



New Jersey State Legislative Director Ron Sabol, second from right, meets with Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, left with back to camera, aboard the New Jersey Transit Raritan line Aug. 9.

Essential workers honored in campaign

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Beginning on Labor Day weekend, the SMART Transportation Division proudly joined the AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department (TTD) to recognize and thank frontline transportation workers for their service and sacrifice, and remind Americans that our transportation workers are #EssentialAlways.

During the darkest days of the COVID-19 pandemic, SMART-TD members were instrumental in keeping the American economy open and functioning by working throughout the pandemic delivering goods and materials and transporting essential workers to where they needed to be. While their heroic efforts during the pandemic undoubtedly saved lives, transportation labor unions want to remind America that their members, and the duties they perform, are essential always.

“I have the highest admiration for the dedication, courage, and drive all of our members displayed as they remained steadfast, working through the initial stages of the pandemic, doing the work that is often overlooked but essential in

Connecting with the DOT

Legislative Directors Sabol and Campbell meet Secretary Buttigieg to talk 2PC, infrastructure

New Jersey State Legislative Director **Ron Sabol** met with federal Department of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg in Westfield, N.J., an encounter that was later featured in a video produced by the DOT and then shared on Buttigieg’s official Twitter account in conjunction with Labor Day on Sept. 6.

Sabol, of Local 1447 (Newark, N.J.), met Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Ind., on Aug. 9 and discussed his career as a freight rail conductor, remote-control operator and as a SMART-TD union officer.

“I got involved in my union right away, and that’s because of safety,”

Sabol told Buttigieg. “Railroading is the most dangerous job in the country.”

A member of the SMART-TD National Safety Team, the N.J. SLD since December 2016 and also his local’s president, Sabol reminded the Transportation Secretary of something that sometimes is lost among the public

“Our railroads and bus operators, which we represent as well, they’re first responders,” he said.

Sabol recalled the efforts made by TD members to help evacuate people in tunnels during the Sept. 11,



Georgia State Legislative Director Matt Campbell meets with DOT Secretary Pete Buttigieg in early August at the Doraville MARTA station.

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Disaster Relief Fund has been activated to aid Ida recovery

The SMART Transportation Division is primed to assist members in their time of need when disaster strikes.

Hurricane Ida hit Louisiana and Mississippi on Aug. 29 and tore a path through an area stretching from the Gulf Coast to the New York-New Jersey region, dropping torrential rain and affecting members' lives with its massive flooding and wind damage.

Our members in the impacted area, both active and retired, face a long recovery and the painful task of rebuilding their homes and carrying on with their lives.

Furthermore, not only are they coping with the aftermath of a storm, they are doing so against the backdrop of the continuing COVID pandemic.

We are asking the SMART-TD family to heed the call and give what you can so that



the difficult task of starting over and rebuilding can begin for any TD members who have been affected by Ida.

Any donations will help lessen the struggle and bring real hope and relief to our members. SMART-TD will administer donations sent to the SMART-TD Disaster Relief Fund.

Contributions may be sent and made payable to:

SMART-TD Disaster Relief Fund
24950 Country Club Blvd.
Suite 340
North Olmsted, OH 44070-5333

TD members who have suffered damage or loss due to Ida can contact SMART-TD for an application for assistance by calling 216-227-5237.

Senate committee considers Amit Bose FRA nomination

The nomination of Amit Bose to become administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) was considered by the U.S. Senate's Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee on Sept. 22.

Approval of the nomination, initially made by President Joe Biden on April 22, would move Bose to the full Senate for confirmation.

Bose has years of experience serving in the public sector. He has served two stints as FRA deputy administrator, and has



Bose

served as FRA chief counsel, USDOT associate general counsel and USDOT deputy assistant secretary for governmental affairs. While in the Obama administra-

tion, Bose worked on High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail grants for projects on the Northeast Corridor and has a longtime association with the corridor.

Bose's nomination has the support of the AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department (TTD), of which SMART-TD is a member.

National Transit Institute offers virtual safety training sessions

The National Transit Institute (NTI) is offering virtual Assault Awareness and Prevention and Violence in the Transit Workplace courses.

These courses support Federal Transit Administration's Enhanced Transit Safety and Crime Prevention Initiative to provide information and resources to help transit agencies address and prevent crime on their systems and to protect transit workers and riders. Registration is required.

Assault Awareness and Prevention Direct Delivery Course: Provides transit bus operators with prevention strategies necessary to reduce the likelihood of assault incidents.



- 1 to 4:30 p.m. (Eastern) Thursday, Nov. 4
- 1 to 4:30 p.m. (Eastern) Thursday, Dec. 2

Assault Awareness and Prevention Train-the-Trainer Course: Provides transit agency instructional staff with the support necessary to deliver the course within their agencies.

- 1 to 4:30 p.m. (Eastern)

- Wednesday, Nov. 10
- 1 to 4:30 p.m. (Eastern)
- Thursday, Dec. 9

Violence in the Transit Workplace Train-the-Trainer Course: Provides participants with knowledge and skills to prevent, respond to and recover from workplace violence.

- 1 to 4:30 p.m. (Eastern) Thursday, Nov. 18
- 1 to 4:30 p.m. (Eastern) Thursday, Dec. 16

For questions about registration, please contact NTI at 848-932-1700 or nti_info@nti.rutgers.edu. For questions about FTA safety training offerings, please contact FTASafetyPromotion@dot.gov.

Ga., N.J. state legislative directors meet with DOT Secretary Buttigieg

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2001, terrorist attacks on New York City.

"They're heroes."

Sabol also said that passage of infrastructure legislation will improve with an expansion of service, better accessibility to riders and improved safety for a number of TD members.

"The best part of my job is being able to help people," Sabol said. "As you the mayor were able to help all those people, I do it at a different level with a different group of people."

In early August, Buttigieg, Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen also visited the Atlanta metro area to promote the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act,

the \$1.2 trillion bipartisan legislation passed by the U.S. Senate in early August that was under consideration by the U.S. House.

Georgia SLD **Matt Campbell** met and spoke with Buttigieg, whose Department of Transportation and Federal Railroad Administration will be increasingly important as regulatory efforts develop to make the Rule of 2 — a certified conductor and certified engineer — enforced on freight trains throughout the United States.

The Biden administration announced earlier in the year that FRA revisiting the Notice of Proposed Rule-making regarding freight train crew size would be prioritized at some point in the autumn.

Essential workers, including SMART-TD members honored in #EssentialAlways online campaign

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keeping our country on its feet. They did this during the uncertain initial stages of the pandemic, through lockdowns and beyond," SMART Transportation Division President **Jeremy R. Ferguson** said. "The word 'essential' is the perfect description of all SMART-TD members and other transportation workers who keep our nation functioning and on the move. This campaign and the recognition we hope it brings is well-deserved and overdue."

The #EssentialAlways

campaign comes at a historic crossroads for this dedicated workforce. As the United States continues to grapple with the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic — which millions of frontline transportation workers have disproportionately shouldered — Congress and the Biden administration are pursuing transformational investments in infrastructure as part of the president's build back better agenda. Highly skilled transportation workers, including SMART-TD members, will be vital in achiev-



ing these goals and rebuilding our country.

"Frontline transportation workers power the most advanced economy in the world by operating, maintaining, and building the most complex transporta-

tion network on earth," said TTD President Greg Regan. "Whether they're helping people get to home, work, or school, moving the goods and raw materials we all rely on, delivering our mail, seeing us through a crisis, or building transportation projects of the future, these dedicated professionals have always been essential to the fabric of America, and they always will be."

Transportation unions are encouraging the public, elected leaders and others to join the campaign by fol-

lowing and engaging the hashtag #EssentialAlways on Twitter,

Facebook, and LinkedIn, and to watch and share this video (linked to by the QR code above) explaining the important role transportation workers played before and during the pandemic, and the role they will play for years to come.



Around the SMART-TD

L-1381, HAMMOND, IND.



Second Vice General Chairperson (GO 449) and LCA-449 Local Chairperson Hilary Manoski, pictured at right, and General Chairperson Justin Wolters showed solidarity with striking Teamsters workers by bringing food and joining them on their picket against Pepsi at a bottling plant in Munster, Ind. "We wanted to bring awareness to our membership that we had a union on strike in our own neighborhood," Wolters said. The strike was resolved Aug. 19 when workers ratified a new four-year contract.

L-322, MILWAUKEE, WIS.



Local 311 Legislative Representative Rick Hauser, left, presents Bob Alba of Local 322 (Milwaukee, Wis.) with a retirement lantern July 28.

Bob Alba, legislative representative of Local 322 and local chairperson of LCA-953A, has pulled the pin after 43 years with our union.

Alba had previously served as a local chairperson for LCA-225A, was a

local delegate to the first two SMART-TD conventions and was also instrumental in assisting in organizing the Wisconsin Central Railroad.

SMART-TD wishes Brother Alba a long, happy and healthy retirement!

L-195, GALESBURG, ILL.

Legislative Representative **Jeremy Hodges** and Local Chairperson **Brayden Bent** were guests on the Community Hour radio show on WMOI-FM/WRAM-AM in Monmouth, Ill., to discuss railroad safety and two-person freight rail crews Sept. 8.

"The rail carriers today, they want to go down to a single man on the trains, and it's just not very safe for the public," Hodges said on the show. "I think a lot of the public doesn't realize what they're trying to do."

Bent talked about the railroads' soaring profits and wish to cut jobs to maintain the growth, which could affect the jobs of 584 area members.

"They're going to put those profits ahead of public safety whenever they're allowed to," he



From left, member Matt McCoy, Legislative Representative Jeremy Hodges and Local Chairperson Brayden Bent at the Warren County Prime Beef Festival.

said.

In addition, Hodges, Bent and other members of the local represented SMART-TD at the Warren County Prime Beef Festival

in Monmouth for two days where they discussed rail issues such as blocked crossings, excessive train length and crew size with members of the public.

L-23, SANTA CRUZ, CALIF.

The local and the Monterey Labor Council honored local President **Ignacio Mata** for his community volunteerism and union activism during a virtual awards ceremony on Labor Day.

"Ignacio Mata has stepped up for our local in so many ways.

Before he became president of our local, he got involved with every subcommittee we have, making himself available to help out whenever he was needed," said General Chairperson **James Sandoval** (GCA-SCM). "He has volunteered so much of his time to better our union in many ways because solidarity is very important to him."

Congratulations Brother Mata, and thank you for your leadership!



Mata

L-1409, KANSAS CITY, KAN.

President **Thad Owens** and S&T **Johnny Danner** invite SMART-TD members in the region to an inaugural Midwest Area Meeting and Hog Roast.

The event is scheduled to start at 1 p.m. local time Dec. 7 at SMART Local 2 Hall, 2902 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, Mo. 64129.

"This is an opportunity to share a good meal with your fellow SMART-TD members and an opportunity to hear from and speak directly to some of our SMART-TD leaders," Owens said. "We hope you will join us."

Questions regarding the event can be directed to Owens at 913-709-3927 or email owens.thad75@gmail.com or to Danner at 660-292-1366 or email utu1409st@gmail.com.

Retirement ends 10-year term for Local 1715's Wright

Bruce E. Wright, SMART-TD Local 1715 president for 10 years and a Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) bus operator for nearly 48 years who received numerous commendations and awards, retired in August at age 72.

Wright became a bus operator at age 24 in 1973. At that time, the privately owned transit company in Charlotte named City Coach changed to Transit Management and is now known as

CATS. As president of Local 1715, he helped to oversee and participated in the establishment of the 457 plan and revision of the pension plan. He's been witness to a number of positive changes over the course of the years with new buses, facilities and the city becoming more involved with the public transit system.

"My position was instrumental in accomplishing my goals while enhancing my understanding of customer service and working with members, my co-workers and the public," he said.

Wright also has owned his own business and has no plans on slowing down now that he's retired.

"I enjoyed working at CATS. The flexibility was good, and the benefits played a role in me staying. I'm thankful for the people I've met and worked with. Thankful for what I've accomplished, I couldn't ask for anything more."

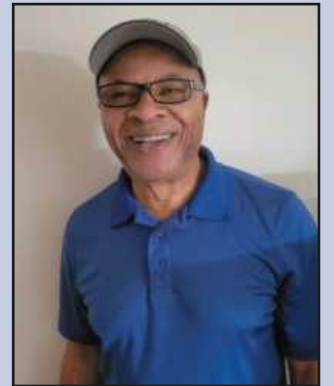
While spending more time with his seven children, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren is certainly on the agenda for Brother Wright as he embarks upon his retirement, he also will continue to work on himself.

I will continue to elevate my skills, make money, have multiple streams of income and most importantly, love myself, my family and associates," Wright said.

Wright admitted that he enjoys managing money as well as vacationing. When asked by Local 1715 Legislative Representative **Renee Holzbach** for any advice he had to share for all union members and bus operators in particular, he stated:

"Always be a union member and give input. Be united and stay informed. Understand the type of job you have, make it work for you.

"Take control of your life, family and money management is a priority!"



Bruce Wright, longtime president of Local 1715 in Charlotte and a bus operator for CATS, retired in August.

SMART GENERAL PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

It's our duty now to continue Trumka's legacy

Brothers and sisters,

The labor movement suddenly lost a great leader this summer with the passing of Richard Trumka on Aug. 5. As a member of the AFL-CIO General Executive Council, I had the good fortune of getting to know Brother Trumka and saw the vision he fought for – a nation that works for all working families.

Born the son of a coal miner in Nemaquin, Pa., he went on to follow in his father's footsteps and carried the lessons he learned through his lifelong union career. He rose to become president of the United Mine Workers of America at age 32 and served in that position until 1995 when he was elected to become secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO. He later rose to president of the AFL-CIO where he used his platform to become an unparalleled voice for workers here in the United States and around the world.

While he accomplished



By Joseph Sellers Jr.

much during his storied career, Trumka leaves us with a path forward for future generations of American workers to have a fair shot at realizing the American dream. To restore the rights of workers to form a union, with the push toward passage of the PRO Act, the bill has been renamed in his honor: the Richard Trumka Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2021.

The legislation addresses decades of management abuse of workers looking to form a union at work. Right now, labor laws in the United States are dramatically tilted in favor of management due to mountains of campaign contributions from Wall Street and CEOs bent on amassing fortunes for themselves on the back of work-

ers.

We see the effects of this bad policy all around us today. Income inequality is now higher than it has been at any point the past century. Many Americans are underpaid, overworked and unable to secure the time to be with their families and loved ones due to needing to work multiple jobs. Corporate CEOs are now paid 351 times as much as the average worker, an explosive increase from where it was in the 1960s when it was 21-1.

There's an old saying that the past is prologue. A century ago, Americans saw conditions at home and at work as unacceptable and did something about it by forming unions and pushing through reforms that leveled the playing field. We, too, are seeing conditions today as unacceptable. Long hours away from home, deteriorating safety at work, and the prioritization of investor profits over service are all unsustainable.

After the unexpected pass-

ing of Richard Trumka, the AFL-CIO Executive Council unanimously elected Liz Shuler (IBEW), a visionary leader and longtime trade unionist, to serve as president of the federation's 56 unions and 12.5 million members. Shuler is the first woman to hold the office in the history of the labor federation.

We are now responsible for increasing the strength of workers, and building back better. The first step is in coming together and focusing on the issues that matter – issues that affect whether we and future generations of Americans have a fair shot at earning a good middle-class living. This comes by passing legislation like the PRO Act to ensure the vision of an America where workers have their fair share and work is respected. Beyond that, upgrading and modernizing our rail system to ensure America stays competitive with our foreign competitors is a high priority along with the passage of rail safety laws to ensure

members and the public are protected.

There is momentum now with Congress debating the current infrastructure package and the pending appointment of Amit Bose to serve as chair of the Federal Railroad Administration. The infrastructure package contains provisions that will boost America's transportation infrastructure with increased funding for Amtrak and transit and protections of bus members. Both of these developments, along with passage of the PRO Act, will ensure working Americans begin to see the light at the end of a dark tunnel we have been in for far too long. Those who came before us pointed the way forward, it is now time for us to band together and ensure we make that vision a reality.

Thank you and stay safe!
Fraternally,

Joseph Sellers Jr.
General President, SMART

Bus Department News

A message from your Bus Department leadership

Sisters and brothers,

As COVID-19 continues to affect our daily lives, we also must deal with the cancellation of another regional meeting. Regional meetings are vital to our locals and officers, as they provide critical information and training to help maintain and retain membership.

Our organization is adjusting by assisting in smaller training sessions and developing a SMART University led by SMART-TD President **Jeremy Ferguson**. Some locals and committees are exploring these smaller classroom settings to provide in-person training in a COVID-safe environment. In addition, the creation of a SMART University will



By Alvy Hughes

provide informational training online. These training methods will be helpful to our members and allow us to be compliant with health guidelines as this stubborn pandemic continues to affect our daily lives.

Since most local and committee officers in the Bus Department perform their duties as part-time officers, these alternative training methods will allow officers an opportunity to refresh their responsibili-

ties. These sessions may include, but are not limited to, how to handle a grievance and duty of fair representation. As most of our locals have started to resume regular in-person union meetings, training on how to hold a proper union meeting will also be beneficial.

While our organization is taking steps to reach our membership virtually, we also understand the importance of personal interaction with our members. As the times are changing, our organization will, too, for the betterment of our fellow sisters and brothers in the Bus Department.

I have always believed a well-educated representative is vital to proper representation of our workers. If

local or committee officers feel the need arise for some refresher training or just some understanding of what is required in their position, please do not hesitate to reach out to our International office, myself or fellow Vice President Calvin Studivant for guidance. We are here to help in any way.

More training information will be offered in the immediate future, so stay tuned. As always, stay safe and well.

Fraternally yours,

Alvy Hughes

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UTU News



Please recycle



TRANSPORTATION DIVISION PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Your commitment pushes our efforts forward

Brothers and sisters:

It's hard to believe that we're three-quarters of the way through 2021. With the changing of the seasons into autumn, it seems like an opportune time to outline a few of the positive changes we're making to better serve you.

Responsiveness to members' safety concerns is something my administration prioritizes as the most important function of our union. We were founded on safety. Both our TD Safety Condition Report and Technology Event Report are fully integrated and go directly from members to officers. If you find that there is a safety risk, COVID-related or otherwise on your property, remember to fill out a confidential Safety Condition Report on our website or through the SMART app. No time is lost when routing these reports directly from members — once it's submitted, it will be acted upon by the officers of jurisdiction. Truly, there is no time to waste when it comes to serving the membership, especially when it comes to safety.

I myself am trying to make up for time lost with the initial COVID lockdowns, travel restrictions and everything else that limited our ability to safely gather. The pandemic was declared in March 2020, about five and a half months into my presidency. All the plans we'd made for local visits, regional meetings and other events got put on hold right then and there. We began to formulate ways to



By Jeremy Ferguson

1) Ensure that our membership was as safe as possible in the evolving situation of the pandemic; and 2) Try to transform the operations of a national labor union in such a way to ensure that we could continue to meet the needs and serve members with minimal disruption.

Much of the union's focus was drawn to those challenges. But these missions eventually were accomplished thanks to the tremendous efforts and collaboration of our members, our officers and the capable staff at the Cleveland office.

I agree with the statement made by Minnesota SLD **Nick Katich** regarding the mini regional meeting he recently held, there really is no substitute for getting out and engaging face-to-face (even with masks and social distancing).

My opinion is that the job of being president of a proud national transportation union is not done properly from behind a desk. I enjoy nothing more than getting to meet and know my fellow brothers and sisters of SMART from coast to coast and craft to craft, hearing firsthand their triumphs as well as their issues and concerns so that we can work together on the solutions.

Merriam-Webster defines a labor union as: "an organiza-

tion of workers formed for the purpose of advancing its members' interests in respect to wages, benefits and working conditions."

SMART is a labor union and the union at its core is you. A union, as defined, is all about banding together for common well-being—united. So as TD President, visiting you where you are is a great priority of mine. COVID slowed that down, but just recently I have made numerous visits in several states attending meetings both big and small to get input from you about the goals and direction that SMART-TD should take in safety, contract and organizational matters, all the while providing factual answers and updates to questions asked. I find these discussions energizing and enlightening as we develop new ideas to make SMART-TD the best transportation union it can be for all members now and into the future.

Looking ahead, there will be more member-focused improvements. A long-planned revamp of the union website coming next year will not only offer a new look and added content, but enhanced features so that the information members need can be attained faster. While we recently made another update on the SMART App, we continue to look into additional membership suggestions in our continuing efforts of making it a vital tool for members.

We are also past the design and developmental stages of the new SMART

University. We are currently finalizing the educational materials and content that will be available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. SMART U will be an online learning and resource center focused on improving our members' and officers' knowledge and skills, bringing information and workshops that in the past have only been accessible by attending an annual in-person meeting.

I'm excited to present these initiatives to you, and your union leadership is always open to hearing about how it can improve. Member input is the lifeblood of a dynamic, ever-improving union, and I encourage you all to speak out and be the change that you would like to see at every level of the organization. The first step can be just as easy as attending your local meeting and encouraging others to use the tools your union provides for the benefit of the whole.

For those of you who want to become more involved, running for an elected local position is a great way to start. Next year, 2022 local committee elections (local chairperson, vice local chairperson and LCA secretary) are held while 2023 brings elections for local officers (president, VP, secretary, treasurer, legislative representative, ALR, trustee and delegate) Both provide members an opportunity to get more involved. If there is a vacancy at your local, perhaps you may wish to step up and fill the position.

Every union officer, including myself, did not step into the job knowing everything. Some of us were lucky enough to have mentors like **Herm Boruta**, while others learned as they went. While there is not a substitute for experience, it starts with asking for help when it is needed. It's not a sign of weakness to ask a question, but rather of strength. Someone somewhere in SMART-TD will have an answer as they most likely experienced or dealt with the same thing. Mentoring the next generation of officers is yet another important function that we need to focus on and is something that we are working diligently on improving, starting with the aforementioned initiatives.

The power we can exert when we as a group of fraternal brothers and sisters are united, engaged and all working toward the same goals can be so powerful yet is often underutilized. Let's tap into that power and energy of unity at all levels. We all must remember, even when in disagreement, there are things that bind us together as SMART-TD that we must work hand-in-hand on: wages, benefits and working conditions for the benefit of us all.

Please stay safe and God bless!

Fraternally,

Jeremy R. Ferguson
President,
Transportation Division

State Watch

News from SMART-TD State Legislative Boards

Indiana

Two members were present to pay tribute to a trailblazing Indiana woman honored for her role in fighting for women's right to vote in the early 20th century.

A statue honoring suffragist Mary Stuart Edwards was unveiled Aug. 26 in Peru, Ind., in a ceremony attended by Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch.

Edwards was a native of the city, located about 79 miles north of Indianapolis, whose organizing work and activism at the local, state and then later a national level from 1914 to 1926 helped to bring forth the national League of Women Voters.

TD Indiana State Legislative Director **Kenny Edwards**, no relation, and TD Local 206 (Peru, Ind.) Legislative Representative **Pete Ulery** were on hand for the event in a show of solidarity.

"Women's suffrage is a sibling to the labor movement. Many are unaware of the struggle and the women who fought to gain the right to vote," Edwards said. "These suffragists are no different than the proud men and



Ulery

women of SMART who fight for our rights and to advance and establish rights we don't have yet but deserve."

Artist Cindy Billingsley sculpted the statue depicting Mary Stuart Edwards, who was born in 1880 and died in 1970, as a young girl with her bicycle. Edwards was said to be the first girl in her city to ride a bike and to go to college before embarking on her journey as a suffragist.

Edwards said the event was a worthwhile and memorable one.

"It was a great day and SMART was a part of it!!



Indiana Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, left, attends the unveiling of a statue honoring suffragist Mary Stuart Edwards in Peru, Ind., in late August.

State Watch continued...

Nevada

Doering: National regulators need to keep eye on railroads

Nevada State Legislative Director **Jason Doering** and BLET state legislative chairperson **Matt Parker** had the following column published Aug. 28 on the *FreightWaves* website.



Doering

Two recent articles published by *FreightWaves* captured our attention. These two articles detailed actions proposed by both Congress and federal regulatory agencies to address safety and service concerns in the maritime and trucking sectors, some of which are affecting the global supply chain.

One article spoke of pending actions by both Congress and the Federal Maritime Administration to rein in discriminatory practices by overseas ocean carriers that, to the detriment of the supply chain, prioritize profits over service and contract obligations.

As we read reports about these measures, we wondered — what about rail?

Many of the same problems exist for customers of the Class I railroads; for evi-

dence, one need look no further than the two days of testimony before the Surface Transportation Board in May 2019 regarding the matter of Ex Parte No. 754. That hearing was a cavalcade of stories from rail shippers detailing increased charges amid substantially degrading service due to the combined effects of a slashed workforce and Precision Scheduled Railroading.

This situation has not improved. Rather, in many ways, it has worsened. We hope that the current chairman of the STB, Martin J. Oberman, takes this degradation of service into account and applies the same level of urgency when examining service practices the Class I railroads have adopted as has the Federal Maritime Administration in

addressing similar issues with ocean carriers.

The other article read like a wish list of enhanced regulations from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and laws from Congress to further promote safety in the trucking industry. We find this intriguing in that similar action by the Federal Railroad Administration and Congress to address such matters in the rail industry has not yet occurred, even after being mandated for almost 15 years.

When such imposition of regulations and laws affecting the nation's rail carriers is proposed, we see a pattern where industry executives complain about speculative detrimental effects on carrier profitability, and the responsible agencies and lawmakers immediately back away rather than persist, kicking the can into the indeterminate future.

Fiscally, by comparison, the story in the trucking

industry is that most major carriers are struggling to reduce their operating ratios, which typically run in the high 80s to low 90s. Meanwhile, most Class I rail carriers have lowered their operating ratios below 60 and are boasting of record profits.

Why such reluctance to take federal action addressing matters of concern in the rail industry, particularly regarding safety? Do federal policymakers not understand the premise we have pushed here in Nevada, which is that the public bears a substantial risk as the result of the movement of certain freight by rail?

Another way we have expressed this to policymakers is that, while trains don't fall out of the sky, resulting in a near-certain loss of life, trains do occasionally send carloads of really nasty stuff rocketing into adjacent areas when things go very wrong.

Lac-Megantic, Casselton, Graettinger, Tempe — the

list goes on of communities that have experienced firsthand the devastation that can result from a railroad accident. We have been fortunate to avoid a major catastrophe with many lives lost in the U.S. as trains have grown to excessive lengths, a result of PSR's profits-before-service focus.

While it is evident federal regulatory agencies and lawmakers appear to be taking a proactive stance with regard to addressing service and safety issues in the maritime and motor carrier sectors by examining enhanced regulation, we are again left to pose a question.

Why does the rail industry, where so many similar problems exist in serving customers and making the supply chain run smoothly, appear to be left out of these discussions?

Perhaps it's time for those reading this to begin pressing their elected federal representatives for an answer to this question.

Michigan



Members of the union and TD President **Jeremy Ferguson** attended a fundraiser/shoot for Michigan Rep. Jack O'Malley, a Republican for the state's 101st District and the chairman of the state House Transportation Committee.

"SMART supports all parties!" emphasized **Donald Roach**, the state's legislative director.

Pictured above, from left, at the fundraiser are **Michael Nuttmann**, Michigan State Legislative Board Secretary and Local 1075 (Trenton, Mich.) legislative representative; the winner of the shoot who hit 44 of 50 clays, **Will Hurdman**, legislative representative of Local 866 (Marquette, Mich.); State Legislative Director **Donald Roach** of Local 1760 (Detroit, Mich.); Rep. O'Malley and **President Ferguson**.



Wyoming

Wyoming State Legislative Director **Stan Blake** talked with WyoFile reporter Nick Reynolds in a point-counterpoint feature published in late July regarding the railroad safety provision for minimum crew sizes in the INVEST in America Act.

Blake said that in the isolated areas of his state, it makes more sense to have a person present in the



Blake

cab. "No matter what kind of technology [the railroads] have, the first person on the scene [of an accident] will be the engineer and the conductor," Blake told Reynolds. "That is, if they're both still alive."

"In some of these far-flung places, how soon will it be before a manager can get out there to assist?"

Pennsylvania

State Legislative Director **Paul Pokrowka** has announced a change in location of the state board's office.

The board's new address is: 205 Grandview Ave., Suite 400 Camp Hill, PA 17011

Iowa

The union announced Sept. 15 that it has endorsed Abby Finkenauer for the U.S. Senate.

"I'm so proud to have support from the working men and women of SMART," said Abby Finkenauer. "SMART workers always put in the tough work needed to get big things done and I know they will be



Finkenauer

valuable allies in our campaign."

"We've been with Abby from day one of her first congressional election," said National Legislative Director **Greg Hynes**. "She is an incredibly strong voice for working families, not just in Iowa, but for the entire country. She has never let us down and we stand proudly with her."

State Watch continued...

Minnesota

Duluth meeting energizes, informs attendees

SLD **Nick Katich** and the Minnesota State Legislative Board hosted a mini regional meeting Aug. 11 through 13 with about 90 local officers and members from five states attending.

“The turnout was amazing – the participation was incredible,” said Katich of Local 1067 (Virginia, Minn.), who has served as Minnesota’s state director since June 2020.

A total of 16 hours of educational sessions took place over the meeting’s three days at the Holiday Inn in Duluth. Workshops on all aspects of our union, including legislative representation, local representation, membership retention, and training concentrated on the role of the local secretary and treasurer and conducting local business served to inform attendees.

National officers taking part in the event included SMART-TD President **Jeremy Ferguson**; National Legislative Director **Greg Hynes**; Alt. Nat. Leg. Director **Jared Cassity**; TD Chief of Staff **Jerry Gibson**; Vice President **Jamie Modesitt**; TD Executive Assistant to the President **Jeff Brandow**; and Field Support Representative **John Purcell**. UTUIA’s **Ken Laugel** and Local 1674 (Los Angeles, Calif.) President and Regional Insurance Manager **David Liddle** attended and discussed the fraternal benefit organization’s offerings.

“The international officers turned out for this and that made it. They all made it happen,” Katich said. “Folks flat out told me seeing President Ferguson and NLD Hynes on the guest list – that was instant buy in.”

The proximity of the event gave the opportunity to a wider audience as well so multiple local officers from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and North and South Dakota



An attendee raises his hand to ask a question at one of the educational workshops at the Duluth “mini-regional” that was held at the city’s Holiday Inn from Aug. 11-13.

also could come to the meeting, Katich said.

“Locals were able to send their up-and-coming officers because there was a savings to not buy plane tickets,” he said.

The pandemic, among many of its disruptions, interrupted SMART-TD’s educational efforts for officers and members with the cancellation of two consecutive annual meetings.

“COVID meant that we had to come up with a new way of doing things because of all of the precautions and restrictions that varied from state to state,” SMART-TD Chief of Staff Jerry Gibson said. “The Minnesota mini-regional is one such example where we had a chance to rethink things. Rather than making people come to us, we were going to them to provide the training and resources to make our locals and, in turn, our entire union stronger.”

The result was a successful event that overcame the hurdles that had been presented by the shifting situations surrounding COVID precautions and helped in



Vice President **Jamie Modesitt** begins his training session for local chairpersons at the Duluth “mini-regional” that took place in August.

some ways to fill that void of in-person learning, Katich said.

“It really energized the people who attended – they learned about using the online safety and technology reports, donating to PAC – when they left, they’re ready to take on the world.”

It also helped break the cycle of remote meetings and “Zoom fatigue,” Katich said. Plus he was able to size up in person a couple of people he had not had the chance to meet except virtually.

“Jeff Brandow is a really tall guy,” Katich said. “It caught me off guard since I had only seen him on a screen. Picking up the energy of everyone in person was refreshing and showed me how much we miss out on in a virtual world.”

A harbor cruise onto Lake Superior attended by about 140 of the meeting’s participants and their guests served to cap off the meeting that Katich said pretty much went off without a hitch.

“It was a classic stay-ahead-of-everything and

things would turn out fine situation,” Katich said. “Using a union hotel – they really made it happen. I gave them a wish list, and things really came together.”

The event also couldn’t have happened without the contribution of support and resources made by multiple state boards, general committees, local officers and even family, Katich said.

“The officers in the Duluth area really stepped up and helped out. They checked in on me to see if I needed help throughout the whole process. They showed up early to unload all the materials and set up the event space,” he said. “My kids put in many hours assembling packets and stuffing swag bags ... they’re working out how to organize and bargain for better pay and conditions.”

All in all, it was a positive experience, and he said he’d be ready to do another one in the future.

“Absolutely! Minnesota is open to host anytime,” he said.

Midwest meeting planned

A similar “mini-regional” event is being organized by Michigan SLD **Donald Roach**, Indiana SLD **K.O. Edwards** and Illinois SLD **Bob Guy** to educate and serve members from Michigan, Illinois and Indiana.

The event is scheduled Nov. 3 to 5 at the Blue Chip Casino and Resort in Michigan City, Ind. Registration deadline for the event is Oct. 15 and can be done by following the QR code accompanying this article with your smart device.



MARKING LABOR DAY IN ILLINOIS, NEBRASKA



From left, Illinois Alt. SLD **Jordan Boone** (Local 445); TD President **Jeremy Ferguson**, Illinois SLD **Bob Guy**, state Rep. **Dan Swanson** (R-74th Dist.), Alt. National Legislative Director **Jared Cassity** and LCA-445 Secretary **Wes Ekstedt** at Galesburg’s Labor Day celebration.



Nebraska’s mini-locomotive gets fueled up before its showing at the SeptemberFest parade on Labor Day in Omaha. The Nebraska Legislative Board’s participation in the event got a special mention in the Omaha World-Herald newspaper’s coverage.

GATHERING FOR FAMILY DAY IN ATLANTA



In these photos courtesy of Georgia State Legislative Chairperson **Kelvin Hill**, members gather for Local 1245's Family Day event in early August. Those present included SMART-TD President **Jeremy Ferguson**, Alt. Vice President and General Chairperson **Tommy Gholson** (GCA-898), Vice General Chairperson **Jason Roberts** (GCA-898), Georgia State Legislative Director **Matt Campbell** and many members and family members.



From left, General Chairperson **Jader Castaño** (GCA-SFS); member **Paul Stein**; Vice President **Angela Watson**; President **Meghann Adams**; and member **Shirley Canyon** take a photo together at San Francisco Local 1741's September meeting.

Local 1741 honors drivers with more than 50 years in

Three members of Local 1741 (San Francisco, Calif.) were honored at the local's September meeting for their many years of service.

Members **Paul Stein**, **Shirley Canyon** and **Dale Sutton**, with more than 150 years of combined service,

received special recognition from their local officers.

SMART-TD appreciates and thanks these members for their years of service transporting the children of San Francisco to and from school safely — congratulations!

What YOUR UNION is doing for YOU

Here is a list of recent arbitration victories reported to SMART Transportation Division's leadership.

General chairpersons who wish to report a recent success should email Vice President **Alvy Hughes** (ahughes@smart-union.org) for Bus Department victories and Vice President **David B. Wier Jr.** (dwierjr@smart-union.org) for rail victories.

SMART-TD Vice Presidents **David B. Wier Jr.** and **Jamie C. Modesitt** report that the organization has received numerous favorable decisions from cases arbitrated at the First Division of the National Railroad Adjustment Board. Of the many cases that the organization received sustaining decisions on from the First Division, the case referenced below is of significant interest:

■ **In NRAB First Division Award No. 30647** (Javits, 2021), Union Pacific terminated a yardman for allegedly failing to operate his train at a speed that would allow him to stop short of equipment, causing a derailment. Following the formal investigation, the carrier concluded that the claimant violated GCOR Rule Nos. 1.6 and 6.28. After considering the facts of the instant case, the board concluded that the claimant's conduct was not the causal factor of the derailment in question. Because the claimant did not play a role in causing the subject derailment, the board maintained that the carrier failed to introduce substantial evidence into the record of the formal investi-

gation to corroborate the charges. Based upon the carrier presenting insufficient evidence into the record of the formal inquiry to support the charges, the board reinstated the claimant to service with the carrier and awarded him full back pay. GO 953 General Chairperson **Luke Edington**, GO 953 Associate General Chairperson **Ian Reynolds**, and GO 953 Senior Vice General Chairperson **Zach Nagy** progressed this case to the NRAB First Division.

Public law boards

■ **In Public Law Board 7925, Award No. 133** (Fagnani, 2021), CSXT terminated the employment of a conductor for allegedly passing a red signal. In examining the factual record of the instant case, the board discerned that the claimant took appropriate action in an attempt to thwart the train's movement prior to passing the red signal. In addressing the carrier's argument that the claimant should have reacted sooner to avert passing the red signal, the board determined that allegation amounted to speculation. Based on those findings and conclusions, the board determined that the discipli-

nary action taken against the claimant should be vacated and awarded him pay for lost wages, minus the thirty (30) day period when his conductor certification was revoked. GO 49 General Chairperson **Rick Lee**, GO 49 Vice General Chairperson **Kevin Serres** and International Vice President **Jamie C. Modesitt** handled this case before Public Law Board 7949.

■ **In Public Law Board 7786, Award No. 181** (Meyers, 2021), Canadian Pacific terminated a trainman for purportedly occupying a manual interlocking without authority. After analyzing the evidentiary record of the instant case, the board observed that there was a great deal of confusion surrounding the matter at issue, and it also noted that the claimant was not solely culpable for the subject incident. Taking those factors into consideration, the board concluded that the carrier's assessment of discharge from service to the claimant was unreasonable, arbitrary and capricious. For that reason, the board converted the claimant's discharge to a suspension of forty-five (45) days. Accordingly, the claimant was reinstated to

service with the carrier and paid lost wages, minus forty-five (45) days. GO 261 General Chairperson **Gerald Wallace** handled this case before Public Law Board 7786.

• • •

■ **In American Arbitration Association Case No. 01-20-0019-3411** (Coburn, 2021), Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) terminated a light rail operator for allegedly committing a work zone violation while operating a light rail vehicle on SEPTA's Norristown High Speed Line. On the date in question, the grievant encountered an approach sign and immediately commenced applying the brakes to his vehicle. After the grievant became cognizant of the fact that the vehicle's braking system was not responding appropriately to his brake applications, he placed the vehicle into the emergency brake application. The record of the instant case discloses that precipitation had just commenced falling as the grievant encountered the approach sign and the rail conditions became wet and slippery. Despite his best efforts to stop his vehicle's movement, the grievant's vehicle came into contact

with a stop sign that was placed 100 feet in advance of a work zone. The grievant's rail vehicle traveled a marginal distance past the stop sign; however, his rail vehicle did not physically enter the work zone. After reviewing the case, the arbitrator concluded that the evidentiary record demonstrated that the grievant operated his rail vehicle consistent with SEPTA's applicable rules. Furthermore, the arbitrator maintained that the grievant exhausted all means available to him to brake his rail vehicle. Based on these reasons, the arbitrator reasoned that SEPTA's decision to terminate the grievant was without just cause. Accordingly, the arbitrator directed SEPTA to reinstate the grievant to his former position and to make him whole for all lost earnings. International Vice President **David B. Wier Jr.** handled this case at the arbitration hearing. Vice President **Wier** thanked General Chairperson **Waverly Harris** and Vice General Chairpersons **Curtis Fulmore**, **Demetrius Legrande**, **Anthony Petty**, and **Sylvester Sills** for their valiant efforts in assisting with preparation for the arbitration hearing.

FILLING A VACANT LOCAL ELECTIVE POSITION

Although regular elections for local officers will not occur until 2023, positions may become vacant in the meantime for various reasons (retirement, resignation, etc.), creating what is known as a “permanent vacancy.” The following Q & A is intended to address common questions related to filling these positions.

What positions are considered “elective local officer” positions?

Elective local officer positions are those listed in the SMART Constitution, Article Twenty-One B (21B), Section 56, which include president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, or combined secretary & treasurer, collector (when applicable), and board of trustees. A member may not hold more than one of the above positions simultaneously.

How does my local fill a vacancy in the office of local president?

A vacancy in the office of local president shall be automatically filled by the vice president for the remainder of the term of office. It will then

KNOW YOUR UNION



be necessary to fill the permanent vacancy for the position of local vice president.

In the above scenario, what happens if the local vice president is not willing or able to elevate to the position of local president?

They should resign from the position of local president, and the local should proceed with filling the permanent vacancies for both positions.

How does my local fill a vacancy in one of the other elective local officer positions?

A notice must be posted at least 10 days in advance of a nomination meeting where nominations will be taken. Nominations may also be made by petition (signed by five members of the local eligible to vote). If at the nomination meeting only one member is nominated, that

member can be declared elected by acclamation. If more than one nomination is received, an election shall be held. A report of the election of the new local officer is to be forwarded to the Transportation Division office in Cleveland. The above process should also be used to fill the office of president when there is no vice president to fill the position.

Who is eligible to be a candidate, make nominations, and vote?

Candidates for local officer positions must be members of the local. Additional candidate restrictions are listed in Article 21B, Section 7, of the SMART Constitution. Those restricted from seeking office include members serving as carrier officers and members holding membership in any other union representing transportation employees. Members in E-49 status are

not eligible to make nominations or vote. However, members in E-49 status are eligible to be nominated and hold office if elected.

Where can I learn more about the duties of local officers?

The duties of the local officers can be found in the SMART Constitution, Article 21B, in the following sections: president, Section 59; vice president, Section 60; secretary, Section 63; treasurer, Section 64; collector, Section 65; and board of trustees, Section 67.

Is there any instance in which an officer may be appointed instead of elected?

Article 21B, Section 56, states in pertinent part that: “The President of the Local may appoint officers consisting of guards, committees, and stewards as necessary to conduct the functions of the Local.”

In the event of a vacancy in an appointed officer position, the president may appoint a successor at any regular meeting.


Additionally, in the event of a permanent vacancy in the position of treasurer or secretary and treasurer, it is permissible for the local president to make an appointment to the position to handle the local’s affairs – on an interim basis only – until an election can be held. In this instance, the Transportation Division should be immediately notified of the appointment.

Where do I report changes to our local’s elected officers?


Please send updates to the attention of the SMART Transportation Division president via email to President_TD@smart-union.org (preferred), or by fax to (216) 228-5755.

Where can I find more information about conducting elections?

On the SMART Transportation Division website www.smart-union.org/td, go to the “Local Toolbox” page and select the “Elections” tab.



The wants YOU!



UTUIA is looking for a few good men and women to join our team. If you:

- ➡ ARE LOOKING FOR A UNIQUE WAY TO SERVE YOUR FELLOW UNION MEMBERS;
- ➡ HAVE A DESIRE TO HELP OTHERS;
- ➡ HAVE A WILLINGNESS TO LEARN;
- ➡ BELIEVE THAT ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES DESERVE FINANCIAL PROTECTION IN TIMES OF NEED;
- ➡ ARE OUTGOING AND WOULD LIKE TO EARN EXTRA INCOME.



CONTACT UTUIA President Ken Laugel at klaugel@utuia.org for more information on the opportunities available.

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 arayner@smart-union.org or visit www.smart-union.org/td/alumni

Caboose restoration featured on Fla. TV news

Alumni Association member **Richard Beall**, a retiree out of Local 30 (Jacksonville, Fla.), said he almost bit off more than he could chew.

Almost.

But the laborious project of restoring Florida East Coast Railway caboose No. 715 from a deteriorated state got done after many years of uncertainty, and Beall was recognized in late August when his efforts were featured on a news broadcast on Miami's WSVN-TV.

The caboose had been taken out of service after 42 years in the 1960s and donated to the Florida Pioneer

Museum in 1966, saving it from the scrap heap for the first time.

But the years and Hurricane Andrew were unkind to the caboose, which was blown over by the storm in 1992. Beall was tasked by the Florida City Council with the job of figuring out what to do with the now-decrepit caboose when the Gold Coast Railroad Museum in Miami, Fla., stepped up to take ownership. No. 715 was moved there in 2012 as it awaited the funds to be raised for its full restoration.

Continued on Page 11



Richard Beall, a member of the SMART-TD Alumni Association and retiree from Local 30 in Jacksonville, stands aboard the FEC No. 715 caboose. Beall saw the culmination of years of work as well as 18 months of intense restoration work in late July as he operated the train that moved the repaired caboose to its home in the train shed of the Gold Coast Railroad Museum in Miami.

Retired NLD John Risch makes N. Dakota Rail Hall

The North Dakota State Railroad Museum in Mandan, N.D., recently inducted former SMART-TD National Legislative Director **John Risch** into the North Dakota Railroad Hall of Fame. A Mandan native, Risch is the highest-ranking railroad union official ever elected from the state. The ceremony took place as part of the museum's annual Railroad Days celebration Aug. 22.

Risch served the nation's railroad workers full time for 10 years in the national legislative office in Washington, D.C. He began his work on

Capitol Hill as alternate national legislative director and was subsequently elected national legislative director. He retired in September 2019 and, soon after, he and his wife, Kathi, returned to their home in North Dakota.

Risch began his railroad career on Burlington Northern Railroad, working in the track department for two summers while attending college. In 1978, he hired out in train service and in 1979 he entered engine service on what is now BNSF Railway. John served as the UTU's North Dakota

state legislative director from 1986 to 2009, while also working full time as a locomotive engineer. He also served on the union's executive board from 1991 until 2009, prior to heading to the nation's capital. Brother Risch is now a proud retiree of Local 1344 at Mandan.

"Being inducted into the hall of fame is a great honor, but the greater honor was being elected to serve our members for more than 30 years," Risch said.

Congratulations, Brother Risch!



Bill Engelter, right, president of the North Dakota State Railroad Museum, presents retired SMART-TD National Legislative Director John Risch with a certificate Aug. 22 as Risch is inducted to the state's railroad hall of fame.

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 the TD office. These brothers and sisters will be missed by their many friends and by fellow Alumni Association members.

Local	Name	City/State	Local	Name	City/State	Local	Name	City/State
5	Kerston Jr., Kenneth	Lamar, Mo.	378	Zacharias, Frank H.	Polk, Ohio	1316	Eversole, Curtis G.	Hazard, Ky.
5	Seufert, Herman J.	St. Joseph, Mo.	453	Burris, Corwin D.	Clinton, Ill.	1337	Goodwyne, August J.	Harvey, La.
48	Cline, Donald L.	Jacksonville, Fla.	462	Matlock, Jerry W.	Pine Bluff, Ark.	1390	McCarthy, William J.	Vero Beach, Fla.
48	Pettus Jr., Frederick E.	Chesapeake, Va.	490	Hensler Sr., Thomas E.	Petersburg, Ind.	1402	Schoonover, John H.	Salem, Ill.
64	Selbach, T.K.	Waseca, Minn.	504	Pennybacker Jr., John R.	Wheeling, W.Va.	1409	Vobornik, Larry D.	Milan, Mo.
94	Facklam, John D.	Raytown, Mo.	583	Oechsner, Todd R.	Theresa, Wis.	1518	Ewald, Daniel M.	Louisville, Ky.
225	Amos, Wayne	Bellevue, Ohio	620	Cikanek, William H.	Naperville, Ill.	1525	Highland, Charles L.	Millstadt, Ill.
226	Chirillo, Albert	Moberly, Mo.	662	Spain, Charles W.	Dewitt, Va.	1525	Wilson, Tom K.	S. Fulton, Tenn.
226	Sharp, Raymond E.	Walnut Shade, Mo.	763	Crider, Billy J.	Carl Jct., Mo.	1760	Shifflett, Thomas K.	Monroe, Mich.
259	Zebelean, Samuel J.	St. Joseph, Mo.	915	Petry, Robert D.	Cabin Creek, W.Va.	1816	Caris, Myron E.	Oregon, Ohio
313	Dykstra, Robert L.	Grand Rapids, Mich.	976	Wiggins, Larry L.	Ringgold, La.	1908	May, James R.	Buffalo, N.Y.
313	Mockerman, Milton E.	Muskegon, Mich.	977	Hall, Tracy O.	Kennewick, Wash.	1908	Stover, Nathan M.	Buffalo, N.Y.
320	Warsinski, Raymond H.	Birmingham, Mich.	1031	Collins, James E.	Savannah, Ga.	1933	Prince, Charles W.	Henrico, Va.
363	Myers, John E.	Roanoke, Va.	1177	Milner, Edward H.	Minneapolis, Minn.	1963	Miracle, Robert L.	Corbin, Ky.
363	Powers, Ronald G.	Vinton, Va.	1245	Ware, John H.	Baxley, Ga.			

IN MEMORIAM

Jaime Garcia-Perez, active L-23 member, dies from COVID-19

Jaime Garcia-Perez, 48, a member of our union for more than 15 years out of Local 23 (Santa Cruz, Calif.), passed away Sept. 3 from complications of COVID-19. He was an operator for the Santa Cruz Metro ParaCruz.



Garcia-Perez

“Jaime, who worked at ParaCruz for nearly 17 years, had an unwavering work ethic and the utmost respect from everyone here at Metro. He was an integral part of ParaCruz from day one,” GCA Vice General Chairperson **Nathanael Abrego** and General Chairperson **James Sandoval** said in a letter to membership. “A hard-working man and full of passion, integrity, and respect. When the workday got hard, we leaned heavily on the ‘Jaime

Factor’ because he counted as two drivers. He was that good. You can always count on him to ensure our riders got to their destination on time.

“Jaime was loved by all who knew him. He will be missed.”

Brother Garcia-Perez is survived by his wife of 25 years, Dawn; daughter, Madison; and son, Kaden.

“Got the honor to work with Jaime in ParaCruz,” local 23 member **Adrian Jimenez** wrote online. “Always helpful

and such a hard worker, had some great conversations with Jaime, but the topic that would light up his eyes was when we would talk about family.”

An online fundraiser has been established to assist Brother Garcia-Perez’s family and can be contributed to by scanning the QR code above with your smart device.

SMART-TD expresses its sincere condolences to the family and friends of Brother Garcia-Perez and to his brothers and sisters of Local 23.



The interior of FEC No. 715 caboose is shown in these pictures before and after the restoration overseen by TD Alumni Association member Richard Beall.

Richard Beall’s restoration of FEC caboose is featured on television

Continued from Page 10

A generous benefactor put the fundraising effort over the top in 2020. It then took 18 months of near-daily work by Beall and a contractor friend of his to complete the meticulous restoration project on July 15 of this year.

Of special note — Beall’s father, **C. A. “Chuck” Beall**, an FEC engineer for 45 years, was the last one to move No. 715 on the rails when he took it to Florida City before the caboose was trucked to the Pioneer Museum in 1967. More than 54 years later, Richard fittingly ran the locomotive that pulled No. 715 to its permanent and sheltered new home July 31, 2021. The caboose will be kept indoors at the Gold Coast Museum’s train shed and brought out for use on the museum’s excursion trips.

Brother Beall, a longtime TD member, retired in August 2018 after a 49-year rail career.

Congratulations, Brother Beall, on a great job preserving a piece of Florida rail history for future generations to appreciate!

Albert L. Smith, former vice president and general chairperson

Albert “Al” L. Smith, 87, of Jeffersonville, Ga., passed away Aug. 31, while surrounded by his family.



Smith

Brother Smith was a retiree of Local 535 in Macon, Ga., and joined our union in March 1951.

He served the membership of our union as both a general chairperson (Southern Railway Lines - East) and as an alternate vice president for the United Transportation Union before being elected to three terms as a vice president in 1987, 1991 and 1995 before his retirement in 1999.

in Macon.

Born in Tifton, Ga., Brother Smith served his country in the United States Marine Corps and was a member of the Marine Corps League, Detachment 970. He was retired from Norfolk Southern Railroad and was a member

“He was a great friend of mine,” said General Chairperson (GCA-169) **James E. Stewart Jr.**, of Local 1910

of Midway Baptist Church. He was a founding member of the National Vintage Racing Association. He enjoyed spending time outdoors and being with his family.

He is survived by his wife, Gail; daughter; son; five grandchildren; three great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his son, Stan Smith.

Donations in Brother Smith’s memory may be made to Pine Pointe Hospice, 6261 Peake Road, Macon, GA 31210.

Tracy Hall, Local 977 president and LCA-001A secretary

Tracy Owen Hall, 57, a member of our union for 20 years, passed away Aug. 3, 2021. He was born August 14, 1964, in Kennewick, Wash.



Hall

Brother Hall joined our union in March 1991 after hiring on as a conductor with BNSF. He later became involved as a union officer serving more than nine years as the secretary and treasurer of Local 977 (Pasco, Wash.) before becoming the local’s president in

January 2021.

He enjoyed working at the railroad with the many friends he made throughout his career. One of Brother Hall’s greatest joys was riding on his Harley.

“Tracy was an amazing person, friend, son, brother and stepdad. He would do anything for them,” his family said in his obituary.

Brother Hall is survived by

his father and step-mother; his brother, Jason, who is a fellow railroad worker; the love of his life, Julie Meyer, and a number of nieces, nephews and other relatives.

SMART-TD offers its sincere condolences to Brother Hall’s family, friends and his brothers and sisters of Local 977.

Ralph ‘Apa’ Tony Cloud Sr., retiree from Local 18 in El Paso

Ralph “Apa” Tony Cloud Sr., of El Paso, Texas, went to be reunited with our creator on Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2021, after 83 beautiful years of life.



Cloud

Brother Cloud, a retired member from Local 18 (El Paso, Texas), spent 36 years on the Southern Pacific/Union Pacific railroads. Ralph was very active in his community, coaching softball, basketball and baseball and was presi-

dent of the Yucca Neighborhood Association.

“He always kept the kids’ best interests at heart and was a selfless

and caring man to anyone he crossed paths with. He always showed support and had faith in everyone,” his family wrote

in his obituary. “Not only did he love to help others but he was a man who loved to tell jokes and was deeply passionate about the future of his community and always made sure to lead by example.”

He is survived by his wife, six children, 13 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

“He will be missed,” wrote Local 18 Vice President **George Avila**.

Relative of former UTU employee donates memorabilia to union



Robert “Bob” Graves, shown above right presenting a lantern to President Lyndon Johnson in this photo courtesy of his family,

was an administrative assistant in the President’s Department for more than three decades, first for the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen and then during the inception of the United Transportation Union and afterwards.

Graves passed away in May 2000 at the age of 73, and a family member reached out over the summer to donate some historical artifacts, a variety of which are shown in the photo above, to the union — including medallions, pins and BLF&E funeral ribbons. SMART-TD thanks the Graves family for their generosity in submitting these items to us for preservation.



Featured photo showcase



Johnny Walker, secretary & treasurer as well as legislative representative of Local 610 (Baltimore, Md.) took part in the 100th anniversary observance in early September of the Battle of Blair Mountain, the largest labor uprising in U.S. history, when mine workers rose up to unionize in West Virginia in 1921. Walker carried a SMART-TD flag during a 50-mile march to mark the battle.

How to have your photograph featured

SMART-TD seeks images of work-related scenes, such as railroad, bus or mass transit operations, 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. We prefer horizontal photos. Be sure that your camera is set to

the large resolution setting when taking the photo or it might not reproduce well.

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

info.

All photographs submitted become property of SMART and can be used in future projects.

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

YOUR FAMILY DEPENDS ON YOU AND YOUR INCOME.

YOUR UNION PROTECTS YOUR JOB AND INCOME.

BUT WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR FAMILY IF YOU ARE NOT AROUND?

Who pays for:

- Mortgage • Utility Bills • Car payments • Auto and home repairs
- Food and clothing • Medical and emergency care • Child care
- College or trade school education • Spousal retraining



Your union's fraternal benefit organization, **UTUIA**, has affordable plans to suit every family. Plans that can provide the money they need when they need it the most. Backed by over \$228 million in assets, **UTUIA stands by your side** as we have for over 153 years, with the financial strength and fraternal compassion to ensure your family has the protection they deserve.

To learn more about **UTUIA** protection or for a quick quote, follow the QR code at right, visit utuia.org or email info@utuia.org.

