



# Transportation Division News

Volume 51 • Number 6 • November 2019

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

## Union serves Section 6 notice on rail carriers

On November 20, SMART Transportation Division (SMART-TD) General Chairpersons served on railroads represented by the National Carriers' Conference Committee (NCCC) the SMART-TD's intended amendments to agreements affecting rates of pay, rules and work-

ing conditions.

Such notices are required by Section 6 of the Railway Labor Act to reopen agreements. With this notice to the NCCC, and the NCCC's earlier notice, the parties are set to begin the next round of bargaining.

While the national rail con-

tract between the SMART-TD and railroads represented by the NCCC becomes amendable on January 1, 2020, the existing contract will remain in force until it is amended and ratified by SMART-TD members under the craft autonomy provisions of the SMART Consti-

tution's Article Twenty-One B (21B).

During this round of national contract negotiations with the SMART-TD, the NCCC will be the chief bargaining representative for matters pertaining to rates of pay, rules, and working con-

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**Negotiation updates will be posted on the TD website. Documents are available via the National Rail Contract link on the TD home page.**

## District 3 GCs set path forward

The Association of General Chairpersons, District 3, consisting of the general chairpersons in the SMART Transportation Division Bus Department, chose new leadership Nov. 12 and discussed initiatives put forth over the summer at the SMART General Convention by the SMART Transit/Bus Committee.

Elected to lead District 3 at the conclusion of the meeting were Chairperson **Tonette Nixon-Pray** (Local 172, Darby, Pa.); Vice Chairperson **Erskins Robinson** (Local 1785, Santa Monica, Calif.); and Secretary **Tom Pate** (Local 1081, Glendale, Ariz.).

TD President **Jeremy Ferguson** took questions from the 16 GCs in attendance and laid out some of the initiatives that the union will be focusing on in the coming months under his administration. Among those discussed by President Ferguson were intensified efforts at organizing, the establish-



General chairpersons comprising the Association of General Chairpersons, District 3, convened Nov. 12 at the TD office in North Olmsted, Ohio.

ment of a Bus Safety Team and improving accessibility to educational offerings.

"We need more boots on the ground," he said, and

changes to the Organizing Department to enhance its power will be made after the

*Continued on Page 11*

**See Bus Department Vice President Calvin Studivant's column on Page 4 for more information about the Association of General Chairpersons, District 3 meeting.**

### Inside this issue of the SMART TD News

- **AROUND SMART TD:** Meet a SMART TD PAC contributor who's 108 years old, **Page 2**.
- **STATE WATCH:** Illinois legislative director appears before the U.S. House to talk Amtrak, **Page 5**.
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- **HOLIDAY WIN:** Arbitrator decides in favor of Long Island Rail Road workers, **Page 11**.
- **DENIED:** Carriers' motion to dismiss case against the FRA shot down by court, **Page 12**.



# Around the SMART TD

## Local 527, Coffeyville, Kan.

Local 527 members hosted Kansas State Legislative Director **Ty Dragoo** at a joint family picnic that also included members of the BLET in the autumn.

The SLD spoke to the group about current state and national legislative efforts.

Dragoo received a customized SMART-TD Local 527 bean-bag toss game as part of the local's hospitality.



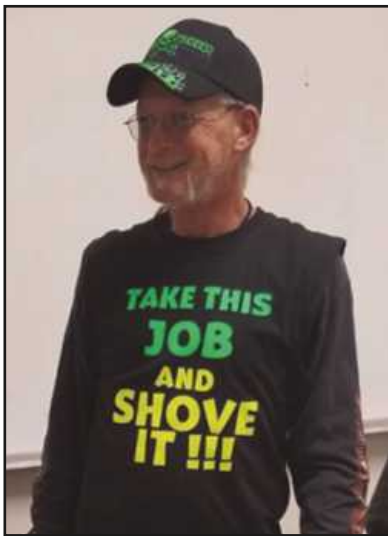
Members and officers of Local 527 surround Kansas State Legislative Director Ty Dragoo, center, as he holds a bean-bag toss game he was given at a family picnic.

## Local 773, Galveston, Texas

The local celebrated the career of member **Donnie Stidham**, who retired Nov. 15.

Fellow member **Michael W. Salinas**, a good friend of Stidham and also a Local 773 member, wrote a letter thanking Stidham, a conductor, for his decades of service and mentoring of other members.

"The knowledge you possess has helped crew members work safe, which is the most important part of your legacy," Salinas wrote. "This part of your history as a mentor, in which (you) gave them



more than they could remember, was always with safety in mind.

"Your life and career here

has many a story to tell, and believe us we will talk about you, of this you can be sure," Salinas wrote. "All of us here are going to remember how you conducted your business both as an employee, and most of all as a close friend."

Stidham joined the union in February 1978 after hiring on with the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad as a brakeman.

He became a conductor in April 1980 and spent a total of 42 years on the Santa Fe and BNSF railroads.

Congratulations to Brother Stidham on your retirement!



## Local 168, Chicago, Ill.

Members **Richard Lent** (left) and **Kevin McCann** pose after their duty of handling the Stampede Pass private car, shown above, at the Amtrak Grand Rapids station on Oct. 19. The car was built in 1954 by the Budd Company and was originally Northern Pacific property.

## Local 1813, West Colton, Calif.

The local gathered to wish switchman **Vick Garza** a happy retirement. Garza, a member of Local 1813 his whole career, joined the union in February 1999.

"On behalf of myself and the local, I would like to congratulate Vick," said Local President **Richard Acuña**.

SMART-TD thanks Brother Garza for his 21 years of service and wishes him a long and healthy retirement.



Vick Garza, back row center, is flanked by his wife, front, Local Chairman Kent Halsted, in green to Garza's left, and Local President Richard Acuña, back row to Garza's right, and other members of Local 1813.



Retiree Don Fanning, 108 years of age, head nurse Mollie Sexe-Borman and Minnesota State Legislative Director Phillip Qualy pose for a photo.

## The September paper got it wrong: Fanning, 108, is alive and is also a TD PAC donor

In its September issue, the SMART-TD News incorrectly listed 108-year-old SMART-TD Local 911 and Milwaukee Road retiree **Don Fanning** in the "Final Call" column.

Minnesota State Legislative Director **Phillip Qualy** reports that "Don Fanning is alive and well," and the listing was retracted in the October issue.

"Few members live to see their own name in the Final Call section of our paper" said SLD Qualy. "Earlier this year, SMART-TD performed a retiree data review and purged several past members who our research could no longer verify were with us. Unfortunately, Don's name was inadvertently dropped from our retiree list.

"Don and I have been neighbors and friends for years. I met with Don, apologized and we had a real good laugh. We got that car count wrong ..." Qualy said. "And Don continues to contribute annually to our Minnesota SMART-TD PAC!"

"If we have an 108-year-old retiree contributing to our PAC, why isn't every member contributing to the voice of railroad labor?" Qualy asked.

Fanning was born Jan. 26, 1911, and joined the union in 1953, and Minnesota Masonic Home staff say Fanning livens up the place.

"We love Don. He's truly an amazing man" said Mollie Sexe-Borman, director of nursing at the home. "He is a character and an inspiration to many of us."

Fanning has also reached the highest degree in the Masonic Scottish Right and continues to be active in his Minneapolis Lodge.

Like any organization, SMART-TD must update member data. Active and E-49 status members are asked to please be sure to notify your Local's secretary with your cell number, contact information and whenever you change your mailing address.

Retirees who are members of the TD Alumni Association, family or friends of retirees or E-49ers who have their SMART-TD newspaper unexpectedly stop or notice that they are not receiving communications from their union, should contact the SMART Transportation Division Updating Department at 216-228-9400 to check the data that SMART-TD has on file.

Thank you, Donald, for your service and being a PAC contributor!



Around the SMART TD continued...

Local 64, Waseca, Minn.



Local 64 members and officers pictured are, from left, Chris Cummings, Local Vice President Jose Leandre, retiree Norm Davis , retiring Chicago & North Western/Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern/Canadian Pacific engineer Barb (Schlict) Mutch, Local President Justin Mueller, Local Legislative Representative Robert Dickerson and Local Trustee Edward Arter.

Local Legislative Representative **Robert Dickerson** and other officers were joined by Sister **Barb (Schlict) Mutch**, who announced her retirement after 41 years of service.

“Barb has set the high bar as a steady, safe, and dependable crew member,” Dickerson said.

Mutch joined the union in October

1978 and worked on the Chicago & North Western, Dakota Minnesota and Eastern and Canadian Pacific railroads as a conductor and later as an engineer.

Minnesota State Legislative Director **Phillip Qualy** attended the local meeting and was a co-worker to Mutch on the C&NW.

Mutch said she plans to spend

her time post-retirement continuing as a master gardener and living with family and friends in southern Minnesota.

Added Dickerson, “Barb was a great person to work with. While we will miss her, she has earned it 100 times over. Congratulations, Barb!”

SMART-TD wishes her the best in a long, well-deserved retirement.

Local 1383, Gary, Ind.

Yard workers, yardmasters and hostlers represented by SMART-TD General Chairperson **Brian Fattore** (GO-329) voted to ratify a new contract with Gary Railway (the former EJ&E property) owned by Transtar and a subsidiary of U.S. Steel. The contract, covering 57 members, is a four-year agreement that runs through Jan. 1, 2020.

Gary Railway employees had rejected two previous federally mediated proposals. After assignment to Vice President **Brent Leonard**, the failed agreements were improved upon and passed with 98% approval, with only a single member voting against the proposal.

The ratified agreement contains annual wage increases, a lump sum signing bonus, increased pension and 401(k) matching contributions.

Health and welfare benefits achieved in the agreement include the carrier paying for the member’s annual deductible and the employee and dependent out-of-pocket maximum payment portions of the plan.

Union leaders announce coordinated bargaining group

CLEVELAND, Ohio and WASHINGTON — Top leaders of 10 rail unions announced that their organizations will be participating in coordinated bargaining in the round of national negotiations that began Nov. 1. The unions comprising the Coordinated Bargaining Coalition are:

- American Train Dispatchers Association (ATDA)
- Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen / Teamsters Rail Conference (BLET)
- Brotherhood of Railroad

- Signalmen (BRS)
- International Association of Machinists (IAM)
- International Brotherhood of Boilermakers (IBB)
- National Conference of Firemen & Oilers/SEIU (NCFO)
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)
- Transport Workers Union of America (TWU)
- Transportation Communications Union / IAM (TCU)
- Transportation Division of the International Asso-

- ciation of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation Workers (SMART-TD)

The following statement was jointly issued by ATDA President Leo McCann, BLET National President Dennis Pierce, BRS President Jerry Boles, IAM General Vice President – Transportation Sito Pantaja, IBB Director of Railroad Lodge Services John Mansker, IBEW Railroad Department Director Bill Bohne, NCFO President John Thacker, SMART-TD President **Jeremy Fergu-**

**son**, TWU Railroad Division Director John Feltz, and TCU National President Bob Scardelletti:

“We are pleased to announce the creation of the Coordinated Bargaining Coalition as we are on the threshold of the most critical round of national bargaining in a generation. Our Coalition is founded on two key values that we all share. One is that we understand the importance of each Union’s autonomy to pursue membership-specific goals within a framework of broad solidarity to

defend and improve the wages, benefits and working conditions of our members. The other is that we will spare no effort to defeat the attack by the railroads on the very foundation of our members’ economic security.”

Jointly, the Coordinated Bargaining Coalition unions represent more than 105,000 railroad workers covered by the various organizations’ national agreements, and comprise over 80% of the workforce who will be impacted by this round of negotiations.

SMART Transportation Division issues Section 6 notice to railroad carriers

Continued from Page 1

ditions on behalf of BNSF, CSX, Kansas City Southern, Canadian National, Norfolk Southern, Soo Line, Union Pacific and numerous smaller railroads. Other railroads, including Amtrak, negotiate individually with the SMART-TD.

More than 40,000 SMART-TD members are affected by these national contract talks with the NCCC, and the resulting agreements frequently set patterns for other negotiated rail agreements.

SMART-TD President **Jeremy Ferguson** will lead the SMART-TD negotiating team. Members of the negotiating team will be selected early next month.

As noted in a press release on

November 1, 2019, the SMART-TD will be joining with nine (9) other rail labor organizations who are participating in coordinated bargaining in this round of national negotiations.

Major elements of the SMART-TD’s Section 6 notices include:

- Complete and permanent elimination of existing service scale (entry rates of pay);
- A series of general wage increases, effective Jan. 1, 2020, and every six months thereafter;
- Cost of living adjustments;
- Shift- and weekend-differential pay;
- Paid sick leave for all crafts, without censure or discipline;
- Technology pay for daily required utilization of all in-cab and handheld reporting devices;
- Additional rest opportunities and ability to miss work for family needs, quality of life, and doctor visits;
- Additional training pay for all crafts, including compensation for qualification, re-qualification, and familiarization trips;
- Carriers to give first-employment consideration to qualified conductors furloughed from other railroads;
- Furloughed employees called back to work will be guaranteed a minimum of 60 days of work and pay;
- Increased meal allowances;
- Restrictions on transferring, consolidating, combining or centralizing yardmaster assign-

- ments;
- Establishment of a formula for yardmaster extra boards; and
- Enhanced benefits under the NRC/UTU Health and Welfare Plan and the Railroad Employees’ National Health and Welfare Plan (GA-23000).

SMART-TD Section 6 notices were developed beginning with recommendations offered by SMART-TD members. A committee of general chairpersons from the Association of General Chairpersons, District 1, reviewed and fine-tuned those suggestions, which were then approved by the entire Association of General Chairpersons, District 1.



## SMART GENERAL PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

## United, we will face challenges ahead in 2020

Brothers and sisters, I want to begin by unfortunately recognizing that since our convention in August we have lost four of our brothers on the job: three railroaders and one sheet metal worker. The loss of any worker is one too many and our core union mission is for each of us to improve our "safety culture" ensuring every member can expect to return home from work to their families safe and sound. To those who felt the loss of our brothers, words cannot fill the vacuum created by your loss. But remember SMART is a family. And as family, you have the support of every family member in this 200,000-person organization.

Over the past year, we worked hard to position our union for the challenges and opportunities to come in



**By Joseph Sellers Jr.**

every sector of the industries where our members work.

We stood shoulder-to-shoulder against corporate greed, fighting together on issues such as two-person crews, protecting our apprenticeships and ensuring safety in our workplaces and job sites.

There is no doubt that we are dealing with a regulatory environment where corporate profits now trump safety, with workers losing even more of the protections that we once took for granted through FRA's position reversal in May. What used

to be "safety first" is now "profits first." Deferred maintenance on equipment and reductions in the workforce increase risks for workers and the public. This is a short-sighted business plan that has proven to be nothing more than a failed practice that puts railroaders and the communities we travel through in undue jeopardy.

In addition to safety concerns, our members may find themselves unemployed due to unwanted furloughs. Our union wants to coordinate and provide opportunities for our members where they exist in the construction, production and shipyard industries. I encourage those seeking employment to contact their union officers and Sheet Metal locals to inquire about existing job opportunities.

The current White House

administration seeks to wear down organized labor by any means at its disposal. Our legislative and government affairs departments continue to provide good legislation on safety while defending us from legislation that would harm workers. Text the words RAIL SAFETY to 21333 to act on safety issue in the freight rail industry. You can also text the word SAFETY to 21333 for members concerned about operator safety in the bus and transit industries. Message and data rates may apply.

The risk of low-road industry-recognized apprenticeships that threaten our brothers and sisters in the sheet metal industry is real. To add insult to injury, Republican senators recently proposed a dangerous pension scheme that would impose a new tax of up to 10 percent

on some retirees, while penalizing healthy pension plans in order to assist a small group of troubled plans in other industries.

We cannot afford to hesitate or wait for November 2020. We must participate every day in the process. I urge you and every SMART member to check the status of your and your family's voter registration by texting the words MY VOTE to 21333 (message and data rates may apply).

Together, we will stand one day longer than our adversaries.

Thank you and have a happy and prosperous New Year. Be safe!

Faternally,

General President, SMART

## Bus Department News

*A message from your Bus Department leadership*

Dear Brothers & Sisters

I hope you all have a safe, healthy and happy holiday season with your family and friends.

On Nov. 12, the Bus Department general chairpersons met in Cleveland to discuss the bus members' agenda and also to elect new District 3 leadership.

TD President **Jeremy Ferguson** spoke to the District 3 members concerning the agenda laid out at the convention and our commitment to see it through (see Page 1).

We also had state legislative directors who have bus membership in attendance. Their presence was vital because we can't stress enough the importance of getting support for H.R. 1139 (the Transit

Worker and Pedestrians Protection Act). We need them to push for sponsors to get the bill passed, and there is absolutely no time to waste.

We can never accept going to work and being assaulted for doing our jobs. Bus operators across the country have been shot, stabbed, spat on and even had urine and feces thrown at them.

Enough is enough. We must not accept this as normal or in the line of duty of a daily work day. Transit agencies must stand with unions to address this issue and can no longer put profit above the safety of their employees.

As stated earlier, District 3 GCs elected new leadership: Chairperson is **Tonette Nixon Pray** from Local 172 in Philadelphia, and the vice chairperson is **Erskins Robinson** from Local 1785 in Santa Monica, Calif. Secretary **Tom Pate** of GO-20 in Arizona, an

incumbent, was re-elected.

Another issue discussed and equally important is the establishment of some health care for the Bus Department.

I, along with Vice President **Brent Leonard**, will be working diligently to fulfill this goal. It may take some time, but we will work hard to deliver this, because it is long overdue.

I'd like to thank all of you bus operators who go to work every day knowing the challenges you face — to transport your riders safely to appointments, their workplaces, schools and stores.

I hope the public and the transit agencies you represent will appreciate the hard work that you do every day, because we in the Bus Department surely do.

In solidarity,

Calvin Studivant  
VP Bus Department  
SMART-TD  
216-630-0963



Studivant

## STB clears sale of short-line G&W

Disregarding comments by the SMART TD New York Legislative Board to the contrary, the Surface Transportation Board (STB) has granted an exemption to Brookfield Asset Management and DJP XX LLC that clears their acquisition of short-line/regional railroad operator Genesee & Wyoming.

Genesee & Wyoming

controls Class II and III railroads in 41 states and, if considered collectively, its holdings qualify it as a Class I carrier with more than 13,000 track miles.

The notice, published in the Federal Register Nov. 1 after a 3-0 vote by the board, concludes a postponement of the \$8.4 billion acquisition put forth by the STB in late July.

## CP buys Central Maine & Quebec

Canadian Pacific announced Nov. 20 that it has come to an agreement that would result in the Class I carrier acquiring the Central Maine & Quebec Railway (CM&Q).

Financial terms of the acquisition were not disclosed in a release.

CP's purchase from Fortress Transportation and Infrastructure

Investors LLC now gives the carrier 481 miles of CM&Q trackage and facilities from St. Jean, Quebec, Canada, to Searsport, Maine, and is expected to close by the end of the year.

SMART Transportation Division represents 52 members on the CM&Q in the Transportation, Mechanical and Engineering Departments.



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## TRANSPORTATION DIVISION PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

## With a key year ahead, please keep PAC in mind

It's been a whirlwind first two months since your new SMART-TD leadership has taken office — and we're working on being more visible and getting our message out, especially as we enter into the national rail negotiations in earnest.

A group of SMART members — not just TD, not just Sheet Metal, not just officers and not just rank-and-file — got together earlier this month in Kansas City, Mo., for a town hall meeting. Both General President Sellers and I were asked some tough questions about where SMART is headed. We welcome these questions because it shows the level of investment members have in our union and its future.

There's a reason the theme for the convention over the summer was "Focus on the Future." The future includes all of us. What hurts a member on the TD side by extension hurts folks on the Sheet Metal side and vice versa.



By **Jeremy Ferguson**

That's why we stood together at an informational demonstration to protest Union Pacific's layoffs at Neff Yard where they gave about 200 workers about two days' notice before chopping their jobs. (If you remember, UP got a \$5.8 billion tax break in late 2017 thanks to the current administration's signature tax cuts).

We were out there. We were visible. We were united in solidarity. We're going to do that again because that's how it should be from here on out.

There's something I wanted to reinforce as we get into 2020, and that's how none of us can afford to sit on our hands when it comes to

national and state legislation. We have dedicated legislative board members all around the country and a hard-working staff in Washington trying to get the word out about bills in both the U.S. House and U.S. Senate and in the states.

Thing is, we can do a better job of supporting them through SMART TD PAC and by being more active when it comes to reaching out to elected officials.

If you look over on the next page, you'll see a list of the top local legislative representatives who've excelled at getting people to donate to PAC. It's a matter of union pride that they get their brothers and sisters to support legislation that protects us and educate legislators to understand our issues.

They did well, but we can do better.

If you look at the data from last year by state, we have 11 states where members average less than \$12 given

annually to PAC. That's about the cost of a movie ticket or about seven 20-ounce Mountain Dews (or five energy drinks). In 24 locals, nobody gave to PAC in 2018.

If a dollar a month is what you can contribute, it means a lot. We know the carriers have billions to toss around. But our money means more.

Our legislative directors walk into those politicians' offices, shake their hands and sincerely talk about how we keep America moving by road, rail or air. They talk about the risks and dangers our members willingly face on the job and how all the carriers' lip service about safety tends to fade when contrasted with the shareholders' bottom line. They talk about how each of those dollars comes from a proud union household that works hard for its money every day and how those family members vote with their pocketbooks.

If you're not signed up to

PAC, throw in a couple bucks a month. It goes to a good cause — your long-term protection. We all know it takes money to get in the door and get our voice out there. Every dollar you give is a big thing in order to get our voices heard in the halls of state capitals and in Congress.

2020 is an election year. The candidates are going to have their ears open as they campaign. We need to be sure that they hear all of the concerns of SMART members.

There's more info about PAC in this paper. Please review it and donate soon.

I wish you the best this holiday season. Be safe, and let's be ready to have a loud 2020.

Fraternally,

President,  
Transportation Division

## State Watch

## News from SMART TD State Legislative Boards

## Illinois SLD testifies before House subcommittee

SMART Transportation Division Illinois State Legislative Director **Bob Guy** testified Nov. 13 before the U.S. House Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials regarding the future of Amtrak as members of Congress continued the reauthorization process for the national passenger carrier and the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.

He touched upon the topics of assault upon workers, Amtrak funding and having a labor member on the carrier's board.

Guy called for Congress to increase the level of appropriations reserved for Amtrak so that the carrier can go forward as an important part in the groundwork of a multi-modal transportation system in the United States.

"Congress should allow Amtrak to be America's railroad and support their ability to maintain a qualified workforce that meets customers' demands now and well into the future," Guy, who has been elected chairman of the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission (MIPRC) told representatives on the subcommittee.

He said steps taken by legislators in the FAST Act, including the addition of three grants administered by the Federal Railroad Administration, have helped to increase momentum for improving Amtrak's service.

"These grants are successful, and



Bob Guy, the Illinois state legislative director, delivers his testimony before the U.S. House Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials on Nov. 13 in Washington, D.C. Behind Guy are National Legislative Director Greg Hynes, left, and Alternate National Legislative Director Jared Cassity, right.

they work."

But operationally, there are areas of concern — Guy urged representatives to preserve and protect Amtrak's long-distance service, which had been in jeopardy of being axed last year — especially the Southwest Chief route — before legislators stepped in.

On the administrative side, Guy said the Amtrak Board of Directors should have a member from labor on it, mirroring what the Railroad Retirement Board does, Guy said. Often, the experiences of SMART-TD members and other unionized workers who keep Amtrak running day to day can be enlightening on what to do

and what not to do when running the railroad, he said.

"Passengers interact with our members on board trains," Guy said. "We hear concerns and complaints ... having a labor member at a board level will help Amtrak make decisions that could affect service."

Guy said employees also are not given enough resources to deal with violence against them. Carrier-provided protections for Amtrak's rail workers such as de-escalation and self-defense training aren't there, he said, and neither is counseling after an incidence of violence occurs.

While SMART-TD brother **Michael Case** was shot in 2017, and the inci-

dent spurred the introduction of legislation to treat the punishment of transit worker assaults the same as those perpetrated on airline workers, not enough has been done, Guy said.

Guy was one of three labor representatives who discussed the carrier's relationship with labor.

Over the past year, he said Amtrak has engaged in what has been described by some as "union busting" behavior, especially as it concerns cuts to the jobs of unionized call-center and food-service workers, police officers and rural station agents.

"When you are reducing the workforce that's in charge of inspections and fixing equipment and whatnot, it makes it hard to keep things in a state of good repair, regardless if new equipment is coming," Guy said. "I wouldn't want to see worker reductions to the point where safety is jeopardized. We don't think it is, but that's a path we wouldn't want to see."

Amtrak reported a positive fiscal 2019 with an increase in ridership, a decrease in operating loss and an increase in operating revenue, but subcommittee Chairman Dan Lipinski, who represents Illinois' 3rd District, was highly critical of the carrier's cuts that helped to achieve those results in his opening remarks.

"Amtrak clearly has decided that the way to prosperity is to have its workers pay for it," Lipinski said. "This is not the way to run this railroad."





# PAC contributions for 2018



## Your top-performing local legislative representatives

**Ronnie R. Hobbs**  
Local 854

**Kenneth L. Friend**  
Local 508

**Tommy G. Pate**  
Local 1081

**Brian J. Hagele**  
Local 234

**Chris H. Williams**  
Local 1709

**Jarrod A. Hudson**  
Local 453

**Ty E. Dragoo**  
Local 1503

**Ellis Lowen Laird**  
Local 113

**Jonathan Todhunter**  
Local 867

**John M. Zagurski**  
Local 872

Photo not submitted

## How does your state stack up?

(Average PAC contributions per member, per month)

Arizona	6.75
Wisconsin	4.09
Michigan	4.05
Virginia	3.84
Nevada	3.75
Nebraska	3.61
Utah	3.56
Indiana	3.33
Kansas	3.17
Montana	3.15
Iowa	2.97
Illinois	2.91
Minnesota	2.76
Delaware	2.70
New Mexico	2.60
Wyoming	2.57
Missouri	2.56
Texas	2.44
Colorado	2.40
Arkansas	2.34
North Dakota	2.28
Oregon	2.17
Maryland	1.63
Oklahoma	1.62
California	1.54
New Jersey	1.53
Florida	1.53
Washington	1.40
District Of Columbia	1.38
Idaho	1.32
New England states	1.19
Ohio	1.18
Connecticut	1.11
North Carolina	1.09
Louisiana	1.08
Alaska	.95
Georgia	.93
South Carolina	.88
Kentucky	.84
Alabama	.74
New York	.67
Mississippi	.62
Pennsylvania	.55
Tennessee	.54
West Virginia	.48
South Dakota	.36

# To Get Your Say, Give a Dollar a Day.

**"We are under the greatest attack of our careers. PAC is more important than ever. If we had every member contributing at the dollar a day level, we would have more PAC than the railroads and that would be a game changer. If not now, when?"**

— National Legislative Director Greg Hynes

**TD Political Action Committee Donation Form**  
24950 Country Club Blvd., Suite 340, North Olmsted, OH 44070-5333

I, (please print) \_\_\_\_\_, of Local \_\_\_\_\_, proudly pledge to SMART TD PAC the amount indicated below annually, to be pro-rated monthly and collected with my union dues.

☐ \$10/month (\$120/yr.)  
*Silver Club*

☐ \$25/month (\$300/yr.)  
*Gold Club*

☐ \$30.42/month (\$365/yr.)  
*Dollar-A-Day Club*

☐ \$50/month (\$600/yr.)  
*Diamond Club*

☐ \$100/month (\$1,200/yr.)  
*Platinum Club*

☐ \$208.33/month (\$2,500/yr.)  
*President's Circle*

☐ Other amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I wish to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month, or I would like to make a one-time contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. (Please enclose a check to "SMART TD PAC" with this form.)

☐ I am a retired member of Local \_\_\_\_\_ and I still want to help my union. I am enclosing a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to TD PAC. (Please enclose a check to "SMART TD PAC" with this form.)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Effective date \_\_\_\_\_

SMART TD PAC reports are filed with the Federal Election Commission, 999 E St. N.W., Washington, DC 20463, and are available for inspection from that agency and appropriate state agencies. Contributions or gifts to SMART TD PAC are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal income tax purposes.

### Top 10 Locals

(Average PAC contributions per local member per month)

Local	City	Amount
854	Portsmouth, Va.	\$24.90
	Ronnie R. Hobbs, Legislative Rep.	
508	Smithville, Texas	\$18.56
	Kenneth L. Friend, Legislative Rep.	
1081	Glendale, Ariz.	\$16.32
	Tommy G. Pate, Legislative Rep.	
234	Bloomington, Ill.	\$16.17
	Brian J. Hagele, Legislative Rep.	
1709	Pontiac, Mich.	\$13.34
	Christopher H. Williams, Legislative Rep.	
453	Clinton, Ill.	\$9.22
	Jarrod A. Hudson, Legislative Rep.	
1503	Marysville, Kan.	\$8.81
	Ty E. Dragoo, Legislative Rep.	
113	Winslow, Ariz.	\$8.25
	Ellis Lowen Laird, Legislative Rep.	
867	Des Moines, Iowa	\$8.16
	Jonathan Todhunter, Legislative Rep.	
872	Omaha, Neb.	\$8.12
	John M. Zagurski, Legislative Rep.	

## Average monthly PAC contribution per local member

		Amount	Georgia		1532 Kansas City	\$6.68	257 Morrill	\$1.00	860 Middleport	\$0.00	937 Mart	\$1.95
	Alabama		511 Atlanta	\$1.13	State Average	\$3.17	286 North Platte	\$5.45	991 Steubenville	\$0.73	940 Wichita Falls	\$2.53
598	Mobile	\$0.32	535 Macon	\$0.65			305 Lincoln	\$3.70	1365 Youngstown	\$0.08	949 Sherman	\$0.82
622	Birmingham	\$1.48	674 Augusta	\$0.86			367 Omaha	\$4.08	1376 Columbus	\$1.48	953 Victoria	\$4.57
762	Montgomery	\$1.55	941 Columbus	\$0.49			626 Mccook	\$2.92	1397 Columbus	\$1.46	965 Dallas	\$1.25
847	Birmingham	\$0.82	998 Waycross	\$1.66			872 Omaha	\$8.12	1529 Walbridge	\$1.46	1092 Teague	\$2.35
1053	Selma	\$0.29	1031 Savannah	\$1.68			934 Alliance	\$2.09	1816 Toledo	\$1.56	1205 Kingsville	\$0.67
1291	Birmingham	\$0.98	1033 Atlanta	\$0.63			785 Paducah	\$0.39	1928 Toledo	\$0.22	1313 Amarillo	\$2.69
1887	Fairfield	\$0.00	1245 Atlanta	\$0.75			1190 Ludlow	\$0.29	1948 Youngstown	\$0.61	1524 Houston	\$0.41
1972	Birmingham	\$0.44	1261 Atlanta	\$0.93			1315 Covington	\$1.44	1962 Toledo	\$1.75	1571 El Paso	\$3.28
State Average	\$0.74		1263 Valdosta	\$1.06			1316 Ravenna	\$2.01	State Average	\$1.18	1593 Brownwood	\$2.29
	Alaska		1598 Manchester	\$0.37			1328 Louisville	\$0.41			1670 Laredo	\$2.27
1626	Anchorage	\$0.95	1790 Fitzgerald	\$0.41			1377 Russell	\$1.54			1886 Houston	\$1.63
State Average	\$0.95		1910 Macon	\$1.79			1963 Louisville	\$0.78			1892 Houston	\$0.85
			1971 Atlanta	\$0.63			State Average	\$0.84			1904 Houston	\$3.71
	State Average		State Average	\$0.93							1918 El Paso	\$0.72
	Arizona										1957 Slsbee	\$6.71
113	Winslow	\$8.25									1984 Fort Worth	\$2.44
807	Tucson	\$4.34									State Average	
1081	Glendale	\$16.32										
1629	Phoenix	\$1.88										
1800	Tucson	\$2.97										
State Average	\$6.75											
	Arkansas											
221	North Little Rock	\$0.89										
462	Pine Bluff	\$1.82										
507	Van Buren	\$5.49										
656	North Little Rock	\$0.96										
733	Dequeen	\$1.48										
950	West Memphis	\$3.43										
State Average	\$2.34											
	California											
23	Santa Cruz	\$2.20										
31	San Jose	\$7.40										
32	Glendale	\$0.08										
84	Los Angeles	\$2.21										
100	Oakland	\$0.87										
239	Oakland	\$1.21										
240	Los Angeles	\$2.95										
492	Sacramento	\$0.27										
694	Dunsmuir	\$1.27										
771	Needles	\$1.57										
811	San Bernardino	\$2.90										
835	Bakersfield	\$0.98										
1201	Stockton	\$0.81										
1241	Richmond	\$0.63										
1252	Fresno	\$0.36										
1422	Los Angeles	\$0.97										
1544	Maywood	\$3.22										
1563	El Monte	\$1.17										
1564	Los Angeles	\$1.35										
1565	West Hollywood	\$1.37										
1570	Roseville	\$0.76										
1581	Bakersfield	\$2.90										
1607	Los Angeles	\$1.13										
1608	Chatsworth	\$1.61										
1674	Los Angeles	\$7.12										
1694	Barstow	\$0.22										
1701	Montebello	\$0.19										
1730	Richmond	\$0.40										
1732	San Jose	\$0.92										
1741	San Francisco	\$0.05										
1770	Los Angeles	\$0.81										
1785	Santa Monica	\$0.98										
1801	Martinez	\$0.45										
1813	West Colton	\$1.57										
1846	West Colton	\$0.84										
State Average	\$1.54											
	Colorado											
40	Denver	\$0.09										
201	Trinidad	\$1.47										
202	Denver	\$4.29										
204	Pueblo	\$3.95										
500	Grand Junction	\$2.99										
945	La Junta	\$1.66										
1136	Sterling	\$2.35										
State Average	\$2.40											
	Connecticut											
277	Hartford	\$1.02										
328	New Haven	\$1.41										
1361	New Haven	\$1.58										
1672	New London	\$0.43										
State Average	\$1.11											
	Delaware											
1378	Wilmington	\$2.70										
State Average	\$2.70											
	District of Columbia											
1522	Washington	\$0.38										
1933	Washington	\$2.37										
Average	\$1.38											
	Florida											
30	Jacksonville	\$2.49										
903	Jacksonville	\$0.44										
1035	Lakeland	\$0.00										
1138	Miami	\$4.12										
1221	Tampa	\$0.60										
1312	Pensacola	\$0.40										
1502	Wildwood	\$1.43										
1504	Sanford	\$2.76										
State Average	\$1.53											
	Georgia											
511	Atlanta	\$1.13										
535	Macon	\$0.65										
674	Augusta	\$0.86										
941	Columbus	\$0.49										
998	Waycross	\$1.66										
1031	Savannah	\$1.68										
1033	Atlanta	\$0.63										
1245	Atlanta	\$0.75										
1261	Atlanta	\$0.93										
1263	Valdosta	\$1.06										
1598	Manchester	\$0.37										
1790	Fitzgerald	\$0.41										
1910	Macon	\$1.79										
1971	Atlanta	\$0.63										
State Average	\$0.93											
	Idaho											
265	Pocatello	\$2.37										
1058	Nampa	\$0.27										
State Average	\$1.32											
	Illinois											
168	Chicago	\$2.32										
171	Aurora	\$2.13										
195	Galesburg	\$3.02										
196	Beardstown	\$4.27										
198	Peoria	\$0.13										
234	Bloomington	\$16.17										
258	Rock Island	\$1.18										
432	Champaign-Urb.	\$1.58										
445	Niotra	\$3.00										
453	Clinton	\$9.22										
469	Madison	\$5.23										
528	Chicago	\$1.23										
577	Northlake	\$1.19										
597	Des Plaines	\$2.45										
620	Chicago	\$2.40										
653	Blue Island	\$2.76										
740	Joliet	\$0.47										
768	Decatur	\$0.90										
978	Salem	\$0.44										
1003	Kankakee	\$1.48										
1083	Villa Grove	\$1.93										
1258	Elgin	\$7.26										
1290	Chicago	\$2.78										
1299	Chicago	\$1.32										
1358	Danville	\$2.18										
1402	Dupo	\$0.90										
1421	Franklin Park	\$6.99										
1423	Galesburg	\$1.22										
1433	Elmwood Park	\$1.09										
1494	Chicago	\$4.43										
1525	Carbondale	\$3.50										
1534	Chicago	\$4.21										
1597	Chicago	\$2.31										
1583	Riverdale	\$1.51										
1895	Chicago	\$2.40										
1929	East St. Louis	\$1.07										
1973	Chicago	\$1.12										
State Average	\$2.91											
	Indiana											
6	Indianapolis	\$6.87										
194	Elkhart	\$2.18										
206	Peru	\$1.06										
298	Garrett	\$3.98										
333	North Vernon	\$3.42										
490	Princeton	\$5.32										
744	Frankfort	\$7.28										
904	Evansville	\$1.80										
1202	Fort Wayne	\$1.88										
1381	Hammond	\$1.51										
1383	Gary	\$0.94										
1518	Indianapolis	\$4.44										
1526	Michigan City	\$2.22										
1548	Indianapolis	\$2.10										
1663	Indianapolis	\$4.89										



State Watch continued...

Kansas

State Legislative Director **Ty Dragoo** met with U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.), the chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and U.S. Rep Sharice Davids of Kansas's 3rd District.

"I had a great evening with them and was excited to discuss all the good work going into supporting common-sense legislation H.R. 1748," Dragoo said. "We discussed many issues facing rail labor and was extremely encouraged by the commitment we have from Reps DeFazio and Davids."



U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio of Oregon, left, SMART-TD Kansas State Legislative Director Ty Dragoo and U.S. Rep. Sharice Davids of Kansas discussed two-person crew legislation and support for TD members.

Louisiana



State Legislative Director Chris Christianson of Local 1545 (Monroe, La.), above far right, stood in solidarity with other members of the state AFL-CIO while wearing red in support of Chicago schoolteachers who were on strike.

Oregon



Assistant State Legislative Director Jeff Allen of Local 1574 (Portland), above right, spent some time with U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, left, a co-sponsor of the Safe Freight Act (H.R. 1748). Allen and State Director Glenn Carey attended The Oregon Summit in Sunriver, Ore., and met with Merkley and other legislators.

Utah



U.S. Rep. Ben McAdams of Utah's 4th District, left, poses for a picture with Utah State Legislative Director F. Jay Seegmiller after McAdams agreed to co-sponsor H.R. 1748 - the Safe Freight Act of 2019.



SMART members from both the Transportation Division and Sheet Metal segments of our union take part in an informational picket in Kansas City on Nov. 5 to protest the closure by Union Pacific of Neff Yard.

GP Sellers and Ferguson convene Kansas town hall, protest Neff Yard layoffs

SMART General President **Joseph Sellers Jr.** and TD President **Jeremy Ferguson** both participated in a town hall meeting and informational rally in Kansas City on Nov. 4 and 5 to draw attention to Union Pacific's closure of the Neff Yard that resulted in about 200 lost jobs.

The event received local media coverage and was a success, said Kansas State Legislative Director **Ty Dragoo**.

"It was a great event," Dragoo said. "We had over 170 members there. We're definitely moving forward."

Multiple TD state legislative directors and members from Sheet Metal and TD locals came together to protest corporations putting profit above all when UP gave workers just two days' notice before the cuts while reaping benefits from federal tax breaks by buying back stock shares.



Salt Lake City Council unanimously passed a resolution in support of the Safe Freight Act of 2019 (H.R. 1748). Both Salt Lake City and Milford have both passed resolutions in favor of two-person crews, and several other City and County Councils in Utah are considering similar resolutions, said Utah State Legislative Director **F. Jay Seegmiller**.

"In Utah, we have a growing grassroots movement for two-person crews," Seegmiller said. "As this movement continues to grow, we hope our state and federal representation will take notice and join in."



From left, Salt Lake City Director of Community Involvement Jennifer Seelig; Councilwoman Ana Valdemoros; Councilman Chris Wharton; Councilman James Rogers; Councilwoman Erin Mendenhall; SMART-TD Utah State Director F. Jay Seegmiller; Local 1366 Legislative Rep-elect Brandon Rodabough; Councilman Charlie Luke; Councilwoman Amy Fowler and Councilman Andrew Johnston.



SMART TD Alumni

News and information for our retirees and members of the SMART TD Alumni Association

Are you getting close to retirement? You can get the TD News & other benefits for just \$9 a year! Call 216-228-9400, email [kcashin@smart-union.org](mailto:kcashin@smart-union.org) or visit [www.smart-union.org/td/alumni](http://www.smart-union.org/td/alumni)

RAILROAD RETIREMENT NEWS

New CPI brings uptick to benefits

Most Railroad Retirement annuities, like Social Security benefits, will increase in January due to a rise in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from the third quarter of 2018 to the corresponding period of the current year.

Cost-of-living increases are calculated in both the Tier I and Tier II benefits included in a Railroad Retirement annuity. Tier I benefits, like Social Security benefits, will increase by 1.6 percent, which is the percentage of the CPI rise. Tier II benefits will go up by 0.5 percent, which is 32.5 percent of the CPI increase. Vested dual benefit payments and supplemental annuities also paid by the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) are not adjusted for the CPI change.

In January, the average regular Railroad Retirement employee annuity will increase \$36 a month to \$2,875 and the average of combined benefits for an

employee and spouse will increase \$50 a month to \$4,174. For those aged widow(er)s eligible for an increase, the average annuity will increase \$20 a month to \$1,428.

The cost-of-living increase follows a Tier I increase of 2.8 percent in January 2019, which had been the largest in seven years.

In late December the RRB will mail notices to all annuitants providing a breakdown of the annuity rates payable to them in January 2020.

Retirees can earn more in 2020

Railroad Retirement annuitants subject to earnings restrictions can earn more in 2020 without having their benefits reduced as a result of increases in earnings limits indexed to average national wage increases.

Like Social Security benefits, some Railroad Retirement benefit payments are subject to deductions if an annuitant's earnings

Continued on Page 10

Giving to Greenbriar



SMART Army volunteers in Georgia contributed to Greenbriar Children's Center in Savannah, Ga., recently. The Brotherhood of Retired Railroad Workers, which includes a number of TD Alumni Association members, were on hand with Georgia SMART Army coordinator James Jackson of SM Local 85 and Georgia State Legislative Director Matt Campbell to present a donation check and tour the facility. "Thanks to SMART Local 85, TD Local 1031, the Georgia State Legislative Board and SMART TD GC-169 for helping make this possible," Campbell said. "Some of our TD Alumni members volunteer at Greenbriar on a regular basis and are very much appreciated by the organization, which promotes the healthy development of children and the strengthening of families."

Retired conductor gets word out on two-person crews

Alumni Association member David Booth, retired out of Local 363 (Roanoke, Va.), wrote an op-ed to The Roanoke Times, his hometown newspaper, talking about why it's necessary to support H.R. 1748, the Safe Freight Act of 2019.

Booth, who joined the union in 1973 and worked for Norfolk Western (now NS) for 45 years until his retirement, discussed the common-sense reasons why two people should stay in the train cab, especially with the longer trains being used by carriers.

"It's something we here at 680 and are very proud of Mr. Booth for!" an email from the office administrator of GO-680 (Norfolk Southern) said.



Booth

THE FINAL CALL

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

Local	Name	City/State	Local	Name	City/State	Local	Name	City/State
60	Tropila, Eugene L.	Westwood, N.J.	440	Wellbrock, Elmer J.	Villa Hills, Ky.	898	Madden, John P.	Norwood, Mass.
145	Case, John W.	West Jefferson, Ohio		Anderson, John R.	Cincinnati, Ohio	904	Veeck, Kenneth L.	Evansville, Ind.
168	Gerritsen, William E.	Fostoria, Ohio	452	White, Carl W.	Dewitt, Ill.	911	Longley, Joseph M.	Minnetonka, Minn.
	Anderson, John L.	Tinley Park, Ill.	471	West, Lawrence A.	St. Ignatius, Mont.	934	Wilcox, Marlyn D.	Alliance, Neb.
194	Fawley, Leo P.	Goshen, Ind.	496	Miller, Charles J.	Lucasville, Ohio	1043	Fausett, Frank D.	Sparks, Nev.
212	Whitbeck, James F.	Glenmont, N.Y.	498	Weinhofer, Alfred R.	Houston, Texas	1106	West, Fred G.	Littleton, N.C.
257	Seward, Scott L.	Westmont, Ill.		Marks, Philip R.	Philadelphia, Pa.	1183	Paladuk, John L.	Goodrich, Mich.
259	Jessee, Donald L.	St. Joseph, Mo.	513	Prewitt, Donald L.	Scottsburg, Ind.	1313	Bybee, Elton W.	Amarillo, Texas
277	Ashe, Robert W.	Westfield, Mass.	525	Krump, Matt P.	Grand Forks, N.D.	1366	Jordan, Arlie	Grand Junction, Colo.
305	Whiting, George A.	Lincoln, Neb.	598	Whitfield, Jewel B.	Mobile, Ala.	1393	Burns, William H.	Tonawanda, N.Y.
	Kehm, Harold	Lincoln, Neb.	605	Sears, Oval J.	Gassaway, W.Va.	1402	Dagner, Michael L.	Ava, Ill.
313	Thornton, Virgil A.	Hudsonville, Mich.	622	Harris, Cecil A.	Birmingham, Ala.	1405	Callis, F. Lance	Granite City, Ill.
318	Allen, Stuart L.	Corning, N.Y.	632	Wicks, Jerome E.	Bellwood, Pa.	1433	Steffen, Stanley A.	Ottumwa, Iowa
320	Elders, William E.	St. Louis, Mich.	655	Allen, William P.	Spokane, Wash.	1532	Schroeder, Robert M.	Kansas City, Kan.
	Santhany Jr., Charles	Midland, Mich.	663	Whitney Jr., Edward J.	Millinocket, ME	1548	Myers, Wayne W.	Camby, Ind.
322	Silkey, Frank H.	Milwaukee, Wis.	768	Whitley, John H.	Decatur, Ill.	1563	Stroud, Kenneth	Covington, Ga.
376	Tucker, Robert N.	Louisville, Ky.	830	Weyant, Arthur G.	Altoona, Pa.	1626	Burnham, Stephanie L.	Walnut Grove, Minn.
	Kennedy, Thomas E.	Louisville, Ky.	832	Skorich, Dan	Grand Rapids, Minn.	1823	Vanover, Lawrence R.	Waterloo, Ill.
378	Wendt, Robert E.	Cleveland, Ohio	867	Angus, Arthur W.	Ankeny, Iowa	1846	Smith, Jerry D.	Riverside, Calif.
426	Novak, Leonard G.	Spokane, Wash.	886	Aird, Joseph P.	Gladstone, Mich.	1929	Vartanian, Harry	Fairview Hts., Ill.



## Retirees get together in Georgia



*Retired SMART-TD member Jackie Anderson (Local 1031, Savannah, Ga.) held the annual Retired Savannah Railroaders Cookout at his farm in Portal, Ga. Georgia State Legislative Director Matt Campbell reports that more than 50 retirees attended the event that was held Nov. 7.*

## News from the Railroad Retirement Board

Continued from Page 9

exceed certain exempt amounts.

These earnings restrictions apply to those who have not attained full Social Security retirement age. For employee and spouse annuitants, full retirement age ranges from age 65 for those born before 1938 to age 67 for those born after 1959. For survivor annuitants, full retirement age ranges from age 65 for those born before 1940 to age 67 for those born after 1961.

For those under full retirement age throughout 2020, the exempt earnings amount rises to \$18,240 from \$17,640 in 2019. For beneficiaries attaining full retirement age in 2020, the exempt earnings amount for the months before the month full retirement age is attained increases to \$48,600 in 2020 from \$46,920 in 2019.

## Medicare premiums for 2020 announced

The Centers for Medicare &amp;

Medicaid Services has announced that the standard monthly Part B premium will be \$144.60 in 2020, an increase from \$135.50 in 2019. However, some Medicare beneficiaries will pay less.

By law, Part B premiums for current enrollees cannot increase by more than the amount of the cost-of-living adjustment for Social Security (Railroad Retirement Tier I) benefits.

For more information, visit  
<https://www.medicare.gov>.

# 2020 railroad paid holiday schedule

Rail employees working under the national agreement between SMART Transportation Division and the National Carriers' Conference Committee will receive 11 paid holidays in 2020:

- **New Year's Day**, Wednesday, Jan. 1
- **Presidents Day**, Monday, Feb. 17
- **Good Friday**, Friday, April 10
- **Memorial Day**, Monday, May 25
- **Independence Day**, Saturday, July 4
- **Labor Day**, Monday, Sept. 7
- **Thanksgiving Day**, Thursday, Nov. 26
- **Day after Thanksgiving**, Friday, Nov. 27
- **Christmas Eve**, Thursday, Dec. 24
- **Christmas Day**, Friday, Dec. 25
- **New Year's Eve**, Thursday, Dec. 31

Happy Holidays!

[www.smarttdmerchandise.com](http://www.smarttdmerchandise.com)

# THE APPAREL SITE GEARED FOR YOU!



SMART-TD beanie



Logo  
watch



### SMART ballcap



Hooded fleece



Travel mug  
(16 oz.)



*Bumper sticker*



*Lapel pin*

Are you proud to be a member of SMART Transportation Division? Would you like to show everyone else just how proud you are?

Visit the SMART Transportation Division website at [www.smart-union.org/td](http://www.smart-union.org/td) and click on the “Gear” tile to order official SMART-TD apparel and memorabilia.

The SMART-TD items at the [www.smarttdmerchandise.com](http://www.smarttdmerchandise.com) site are sold through American Products and are union-made and/or made in America.

All items carry a 100 percent quality guarantee against defects in materials and workmanship. Volume discounts on customized orders are available to SMART-TD locals.

All of the featured items can be ordered by credit card directly through **[www.smarttdmerchandise.com](http://www.smarttdmerchandise.com)**, or call American Products' toll-free telephone number: **800-272-5120**.



## District 3 general chairpersons set course for future

Continued from Page 1

first of the year. “We’ll have more organizers out there that can work not only on getting new properties but helping existing properties where they need help.” Chief of Staff **Jerry Gibson** said that the TD office will collect as much information as it can of incidences that put members working in bus and transit service at risk in the run up to the establishment of a **Bus Safety Team**, and that nominations of safety-oriented TD members will be sought to serve on that

team. “If you’re going to talk the talk, then walk the walk. I expect you to be active, and those are the type of people we’re looking for to be involved,” Gibson said. President **Ferguson** also pledged increased responsiveness and support to the general chairpersons’ concerns as the organization defends its membership and the SMART Constitution. “We want to give you every tool — all the support you can get. You have my support, all my vice presidents and the staff,” **Ferguson** said. “You also have the

state and national legislative department. You also have the Legal Department ... Reach out. We’re here.” Some of the support will come in increased educational efforts, he said. In addition to the annual regional meeting that the union puts together, more “mini-regionals” involving multiple locals will provide guidance on how to run local meetings, represent members and maintain local financial records all around the country. “We’re going to start branching out and doing more of that,” **Ferguson**



New officers of the Association of General Chairpersons, District 3 elected on Nov. 12 are, from left, Secretary **Tom Pate**, Chairperson **Tonette Nixon-Pray** and Vice Chairperson **Erskins Robinson**.

said. Legislative directors from the states with bus general committees also attended the meeting in a show of solidarity and to learn even more about issues specific to the Bus Department.

## GCA-505 achieves victory for LIRR workers in arbitration

Prior to the holiday season of 2018, new Long Island Rail Road President **Phil Eng** rescinded a long-standing practice of providing early release for employees not directly connected to service on Christmas and New Year’s eves. Both SMART-TD General Chairperson **Anthony Simon** and SMART Mechanical Department General Committee 2 General Chairperson **John**

**McCloskey** objected to this change, along with several other labor leaders. After the appeal process failed, **Simon**, with the support of other union leaders, took the case before the National Mediation Board. In early October, **Simon**, also an alternate vice president, appeared before an NMB arbitrator in an effort to get the practice reinstated. On Oct. 30, the NMB granted the union’s claim.

The victory compensates over 6,000 LIRR workers for what was unjustly taken from them, and solidifies this practice for the future. “**Anthony** did what he does best: He led the way, fought for the win and included his brothers and sisters of labor in the victory,” **McCloskey** said. **Simon** recognized his Vice General Chairperson **Vincent Tessitore** and GC for their support.

### SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SMART DISCIPLINE INCOME PROTECTION PROGRAM

This is a summary of the annual report of the SMART Discipline Income Protection Program, EIN: 34-1031303, for the period January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2018. The annual report has been filed with the Employee Benefits Security Administration as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

#### BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The value of plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan, was \$-146,874 as of December 31, 2018, compared to \$-3,222,553 as of December 31, 2017. During the plan year, the plan experienced an increase in net assets of \$3,075,679. This increase includes unrealized appreciation and depreciation in the value of the plan assets at the beginning of the year of the cost of assets acquired during the year. During the plan year, the plan had total income of \$14,439,055 including participant contributions of \$14,597,999 and losses on investments of \$-158,944. Plan expenses were \$11,363,376. These expenses included \$853,675 in administrative expenses and \$10,509,701 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries.

#### YOUR RIGHTS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

You have the right to receive a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, on request. The items listed below are included in that report:

1. An accountant’s report;
2. Financial information and information on payments to service providers, and
3. Assets held for investment.

To obtain a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, write or call the Discipline Income Protection Program, SMART Transportation Division, 24950 Country Club Blvd, Suite 340, North Olmsted, OH 44070-5333; telephone (216) 228-9400. The charge to cover copying costs will be \$13.00 for the full annual report or \$0.50 per page for any part thereof.

You also have the right to receive, on request and at no charge, a statement of the assets and liabilities of the plan and accompanying notes, or a statement of income and expenses of the plan and accompanying notes, or both. If you request a copy of the full annual report, these two statements and accompanying notes will be included as part of that report. The charges to cover copying costs shown above does not include a charge for the copying of these portions of the report because these portions are furnished without charge.

You also have the legally protected right to examine the annual report at the main office of the plan, SMART Transportation Division, 24950 Country Club Blvd, Suite 340, North Olmsted, OH 44070-5333, and at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C., or to obtain a copy from the U.S. Department of Labor upon payment of copying costs. Requests to the department should be addressed to: Public Disclosure Room, Room N-1513, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave, N.W., Washington, DC 20210.

### SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE SMART GROUP VSTD PLAN AND TRUST

This is a summary of the annual report for the SMART GROUP VSTD PLAN AND TRUST, (Employer Identification No. 34-1031303, Plan No. 506) for the period January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018. The annual report has been filed with the Employee Benefits Security Administration, as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

#### BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The value of plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan, was \$7,415,014 as of December 31, 2018 compared to \$7,939,637 as of January 1, 2018. During the plan year the plan experienced a decrease in its net assets of \$524,623. This decrease includes unrealized appreciation or depreciation in the value of plan assets; that is, the difference between the value of the plan’s assets at the end of the year and the value of the assets at the beginning of the year, or the cost of assets acquired during the year. During the plan year, the plan had total income of \$17,908,216. This income included employee contributions of \$18,411,891 and earnings from investments of \$-513,675. Plan expenses were \$18,432,839. These expenses included \$2,192,352 in administrative expenses and \$16,240,487 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries.

#### YOUR RIGHTS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

You have the right to receive a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, on request. The items listed below are included in that report:

1. An accountant’s report;
2. Assets held for investment; and
3. Insurance information including sales commissions paid by carriers

To obtain a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, write or call the office of the Plan Sponsor

SMART  
Plan Sponsor  
1750 New York Avenue, Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20006  
34-1031303 (Employer Identification Number) 216-228-9400

You also have the right to receive from the plan administrator, on request and at no charge, a statement of the assets and liabilities of the plan and accompanying notes, or a statement of income and expenses of the plan and accompanying notes, or both. If you request a copy of the full annual report from the plan administrator, these two statements and accompanying notes will be included as part of that report. These portions of the report are furnished without charge.

You also have the legally protected right to examine the annual report at the main office of plan:

SMART  
1750 New York Avenue, Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20006

and at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C., or to obtain a copy from the U.S. Department of Labor upon payment of copying costs. Requests to the Department should be addressed to: U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Public Disclosure Room, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Suite N-1513, Washington, D.C. 20210.



Photo of the month



SMART Transportation Division is always looking for good photos and your picture can be featured on this page as a Photo of the Month.

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 JPEG format and emailed to [news\\_td@smart-union.org](mailto:news_td@smart-union.org). We prefer horizontal photos.

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 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.

In this photo taken by Local 1760 (Detroit) member Tom Scott, CSX Q151 heads west under the signal bridge at Stark, Mich., on the Detroit subdivision in Livonia, Mich. According to Scott, Q151 runs from the Conrail Livernois yard to the CSX North Baltimore yard in Ohio.

Carriers’ motion to dismiss denied

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in Nevada ruled on a pair of pending motions regarding the two-person crew lawsuit against the Federal Railroad Administration (see front of the September 2019 TD News for more details).

A motion to dismiss filed by the Association of American Railroads (AAR) was denied as the carriers attempted to have SMART-TD and other labor unions dismissed from the case for improper venue.

A second motion to consolidate our union’s case against the FRA along with others filed by the states was granted by the court, so all cases regarding the FRA’s withdrawal of its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking will be heard together.

Various filings regarding the case will be submitted to the court in the coming months as it progresses.

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**SMART**<sup>®</sup>

Discipline Income Protection Program

IS YOUR SHIELD!

SMART TD DIPP is a service by your union that provides payments for a specific monetary amount and time period to employees suspended, dismissed or removed from service for alleged violations of rules or operating procedures, provided the alleged violations are not within DIPP’s list of exceptions.

For details, contact your **UTUIA field supervisor** or DIPP rep, call **216-228-9400, ext. 3015**, email [dipp\\_td@smart-union.org](mailto:dipp_td@smart-union.org) or follow the QR code at right with your smart device.



**‘IT DOES NOT COST ... IT PAYS!’**

