

SMART[®]

Transportation Division News

Volume 48 • Issue 3 • March 2016

International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers

NJT: Unions rally just before strike is averted



Hundreds gather at a union rally sponsored by the Rail Labor Coalition, March 5 at the Marion & Norman Tanzman park outside of the Woodbridge, N.J. train station. A tentative agreement was reached March 11. Members were set to strike March 13.



Members gather at the rally to support their fellow SMART brothers and sisters. At this point, members employed by New Jersey Transit had gone five years without a contract.



Sheet Metal worker Kevin Smith (SM Local 27 at Farmingdale, N.J.) took this photo while in attendance at the rally.

FRA proposes two-person crew rule

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) published a proposed rule in the [Federal Register](#) March 15, proposing that trains be operated by two crewmembers.

The proposed rule came after a completed study by the FRA comparing two recent train accidents: the Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, derailment (operated by one crewmember) and the Casselton, N.D. derailment (operated by three crewmembers).

After studying the two accidents, FRA deter-

mined that two-person crews are safer for all involved.

The FRA has opened the proposed rule up to public comments until May 16, 2016.

SMART TD supports the core requirements of the proposed rule and is planning to file comments during the comment period to further improve the proposed rule.

Read more [here](#). View the full proposed rule as published by the Federal Register [here](#).

Member takes Polar Plunge for charity



Barnhart (left) and his son (right) prepare to participate in the 2015 Polar Plunge in support of Special Olympics.

SMART TD Local 947 President **Stephen L. Barnhart** is a thrill-seeker of sorts. For the fifth straight year he has risked hypothermia by plunging into the wintry waters of Lake Boutin at Trail of Tears State Park in Cape Girardeau, Mo., doing it for the thrill—and for a good cause.

The 2016 Polar Plunge was held February 6 with Barnhart and other participants making an icy splash. The annual charitable event raises funds for Special Olympics – Missouri.

Special Olympics is a national nonprofit organization that offers year-round programs in sports training and athletic competitions designed specifically for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

“I’ve been doing this for years now because I personally know families with children born with Down syndrome. Supporting the Special Olympics allows these special athletes a chance to participate in a fun and worthwhile event. It means so much to them,” said Barnhart.

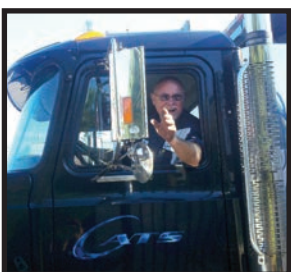
Barnhart added that participation was lower this year, compared to previous years. “This could be due to the warm winter we are experiencing. Usually, the colder the weather, the better the turnout,” he said.

Brother Barnhart also noted that 2016 marked his last year as a participant in the Polar Plunge event. He explained, “I’ll leave it for the younger people to do, since I’m now 58 years old.”

Continued on page 8

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

Inside this issue of SMART Transportation Division News:



Check out local news from Around the SMART TD. See page 2.



SMART TD Bus Department News. See page 5.



Railroad Retirement annuities not taxable by state. See page 6.



2016 Regional Meeting tours announced! See page 7.

Around the SMART TD

Local 240, Los Angeles

Local Chairperson and Legislative Representative **Harry Garvin** reports that two members recently retired from this local. Conductor **Albert Alvarez**, who hired out in 1978 with Southern Pacific, recently retired after 37 years of service with Union Pacific. Conductor **Thomas Roggero** recently retired in February from Union Pacific. He originally hired out in 1968 with Southern Pacific Railroad. "From all the members and officers of Local 240, we want to wish Alvarez and Roggero many long years yet to come," Garvin said.

Local 367, Omaha, Neb.



Last year's SMART Day at the Races brought out many members of SMART.

Local 367 member **Rich Mohr** reports that this year's SMART Day at the Races will be held Friday, April 15, 2016, at the Fonner Park Race Track, Grand Island, NE. Last year's event was attended by SMART members from Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, Wyoming, Colorado and Minnesota.

This year's race blanket is being donated by Local 446 of Cheyenne, Wyo. Free seating in the clubhouse is available for all guests who RSVP. Contact **Cliff Gordon** at 308-530-5766 or cgordonutue@hotmail.com, **Ed Mueller** at 308-530-6711 or emueller602@yahoo.com, or **Mohr** at 308-539-6620 or rmohrutu286@hotmail.com to RSVP. A special hotel room rate is available for SMART members at the **Mid Town Holiday Inn** by asking for the SMART rate. The hotel can be reached by calling 308-384-1330.

Local 426, Spokane, Wash.



Vice Local Chairperson (LCA 386A - BNSF Railway) **John Demello** reports that Conductor **Kevin Oberst**, in an act of charity and military pride, recently bought a shadowbox owned by two Navy SEALs at a charity auction held by the Northwest Sportsman Club. Proceeds from Oberst's purchase went toward purchasing a track chair or "off-road wheelchair." The track chair gives a paralyzed or disabled person the mobility to explore the great outdoors. The chairs are expensive, costing approximately \$15,000 a chair. After the shadowbox auction, more donations for the track chair poured in, which enabled them to purchase a chair.

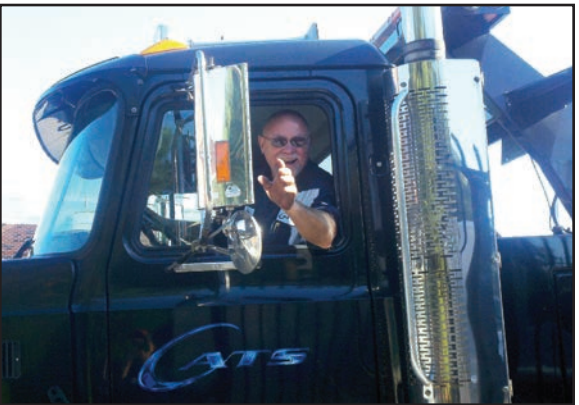
Local 1378, Wilmington, Del.

Delaware State Legislative Director and Local 1378 President **Jimmy Mallon** reports that after a search, he is happy to announce that the local has found a new venue for their monthly meetings. "We would like to thank our brothers at SMART Sheet Metal Local 19 for the use of their Sheet Metal Hall for our monthly meetings," Mallon said. "We would especially like to thank Business Agent Keny Woods for making this possible. We look forward to working with Local 19 in the near

future on common issues, interests and local fund raisers." The hall is located at 911 New Road, Elsmere, Wilmington, DE 19805.

Mallon also reports that Local Chairperson **Patrick Roberts** is working to rectify safety concerns and non-union labor issues with the carrier and Delaware City Refinery management.

Local 1596, Charlotte, N.C.



Walter York is in the cab of a CATS tow truck on one of his last days of service.

General Chairperson (GCA TMM) **Craig Patch** reports that Mechanic **Walter (Billy) York** is retiring from Charlotte Area Transit Systems (CATS) after 39 years of service. "Billy is a loyal union member and his knowledge will be missed," Patch said.

Local 1895, Chicago - Members serve the hungry



Members of Local 1895 gathered to serve dinner to Chicago's less fortunate.

Local Chairperson (Engineers) and Local Secretary & Treasurer **Larry Grutzius** reports that, in an act of charity, this local gathered to volunteer to serve hot dinners to over 65 of Chicago's less fortunate citizens. The dinner was funded by donations from members of this local. Local 1895 Legislative Representative **Dennis Nee** then matched the amount collected by the membership. "It was a cold, windy night in Chicago and hopefully we provided a little warmth along with the meal," Grutzius said.

Local 1564, Los Angeles - SMART TD organizers visit bus local

First row pictured from left: Vice Local Chairperson and Local Treasurer Andy Carter, Local Chairperson and Local President Ulysses "Butch" Johnson, Ron Johnson and Predro Rodriguez. Second row: Liddle, LCA Secretary Gregory Smith, Ross, Morr, Melvena Craig, Local Vice President Sam Creer, Jamaal Walter, Bus Representative Kaleem Muhammad, Grutzius and Cesar Guzman. Third row: Joseph Jolly, Jimmy Rodgers, Local President Art Cespedes, Local Secretary Merduice "Cricket" Reed and Hughes.



Transportation Representative/Organizer **Bonnie Morr** reports that she, Organizer **Larry Grutzius** and Director of Organizing **Rich Ross** visited this bus local during their local meeting Feb. 5. Also in attendance was UTUIA Assistant Field Supervisor **David Liddle** and Alternate Vice President - Bus **Alvy Hughes**.

"I want to thank Local 1564 for inviting and welcoming us to your local meeting," Grutzius said. "It was great to see how professional the meeting was run and how serious the officers and members took their responsibilities." The organizers have a few organizing campaigns in the L.A. area in the future and welcome the support offered by the local during their campaigns.

Local 1177, Wilmar, Minn. - Local celebrates retirement of long-time member

Members of Local 1177 celebrate Croonquist's retirement during their October meeting. Pictured from left (top row) are: Dean Johnson, Hunstad, Retired Legislative Secretary and Alumni Association Member Bob Pearson, Retired Vice Local Chairperson Greg Tompt, Local Chairperson Jerry Geurtz, Local Trustee Darrin Gerdes, Local Secretary & Treasure Sam Bearson and Doug Bennet. Seated: Qualy, Local Chairperson Tony Dyrdal, Croonquist, DLC Courtney LeNeave and Local President Jerry Minnick.



Local Legislative Representative **Brian Hunstad** reports that the local celebrated the retirement of **Willis C. Croonquist** at their October meeting. "A plaque was presented to Willis for his six decades of service and dedication to the UTU and Local 1177," Hunstad said. Croonquist hired out in 1955 on the Great Northern railroad as a fireman and served the union as legislative representative, Minnesota state legislative director and assistant national legislative director. After 25 years of service to the railroad and the union, Croonquist left the railroad in 1980 and went to work for Designated Legal Counsel HLK law firm for 36 years.

Minnesota State Legislative Director **Phil Qualy** said of Croonquist, "Brother Croonquist served as a national delegate to the National Democratic Party and friend to Vice President Walter Mondale. Willie and his wife Rita have helped countless charities, benevolent causes and railroad families in need."

NTSB releases details of 2015 Amtrak crash



WASHINGTON — The National Transportation Safety Board opened the accident docket and publicly released more than 2,000 pages of information as part of the NTSB's ongoing investigation of the May 12, 2015, Amtrak passenger train derailment in Philadelphia.

Amtrak passenger train #188 derailed, after entering a curve at 106 mph where the speed is restricted to 50 mph. Of the 250 passengers and eight Amtrak employees who were on board, eight passengers were killed and more than 200 others were transported to area hospitals.

Included in the docket are documents containing interview transcripts, letters, factual reports, photographs and other investigative material.

The public docket contains only factual information collected by NTSB investigators, and does not provide analysis, findings, recommendations or probable cause determinations. No conclusions about how or why an accident occurred should be drawn from the docket.

The docket opening marks a transition in the investigative process where the majority of facts needed for the investigation have been gathered and the NTSB can move ahead with analysis of those facts. Opening the docket affords those with a need and desire for its contents the opportunity to review what factual information has been gathered about the accident. Any analysis, findings, recommendations or probable cause determinations related to the accident will be issued by the Board at a later date.

The docket material is available at: <http://go.usa.gov/cEecP>.

Additional material may be added to the docket as it becomes available.

SMART TD opposes auto control systems in FRA letter



In a letter to the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Associate Administrator for Safety Robert Lauby, SMART Transportation Division's National Legislative Director **John Risch** called on the FRA to issue an emergency order prohibiting the use of auto control systems.

In his letter, Risch maintained that the FRA should regulate these systems, just as cell phones and interaction with Positive Train Control (PTC) systems currently are. Currently, Union Pacific Railroad is using Locomotive Engineer Assist/Display & Event Recorder (LEADER) and BNSF is using Trip Optimizer.

Risch says that this technology may be in violation of the FRA final rule 49 CFR Part 220, which states, "a railroad operating employee shall not use an electronic device if that use would interfere with the employee's or another railroad operating employee's performance of safety-related duties."

Risch does point out that the rule does not include electronic control systems and information displays within the locomotive. However, interaction with LEADER and Trip Optimizer systems is not a safety-related task and does pose a risk of distracting the crew from safety-related tasks.

Auto control systems are mechanisms to reduce fuel and operating costs through increased efficiency.

DOL comments on 2015 union membership stats

WASHINGTON — U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez issued the following statement on the department's Bureau of Labor Statistics report released today on union membership in 2015:

"With today's Bureau of Labor Statistics' report, we are reminded again that the labor movement continues to be one of the most powerful forces for strengthening the middle class and providing economic stability, for members and non-members alike.

"Median weekly earnings of full-time union workers (\$975) were more than 25 percent higher than those of non-union workers (\$776) in 2015. That's not pocket change — it comes to more than \$10,000 per year. That goes a long way toward writing the mortgage check, paying down the car loan, or even just keeping the kids in snow boots. And, that doesn't even account for the superior benefits, safer workplaces and other advantages that come with union representation.

"Plus, strong unions empower all working people, putting upward pressure on wages and labor standards throughout the economy. After all, you don't need a union card to have benefitted from the advent of the weekend.

"So we all have skin in the game when unions are threatened and collective bar-



gaining rights come under attack. When a larger percentage of workers belong to unions, the middle class grows and thrives.

But research shows that a decline in union membership over roughly the last four decades is responsible for one-third of the growth in wage inequality among men and one-fifth of the growth in wage inequality among women.

"The Obama administration continues to push back against these attacks, exploring avenues for strengthening the right to organize and new strategies for giving workers a greater voice on the job. We believe this is essential to building an economy that works for everyone.

"We've made a dramatic turnaround in the last seven years — from a devastating recession to the highest levels of job growth since the late 1990s. But, there is still unfinished business. We must do more to ensure that all working families can share in the fruits of this recovery.

"When more workers are able to stand together and speak up for one another, negotiating for their fair share of the value they help create, it strengthens all of us. To restore balance to the economy and create shared prosperity, we need robust labor unions and a powerful worker voice."

SMART TD supports FRA's efforts to clarify vision standards

On Monday, January 25, **John Previsich**, president of SMART Transportation Division, filed a letter with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) in strong support of the FRA's efforts to clarify vision standards and testing for locomotive engineers and conductors. The letter reads as follows:

"SMART TD strongly supports the FRA's efforts to clarify the provisions regarding vision standards and testing for locomotive engineers and conductors, and commends the FRA for recognizing the need for and issuing the interim interpretations which set forth best practices for designing valid, reliable and comparable vision field tests.

"In its interim interpretation, the FRA properly acknowledges that there are individuals who are able to safely perform as a locomotive engineer or conductor, but do not meet the vision threshold in 49 CFR 240.121(c) and 242.117(f).

"To determine whether employees are otherwise qualified, the FRA, through the interim interpretation, grants the railroads' medical examiners discretion to determine the methods and type of tests used, so long as it satisfies the FRA's stated standard of being a "scientific vision test," i.e. valid, reliable and comparable. While SMART TD supports the content contained in these best practices, these standards should become uniform and mandatory.

"Guidelines, as they are now, can be manipulated or ignored without repercussion. This could be achieved by promulgating a regulation which mandates the actions railroads must take, so as not to give any leeway that can be disregarded or abused.

"For example, when a locomotive engineer or conductor initially fails the vision test, railroads should be required to conduct a field test. Further, when a field test is given, railroads should be required to allow the employee to bring a volunteer witness of his own choosing to observe.

"The regulations should additionally require a railroad to offer alternative service where the employee is able to safely perform such service. Imposing these mandates will ensure the

fair and uniform application of the FRA's best practices, and will further the FRA's efforts to design valid, reliable and comparable vision field tests for assessing whether persons who do not meet the regulations' vision thresholds can perform safely.

"Such would maximize this interim interpretation's objective, and is in the best interests of both the employees and public at large."

Local 161 seals deal

SMART Transportation Division Local 161 at Seattle, Wash., passed a collective bargaining agreement with Employee Transportation Services, LLC.

The bus local represents 71 members that will be affected by the agreement. The three-year agreement provides for a six percent wage increase for 2016 and an additional 2.5 percent increase for the years 2017 and 2018, for a total increase of 11 percent.

The membership also gains 16 additional PTO hours and establishes PTO accruals for part-time drivers. A new attendance policy was also established and the language of the contract was clarified throughout the agreement.

SMART TD Representative/Organizer **Bonnie Morr** assisted with the negotiations along with Vice Local Chairperson **Patricia Mitchell**.

SMART TD needs your submissions!

SMART Transportation Division News needs your input to keep this publication fresh and informative.

If you have news about heroes in your local, local meetings, picnic information, etc., we would like to hear about it.

You can reach the SMART TD Public Relations Department by telephone at (216) 228-9400 or by email at news_TD@smart-union.org. Information can be sent by mail to SMART Transportation Division, SMART TD News, 24950 Country Club Blvd., Ste. 340, North Olmsted, OH 44070-5333.

Alabama, like nation, wants increased passenger rail

Alabamians love their college football, and we've recently learned that they also like their passenger trains — and they're willing to pay for them. A recent state-wide poll by DFM Research shows that passenger trains don't only thrive in the big cities on the corridor between Washington, D.C. and Boston — they are quite popular in the Heart of Dixie, too.

More than half of those polled say they want to see an increase in service provided by Amtrak. When asked about expanding Amtrak's once-daily passenger service through Alabama, nearly 85 percent support the idea of adding an additional route from Birmingham or Mobile to New Orleans or Atlanta. This poll shouldn't surprise anyone given that others in Gulf Coast states are pushing aggressively to restart Amtrak service lost after the Hurricane Katrina disaster.

Nationwide, Americans are calling for more passenger rail service — and it's easy to see why. With 31 million passengers last year alone, Amtrak's popularity has soared, and over the last decade, Amtrak has broken its ridership record almost annually.

The numbers lead to a very important question — **if Amtrak is so highly valued by the American people, why do we still have politicians in Washington trying to kill it?**



SMART Transportation Division President's Column

By John Previsich & Edward Wytkind

There was actually an amendment on the House floor late last year to eliminate Amtrak's funding, and many in Alabama's congressional delegation voted for it. To be clear, such a plan would bankrupt the railroad, strand riders in Alabama and across the country, and put thousands of middle class employees out of work. And think about this: while other nations such as China are racing toward launching 400 mile-per-hour train service, America is still electing politicians who want to abandon passenger rail entirely.

Most voters in the state think any attempt to eliminate federal funding for Amtrak is a terrible idea. When told that Amtrak receives over \$1 billion per year in federal support, 75 percent say they reject attempts to eliminate it and want funding to continue at current levels.

It seems people in Alabama understand what some in Congress do not:

Long-term economic growth cannot happen without a greatly enhanced transportation infrastructure, and that includes expanding passenger rail services.

Supporting a healthy economy also involves making sure rail transportation is safe, so it's no surprise that people in this state emphatically favor policies that do just that.

Like a super-majority of Americans polled, the people of Alabama believe that running 19,000-ton freight trains — many containing hazardous materials — with only one crewmember, is a bad idea. That's why nearly 90 percent of residents support legislation mandating a minimum of two crewmembers on all freight trains.

America can't compete in a global economy without fully-funded national passenger rail service and modernized infrastructure. That takes long-term investment by the federal government, in partnership with states and the private sector.

Alabamians agree with people from California to Florida and most stops in between: our country needs modern and reliable rail transportation with the resources to pay for it and the federal rules to ensure its safety.

Fraternally,

John Previsich
President, SMART TD

Edward Wytkind
TTD President

State Watch

News from SMART TD State Legislative Boards

Delaware



Stone represented Local 1378 as delegate at the UTU 11th Quadrennial Convention, August 2011.

After many years of service, former State Legislative Director **William Stone** has decided to retire.

"We would like to thank William Stone (Stoney) for his many years of dedicated and loyal service," said newly-elected State Legislative Director **Jimmy Mallon**. "He has shown his dedication and wisdom with the

membership as both state legislative director and local chairperson (CSX). We wish all of the best in his retirement."

Mallon was elected state legislative director in Stone's place. Mallon also holds the positions of local president and local legislative representative for Local 1378 at Wilmington, Del.

Georgia



Pictured from left: Rep. Pat Gardner (D), Campbell and Chairman of House Transportation Committee Christian Coomer (R).

Georgia State Legislative Director **Matt Campbell** co-led Ga. lawmakers on a tour of a CSX rail yard and Atlanta training center.

"Teaching these legislators about the duties of railroad workers opens the door for us to

communicate our needs as an organization," Campbell said. "You should have seen them operate the locomotive simulators. They had no idea we carried so much responsibility while operating a train."

Minnesota



Pictured here are the members of the Minn. Legislative Board at their 2016 reorganization meeting. Back row from left: LCA Secretary Geoffrey Bowen (1175), Assistant State Legislative Director Nick Katich (1067), Local 911 Alt. Legislative Representative Peder Sather-Knutsen, Local 1000 Legislative Representative Brent Krist, Local 64 Legislative Representative Robert Dickerson, Legislative Secretary Brian Hunstad (1177), Qualy (650) and Local 1614 Legislative Representative Matt Brady.

Front row from left: Local 911 Legislative Representative Shawn Monahan, LCA SOO Line Vice Local Chairperson Rachel Welch (1976), Local 1292 Vice President Dan Archambeau and Local 650 Legislative Representative Kurt Olson.

The Minnesota Legislative Board adjourned their 2016 Quadrennial Reorganization meeting February 13, 2016, in St. Paul, Minn.

"Our commitment to each member remains to advance our Minnesota railroad safety and AFL-CIO Working Family agenda," State Legislative Director **Phil Qualy** said.

"We will continue to work to affect positive change and better working conditions for our membership on the railroads of this state; continue to process regulatory complaints affecting our safety; and continue to work to pass state legislation requiring two persons on all trains.

"Later in 2016, our key political goals are to elect friends of rail labor to the White House, Minnesota's second and eighth Congressional

Districts, return the Minnesota House of Representatives to a labor-friendly majority and maintain our Democratic Farm Labor majority in the Minnesota Senate.

"We remind all active and retired railroad workers to be sure they are registered to vote, support their labor-endorsed candidates this November, and join their all-important UTU PAC today. It is an honor and a privilege to serve our SMART TD membership in this ever-difficult transportation industry."

Missouri



A surprise retirement party was held for State Legislative Director Ken Menges Jan. 12. Pictured here from left: Mo. State Rep. Bill Otto, Sheet Metal Local 36 Business Agent Doug Piant, Menges and newly-elected State Legislative Director Jason Hayden.

New Jersey



New Jersey State Legislative Director Daniel O'Connell reports that two newly-elected Legislative Representatives Ricesell Bogan Jr. and Tracy Hamilton from Locals 759 (Newark, N.J.) and 1589 (New Brunswick, N.J.) stopped by the legislative board office to go over their duties and responsibilities.

"Sister Hamilton is the first female member of the N.J. state legislative board," O'Connell said.

Pictured are Bogan Jr., Hamilton, Alternate State Legislative Director Ron Sabol and Assistant State Legislative Director Nelson Manzano.

State Watch continued on page 8

Bus Department News

FMCSA proposes rule for determining safety fitness of motor carriers

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) announced a rulemaking proposal designed to enhance the Agency's ability to identify non-compliant motor carriers.

The Safety Fitness Determination (SFD) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), published in the Federal Register, would update FMCSA's safety fitness rating methodology by integrating on-road safety data from inspections, along with the results of carrier investigations and crash reports, to determine a motor carrier's overall safety fitness on a monthly basis.

"Ensuring that motor carriers are operating safely on our nation's roadways is one of our highest priorities," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "Using all available information to achieve more timely assessments will allow us to better identify unsafe companies and get them off the road."

"This update to our methodology will help the agency focus on carriers with a higher crash risk," said FMCSA Acting Administrator Scott Darling. "Carriers that we identify as unfit to operate will be removed from our roadways until they improve."

The proposed SFD rule would replace the current three-tier federal rating system of "satisfactory-conditional-unsatisfactory" for federally regulated commercial motor carriers (in place since 1982) with a single determination of "unfit," which would require the carrier to either improve its operations or cease operations.

Once in place, the SFD rule will permit FMCSA to assess the safety fitness of approximately 75,000 companies a month. By comparison, the agency is only able to investigate 15,000

motor carriers annually – with less than half of those companies receiving a safety rating.

The proposed methodology would determine when a carrier is not fit to operate commercial motor vehicles in or affecting interstate commerce based on:

- The carrier's performance in relation to a fixed failure threshold established in the rule for five of the agency's Behavior Analysis and Safety Improvement Categories (BASICS);
- Investigation results; or
- A combination of on-road safety data and investigation information.



The proposed rule further incorporates rigorous data sufficiency standards and would require that a significant pattern of non-compliance be documented in order for a carrier to fail a BASIC.

When assessing roadside inspection data results, the proposal uses a minimum of 11 inspections with violations in a single BASIC within a 24-month period before a motor carrier could be eligible to be identified as "unfit."

If a carrier's individual performance meets or exceeds the failure standards in the rule, it would then fail that BASIC. The failure standard will be fixed by the rule. A carrier's status in relation to that fixed measure would not be affected by other carriers' performance.

Failure of a BASIC, based on either crash data or compliance with drug and alcohol requirements, would only occur following a comprehensive investigation.

For more information on FMCSA's Safety Fitness Determination proposed rule, including a full copy of the NPRM, an instructional webinar and a Safety Fitness Determination Calculator, visit www.fmcsa.dot.gov/sfd.

FTA issues proposed rules on safety

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued a [proposed rule](#) for the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (Agency Safety Plan) and a [notice of availability](#) for the proposed National Public Transportation Safety Plan (National Safety Plan).

"Public transit systems are an essential transportation option for so many and we must continue and even improve on their strong safety performance records," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "The proposals issued would guide transit agencies in the development of comprehensive plans to manage risk and improve safety for the millions of people who use and work in public transportation every day."

The Agency Safety Plan proposed rule would apply to operators of public transportation systems that receive Federal financial assistance and takes into account their size, complexity and operating environments. It would require that the [Safety Management System](#) approach to safety, which provides flexibility in establishing processes to address safety risks, be implemented in agencies' safety plans. The proposed rule would also require transit agencies to set performance targets based on the safety performance criteria established under the National Safety Plan. In addition, transit agencies would be required to have their plans approved by the Board of Directors (or equivalent) and perform an annual review and update of the plan.

Additionally, the Agency Safety Plan proposed rule would require rail transit agencies to include an emergency preparedness and response plan consistent with existing regulations.

The proposed National Safety Plan is not a rulemaking action; rather, it will guide the national effort in managing the safety risks of public transportation systems.

The proposed National Safety Plan would also set voluntary minimum safety standards for public transportation vehicles in revenue service not otherwise regulated by another Federal agency, including vehicle crashworthiness, fire-life safety, data recorders and emergency lighting and signage. In addition, it would set voluntary minimum safety standards to ensure the safe operation of rail transit systems, including use and prohibition of electronic devices, roadway worker protection, work zone protections on main-line tracks and in rail yards, operating rules compliance and contractor responsibilities.

[Public comments](#) on both the Agency Safety Plan proposed rule and the proposed National Safety Plan must be received by April 5, 2016.

Foxx recommends \$3.5 billion to expand transit options

U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx highlighted \$3.5 billion recommended in President Obama's Fiscal Year 2017 budget to advance the construction or completion of 31 rail, bus, rapid transit and streetcar projects in 18 states.

These projects, competitively funded through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Capital Investment Grant (CIG) Program, would create thousands of construction and operations-related jobs and help communities expand transportation choices that offer new ladders of opportunity for residents.

The President's budget includes first-time funding recommendations for 15 transit projects. These include:

- The Downtown Riverfront Streetcar Project in Sacramento, California, which would connect the urban cores of Sacramento and West Sacramento, serving major destinations in both cities, improving transit options for residents and encouraging transit-oriented development along the route;
- The Red and Purple Line Modernization Project Phase One in Chicago, Illinois, which would reconstruct four Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) stations and track in order to relieve crowding and conges-

tion in one of the transit system's busiest corridors; and

- The Red Line Bus Rapid Transit Project in Indianapolis, Indiana, which would provide fast, reliable bus service for residents in a key corridor serving downtown. Indianapolis was one of seven cities selected in 2015 to be part of the U.S. Department of Transportation's LadderSTEP pilot program, an initiative designed to help foster sustainable economic development related to planned transportation projects.

"FTA is proud to partner with communities across the country to bring more transportation options to residents and help accommodate our nation's growing population," said FTA Acting Administrator Therese McMillan. "These investments in public transportation will improve the mobility and quality of life for thousands of residents, provide an alternative to traffic congestion and spur more economically vibrant communities."

FTA's Annual Report on Funding Recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2017 CIG Program, including links to individual project profiles, is available on FTA's [website](#).

FTA Fiscal Year 2016 Apportionment Tables for apportionments and allocations, which include ongoing funding for existing CIG projects, are now available on FTA's [website](#).



UTU Alumni

UTU Alumni Association

News, information for members of the UTU Alumni Association

New preventive services for Lung and Colorectal Cancer Screenings

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has added two new screenings to the many free preventive services that are available to you.

They are: Lung Cancer Screening with Low Dose Computed Tomography (LDCT) and Colorectal Cancer Screening Using Colo-guard™ (a Multitarget Stool DNA Test).

Lung cancer screening using Low Dose Computed Tomography (LDCT) is free for individuals who meet all of the following conditions:

1. The patient must be between the ages of 55 to 77
2. The patient must not have signs or symptoms of lung cancer
3. The patient must be either a current

- smoker or have quit within the last 15 years
4. The patient must have a history of smoking at least one pack a day for at least 30 years
5. The patient's physician or qualified non-physician practitioner must provide a written order

Before the first lung cancer LDCT screening is performed, you must have a lung cancer screening counseling and shared-decision making visit during which you can talk with your doctor to see if this is the right test for you.

Colorectal cancer screening using the Colo-guard™ at-home stool DNA test is covered once every three years if all of the following


conditions are met:

1. The patient is between the ages of 50 to 85
2. The patient doesn't have signs or symptoms of colorectal disease
3. The patient is at an average risk of developing colorectal cancer.

As with the lung cancer screening, it's important to talk to your doctor to see if this is the right screening test for you.

If you have general questions about these new preventive services, please call Palmetto GBA, toll-free, at 800-833-4455, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Visit their website at www.PalmettoGBA.com/RR/Me.

Railroad Retirement annuities not taxable by state



According to Section 14 (45 U.S.C. Section 231m) of the Railroad Retirement Act, retirement annuities are not taxable for individual state income tax purposes.

Bruce Rodman, of the Public Affairs/Office of Administration of the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board said, "Both of our primary enabling statutes – the Railroad Retirement Act and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act – specifically exempt the benefits paid under them from state income taxes.

"However, if a person doesn't know this – and sometimes this might stem from people using free tax-prep software or obtaining volunteer assistance in filing their returns – and declares it as taxable income, the state tax collection agencies probably won't know any better."

The Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) also states on the [FAQ section \(see #18\)](#) of their website that railroad retirement, unemployment and sickness benefits paid by the RRB are not subject to state income tax. However, these benefits are taxable on the federal level.

Many tax preparers and even states are not aware of these statutes and may attempt to tax your annuities. It is up to us to make sure that our annuities are not taxed by the states in which we live.

Landfall Travel changes dates of Switzerland trip

Landfall Travel, the official travel agency of the Alumni Association, has informed us that the dates for the train tour across Switzerland has changed from Sept. 23 - Oct. 1, 2016, to **Sept. 16 - 24, 2016**.

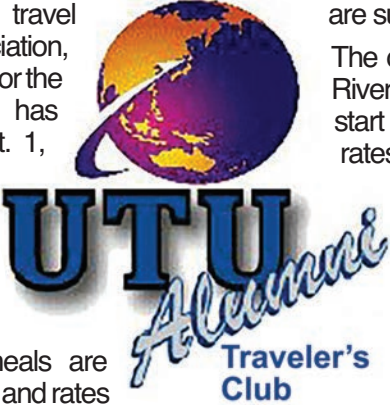
We apologize for any inconvenience this change may have caused.

Rates for this trip start at \$2,359 per person, most meals are included. Airfare is not included and rates are subject to change.

The dates for the river cruise up the Mississippi River remain the same: **Oct. 2 - 10, 2016**. Rates start at \$1,874.25 plus \$149 port tax per person; rates subject to change.

Interested parties can contact [Landfall Travel](#) directly at (440) 799-8977 or toll-free at (800) 835-9233 for more information.

All members are welcome. You do not have to be a member of the Alumni Association to enjoy these travel opportunities.



Rails may be eligible for death, dismemberment insurance

Active and retired railroad employees covered under The Railroad Employees' National Health and Welfare Plan, or the NRC/UTU Health and Welfare Plan, may be eligible for Life and Accidental Death and Dismemberment benefits from MetLife.

For eligible active employees, the death benefit is in most cases \$20,000, and there may be an additional AD&D benefit that could pay up to \$16,000. For eligible retired employees, the death benefit is \$2,000.

Most employees filled out a designated beneficiary form when they began work for a participating railroad. MetLife urges employees and retirees to keep this form with your other important papers. If you need to update your beneficiary form, or if there is doubt as to whom you designated, it is recommended that you complete a new form and send it to MetLife.

A beneficiary form, as well as a copy of the plan summary, can be found at www.YourTrackToHealth.com. There is a direct link to that web page from www.utu.org. Hovering over the "Healthcare" tab on the SMART Transportation Division home page will provide you with a drop down menu for [Your Track To Health](#).

You can also obtain information about this benefit by calling MetLife toll-free at (800) 310-7770.

This is a very important benefit for all eligible active and retired railroad employees covered under the national health and welfare plans, although many employees, especially retired employees, may not be fully aware of it. We urge you to post this notice at appropriate work locations on the property and remind all retirees with whom you may come in contact that they should contact MetLife to inquire about their eligibility for the \$2,000 death benefit.

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
298	Livingston Jr., William M.	Rochester, Ind.	911	Lutz, Peter O.	Plover, Wis.	1525	Biggs, Leon R.	Herrin, Ill.
313	Coykendall, Erwin	Byron Center, Mich.	924	Crenshaw, Robert L. E.	Richmond, Va.	1532	Erie, Carl A.	Kansas City, Kan.
432	Heater, Howard H.	Tucson, Ariz.	977	Klaus, Karl J.	Pasco, Wash.	1570	Dameron, Jimmy L.	Tracy, Calif.
446	Fallin, Harvey L.	Cheyenne, Wyo.	1011	Daniels, John L.	Hamlet, N.C.	1597	Batusic, Phillip F.	Hammond, Ind.
492	Rogers, Kenneth L.	Rocklin, Calif.	1043	Finley, William H.	Sparks, Nev.	1709	Schwem, Kenneth E.	Ft. Gratiot, Mich.
493	Schuck, James T.	Freeport, Ill.	1168	Roman, Jimmy F.	Clovis, N.M.	1760	Lovett, Robert M.	Hannibal, Mo.
513	Webb, Danny C.	Ponder, Texas	1334	Goleman, Charles S.	Petal, Miss.	1895	Mossuto, Peter A.	Chicago, Ill.
524	Morton, J. R.	Sugar Land, Texas	1374	Korba, Stephen J.	Crescent, Pa.			
744	Holliger, Samuel I.	Frankfort, Ind.	1390	Wertz, Dale A.	Altoona, Pa.			
832	Erickson, Richard A.	Cadott, Wis.	1518	Shake Jr., Clyde	Merritt Island, Fla.			

Two tours booked in San Francisco, Chicago

SMART Transportation Division has arranged tours of local attractions at both the San Francisco and Chicago regional meetings.

The tours are scheduled for the day preceding each regional meeting, as well as on the first day of each regional meeting.

San Francisco

San Francisco Highlights Tour - Sunday, July 3

You'll be transported by motor coach around the city, stopping at points of interest. You'll end up at Pier 39 on the waterfront to enjoy lunch at [Swiss Louis](#)'.

Tour Muir Woods & Sausalito - Monday July 4

This tour takes you acrosss the Golden Gate Bridge in a deluxe mini-coach to Muir Woods National Monument where the redwoods are thousands of years old. You'll have time to wander among these majestic trees before heading off to tour the small seaside [city of Sausalito](#) where you will enjoy a boxed lunch, shopping and sight seeing.

Chicago

City Highlights Tour - Sunday, July 24

A guide will point out points of interest in the "Windy City" on this four-hour tour. You'll have time to yourself to explore Michigan Avenue, "The Magnificent Mile," while enjoying lunch.

Architectural River Cruise - Monday, July 25

A river boat, complete with an expert guide, will explore sights unseen by land on this 90-minute river cruise. Enjoy a gourmet lunch box during the tour.

Tour fees are \$35 per tour for each registered attendee or guest, or \$75 per tour for each unregistered attendee or guest. Go to the meeting page on [utu.org](#) for more information.



Theme nights announced!

San Francisco

Enjoy an evening out at AT&T Ballpark as the San Francisco Giants take on the Colorado Rockies, Tuesday, July 5. Transportation, game ticket and food voucher will be provided for each registered guest.

Chicago

Pack your fedoras, pin-striped suits and Charleston-style dresses for a speakeasy-themed Tuesday-night dinner complete with a jazz band.

Avis Rent-a-Car offering discounts at airports

AVIS® Discounts with Avis Rent-a-Car are available to members attending the 2016 regional meetings.

To reserve a car, contact Avis at (800) 331-1600 and use SMART's Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD) number: **D150699**.

For the San Francisco and Chicago regional meetings, members and guests can reserve a car online. Visit the Transportation Division website at [www.utu.org](#), select the "Meetings" link at the bottom of the homepage, then select the appropriate regional meeting city.

Discounts at each city are good for seven days before and seven days after the meetings.

When renting a car online, be sure to use the same Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD) number as listed above: **D150699**.

Transportation Division Regional Meeting Registration Form

Registering before the regional meetings expedites sign-in procedures, helps organizers plan more accurately and saves on meeting costs. **Each person attending the regional meeting, including family members and guests, MUST be registered in order to attend any event. Please note that these meetings last 2.5 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 is \$200 per person. All fees must be paid in U.S. funds. Registration forms with payment must be received at the Transportation Division by June 19 for the San Francisco meeting and by July 3 for the Chicago meeting for all members, spouses and guests to be considered pre-registered.

Which regional meeting will you be attending? ☐ San Francisco ☐ Chicago

Arrival date: _____ Departure date: _____

Transportation type: ☐ Automobile ☐ Air ☐ Other

Member Registration

Name _____ Local _____ Title (if any) _____

Home address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Phone number () _____ Email _____

Meals: Day 1 ☐ Lunch ☐ No meal Any dietary restrictions? _____
Day 2 ☐ Lunch ☐ Dinner ☐ Both ☐ No meals
Day 3 ☐ Lunch ☐ No meal

Spouse Registration ☐ San Francisco ☐ Chicago

Spouse name _____ Title (if any) _____

Meals: Day 1 ☐ Lunch ☐ No meal Any dietary restrictions? _____
Day 2 ☐ Lunch ☐ Dinner ☐ Both ☐ No meals
Day 3 ☐ Lunch ☐ No meal

Spouse/guest tour: ☐ Sunday or ☐ Monday (\$35/tour per registered spouse; \$75/tour per unregistered spouse)

Child Registration ☐ San Francisco ☐ Chicago

Child name _____ Age _____

Meals: Day 1 ☐ Lunch ☐ No meal Any dietary restrictions? _____
Day 2 ☐ Lunch ☐ Dinner ☐ Both ☐ No meals
Day 3 ☐ Lunch ☐ No meal

Child name _____ Age _____

Meals: Day 1 ☐ Lunch ☐ No meal Any dietary restrictions? _____
Day 2 ☐ Lunch ☐ Dinner ☐ Both ☐ No meals
Day 3 ☐ Lunch ☐ No meal

Child name _____ Age _____

Meals: Day 1 ☐ Lunch ☐ No meal Any dietary restrictions? _____
Day 2 ☐ Lunch ☐ Dinner ☐ Both ☐ No meals
Day 3 ☐ Lunch ☐ No meal

Child name _____ Age _____

Meals: Day 1 ☐ Lunch ☐ No meal Any dietary restrictions? _____
Day 2 ☐ Lunch ☐ Dinner ☐ Both ☐ No meals
Day 3 ☐ Lunch ☐ No meal

Tour: ☐ Sunday or ☐ Monday (\$35/tour per registered child; \$75/tour per unregistered child) No. attending _____

Guest Registration ☐ San Francisco ☐ Chicago

Guest name _____ Relationship to member _____

Home address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Meals: Day 1 ☐ Lunch ☐ No meal Any dietary restrictions? _____
Day 2 ☐ Lunch ☐ Dinner ☐ Both ☐ No meals
Day 3 ☐ Lunch ☐ No meal

Spouse/guest tour: ☐ Sunday or ☐ Monday (\$35/tour per registered guest; \$75/tour per unregistered guest)

Special Needs? (Circle appropriate responses): Registrant / spouse / child / guest is:
hearing impaired / visually impaired / in wheelchair / other: _____

Golf registration ☐ San Francisco ☐ Chicago

Name _____ Handicap _____ Name _____ Handicap _____

Name _____ Handicap _____ Name _____ Handicap _____

(Golf fees are \$80 per golfer; include in total payment. Please provide names of others if foursome.)

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. Make checks or money orders payable in U.S. funds to "SMART TD Regional Meeting" and mail to SMART TD Regional Meeting, 24950 Country Club Blvd., Suite 340, North Olmsted, OH 44070-5333. Persons who do not pre-register for the regional meeting but choose to register at the meeting site will be charged an additional \$50. Space on the tours is limited; reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

When tragedy strikes, UTUIA has got you covered

Accidental Death and Dismemberment

Accidents happen every day and unfortunately, accidental death is more common than you may think. UTUIA's Accidental Death and Dismemberment policy provides a benefit for death caused by an accident. A dismemberment benefit for loss of hands, feet or eyesight is also provided. **Guaranteed approval for active transportation employees and their family.** The UTUIA offers three benefit levels. You choose the level of protection that's right for you and your family.

• Accidental Death:	\$20,000	\$40,000	\$60,000
• Private Auto Death:	\$30,000	\$60,000	\$90,000
• Common Carrier Death:	\$60,000	\$120,000	\$180,000
• Double Dismemberment:	\$20,000	\$40,000	\$60,000
• Dismemberment:	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$30,000

Monthly Premium:	\$6.00	\$13.00	\$19.50
------------------	--------	---------	---------

Cancer Hospital Indemnity

Cancer. Who among us has not known someone who has been affected by this disease that manifests itself in many forms? Statistics show that through early detection and treatment, the future is bright for so many, but the costs can be staggering. That's why so many UTUIA families own a Cancer Hospital Indemnity policy. Just look at the great benefits we have to offer:

- \$2,000 - First Diagnosis Benefit
- \$300 per day - Hospital Confinement Indemnity
- \$600 per day - \$18,000 per month Extended Stay Benefit
- \$100 per day - Home Recovery and Convalescent Care Benefit
- \$15,000 - Bone Marrow Transplant

Rates start as low as \$9.00 per month! No medical exam or blood test required!

I would like more information on UTUIA's Accidental Death & Dismemberment and Cancer Hospital Indemnity policies.

Please Print



Full Name	Date of Birth	SMART TD Local
Street Address	City	State Zip code
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.

For additional information on Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance or Cancer Hospital Indemnity Insurance:

Email sales@utuia.org, call 800-558-8842, 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 for more information on this and other policies.



Member takes Polar Plunge for charity

Continued from page 1



Barnhart has another dangerous hobby - driving in demolition derbies. Here he stands with one of his demolition cars.

Although Barnhart is retiring from plunging into freezing water, his thrill-seeking days aren't over, as he has no plans to retire from his favorite hobby—driving in demolition derbies.

Why such a dangerous hobby? For a guy like Barnhart, the simple answer is, for the thrill of it, of course.

The Special Olympics accepts donations year-round. For more information, go to www.specialolympics.org.

To donate to the Special Olympics Missouri chapter, mail your check or money order to: Special Olympics Missouri, 1625 N. King-shighway, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 (please include your name in the memo line of the check).

Interested in having your photo featured in the "Photo of the Month?" To have your photos considered, email your photos to: news_td@smart-union.org

State Watch continued

New York



Simon (right) meets with Rep. Zeldin (left) to discuss issues concerning SMART Transportation Division.

General Chairperson (GCA LIRR) **Anthony Simon** reports that he recently hosted Rep. Lee Zeldin (R - N.Y.) at his N.Y. office.

"He [Rep. Zeldin] came to my office and we had a one-on-one for over an hour. He was very supportive. I let him know my concerns and we are on the same page," Simon said. "Moving forward, I believe Zeldin will continue to be a friend. I look forward to a long relationship."

Pennsylvania



Pennsylvania State Legislative Director Paul Pokrowka testified at a hearing conducted by the Pennsylvania House Transportation Committee. The hearing was held Feb. 4, and focused on House Bill 1797 - the state's two-person crew bill.

Find us on social media!



Find us on Facebook here: www.facebook.com/SMARTTransportationDivision/



Find us on LinkedIn by searching for "SMART Transportation Division"

AUXILIARY OF THE UTU

Why become an Auxiliary member?

- Unites families of SMART transportation division;
- Eight 4-year scholarships of \$1000 awarded every year;
- Stay connected on legislative issues that affect your, family, spouse or relatives;
- Access to Union Plus discounts, scholarships and other benefits.

Who can become a member?


- Spouse, family or relatives of a SMART TD or Auxiliary member in good standing;
- Retired SMART TD members or employees;
- Employees of SMART TD at the International;
- Staff of state legislative boards, general committees or the legislative office in Washington, D.C.
- Spouse, family or relatives of a deceased SMART TD member who was in good standing at time of death.

ONLY \$5 to join. Visit www.utu.org/auxiliary for an application.

RRB announces 2016 conference schedule



The Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) has announced the locations and dates of their informational conferences for Spring 2016.

 All conference registrations begin at 8:00 a.m., with the programs beginning at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 12:15 p.m.

These informational conferences are beneficial to newly elected officers, retirees, those planning to retire and spouses.

APRIL

- **Friday, April 1 - Pikesville, Md.**
DoubleTree by Hilton
Baltimore North-Pikesville
1726 Reisterstown Road
- **Friday April 8 - Williamsburg, Va.**
Ft. Magruder Hotel & Conference Center
6945 Pocahontas Trail
- **Friday, April 8 - St. Louis, Mo.**
Holiday Inn Forest Park
5915 Wilson Avenue
- **Friday, April 15 - New York, N.Y.**
Doubletree by Hilton
Metropolitan New York
569 Lexington Avenue
- **Friday, April 22 - Cheektowaga, N.Y.**
Holiday Inn Buffalo Airport
4600 Genesee Street
- **Friday, April 29 - Romulus, Mich.**
Holiday Inn Romulus
8400 Merriman Road
- **Friday, April 29 - Ashland, Neb.**
Eugene T. Mahoney State Park
28500 West Park Highway

MAY

- **Friday, May 6 - Kansas City, Mo.**
Sheet Metal Workers Local Union No. 2
2902 Blue Ridge Boulevard
- **Friday, May 13 - Little Rock, Ark.**
Comfort Inn & Suites
707 Interstate 30, Frontage Road
- **Friday, May 13 - Lakewood, Colo.**
Holiday Inn Lakewood
7390 W. Hampden Avenue
- **Friday May 20 - Altoona, Pa.**
The Hampton Inn Altoona
180 Charlotte Drive
- **Friday, May 20 - Parma, Ohio**
Sheet Metal Worker's Local #33
12515 Corporate Drive


JUNE

- **Friday, June 10 - Billings, Mont.**
Hilton Garden Inn
2465 Grant Road
- **Friday, June 10 - Indianapolis, Ind.**
La Quinta Inn & Suites
5120 Victory Drive
(I-465 & South Emerson Drive)
- **Friday, June 17 - Dorchester, Mass.**
The Sheet Metal Workers Union Hall
1157 Adams Street
- **Friday, June 17 - Tinley Park, Ill.**
Tinley Park Convention Center
18451 Convention Center Drive
- **Friday, June 24 - Clive, Iowa**
Wildwood Lodge
11431 Forest Avenue
- **Friday, June 24 - Barboursville, W.Va.**
Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites
3551 US Route 60 E

Members who collect Social Security: benefits may be taxable



Did you know that your Social Security benefits may be taxable?

 This includes your monthly retirement, survivor and disability benefits. About one-third of people receiving Social Security benefits must pay taxes on some of these benefits, depending on the amount of their taxable income.

This may happen if you have other significant income in addition to your Social Security benefits.

To find out whether you must pay taxes on your benefits, you will need your Social Security Benefit Statement (Form SSA-1099/1042S).

You should automatically receive it in the mail each January. It shows the total amount of benefits you received from Social Security in the previous year so you know how much Social Security income to report to the Internal Revenue Service on your tax return.

The benefit statement is not available for people who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), as SSI payments are not taxable.

If you didn't receive your Benefit Statement or misplaced it, you can get an instant replacement easily by using your secure my Social Security account. If you don't already have an online account, you can create one in minutes. Go to the [my Social Security](#) page, and select "Sign In or Create an Account." Once you are logged in, select the "Replacement Documents" tab to obtain your replacement 1099 or 1042S benefit statement. You can also use your personal [my Social Security](#) account to keep track of your earnings each year, manage your benefits, and more.

You can also obtain a replacement benefit statement by calling us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778), or contacting your local Social Security Office. If you live outside of the United States, please contact your nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

Don't wait. Be ready! Open your own personal [my Social Security](#) account today.

SHEET METAL | AIR | RAIL | TRANSPORTATION

SMART
TRANSPORTATION DIVISION

Joseph Sellers Jr.
SMART
General President
jsellers@smart-union.org

Richard L. McClees,
SMART
General Secretary-Treasurer
rmcclees@smart-union.org

Contact us: news_td@smart-union.org
Phone (216) 228-9400; fax (216) 228-5755

John Previsich,
Transportation Division
President
president_td@smart-union.org

John Risch,
Transportation Division
National Legislative Director
jrisch@smart-union.org

Can't attend these conferences? View powerpoint slides presented at these workshops and other handouts [here](#).

For more information on informational conferences held by the Railroad Retirement Board, visit their website at www.rrb.gov or call toll free 877-772-5772 or TTY 312-751-4701.

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.

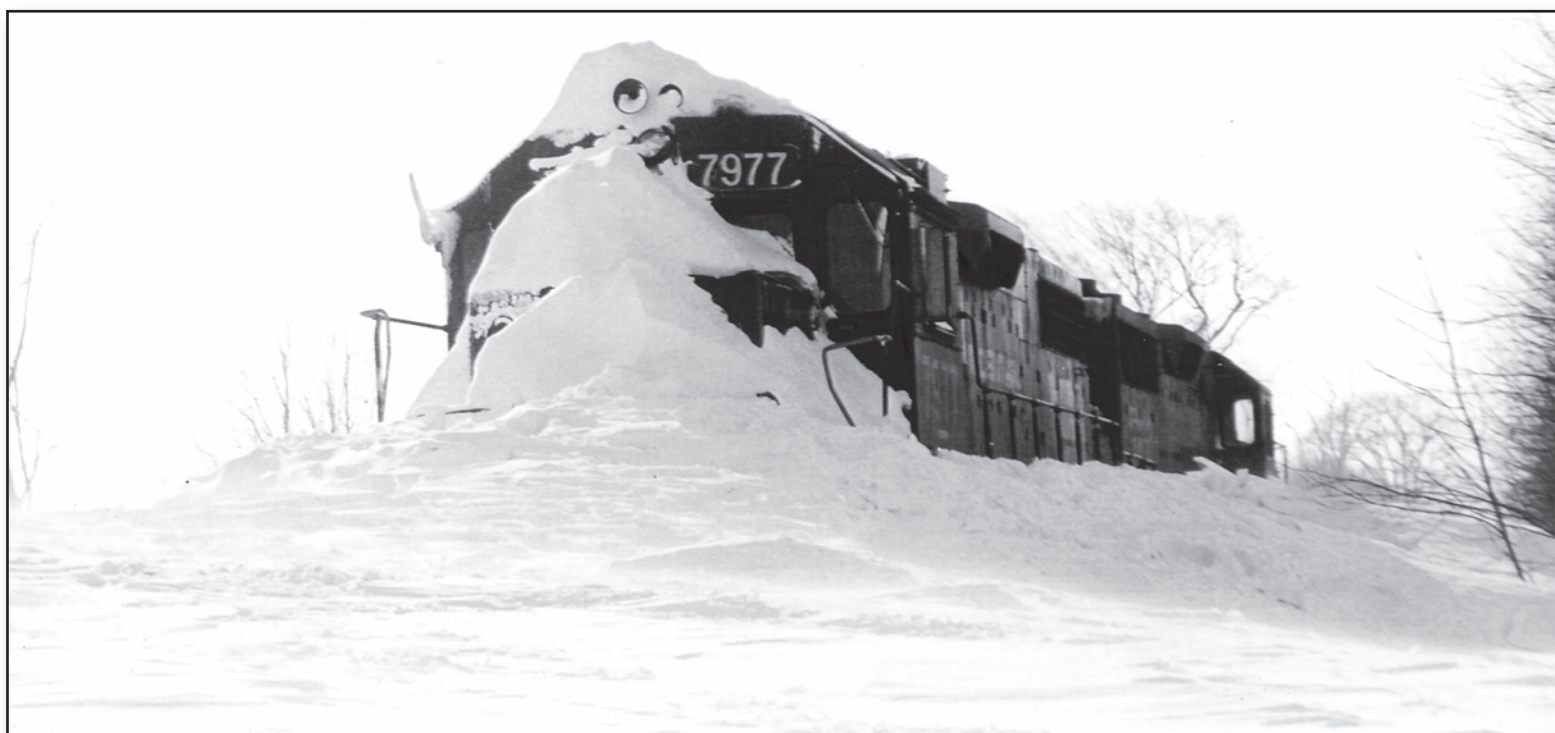
Printed photographs should be mailed to SMART TD, 24950 Country Club Blvd., Suite 340, North Olmsted, OH 44070-5333.

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 was taken by retired Conductor and Alumni Association Member **Robert Greenwood** of Local 1007 at Syracuse, N.Y. "This photo is of an engine that derailed in the early 1970s in St. Stanislas, Quebec. The engine was lifted off the rails by heavy snow and was stranded for several days. I was on the relief crew," Greenwood said.