

SMART[®]

Transportation Division News

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SMART TD names new DLC coordinator, Young retires



Petru

Designated Legal Counsel (DLC) Anthony Petru has been chosen as coordinator of the DLC Program. Petru replaces long-time DLC member and Coordinator Steve Young, who retired earlier this autumn.

Petru is a long-time DLC with years of experience in the rail industry. He graduated from University of California, Berkeley, and attended law school at the University of San Francisco. He joined the law firm of Hildebrand, McLeod & Nelson in 1980.

Petru is a member of the American Trial Lawyers Association and the Academy of Rail Labor Attorneys.

"We appreciate Anthony's willingness to serve as coordinator and look forward to working with him in his new position," said Transportation Division President John Previsich.



Young

Meanwhile, Previsich lauded Young's service to our membership. "Steve's contribution to the DLC program while serving as coordinator cannot be overstated, nor can his many other contributions to the union overall.

"Steve has been of great service to this union for over 40 years, beginning with holding office at the local and general committee level through his continued affiliation during his professional career. His contribution to the education and training of our members through his presentations at our regional meetings is legendary. Steve's presence and leadership will be missed."

Members can reach Petru by calling (800) 447-7500, visiting his website www.hmn-law.com or by visiting our Designated Legal Counsel pages at utu.org.

Members compete in race



See full story on page 2

New incentive program for Great Lakes Airline pilots



Following discussions with Transportation Division representatives of the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers Union (SMART TD), Great Lakes Airlines has agreed to implement a

Captain Incentive Plan (CIP) - an annual calendar year program that pays a cash incentive to eligible pilots each calendar quarter.

Intended to retain existing captain qualified pilots and provide an incentive for first officers (FO) to upgrade to the position of captain, the CIP proposal was codified as a letter of agreement under the Railway Labor Act to be effective Nov. 4, 2015.

With the assistance of SMART TD Vice President Jeremy Ferguson, Senior Pilot **John Nolan** and Local 40 President **Dave McLaughry** were instrumental in ensuring

the CIP agreement would meet the approval of the pilot group.

"This is a win-win situation for both the airline and the pilots, as it will surely help keep qualified pilots at a time when the airline needs them most. It will be another nice wage increase following the contract ratification last year that resulted in significant pay raises," said Ferguson. "The agreement also ensured pilots who meet the criteria are eligible to receive a bonus this quarter ending Dec. 31, 2015, so our captains should see the results of our negotiations in the very near future."

The following pilots are eligible to participate in the plan and are termed "CIP Eligible":

Currently qualified BE-19000 and EMB-120 captains. Pilots who successfully pass the BE-19000 or EMB-120 captain check ride.

EMB-120 FO's who have passed a captain's pre-test, but who have not upgraded to

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FMCSA rule to decrease fatigue, increase roadway safety

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) announced the adoption of a Final Rule that will improve roadway safety by employing technology to strengthen commercial truck and bus drivers' compliance with hours-of-service regulations that prevent fatigue.

"Since 1938, complex, on-duty/off-duty logs for truck and bus drivers were made with pencil and paper, virtually impossible to verify," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx.

"This automated technology not only brings logging records into the modern age, it also allows roadside safety inspectors to unmask violations of federal law that put lives at risk."

The Final Rule requiring the use of electronic logging devices (ELD) will result in an



annual net benefit of more than \$1 billion – largely by reducing the amount of required industry paperwork.

It will also increase the efficiency of roadside law enforcement personnel in reviewing driver records.

Strict protections are included that will protect commercial drivers from harassment.

It has been estimated that the ELD Final Rule could save 26 lives and prevent 562 injuries resulting from crashes involving large commercial motor vehicles—per year.

Four main elements of ELD Final Rule

- Requiring commercial truck and bus drivers who currently use paper log books to maintain hours-of-service records to adopt ELDs within two years. It is anticipated that approximately three million drivers will be impacted.

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Changes made to SMART Discipline Income Plan

As a result of the continued increase in claims volume and associated costs, the Discipline Income Protection Program is increasing its monthly assessments from 71 cents to 81 cents per \$1 of daily benefits effective January 1, 2016.

You may elect to reduce your benefit level or cancel your coverage at any time by submitting the appropriate form to SMART Transportation Division. If you opt not to change your current benefit level, your current benefit level will remain in place, and, if you pay monthly assessments by payroll deduction, the higher monthly assessments will automatically be deducted from your paycheck.

Visit utu.org/dipp to view the updated schedule of maximum benefits.

UTUIA announces new trade school scholarship!



It's no secret that America needs more skilled workers.

Studies show an increase in current and future demand for skilled trades and as a result, UTUIA is answering the call with 50 new trade school scholarships for 2016.

Read more about this exciting news on page 11.

2016 Regional Meeting dates

San Francisco - July 4-6, 2016

Chicago - July 25-27, 2016

Stay tuned at www.utu.org for details.

Submit your local or legislative stories to SMART Transportation Division by email to: news_td@smart-union.org.

Around the SMART TD Local

Local 23, Santa Cruz, Calif.



Pictured here are members with their decorated Santa Cruz Metro Transit bus, about to march in Santa Cruz's 30th annual holiday parade. From left are Lizette Garcia, Alex Clifford, Manny Martinez, Maggie Martinez, General Chairperson Eduardo Montesino, Uriel Uribe, Melissa Martinez and Brenda Malphrus. Not pictured is SMART TD Organizer Bonnie Morr who took the picture and helped decorate the bus. Garcia sang, "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" during the parade.

Local 199, Creston, Iowa

This local recently had three retirements with a combined seniority of 126 years, reports Local Chairperson **Billi Vavra**. **Rick Hurlbert** hired out in 1968 as a switchman and worked on the 2300 switch engine on the old CB&Q railway before its first merger. Hurlbert served his local as vice local chairperson at different times throughout his career. **Randy Vicker** hired out on the former Burlington Northern in May of 1974 as a brakeman/switchman. He later received his conductors' certification in January 1978. **Dave Stonehocker** hired out in May 1977 in the track department. He later entered train service in August 1978 and received his certification as conductor in February 1981. "They will be missed by all," Vavra said.

Local 240, Los Angeles, Calif.



Thompson

Local Chairperson **Harry Garvin** reports that retired Conductor **Al Thompson**, 70, died Nov. 22. Thompson died from complications from liver cancer at Kaiser Hospital. He was a member of locals 240 and 1846 (West Colton, Calif.). He had been a railroader for 36 years upon his retirement 10 years ago. Garvin also reports retired Switchman **Delbert C. Griffin** died Nov. 29 at the age of 87. Griffin was a veteran of the Army and the Marine Corps. He worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad for 35 years until his retirement in 1988. Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Disease Association of Kern County Inc. (ADAKC), 5500 Olive Drive, Building One, Bakersfield, CA 93308.

Local 898, Boston, Mass.



Chery

Local Treasurer **Frank Teague** reports that Conductor **Jephthe Chery** was killed after being caught in the crossfire of a shooting outside a Fenway Park bar, early Thanksgiving morning. His MBTA co-workers knew Chery as a tireless worker who was always willing to pick up extra shifts. "Jephthe was a great man, dedicated son, phenomenal big brother, hardworking conductor and an amazing godfather," said Chery's long-time friend, Charldyn Valcin.

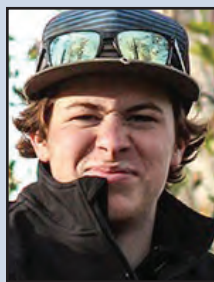
Members from Alaska Local 1626 to compete in Iron Dog Race



Keim (left) and Bogert (right) gear up for the Iron Dog race.



Keim



Bogert

Along with an iron will, "iron dogs" are essential for the world's toughest snowmobile race that starts in Big Lake and finishes in Fairbanks, Alaska—in the dead of winter.

On February 20, Alaskan members of SMART Transportation Division Local 1626 in Anchorage, will be cheering on two of their own as members **Daniel Keim** and **Tyler Bogert** team up on separate snowmobiles to compete in Alaska's Iron Dog race – a 2,031-mile snowmobile competition that winds through one of the most rugged, wild and visually stunning terrains in the world.

Both Keim and Bogert are lifelong Alaskans and both work for the Alaska Railroad: Keim, 37, as an engineer and conductor, and Bogert, 23, as a conductor.

An entire community has rallied around Team #25 (Keim and Bogert's team), including family, friends, corporate sponsors and their biggest cheering section, their Brothers and Sisters of Local 1626.

According to the local's President, **Vern Gillis**, Keim and Bogert have dedicated a lot of time and effort into training and they're both focused on the win.

"It's a long, physical race that requires strength and endurance. It's a mental game as well, and these two have put their hearts and bodies to the test. All of us at Local 1626 are excited to support Daniel and Tyler in their quest to compete in Iron Dog 2016, and we're looking forward to the race," said Gillis.

UTU member won first Iron Dog race

Gillis noted that the event has a long history with the now-former United Transportation Union, as member **Rod Frank**, and his teammate Jon Fao, won the very first Iron Dog race in 1984.

The next year, Frank crossed the finish line first again, but Fao finished fourth, and their combined time landed them in second place. Gillis remembers that year as the closest race in Iron Dog history.

"They (front runners) were neck-and-neck the last 20 miles into Nome (Alaska). When they hit Front Street, sparks were flying," recalled Gillis.

Race dedicated to memory of friend

On Team #25's GoFundMe web page, they note that this year's race will be in honor and memory of their friend, **Shane Felegy**.

"We will be racing in honor of a dear friend of ours, Shane Felegy, who died in March 2014; he wanted to race the world's longest and toughest snowmobile race."

For more information on the Iron Dog race, visit www.irondog.org.

You can follow Team #25's progress on Bogert and Keim's Facebook page by searching: Iron Dog Team 25 Bogert/Keim; Members can support the team at <https://www.gofundme.com/team25IronDog>.

Local 1445, Elizabeth, N.J.

Local Chairperson **John Loricchio** reports that Local Trustee **Victor Kowsaluk** recently retired with 44 years of service. **Steven Farley** also retired with 42 years of service.



Local 1445 President Edward Risher (middle) presents Kowsaluk (left) and Farley (right) with a commemorative lantern for their years of service.

Local 1582, Albany, N.Y.



Gaillard (left) works the relief portion on one of Pona's (right) final runs.

General Chairperson (GCA - Adirondack Transit Lines) **Russell Gaillard** reports that Local 1582 charter bus driver **Chuck Pona**, 77, recently retired with over 51 years of service and an estimated 3.1 million safe miles traveled. Pona reported to the *Times Union* that on his first run upon hiring out in 1964, his No. 306 GMC model 4101 coach bus broke down on its way from Kingston, N.Y. to the New York Port Authority and he had to finish the trip in another bus. The rest of his career was mostly smooth sailing with a few bumps in the road. "I'm a lucky guy. I've had a job that I loved for more than 51 years, and I was married to a woman that I loved for 47 years. Working for a family-owned company has been great. You get to know people," Pona said.



Retirees of Local 1582 meet up with Pona upon his retirement. Pictured from left: recent retiree and Local Legislative Representative Edward Rosa, Local President Wes Wohl, retiree Ed Nagay, Pona, Adirondack Trailways President Eugene Berardi Jr., retirees Tom Sarro and Mike Cummings. All retirees pictured had an average of 35 plus years of service.

Submit your local or legislative stories to SMART Transportation Division by email to: news_td@smart-union.org.

NMB certifies SMART to represent CMQR

In a letter dated Dec. 5, 2015, the National Mediation Board (NMB) certified the SMART Transportation Division as the official union of the train and engine service employees of the Central Maine & Quebec Railway (CMQR).



SMART TD invoked the services of the NMB Aug. 12, 2015, to investigate and determine who may represent the train and engine service employees of CMQR. These employees were previously unrepresented by a union.

NMB Investigator Cristina Bonaca held an election. Out of the total 11 eligible employees, 10 voted for SMART TD representation, while one employee opted not to vote. Due to these results, Bonaca certified that SMART is the designated labor union and is authorized to represent CMQR train and engine

service employees.

“Every department on this railroad that voted for representation: the carmen, maintenance of way, machinists, conductors and engineers, bravely stood together and have chosen SMART TD as their representative. They believe that there is strength in numbers,” said SMART TD Organizer **Larry Grutzius**. “I was glad to be a part of their effort and to see how strongly these new members feel about taking the steps to gain fair compensation for their labor.”

“I’d like to thank Larry Grutzius for all the time and effort he put into winning this campaign,” Director of Organizing Rich Ross said. “We are looking forward to working with our brothers and sisters on CMQR to help improve working conditions and their quality of life on the railroad.”

RRB releases 2016 tax rates

The Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) has released the 2016 railroad retirement tax rates.

Tier 1 Medicare and Tier 1 Railroad Retirement tax rates are equivalent to Social Security tax rates set for 2016. Tier 2 Railroad Retirement tax rates do not apply to members subject to Social Security.

2016 Tax Rates for Employees			2016 Tax Rates for Employers		
Tax Type	Employee Rate	Annual Taxable Maximum	Tax Type	Employer Rate	Annual Taxable Maximum
Tier 1 Medicare*	1.45%	No Maximum	Tier 1 Medicare*	1.45%	No Maximum
Tier 1 Railroad Retirement	6.20%	\$118,500.00	Tier 1 Railroad Retirement	6.20%	\$118,500.00
Tier 2 Railroad Retirement	4.90%	\$88,200.00	Tier 2 Railroad Retirement	13.10%	\$88,200.00

***Additional Medicare Tax:** Employees will pay an additional 0.9 percent Medicare Tax on earnings above \$200,000 for those who file an individual tax return, or \$250,000 for those who file a joint return. This additional Medicare tax rate is not reflected in the tax rates shown above.

FTA launches transit-oriented initiative

The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has launched a nationwide transit-oriented development (TOD) initiative to encourage development near transit systems that boosts the local economy; provides easy access to jobs and services; and creates compact, mixed-use, walkable communities.

The initiative supports the Ladders of Opportunity Initiative of President Obama and the Secretary of Transportation.

“Our TOD initiative will help community leaders think about how investment in transit can bring prosperity into low- and moderate-income communities,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx.

“We’ve seen how investment in transit can lead to new housing stock, new jobs and new economic opportunities in areas that badly need them.

“To achieve results, we are offering to help local leaders create sound, equitable community-sensitive development plans.”

The National Public Transportation Transit-Oriented Development Technical Assistance Initiative focuses on supporting communities across the country. FTA has engaged Smart Growth America (SGA) to run the technical assistance and provide a variety of planning and analysis tools.

Along with developing best practices and profiles of communities that have successfully implemented TOD, SGA will work on site with leaders in several communities to offer in-depth technical assistance tailored to local needs.

The free technical assistance, which will be offered through a competitive process, will

include planning for and managing economic development near transit through effective zoning and land use as well as expert advice on preserving affordable housing and securing advantageous commercial development, among other challenges.



“Transit-oriented development is critical to both the success of new transit projects and to the economy of the local communities they serve,” said FTA Acting Administrator Therese McMillan.

“What’s particularly great about TOD is that it encourages people to use transit to reach jobs, education, medical care, housing and the other vital services they need.

“Our TOD initiative will help communities that are less experienced in the latest development tools and real estate market strategies to create stronger neighborhoods.”

The City of Richmond, one of seven cities chosen last spring to be part of DOT’s LadderSTEP initiative that focuses on revitalization as part of future transportation projects, will be among the first communities to receive TOD technical assistance along its planned 7.6-mile bus rapid transit line.

Richmond’s Pulse BRT project received a \$24.9 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant in 2014.

Community leaders can apply for technical assistance at the project’s website.

The site also will assemble the best information and tools to support TOD planning and deployment as well as create a network that will provide information on funding and training opportunities, on-demand research and analysis, and peer-to-peer meetings and mentoring on topics of shared concern.

Former N.D. State Director Alton Schuette dies

Former N.D. State Director **Alton Schuette**, 93, of Bismarck, N.D. died Dec. 10, 2015, at a Bismarck care center.

Schuette enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1943 and was deployed during World War II at the battle of Iwo Jima. After Iwo Jima was secured, Schuette was sent to China. After receiving his discharge in August 1946, he hired out with Soo Line Railroad.

For 26 years of his 40-year tenure on the Soo Line, Schuette served his union as North Dakota state legislative director. As state director, Schuette was passionate about improving working conditions for all workers.

National Legislative Director John Risch knew Schuette well. “Al was my predecessor and mentor. He was well-respected at the North Dakota legislature and our respective government agencies,” Risch said.

“He led our legislative board in North Dakota for 26 years, in some very tough times for our membership. Those years were filled with abandonments, railroad mergers and the virtual elimination of rail passenger service. He was the right guy for tough times and we need all to be grateful for the work that he did in moderating the effects in what was a big contraction in our industry. Our members are still benefiting from the work that he did.”

Schuette is survived by his wife Celia, two sons Robert (Rosanna) and Donald (Linda), grandson Jesse (Terri), granddaughter-in-law Elizabeth, six great-grandchildren, two brothers Robert (Shirley) and Richard (Deanna); three sisters Lorraine Wolf, Eileen (Norbert) Wilson and Audrey Van Dyke; and many other members of family and friends.

Memorial contributions may be made in lieu of flowers to the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery, 1825 46th St., Mandan, ND 58554, or to your favorite veterans’ organization.

SMART TD members ratify agreement with N.Y. MTA

On December 16, 2015, members of SMART Transportation Division’s Local 1440 (Staten Island, N.Y.) ratified a tentative agreement with the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority (N.Y. MTA).



The ratified agreement includes a 15.88 percent pay increase with retroactive pay; improved sick leave; personal leave and holiday pay; and improved medical, dental and vision coverage.

“We thank the International for their continued support as we protect our members’ rights day in and day out for the best collective bargaining agreement possible,” said General Chairperson (GCA-Staten Island Railroad) **Thomas Wilson**.

Wilson led negotiations with the assistance of Legal Counsel David Davis; General Committee Secretary **Carlos Sanchez**; Vice Local Chairpersons **Mike Hayes**, **Joel Rivera** and **Richard Moore**; Local 1440 Secretary and Treasurer **Vincent LaBella** and former General Committee Secretary **Joseph Palmieri**.

“We express our gratitude to the members of Local 1440 and the negotiating team for their collaborative work and support on behalf of our N.Y. brothers and sisters to secure the best collective bargaining agreement possible,” SMART Transportation Division President John Previsich said.

As we look ahead to a new year, we remember our history

As we reflect on 2015 and the year ahead, let us remember our Brothers and Sisters who came before us: all of those who stood united in the face of danger and against all odds—all of those who stood unified for the greater good.

It was their sacrifice, solidarity and resolve that brought justice to the workplace and security for working families—it was their struggles and victories that continue to be the foundation and hope of our country.

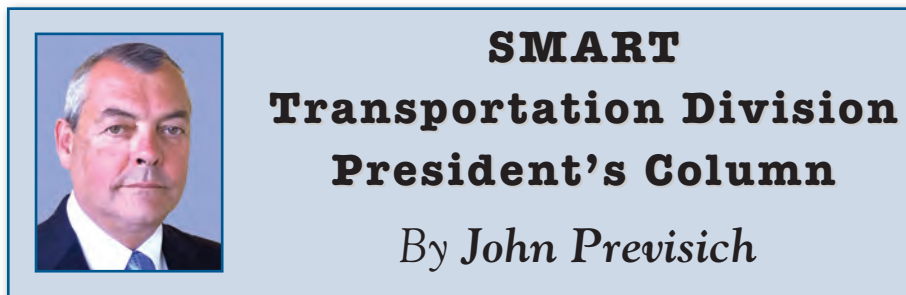
“It was working men and women who made the 20th century the American century. It was the labor movement that helped secure so much of what we take for granted today. The 40-hour work week, the minimum wage, family leave, health insurance, Social Security, Medicare, retirement plans. The cornerstones of middle-class security all bear the union label.” —President Barack Obama

“Let us remember our Brothers and Sisters who came before us: it was their sacrifice, solidarity and resolve that brought justice to the workplace and security for working families.”

President Obama’s words remind us of the battles hard fought and sacrifices long endured by those who struggled in the early days of the labor movement.

Prior to their efforts there were no such things as “benefits,” restrictions on child labor, paid time off, vacations, holiday pay, guaranteed income, overtime and the list goes on and on.

The unions fought hard to obtain for their members the pay, working conditions and



SMART Transportation Division President's Column

By John Previsich

respect that the working class deserved. By working hard and sacrificing much, including the lives of some who paid the ultimate price, our forebears in the union movement helped to create a standard of living and a middle class unlike any that the world had ever seen.

Their success led to decades of prosperity for not only union members but also for workers in every environment. Non-union employers were forced to raise wages and adopt improved benefits in order to compete for workers.

Laws and regulations were established at both the state and federal level to extend improved conditions to all workers, not just those with a union contract. Safety rules were enacted where none had been before.

That prosperity stayed with America for decades. A good union job often meant that a member could buy a home, raise a family and send the kids to college.

They could take a vacation and pay for a new car every now and again, all while setting money aside for a secure retirement. Manufacturers made products that people wanted and paid their employees enough to purchase the goods that they made.

Regrettably, it often appears that today’s society is moving in a different direction. As industry after industry moves manufacturing offshore, as more and more companies learn how to manipulate the system to deny their employees the right to join a union, fewer and fewer workers share in the pride and security

that comes from being part of a professional unionized workforce.

Members of SMART know better – they know that they belong to a union that has a successful history with roots reaching back over 150 years, and they know that their union’s ongoing efforts have made today’s SMART members some of the most highly skilled and best-paid workers

in America.

“As industry after industry moves manufacturing offshore, as more and more companies learn to manipulate the system to deny their employees the right to join a union, fewer and fewer workers share in the pride and security that comes from being part of a professional unionized workforce.”

In 2016, let’s stand united, and let’s stand with the spirit of those who walked the path before us. Let’s vow to spread the union word, telling our friends, our families and our neighbors how proud we are to be members of a great union. Let’s continue the resolve to fight the good fight, and let’s continue to unite in moments of struggle and victory.

Let us welcome the brand new year with a sense of renewed hope, strength, solidarity and gratitude. Be union – be proud!

I wish all members and their families a happy and healthy new year.

Use your power, register to vote

Dear Members,

How often have you heard the phrase, “this is the most important election in our lifetime”? Plenty, I’m sure. The truth is, every election is important, with the stakes being higher in a presidential election year -- especially for rail, transit and airline workers and retirees who are directly impacted by administration regulations and Congressional votes.

There is still plenty of time to scrutinize the candidates and determine who will best represent our members, retirees and their families on our issues of concern. But now is the right time to ensure you and your family are registered to vote at your current address, especially if you moved recently.

One of the simplest ways to verify your **voter registration**, or register to vote, is to **visit the SMART TD Legislative Action Center** at the bottom left of utu.org.

I am proud to say that SMART TD members are more likely to be registered to vote, and more likely to vote, than the general public. Research shows that members consistently have a turnout rate of 10 to 20 percentage points higher than the average American worker or retiree. That is real clout at the ballot box. Although we are doing better than most, we still have room for improvement.

That is where you come in. If you are registered to vote, make a commitment to get your entire family registered; and if you’re not currently registered to vote, **make the commitment to register to vote today.**

Fraternally,

John Risch
National Legislative Director
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Risch

Bus Department News

A message from your bus department leadership

Progress in 2015 and hope for the New Year

Dear Members,

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and I wish you all a happy and healthy new year.

As the new year begins, I want to thank each and every member of the SMART family.

I extend my gratitude to our union officers and civilian staff as well, whose support served to strengthen our base—and our platform, throughout 2015.

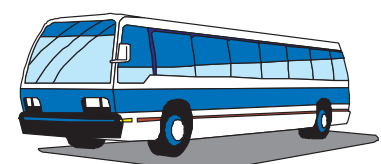
We are grateful for the support we’ve received from SMART TD President Previsich, whose outreach, leadership and advocacy enabled the Bus Department to strengthen and grow with the addition of two full-time organizers, and an increase in membership.

2015 saw an addition of newly formed bus locals, bringing our total number to 47 and growing. This is also a result of the hard work of our organizers, whose commitment to education has grown our membership.

At the District 3 Meeting, President Previsich led the swearing-in ceremony of our newly elected officers: District 3 General Chairperson **Waverly W. Harris** (Local 1594 at Upper Darby, Pa.), Vice President **Javier Sanchez** (Local 1785 at Santa Monica, Calif.), Secretary **Tom Pate** (Local 1081 at Glendale, Ariz.) and Treasurer **Hasson Trent** (Local 1715 at Charlotte, N.C.). Congratulations to everyone.

Once again, I express my gratitude to all of our members, leaders, officers and staff, for your commitment, support and solidarity – and I look forward to forging even greater progress in the new year.

Fraternally,
Adhi Reddy
Vice President - Bus
areddy@smart-union.org
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Reddy

Moving forward in 2016



SMART General President's Column

By Joseph Sellers Jr.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank every SMART member for your hard work in 2015, work that strengthens this union. It may not always be apparent, but along with union involvement, the day-to-day work you perform also reflects on our organization and on every member.

I want to begin 2016 by recognizing the achievements and changes over this past year. The value of our combined strength is clear when we see local unions and members standing united, whether it be during election season, or while sharing resources to ensure that local union organizers and staff receive the proper education that helps them better represent you at the workplace.

With 2016 upon us, our legislative staff will work to ensure that your interests are served by getting a fair hearing on Capitol Hill and in the state capitols across the nation.

We reached legislative milestones set through the passage of the recent FAST Act to improve America's public transit and rail transportation systems. Thanks to the efforts of our legislative department, the FAST Act passed with sweeping bipartisan support and created provisions that include: protecting transportation members from assault; new tank car provisions protecting members and the general public; and, increased funding for

transit and Amtrak operations.

This year promises to be an eventful year with the upcoming 2016 election. I thank those of you who provided input in response to the membership survey on the candidate that best represents our interests.

Your voice matters, and if you haven't done so already, I strongly urge you to make sure you and your family are registered to vote. There is nothing we can't accomplish when our collective voices and action come together for a united purpose. Every single ballot makes a powerful impact and brings strength to our mission.

Two years ago, **Dan O'Connell**, SMART TD's State Legislative Director in New Jersey, ran for office in his hometown of Delran, N.J. and went to sleep on election night thinking he had lost by two votes. The next morning he woke to a flurry of messages congratulating him on his victory. During the night, absentee ballots brought him to a 15 vote lead. That's the kind of impact your vote can make.

Brothers and sisters, we made a great deal of progress in the last year. I look forward to reporting back on the continued progress we will make in the coming year. Until then, I would like to wish each of you a safe, happy and prosperous New Year.



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State Watch

News from SMART TD State Legislative Boards

Arizona



Jones (right) is pictured here during his meeting with U.S. Representative Trent Franks (R - Ariz.). Jones was able to gain Franks as a co-sponsor for H.R. 1763.

During a recent trip to Washington, Arizona State Legislative Director **Scott Jones** reports he had one goal: meet with all nine Arizona U.S. Representatives and both Senators to educate them on H.R. 1763 – The Safe Freight Act. Jones was successful in meeting with seven out of the nine representatives and was able to meet with the Legislative Directors of the remaining two. While both Arizona Senators were unavailable, Jones did meet with their staff and said, "All of the meetings went very well with everyone agreeing to co-sponsor the bill or support it."

In other news, Jones reports that the legislative board held a mini regional meeting Dec. 5, 2015, for Locals 807 and 1800 both of Tucson, Ariz. Designated Legal Counsel Chip Rabb sponsored the meeting. Members in attendance learned about their agreements, government regulations, what to do when a member has been in an accident, benefits offered by the Auxiliary, UTUIA insurance, railroad retirement and much more.

Michigan

State Legislative Director **Jerry Gibson**

reports Assistant State Legislative Director **Don Silseth** (Local 313 of Grand Rapids, Mich.) retired after 17 years of service as a conductor. Silseth also served his local as legislative representative and as treasurer.

"Don, better known as the 'professor' because of his worldly travels and thorough knowledge of many things, will be greatly missed," Gibson said. "He was a strong union man as one would ever find, taking the time to assist anyone with most any issue and never asking anything in return."

"I know he has done so much more than any of us could ever imagine, because Don was not one to boast or broadcast his actions. We wish Don and his wife AJ, many tomorrows and safe travels as they continue their exploration of the world's wonders."

Missouri



Haskamp (middle) is presented an award for his contributions to PAC by Menges (right) and Local Legislative Representative Gerald Wohlgemuth (left).

State Legislative Director **Ken Menges** reports that the Missouri legislative board recently made a presentation to retiree and Alumni Association Member **Wayne Haskamp** (Local 226 of Moberly, Mo.).

"Wayne has been retired since November 2010 and has made a contribution to UTU PAC each month since then," Menges said. "In the presentation, I told the members that

it is the little guy who makes our union work and Brother Wayne is a prime example."

New Jersey



Local Legislative Representative Steve Mikola (Local 60 at Newark, N.J.) met with Rep. Bill Pascrell Jr. (D - N.J.) and asked for his support for H.R. 1763, the Safe Freight Act.

Washington State, Wyoming



Pictured here are Blake (left) and Krohn (right) during Blake's visit to the Port of Seattle.

Herb Krohn, Washington state legislative director, reports Wyoming State Legislative Director **Stan Blake** traveled to Washington State with a group of legislators from Wyoming and Montana to tour the Millennium Coal Export Terminal site and the Port of Seattle. Blake and his group also met with elected officials and held a press conference Oct. 20, advocating for policies encouraging trade, exports and commodity neutrality. Both Blake and Krohn spoke at the conference.

Meet your SMART TD Designated Legal Counsel

SMART TD DLC here to serve you!

Every year, thousands of railroad employees are injured or killed on the job. When this happens, the railroads retain skilled claim agents and attorneys to protect their interests. They put their legal knowledge to work — taking photographs, obtaining statements from witnesses, collecting measurements.

These agents and attorneys work for the railroad, not for you. But as a railroad employee, if you are injured on the job, you have powerful rights under the Federal Employers' Liability Act (FELA).

That is why SMART Transportation Division has chosen experienced and successful trial lawyers as its Designated Legal Counsel, and recommends these lawyers to its members and their families.

These lawyers are specialists in handling FELA claims and are experienced in dealing with the railroad claim agents and lawyers.

You should seek their counsel and advice at the earliest opportunity if you feel you have a potential FELA case against a railroad. Always remember that the railroad claim agent is just that — an agent for the railroad. A SMART TD Designated Legal Counsel is YOUR agent, and their job is to represent you. And remember, a non-designated lawyer does not have any obligation to your union and is not answerable to SMART TD.

Any Designated Legal Counsel you select is YOUR agent, and their job is to represent you. They are on your side.

Coordinator of DLC



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Joshua Leizerman

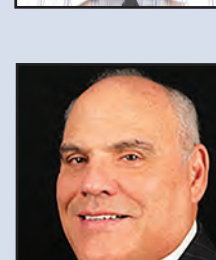
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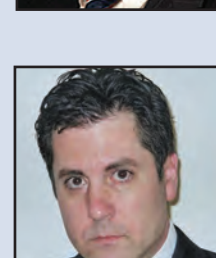
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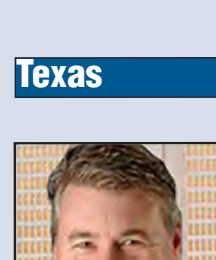
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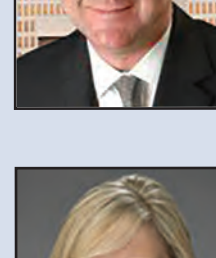
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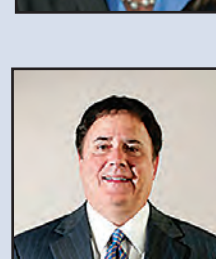
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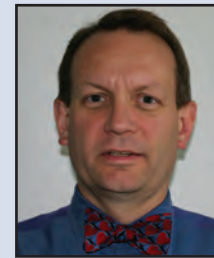
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Rail Safety Coordinator to the DLC



Larry Mann

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Attorney Larry Mann, named by his peers as the "nation's foremost authority on railroad safety legislation and regulation," was appointed as Rail Safety Coordinator to the SMART TD Designated Legal Counsel.

In this capacity, Mann provides expert assistance on rail safety matters to the DLC.

Mann also provides assistance to SMART TD legal and legislative staff by interpreting laws and regulations and recommending legislative and regulatory improvements.

He has represented more railroad workers in safety cases before the U.S. Supreme Court than any other attorney in the country.

In 1970, Mann was a principal drafter of the Federal Railroad Safety Act. He has also represented claimants following some of the worst railroad catastrophes in history.



UTU
Alumni

UTU Alumni Association

News, information for members of the UTU Alumni Association

Al Vieira: from WWII veteran to railroading

"A railroad is a railroad, no matter when you worked at one," said retired SMART TD (formerly United Transportation Union) Local 1978 (New York, N.Y.) member and Metro-North conductor **Albert P. Vieira**. "The trains were fast and dangerous in my time and they're even faster and more dangerous now."

Brother Vieira has seen his share of danger and speaks from hard fought experience. He saw it on the railroad while employed there for 38 years, and he lived it as a veteran of World War II. Although currently age 89, he displays the vigor of someone 40 years his junior.

Born in 1928 during the great depression, survival was instilled in him early. His father was a whaler in the Atlantic, and taught him by example the importance of hard work during hard times. He also taught him a love for his country and a love for the sea.

His love for both became evident when, after listening with his parents to an impassioned radio address by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, young Vieira informed his parents that he intended to enlist in the U.S. Navy and they consented. Several months later, on June 6, 1944 (D-Day), he found himself as a 17-year-old coxswain on a Landing Ship Tank (LST) approaching, under heavy fire, Omaha beach in Normandy, France.

Although somewhat reluctant to discuss it in great detail, Vieira briefly described the moment when the doors to the LST opened and orders were given for the sailors to exit.

"The worst thing was seeing these kids, my pals, lose their lives before my eyes." He survived, but many sailors did not. "I have never been back to Normandy since that day." Vieira honorably served in the U.S. Navy for six years.

Brother Vieira is humble about his WWII experiences and reserved about divulging even this much information. He preferred to

discuss his years while employed on the railroad. He explained his reservations, "I'm not into singling myself out. I am the same as the next guy and no better than anyone else. Some guys have been in much worse places than me."



Vieira stands next to the picture of himself that hung in Grand Central Station for many years, as well as his many railroad ID cards and pins he had on his conductor's cap.

After the war, Vieira worked as a carpenter building houses. In 1953 he hired out as a brakeman with The New York Central Railroad (NYC). His membership date with The Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen (BRT) is January 1, 1956.

He was later promoted to conductor, working both freight and passenger service. Eventually, he began teaching the railroad crafts to brakeman/conductor trainees for NYC. After teaching for 30 years, he retired from the Metro-North Commuter Railroad in 1991.

Vieira is proud of the fact that he was the first conductor on the railroad to announce

upcoming stations by using a microphone. A photograph of him using this microphone actually hung in Grand Central Station for years and was later given to him. It has been displayed in his home in Bedford Hills, N.Y. ever since.

As a teacher of the railroad crafts, Vieira prided himself on promoting the principles of safety, and is a self-described stickler for safety rules. He explained, "I would tell my students that you either follow the safety rules I am showing you, or you're out. These rules will help keep you alive on the railroad. If you don't do it right, you can get yourself injured or killed."

On safety, Vieira noted that the carriers have been continuing to reduce train crew size. In contrast, he pointed out that when he first hired out, there were typically at least five crewpersons on each train. "Man, things sure are different today," he said.

Vieira is a proud father of one daughter and two sons. He also has 15 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Although his wife passed away shortly after his retirement, he has continued to stay active throughout the years. His carpentry skills are sharp as ever, as he recently built a dog house for a neighbor's pooch, installed some windows on his house and even painted some interior rooms.

He stays active in the President's Club - an honorary club of retired Metro-North employees that meet on a regular basis. The club allows him to stay in contact with his buddies from the railroad.

Vieira seems to take life in stride. He prides himself on staying active and on counting his blessings. He is thankful that despite the dangerous situations he has experienced, he managed to survive, thrive and prosper.

SMART TD partners with Amplifon for hearing discounts

As a member of SMART Transportation Division, you are eligible to receive the following discounts:

- Hearing aid low price guarantee - Amplifon will beat others by five percent
- 40 percent off hearing testing and diagnostics
- Risk-free 60 day trial
- One year free follow-up care
- Three year warranty
- Two year supply of free batteries
- No enrollment fees

Visit www.amplifonusa.com/smartTD/pages/default.aspx to take advantage of these discounts!



Landfall Travel offers two trips in 2016

www.landfalltravel.com • (800) 835-9233

Train tour across Switzerland

- Sept. 23 - Oct. 1, 2016
- Overnight stays in Lucerne, Lausanne, Zermatt and St. Moritz
- Rates start at \$2,359.00
- Most meals included

American Queen steamboat cruise

- Oct. 2-10, 2016
- Cruise leaves from St. Louis and ends in Red Wing, Minn.
- Rates start at \$1,874.25 plus \$149 port tax per person

*Airfare not included, rates subject to change

THE FINAL CALL

Following are the names of recently deceased members who maintained annual membership in the UTU Alumni Association, according to reports received at SMART TD Headquarters. These brothers and sisters will be missed by their many friends and by fellow UTU Alumni Association members.

Local	Name	City/State	Local	Name	City/State	Local	Name	City/State
14	Lewis, Ishmael Z.	Morehead, Ky.	378	Harrison, William J.	Painesville, Ohio	832	Pallas, Stanley L.	West Fargo, N.D.
138	Woods, Robert L.	Lima, Ohio	407	Metts, Franklin M.	Cayce, S.C.	845	McCall, Donald J.	Kent, Wash.
200	Lawrence, Sanford J.	North Platte, Neb.	412	Lusk, Melvin M.	Emporia, Kan.	924	Morrow, Donald W.	North Chesterfield, Va.
240	Buell, Bruce R.	Gibsonville, N.C.	432	Patton, Andrew J.	Waterloo, S.C.	1003	Rowley, Robert J.	Danville, Ill.
265	Pence, Harold E.	Pocatello, Idaho	493	Bernhard, Walter J.	Freeport, Ill.	1383	Mayberry, Cory A.	Portage, Ind.
281	Kennedy, Donald R.	McHenry, Ill.	565	Helmick, Craig E.	Gilbertsville, Ky.	1760	Jansen, Robert S.	South Lyon, Mich.
305	Helleberg, Richard C.	Hastings, Neb.	581	Heuer, Gary P.	Tucson, Ariz.	1895	Adams, Gerald A.	Schererville, Ind.
322	Scaggs, Howard W.	Montello, Wis.	674	Williams Jr., Idale	North Augusta, S.C.	1972	Green, Richard L.	St. Peters, Mo.
330	Dickens, William J.	Seymour, Mo.	772	Collins Sr., Jimmy N.	Medon, Tenn.	1974	Taylor, Charles L.	Buffalo, Texas
338	Mann, James D.	Chickamauga, Ga.	832	Hagadorn, William Arthur	Hibbing, Minn.			

UTUIA has BIG Insurance News!

Permanent Whole Life Insurance is now available for members over 50

You've worked hard to provide for your family and they count on you to make the right financial decisions.

UTUIA's Easy Issue Life offers **Permanent Whole Life Insurance** for members over the age of 50. This affordable plan builds cash value, offers guaranteed level premiums, and your benefits never go down!

With three levels of coverage - even with pre-existing conditions - we may have a plan for you.

Applying for coverage is quick and easy:

- Simplified underwriting
- No physical exam
- No bloodwork

Gain peace of mind knowing that your family is secure and protected. For additional information on our new **Easy Issue Life**:

Email sales@utuia.org, or complete the attached form and mail to the address listed at the bottom of the form.

Visit the UTUIA website at: www.utuia.org



I would like more information on UTUIA's Easy Issue Life Plan

Please print

Full Name	Date of Birth	SMART TD Local
Street Address	City	State ZIP
Telephone number with area code		<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female

Complete and mail to: UTUIA Sales Dept., 24950 Country Club Blvd., Ste. 340, North Olmsted, OH 44070-5333.

UTUIA seeks 2016 Volunteer of the Year



The United Transportation Union Insurance Association (UTUIA) is looking for a special person to honor as its

A panel of judges at the SMART Transportation Division office will review all submissions and select the 2016 volunteer of the year.

The individual selected as UTUIA volunteer of the year will receive a \$1,000 UTUIA annuity and a plaque of appreciation from the UTUIA.

Additionally, he or she will be honored at the 2016 SMART Transportation Division regional meeting nearest his or her home, with travel expenses paid by the UTUIA.

Also, 20 runners up will be selected to receive certificates of appreciation for their volunteer efforts.

Nominations must be received by March

31, 2016. **Nominees must be UTUIA policyholders.**

The winning individual will be notified by registered mail, and certificates of appreciation will be forwarded to runners up as soon as possible.

The decision of UTUIA judges is final.

Previous nominees may be nominated again; however, former volunteers of the year are ineligible to receive awards.

The volunteer of the year program is an opportunity for the men and women of the UTUIA to let their fraternal lights shine.

Nomination forms should be mailed to: UTUIA Volunteer of the Year, Attn.: Ken Laugel, President, 24950 Country Club Blvd., Suite 340, North Olmsted, OH 44070-5333.

***Do not forget to include a separate sheet of paper describing the applicant's volunteer activities.**

- 2016 volunteer of the year.
- Do you regularly volunteer at a hospital or nursing home?
 - Do you lead a Boy Scout or Girl Scout troop or work with the handicapped?
 - Are you involved in some other activity that benefits those in your community?
 - If so, the UTUIA would like to know about it.

UNITED TRANSPORTATION UNION INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

2016 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

Name	Local
Address	
City	State ZIP
Telephone number	Dates of volunteer activities
<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly	\$
Total volunteer time (hours, minutes)	Value of contribution (if applicable)

Please attach a separate sheet describing volunteer activities. The more documentation you can provide, the better.

1/16

RETURN TO: UTUIA, 24950 COUNTRY CLUB BLVD., SUITE 340, NORTH OLMSTED, OH 44070-5333



UTUIA 2015 Volunteer of the Year, Thomas J. Schmitt of Local 1974, is presented with a plaque at the 2015 Providence, R.I. Regional Meeting by Chairman of the Board John Previsich.

Great Lakes Pilots get new incentive program

Continued from page 1

captain at the company's request due to staffing requirements.

The company will also apply the provisions of this program to recruit and to retain first officers for the EMB-120 aircraft. EMB-120 first officers must possess an Airline Transport Pilot/Restricted Airline Transport Pilot certificate and an EMB 120 type rating to be eligible for the CIP.

To receive the quarterly incentive payment (IP), the pilot must be an active employee or on a company-approved leave of absence (as defined in Section 10 of the current labor agreement between the company and SMART TD) on March 31, June 30, September 30 and December 31 of the plan year.

The quarterly IP will be paid on the first regularly scheduled flight crew payday following the quarter-end dates.

The CIP will be taxed at the employee's normal rates, or the pilot may elect to have the IP contributed in whole or in part into the

pilot's 401(k) account.

The quarterly IP amount to be paid will be calculated by multiplying the applicable amount shown in the quarterly incentive column below, times the percentage of the calendar quarter for which the pilot is active.

If the pilot is on a company-approved leave of absence they will be considered in active status for leave periods up to 15 days.

Leave time in excess of 15 days will be deducted from the period of active employment status in the quarter.

Type Aircraft/Rating	Quarterly Incentive	Full Year Incentive (illustration only)
BE-1900 D Captain	\$1,250	\$5,000
BE-1900 D Pre-test EMB-120 FO	\$1250	\$5,000
EMB-120 Captain	\$1,875	\$7,500
EM B-120 ATP/R-ATP FO	\$750	\$3,000

FMCSA final rule reduces fatigue, increases roadway safety

Continued from page 1

- Strictly prohibiting commercial driver harassment. The Final Rule provides both procedural and technical provisions designed to protect commercial truck and bus drivers from harassment resulting from information generated by ELDs.

- Setting technology specifications detailing performance and design requirements for ELDs so that manufacturers are able to produce compliant devices and systems – and purchasers are enabled to make informed decisions.

- Establishing new hours-of-service supporting document (shipping documents, fuel purchase receipts, etc.) requirements that will result in additional paperwork reductions.

Further information, including a comprehensive, searchable list of frequently asked question and free training webinars, is available at www.fmcsa.dot.gov/elds.

Read the entire press release at www.utu.org.

SMART/CSXT tentative agreement update



On Friday December 18, 2015, local unions of General Committee of Adjustment 001 - representing members working for CSX Transportation - rejected a tentative agreement.

The agreement could have provided the capture of locomotive rebuild work, a higher rate of pay, an employment guarantee through 2017, and established a percentage of the workforce across the CSX system.

Within the agreement, CSX proposed a combined seniority roster that included SMART and members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) throughout the system.

In the end, the combined seniority roster proved to be a deal breaker for the membership.

SLDs O'Connell and Casey fought for NEC funding in transportation bill



O'Connell

New Jersey State Legislative Director **Daniel O'Connell** reports that he was invited to join U.S. Representative Frank Pallone Jr. (D - N.J.) at a press conference Nov 16. The conference was held at the New Jersey Transit (NJT) Metro Park Train Station and O'Connell spoke about the proposed elimination of the 5340 High Density States Program in the Surface Transportation Bill.



Casey

O'Connell contended that if the program was not restored to NJT, which employs more than 1,000 members of the SMART TD, then NJT stood to lose \$50 million. Mass transit systems from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland also stood to lose approximately \$250 million if the program was not restored.

"The loss of the 5340 program would hurt development and economic activity up and down the Northeast Corridor (NEC) at a time when it is most needed, and in the places where more transit, not less, is necessary," O'Connell said at the press conference. "The NEC Region produces one-fifth of the nation's gross domestic product. In addition, it is estimated that the loss of the NEC for just one day could cost the nation \$100 million in transportation-related impacts and productivity losses.

"By cutting programs such as this and forcing states to raise fares on Mass Transit, we run the risk of degrading our environment and creating a less attractive quality of life for New Jersey and the NEC Region."

Effort was also put forth by **George Casey**, the state director of the New England States, in support of O'Connell and the reinstatement of the 5340 funding. Working together, O'Connell, Casey, Pallone and numerous others, were able to get the 5340 funding put back into the Surface Transportation Bill that passed Dec. 3.

SMART leads L.A. protest, sparks investigation



On Tuesday, December 1, SMART members from sheet metal and transportation locals in Los Angeles joined their brothers and sisters in the Jobs to Move America coalition to lead the protest outside the headquarters of BYD Motors, Inc. – a Chinese-owned electric bus company that failed on a promise to create living wage jobs for local residents, in exchange for over \$39 million in government tax dollars.

The protests caught the attention of Los Angeles city officials who are now seeking

documents from BYD in an investigation of the company's failure to make good on its promises.

SMART and the Jobs to Move America coalition are working to ensure that work contracted by local and municipal transit authorities is secured by American and union-represented employers.

SMART will continue to work on behalf of workers at BYD to secure fair representation, free from company harassment.

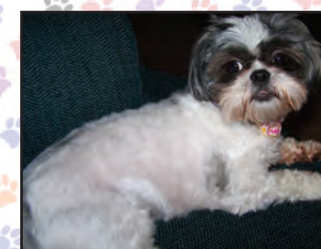
GO 001 ratifies agreement

On December 15 and 16, 2015, mechanical employees of Bombardier ratified a five-year agreement with Bombardier with a vote of 17-11.

General Chairperson **Joe Fraley** said: "It is a proud day for the employees of Bombardier; they have successfully brought stability and equality to their work place for years to come."

The agreement calls for general wage increases annually, retroactive pay from May 1, 2015; a signing bonus for all employees and a retention bonus payable in early 2017.

Introducing Pet Corner!



This could be a photo of your pet!

Submit photos of your pets and your pet could be featured in the next issue! Just email your digital photos to news_td@smart-union.org.

Please provide name of pet, age of pet, breed if known, your name and local, and any other pertinent information.

UTUIA scholarship programs expanded!



College Scholarship Program Rules

DISTRIBUTION

Fifty continuing \$1,000 scholarships are awarded each year upon verification of enrollment for the fall term. The scholarships are prorated according to the number of SMART Transportation Division members in each of nine districts. The names of the 50 scholarship winners for the academic year 2016/2017 will be drawn at UTUIA headquarters in North Olmsted after the March 31 deadline for submission of applications.

ELIGIBILITY

Requirements of a UTUIA scholarship applicant are that he or she be a U.S. citizen, at least a high school senior or equivalent, and age 25 or under.

Applicants must be associated with the UTUIA by either owning a UTUIA insurance policy, or by being the child or grandchild of a current UTUIA policyholder. Scholarship applicants must also be associated with the SMART Transportation Division by belonging to the union, or by being the child or grandchild of an active or lifetime SMART Transportation Division member.

Applicants also must be accepted for admittance, or already enrolled, for at least 12 credit hours per quarter or semester at a recognized institution of higher learning (university, college or junior college, nursing or technical school offering college credit). Graduate schools are not included. Families of full-time SMART Transportation Division officers are not eligible.

Applications must be received **no later than March 31, 2016**. Please submit **only one application per student**. Incomplete or duplicate applications will not be accepted.

The application form is **only available at www.utuia.org** by clicking on 'scholarship information' and 'scholarship application.'

AWARDS

Scholarships are awarded on the basis of chance, not grades. A UTUIA scholar, however, is expected to maintain a satisfactory academic record to keep the scholarship for the full four years.

ADMINISTRATION

The UTUIA Scholarship Committee decides whether individual scholarships should be continued or discontinued. Each successful applicant must provide annual proof of eligibility on or before a deadline set by the scholarship committee to qualify for a continuing award. The day-to-day management of the program is handled by the office of the UTUIA secretary & treasurer.

CONTACT

Further questions may be directed to Lidia Dascalescu by calling (216) 227-5254, or by emailing "ldascalescu@utuia.org." Visit www.utuia.org for full details and official rules.

UTUIA Scholarship Districts

District	Scholarships
1 Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire New York, Rhode Island, Vermont	5
2 Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania	4
3 Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia	8
4 Indiana, Michigan, Ohio	5
5 Illinois, Wisconsin	4
6 Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas	6
7 Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota	7
8 Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah	8
9 Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming	3

**In the event of a lack of eligible applicants for any district, all remaining applicants will be added to a subsequent drawing after winners have been drawn. A random drawing will then take place until such time that all scholarships have been given away.*

**Official rules and full details are available at www.utuia.org.*

A message from UTUIA President Ken Laugel

50 new Skilled Trade Scholarships launched!

The growth and success of our country and the society in which we live today is owed, in a large part, to the devotion of the millions of skilled labor workers who tirelessly laid the foundation upon which our great nation was built. Today, we face a critical shortage of skilled labor as a result of an aging workforce and a decreasing pool of qualified workers. The UTUIA, which for over 149 years has committed to providing benefits for transportation workers and the related trades, has now committed to taking action to encourage and reward young people who enroll in vocational programs and seek out certification in a skilled trade.



We made a promise to support skilled labor at the SMART TD Regional Meetings in 2015, and we are now proud to announce the launch of our skilled trade scholarship program. In addition to providing 50 continuing \$1,000.00 four-year college scholarships, we are now offering 50 scholarships designed specifically for the needs of the students who choose a skilled trade path.

These \$1,000.00 trade scholarships will be awarded each year, for a maximum of two years and will require successful completion of approved coursework through an accredited school to qualify. It is our hope that in some meaningful way we can help to support the skilled labor trades and at the same time fulfill our fraternal mission to the brotherhood.

Remember, you must be a member of the UTUIA by either owning a UTUIA insurance policy or by being the child or grandchild of a UTUIA policyholder. **The deadline to apply for both scholarships is March 31, 2016.** Students must choose either trade school or college and only one application per student will be allowed.

Full Details and official rules are available at www.utuia.org.

Ken Laugel
Ken Laugel, President
UTUIA

Apply Today!
Scholarship Applications available
ONLINE only at:
www.utuia.org

Other transportation scholarships

Below is a list of some other transportation industry scholarships that you or your children/grandchildren may be eligible for.



- **John Edgar Thompson Scholarship** - for daughters of deceased railroad employees who died while employed by the railroad. More information is available at www.utuia.org. Applications accepted year-round.
- **Tom D. Eilers Scholarship** - Application due by March 31. Visit www.utuia.org for more information.
- **Union Plus Scholarship** - Application due by 12:00 p.m., January 31. Visit www.unionplus.org to apply.
- **Tealinc Scholarship** - For children or dependents of a person working in the rail industry. Application due by March 31. Visit <http://www.tealinc.com/news-education/tealinc-scholarship/> to apply.
- **Frank J. Richter Scholarship** - This \$1,000 scholarship is sponsored by the American Association of Railroad Superintendents. Application must be postmarked by July 7, 2016. Visit www.supt.org/FrankJRichter for more information and to apply.
- **ABA Foundation Scholarships** - The American Bus Association Foundation (ABA) offers scholarships to full-time employees and their children, whose employer is a member of the ABA. Employees of Coach USA, among others, are eligible. Applications are being accepted between January and April at www.buses.org/aba-foundation/scholarships.
- **RAA Scholarship** - \$3,500, for high school graduates studying for a career in aviation. Go to http://www.raa.org/?page=RAA_Scholarship for more information.

Go to the following websites to search for other available scholarships:

- <http://www.princetonreview.com/college-advice/financial-aid-scholarship/sallie-mae-scholarship>
- <https://www.scholarships.com>

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Photo of the month

SMART Transportation Division is always looking for good photos, and awards prizes to monthly photo winners.

SMART TD seeks photographs or digital images 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 SMART TD, 24950 Country Club Blvd., Suite 340, North Olmsted, OH 44070-5333.

High-resolution digital photographs should be in the JPEG format and emailed to "news_td@smart-union.org".

With each photograph, please include your name and SMART 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 SMART.

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



This photo, taken by Alumni Association member **Darryl H. Morrow** (Local 117 at Vancouver, Wash.), is of the Alaska Railroad, taken outside of their headquarters in Anchorage, Alaska. "I took this photo while in Alaska working for the FRA in the summer of 2015," Morrow said.

FAST ACT passes with SMART Transportation Division priorities

On December 3, 2015, Congress passed H.R. 22, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST ACT) by overwhelming bipartisan votes of 83 to 16 in the Senate and 359 to 65 in the House.

"I'm very pleased with the legislation overall compared to some of the original proposals. The legislation was modified in both houses and in the conference committee to correct many of the harmful issues facing our membership," SMART Transportation Division President John Previsich said.

"Our National Legislative Director, John Risch and his team, working with other unions and allies, did a stellar job on a very complex 1300-page piece of legislation that was passed through a very complicated legislative process."

"Considering the makeup of Congress, we are pleased overall with the policy provisions in this legislation, and that the law covers five years of authorization," said Risch. "However, we are disappointed that much of the funding came from non-user fees. Freight railroads alone fund their own track and infrastructure. Using general funding for highways puts railroads at a competitive disadvantage because trucks are not paying their fair share of costs for highway construction and maintenance."

This landmark legislation marks the first long-term surface transportation reauthorization in a decade and provides funding and policy changes for our

nation's highways, mass transit and rail systems.

The FAST ACT includes a number of SMART TD policy priorities, as outlined below:

- **Provisions to protect transit members** from assault.
- **ECP brake mandate** is maintained.
- **Inward-facing cameras** cannot be used to retaliate against employees.
- **Removed harmful privatization language** for transit projects.
- **Biased hair testing** methods rejected.
- **Working Alerters** in controlling locomotive of commuter and intercity passenger trains.
- **Signal Protection.**
- **PTC Grants:** The legislation provides \$199 million to finance a competitive grant program for PTC implementation on commuter railroads.
- **Funding Amtrak and Transit:** Transit programs will receive a nine percent funding increase in Fiscal year 2016 over FY 2015 levels and two percent increases each year through 2020.

Read this article in its entirety on our website at www.utu.org.

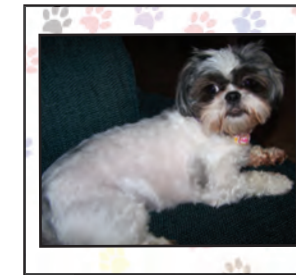
Inside this issue of SMART Transportation Division News:



SMART TD announces new DLC Coordinator, Anthony Petru. See page 1.



Members team up to compete in Alaskan Iron Dog race. See page 2.



Introducing Pet Corner! Submit photos of your pets. See page 10.



UTUIA announces new scholarship. See page 11.