Contract talks resume

CLEVELAND – Negotiators made progress when contract talks between the UTU and the National Carriers’ Conference Committee resumed last month in Miami, Fla. “For reasons we do not fully understand, the carriers say they made a mistake in the language agreed to last September with respect to the timing of the elimination of entry rates of pay for current employees. We managed to resolve our other differences in the questions and answers that will accompany the tentative agreement when we put it out for ratification,” said UTU International President Byron A. Boyd, Jr., chairperson of the UTU National Negotiating Committee.

Members killed on job

CARLISLE, Ohio – Two UTU members recently lost their lives while on the job. One man was killed and his crewmembers severely injured when their CSX train struck the rear of a stopped train near the southwest Ohio town of Carlisle. Killed was David J. Wund, 33, of Cincinnati, Ohio, a member of Local 1917 at Cincinnati. He started with the CSX Transportation Company in 1998. Suffering severe head injuries was Harry Everingham, 46, of Palestine, Ill., a member of Local 145 at Columbus, Ohio. Terry Stover, 45, of Columbus, Ohio, a BLE member, suffered severe back injuries in the crash.

Ron Harvey, a 53-year-old switchman member of Local 1402 at Dupo, Ill., was killed December 28 when he was struck on the head by moving equipment. The 30-year railroad employee got off his engine outside the St. Louis Terminal yard in Dupo and found himself stuck between moving trains traveling in opposite directions. Minutes later, fellow railroaders found him face down, killed by a blow to the left side of his head. Harvey leaves behind two grown children; he was to be married just weeks after his death.

B.A. Boyd succeeds Little as International president

CLEVELAND, Ohio – Byron A. Boyd, Jr., succeeded Charles L. Little as International president of the UTU and the United Transportation Union Insurance Association (UTUIA) last month in the wake of Little’s unexpected announcement that he was resigning and retiring.

Little, 64, attributed his decision to health considerations.

Vote on TRRA goes to UTU

GRANITE CITY, Ill. – In a winner-take-all election with significance for all rail operating employees, train and engine service workers on the Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis (TRRA) last month voted 83 to 17 to choose the TRRA as their bargaining representative.

“This a great and long-awaited moment for those on the TRRA who wanted and needed the assurance of having the best representation available in the industry,” UTU International President Byron A. Boyd, Jr. said. “Not only does this outcome represent a triumph for TRRA workers, but it hands a victory to all those on the TRRA who wanted and needed the assurance of having the best representation available in the industry,” UTU International President Byron A. Boyd, Jr. said. “Not only does this outcome represent a triumph for TRRA workers, but it hands a victory to all who understand the advantages of single-craft bargaining.

Transit workers approve pact

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A new three-year contract has been approved by members of Local 1715 in Charlotte, N.C., where bus operators, mechanics and cleaners employed by Transit Management of Charlotte, Inc., twice rejected previous proposals.

The agreement, reached on January 28 but not approved until February 9, provides a 3.4% cost-of-living increase each year, an increase in the company’s retirement plan contributions, three new bereavement days, an extra paid personal day and more sick-leave days. It runs from January 29, 2001, to January 29, 2004.

“I want to thank all the union members here who understand the advantages of single-craft bargaining.”

Winter in the White House

WASHINGTON – After the Republican National Committee’s decision to write off the White House, President George W. Bush and his Top team are bracing for a winter of discontent.

The White House has been the site of months of tension, with numerous staff members, including White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card, announcing they were leaving the administration. The decision of the Republican National Committee to write off the White House as part of an effort to raise money has only added to the sense of chaos.

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Local 4, Charny, P.Q.
The regular monthly meeting for May has been rescheduled for the third Monday of the month due to “Fete de Dollard,” according to Secretary and Treasurer Louis-François Gareau, who notes the location and time for the meeting remain the same. For information, call (418) 832-1502, or send email to <yahwe@total.net>.

Local 171, Aurora, Ill.
Active and retired members enjoyed a successful annual holiday dinner, marked by presentations from the Railroad Retirement Board and the UnitedHealth Group, said Local President Roy Coan. Special thanks go to Secretary and Treasurer Richard Temple, who handled the invitations, and to Bill Frenz, Phil Romanchuk, and John Bishop, of Designated Legal Counsel Yaeger, Jungbauer, Barczak, Roe & Vacinovitch, PLC, who sponsored the event.

Locals 262, 890, 1462, Boston, Mass.
Members will be well represented when the pack drops at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 11, at the Zapatus Ice Arena, 240 North St., Randolph, Mass., signaling the start of the Fourth Annual Billy Ribbert/David Fowkes Railroaders’ Hockey Game, according to Local President E.B. Kadlovich (L-1462). All proceeds from the game, named in honor of two beloved UTU conductors, help out New England Division Amtrak employees battling cancer and other diseases. This year, Amtrak employees team up to battle the Boston Bruins Alumni Team, composed of former National Hockey League greats, with Local Chairperson Lance Calvin (L-898) starting in the net. Gratitude goes to the UTU International, the UTUIA, Massachusetts State Legislative Director George Casey, General Chairperson Al Suozzo, Local Chairpersons Joe Motte (L-1462) and Tom Driscoll (L-262), and Secretary and Treasurer Dave Bowe (L-1462) for their continued support and generosity. For information, call (508) 478-4590. More information is posted at http://www.newenginer.com/bhockey.

Local 376, Louisville, Ky.
Local officers are making plans for the summer, with a string of events set for August, including the regular monthly meeting on August 9, a golf scramble August 10, and the annual picnic on August 11, according to Secretary Johnnie V. Estes, who noted details will be available when arrangements have been finalized.

Local 469, Madison, Ill.
A check for $1,000 was presented to the Four Square Church of Granite City, Ill., which provides food and assistance to the needy, in the wake of another successful Super Bowl Sunday Poker Tournament, hosted by the local and sponsored by the Midwest railroad and Designated Legal Counsel Lance Callis. Winner of the tournament was Don Gas ton, a retired switchman from the Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis, said Secretary and Treasurer John I. Payer. Among those in attendance were members of Local 1517, Cincinnati, Ohio; Local 1534, Chicago, Ill.; Local 1186 and 105’s St. Louis, Mo., and Local 1229, E. St. Louis, Ill.

Local 770, Heavener, Okla.
The Women’s Crisis Center in Heavener was the winner for the third year in a row when members of the local employed by Kansas City Southern held a food collection at their annual Christmas party, according to Local President Charles E. “Rock” Ford, Jr., and Legislative Representative Tommy G. Robertson.

Assault changes operator’s outlook

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — An assault on bus operator Garfield Gilbert changed everything, and though he appears to be recuperating physically, it might be a while before his mental outlook heals.

An ordinary day of driving his route for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) on Saturday, January 13, turned ugly when a passenger stabbed Gilbert twice. Today, Gilbert wonders if he’ll ever have an “ordinary” day again.

Suffering a punctured left lung, Brother Gilbert, a member of UTU Local 1594, Upper Darby, Pa., feels confident that his physical wounds will heal, but the mental aspect of the experience still haunts him.

“The more I think about it, the more frightening this thing is,” Gilbert said. “How will I handle driving if every five seconds I’m looking over my shoulder? Most nights I go to bed, and before long, I jump out of my sleep, having these flashbacks.”

Gilbert said the whole thing happened so fast, he didn’t immediately realize he had been stabbed.

Three women, one with a baby, asked him if the bus would take them to a particular destination. Gilbert, who came from Jamaica 18 years ago and speaks with an accent, answered the women, but one became abusive, using profanity and mocking his accent.

Gilbert got to their stop, he said, “and as they were exiting the bus, I turned around to get some napkins to wipe my face, and I felt something in my chest. I thought maybe she just punched me before she ran off the bus.”

After driving for another block, Gilbert said it felt like his shirt was wet. “I realized I was bleeding,” he said, “I called the control center, and then called 911.”

When the emergency medical personnel and police arrived, Gilbert gave them a description of the three women. “I remembered one had a baby and a stroller,” he said. Police found them by the store where I left them off, and the lady had a knife.”

Gilbert is cooperating with prosecuting authorities. Meanwhile, he’s trying to come to terms with what happened that night.

“You get immune to threats, because it was just another night with just another person upset about something,” Gilbert said. “But there needs to be measures to protect transportation workers.”

Local 1470, Edmonston, Md.
The Seventeenth Annual Reunion of PRR Retirees will be held April 16-18 at the Holiday Inn West in Myrtle Beach, S.C., with the banquet to be held on Wednesday, April 18, according to retiree and event chairperson Joe Ollifford. For information, contact Hollifield by writing to attn. at 230 Mason Dr., Myrtle Beach, SC 29572, or call (843) 280-4140.

Local 1570, Roseville, Cal.
Along with those from Local 492, Sacramento, Cal., members turned out in record numbers for the Eighth Annual Placer County Democratic Central Committee President’s Day Dinner. Ence at the event was California Assistant State Legislative Director Joe N. Anderson, who noted the greatest attendance in 20 years. Also on hand were Local President Jim Feichert, Secretary and Treasurer Walter Wilson, member Ken B. Schaffer, and Local Secretary and Treasurer Daryl Stinchfield, who serves as the committee’s treasurer. Volunteer bartenders included retired former Local President Dan Sanford and retired Local Chairperson Wes Berg. The event raised enough money to support the organization’s activities for two years.

Local 1594, Upper Darby, Pa.
Contract negotiations for members employed as rail and bus workers with the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) are in the early stages, according to Local Chairperson and President Ron Koran, who remains optimistic about the talks.

Local 1687, Belen, N.M.
Members working for BNSF send best wishes to James D. Morgan, who hired out on former Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe on June 22, 1959, served as local chairperson for trainmen during the past 10 years, and retired February 1, said BNSF General Chairperson Jim A. Huston. “Your knowledge, experience and wisdom will be missed, not only at the local level, but also on the general committee level,” said Huston in a letter to Morgan.

Local 1778, Vancouver, B.C.
Employees of BC Rail, along with members of Local 1923, Prince George, B.C., who are represented by the Council of Trade Unions, voted more than 70% in favor of the tentative pact reached in December, according to Secretary and Treasurer David Moorhouse. The contract, which runs from January 1, 2001, to December 31, 2002, includes a 2.5% wage increase each year, a raise in weekly indemnity rates and job security travel allowances, and contracting-out language similar to that employed by the Teamsters.

Monthly winner

This month’s lucky winner of his choice of any item proudly displaying the UTU logo is Ronald R. Kileen of Local 161, Seattle, Wash., who represents workers on Evergreen Trails. These items are awarded every month by random drawing as a show of appreciation to the many members who have been supportive of the UTU throughout the years.

Around the UTU
News from around the U.S. and Canada
News from U T U State Legislative Boards

Montana
The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has concurred with charges made last year by Legislative Director Fran Marcceau that the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) violated the FRA’s Hours of Service reporting regulations.

In a letter to Marcceau dated January 11, 2001, the FRA stated that it had completed its investigation into “the way (train) crews are tied up following deadhead service to outlying assignments at Glendive, Montana,” and had concluded that “periods spent in deadhead service were not being properly recorded.”

The letter went on to state that the FRA took exception to this practice and that the BNSF had agreed to resolve the problem within 90 days.

The FRA said it would follow up on record- ing methods at that time to assure compliance, and noted that noncompliance would result in significant enforcement proceedings.

Nebraska
UTU members here have gone on the offensive in advancing legislation that would require the use of two-person crews on freight trains throughout the state, despite opposition to L.B. 185 by some other labor organizations.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (BLE) and the Nebraska AFL-CIO oppose the legislation because it does not specifically call for a ban on remote-control operations.

Legislative Director Ray Lineweber said that “while ‘UTU is indeed opposed to the remote-control operation of locomotives, and has fought against it for more than five years in Nebraska, this is clearly a federal issue, and the recent ‘proposed rulemaking’ on remotes by FRA verifies our position.”

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The FRA said it would follow up on record- ing methods at that time to assure compliance, and noted that noncompliance would result in significant enforcement proceedings.

Washington
At its urging, the Washington Legislative Board, Rep. Mike Cooper has sponsored H.B. 1436, which states that “no person operating or controlling a freight railroad may allow the operation of a freight railroad train or locomotive in this state unless the train or locomotive has a crew of at least two employees.”

Legislative Director Tom Rettether urges all UTU members to contact their representatives in the state’s House of Representatives to ask for their support of this legislation.

The e-mail addresses of representatives are available through the Washington state legislature’s web site at <http://www.leg.wa.gov> and voice-mail messages may be left toll-free at (800) 562-6000.

Informational Seminar in Iowa
The Iowa Legislative Board is sponsoring a U T U Informational Seminar to be held on Thursday, May 3, 2001, at the historic Savery Hotel and Spa in Des Moines, Iowa. The seminar is open to all UTU members.

Representatives from the Railroad Retirement Board, the UTU Insurance Association, UTU Designated Legal Counsel and various health and welfare organizations will be on hand to assist members and answer any questions.

The seminar will be followed by a banquet on Thursday evening. UTU members can contact the Savery Hotel at (800) 798-2151 for hotel accommodations. For more information, contact Seminar Chairperson Pat Hendricks at (315) 282-9298.

Contract talks making progress
Our yardmaster general committees are busy in negotiations with their employing carriers to enhance the quality of life, benefits and wages for their members.

Recently, General Chairperson Jerry Martin and Soo Line General Chairperson Richard Miller are working on a new system agreement. They are working to combine the former Milwaukee Road and Soo Line yardmaster agreements into a new Soo Line system yardmaster agreement.

Yardmaster general chairpersons representing the more than 700 yardmasters on CSX are in negotiation on a new contract. CSX did not give the National Carriers’ Conference Committee its power of attorney for the yardmaster craft. Contract negotiations are being handled on the property. General Chairpersons D.K. Turner, J.R. Cumby, R.P. DeGenova and D.J. Burke are expressing optimism with the progress being made.

“We are optimistic that the final touches will be put on the proposed national contract in the near future, allowing for membership ratification.”

Nevada
The UTU’s Nevada Legislative Board, the Union Pacific Railroad and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway have entered into an agreement on a set of rail regulations in the state that were five years in the making.

Legislative Director Jack M. Fetters said highlights of the new code include revised hazardous-materials reporting guidelines, walkway regulations, and standards for ballast size in yards that switching is done.

“After many public hearings and delays, I would like to thank State Senator Dina Titus, Assemblyman Bernie Anderson, Designated Legal Counsel Larry Mann, Rod Nelmus, Leon Busch and Jim Mular for their unwavering support and assistance during these difficult negotiations,” Fetters said.

Arizona
The Arizona Legislative Board was successful in its effort to halt a vote by the state’s Senate Judicial Committee on legislation which could have allowed for a “co-employee” to be used by third parties as a result of a Federal Employers’ Liability Act (FELA) claim against a railroad.

Legislative Director Scott Olson said although the committee was allowed to hear testimony on S.B. 1429 last month, a vote on the bill was held up until it could be rewritten with all references to a “co-employee” removed.

UTU Designated Legal Counsel Chip Rabb of the Crow Law Firm assisted the legislative board in its action and will help to rewrite the wording of the bill, Olson said.

“We all owe Mr. Rabb a great round of applause for his help,” Olson said.

Olson added that the UTU was the only union there to take up this important battle.

“Thanks to all of you for your support of the Arizona State Legislative Board,” Olson said.
A personal message

Byron A. Boyd, Jr., International President
Paul C. Thompson, Assistant President
Daniel E. Johnson III, Secretary/Treasurer
James M. Brunkenhoefer, Nat. Legislative Dir.

RSAC brings progress

On January 2, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding sanitation standards for toilet and washing facilities in locomotive cabs.

With that notice, the FRA detailed the rules it will likely put into place, and opened a comment period extending through March 5.

The long-overdue rules call for daily inspections and spell out when, where and how specific conditions must be met, and prohib-

You will be faced with forms to fill out. You are told that these forms must be done immediately, even though you are disoriented or in pain. You are told that if you do not fill them out immediately you can lose your job. Of course, if you make a mistake filling out the form, you are charged with lying, for which you can be fired. From the moment you are injured, the railroad has one goal and one goal only: to save money – the money that you and your family will get.

The railroads also use similar tactics on everyone on your crew. They are looking for a way to make you a victim twice. They use the threat of dis-

There is now a new tactic. It appears that the BNSF has hit a new low. One of the forms that they have been asking workers to fill out is to allow for genetic testing. It sounds harmless, but it is probably the biggest threat that railroads have ever used in dealing with injured workers. This is a new invasion of more than just your right to privacy. Such testing reveals a great deal about you. Not only could it be used against you in the event at hand, it also can be used against you throughout your career. You see, if the genet-

ic testing shows that you are likely to eventually develop a disease that would be costly to treat, the railroad may find it cheaper to fire you in order to save on medical costs. They may use the information gained from your injury to essentially put a target on you. It is the railroad’s intention order to save on medical costs. They may use the information gained from your injury to essentially put a target on you. It is the railroad’s intention to use the information for their benefit and not for you or your familys’. We here in Washington, D.C., will be working on getting a federal law passed to prevent such testing in the future.

There is nothing pleasant about a lawsuit, no matter which side you are on. Yet, what do injured railroad workers have to expect when they treat injuries this way?

The president of the United Transportation Union designates legal counsel to assist injured members. I think that this genetic testing scheme is a prime example of why injured members need that assistance. These designated legal counselors are very familiar with the railroads’ techniques. All of these lawyers will meet with you and listen to what you have to say. Due to their experience, they have a better understanding of your prob-

We believe the best part of the story is yet to come.

Remember, our aim is in our name.
Will the UTU prevail in 2001?

By Frank N. Wilner

CLEVELAND – An effort led by the UTU and the Transportation Communications International Union (TCU) has resulted in the preservation and strengthening of the Federal Transit Act’s (FTA) section 13(c) provisions protecting a wide range of transportation workers.

A decision by former U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman to enforce the FTA’s section 13(c) was upheld by the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in a ruling issued on January 13, signaling an immediate victory for Bay Transit Authority (FTA) commuter rail service workers in the San Francisco area.

The jobs of BTA workers were threatened when Herzog Transit Services bid against Amtrak for the renewal of a contract to operate commuter rail services. The Herzog bid would not have complied with section 13(c) regulations, giving Herzog a competitive advantage over Amtrak and sparking Herman’s decision.

“This was a significant win,” said UTU International President Byron A. Boyd, Jr. “The ruling affects more than just those UTU-represented conductors and assistant conductors working on Amtrak. It offers aid and support to all transportation workers whose contracts rely on the protections afforded by section 13(c).”

The TCU and the UTU took the lead in intervening last autumn in support of the Department of Labor, which insisted that the Herzog bid would have to respect and comply with the 13(c) provisions.

Joining the UTU and TCU later were the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the Service Employees International Union (which has a division that represents the Firemen and Oilers), and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

Among other things, the 13(c) provisions authorize the secretary of labor to condition the certification of bids in order to protect workers’ collective bargaining rights.

The district court held that Herman’s decision was “neither arbitrary, capricious, nor unlawful,” and instead was “fair and equitable” in upholding 13(c) provisions.

Cunningham appointed human rights coordinator

CLEVELAND – Ray Cunningham, Jr., has been named by International President Byron A. Boyd, Jr., to serve as UTU’s human rights coordinator. A position created to educate and promote awareness of the advantages brought by diversity.

“The transportation industry continues to benefit from the increasing involvement of both sexes and all races,” Boyd pointed out. “As we enter this new century and a new millennium, it is time that we take steps to proactively deal with the related issues and capitalize on the strengths and resources that our organization’s diversity makes available to us.”

Cunningham, an Amtrak conductor and local chairperson of Local 1933, Washington, D.C., believes diversity represents a resource the UTU can’t afford to ignore.

“On Amtrak, it’s mandatory to receive diversity training,” said Cunningham, “and more and more companies are recognizing the opportunities to either prosper or fail that are related to how they deal with the diversity of their workforce.”

Cunningham brings 33 years of rail experience to the position, including the insights gained from 23 years spent in local union positions.

“When we see smoke, we’re not going to wait for a fire to break out,” he said. “We want to put out the sparks, and educate as we do it.”

Cunningham pointed out that his position is more like a part-time job, and that he’ll continue to work with Local 1933. “But if there’s trouble somewhere, and President Boyd wants me to find its source and fix it, that’s where I’ll go.”

UTU, TCU defend 13(c) protections

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Lenny Conetsco
LTV Steel Laburnum, Local 27 Chicago, Ill.

"The railroads haul coal, steel and iron ore, and there will be a demand for the coal, but there will be a demand for the steel, too. It will be all railroads, especially the Class I railroads, and everyone who works for them."

Mark Vesel
Conrail Line Carman

"It's impossible to overstate the importance of railroads in the steel industry. They are the veins that carry finished products, like rolled and coiled steel, steel bars and sheets, to market. Railroads are the arteries that bring coal, coke and limestone to the steel plants."

LTV's problems also came at a bad time for the railroad industry. The financial health of the steel industry vitally concerns about the sad state of the railroad industry.
Little retires
Continued from page 1

fared to engine service in 1968, and was promo-

tioned to locomotive engineer in 1971.

Boyd was elected vice local chairperson in

1969 and was elected general chairperson in

1978. When he was promoted to that post in

1983, he was elected by the NMB to the posi-

tion of vice president.

Delegates at the 1983 convention elected

Boyd to the position of vice president. He

was re-elected to that post at the 1987 and

1991 conventions. At the 1995 convention,

Boyd was elected assistant president, and

was re-elected to that position by accla-

mation in 1999.

Thompson started on Santa Fe

Thompson began his career in 1959 on the

Santa Fe Railroad as a locomotive fireman,

and was promoted to engine in 1965. He

joined the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen

and Enginemen, a UTU affiliate union, and

elected president of Lodge 298 (now UTU

Local 94 at Kansas City, Kan.) in 1968.

Thompson was elected vice general chair-

person on the Santa Fe in 1975 and general

chairperson in 1979. He served as a delegate at

the 1971, 1975 and 1979 conventions, and

was elected vice president by the delegates at

the 1983 convention. He was re-elected to that


convention, Thompson was elected general

secretary and treasurer.

Johnson began his career in 1966 as a brake-

man on the Southern Pacific, and was pro-

moted to conductor in 1970. He joined Lodge

460 (now UTU Local 807 at Tucson, Ariz.) of

the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, a

UTU affiliate union, and served as vice local chairperson from 1969 to

1972, local chairperson from 1973 to 1980,

local legislative representative from 1971 to

1980, delegate from 1975 to 1979, chairman

of the Arizona State Legislative Board from

1975 to 1983, vice general chairperson from

1981 to 1990, and general chairperson from

1990 to 1997.

Johnson was elected alternate vice presi-
dent-west in 1995, and became vice president in

1997. He was elected to that post at the 1999 convention by accla-

mation.

Johnson also chaired the Southwest General Chairperson’s Association from 1991 to 1996, the Western General Chairpersons’ Association from 1996 to 1997, and was a member of the UTU/BLE Merger Committee in 1993. A member of the UTU’s National Negotiating Committee in 1995 and 1996, he continues to serve in that capacity and has been a member of the National Wage & Rules Panel since 1997.

Martin’s seniority on U nion Pacific

Martin began his career on the UP as a clerk in 1966 and joined the former Brotherhood of

Railway, Airline and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees (BRACs), now known as the Transpor-

tation Communications Union (TCU). He transferred to engine service and joined the

UTU in 1974.

A member of Local 78, Pocatello, Idaho, Martin served as vice local chairperson from 1979 to 1983, local chairperson from 1983 to 1990, general chairperson from 1990 to 1993, and held the post of general chairperson from 1993 until his predecessor’s retire-

ment in July 1998, when he again took the post of general chairperson. He was elected U.S. alternate vice president-west at the 1999

convention.

A fourth-generation railroader and father of two, including a son who is employed as a UP

conductor and a daughter, Martin is a member of the Elks and the Idaho State University

Bengal Foundation. He is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and served in southeast Asia.

TRRA workers
Continued from page 1

representation.

President Boyd thanked General Chairper-

son Dave B. Weir (GO 919), Local President

Tom Kennedy and Secretary and Treasurer

John L. Payer, who are members of Local 469,

Manchester, N.H., for their organizing efforts

and positive action.

The TRRA representation election was

ordered by a National Mediation Board (NMB)

ruling on December 22, 2000, that included

the finding that a single craft or class of

operating employees is appropriate where

bargaining unit members are appropriate where

discipline is necessary.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers

(NMB) had filed a petition with the NMB on

December 26, 2000, asking for a reconsidera-

tion of the board’s December 22 decision.

Fearing a loss in the election, the BLE

then filed for a stay of the election on January 3,

2001. The NMB ultimately denied both of the

BLE’s requests.

In refusing to grant the relief the BLE

requested in its motion for reconsideration,

the NMB majority found that significant

cross-utilization is not a factual predicate to a

single craft-ruling.

President Boyd noted this action by the

NMB and the vote of the employees on the

TRRA supports the UTU’s representation ini-

tiative.

As a result of the election, GO-919 has

become the first unified UTU general com-

mittee of adjustment composed completely

of a class of employees certified by the NMB as

train and engine service employees.

Last year, UTU was certified on the Texas-

Mexican Railroad by the NMB to represent

train and engine service employees.

GO 919 also represents train and engine

service employees on the Manufacturer’s Rail-

way, where a similar victory was scored late

last year.

“Credit for making this victory possible goes
to a lot of hard-working individuals, but spe-
cial mention should be made of the call team

captains who helped turn out the vote,” Cumby

noted.

Cumby also thanked Local 469 Chairper-

sons Bobby Maurer and Jack McKee, as well as


Charlotte
Continued from page 1

who took the time and showed the concern to

vote on this contract,” said Local President

James Shannon. “The union will continue to

work on better health care and an improved

retirement package during the next three years.”

Shannon noted that dissatisfaction with the
company’s stance on health care and retire-

ment, as well the fact that the property is in a
right-to-work state, has led up to approval of the contract and led to the community’s fear that

a strike might be imminent.

Besides concerns about the rising cost of

health-care premiums, members wanted to

establish a lower retirement age, while the

company was determined to increase it from

63 to 65 years of age. In the end, provisions

regarding retirement age and health care

remained the same as in the previous contract.

The low percentage of union members in the

bargaining unit weakened the local’s negotiat-

ing position, Shannon said. Of the system’s

roughly 500 workers, only about half are mem-

bers of the union. Out of the 225 buses in North Carolina is a

right-to-work state, bargaining unit members

needed not join a union, but are covered by

union contracts.

Despite strong support for a strike from many

bus operators, Shannon said he was concerned

about the chances for a successful action
because “we would have had half the drivers
crossing the picket line.”

Shannon promised to stage an organizing

effort among employees before the three-year

contract expires, saying, “Strength in numbers is our goal.”

The company, which manages the 225-bus Charlotte Area Transit System, operates bus services to

about 40,000 passengers daily.
Help others during Join Hands Day, June 16

Cleveland – The UTU/UTUIA is proud to join together with the 88 other not-for-profit fraternal benefit societies comprising the National Fraternal Congress of America to sponsor “Join Hands Day,” a nationwide day of volunteerism, fortitude, and fun.

Join Hands Day, set for Saturday, June 16, gives members a chance to mobilize to make life better for those less fortunate, to work and learn with young adults, and to prove again that UTU/UTUIA members are the greatest volunteers in the world.

Participation can take any number of forms, from cleaning streets or helping seniors, to repairing playground equipment, painting over graffiti, or removing trash from streams. The important thing is to do something, and tell us about it! Photos and stories about your projects could appear in a future edition of the UTU News to let others know how you participated to make Join Hands Day a success.

Visit the UTUIA Web site, www.utuiainc.com, to find out what is happening in your area and to obtain necessary forms and information, including a listing of community service projects. Then call your local and tell them about your project, or call Fraternal Coordinator Charles Mills at (216) 228-9400 ext. 203.

“I was extremely pleased with the success and level of participation on the part of UTU/UTUIA members last year,” Krnak noted, remarking that some 215 adults and 52 children associated with the UTU/UTUIA took part in events. “I know we can accomplish even more this year.”

No project is too small, and the possibilities are as unlimited as your imagination. Ideas to consider: Homelessness or poverty (prepare and distribute sandwiches, or organize a food drive); environmental concerns (clean a park, or volunteer at a recycling center); health issues (distribute meals to homeless or visit hospital patients); schools and education (hold a book drive for school libraries, or paint a mural on school walls); and humane animal treatment (walk dogs at an animal shelter).

Young people and parents working together to volunteer to help their communities, and themselves. That is the essence of Join Hands Day.

“The goal of Join Hands Day is to help change how adults and young people understand each other and get along,” Krnak said. “It is a way to help change the way Americans think and act across generations.”

Young people love the opportunity to take leadership roles, to learn how to operate power tools, to be spokespersons on radio and television. They were surprised at how nice and helpful adults were to work with, and adults enjoyed showing teenagers how to paint, plant and fix, all for the benefit of the community.”

No project is too large or too small. You may join with other UTU/UTUIA members in your area to accomplish much more.

Please, plan to participate in Join Hands Day by sending in the planning form printed on this page before April 15, 2001.

Tell Us What You Plan to Do

Name ________________________________
City _________________________________
Address _______________________________
Daytime phone ( ) ____________________
E-mail ________________________________

What is your sponsoring organization?

Type of project (check one):
☒ Environment
☒ Health
☒ Education/Schools
☒ Homelessness/poverty
☒ Safety/Protection
☒ Help seniors
☒ Other (explain)

Tell us about your project:


Organizing Report

Star Transit workers vote UTU in election

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 10 – UTU Local 105 at Las Vegas, Nev., which represents the Gray Line Tours of Southern Nevada, is about to expand its membership by nearly 100 members.

By a more than 2-to-1 margin, the airport shuttle drivers and tour bus operators employed by Star Transit chose the UTU to serve as their collective bargaining representative in a representation election held January 16.

Of the 92 Star employees eligible to vote in the election, 58 cast votes in favor of the UTU, 27 voted for no union representation, and seven did not cast ballots.

Ambrose Murray, president of Local 105, said the Star employees are eager to begin working on their first contract proposal. “We will be more than happy to help with that since the Star drivers are eager to be part of this unified Las Vegas local,” Murray told Bus Vice President Bernie McNels.

“We want to congratulate the Star employees on this election,” McNels said. “We are now waiting for the official certification of the election results from the National Labor Relations Board.

“Barring a protest from the employer, we will visit Star Transportation employees soon to gather their ideas for a contract and begin negotiations,” McNels said.

McNels also said he wanted to acknowledge the efforts of Gray Line Tours General Chairperson Jim McNeeley and his committee for their hard work in this organizing campaign.

McNels also praised the work of UTU Director of Strategic Planning John Nadeau, and General Chairperson Roy Arnold of Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma Coaches in bringing the campaign to a successful conclusion.

Support builds in Senate for Medicare drug benefit

A proposal to provide prescription drug benefits for all Medicare participants gained support last month, even though some Republicans are still insisting that Congress overhaul the entire program to cut costs.

Sen. John Breaux (D-La.) and Sen. Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) introduced a pair of bills they co-authored, one of which would restructure Medicare along lines sought by conservatives, creating options within the program that would offer various levels of insurance, including prescription drug coverage.

The other measure introduced by the pair would subsidize prescription drug costs under traditional Medicare coverage.

The senators’ prescription drug coverage plan for all seniors would cost $163 billion over 10 years, according to Congressional Budget Office estimates.

Retired former union officials pass away

Four former retired UTU officials recently passed away, according to reports received at the International. Gene C. McCoy, a member of Local 185, Brookfield, Mo., and former general chairperson of GO-245 (CB&Q&D/BN) from 1969 to 1979, passed away December 22, 2000. Brother McCoy, 84, had retired in January 1979.

Maurice S. Snucke, a member of Local 594, Meridian, Miss., and former general chairperson of GO-433 (IC&S&M&O) from 1967 to 1975, passed away January 8, 2001. A resident of Orlando Park, Ill., the 81-year-old had retired in 1975.

Gilbert B. Wood, a member of Local 1413, Jersey City, N.J., and former New Jersey State Legislative Director for the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen (a UTU predecessor union), passed away January 16, 2001. He was 95.

Jeremiah “Jerry” A. Parker, a member of Local 16, 6972, New London, Conn., and former general chairperson of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen’s (BRT) board of appeals, as well as the UTU’s from 1971 to 1975, passed away February 10, 2001. A conductor with the New Haven and Hartford Railroad for 40 years, he also served as general chairperson and legislative representative for BRT Lodge 336, and then UTU Local 488. The 89-year-old had retired in October 1976.

Social Security offers monthly e-newsletter

Social Security recipients can keep up with the latest changes in benefits and rules through an electronic newsletter now available on the agency’s website.

The newsletter includes various topics of interest, and e-mail subscribers can customize the information they receive in the free monthly updates, the agency said. All that’s required to receive the publication is an e-mail address.


The Final Call

Following are the names of members of the UTU Retiree Program who have died recently, according to reports received at UTU International Headquarters. These brothers and sisters will be missed by their many friends and by fellow UTU Retiree Program members.

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Those interested in subscribing can do so by signing up at <http://www.ssa.gov/news/issue18/subscribe.html>

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Register now for the Regional Meetings!

The UTU/UTUIA Regional Meetings scheduled for this summer promise camaraderie, education and fun.

Each Regional Meeting lasts a full three days, with the President’s Banquet on the evening of the third day.

Each attendee at the meeting must be registered in order to attend any planned social functions. Pre-registration speeds the registration process at the meeting, helps organizers plan more accurately and saves on the meeting costs. These savings are being passed on to each pre-registered attendee.

Each person attending the Regional Meeting, including family members and guests, MUST be registered in order to attend any planned social functions. Pre-registration fees are $125 per person; children 11 years of age and under are complimentary.

On-site registration will be $175 per person. All pre-registration fees must be paid in U.S. funds. Canadian funds will NOT be accepted. If you have questions, consult your checking or banking institution. Forms and payments must be received 10 days prior to the Regional Meeting.

Which Regional Meeting will you be attending?

Greensboro

Winnipeg

Member Registration

Name ____________________________ UTU Local ____________________________

Title (if any) ____________________________

Home Address ____________________________

City/State/ZIP ____________________________

Daytime telephone number ____________________________

How would you like your Regional Meeting materials? Printed ☐ CD-ROM ☐

Spouse Registration

Name ____________________________

Title (if any) ____________________________

Will you attend the UTU Auxiliary tour? Yes ☐ No ☐

Child Registration

Child name ____________________________ Age ____________________________

Child name ____________________________ Age ____________________________

Child name ____________________________ Age ____________________________

Guest Registration

Guest Name ____________________________

Address ____________________________

City/State/ZIP ____________________________

Relationship to member ____________________________

Golf Registration

Name ____________________________

Handicap ____________________________

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

Payment Options

Check/Money Order (U.S. funds only) $ ____________________________

Credit Card (please indicate type): ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Card number ____________________________

Expiration date ____________________________

Total amount charged $ ____________________________

Signature ____________________________

Should additional space be needed, make copies of this form and attach to the original. This form and payment of $125 per person over the age of 11, plus golf registration fees of $80 per golfer (if applicable), must be received at the UTU International Headquarters, 41600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44107-4250, 10 days prior to the Regional Meeting. Make checks or money orders payable to “UTU Regional Meeting.” Those who do not pre-register for the Regional Meeting but instead choose to register at the meeting site will be charged a $50 penalty fee.

Golf outings set

The UTU will hold golf outings the Sunday morning before both the Greensboro and Winnipeg Regional Meetings.

The fee, $80 per golfer, includes transportation from the host hotel, greens fees, a golf cart for every two golfers, lunch, and much more. Register for the golf outings in the space provided in the registration form printed on this page. Be sure to include your golf fee with your registration fee.

At Greensboro, golfers will play the beautiful and challenging Grandover Golf Course, 1000 Club Road, Greensboro, N.C. The golf course in Winnipeg will be announced in the next UTU News.

Golf Registration

Name ____________________________

Handicap ____________________________

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

Payment Options

Check/Money Order (U.S. funds only) $ ____________________________

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UTU members can save money on cell phones with AT&T Wireless

UTU members and their families can save money on their cellular telephone service by signing up with, or switching over to, AT&T Wireless Services, one of the largest cellular carriers in the United States. The UTU International has reached an agreement with AT&T Wireless so that all members, active and retired, are eligible to receive these discounts. All new and existing AT&T Wireless customers will earn airtime and equipment savings, as well.

Enroll now and start saving!

If you have existing AT&T cellular service:
• Contact AT&T National Business Ordering toll free at 1-800-388-3235 (please do not call the UTU);
• Request to be added as an “existing subscriber” to the UTU Employee Sponsorship Program;
• Provide UTU’s Employee Sponsorship Foundation Account number: 11988;
• Be prepared to give your wireless telephone number, name, billing address and contact phone number.

To begin new cellular service:
• Contact AT&T National Business Ordering toll free at 1-800-388-3235 (please do not call the UTU);
• Request to activate “new service;”
• Provide UTU’s Employee Sponsorship Foundation Account number: 11988;
• Be prepared to give your name, billing address, contact phone number, social security number, date of birth, and drivers license number.

An AT&T representative will be happy to assist you with selecting the most appropriate rate plan and telephone. This is another way that the UTU International, with its collective bargaining power, helps UTU members and their families get the most out of life.