashville

Arrival date: _____ Departure date: _____
Transportation type: ☐ Automobile ☐ Air ☐ Other

Member registration

Name _____ Local _____ Title (if any) _____

Home address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Phone number () _____ Email _____

Will you attend the welcoming reception? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Meals: Day 1 ☐ Lunch Any dietary restrictions? _____
Day 2 ☐ Lunch ☐ Dinner
Day 3 ☐ Buffet breakfast

Spouse registration ☐ Denver ☐ Nashville

Spouse name _____ Title (if any) _____

Will spouse attend the welcoming reception? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Meals: Day 1 ☐ Lunch Any dietary restrictions? _____
Day 2 ☐ Lunch ☐ Dinner
Day 3 ☐ Buffet breakfast

Tour: ☐ Spouse / guest tour? (\$25 per registered spouse; \$50 per unregistered spouse)

Child registration ☐ Denver ☐ Nashville

Child name _____ Age _____

Will child attend the welcoming reception? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Meals: Day 1 ☐ Lunch or ☐ Child's meal Any dietary restrictions? _____
Day 2 ☐ Lunch or ☐ Child's meal ☐ Dinner or ☐ Child's meal
Day 3 ☐ Buffet breakfast

Child name _____ Age _____

Will child attend the welcoming reception? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Meals: Day 1 ☐ Lunch or ☐ Child's meal Any dietary restrictions? _____
Day 2 ☐ Lunch or ☐ Child's meal ☐ Dinner or ☐ Child's meal
Day 3 ☐ Buffet breakfast

Child name _____ Age _____

Will child attend the welcoming reception? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Meals: Day 1 ☐ Lunch or ☐ Child's meal Any dietary restrictions? _____
Day 2 ☐ Lunch or ☐ Child's meal ☐ Dinner or ☐ Child's meal
Day 3 ☐ Buffet breakfast

Child name _____ Age _____

Will child attend the welcoming reception? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Meals: Day 1 ☐ Lunch or ☐ Child's meal Any dietary restrictions? _____
Day 2 ☐ Lunch or ☐ Child's meal ☐ Dinner or ☐ Child's meal
Day 3 ☐ Buffet breakfast

Tour: ☐ Spouse / guest tour (\$25 per registered child; \$50 per unregistered child) No. attending _____

Guest registration ☐ Denver ☐ Nashville

Guest name _____ Relationship to member _____

Home address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Will guest attend the welcoming reception? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Meals: Day 1 ☐ Lunch Any dietary restrictions? _____
Day 2 ☐ Lunch ☐ Dinner
Day 3 ☐ Buffet breakfast

Tour: ☐ Spouse / guest tour (\$25 per registered guest; \$50 per unregistered guest)

Golf registration ☐ Denver ☐ Nashville

Name _____ Handicap _____ Name _____ Handicap _____

Name _____ Handicap _____ Name _____ Handicap _____

(Golf fees are \$80 per golfer; include in total payment.)

Payment options

Check/money order enclosed (U.S. funds only) \$ _____

Credit card ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Card number _____ Exp. date _____ Total charged \$ _____

Signature _____

Should additional space be needed, make copies of this form and attach to the original. This form and payment of \$150 per person over the age of 11, plus golf registration fees of \$80 per golfer (if applicable) and spouse/guest tour fees (if applicable), must be received at the UTU International Headquarters, 14600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44107-4250, 30 days prior to the regional meeting. Make checks or money orders payable in U.S. funds to "UTU Regional Meeting." Those who do not pre-register for the regional meeting but instead choose to register at the meeting site will be charged a \$50 penalty fee.

This month's winning photo:

The UTU Public Relations Department awards UTU gear to the union member who submits the best photograph during the previous months.

The winning photo will be published in the *UTU News*. Exceptional photographs will be included on the UTU Web site.

The UTU would like to see photographs or digital photographs of work-related scenes, such as railroad, bus or mass transit operations, new equipment photos, scenic shots, activities of your local, or photos of your brothers and sisters keeping America rolling.

Printed photographs should be mailed to *UTU News*, 14600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44107.

High-resolution digital photographs should be in the JPEG format and e-mailed to "utunews@utu.org".

With each photograph, please include your name and UTU local number, the names of the persons in the photo (left to right), where the photo was taken, and all other pertinent information.

All photographs submitted become property of the UTU.

Remember to review your employer's policies regarding use of cameras on the property or during work hours.



This month's winning photograph was taken by **Charles Browne**, a retired member of Local 845 in Seattle, Wash. The top photo of a seldom-seen pickle car was taken years ago at BNSF's Balmer Yard in Seattle. Browne took numerous measurements of the car and constructed, from scratch, an HO-scale version of the car, seen above.



JUNE 2008

ISSN 0098-5937

Published monthly (except for combined months of December/January and July/August) by the UNITED TRANSPORTATION UNION, 14600 DETROIT AVE., CLEVELAND, OH 44107-4250 • Periodicals postage paid at Cleveland, Ohio, and additional mailing offices • Mike Futhey, International President; Kim Thompson, General Secretary & Treasurer • This publication available on microfilm from National Archive Publishing, P.O. Box 998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to UTU News, 14600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44107-4250.



**Periodicals Postage
PAID at Cleveland, Ohio,
and Additional
Mailing Offices**

Volume 40
Number 6

June 2008



The Official Publication of the United Transportation Union

Obama promised UTU's full support

When John McCain seeks advice on transportation issues, he consults with railroad management.

When Barack Obama seeks advice on transportation issues, he consults with the United Transportation Union.

Now that Sen. Clinton has exited the race, Sen. Obama – also a long-time UTU friend – has been assured he can depend on the extensive resources of the UTU in his fight to claim the White House.

"Sen. Obama can count on our using every resource at our disposal to elect a labor-friendly administration this Election Day," said UTU International President Mike Futhey. "We will work with Sen. Obama at every opportunity to get out the vote in support of his campaign to bring the change we all can believe in."

Obama indicated he understood the reasons for the UTU's previous support for Clinton, who had worked with the UTU on Capitol Hill in support of Railroad Retirement, the Federal Employers' Liability Act (FELA), Amtrak and a revision in commercial driver-license standards that threaten the livelihood of bus operators.

"Sen. Obama similarly and fully understands these issues from the perspective of working families and UTU mem-

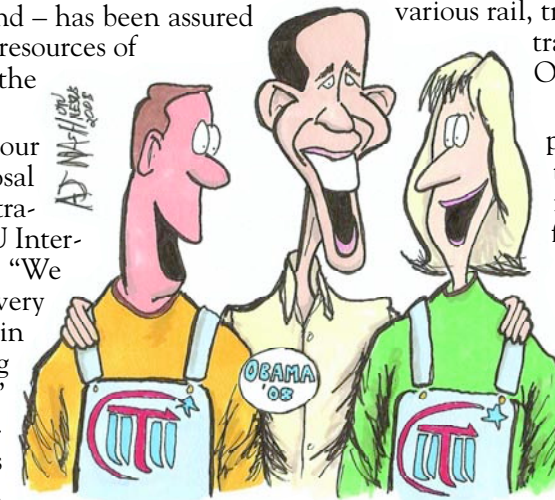
bers, and has been, and will continue to be, in our corner," said Illinois State Legislative Director Joe Szabo, who serves on the Obama campaign's Transportation Policy Committee, with approval of President Futhey.

In his advisory role, Szabo helps to define for Obama various rail, transit and bus public-policy issues and the transportation public-policy approaches an Obama administration might pursue.

Obama recently was quoted as supporting a policy favoring "significant investment" in the nation's transportation infrastructure, including connecting the Midwest with a fuel-efficient high-speed rail-passenger system that would provide immediate jobs.

Szabo's close professional relationship with Obama extends back more than a decade to Obama's first run for public office in Illinois, where Obama served in the state senate. "There is a strong history of Sen. Obama never failing to support UTU's legislative agenda in the Illinois State Senate," Szabo said. "That track record has continued in the U.S. Senate."

National Legislative Director James Brunkenhoefer said, "The UTU is looking forward to working with the Obama administration and I am certain his policies will improve the lives of all UTU members and their families."



Inside this issue of the UTU News:



Avert death, disaster and get a UTU jacket. See page 2.



That ain't vandalism, that there is art. See page 3.



Oh, how the mighty have fallen. For evidence, see page 5.



If you want a rail museum, you've got to do it yourself. See page 8.