

# UTU News

The Official Publication of the United Transportation Union

## THE VOICE OF TRANSPORTATION LABOR

"This may be a good contract provision for BMW members, and it's their right to make that decision, but the carriers need to understand that this approach to health and welfare costs is not acceptable to UTU members, and other organizations join us in that assessment." – *UTU International President Byron A. Boyd, Jr.*

### News & Notes

#### Auxiliary moves offices

CLEVELAND, Ohio – The offices of the UTU Auxiliary, formerly located in Columbus, Ohio, have been moved into the UTU International Headquarters in Cleveland, Ohio. "I am excited to be able to work more closely with International President Byron Boyd to help strengthen and expand the UTU Auxiliary," Auxiliary International President Edythe M. Walter said. Walter and International Secretary/Treasurer Joan P. Montgomery now can be reached by mail at 14600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44107; by calling (216) 521-1161, faxing (216) 521-2588, or e-mailing <auxiliaryed@aol.com>.

#### Steelworkers thank UTU

PITTSBURGH, Pa. – In the wake of the recent *UTU News* centerspread on the plight of the nation's steel industry, UTU has received a letter from United Steelworkers of America President Leo W. Gerard thanking the UTU for its support. Gerard urges members to work for the passage of House Bill 808, the Steel Revitalization Act of 2001. "As you are well aware, each steelworker job supports about four other jobs in the community, including those of UTU members," Gerard said. "Together we will win this battle. As we both know, losing is not an option."

#### Rutter to head FRA

WASHINGTON, D.C. – President Bush has named Allan Rutter to head the Federal Railroad Administration. Rutter has been transportation policy director in the Texas governor's office since 1995, serving under Bush from 1995 until Bush assumed the presidency. Since then, Rutter has served under Bush's successor, Texas Gov. Rick Perry. Rutter was deputy executive director of the Texas High-Speed Rail Authority from 1990 to 1995. He served Texas Govs. Mark White and William Clements as a senior budget analyst from 1985 to 1990. Rutter must be confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

#### "Cramdown" deal made

CLEVELAND, Ohio – Following the lead set by the UTU more than a year ago, a number of rail labor organizations have signed a "cram-down" agreement with the nation's major rail carriers that will provide protection for workers affected by mergers. In February 2000, the UTU was given the right to select which contract would apply once a merger or consolidation was complete; the carriers could no longer "cram down" inferior contracts upon UTU members. Last year, the UTU predicted its agreement would serve as a guide for other unions interested in protecting their members. Railroads signatory to both agreements are the UP, NS, CSXT, BNSF and KCS.

## UTU, eight others reject health & welfare "pattern"

CLEVELAND, Ohio – UTU International President Byron A. Boyd, Jr., and a coalition of rail labor leaders met last month with National Carriers' Conference Committee (NCCC) representatives to express concern about the carriers' perception of the health and welfare provisions in the tentative national contract negotiated by the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees (BMWE).

In particular, some rail labor leaders are taking exception to the fact that the railroads are considering the provisions a "pattern" for the industry.

"This may be a good contract provision for BMW members, and it's their right to make that decision," said Boyd, "but the carriers need to understand that this approach to health and welfare costs is not acceptable to UTU members, and other organizations join us in that assessment."

In a letter to NCCC Chairman Robert Allen signed by Boyd and eight other rail labor leaders, the carriers were informed that "we absolutely reject the terms of the health

*Continued on page 8*

## Senate gets retirement bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Companion legislation to H.R. 1140, the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act, labeled S. 697, has been introduced in the U.S. Senate by Sens. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Max Baucus (D-Mont.).

If passed into law, the legislation would provide long-needed improvements in the surviving spouse benefit, full retirement annuity at age 60 with 30 years of service, elimination of artificial caps on benefits, vesting after five years instead of 10, and provisions that require the railroads to insure future fund solvency with future tax increases if necessary.

It is important that UTU members and their families contact as many members of the Senate and House as possible to push for passage of this important legislation.

*Continued on page 8*

## UTU/BLE meet on BNSF safety

CLEVELAND, Ohio – The UTU and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (BLE) were slated to attend a joint safety summit with management of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) on April 30 in Kansas City, Mo., as this edition went to press.

The original call for the summit came from UTU International President Byron A. Boyd, Jr., on March 14. After BLE International President Edward Dubroski applauded the initiative, stating that "safe working conditions for operating employees, and indeed for all railroad workers, is an issue that must transcend rivalries between unions," Boyd proposed that the unions participate in the summit together.

"The very fact that we are working side-by-side at this safety summit says that the issue of safety for all locomotive engineers, conductors

*Continued on page 8*

## Members die in accidents

CLEVELAND, Ohio – Two UTU members and a BLE member were killed recently in separate accidents.

A UTU-represented conductor and BLE engineer, both Union Pacific employees, were killed while deadheading from Houston to the Union Pacific terminal in Alexandria, La., in March.

The van in which they were riding slowed down for a highway construction zone on Interstate 10, just east of Lake Charles, La., when it was rear-ended by an 18 wheeler. The van was shoved into the rear of another 18 wheeler, killing UTU member Mikel Deramus, 48, and BLE engineer Raymond J. St. Marie, 48. The van driver died the next day.

Deramus was a member of UTU Local 293 at Houston, Tex. He joined the UTU in 1973. He lived in Conroe, Tex.

*Continued on page 8*

# Around the UTU

## News from around the U.S. and Canada

### Local 18, El Paso, Tex.

Members are hosting the UTU Wes-Tex Mini-Regional Meeting on June 15 at the El Paso Airport Hilton, according to Pete Sandoval, who noted the guest speaker will be UTU International President Byron A. Boyd, Jr. The free event begins at 9 a.m. and includes lunch and an evening dinner and dance for all members and their spouses in the region. On hand will be representatives from the Railroad Retirement Board, the Federal Railroad Administration, and various health and welfare providers. Reservations are required for the dinner and dance only. Make a reservation by calling (915) 532-1818 and leaving your name and local number, and indicate the number in your party who will attend.

### Local 167, Albany, N.Y.

Officers representing TBI Airport Management Service employees were recently sworn into office at their first regular meeting by State Legislative Director Sam Nasca. Those taking the oath of office included Local Chairperson Ron Palka, Vice Chairperson (Parking Department) Phil Britt, Vice Chairperson (Building Maintenance) Paul Petracca, Vice Chairperson (Custodial Services) Leon Ward, President James Saltis, Vice President Ken Hoffman, Trustee Steve Sherman, Trustee Roberta Bogden, Insurance Representative Ed Carney, and Secretary and Treasurer Deborah Hildenbrandt.

### Local 212, Albany, N.Y.

Members are setting up a fund to assist Brian Hotaling, a CSX employee who was seriously injured in March when he was pinned between two rail cars. According to Vice General Chairperson (Yard) Rick Manell, efforts to save Hotaling's left leg appear to be working, but many surgeries and long months of rehabilitation lie ahead. The local is also planning various fundraising events to aid Hotaling and his family. For information or to make a donation, contact Manell by calling (518) 281-6541 or by writing to him at 30 Tattersall Lane, Albany, NY 12205-4031.

### Local 281, Milwaukee, Wis.

Members working for Metra's Milwaukee North Line and the commuter agency's North Central Services offer their thanks and best wishes to Jack M. Cunningham, who retires this month with 36 years of service, said Secretary and Treasurer Lori A Pasowicz. Cunningham, a long-time local chairperson, had been serving recently as acting general chairperson and was honored last December at an event hosted by Designated Legal Counsel Hoey, Farina and Downes. "It's been an honor to work with such a tremendous union man," noted General Chairperson Kevin J. King (GO-721).

### Local 313, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Those involved in the preservation effort surrounding the SS *City of Milwaukee*, one of the last railcar ferries to work the Great Lakes, have planned to conduct a mariner's memorial service aboard the train ferry on Memorial Day (May 28), according to George P. Micka IV.

## Overdue decoration provides recognition

When Charles A. Richardson, Jr. talks about his experiences in Vietnam, glory is the last thing on his mind.

"I'm not a war hero," said Richardson, a member of Local 338, Chattanooga, Tenn., and a conductor employed by the Norfolk Southern. "I did what I had to do to stay alive and get me and my buddies home."

By the time he made it back to the states, he had received a number of medals and decorations, including those indicating National Defense Service, Vietnam Service with Two Bronze Stars, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device 1960, a 1 O/S Bar, the Combat Infantry Badge, and recognition as a 2nd-Class Gunner (M60), Marksman (Rifle M-16) and Sharpshooter.

"I was drafted in October 1966, arrived in Vietnam in April 1967, and was back in the states in October 1968," said Richardson, who turned 21 the day after he came home. "I was in Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment (B3-12), Fourth Infantry Division.

"Our unit got pretty beat up," said Richardson. "We were the hard-luck company."

Though decorations were due, Richardson didn't dwell on it, preferring instead to count his blessings and concentrate on making the transition back to civilian life.

"Less than 72 hours after I was drawing a bead on somebody to take his life, I was back in the states," said Richardson. He received no debriefing, no counseling, and like many Vietnam vets, suffered indignities inflicted by an insensitive and divided public that sometimes "called me a murdering baby killer."

At a recent reunion, Richardson recognized someone he hadn't seen in three decades. "It was John 'Doc' Sommer, who stitched me up after a battle in May 1967 known as the Nine Day War," Richardson said. "He had become executive director of the American Legion in Washington, D.C. My wife asked if he could help me get my Purple Heart."

With Sommer's help, "missing" records suddenly began to materialize. Now, oversights are being rectified, and Richardson was recently presented with the Purple Heart.

Because of the records Sommer helped obtain, Richardson has also been awarded the Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, the Civil Actions Honor Medal First Class, and the Presidential Unit Citation.

Richardson noted a reunion of reconnaissance and B3-12 Fourth Division members is planned for Memorial Day in Branson, Mo. Those interested can contact Richardson at 620 Wiley Ross Rd., Whitwell, TN 37397.

The ceremony will include the tolling of the ship's bell and a wreath service, followed by an open-house tour of the ship's upper deck, where crew will be wearing period attire. For information, contact Micka at (231) 755-8755, send e-mail to <sscitemilw@aol.com>, or view the website at <<http://www.carferry.com/>>.

### Local 404, Newark, Ohio

Members working for CSX recently decorated their crew room at Queensgate Yard in Cincinnati, Ohio, by hanging the August 1996 edition of the *UTU News* on the wall, displaying the headline *Harassment, intimidation must stop*. "We get some sort of harassment every day, yet for the last decade, safety continues to be a problem here," an anonymous source said, noting that the new addition to the decor has encouraged rail officials to "settle down."

### Local 771, Needles, Cal.

UTU members employed by BNSF who end up working out of Needles, Cal., are reminded that they should take steps to transfer their memberships to Local 771, noted Local Chairperson and Legislative Representative M.N. Medley. To make the transfer, contact Local Secretary G.A. Davis using the drop box at the depot's northwest door, by calling (760) 326-4700 or by writing to him at 1914 Rio Vista, Needles, CA 92363. Be sure to let him know your name and Social Security number, and identify your current UTU local.

### Local 773, Galveston, Tex.

BNSF conductors W.P. Bekkema and Local Secretary and Treasurer Richard A. Turner last month were each presented with the *Safety Worker Award of Honor* by the Texas Safety Association, which held its 62nd annual luncheon and awards ceremony last month at Moody Gardens Hotel on Galveston Island. The combined safety performance of the two represents more than 50 years of employment without a blemish on their safety records.

### Local 898, Boston, Mass.

Members working for Amtrak offer best wishes to Haverhill Line conductor Joseph G. MacEachern, who will officially retire on May 31, according to Roberta Ward. MacEachern has been described as having "a manner which is at all times calm and professional, yet filled with good humor." Meanwhile, members recently held a party, a hockey game and a family skating event to raise assistance for conductor Pete White.

### Local 1778, N. Vancouver, B.C.

The spring edition of the local newsletter, *Meeting Point*, is now available on the website shared with Local 1923 (Prince George, B.C.), featuring pension information, news on fatigue, a new surprise, and more, said Secretary and Treasurer David Moorhouse. View the website at <<http://www.utubc.com>>.

## Monthly winner

This month's lucky winner of his choice of any item of apparel bearing the UTU logo is Ryan D. Brown of Local 383, New Albany, Ind., which represents workers on the Norfolk Southern Railroad. 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.

# State Watch

News from UTU State Legislative Boards

## Texas

A resolution recognizing the life-long efforts of the late UTU Designated Legal Counsel J. Donald Bowen on behalf of working people throughout the country was read into the official record of the 77th Texas Legislature on March 21, 2001, reported Texas Legislative Director Connie M. English, Jr.

The resolution read, in part: "Whereas, Mr. Bowen brilliantly and steadfastly represented working people throughout the United States, handling some 450 claims a year as a longtime designated legal counsel for the United Transportation Union, and; Whereas, The integrity, courage and loyalty Don Bowen displayed throughout his life, gained for him enormous respect and affection of his family, friends and associates, be it Resolved that the House of Representatives of the 77th Texas Legislature hereby pay special tribute to the life of J. Donald Bowen and extend sincere sympathy to his family."

English said he and Assistant Director David Arterburn worked closely with State House Speaker Pro-Tem Tom Uher to secure passage of the resolution.

## Maryland

Legislative Director Larry Kasecamp would like to remind all UTU members in Maryland that applications for the James E. Major Memorial Scholarship must be received at the Legislative Board office no later than June 1, 2001.

The four-year continuing scholarship provides a \$500 subsidy to a UTU member or a spouse, child, step-child, or grandchild enrolled at an accredited university, college or junior college for at least 12 credit hours per semester.

Applications or further information can be obtained from any officer of a UTU local in Maryland or by writing to the state director's office at United Transportation Union, Maryland State Legislative Board, 19326 Lower Consol Rd., N.W., Frostburg, MD 21532.

The winner will be chosen through a draw-

## Florida



Legislative Director Carl Cochran and other UTU representatives traveled to the state capital of Tallahassee in March to answer lawmakers' questions pertaining to a proposed high-speed rail line running throughout the state. "Most of the legislators in Florida, as well as Gov. Jeb Bush, are not sold on high speed," said Cochran. "The problem is that taxpayers voted for a high-speed rail line in Florida." U.S. Rep. John Mica, who sits on the Rail Subcommittee of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, said "Florida could expect a match of perhaps 50% from the (Federal government) for planning expected to cost \$20 to \$50 million, and 40% to 50% of the first leg of the project from Orlando to Tampa." Pictured above, from left, are Local 30 Chairperson Tom Pope, UTU Auxiliary Legislative Representative from Jacksonville Cherie Vancura and Cochran, with State Sen. Betty Holzendorf, seated. "Stay tuned," Cochran added.

ing held at the UTU Regional Meeting attended by the legislative board.

## Virginia/West Virginia

The UTU and UTUIA will be sponsoring its 4th Annual Special Informational Seminar and Golf Fundraiser for members in Virginia and West Virginia on June 7 and 8, 2001, at the Airport Holiday Inn in Roanoke, Va.

UTU and UTUIA International representatives, general chairpersons, legislative direc-

tors and designated legal counsel will be in attendance, as will representatives from the Federal Railroad Administration and the Railroad Retirement Board.

UTUIA Local Unit 15 will sponsor the Golf Fundraiser at 8 a.m. on June 7 at the Countryside Golf Club to benefit the American Cancer Society. Reservations for the golf fundraiser and for meals during the seminar should be made by calling 1-800-305-4265 no later than June 1 to provide the hotel and golf course with an accurate count for those participating.

Room reservations must be made directly with the Holiday Inn by calling 540-366-8861.

The UTU acknowledges the contributions of Designated Legal Counsel Francis Hajek, Lawrence Mann and Willard Moody for providing the golf luncheon and the hotel food and facilities.

## Illinois

The Illinois Legislature, on April 19, adopted House Joint Resolution (HJR) 9 declaring the body's support for passage of the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2001.

According to UTU's Illinois State Legislative Director Joe Szabo, the resolution had earlier been approved unanimously by the state's House of Representatives and won adoption after gaining unanimous support in the Illinois Senate.

Joining together to co-sponsor the resolution were Senate President Pate Philip (R) and Senate Minority Leader Emil Jones (D).

The non-binding resolution, Szabo noted, declares the unanimous support of 118 state representatives and 59 state senators and urges the state's U.S. Congressional delegation and the President of the United States to support passage of the measure, identified as H.R. 1140 in the U.S. House of Representatives and S. 697 in the U.S. Senate.

"Assistant Director John Burner really put a lot of time and effort into getting HJR 9 adopted," Szabo said. "He deserves nothing but praise for lining up the support needed for this victory."

## Bus Department

By Bernie McNelis

### Remember those who fought before

I recently thought about the many people in the early days who were outspoken supporters of labor unions but who are basically unknown to most of us. I thought I would give a brief summary of a couple of individuals who have worked hard in support of labor unions.

Sidney Hillman migrated to the United States from Lithuania in 1907. He was a garment worker who ultimately became president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers. He also was one of the founders of the AFL-CIO. He was active in politics and knew the importance of political action committees; he was a strong believer in PACS and knew the advantage of PACS in politics. Mr. Hillman had strong support from President Franklin Roosevelt in his efforts on behalf of labor. He also helped create the World Federation of Trade Unions.

Richard T. Ely was an American economist and one of the most influential teachers of his time. Mr. Ely wrote a book in 1905 titled "Studies in the Evolution of Industrial Society" in which he placed emphasis on how labor unions play an important role in the economy. Mr. Ely was a strong believer that the public should be in control of resources. He fought against child labor and believed in the development of labor unions.

It is amazing how many important individuals in the latter part of the 1800s and early 1900s felt labor unions should play an important role in our society, politics and business, yet to this day we have so many who fight not only to keep unions out of politics, but to put unions out of business.

Always remember: In unity there is strength.



## Yardmasters

By Don Carver

### UTU welcomes URSA members

The UTU, following the principles of Eugene Debs, has become the National Mediation Board (NMB) certified representative for the craft of mechanical supervisors in the former Conrail Shared Assets areas.

The United Railway Supervisors Association (URSA) represented the mechanical and maintenance of way supervisors on the former Conrail. Mechanical and maintenance-of-way supervisors who transferred to CSX Transportation and Norfolk Southern lost their union status because these classes of employees are not unionized at both carriers.

URSA General Chairman Atno N. Smith and the mechanical supervisors were determined to remain union employees. The UTU's strong and proactive leadership in the rail industry made the difference. UTU General Chairperson James R. Cumby and Vice General Chairperson Ronald C. Kratz worked closely with Brother Smith, the UTU leadership and the NMB to secure the approval for a merger with the UTU.

The mechanical supervisors are employed in three Shared Assets areas: South Philadelphia, North Jersey and the Detroit terminal area. They are now members of GO-342 and represented by Cumby. He will be assisted by Vice General Chairperson-Mechanical Supervisors Atno N. Smith (1949), who is also local chairperson for North Jersey area, Local Chairperson Dan Mallo (1962) in the Detroit area, and Local Chairperson Roger W. Rinfert (1949) in the South Jersey/Philadelphia area.

We welcome these new members into the UTU family. Brothers Cumby, Smith and Kratz are to be commended for their hard work and unwavering determination, which culminated in a successful merger of forces.



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

**Contact the UTU:**  
**via telephone at (216) 228-9400;**  
**via fax at (216) 228-5755;**  
**via e-mail at [utunews@utu.org](mailto:utunews@utu.org);**  
**via the Internet: <http://www.utu.org>.**

## Fight for the living

The U.S. prides itself on being a leader, but in one area, our Canadian brothers and sisters deserve credit for getting there first.

Decades of struggle have brought significant improvements in working conditions, but the toll of workplace injuries, illnesses and deaths remains staggering. Some 60,000 workers die from job injuries and illnesses each year, and another six million are injured.

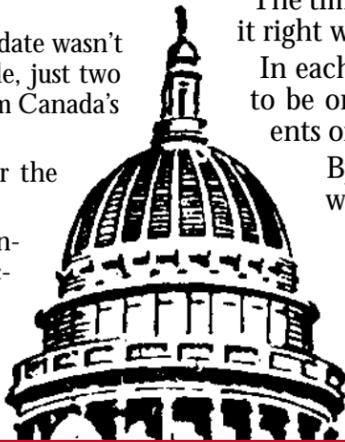
Last month, on April 28, trade unionists around the globe respected the date as an international day of mourning, commemorating our brothers and sisters who were hurt or killed on the job.

The practice of setting aside such a day began in Canada, where the Canadian Labour Congress first declared an annual day of remembrance in 1984. The date, significant in the U.S. as the anniversary of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), was chosen in Canada because it marked the day its first comprehensive Workers' Compensation Act was adopted in 1914.

Known to U.S. unionists as "Workers' Memorial Day," the date wasn't marked south of the Canadian border until 1989. Meanwhile, just two years after that, in 1991, the day won official recognition from Canada's Parliament as the "Workers' Day of Mourning."

Significantly, the watchwords for the day are, "Mourn for the dead, fight for the living."

The Bush Administration and certain Republicans in Congress, actively working to roll back critical workplace protections, are unlikely to follow Canada's lead anytime soon. But UTU members can take pride in knowing that every day of the year, the UTU remains dedicated to the "fight for the living," pressing its safety initiatives at all levels.



## WASHINGTON WATCH

*By James Brunkenhoefer*

## Shortline employees vital to this union

We live in an ever-changing world. In order to be effective as a union, we must update our culture and our attitudes. If we do not, we will fight the wrong fights, or fight for benefits that no longer matter.

One of the areas we must examine is our position on shortline railroads. We have always had shortlines. In fact, shortlines are the way that every major system started. They built track, then were bought or merged with other railroads. Shortlines only became a thorn in our side after Heather Gradi-son, and her band at the old Interstate Commerce Commission, began to use an exception in the Stag-gers Act to allow for the sale or lease to owners who started nonunion operations. The UTU always has been and always will be opposed to the formation of these railroads. We never believed that our mem-ber-ship benefits from having their jobs sold away.

We will always object to the big railroads selling off track, and the owner/operator not providing labor protection. We will oppose an operator or buyer who refuses to hire our experienced members but instead treats them like they want to throw them on the trash heap. We will always try to bring the benefits of trade unionism, safety and collective bargaining to all of the employees of these newly created entities. None of this has changed, nor do I think it ever will.

Something new and exciting has happened since 1984: the excellent job that UTU has done bringing trade unionism to the employees of shortline railroads. Today nearly two-thirds of employees on shortline railroads are unionized. Although that is not equal to an almost 85% unionized workforce on Class I railroads, it is far and away the greatest penetration by the trade union move-ment in the shortest period of time in any new industry. Every

## Making progress daily

The news is that we appear to be making progress on our national rail contract, and our Railroad Retirement reform initiative is gaining momentum in both the House and the Senate.

If this sounds like something you've read or heard before, chalk it up to the basic nature of "progress."

Real progress doesn't result from a quick fix—and make no mistake, real progress is our aim in both of these endeavors.

We know any con-tract that doesn't put an end to the pre- and post-'85 discrepancies in the workplace is unacceptable.

It's worth the investment of time now to make this fix.

Similarly, as our retirement initiative makes its way through the legislature, we will remain focused on our goals.

As amendments and substitu-tions are proposed, we will take the time needed to bring the measure back on track.

The time we take now getting it right will benefit everyone.

In each case, time will prove to be one of the key ingredi-ents of true progress.

By spending the time, we'll get what we need.

We are working on moving forward with a national rail con-tract proposal that eliminates entry rates and pre- and

post-'85 differences, one that is economically superior to the latest proposal put out by another union.

By investing the time, the UTU has led the way in health and welfare matters, starting with our creation of a choice between UnitedHealthcare and Regence Blue Cross.

The UTU has a separ-ate plan, or trust, from the other unions, and as such, we have already seen savings.

Likewise, the time we've put into the retirement initiative should pay big dividends.

There's a tremendous effort going on in Washington, D.C., to get this legislation passed in this session of Congress.

I can't say enough about the great work and the enormous amount of time being put into this effort by our legislative team led by James Brunkenhoefer.

Your time, too, continues to play a major role in our progress with this initiative.

Not just for the folks who will retire, but for their surviving spouses, we all need to take the time to write the letters and make the calls needed to keep up the pressure for passage of this important legislation.

In each of these endeavors, there's simply no substitute for an investment of time.

And with an investment of just a bit more time, we will all reap incredible rewards.



*Byron A. Boyd, Jr.*

## On track to comfortable, attractively priced trains

By Michael D. Sternfeld and David R. Johnson

*Lt. Col. Michael D. Sternfeld is the past Public Transportation Officer for the 304th Civil Affairs Brigade, U.S. Army Reserve, Philadelphia, Pa.; an Amtrak conductor based at Washington, D.C., and Harrisburg, Pa.; and a member of UTU Local 1470 at Edmonston, Md. David R. Johnson is a transportation services manager for a major rail tour company, and a member of the American Association of Railroad Superintendents and Amtrak Customer Advisory Committee. The opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of Amtrak, the UTU, or the Amtrak Customer Advisory Committee. This article was originally published in the April 2001 edition of Railway Age, and is used with permission.*

A passenger rail service rejuvenation is taking place across the U.S. Many passenger rail corridors have long-term plans for implementation of high-speed service with Acela Express-style equipment. However, one must question whether existing ridership is being alienated by poor headways, slow running times, and ill-maintained equipment.

Will any passengers be left to ride the proposed high-speed services? Will the freight railroads even allow high-speed service to operate? We believe incremental improvements made to prime corridors for eventual high-speed service will result in an increase in revenue and overall customer satisfaction.

In the early 1990s, Seattle-to-Portland Amtrak trains featured running times considerably slower than a car trip on parallel Interstate 5. State and local leaders made the decision to bring the service up to high-speed standards. However, administrators soon realized this could take up to 20 years and cost billions of dollars. Washington State Department of Transportation officials and others in the Northwest decided to take an incremental approach. Today, Talgo Cascades trainsets, with dramatically improved onboard amenities, have allowed Amtrak to shave 25 minutes off the schedule, with minimal infrastructure investment. Ridership has increased nearly six-fold, and customer satisfaction figures have risen as well.

The Cascades example proves initial rail service improvements need not be truly high speed to attract the traveling public. Cascades-like improvements could be made on numerous corridors across the country to improve the quality of existing service, paving the way for true high-speed

service. States could charter regional compacts to increase train frequency and purchase new equipment, using TEA-21, CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality) and other state and federal funds. These compacts could be outgrowths of current programs like the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative.

Here's an example: The New York-to-Philadelphia portion of Amtrak's Northeast Corridor features Clocker trains that provide local commuter service. The Pennsylvania Railroad introduced Clockers in the 1950s on an hourly schedule. Today, Amtrak's nine daily Clockers, which use Amfleet I equipment not originally designed for this type of service, put undue strain on its NortheastDirect and Acela Regional Washington-to-Boston trains, which often operate standing-room-only.

Here's a solution: "Clocker Transportation Authority Service," a tri-state compact involving New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania, featuring a Clocker schedule, and new, lower-cost "off-the-shelf" push-pull equipment with amenities similar to refurbished Acela Regional cars. Market research and customer feedback would be used to determine where particular trains stop. Off-peak and round-trip excursion discounts as well as monthly passes and ten-trip tickets could be offered.

There are other possibilities. North Dakota, for example, is a rural state with virtually no viable public transportation. However, 13% of North Dakotans use Amtrak's Empire Builder—a remarkable figure, considering the Empire Builder does not serve some of the most populated parts of the state.

Grass-roots movements in Montana are pushing to restore rail service along the old North Coast Hiawatha route through Billings, Missoula, and other cities. Montana and North Dakota could work together to create a new passenger rail service. The new service would connect mid-Montana points with Minneapolis via Bismark, N.D. An equipment and customer service planning process similar to the improvements proposed for Clocker service could be undertaken. Thruway buses and Mail & Express haulage could increase ridership and profits.

Long-term high-speed rail implementation plans are well intentioned, but short-term improvements and non-traditional corridors need not be ignored. All involved must have foresight, fortitude, and a true vision: Getting the traveling public out of their comfortable, modern, private cars and into a public world of comfortable, modern, attractively priced trains.

## Members ratify new contract with SEPTA

UPPER DARBY, Pa. – The bus and trolley operators of UTU Local 1594 at Upper Darby, Pa., approved a new three-year contract April 8, one week after reaching a tentative agreement with the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) that averted a possible strike. The vote was 126 in favor, 26 opposed.

"The members of Local 1594 are to be congratulated for negotiating and securing a contract that makes everyone in the community a winner," said UTU International President Byron A. Boyd, Jr. "General Chairperson Ron Koran, in particular, demonstrated great leadership under difficult conditions."

Members cast their votes in an abandoned storefront across from the 69th Street Terminal, with the UTU's mobile education and training facility, "Membership I," parked outside.

"It was overwhelmingly ratified," said Koran, who also serves as Local 1594's president. "I think it was a pretty good contract. I think it was a good deal."

Koran said that the agreement was primarily an economic package. Union members will receive 3% pay raises in each of the first two years of the deal, and a 4% raise in the third year. The average salary of the UTU-represented workers is about \$45,000.

In addition, Koran said SEPTA promised to hire 15 more drivers by June 4. Manpower shortages that forced drivers to work six- and sometimes

seven-day work weeks was one grievance going into the negotiations, which began Feb. 8. The pact also includes a suspension on the hiring of part-time workers over the life of the contract.

The deal also raises the health-care plan co-pay slightly, but comes with an additional uniform allowance, Koran said. The pact also includes improvements in sickness benefits and the pension plan, with retirement available with 30 years of service or at age 62, regardless of years of service.

"International Vice President Bernie McNelis was very influential in sealing the deal with SEPTA," Koran noted. "I thank him, the UTU legal department, and all those at the International headquarters for their help."

The agreement approved last month was reached on April 1, in the face of a threatened strike. The accord prevented the union's first strike since a 61-day walkout in 1986.

"I think the membership is pretty happy with it," Koran said. "What's important is that there were none of the concessions the company wanted. They were looking for major work-rule changes."

Koran also thanked the negotiating committee, including Vice General Chairperson Tom Bisignani, Stan Bernatowicz, Bob Ellingsworth, Ed Scott, and Local Secretary Kevin Baldwin, for their hard work and support.

UTU members operate 23 bus routes in Delaware County, as well as the Norristown high-speed line and the Media and Sharon Hill trolleys, carrying about 54,000 riders daily.

## Merger set between Wisconsin Central, CN

ROSEMONT, Ill. – Wisconsin Central Transportation Corporation stockholders have approved a merger between WCTC and a subsidiary of Canadian National Railway Company (CN).

That's bad news for about 250 workers, whose jobs would be eliminated if the consolidation is approved by authorities.

Most of Wisconsin Central's job cuts will occur in the first year at the company's Rosemont, Ill., headquarters. Another 70 jobs at a maintenance facility in Stevens Point, Wis., will be eliminated. Most shop-related functions for the rail line will move to Fond du Lac, Wis., where a large shop already exists. The merged company also plans to eliminate 25 jobs in Fond du Lac.

The merged company's operating plan says there will be a need for fewer rail cars and fewer locomotives than the Wisconsin Central currently

operates. Canadian National has a newer fleet, so officials plan to get rid of about 1,580 older rail cars and 87 locomotives, according to reports.

The WC network will be operated as CN's sixth division. CN also said it has no plans to abandon WC lines and intends to maintain WC's major operations centers – customer service, dispatching, crew calling and mechanical shops – at their current locations.

CN has the option to terminate the merger agreement without penalty if the Surface Transportation Board (STB) does not treat the transaction as a minor one. The STB is expected to decide within 30 days from the date of the filing of the CN/WC common control application whether it will treat the merger as minor. An STB decision is expected by late fall.

# Schedule set for Regional Meetings

Here is a listing of workshops and other events scheduled for the upcoming UTU/UTUIA Regional Meeting in Greensboro, N.C. (Most of the workshops and activities will be repeated in Winnipeg, although there will be additional workshops especially for Canadian UTU members):

## Sunday, June 24, 2001

10 a.m.–4 p.m.: Registration

6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.: Welcoming reception, with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and entertainment

## Monday, June 25, 2001

7 a.m.–4 p.m.: Registration

8:30 a.m.–10 a.m.: **State of the Union Address.** International President Byron A. Boyd, Jr., addresses the membership.

10:15 a.m. – Noon: **Secretary and Treasurer Workshop.** This opening session will include remarks by General Secretary and Treasurer Dan Johnson and UTUIA Director of Insurance Ralph Dennis, who will give a product overview of UTUIA insurance plans.

10:15 a.m. – 3 p.m.: **UTU Auxiliary Meeting,** with Edythe M. Walter, president, UTU Auxiliary; Joan Montgomery, secretary/treasurer; Louise Scott, vice president, District 3; Rose Vincent, vice president, District 4; Dorothy Arrington, national legislative director.

10:15 a.m.–3 p.m.: **"Don't Ask Dumb Questions"** local chairpersons' workshop. Witness preparation and cross examination techniques for rail disciplinary investigations. Panel members in Greensboro: Charles P. Fischbach, arbitrator; L.S. Young, attorney.

10:15 a.m. – 5 p.m.: **"Becoming An Effective Advocate"** bus workshop. Processing grievances and arbitration research in support of grievances, presented by Assistant General Counsel Dan Elliott; internal organizing and communication with members, presented by Director of Strategic Planning John Nadalin.

## UTU Auxiliary offers tours

The UTU Auxiliary will offer tours of local attractions at both the Greensboro and Winnipeg Regional Meetings.

All registered spouses, family members and guests are welcome to enjoy these tours free of charge as part of their Regional Meeting package, but space is limited and all those planning on taking the tours must pre-register by checking the appropriate box on the registration form.

In Greensboro, the UTU Auxiliary tour will take place on Tuesday, June 26, 2001. Participants will board buses at the host hotel and travel to the faithfully restored German Moravian congregational town of Old Salem, founded in 1766. Those taking the tour will be able to walk streets virtually unchanged in 200 years and see costumed interpreters re-enact how ordinary people lived, worked and worshiped. Lunch will be at the Old Salem Tavern.

In Winnipeg, on Tuesday, July 24, 2001, participants will travel from the host hotel by motorcoach to enjoy a paddlewheel-boat tour to Lower Fort Garry National Historic Park, a restored 1830's trading post where modern voyageurs re-enact the days of the fur trade. Lunch will be aboard the 400-passenger paddlewheeler as it returns to dock.

Noon–1:30 p.m.: Lunch. U.S. Senator John Edwards of North Carolina will be the guest speaker.

1:30 p.m.–3 p.m.: **"All Politics Are Local"** legislative representative workshop. Discussing the importance of political activism in the local and state political arenas. Panel members will include National Legislative Director James M. Brunkenhoefer, Alternate National Legislative Director James A. Stem; in Greensboro, New Jersey State Legislative Director D.J. O'Connell, Illinois State Legislative Director Joe C. Szabo.

1:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.: **"Secretary and Treasurer Responsibilities."** International auditors will review the responsibilities and financial reporting procedures required of a secretary/treasurer as provided in the UTU Constitution. Experienced local auditors will take questions on all old and new regulations required for local bookkeeping.

3:15 p.m.–5 p.m.: **"Combating Fatigue in the Work Place"** UTU/CXST Work Rest/Fatigue Forum. Joint labor/management discussion of the impact of fatigue, quality of life issues, demographics of the work force and discussion of FRA/Congress regulation/legislation of perceived solutions to work rest/fatigue issues. Panel members in Greensboro: Susan Hamilton, assistant vice president of labor relations, CSXT; Gabe Farra, managing director of transportation, CSXT; General Chairperson John T. Reed, CSXT/B&O Committee; General Chairperson Larry D. Moody, CSXT/L&N Committee; General Chairperson John C. Hancock, CSXT/SCL Committee.

3:15 p.m.–5 p.m.: **Legislative Board Workshops.** State legislative board officers and members will conduct legislative workshops.

6 p.m.–9 p.m.: Reception, with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and entertainment.

## Tuesday, June 26, 2001

7 a.m.–4 p.m.: Registration

8 a.m.–Noon: **"Rules/No Rules."** Special presentation by UTU General Counsel Clinton J. Miller, III, and UTU Human Resources Coordinator Ray Cunningham. This is a continuation of a series of local chairperson workshops with emphasis on effective local representation during formal railroad disciplinary investigations. Panel members in Greensboro: Francis X. Quinn, arbitrator, and L.S. Young, attorney.

8:30 a.m.–Noon: **"What's New in WinStabs 2001?"** This workshop, presented by UTU Director of Computer Information Technologies Applications Matt Dolin, will focus on WinStabs 2001, the local treasurers' automated bookkeeping system. Participants will learn how to simplify the local bookkeeping procedures by using this customized software, developed specifically for UTU locals.

8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.: **"Contract Negotiations; National Labor Relations Act; Effective Witness Preparation and Cross Examination Techniques"** bus workshop. How to conduct successful contract negotiations. How to prepare witnesses and cross examine witnesses for the desired results.

10 a.m.–3:30 p.m.: **UTU Auxiliary Tour "Exploring Old Salem."** (See details this page.) Pre-registration for the UTU Auxiliary Tour is required to ensure that space is reserved.

Noon–1:30 p.m.: Lunch, with guest speaker Michael Easley, governor of North Carolina.

1:30 p.m.–3 p.m.: **"WinStabs, continued."** Continuing the focus on WinStabs 2001. Treasurers will learn how to create customized reports using powerful filtering tools, and be shown how monthly, quarterly and year-end reports can be generated with the click of a button.

1:30 p.m.–5 p.m.: **"What's Developing in Washington and How It Affects You."** Discussion of The Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act 2001, its history, current status and future; discussion of safety, legislative and regulatory issues, with a question-and-answer session. Panel members in Greensboro: National Legislative Director James M.

Brunkenhoefer; Alternate National Legislative Director James A. Stem; Designated Legal Counsel Larry Mann.

3:15 p.m.–5 p.m.: **"Railroad Retirement Presentation."** Wayne Scharnak, chief of compensation and employers' service at the Railroad Retirement Board, will discuss CT-1 reporting requirements of local treasurers.

6 p.m.–7 p.m.: Cocktail Reception

7 p.m.–Midnight: Dinner/Dance, with entertainment, in Greensboro by The Always Exciting Kenny Mann and The Electrifying Sounds of Liquid Pleasure.

## Wednesday, June 27, 2001

7 a.m.–1:30 p.m.: Registration

8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.: **"Secretary/Treasurer Recap and Review."** A review of the responsibilities of a secretary/treasurer, with questions concerning the operation and application of WinStabs 2001.

8:30 a.m.–10 a.m.: **"How the Role of the FRA and NTSB Positively Affect Our Lives."** George Gavalla, deputy FRA administrator, and Jo Strang, associate director of the National Transportation Safety Board's Railroad Division, discuss the respective roles of the FRA and NTSB, their effects on the rail industry and the employee.

8:30 a.m.–10 a.m.: **"Thinking Backwards: Local Grievance Procedures"** local chairpersons' workshop. Alan Fisher, attorney; UTU General Counsel Clinton J. Miller, III, and BNSF General Chairperson Robert D. Kerley present effective handling tips for local grievances and appeals.

8:30 a.m.–3 p.m.: **"Effective Local Leadership."** Director of Strategic Planning John Nadalin will discuss methods to improve the leadership and effectiveness of the local officer.

8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.: **"How Arbitration Works"** bus workshop. Overview of the arbitration processes pursuant to the National Labor Relations Act.

10:15 a.m.–Noon: **"Designated Legal Counsel Forum."** The Federal Employers' Liability Act and how it benefits the rail employee.

Noon–1:30 p.m.: Lunch, with guest speaker North Carolina Secretary of State Elaine Marshall.

1:30 p.m.–3 p.m.: **"New Power Brake Regulations."** Jim Wilson, Federal Railroad Administration representative, will present a review of the new power brake regulations anticipated to become effective in Fall 2001.

1:30 p.m.–3 p.m.: **"How Transportation Stocks Affect You."** Tony Hatch, NYSE stock analyst, will present a unique perspective on how UTU members should view transportation stocks. The stock market will be explored, with simple analysis on how investors view the value of railroads and rail services.

1:30 p.m.–3 p.m.: **"Engineer Certification."** John Conklin, Federal Railroad Administration representative, will hold a discussion of changes in the locomotive engineer certification regulations.

1:30 p.m.–3 p.m.: **"Think Before You Drink: Alcohol and Drug Regulations."** An overview of the changes in the alcohol and drug regulations that became effective August 21, 2000. Panel members in Greensboro: Nebraska State Legislative Director Ray L. Lineweber; Designated Legal Counsel Larry Mann.

1:30 p.m.–3 p.m.: **Health and Welfare Forum.** Representatives of the health and welfare providers will present an overview of the benefits of the respective plans, and will answer general questions.

3:15 p.m.–5 p.m.: **General Committee Workshops.** General chairpersons will conduct general committee workshops, addressing issues of importance to those committee members.

6 p.m.–7 p.m.: Cocktail Reception

7 p.m.: President's Banquet

# Register now for the Regional Meetings!

The UTU/UTUIA Regional Meetings scheduled for this summer promise fraternalism, 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 cost. These savings are being passed on to each attendee who is pre-registered. The pre-registration fee will be \$125 per person over the age of 11. Children 11 years of age and under will be complimentary. A pre-registration form and complete payment for each attendee, regardless of age, must be received at the UTU International Headquarters, 14600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44107, 10 days prior to the scheduled start of the meetings or attendees will be charged an on-site registration fee of \$175.

One-day registrations are offered for those who would like to attend the Regional Meetings but can't spare the time away from work or family. The cost of a one-day registration for any day is \$60.

The Regional Meeting agenda, as well as details of the UTU Auxiliary Tour and golf outing, are printed at left.

All fees must be paid in U.S. currency only. Make all checks or money orders payable to "UTU Regional Meeting." For convenience, you may also pay by credit card.

Notice of cancellation of your Regional Meeting attendance or golf tournament participation must be received at the UTU International Headquarters 10 days prior to the first day of the Regional Meeting for a full refund without penalty. Please fax any changes or cancellations immediately to the UTU International Headquarters at (216) 228-5755.

You should make your own room reservations at one of the Regional Meeting hotels listed below. Please note certain reservation deadlines apply at each hotel.

## June 25-27, 2001, Greensboro, N.C.

Sheraton Greensboro Hotel at Four Seasons

3121 High Point Rd., Greensboro, NC 27407

Hotel direct reservations: (800) 242-6556

Call between the hours of 6 a.m. and 11 p.m. EST

Reservation code: UTU

Room rate: \$119 single/double; Parking: Free, self parking

Reservation deadline: May 20, 2001

## July 23-25, 2001, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Delta Winnipeg Hotel (*host hotel*)

350 St. Mary Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C3J2

Hotel direct reservations: (800) 268-1133;

Reservation code: UTU

Room rate: C\$125 single/double; Parking: C\$9 per day

Reservation deadline: June 19, 2001

Sheraton Winnipeg Hotel (*first overflow hotel*)

161 Donald St., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C1M3

Hotel direct reservations: (800) 463-6400;

Reservation code: UTU

Room rate: C\$109 single/double; C\$124 deluxe king/two queens

Parking: C\$8.50 per day

Reservation deadline: June 19, 2001

Place Louis Riel All-Suite Hotel (*second overflow hotel*)

190 Smith St., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C1J8

Hotel direct reservations: (800) 665-0569;

Reservation code: UTU

Suite rate: C\$120 to C\$135, single/double;

Parking: C\$4.50 per day

Reservation deadline: June 19, 2001

*For immigration purposes, U.S. citizens attending the Winnipeg Regional Meeting should have with them proof of U.S. citizenship.*

## Golf outings at Regional Meetings

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.

In Greensboro, golfers will play the beautiful and challenging Grandover Golf Course, 1000 Club Road, Greensboro, N.C. In Winnipeg, golfers will play The Links at Quarry Oaks, Steinbach, Manitoba.

Both courses require soft golf spikes and proper attire. Golf club rentals are available at both courses and should be reserved ahead of time by calling the Grandover Golf Course at (336) 294-1800, or The Links at Quarry Oaks at (204) 326-9864. All play will be Texas Scramble, or four-player scramble.

Register for the golf outings in the space provided on the registration form. Be sure to include your golf fee with your registration fee.

## UTU Regional Meeting Registration Form

Registering before the Regional Meetings speeds sign-in procedures at the meeting site, helps organizers plan more accurately, and saves on 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 (U.S. currency)**; children 11 and under are complimentary. All pre-registration fees must be paid in U.S. currency. Canadian currency 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. **On-site registration will be \$175 per person (U.S.).**

### Which Regional Meeting will you be attending?

Greensboro  Winnipeg

### Member Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Local \_\_\_\_\_

Title (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

How would you like your Regional Meeting materials? (*Choose one*)

Printed  CD-ROM

### Spouse Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Will attend the Auxiliary tour? Total number on 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 age 11, plus golf registration fees of \$80 per golfer (if applicable), must be received at the UTU International Headquarters, 14600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44107, 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. For your convenience, payment by credit card is suggested.**

## Health/welfare

*Continued from page 1*

and welfare provisions" in the tentative BMW contract "as a basis for productive discussions or peaceful settlement of our outstanding Section 6 notices on health and welfare."

In their letter to Allen, the leaders noted that the agreement calls for contributions by employees to increase almost 500% from the current average of \$8.49 a month to \$41.88 a month in July 2001.

Employee contributions would continue to increase each year under provisions of the proposed BMW contract, rising about 2000% by July 2004, when monthly contributions would total a projected \$176.81.

"During the contract period," the letter noted, "employees would pay \$4,000 toward

health care premiums. That is in addition to the co-pays and deductibles they already pay. By 2004, the annual employee contribution would exceed \$2,000 a year. And under the agreement, prescription drug co-pays would more than double."

According to reports, BMW had faced carrier demands for massive rule concessions, and in reaching a tentative pact, the carriers withdrew all their rule demands.

"Our intention is not to criticize the BMW's tentative contract," Boyd emphasized. "Only BMW members should decide if fair trade-offs have been negotiated and if these provisions represent a value to them. But under no circumstances should the railroads harbor the belief that these contract provisions represent a pattern that can be applied to our negotiations."

Joining Boyd in signing the letter were Transportation Communications International Union President Robert A. Scardelletti;

Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen president W.D. Pickett; Transportation International Association of Machinists General Vice President Robert Roach, Jr.; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Railroad Department Director Dan L. Davis; American Train Dispatchers Department President F. Leo McCann; Transport Workers Union of America President Sonny Hall; International Association of Sheet Metal Workers Director of Railroad Division Don C. Buchanan, and Service Employees International Union's National Conference of Firemen and Oilers President George J. Francisco, Jr.

"We believe the UTU has led the way in health and welfare issues," Boyd said. "We have a separate plan and trust from the other unions, and as such, we have already seen savings in our effort to deal with rising health and welfare costs. The cost-shifting mechanism in the BMW proposal is simply unacceptable to the UTU."

## Rail retirement

*Continued from page 1*

For those lawmakers who are not already sponsors of S. 697 and H.R. 1140, please encourage them to support this legislation. For those who have already sponsored S. 697 and H.R. 1140 in the House, please express your thanks. This is something that they very seldom hear and a show of appreciation will be most helpful to our cause.

The complete list of co-sponsors of this legislation can be found on the UTU website at <[www.utu.org](http://www.utu.org)>

The coalition of labor organizations promoting this measure has a tentative "mark-up" date of May 9 to have H.R. 1140 moved to the House Railroad Subcommittee. The coalition

also has the tentative date of May 16 to follow the same procedure in the full House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. There are no dates yet for action in the Ways and Means Committee, although action could come as early as June.

"It appears that the Senate Finance Committee will be the sole committee handling this legislation," National Legislative Director James Brunkenhoefer said. "Although other committees have jurisdiction, it is expected that they will waive their jurisdiction in order to allow the bill to move as expeditiously as possible."

"We still have not received word from the White House as to President George W. Bush's position, but we do understand that there are discussions going on there between staff members who support this legislation and those who oppose it," Brunkenhoefer said.

"Once again, across the board, we have gotten solid support from the Democrats, both in the House and in the Senate. The Republicans in the House appear to be supporting our efforts in significant numbers and we have received important support among the Republican leadership in that body. Unfortunately, we still have a small, dedicated minority of the Republicans in the U.S. House who remain opposed," the UTU officer noted.

"We have had numerous speed bumps in the past and we will have numerous speed bumps in the future. If everyone remains as decided and works as hard as we did last year, progress will be made.

"Once again, please contact your senators and representative during the coming weeks so that we may achieve all of our goals," Brunkenhoefer said.

## Safety summit

*Continued from page 1*

and trainmen bonds us all deeply together," said Dubroski. "I think BNSF knows how serious this is because they will be sitting across from both the BLE and UTU together."

"By working together we can accomplish twice as much for our members when it comes to safety," said Boyd. "We intend to begin setting things straight on the BNSF."

In a joint letter to BNSF President & CEO Matthew K. Rose, the leaders of both unions expressed concern over the unusually high number of accidents, injuries and fatalities suffered by train crew members on the BNSF property in recent months.

"We are in agreement that focusing first on safety and an effective safety process will create

a safer workplace for our members and your employees," wrote Dubroski and Boyd. "We are also in agreement that centering on past individual incidents would be unproductive in addressing our mutual interests. Past incidents can only be useful in what they tell us about what is needed to satisfy those interests."

Invited to the safety summit were top officers of all three organizations, in addition to UTU and BLE general chairmen and state legislative officers.

"We are always willing to talk about safety and working conditions at BNSF, and it seems to me that this type of dialogue could be beneficial," Rose wrote in response.

Commenting on tensions between the two unions, which reached a fever pitch in the past three years, UTU President Boyd characterized the safety summit as "a new beginning

between" the BLE and UTU.

"We should seize upon this opportunity, and others that are sure to come about in the coming months, to mutually advance the causes of our memberships," said BLE President Dubroski.

BNSF safety practices have come under national media scrutiny in recent weeks, following the derailment of an Amtrak train in Iowa on March 18, which caused one death and more than 90 injuries.

Fifteen cars on a BNSF freight train derailed near Stanton, Iowa, on Dec. 13, apparently because a welded piece of a switch failed, causing a train wheel to go off the track and derailing the cars.

A March 3 switching accident on the Burlington Northern in Willmar, Minn., claimed the life of a switchman, UTU Local 1000 member Terry Weyh.

## Members die

*Continued from page 1*

St. Marie was a member of BLE Division 366 in Houston, Texas. He joined the BLE on Sept. 1, 1980, as an engineer for the old Southern Pacific. He was Chaplain of Division 366 from 1997-2000.

W.E. "Bill" Dyer, a Burlington Northern Santa Fe conductor and member of Local 949 at Sherman, Tex., was killed early on the morning of April 9, 2001, in a switching accident at a rock quarry.

Dyer was riding the side of a gondola car

when he was squeezed up against another railroad car. He called on the radio to the engineer, who backed up the train, releasing Dyer. While waiting for the ambulance, Dyer died in the engineer's arms.

He was 36 years old and had worked on the railroad for four years.

He leaves a wife, Darlene, and three young daughters, the youngest two months old.

Local Chairperson T.W. Johnson said the accident happened at a plant that is an accident waiting to happen, with bad switch targets, unsteady footing, insufficient lighting and standing water.

"It's a constant battle with the carrier all the

time," Johnson said. "If we don't get hold of this railroad and get them set straight, I don't know what we are going to do."

Local President John Vest echoed Johnson's sentiments. "I believe the atmosphere that the BNSF has created in the work place played a direct part in this accident. All employees are scrutinized to a point that they are not focused on the job at hand. We are all working longer hours, and the employees on call are suffering from fatigue on account of poor lineups.

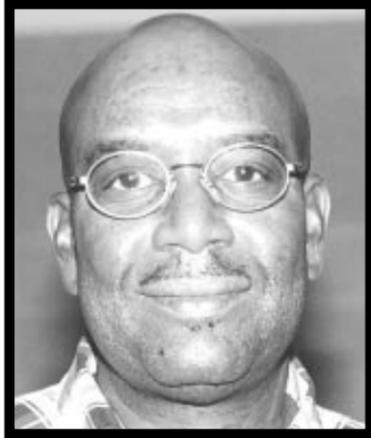
"Let's not let this terrible tragedy go in vain," he added, noting that Dyer's untimely passing will be the subject of discussion at the UTU/BLE safety summit with the carrier.

# Voices: Do you support campaign finance reform?



**Sidney Showalter**  
L-559, Roanoke, Va.

"Yes, I support campaign finance reform. I've been employed by Norfolk Southern for 22 years, with 13 years as an engineer. I think we'll see passage of reform legislation because the general public is fed up with people with money buying elections. If you outspend the other guy, you can win, just like if you have money, you'll never go to jail. The best man doesn't always win, and it's because of finances. Personally, I think there should be a limit set, that you can spend just so much on a campaign, and that's it. Where the money comes from doesn't matter. Most laws today, there's a way to circumvent them."



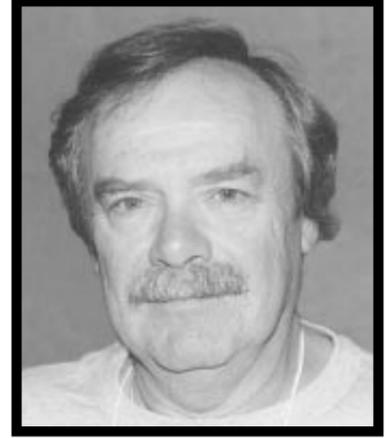
**Robert Wright**  
L-781, Shreveport, La.

"I'm a conductor working for the Kansas City Southern, with 30 years on the railroad in June. Looking at the last presidential election, I think there should be restrictions on what corporations can contribute, but other than that, I think they should leave the finance laws the way they are. If there's going to be any limitation, it should apply to everyone. I think making a campaign contribution is similar to enjoying freedom of speech. But I don't think Congress really intends for reform legislation to pass. I think it's a bunch of rhetoric. Basically, I only contribute to candidates through the TPEL."



**Marvin Baxley**  
L-1971, Atlanta, Ga.

"I've been with CSX for 37 years, and I've been a yardmaster since 1971. I can understand making it equal for everybody, rich and poor, to contribute to a campaign, but it looks like the reform measure now in Congress doesn't come anywhere near that. I don't understand everything about it, but I don't see where this reform will help. It might hurt more than anything else. I think it should be left the way it is. I don't believe the reform measure will pass. If it does, it will look good on paper, but it will be real watered down. I think it's just one of those campaign promises they make."



**Mike Ruffner**  
L-1379, Pittsburgh, Pa.

"I'm a CSX conductor with almost 38 years of service. I believe campaign finance reform is necessary, but not the way it would be accomplished by the McCain-Feingold measure. In fact, I don't think we'll see the reforms McCain was originally pushing. There's too much money out there, and the politicians want that money. You have to have the common man's input in an election, and it's your right to support a candidate. I belong to TPEL and don't think that the government should be able to tell individuals and unions how much they can give to a particular candidate."

## UnitedHealthcare announces changes to GA-23111

CLEVELAND, OHIO – At recent meetings with the railway labor organizations constituting the policyholder under GA-23111, a detailed study of the premiums and benefit payments under the various plans was made. It was agreed that the following payment rate changes would be made for coverage effective June 1, 2001.

### Plan A

The monthly payment rate for Plan A will remain at \$6 for employee coverage and \$7 for dependent coverage.

### Plan B

The monthly payment rate for Plan B will remain at \$16.

### Plan C

Due to the rise in the cost of medical treatment caused by inflation, plus the additional utilization of medical care services, changes in the monthly payment rates for coverage effective June 1, 2001, will be as follows:

Plan C for employees or dependents increases from \$285 to \$295;

Plan C for each student child remains at \$50;

Plan C for each incapacitated child increases from \$130 to \$140.

### Plan D

The amounts paid under Plan D for prescription drugs represent about 50% of all costs under Plan D. Prescription drug costs and their use continue to increase at a rate of about 20% each year with a similar trend expected for the next year. Due to the continuing increase in these costs, including the cost for medical services covered under Plan D, the monthly payment rate for coverage will increase from \$190 to \$225.

Individuals participating in Plan D cannot change their coverage to Plan F until the next open enrollment period in December 2002.

### Plan E

The monthly payment rate for Plan E will increase from \$103 to \$120. This increase is due to recent increases in claim activity under this plan.

### Plan F

Plan F has benefits identical to Plan D except that it does not cover prescription drugs. The monthly payment rate for Plan F will increase from \$102 to \$110.

Individuals participating in Plan F cannot change their coverage to Plan D until the next open enrollment period in December 2002.

Complete details of GA-23111 eligibility and benefit provisions are contained in the GA-23111 benefits booklet, which can be obtained by calling UnitedHealthcare toll-free at (800) 809-0453.

### UnitedHealthcare establishes website

CLEVELAND, Ohio – Railroad Health Plan members covered by UnitedHealthcare now have a convenient website available to obtain a variety of services and information. Through this new website, located at <[www.myuhc.com](http://www.myuhc.com)>, registered members will be able to:

- view a description of the plan's health benefits;
- check the status and history of their health claims;
- view eligibility information;
- request a new or replacement medical identification card;
- change primary care physicians (for plans with PCPs),
- search for network health care providers.

Members also will have access to extensive information on thousands of health topics, including a link to UnitedHealthcare's "Health Forums," which is a premier source of health information on the Internet.

All the functions offered at <[www.myuhc.com](http://www.myuhc.com)> have been developed with real-time linkages to UnitedHealthcare's computers. This means members will get information through the website that is as current as possible, the same information available by telephone.

When registering for the first time, members will find it helpful to have their medical ID form with them, as they will need to enter specific information.

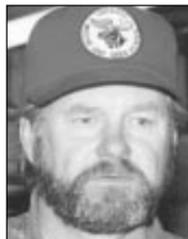
For security, when a member registers for the first time, a password will be mailed to the home address UnitedHealthcare has on file for him or her. It should be received within four to six business days. Once the member has received the password, he or she can use it to log on to the website to begin accessing their personal health insurance information.

If you are covered under a Hospital Association, you do not have employee coverage with UnitedHealthcare and you will not be able to use the features of <[www.myuhc.com](http://www.myuhc.com)> for your coverage under the Hospital Association. However, if you have dependents and their coverage is with UnitedHealthcare, they can still benefit from all the available features of the website.

# Senior News

## Retiree serves as licensed bear guide

Ask retired member Merv H. Rinta what a bear does in the woods, and he'll tell you. A licensed bear guide, it's his job to know these things as he leads groups of hunters each autumn into the woods around Sudbury, Ontario.



Merv H. Rinta

"It's really just a part-time business," Rinta said. "I'm also a fur trapper, and I trap 'bait' fish, mostly minnows, that I sell to different dealers."

Living 350 miles north of Toronto, Rinta describes Sudbury as "an isolated area." Getting to his camp is best done on all-terrain four-wheelers, though Rinta often relies on his snowmobile or his airplane.

For Rinta, becoming a bear guide was simply a natural progression. "I grew up hunting with my grandfather, who ran a dairy farm," said Rinta. "I became a licensed fur trapper, and as such, I was permitted to kill one bear a year. Today, a license is required to hunt bear, and you have to hunt through a licensed bear guide. But there's no limit to the kills because we've got so many bears."

The business began 24 years ago when Rinta placed an ad in *Field and Stream* magazine. "I ended up taking two people hunting," he said. "Through word-of-mouth, it wasn't long before I was taking 25 people out in the spring and 25 in the fall. About three years ago, they cut out the spring bear hunt."

Rinta sets up camp, does all the cooking, sets bait, and guts and skins the bears for his customers.

"I was a conductor, starting on the Canadian National Railway as a brakeman in 1966," said Rinta, a member of Local 1508, Hornepayne, Ont. "After 23 years, I transferred over to VIA Rail, which I should have done earlier, because I really enjoyed passenger service. I met new people every day, and liked the people I worked with. When I had 30 years of service, they told us we didn't have a job anymore, and I took a buy-out."

Rinta welcomes inquiries, and can be reached by writing to RR #3 Site 10 Box 20, Sudbury, ON P3E 4N1 Canada. Phone him at (705) 522-7765 or (705) 688-5948.

## UTU Travelers Club offers Princess Fall Foliage Cruise

The UTU Travelers Club has made arrangements for a spectacular 10-day cruise aboard Princess Cruise Line's *Crown Princess* at a price that's every bit as dazzling as the sights that await those who appreciate grand-class cruising.

The Fall Foliage Cruise, set for October 19-29, 2001, will carry travelers round-trip, from Boston to Quebec and back, when the dazzling autumn colors are at their peak.

Best of all, with prices starting at just \$1,335 per person, this Love Boat cruise is being made available to UTU members and their guests at nearly half-off the normal price. (Prices are based on two to a stateroom and include taxes, port fees, and cancellation protection. Airfare is additional.)

The newly refurbished *Crown Princess* includes the addition of a lavish new reception area, new windows in the plaza level, 24-hour dining at the Lido Cafe bistro offering casual evening meals, as well as a panoramic observation lounge from which to enjoy the awesome fall display. Many affordable staterooms even include private balconies, making it easy to get up close and personal with the eastern seaboard's most breathtaking scenery.

While sailing from one fascinating port to another, travelers will be treated to the pampered, premier cruising experience for which

Princess is renowned. All staterooms are spacious and stylish with lots of closet and storage space, boasting amenities which include plush terrycloth robes and chocolates on the pillow every night.

Those who have never cruised with Princess will see for themselves what it means to travel aboard the best as they sail round-trip from historic Boston through the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Saguenay River.



Port calls in Quebec, Halifax and Sydney, Nova Scotia, St. John, New Brunswick, Bar Harbor and Portland, Maine, offer innumerable opportunities for

sightseeing and shopping.

The ship's dance floor, casino and original Broadway-style entertainment promise evenings every bit as exciting as the nightlife in Quebec, and the shipboard activities and amenities, including the health and beauty center, offer no end to quality-time choices.

Those interested in receiving informative brochures and reservation forms are urged to write today to: UTU Travelers Club, 14600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44107-4250. To learn about the various upgrade options and airfares, call Lakewood Travel Bureau toll free at 1-800-726-9294. (From Canada, call 216-221-9294.)

## RRB conducts satisfaction survey

About 300 randomly chosen individuals who have recently retired from rail service will be receiving a phone call as part of the Railroad Retirement Board's (RRB) first significant customer satisfaction survey since 1995, the agency said.

The RRB said results of the survey, available by late summer or early autumn, will help the agency assess its customer service strengths as well as areas needing improvement.

Suggestions for change will also be evaluat-

ed, and feedback is expected to help the agency meet goals outlined in the Government Performance and Results Act, as well as the Government Paperwork Reduction Act.

The survey, known as the American Customer Satisfaction Index, was used by the government in 1999 to evaluate a number of agencies, including the Social Security Administration, the Internal Revenue Service and the Veterans Administration. About 100 agencies will be surveyed this year.

## 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.

| Local | Name                   | City/State            | Local | Name                 | City/State      | Local | Name                     | City/State          |
|-------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------|----------------------|-----------------|-------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 2     | Hatch, Robert O.       | N. Ft. Myers, FL      | 446   | Ludden, Ralph W.     | San Diego, CA   | 915   | Jeffries, Benjamin H.    | Hughston, WV        |
| 78    | Rositer, Jr., Ralph W. | Lava Hot Spgs., ID    | 473   | Herron, Jim B.       | La Grande, OR   | 991   | Duffield, Roy E.         | E. Liverpool, OH    |
| 212   | Moore, John T.         | Jacksonville Bch., FL | 495   | Bates, Lawrence A.   | Gahanna, OH     | 991   | Logut, Walter P.         | Oakdale, PA         |
| 239   | Dalporto, Charles      | San Leandro, CA       | 498   | Malchon, John F.     | Jim Thorpe, PA  | 1074  | Levkulich, Sr., John     | New Port Richey, FL |
| 298   | Gray, Robert E.        | Eaton, IN             | 498   | Yob, Granville R.    | Bethlehem, PA   | 1375  | Downey, John L.          | Philadelphia, PA    |
| 318   | Dailey, William B.     | Hornell, NY           | 556   | Ittner, Roland R.    | Tumwater, WA    | 1440  | Merrill, Sr., Raymond E. | Staten Island, NY   |
| 322   | VanWinkle, Ernest      | Green Bay, WI         | 620   | Britt, Ralph D.      | Bristol, IL     | 1549  | Meyers, Charles Q.       | Crossville, TN      |
| 333   | Smith, Leslie          | N. Vernon, IN         | 693   | Mizer, Harry J.      | Massillon, OH   | 1581  | Bain, Julius W.          | Morro Bay, CA       |
| 340   | Wilson, Jr., George F. | Smithfield, PA        | 693   | Ward, Enoch D.       | Barberton, OH   | 1628  | Hudson, Harold H.        | Tionesta, PA        |
| 446   | Landmesser, Leslie C.  | Cheyenne, WY          | 811   | Marshall, Jr., W. R. | Rogue River, OR | 1813  | Benner, Paul C.          | Sun City, AZ        |

NOTE: Erroneously included in this listing last month was Troy E. Jeffrey of Local 1661, who is "enjoying retirement" in Marysville, Ohio.

# Union member rights and officer responsibilities under the Labor-Management Reporting, Disclosure Act

The Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA) guarantees certain rights to union members and imposes certain responsibilities on union officers. The Office of Labor-Management Standards (OLMS) enforces many LMRDA provisions while other provisions, such as the bill of rights, may only be enforced by union members through private suit in Federal court.

## Union Member Rights

**Bill of Rights:** Union members have:

- equal rights to participate in union activities
- freedom of speech and assembly
- voice in setting rates of dues, fees, and assessments
- protection of the right to sue
- safeguards against improper discipline

**Copies of Collective Bargaining Agreements:** Union members and nonunion employees have the right to receive or inspect copies of collective bargaining agreements.

**Reports:** Unions are required to file an initial information report (Form LM-1), copies of constitutions and bylaws, and an annual financial report (Form LM-2/3/4) with OLMS. Unions must make the reports available to members and permit members to examine supporting records for just cause. The reports are public information and copies are available from OLMS.

**Officer Elections:** Union members have the right to:

- nominate candidates for office
- run for office
- cast a secret ballot
- protest the conduct of an election

**Officer Removal:** Local union members have the right to an adequate procedure for the removal of an elected officer guilty of serious misconduct.

**Trusteeships:** Unions may only be placed in trusteeship by a parent body for the reasons specified in the LMRDA.

**Prohibition Against Certain Discipline:** A union or any of its officials may not fine, expel, or otherwise discipline a member for exercising any LMRDA right.

**Prohibition Against Violence:** No one may use or threaten to use force or violence to interfere with a union member in the exercise of LMRDA rights.

## Union Officer Responsibilities

**Financial Safeguards:** Union officers have a duty to manage the funds and property of the union solely for the benefit of the union and its members in accordance with the union's constitution and bylaws. Union officers or employees who embezzle or steal union funds or other assets commit a Federal crime punishable by a fine and/or imprisonment.

**Bonding:** Union officers or employees who handle union funds or property must be bonded to provide protection against losses if their union has property and annual financial receipts which exceed \$5,000.

**Labor Organization Reports:** Union officers must:

- file an initial information report (Form LM-1) and annual financial reports (Forms LM-2/3/4) with OLMS.
- retain the records necessary to verify the reports for at least five years.

**Officer Reports:** Union officers and employees must file reports concerning any loans and benefits received from, or certain financial interests in, employers whose employees their unions represent and businesses that deal with their unions.

**Officer Elections:** Unions must:

- hold elections of officers of local unions by secret ballot at least every

three years.

- conduct regular elections in accordance with their constitution and bylaws and preserve all records for one year.
- mail a notice of election to every member at least 15 days prior to the election.
- comply with a candidate's request to distribute campaign material.
- not use union funds or resources to promote any candidate (nor may employer funds or resources be used).
- permit candidates to have election observers.
- allow candidates to inspect the union's membership list once within 30 days prior to the election.

**Restrictions on Holding Office:** A person convicted of certain crimes may not serve as a union officer, employee, or other representative of a union for up to 13 years.

**Loans:** A union may not have outstanding loans to any one officer or employee that in total exceed \$2,000 at any time.

**Fines:** A union may not pay the fine of any officer or employee convicted of any willful violation of the LMRDA.

The above is only a summary of the LMRDA. The full text of the act, which comprises Sections 401-531 of Title 29 of the United States Code, may be found in many public libraries, or by writing the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Labor-Management Standards, 200 Constitution Ave., N.W., Room N-5616, Washington, DC 20210, or on the Internet at <www.dol.gov>.

# TPEL HONOR ROLL

Honoring members who have begun contributing to TPEL or increased their donations to \$100 or more per year within the last two months.

| Name  | Local | City               | Name                                      | Local | City               | Name                   | Local | City              | Name                   | Local | City               |
|---|-------|--------------------|---|-------|--------------------|------------------------|-------|-------------------|------------------------|-------|--------------------|
| <b>PLATINUM CLUB (\$1,200 OR MORE PER YEAR)</b>     |       |                    |   |       |                    |                        |       |                   |                        |       |                    |
| Zito, Marc A.                                       | 20    | Beaumont, TX       | Smith, William R.                         | 5     | Kansas City, MO    | *Williams, Charles E.  | 535   | Macon, GA         | *DeVaun Jr., Luther L. | 1129  | Raleigh, NC        |
| Moody Jr., Willard J.                               | 48    | Norfolk, VA        | Cook, Hurston F.                          | 221   | N. Little Rock, AR | Thompson, Jeff         | 582   | Stevens Pt., WI   | *Floyd, Thomas J.      | 1168  | Clovis, NM         |
| Harrington Jr., R.E.                                | 168   | Chicago, IL        | Hunt, Guwudolyn K.                        | 243   | Ft. Worth, TX      | Anderson, Larry J.     | 607   | Thayer, MO        | Peterson, David        | 1177  | Willmar, MN        |
| Downes, Daniel J.                                   | 528   | Chicago, IL        | Boardman, William E.                      | 256   | Watervliet, NY     | Virgl, George          | 620   | Chicago, IL       | Brown, David G.        | 1261  | Atlanta, GA        |
| Harrington, Patrick J.                              | 577   | Northlake, IL      | Frerichs, Tracey L.                       | 258   | Savanna, IL        | Carlson, James R.      | 650   | Minneapolis, MN   | *Merritt, Earl M.      | 1313  | Amarillo, TX       |
| Albertini, Guy M.                                   | 610   | Baltimore, MD      | Hernandez, Raul                           | 965   | Dallas, TX         | Marquardt, Robert L.   | 650   | Minneapolis, MN   | *Hoskins, Thomas D.    | 1366  | Salt Lake City, UT |
| Youngdahl, Jay                                      | 656   | N. Little Rock, AR | Payne, Frederick E.                       | 1241  | Richmond, CA       | Adams, Gerald L.       | 781   | Shreveport, LA    | Cassidy, James M.      | 1375  | Philadelphia, PA   |
| Barich, Marvin I.                                   | 838   | Philadelphia, PA   | Long, John E.                             | 1293  | Altoona, WI        | *Hocker, William A.    | 792   | Cleveland, OH     | *Orthmeyer, James F.   | 1377  | Russell, KY        |
| Moody Sr., Willard J.                               | 854   | Portsmouth, VA     | Ginther, Robert W.                        | 1403  | Kansas City, MO    | Moore, Joe D.          | 807   | Tucson, AZ        | Held, Andrew           | 1388  | St. Louis, MO      |
| Kiker, David B.                                     | 951   | Sheridan, WY       | *Ogletree, George R.                      | 1403  | Kansas City, MO    | Stec, Carl F.          | 807   | Tucson, AZ        | Alabaugh, Ronald G.    | 1399  | Terre Haute, IN    |
| Burge Jr., Frank O.                                 | 1291  | Birmingham, AL     | Harford, James T.                         | 1741  | San Francisco, CA  | *White, Ernest L.      | 807   | Tucson, AZ        | *Bennington, Harry G.  | 1399  | Terre Haute, IN    |
| Miller, David R.                                    | 1313  | Amarillo, TX       | <b>GOLD CLUB (\$100 OR MORE PER YEAR)</b> |       |                    |                        |       |                   |                        |       |                    |
| Callis, F. Lance                                    | 1405  | St. Louis, MO      | Bunich, Joseph T.                         | 5     | Kansas City, MO    | *Potteiger, Samuel E.  | 816   | Harrisburg, PA    | Stefanik, Michael      | 1413  | Jersey City, NJ    |
| McVay, William W.                                   | 1418  | Conway, PA         | Edwards, W.D.                             | 5     | Kansas City, MO    | *Howard, Louie J.      | 847   | Birmingham, AL    | *Lewis, William L.     | 1477  | Dearborn, MI       |
| Sands, John C.                                      | 1538  | Chicago, IL        | *Sloan, George F.                         | 5     | Kansas City, MO    | *Reynolds, Dean C.     | 857   | San Antonio, TX   | *Robinson, James       | 1477  | Dearborn, MI       |
| Nelson, Frederick L.                                | 1544  | Maywood, CA        | *Moore, Ralph O.                          | 9     | Slaton, TX         | *Paul, William J.      | 891   | Whitefish, MT     | *Hoffman, R.W.         | 1545  | Dearborn, MI       |
| Pfister Jr., R. Edward                              | 1770  | Los Angeles, CA    | *Isek, John A.                            | 194   | Elkhart, IN        | *Wagner, Roger F.      | 891   | Whitefish, MT     | *Kmieciak, Robert J.   | 1582  | Albany, NY         |
| Letbetter, Tom R.                                   | 1886  | Houston, TX        | Hackney, H.J.                             | 200   | North Platte, NE   | Adams, Steven C.       | 911   | Minneapolis, MN   | Cross, James I.        | 1597  | Chicago, IL        |
| Kaplan, Jay A.                                      | R     | Los Angeles, CA    | Johnson, Gregory T.                       | 200   | North Platte, NE   | *Sturgill, Harold D.   | 924   | Richmond, VA      | Dawson, Michael P.     | 1597  | Chicago, IL        |
| <b>DOUBLE DIAMOND CLUB (\$600 OR MORE PER YEAR)</b> |       |                    |   |       |                    |                        |       |                   |                        |       |                    |
| Bottles, Raymond C.                                 | 1638  | Cleveland, OH      | Parsons, Russell E.                       | 200   | North Platte, NE   | Hall, James R.         | 934   | Alliance, NE      | Radman, John           | 1597  | Chicago, IL        |
| <b>DIAMOND PLUS CLUB (\$400 OR MORE PER YEAR)</b>   |       |                    |   |       |                    |                        |       |                   |                        |       |                    |
| *Clausen, Melvin R.                                 | 1366  | Salt Lake City, UT | Wathen, Jan M.                            | 228   | Cedar Rapids, IA   | Holthus, Ruth M.       | 934   | Alliance, NE      | Grill, Thomas E.       | 1628  | Pittsburgh, PA     |
| UTU Auxiliary Lodge                                 | 445   | Roseville, CA      | Bond, Robert H.                           | 239   | Oakland, CA        | Trenkle, Gary E.       | 934   | Alliance, NE      | Morgan, Terry B.       | 1628  | Pittsburgh, PA     |
| UTU Auxiliary Lodge                                 | 915   | Chattanooga, TN    | *Hauck, Wallace L.                        | 258   | Savanna, IL        | Vancil, Thomas A.      | 934   | Alliance, NE      | *Wardleigh, Nathan     | 1629  | Phoenix, AZ        |
| <b>DOLLAR-A-DAY CLUB (\$365 OR MORE PER YEAR)</b>   |       |                    |   |       |                    |                        |       |                   |                        |       |                    |
| Cochran, Billy M.                                   | 367   | Omaha, NE          | *Pearson, Warren A.                       | 259   | St. Joseph, MO     | Wood, Arnold B.        | 934   | Alliance, NE      | Buchanan, Mark E.      | 1732  | San Jose, CA       |
| Rodriguez, Noel                                     | 419   | Camden, NJ         | Bolender, Kenny R.                        | 278   | Jackson, MI        | Carter II, Charles D.  | 942   | Florence, SC      | *Gilbert, Walter F.    | 1770  | Los Angeles, CA    |
| Murphy, David M                                     | 982   | Rochester, NY      | Hunter, Michael R.                        | 278   | Jackson, MI        | Creel, Quinton O'Brien | 942   | Florence, SC      | *Pyritz, William       | 1800  | Tucson, AZ         |
| <b>DIAMOND CLUB (\$300 OR MORE PER YEAR)</b>        |       |                    |   |       |                    |                        |       |                   |                        |       |                    |
| Beran, Gary J.                                      | 5     | Kansas City, MO    | McKelvey, Mike J.                         | 305   | Lincoln, NE        | Crew Jr., William H.   | 942   | Florence, SC      | *Frenz, William G.     | 1882  | Minneapolis, MN    |
| Jones, Jay C.                                       | 5     | Kansas City, MO    | Simpson, Shannon C.                       | 305   | Lincoln, NE        | Hodge, Brian D.        | 942   | Florence, SC      | Taylor, Robert N.      | 1918  | El Paso, TX        |
| Ritter Jr., Glenn D.                                | 5     | Kansas City, MO    | Kresl, Kevin P.                           | 367   | Omaha, NE          | Muldrow, Jody D.       | 942   | Florence, SC      | Dismang, Michael J.    | 1957  | Silsbee, TX        |
|   |       |                    | Stevens, Edward L.                        | 375   | Edgemont, SD       | Dozier, Randolph A.    | 976   | Shreveport, LA    | Hare Jr., Robert J.    | 1957  | Silsbee, TX        |
|   |       |                    | *Dever, Joseph P.                         | 419   | Camden, NJ         | *Green, George A.      | 1000  | Minneapolis, MN   | Smart, James W.        | 1957  | Silsbee, TX        |
|   |       |                    | Hawley, James E.                          | 445   | Niota, IL          | *Nelson, Floyd R.      | 1000  | Minneapolis, MN   | *Elliot, Ida B.        | R     | Roanoke, VA        |
|   |       |                    | *Grover, Owen L.                          | 471   | Eugene, OR         | *Scott, Daniel H.      | 1000  | Minneapolis, MN   | UTU Auxiliary Lodge    | 151   | Grand Junction, CO |
|   |       |                    | *Luker, Carl S.                           | 489   | San Antonio, TX    | Jones, William H.      | 1003  | Kankakee, IL      | UTU Auxiliary Lodge    | 474   | Chaffee, MO        |
|   |       |                    | DeMotte, Eric Joseph                      | 490   | Princeton, IN      | Michels, Randy E.      | 1003  | Kankakee, IL      |                        |       |                    |
|   |       |                    | Stuckey, Alan H.                          | 490   | Princeton, IN      | Brothers, Robert J.    | 1007  | Syracuse, NY      |                        |       |                    |
|   |       |                    | Swope, James L.                           | 490   | Princeton, IN      | *Prest, William E.     | 1011  | Hamlet, NC        |                        |       |                    |
|   |       |                    |   |       |                    | *Yeagain, Tommy        | 1042  | Oklahoma City, OK |                        |       |                    |
|   |       |                    |   |       |                    | *Bragg, Ingram R.      | 1081  | Glendale, AZ      |                        |       |                    |

\* = Retired Member



# AT&T announces a special program for UTU members and their families!

UTU members are eligible to receive discounts on rates and cellular equipment not available through AT&T retail stores!



You can use this Ericsson R289LX cell phone to surf the Internet and check and send e-mail, plus it is free when you sign up with AT&T!



### All plans include:

- FREE Caller ID
- FREE Voice Mail
- FREE Paging
- FREE Text Messaging
- FREE Call Waiting
- FREE Three-Way Calling

**PLUS**, the activation fee is waived for those signing up on most plans!

Receive **1,000 free night and weekend minutes** on local or regional plans of \$39.99 a month and higher for 12 months. Receive **500 free night and weekend minutes** on local and regional plans of \$29.99 a month and higher for 12 months. Nights begin at an early 8 p.m.!

UTU members and families also receive a **20% equipment discount**, **15% bonus minutes** on most local and regional plans, and a **2% discount** off monthly airtime charges!!



This Ericsson T19LX cell phone, compact and light weight, is yours to keep when you sign up with AT&T!



MAY 2001

ISSN 0098-5937

Published monthly by the UNITED TRANSPORTATION UNION, 14600 DETROIT AVE., CLEVELAND, OH 44107-4250 • Periodicals postage paid at Cleveland, Ohio, and additional mailing offices • Byron A. Boyd, Jr., International President; Daniel E. Johnson III, General Secretary/Treasurer • This publication available on microfilm from UMI, 300 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106 •

**POSTMASTER: Send address changes to UTU News, 14600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44107-4250.**



Periodicals Postage  
PAID at Cleveland, Ohio,  
and additional  
mailing offices



Please recycle

5/01

# \$30,000 ACCIDENTAL DEATH BENEFIT FOR ONLY \$5 PER MONTH

- Q:** Am I eligible?  
**A:** Yes, if you are presently a working UTU member and don't have the maximum \$30,000 coverage.
- Q:** Is a physical exam required?  
**A:** No.
- Q:** Do I have to answer any medical questions?  
**A:** No.
- Q:** Are there any other benefits under this policy?  
**A:** Yes. If you lose a hand, foot or eye in an accident, you will receive a \$15,000 benefit payment.
- Q:** Is that all?  
**A:** No. The policy will pay a \$60,000 benefit if death is caused by a private passenger automobile and a \$120,000 benefit if death is caused by common carrier while you are a farepaying passenger.



**No physical exam required and no medical questions!**

- Q:** Are there any exceptions under this policy?  
**A:** Yes, any exception is listed in the policy. For instance, coverage is not provided for death or loss caused by intoxication, suicide or commission of a felony.
- Q:** This sounds great! How do I apply?  
**A:** Complete the coupon below for more information, or call us toll-free at **1-800-558-8842** for assistance from your UTUIA representative.

## Information, Please



I would like more information on UTUIA's ACCIDENTAL DEATH & DISMEMBERMENT policy. Please Print.

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number with Area Code \_\_\_\_\_ UTU Local Number \_\_\_\_\_

Complete and mail to: UTUIA Sales Dept., 14600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44107-4250

5/01