

UTU News

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The Official Publication of the United Transportation Union

UTU supports Kerry/Edwards
Cast your vote Nov. 2

News & Notes

Alex drivers okay pact

LUBBOCK, Texas – Alex Transportation drivers represented by Local 1697 in Lubbock have overwhelmingly ratified a new contract giving them a 9 percent wage increase over the next three years, according to UTU International Vice President and Bus Department Director Roy Arnold.

The new contract, affecting drivers working in Texas, Kansas and Oklahoma, also delivers better vacation benefits as well as improved contract language, Arnold said.

“Special thanks go out to Local Chairperson Carl Dumas, Secretary Patty Rhodes and Alternate Vice President-Bus-West Robert Gonzalez for a job well done,” Arnold said.

Meanwhile, Arnold said Alex Transportation drivers in Local 113 (Winslow, Ariz.), Local 1697 (Lubbock, Texas) and Local 1846 (West Colton, Calif.) will become members of newly created Local 1731 in Spokane, Wash. “This is a first step in helping these members become stronger under one local,” Arnold said.

UTU prevails on SEPTA

PHILADELPHIA – A tentative agreement has been reached between the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) and conductors represented by the UTU.

The agreement resolves the matter of longevity pay in favor of the UTU. “The agreement is an important recognition by SEPTA that the pay of conductors and engineers is wed together,” said UTU International Vice President Bruce Wigent, who assisted UTU Local 61 General Chairperson Ralph Vazquez in the negotiations.

The tentative agreement, which must be ratified by conductors and assistant conductors, as well as by SEPTA’s board of directors, came as a second Presidential Emergency Board (PEB) was considering the last, final offers of the two parties. The dispute began after SEPTA agreed to provide engineers, represented by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, with longevity pay, but declined to extend the same pattern to UTU-represented conductors.

UTU gets airfare discounts

The UTU has negotiated discount airfares with Northwest Airlines and Continental Airlines for its 2005 regional meetings in Anchorage, Alaska, and Orlando, Fla. To make reservations on either airline, call the Northwest Airline Meeting Reservation Department at (800) 328-1111. Please refer to WorldFile Ticket Designator number “NM52A” for the Anchorage meeting and “NM52B” for the Orlando meeting. The Anchorage meeting will be held June 13-15 while the Orlando meeting will be held July 18-20. Watch the *UTU News* and UTU website (www.utu.org) for details.

Soo Line strike in 1994 helped forge labor unity

MINNEAPOLIS – “The lesson to be learned from strikes against employers is the lesson of unity – that to avoid being defeated, we must present a solid bulwark with a common faith and a common goal,” said UTU International President Paul Thompson.

Thompson’s remarks were made at a celebration here Sunday, Sept. 12, marking the 10th anniversary of a successful strike against Canadian Pacific’s Soo Line Railroad subsidiary.

That 47-day strike in 1994, involving 1,100 UTU train service members – marred briefly by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers’

order that engineers cross UTU picket lines and join scab operating crews – resulted in a favorable Presidential Emergency Board report and subsequent settlement along the lines of the PEB recommendations.

“Had the UTU not been successful, there would have been a movement to destroy the remainder of rail labor,” Thompson told dozens of UTU members who were joined by brothers and sisters from other crafts. Those other crafts included engineers who, back in

1994, defied their BLE International’s orders to cross the UTU picket lines and remained in solidarity with their UTU brothers and sisters.

Some of the engineers recalled that then-BLE President Ron McLaughlin was termed “King Scab” for his order that engineers cross the UTU picket lines. Indeed, Transportation Communications Union President Robert Scardelletti, himself shocked at McLaughlin’s

order, instructed TCU members to display “solidarity” with UTU members.

“Those of you who were here during that time, regardless of which organization you

belong to or which craft you work in, recognize that it was your efforts and support that helped the UTU succeed,” Thompson said. “The UTU appreciates the support we received. Without it, we could not have done it alone.”

The strike against the Soo Line, which serves 11 Midwest states over some 5,000 miles of track, began in July 1994 following some six years of fruitless negotiations with the Soo

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UTU strike was marred when BLE ordered members to cross lines

UTU protests new NMB rules

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The United Transportation Union has taken the leadership role among rail labor unions to protest new rules proposed by the National Mediation Board (NMB) that would establish a fee schedule for arbitration services, require adherence to a time schedule for referees in order to be paid with government funds, and grant the NMB’s director of arbitration services authority to consolidate cases.

In certain circumstances, unions could be required to pick up the cost of arbitration.

The proposed rules could adversely affect efficient administration of the National Railroad Adjustment Board, public law boards and special boards of adjustment – all of which are crucial to equitable grievance handling.

The proposed rules, said the UTU, could

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Members support Kerry/Edwards

Four UTU leaders, who served as delegates to the Democratic National Convention, shared with the *UTU News* their reasons for supporting the John Kerry/John Edwards ticket Nov. 2:

Wayne Reese, UTU Local 28 legislative representative, Cheyenne, Wyo.:

“There is a philosophical difference between Bush and John Kerry. Bush thinks the economy will do better when businesses profit, but Kerry thinks the economy will do better if people profit, if they have money to spend. Kerry would try to make sure that people have jobs with wages they can live on. The Democratic emphasis is on people; the Republican emphasis is on profit. That’s what it comes down to.”

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Around the UTU

News from around the U.S. and Canada

Local 23, Santa Cruz, Calif.

Members employed by the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District recently sponsored a dinner to honor retirees, including 70-year-old Aurelio Preciado, Chris Bridinger and Patrick McCalmort, said General Chairperson Bonnie Morr, who noted Brother Preciado was not the oldest to retire from the transit system. That honor may have belonged to bus operator Everett Wehe, who retired at age 83 after 29 years with the transit agency.

Local 300, Philadelphia, Pa.

Member Gary Galvin, secretary of Amtrak General Committee of Adjustment GO-769 and mayor of Downingtown, Pa., spoke as the special guest of Pennsylvania Gov. Edward G. Rendell at the Philadelphia news conference marking the reinvigorated plan to bring faster, safer and more frequent passenger train service to the Keystone Corridor between Philadelphia and Harrisburg, State Legislative Director Don Dunlevy said. Galvin said the initiative will result in redevelopment opportunities, cut 30 minutes off the Harrisburg-to-Philadelphia and Harrisburg-to-New York City trips, and increase service from nine trains a day to 13 in each direction.

Local 577, Northlake, Ill.

Nearly 100 people attended this Union Pacific/Metra local's annual Labor Day family picnic, said Legislative Representative Robert B. Blomgren. Guests included International Vice Presidents John Babler and Pat Drennan, as well as members of Local 528 (Chicago). Thanks go to Local Chairperson Pat McNamara, who served as chef, and Secretary Ken Larson and Treasurer Warren Wrobel, who sent invitations and helped out in a variety of ways.

Local 1081, Glendale, Ariz.

Under the contract at this BNSF local, the local chairperson is allowed four hours with new employees to introduce them to the union. Thanks to a suggestion and arrangements made by Vice Local Chairperson (yard) James Girkin, the regular monthly meeting has now been coordinated into that time frame, allowing all local officers to introduce themselves, explain their functions and the issues related to their crafts, and get the younger members involved in their local, according to Local Chairperson Glenn Bay.

Local 1177, Willmar, Minn.

Past Local Chairperson (switchmen) P. J. "Pat" Connors recently encountered temporary complications in the wake of his kidney transplant on Sept. 2, but was expected to be released from the hospital as this issue reached deadline, said Legislative Representative Bob Pearson. Brother Connors' son, Ben, donated one of his kidneys to his father, sidelining both for at least six weeks. Donations to help the family with expenses can be sent to: Connors Fund, c/o Robert J. Pearson, UTU Local 1177, P.O. Box 575, Willmar, MN 56201.



Legislative Representative Daniel Cicuto (left) of Local 1421, Franklin Park, Ill., accepts a plaque at the regional meeting in Reno, Nev., in June 2004 from UTU International President Paul C. Thompson honoring the local's members for their contributions to the UTU's political action committee, UTU PAC.

Local reigns as leader of the PAC

At a UTU regional meeting in 1999, the legislative representative of Local 1421, Franklin Park, Ill., accepted a plaque honoring the local as the top contributor, per member per month, to the union's political action committee. The scene was repeated in 2000 and in 2001. Likewise, in 2002, the local again took first place, as it did in 2003. And at the regional meeting in Reno, Nev., in 2004, Legislative Representative Dan Cicuto collected yet another first-place plaque for the local.

"I can't take credit for this," Cicuto said. "There were other legislative representatives before my term who collected plaques. Credit goes to the members of this local."

Local 1421 comprises about 30 conductors working for the Indiana Harbor Belt. "It's primarily a switching terminal railroad," Cicuto said. "Our big customers are steel mills and grain operations. We do yard transfers around Chicago, and feed just about every other railroad."

It's important for the legislative representative to stress the purpose of UTU PAC, Cicuto said. "Most here understand the political process. We talk about how UTU PAC gets the union's issues in front of the politicians. Most here are astute enough to understand and contribute."

And it should be stressed that members should vote, Cicuto said. "This election is of dire importance to members working today," he said. "We could lose important things to this current administration. These guys aren't pro-labor or pro-union at all."

Cicuto thinks part of the reason the local comes out on top is due to a statistical quirk related to size. "But also, because it's a small company, we know each other well and can talk honestly with one another. Some of these relationships go back more than 30 years to high school. We're pretty tight."

Beginning his rail career on the Indiana Harbor Belt in 1974 at age 19, Cicuto also remembers what it was like to be the new guy. "When we get new employees," he said, "I meet with them on a one-to-one basis, and I try to educate them to the importance of this."

Local 1252, Fresno, Calif.

Members of this BNSF local are reminded that regular meetings are held at 9 a.m. on the 15th of each month at Marie Callender's Restaurant, said retired member Don Heffernan, and the local has a website with news items and other useful information and links at www.utu1252.org. Heffernan also noted the death of retired conductor Ted E. Sherrill, 88, a WWII Air Force veteran who flew B-29s over Japan and survived a crash while returning from a mission. Brother Sherrill worked on the Western Pacific and the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy before settling on the Santa Fe for 38 years.

Local 1389, Russell, Ky.

A member of this CSXT local, Bruce Workman, recently won a heavyweight-division bout in Challenge 5 of the Kentucky Fighting Challenge, a mixed martial arts event drawing on such disciplines as wrestling, boxing, kickboxing, submission grappling and other hand-to-hand combat styles. Information about the sport can be found at www.kyfight.com.

Local 1440, Staten Island, N.Y.

Members of this Long Island Rail Road local recently held their first blood drive, said Secretary Kevin J. Hughes. The event was a great success, leading to plans for another in the near future. Thanks are forwarded to all those who donated their time and caring, Hughes said.

Local 1594, Upper Darby, Pa.

Members of this SEPTA bus local are reminded the current contract expires April 1, 2005, and local committee officers are accepting suggestions for the next round of negotiations, said General Chairperson Ron Koran. "We need to set aside our differences and unite to show SEPTA we are ready to fight to retain our benefits," Koran said. Also, members are reminded about the fund created to assist fellow members whose homes and property were destroyed by storms and flooding, said Treasurer Brian Caldwell. Contributions can be sent to: UTU 1594 Flood Victims' Account, PSTC Employees Federal Credit Union, 1402 Bywood Ave., Upper Darby, PA 19082.

Local 1741, San Francisco, Calif.

Bus operator Mattie Bowers, who served the community in a variety of ways for 34 years and who was second on the local's seniority roster, lost her battle with cancer this summer, said Local President Ange Beloy. Meanwhile, members employed by Laidlaw and the San Francisco Unified School District recently held a successful UTU PAC drive as part of a show of solidarity in their efforts to encourage other workers to organize. These members, as well as those working for the San Mateo School District and First Student, Inc., are gearing up for participation in the Million Worker March, set to take place in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 17. For information, contact Shane Hoff at (510) 748-9196.

Zero switching-fatality goal is achievable

By Betty Monro
Acting Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration

This year could have the fewest number of switching fatalities on record. If the positive trend continues, it will be a remarkable accomplishment and one that both the United Transportation Union and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) can take pride in helping to make a reality.



Monro

In 1998, the UTU, FRA and other industry groups joined forces to create the Switching Operations Fatality Analysis (SOFA) Working Group to review and analyze switching fatalities, determine whether patterns could be found, identify best practices and formulate safety recommendations. The effort has yielded positive results.

The number of switching fatalities during 2004 has reached only five, despite increased freight volumes and train miles. The previous all-time annual low was six in 2002 and there were as many as 15 in 1993. I am confident we can get through the end-of-year, higher-risk peak-shipment season safely and establish a new record low.

To achieve this goal, we can learn lessons from a recently released report entitled, "Findings and Recommendations of SOFA Working Group: August 2004 Update." It studied 124 switching fatalities from 1992 to 2003 and determined all were potentially preventable by the five SOFA Lifesavers or by awareness of special switching hazards such as close clearances, shoving as a direction of movement, and being struck by mainline trains.

Two of the SOFA Lifesavers are particularly significant in preventing fatalities: safety briefings before switching operations begin or when the nature of work changes; and the mentoring of

less-experienced employees. The UTU plays a critical role in ensuring that both these safety lessons are applied every day.

In particular, the instruction of new employees will be a growing concern. The combination of new hires and the retirement of thousands of rail workers over the next few years will lead to a new generation of employees. I will look to the UTU to ensure its members get the guidance they need.

The SOFA Working Group is also seeking to eliminate severe injuries – injuries that are potentially life and career threatening. While all the mechanisms through which severe injuries occur are not understood, the five SOFA Lifesavers and awareness of special switching hazards are important in reducing these injury events.

The UTU has provided productive and effective leadership in helping to improve the safety of

switching operations. Our continued cooperation will one day result in achieving the goal of zero switching fatalities.

The five SOFA Lifesavers:

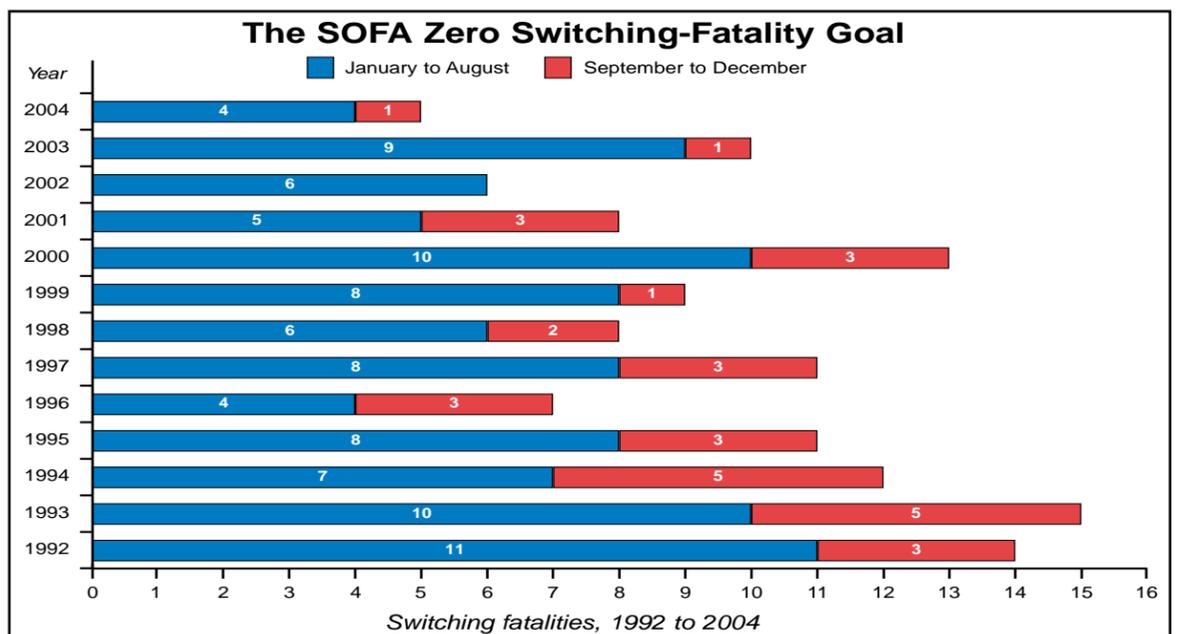
Secure equipment before action is taken.

Protect employees against moving equipment.

Discuss safety at the beginning of a job or when a project changes.

Communicate before action is taken.

Mentor less-experienced employees to perform service safely.



The blue bar indicates the number of switching fatalities for each year occurring from January to August; the red bar indicates from September to December. In 2002, the lowest year for switching fatalities, there were no fatalities in the September-to-December period. All SOFA reports are available at the FRA web site (<http://www.fra.dot.gov/us/content/102>).

UTU urges STB to discourage abandonments

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The transportation policy of the United States is not – and should not be – one of encouraging railroad-line abandonment, the United Transportation Union told the U.S. Surface Transportation Board (STB) Aug. 31.

The board holds from Congress regulatory authority over various railroad activities, including lines sales, line leases and line abandonments.

UTU Associate General Counsel Dan Elliott was invited by the board to testify in response to a request by 65 regional and short-line railroads that they be able to abandon rail lines virtually at will.

"The UTU finds this request quite ironic considering that the justification for the beginning of most short-line and some regional carriers was to avoid the abandonment of lines that the major carriers found unprofitable to operate," Elliott told the board. "What petitioners actually seek here is carte blanche to abandon their lines" and the UTU opposes this, Elliott said.

More chilling, explained Elliott, is that if the board allows regional and short-line railroads to abandon their track virtually at will, the major railroads – which must receive abandonment authority on a case-by-case basis – would be encouraged to sell and lease even more track to the small railroads with the intent the lines would then be abandoned by the regional and small railroads without any scrutiny.

The incentive for the regional and small railroads to participate with the major carriers in such a shell game could be improved sharing of revenue on interline traffic and other economic incentives from the major railroads, Elliott said.

Elliott said that, historically, the Surface Transportation Board (and its predecessor, the Interstate Commerce Commission) decided all petitions for rail-line abandonment on a case-by-case basis, and encouraged the purchase and lease of economically marginal secondary main and branch lines by small railroads in an effort to preserve rail capacity, stem the flow of freight from rail to highway and ease highway congestion.

Most distressing, Elliott said, is that the Inter-

UTU fights request by regional, short-lines to abandon track at will

state Commerce Commission and Surface Transportation Board habitually declined to impose labor-protection conditions on these sales and leases to regional and short-line railroads in an effort to help justify the economics of the acquisition by the smaller railroads. The intent was that, by denying labor protection, the lines would remain in operation for the greater public good.

In other words, these regional and short-line railroads "were formed on the backs of labor," Elliott said.

"Now, these same carriers, who were viewed by some as the saviors of these lines, seek the right to abandon these same lines willy-nilly without any say by the board whatsoever" and without public

input, Elliott testified.

Although the petitioning regional and short-line railroads told the board they need the authority to abandon these lines to remain financially viable, Elliott observed that the petitioners, for the most part, are hardly small businesses.

"Most of the so-called small carriers petitioning the board here are owned by extremely wealthy holding or parent companies," Elliott said. "These are the same holding companies that the short lines used to evade labor-protection conditions" when they acquired the secondary main and branch lines from the major railroads.

"Many of these holding companies have become large, highly profitable businesses" since they were permitted to acquire lines without labor protection being imposed, Elliott said.

In fact, Elliott said, "these petitioners are not the small mom-and-pop operations that they hold themselves out to be. These carriers are all part of larger, well-to-do operations that can easily afford" to follow existing abandonment procedures, which allow greater public scrutiny of the effect of the abandonment application.

"This bold request should be rejected since it leaves shippers, labor and the rail transportation system at the mercy of these carriers, which clearly runs afoul of the nation's rail transportation policy," Elliott told the Surface Transportation Board.

The board has not set a date on which it will issue a decision.

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A vote for our friends is a vote for our future

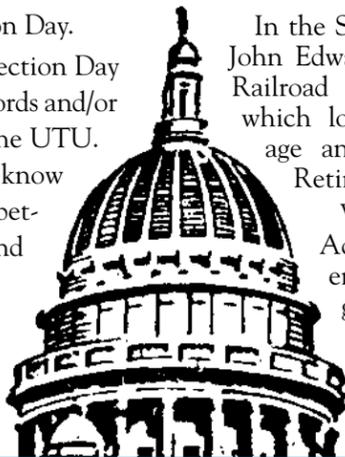
It was our first UTU president, Charlie Luna, who said, "When I'm around Democrats, I talk Democrat. When I'm around Republicans, I talk Republican. And I always talk about the United Transportation Union."

That's good advice for success in the political arena, and no union enjoys better success in the political arena than the UTU. We are a bi-partisan union that supports its friends, no matter their political stripes. Our goal is straightforward: More for our members – and our bi-partisan approach has produced more.

It is true we have more friends in the Democratic Party, and that carriers have more friends in the Republican Party. But as we have seen repeatedly, in order to gain legislative victories, we need votes from both sides of the political aisle. That's why we reward our friends – Democrat and Republican – with our support when they require it on Election Day.

On pages 6 and 7 of this issue of *UTU News*, we publish Election Day voting recommendations. Each of these candidates' voting records and/or backgrounds has been screened carefully. Each is a friend of the UTU. A vote for these candidates is a vote for our friends, whom we know will be there for us when the legislative subject is job security, better wages, affordable health-care insurance, workplace safety and union organizing.

Please keep our political friends in mind on Election Day. UTU-recommended candidates are sure to produce more for us and for our families if elected.



WASHINGTON WATCH

By James M. Brunkenhoefer

Our future successes depend on your vote

Election Day is approaching and casting your vote – and ensuring your union-friendly family and friends also cast their votes – is essential.

Your union is not telling you how to vote. Brave people throughout the world have given their lives to ensure freedom of choice and secrecy in the voting booth.



Brunkenhoefer

Your union does encourage you to vote for UTU-endorsed candidates because those candidates can make a difference in your pocketbook and on the quality of your life and the lives of your family members.

The centerfold of this issue of *UTU News* contains a listing of UTU-endorsed candidates.

UTU-endorsed candidates were recommended by your state legislative boards before being officially endorsed by the UTU.

Their positions on issues relating to working families were considered. Not all of these candidates endorsed by our union have a perfect voting record. Some have very good records; some have records only slightly better than their opponents. Many of the candidates the UTU endorses have received political contributions from UTU PAC because of your generous and voluntary donations.

How you vote will affect many issues vital to your future

I'm voting for Kerry

By Paul C. Thompson
International president

Our third president, Thomas Jefferson, said in his inaugural address in 1801, "Take not from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned."

It is advice John Kerry and John Edwards have followed their entire political lives. It is reason alone to cast a ballot Nov. 2 for the Kerry/Edwards ticket.

There are so many more compelling reasons to support the Kerry/Edwards ticket.

John Kerry repeatedly has spoken out in favor of additional training for bus and rail employees to help them understand and respond to security threats. John Edwards was among the first lawmakers following 9/11 to urge stepped-up development of new technology to detect weapons and explosives on airliners, buses and trains.

John Kerry and John Edwards support our national intercity rail passenger network – Amtrak. The Kerry/Edwards ticket opposes the Bush Administration plan to break up and privatize Amtrak.

The Kerry/Edwards platform also opposes privatization of transit systems and supports increased government spending on bus and rail transit "to put Americans to work and relieve traffic congestion."

In the Senate, John Kerry and John Edwards voted in favor of Railroad Retirement reform, which lowered the retirement age and expanded Railroad Retirement benefits.

While the Bush Administration is cooperating with railroads to gut the Federal Employers' Liability Act (FELA), John Kerry and John

Edwards stand in solidarity with us in support of that essential protection for injured rail workers. The Kerry/Edwards ticket recognizes railroading is among the most dangerous occupations in America and that FELA is an essential watchdog over carriers who would place safety second to profitability.

John Kerry and John Edwards promise to fight for American workers by removing roadblocks to union organizing, by increasing access to affordable health-care insurance and by rewarding businesses that provide employees a living wage and basic benefits, all of which are essential to bringing more American families into the middle class. By contrast, the Bush Administration

has been attacking overtime pay, weakening labor laws that protect workers and encouraging the export of jobs.

Where John Kerry and John Edwards support measures to lower health-care costs and make prescription drugs more affordable, the Bush Administration has turned a deaf ear to these issues. It is disgraceful that the Bush Administration rewards pharmaceutical companies that sell prescription drugs at lower costs in Canada and supports laws prohibiting Americans from purchasing needed medicines at reduced prices from Canada.

With John Kerry in the White House, we can expect an end to appointment of federal judges, regulators and emergency-board members who carry an anti-labor bias into office.

A vote for Kerry/Edwards is a vote for more secure jobs, working-class families and a stronger middle class. Join me Nov. 2 in casting a ballot for Kerry/Edwards.



Thompson

State Watch *News from UTU State Legislative Boards*

South Dakota



South Dakota State Legislative Director Rick Davids and wife, Judy, recently attended the Oglala Lakota Nation Powwow and Rodeo to help register voters and campaign for candidates sympathetic to UTU concerns. More than 40,000 people attended the event, which included more than 500 Native American dancers, drumming competitions and crafts. Above, the Davids (left and right) talk with Jackie Heier, a representative from the Tom Daschle for Senate campaign.

North Dakota

The North Dakota Legislative Board has endorsed Joe Satrom (D) for governor, Cong. Earl Pomeroy (D) for re-election to the U.S. House, and Sen. Byron Dorgan (D) for re-election to the U.S. Senate.

John Risch, state legislative director, said, "The primary reason Joe Satrom received our endorsement is because he opposes repealing the state's corporate income tax."

The decision to endorse Pomeroy was largely based on his strong support of worker-related issues, Risch said. "Recently Cong. Pomeroy led the opposition to the Bush Administration's proposal to remove overtime protection for millions of American workers. Pomeroy's seat on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee was another factor in his endorsement."

Byron Dorgan received UTU endorsement due in large part to his 98 percent pro-labor voting record in the Senate and his strong support of the Railroad Retirement reform legislation, Risch said.

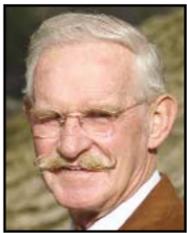
Missouri



UTU members assisted Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry when he toured the state recently. Above, left to right, are Jerry Sullivan (Local 1402, Dupon, Ill.), Kerry and Norbert Shacklette (Local 1823, St. Louis, Mo.). Other members who assisted were Shaun Gunter (local chairperson, Local 1405, St. Louis, Mo.), Jason Hayden (legislative representative, L-1405), Auxiliary Vice President Pat Shacklette and Missouri State Legislative Director Larry Foster.

Idaho

For almost 50 years, Lin Whitworth worked Union Pacific trains and paid dues to the UTU and its predecessors. Now retired from the railroad and the Idaho Senate, Lin Whitworth is running for Congress from the second district in Idaho – and he has support of the UTU.



Whitworth

Whitworth, a member of Local 1265 at Pocatello, Idaho, is running against Republican incumbent Mike Simpson.

Since his teenage years, Whitworth has been a blue-collar working man. He secured a seasonal railroad job at age 18. Until he gained fulltime railroad employment, Whitworth had to support himself also as a part-time plumber, carpenter, farm laborer, construction worker and truck driver – non-union jobs that taught Whitworth firsthand the value of a union and how it secures workers better pay and benefits.

Whitworth also served as a local chairperson and legislative representative for a UTU predecessor, the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen.

At the close of his railroad career, Whitworth was elected as a Democrat to the Idaho Senate, where, during four terms, he became assistant minority leader, Democratic caucus chair and chair of the transportation committee.

An avid fisherman and hunter, Whitworth has spent his entire life in Idaho.

"I don't like what's going on in Washington and I think it's time the people in Idaho had someone who represents them instead of the corporations," Whitworth said. "It's time to send a working man to Congress."

Arizona

Members in Arizona are mourning the recent death of former State Legislative Director Bill Elzey, who passed away Sept. 5.

Elzey, a member of Local 113 at Winslow, Ariz., was chairperson of the Arizona State Legislative Board for more than 20 years and continued to support the work of the UTU in retirement.

Arizona State Legislative Director Scott Olson said the family is requesting donations to the Winslow Little League (of which Bill was a long-time coach and president) or the Shrine Crippled Children's Project. "He (Bill) thought it so important that he lost pay to attend games and meetings for the Little League so children would have something constructive to do with their time," Olson said. Donations may be directed to the state board office at 528 W. El Caminito Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85021; phone (602) 370-4961.

Bus Department

By Roy Arnold, vice president-director

The three Rs of membership

As reading, writing and arithmetic are the basics to education, there are three basics to union membership.

First, **read your contract**. Many members have not read the contract between the company and the union. The contract should be the most important thing for members. You should read and study it because it explains your wage and benefit information and grievance and arbitration procedures, the nuts and bolts of the contract.

Second, show **respect**. Respect yourself and your fellow members. It is vitally important to remember that respect is earned, not given.

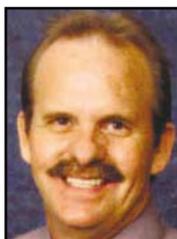
Each of you plays an important part in your union. Take a few minutes to listen to a fellow member who may be having family problems, work difficulties, or who is simply having a lousy day. Listen to him or her and offer encouragement. Show that you care.

We also gain respect by not passing on unwanted gossip, unsubstantiated rumors or by falsely accusing others. We need to respect ourselves and encourage each other to be a better person and a stronger union member.

Third, **run for a union position**. Remember, it takes years to gain a decent contract and some disgruntled members can wipe it all out in a matter of days or weeks. Don't want to start from scratch? So what can you do? You need to run for an elected position; earn the respect of your members.

The union is only as strong as its members. If you believe that your local leaders aren't doing the job, then either run for that position or pick out someone who will do the job!

In the meantime, stay united. You may have differences, but the time to settle those differences is at election time. Don't give the company the satisfaction of knowing their tactics are working!



Yardmasters

By J.R. (Jim) Cumby, vice president

Why I'm voting for Kerry/Edwards

I am voting for John Kerry and John Edwards Nov. 2 because I'm worried about the future of an America that exports good-paying jobs with benefits.

If the middle class is not working, who is going to buy the goods and services that require the transportation UTU members provide?

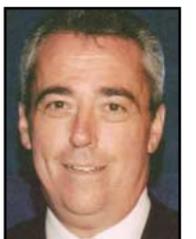
Some say if we own guns or support our troops, we should not vote the Democratic ticket. I am here to tell you that I am both proud of our troops and also enjoy my guns and hunting – and I will vote Kerry/Edwards.

I want to live in an America that ensures working men and women dignity in the work place, allows for seniority protection, pays a decent day's pay with overtime, and provides health-care insurance now and when we retire.

I want our public and private schools to teach why unions were started and why they still exist today. I want John Kerry and John Edwards in the White House.

The record of the Bush Administration is perfectly clear. The jobs being created to replace the lost manufacturing jobs are too few and at a much lower pay scale with fewer benefits. The Bush Administration opposes unions and collective bargaining and overtime pay. These policies embolden employers to take a tougher stance at the bargaining table.

We need a president who will stand up for the working men and women of America, who comprise the middle class. The Kerry/Edwards ticket offers hope for a better future. Each of the candidates supported by the UTU will help John Kerry and John Edwards fight for the middle-class values so important to us and our families.



These candidates deserve your vote!

Congressional Recommendations

Alabama

House of Representatives
Dist. 1 Joe Bonner (R)*
Dist. 3 Bill Fuller (D)
Dist. 5 Bud Cramer (D)*
Dist. 6 Spencer Bachus (R)*
Dist. 7 Artur Davis (D)*

Alaska

House of Representatives
At Large Don Young (R)*

Arizona

Senate
Stuart Starky (D)
House of Representatives
Dist. 1 Paul Babbitt (D)
Dist. 2 Randy Camacho (D)
Dist. 4 Ed Pastor (D)*
Dist. 5 Ronald Maynard (D)
Dist. 7 Raul Grijalva (D)*
Dist. 8 Eva Bacal (D)

Arkansas

Senate
Blanche Lincoln (D)*
House of Representatives
Dist. 1 Marion Berry (D)*
Dist. 2 Victor Snyder (D)*
Dist. 3 Jan Judy (D)
Dist. 4 Mike Ross (D)*

California

Senate
Barbara Boxer (D)*
House of Representatives
Dist. 1 Mike Thompson (D)*
Dist. 3 Gabe Castillo (D)
Dist. 4 Dave Winters (D)
Dist. 5 Robert Matsui (D)*
Dist. 6 Lynn Woolsey (D)*
Dist. 7 George Miller (D)*
Dist. 8 Nancy Pelosi (D)*
Dist. 9 Barbara Lee (D)*
Dist. 10 Ellen O. Tauscher (D)*
Dist. 11 Richard Pombo (R)*
Dist. 12 Tom Lantos (D)*
Dist. 13 Fortney "Pete" Stark (D)*
Dist. 14 Anna G. Eshoo (D)*
Dist. 15 Mike Honda (D)*
Dist. 16 Zoe Lofgren (D)*
Dist. 17 Sam Farr (D)*
Dist. 19 James Lex Bufford (D)
Dist. 20 Jim Costa (D)
Dist. 21 Fred B. Davis (D)
Dist. 23 Lois Capps (D)*
Dist. 24 Brett Wagner (D)
Dist. 27 Brad Sherman (D)*
Dist. 28 Howard J. Berman (D)*
Dist. 29 Adam B. Schiff (D)*
Dist. 30 Henry A. Waxman (D)*
Dist. 31 Xavier Becerra (D)*
Dist. 32 Hilda Solis (D)*
Dist. 33 Diane Watson (D)*
Dist. 34 Lucille Roybal-Allard (D)*
Dist. 35 Maxine Waters (D)*
Dist. 36 Jane Harman (D)*
Dist. 37 Juanita McDonald (D)*
Dist. 38 Grace Napolitano (D)*
Dist. 39 Linda Sanchez (D)*
Dist. 42 Lewis Myers (D)
Dist. 43 Joe Baca (D)*
Dist. 44 Louis Vandenberg (D)
Dist. 47 Loretta Sanchez (D)*
Dist. 51 Bob Filner (D)*
Dist. 53 Susan B. Davis (D)*

Colorado

Senate
Ken Salazar (D)



Ken Salazar (D)
U.S. Senate candidate, Colorado

House of Representatives
Dist. 1 Diana DeGette (D)*
Dist. 2 Mark Udall (D)*
Dist. 3 John Salazar (D)
Dist. 4 Stan Matsunaka (D)
Dist. 6 Joanna Conti (D)
Dist. 7 Dave Thomas (D)

Connecticut

Senate
Christopher Dodd (D)*
House of Representatives
Dist. 1 John Larson (D)*
Dist. 2 Jim Sullivan (D)
Dist. 3 Rosa DeLauro (D)*

Delaware

House of Representatives
At Large Michael Castle (R)*
District of Columbia
House of Representatives
At Large Eleanor Holmes Norton (D)*

Florida

Senate
Betty Castor (D)
House of Representatives
Dist. 1 Jeff Miller (R)*
Dist. 2 Allen Boyd (D)*
Dist. 3 Corrine Brown (D)*
Dist. 4 Ander Crenshaw (R)*
Dist. 5 Robert Whittell (D)
Dist. 6 Clifford Stearns (R)*
Dist. 7 John Mica (R)*
Dist. 8 Ric Keller (R)*
Dist. 9 Michael Billrakis (R)*
Dist. 10 Bill Young (R)*
Dist. 11 Jim Davis (D)*
Dist. 12 Adam Putnam (R)*
Dist. 13 Katherine Harris (R)*
Dist. 14 Connie Mack (R)
Dist. 15 Dave Weldon (R)*
Dist. 16 Mark Foley (R)*
Dist. 17 Kendrick Meek (D)*
Dist. 18 Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R)*
Dist. 19 Robert Wexler (D)*
Dist. 20 Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D)
Dist. 21 Lincoln Diaz Balart (R)*
Dist. 22 Clay Shaw (R)*
Dist. 23 Alcee Hastings (D)*
Dist. 24 Tom Feeney (R)*
Dist. 25 Mario Diaz-Balart (R)*

Georgia

Senate
Johnny Isakson (R)
House of Representatives
Dist. 2 Sanford Bishop (D)*
Dist. 3 Jim Marshall (D)*
Dist. 4 Cynthia McKinney (D)*
Dist. 5 John Lewis (D)*
Dist. 12 John Barrow (D)
Dist. 13 David Scott (D)*

Hawaii

Senate
Daniel Inouye (D)*
House of Representatives
Dist. 1 Neil Abercrombie (D)*
Dist. 2 Ed Case (D)*

Idaho

Senate
Michael Crapo (R)*
House of Representatives
Dist. 2 Lin Whitworth (D)

Illinois

Senate
Barack Obama (D)
House of Representatives
Dist. 1 Bobby Rush (D)*
Dist. 2 Jesse Jackson Jr. (D)*
Dist. 3 Daniel Lipinski (D)
Dist. 4 Luis Gutierrez (D)*
Dist. 5 Rahm Emanuel (D)*
Dist. 7 Danny Davis (D)*
Dist. 9 Jan Schakowsky (D)*
Dist. 10 Mark Kirk (R)*
Dist. 11 Jerry Weller (R)*
Dist. 12 Jerry Costello (D)*
Dist. 13 Judy Biggert (R)*
Dist. 14 J. Dennis Hastert (R)*
Dist. 15 Tim Johnson (R)*
Dist. 17 Lane Evans (D)*
Dist. 18 Ray LaHood (R)*
Dist. 19 John Shimkus (R)*

Indiana

Senate
Evan Bayh (D)*
House of Representatives
Dist. 1 Peter J. Visclosky (D)*
Dist. 2 Joe Donnelly (D)
Dist. 5 Katherine Carr (D)
Dist. 6 Mel Fox (D)
Dist. 7 Julia Carson (D)*
Dist. 8 Jon P. Jennings (D)
Dist. 9 Baron Hill (D)*



Betty Castor (D)
U.S. Senate candidate, Florida

Iowa

House of Representatives
Dist. 3 Leonard L. Boswell (D)*

Kansas

Senate
Sam Brownback (R)*

Kentucky

House of Representatives
Dist. 1 Jerry Moran (R)*
Dist. 2 Nancy Boyda (D)
Dist. 4 Dennis Moore (D)*

Kentucky

Senate
Daniel Mongiardo (D)

House of Representatives
Dist. 3 Tony Miller (D)
Dist. 4 Nick Clooney (D)
Dist. 6 Ben Chandler (D)*

Louisiana

Senate
John Kennedy (D)
House of Representatives
Dist. 2 William Jefferson (D)*
Dist. 3 Charlie Melancon (D)
Dist. 5 Zeldia Blakes (D)
Dist. 7 Donald Cravins (D)

Maine

House of Representatives
Dist. 1 Thomas H. Allen (D)*
Dist. 2 Michael Michaud (D)*



Barak Obama (D)
U.S. Senate candidate, Illinois

Maryland

Senate
Barbara Mikulski (D)*
House of Representatives
Dist. 2 C.A. "Dutch" Ruppersberger (D)*
Dist. 3 Benjamin L. Cardin (D)*
Dist. 4 Albert R. Wynn (D)*
Dist. 5 Steny H. Hoyer (D)*
Dist. 7 Elijah Cummings (D)*
Dist. 8 Chris Van Hollen (D)*

Massachusetts

House of Representatives
Dist. 1 John W. Olver (D)*
Dist. 2 Richard E. Neal (D)*
Dist. 3 James P. McGovern (D)*
Dist. 4 Barney Frank (D)*
Dist. 5 Martin T. Meehan (D)*
Dist. 6 John F. Tierney (D)*
Dist. 7 Edward J. Markey (D)*
Dist. 8 Michael E. Capuano (D)*
Dist. 9 Stephen F. Lynch (D)*
Dist. 10 William D. Delahunt (D)*

Michigan

House of Representatives
Dist. 1 Bart Stupak (D)*
Dist. 4 David Camp (R)*
Dist. 5 Dale Kildee (D)*
Dist. 7 Joe Schwarz (R)
Dist. 12 Sander Levin (D)*
Dist. 13 Carolyn Kilpatrick (D)*
Dist. 14 John Conyers (D)*
Dist. 15 John Dingell (D)*

Minnesota

House of Representatives
Dist. 1 Leigh Pomeroy (D)
Dist. 2 Teresa Daly (D)
Dist. 3 Deborah Watts (D)
Dist. 4 Betty McCollum (D)*
Dist. 5 Martin Olav Sabo (D)*
Dist. 6 Patty Wetterling (D)
Dist. 7 Collin C. Peterson (D)*
Dist. 8 James L. Oberstar (D)*

Mississippi

House of Representatives
Dist. 2 Bennie Thompson (D)*
Dist. 3 Charles Pickering (R)*
Dist. 4 Gene Taylor (D)*

Missouri

Senate
Nancy Farmer (D)
House of Representatives
Dist. 1 William L. Clay (D)*
Dist. 3 Russ Carnahan (D)
Dist. 4 Ike Skelton (D)*
Dist. 5 Emanuel Cleaver II (D)
Dist. 6 Charlie Broomfield (D)
Dist. 7 Roy Blunt (R)*
Dist. 8 JoAnn Emerson (R)*
Dist. 9 Linda Jacobsen (D)

Montana

House of Representatives
At Large Tracy Velazquez (D)

Nebraska

House of Representatives
Dist. 1 Matt Conneally (D)
Dist. 2 Nancy Thompson (D)
Dist. 3 Tom Osborne (R)*

Nevada

Senate
Harry Reid (D)*
House of Representatives
Dist. 1 Shelley Berkley (D)*
Dist. 3 Tom Gallagher (D)

New Hampshire

Senate
Doris Haddock (D)
House of Representatives
Dist. 1 Justin Nadeau (D)
Dist. 2 Paul Hodes (D)

New Jersey

House of Representatives
Dist. 1 Robert Andrews (D)*
Dist. 2 Frank A. LoBiondo (R)*
Dist. 3 James Saxton (R)*
Dist. 4 Christopher Smith (R)*
Dist. 6 Frank Pallone (D)*
Dist. 7 Michael Ferguson (R)*
Dist. 8 Bill Pascrell Jr. (D)*
Dist. 9 Steve Rothman (D)*
Dist. 10 Donald Payne (D)*
Dist. 11 James W. Buell (D)
Dist. 12 Rush Holt (D)*
Dist. 13 Robert Menendez (D)*

New Mexico

House of Representatives
Dist. 1 Richard M. Romero (D)
Dist. 2 Gary K. King (D)
Dist. 3 Tom Udall (D)*

New York

Senate
Charles Schumer (D)*
House of Representatives
Dist. 1 Timothy H. Bishop (D)*
Dist. 2 Steve J. Israel (D)*
Dist. 3 Peter T. King (R)*
Dist. 4 Carolyn McCarthy (D)*
Dist. 5 Gary L. Ackerman (D)*
Dist. 6 Gregory W. Meeks (D)*
Dist. 7 Joseph Crowley (D)*
Dist. 8 Jerrold L. Nadler (D)*
Dist. 9 Anthony D. Weiner (D)*
Dist. 10 Edolphus Towns (D)*
Dist. 11 Major R. Owens (D)*
Dist. 12 Nydia M. Velasquez (D)*
Dist. 14 Carolyn B. Maloney (D)*
Dist. 15 Charles B. Rangel (D)*



Erskine Bowles (D) (2nd from left)
U.S. Senate candidate, North Carolina

Dist. 16 Jose E. Serrano (D)*
Dist. 17 Eliot Engel (D)*
Dist. 18 Mita M. Lowey (D)*
Dist. 19 Sue W. Kelly (R)*
Dist. 20 John E. Sweeney (R)*
Dist. 21 Michael McNulty (D)*
Dist. 22 Maurice D. Hinchey (D)*
Dist. 23 John M. McHugh (R)*
Dist. 24 Sherwood L. Boehlert (R)*
Dist. 25 James T. Walsh (R)*
Dist. 26 Thomas M. Reynolds (R)*
Dist. 27 Brian M. Higgins (D)
Dist. 28 Louise M. Slaughter (D)*
Dist. 29 John Randy Kuhl (R)

North Carolina

Senate
Erskine Bowles (D)
House of Representatives
Dist. 1 G.K. Butterfield (D)*
Dist. 2 Bob Etheridge (D)*
Dist. 4 David Price (D)*
Dist. 5 Jim Harrell Jr. (D)
Dist. 8 Beth Troutman (D)
Dist. 11 Patsy Keever (D)
Dist. 12 Mel Watt (D)*
Dist. 13 Brad Miller (D)*

North Dakota

Senate
Byron Dorgan (D)*
House of Representatives
At Large Earl Pomeroy (D)*

Ohio

Senate
Eric Fingerhut (D)
House of Representatives
Dist. 1 Greg Harris (D)
Dist. 2 Charles Sanders (D)
Dist. 3 Jane Mitakides (D)
Dist. 5 Paul E. Gillmor (R)*
Dist. 6 Ted Strickland (D)*
Dist. 7 Kara Anastasio (D)
Dist. 8 Jeff Hardenbrook (D)
Dist. 9 Marcy Kaptur (D)*
Dist. 10 Dennis J. Kucinich (D)*
Dist. 11 Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D)*
Dist. 13 Sherrod Brown (D)*
Dist. 14 Steven C. LaTourette (R)*
Dist. 16 Ralph Regula (R)*
Dist. 17 Timothy J. Ryan (D)*
Dist. 18 Bob Ney (R)*

Oklahoma

Senate
Brad Carson (D)
House of Representatives
Dist. 2 Dan Boren (D)

Oregon

Senate
Ron Wyden (D)*
House of Representatives
Dist. 1 David Wu (D)*
Dist. 2 Greg Walden (R)*
Dist. 3 Earl Blumenauer (D)*
Dist. 4 Peter DeFazio (D)*
Dist. 5 Darlene Hooley (D)*

Pennsylvania

Senate
Arlen Specter (R)*
House of Representatives
Dist. 1 Robert A. Brady (D)*
Dist. 2 Chaka Fattah (D)*
Dist. 3 Phil English (R)
Dist. 5 John E. Peterson (R)*
Dist. 7 Curt Weldon (R)*
Dist. 9 Bill Shuster (R)*
Dist. 10 Don Sherwood (R)*
Dist. 11 Paul E. Kanjorski (D)*
Dist. 12 John P. Murtha (D)*
Dist. 13 Allyson Schwartz (D)
Dist. 14 Mike Doyle (D)*
Dist. 15 Joe Driscoll (D)
Dist. 16 Lois K. Herr (D)
Dist. 17 Tim Holden (D)*
Dist. 18 Tim Murphy (R)*
Dist. 19 Todd Platts (R)*

Rhode Island

House of Representatives
Dist. 1 Patrick J. Kennedy (D)*
Dist. 2 James R. Langevin (D)*

South Carolina

Senate
Inez Tenenbaum (D)
House of Representatives
Dist. 1 Henry Brown (R)*
Dist. 5 John Spratt (D)*
Dist. 6 James Clyburn (D)*



Johnny Isakson (R)
U.S. Senate candidate, Georgia

South Dakota

Senate
Tom Daschle (D)*
House of Representatives
At Large Stephanie Herseth (D)*

Tennessee

House of Representatives
Dist. 2 John J. Duncan Jr. (R)*
Dist. 4 Lincoln Davis (D)*
Dist. 5 Jim Cooper (D)*
Dist. 6 Bart Gordon (D)*
Dist. 8 John Tanner (D)*
Dist. 9 Harold Ford Jr. (D)*

Texas

House of Representatives
Dist. 1 Max Sandlin (D)*
Dist. 2 Nick Lampson (D)*
Dist. 9 Al Green (D)
Dist. 15 Ruben Hinojosa (D)*
Dist. 16 Silvestre Reyes (D)*

Dist. 17 Chet Edwards (D)*
Dist. 18 Sheila Jackson Lee (D)*
Dist. 19 Charlie Stenholm (D)*
Dist. 20 Charlie Gonzalez (D)*
Dist. 25 Lloyd Doggett (D)*
Dist. 27 Solomon Ortiz (D)*
Dist. 28 Henry Cuellar (D)*
Dist. 29 Gene Green (D)*
Dist. 30 Eddie Bernice Johnson (D)*
Dist. 31 Martin Frost (D)*

Utah

Senate
Paul Van Dam (D)
House of Representatives
Dist. 2 Jim Matheson (D)*

Vermont

Senate
Patrick Leahy (D)*
House of Representatives
At Large Bernard Sanders (I)

Virginia

House of Representatives
Dist. 1 Jo Ann Davis (R)*
Dist. 2 David Ashe (D)
Dist. 3 Bobby Scott (D)*
Dist. 6 Bob Goodlatte (R)*
Dist. 7 Eric Cantor (R)*
Dist. 8 James P. Moran (D)*
Dist. 9 Rick Boucher (D)*
Dist. 11 Thomas M. Davis III (R)*

Washington

Senate
Patty Murray (D)*
House of Representatives
Dist. 1 Jay Inslee (D)*
Dist. 2 Rick Larsen (D)*
Dist. 3 Brian Baird (D)*
Dist. 4 Sandy Matheson (D)
Dist. 5 Don Barbieri (D)
Dist. 6 Norm Dicks (D)*
Dist. 7 Jim McDermott (D)*
Dist. 8 Dave Ross (D)
Dist. 9 Adam Smith (D)*

West Virginia

Senate
John Rockefeller (D)*
House of Representatives
Dist. 1 Alan Mollohan (D)*
Dist. 2 Shelley Moore Capito (R)*
Dist. 3 Nick J. Rahall (D)*

Wisconsin

Senate
Russell D. Feingold (D)*
House of Representatives
Dist. 2 Tammy S.G. Baldwin (D)*
Dist. 3 Ronald J. Kind (D)*
Dist. 4 Gwen Moore (D)
Dist. 5 Thomas E. Petri (R)*
Dist. 7 David Ross Obey (D)*

Wyoming

House of Representatives
At Large Ted Ladd (D)



Tom Daschle (D)
U.S. Senator, South Dakota

* denotes incumbent

UTU for Life

Medicare premiums to rise 17.5 percent

Health insurance premiums for senior citizens enrolled in Medicare will rise 17.5 percent in 2005, bringing the total monthly payment to \$78.20, Bush administration officials said.

The increase, affecting 42 million disabled and elderly Medicare beneficiaries, will be the largest in 15 years, exceeding recent premium hikes for private health insurance.

Retirees who choose a managed-care plan, dubbed "Medicare Advantage," should see lower co-payments and more preventive services such as dental and vision care, the administration said. Some of those plans also provide limited prescription drug benefits.

In dollars, the premium increase, up from \$66 this year, is the largest ever, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Robert M. Hayes, president of the Medicare Rights Center, said the increase will be especially painful because Social Security payments are expected to rise less than 3 percent.

Last year, President Bush signed legislation offering drug coverage to all senior citizens. When the law is implemented in 2006, Medicare recipients will have the option of paying about \$35 a month extra for prescription drug coverage.

The typical retiree who purchases Medicare coverage and the drug benefit will pay more than \$115 in monthly premiums, a \$110 annual deductible for outpatient care, and co-payments for physician visits and medications.

The administration touted several program changes included in the Medicare drug legislation. As people reach age 65 and become eligible for the federal health plan, they will receive a comprehensive, complimentary "welcome-to-Medicare" physical exam.

For the first time, however, the law requires wealthier patients to pay more for their health care. The "means test" will result in higher premiums for seniors with incomes above \$80,000.



'Current connection' affects Railroad Retirement benefits

By V.M. "Butch" Speakman Jr.

Under the Railroad Retirement Act, a "current connection with the railroad industry" is one of the eligibility requirements for occupational disability annuities and supplemental annuities, and is one of the criteria for determining whether the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) or the Social Security Administration has jurisdiction over the payment of monthly benefits to survivors of a railroad employee. The following questions and answers describe the current connection requirement and some of the ways the requirement can be met.



V.M. Speakman

How is a current connection determined under the Railroad Retirement Act?

An employee must generally have been credited with railroad service in at least 12 months of the 30 months immediately preceding the month his or her Railroad Retirement annuity begins. If the employee died before retirement, railroad service in at least 12 months in the 30 months before death will meet the requirement for the purpose of paying survivor benefits.

If an employee does not qualify on this basis, but has 12 months' service in an earlier 30-month period, he or she may still meet the current connection requirement.

A current connection established at the time the Railroad Retirement annuity begins is permanent. The employee never loses it no matter what kind of work is performed thereafter.

Can nonrailroad work before retirement break a former railroad employee's current connection?

Full- or part-time work for a nonrailroad employer in an interim between the end of the last 30-month period including 12 months of railroad service and the beginning date of an

employee's annuity, or the date of death if earlier, can break a current connection.

Self-employment in an unincorporated business will not break a current connection. However, if the business is incorporated, compensated service will break a current connection.

Federal employment with the Department of Transportation, the National Transportation Safety Board, the National Mediation Board, the Surface Transportation Board or the RRB will not break a current connection. Also, neither state employment with the Alaska Railroad, so long as that railroad remains an entity of the State of Alaska, nor non-creditable Canadian railroad service will break a current connection.

Are there any exceptions to these procedures for determining a current connection?

A current connection can be maintained for purposes of supplemental and survivor annuities if the employee completed 25 years of railroad service, was involuntarily terminated without fault from the railroad industry, and did not thereafter decline an offer to return to work in the same class or craft as his or her most recent service, regardless of the location of the work offered. If these requirements are met, an employee's current connection may not be broken, even if the employee works in regular non-railroad employment after the 30-month period and before retirement or death. This exception to the normal current connection requirement became effective October 1, 1981, but only for employees still living on that date who left the rail industry on or after October 1, 1975, or who were on leave of absence, on furlough, or absent due to injury on October 1, 1975.

For full information, contact the nearest field office of the RRB. Persons can find the address and phone number of the board office serving their area by calling the automated toll-free RRB Help Line at 1-800-808-0772 or by checking the board's website at www.rrb.gov.

V.M. "Butch" Speakman Jr. serves as labor member of the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board.

THE FINAL CALL

Following are the names of recently deceased retirees who maintained annual membership in the UTU For Life program (formerly known as the UTU Retiree Program), according to reports received at UTU International Headquarters. These brothers and sisters will be missed by their many friends and by fellow UTU For Life members.

Local	Name	City/State	Local	Name	City/State	Local	Name	City/State
2	Dick, Curtis E.	Oregon, Ohio	462	Bell, John B.	Pine Bluff, Ark.	1313	Hughes, Jerald H.	Amarillo, Texas
5	Sloan, George F.	Lawson, Mo.	492	Bedient, Leland F.	Oroville, Calif.	1376	Eichenberger, George D.	Columbus, Ohio
7	Horne, Luther C.	N. Platte, Neb.	524	Mitchell, Henry W.	Palestine, Texas	1382	Kaufmann, Wayne L.	Milwaukee, Wis.
18	Sebastian, Frank J.	El Paso, Texas	586	Sawyer, William C.	Seneca, S.C.	1390	Kellar, Julius H.	Ringwood, N.J.
48	Lynn, James T.	Virginia Beach, Va.	632	McIntyre, Paul E.	Pittsburgh, Pa.	1393	Eisenhauer, William J.	Depew, N.Y.
48	Walker, Larry W.	Chesapeake, Va.	662	McLean, Richard D.	Coloma, Mich.	1445	Devaney, Michael	Elmhurst, N.Y.
61	Rivet Jr., Patrick W.	Collingdale, Pa.	781	Pearce, William L.	Shreveport, La.	1470	Gee, Wallace W.	Burlington, N.C.
195	Lehman, Charles E.	Lyndon, Ill.	783	Lewey, James E.	Winston-Salem, N.C.	1548	Allen, Prier O.	Indianapolis, Ind.
212	Maples Sr., Robert N.	Rochester, N.Y.	830	Wolfgang, Thomas I.	Gordon, Pa.	1563	Bell, Thomas L.	Carson, Calif.
243	Preston, Barton A.	Denison, Texas	835	Hicks, Clarence A.	Warrenton, Va.	1564	Gebauer, Richard G.	Norwalk, Calif.
281	Dietz, Edward W.	Milwaukee, Wis.	894	Hanna, Richard A.	Sapulpa, Okla.	1573	Price, William F.	Klamath Falls, Ore.
298	Connolly, Dennis S.	Crestwood, Ill.	931	Yarbray, Elijah W.	Travelers Rest, S.C.	1628	Garufi, Charles V.	Franklin, Mass.
305	Kleinberg, Terrance D.	S. Sioux City, Neb.	950	Camp, James B.	Paragould, Ark.	1628	Malecky, Thomas	W. Mifflin, Pa.
305	McDonald, Charles H.	Lincoln, Neb.	997	Springer, Lewis F.	Morrisville, Pa.	1760	Holman, William E.	Canton, Mich.
378	McBrayer, Lloyd	Richmond Hts., Ohio	1033	Morris, George W.	Mableton, Ga.	1933	Cucci, Frances	Quinton, Va.
418	Zook, Glenn R.	Sioux City, Iowa	1074	Jenkins, Lawrence W.	Irwin, Pa.	1963	Hurt, Jerry D.	Henderson, Ky.
419	Onorati, Memmo J.	Maple Shade, N.J.	1117	Varin, J. Normand	Nampa, Idaho			
453	Peacock, Charles L.	Kenney, Ill.	1129	Cobb, William C.	Greenville, N.C.			
454	Butta, Vincent	Parkville, Md.	1238	Elliott, Charles D.	Vancouver, Wash.			

NOTE: Erroneously included in this listing recently was Charles W. Hite Sr. of Local 446, who resides in Omaha, Neb., and Jack Lewis Frost of Local 49, who lives in San Antonio, Tex.

If a tragedy strikes...

UTUIA can help!

What would you do if you were unable to work because of injury or illness? Do you have sufficient savings to pay your bills for six, twelve or even eighteen months?

UTUIA can help! With **Disability Income Replacement** insurance, you can protect your earning power and provide the necessary funds to maintain the quality of life you have come to enjoy.

UTUIA's **Disability Income Replacement** insurance will be there when you need it most. It cannot be canceled, regardless of the number of claims, as long as premiums are paid.

For more information, call us toll-free at **(800) 558-8842** for assistance from your UTUIA representative.



Information, please

I would like more information on UTUIA's Disability Income Replacement Insurance.

Please print

Full name of member

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

10/04



UTU PAC HONOR ROLL

Individuals who have begun contributing to UTU PAC or increased their donations to \$100 or more, per year, during the past month

Name	Local	City	Name	Local	City
PLATINUM CLUB (\$1,200 OR MORE PER YEAR)					
Lewis Jr., Harry C.	597	Des Plaines, Ill.	Tilley Jr., John D.	773	Galveston, Tex.
Brugess, George T.	1620	Elkhart, Ind.	*Blazeski, Stanley	792	Cleveland, Ohio
DOUBLE DIAMOND CLUB (\$600 OR MORE PER YEAR)					
Hood, James R.	202	Denver, Colo.	Araas, Robert L.	951	Sheridan, Wyo.
DOLLAR-A-DAY CLUB (\$365 OR MORE PER YEAR)					
Sampson, Lorrie L.	1840	Glasgow, Mont.	Bohnsack, Nick W.	951	Sheridan, Wyo.
DIAMOND CLUB (\$300 OR MORE PER YEAR)					
Boswell, Jason T.	206	Peru, Ind.	Carson, Michael E.	1137	Fargo, N.D.
Weinmeister, Earnest T.	257	Morrill, Nebr.	Korczak, Matthew H.	1137	Fargo, N.D.
Layton, Harlan D.	305	Lincoln, Nebr.	Huber, Allan L.	1186	Gary, Ind.
Fowler, Curtis W.	500	Grand Junction, Colo.	Zobrist, Tim A.	1293	Altoona, Wis.
Zigal, Dennis W.	508	Smithville, Tex.	Patrick, Herchel J.	1316	Ravenna, Ky.
GOLD CLUB (\$100 OR MORE PER YEAR)					
Burkey, Chester J.	2	Toledo, Ohio	Burns, Charles K.	1334	Hattiesburg, Miss.
Ahrens, Roger D.	64	Huron, S.D.	Melton, Anthony J.	1334	Hattiesburg, Miss.
Baribeau, Chad A.	64	Huron, S.D.	Russum Jr., Jerry R.	1334	Hattiesburg, Miss.
Peterson, Randy L.	64	Huron, S.D.	Hopson, Gary J.	1361	New Haven, Conn.
Shillingstad, William J.	64	Huron, S.D.	Esposito, Thomas M.	1413	Jersey City, N.J.
Beahr, Earl J.	145	Columbus, Ohio	Threeton Jr., George P.	1501	Baton Rouge, La.
Dugan, James C.	257	Morrill, Nebr.	Bush, Damian D.	1524	Houston, Tex.
Tschida, Shawn Alan	257	Morrill, Nebr.	Fleming, Timothy A.	1524	Houston, Tex.
Baker, John A.	298	Garrett, Ind.	Garrett, Eldwin L.	1524	Houston, Tex.
Edwards, Kenneth R.	298	Garrett, Ind.	Gay, Rusty J.	1524	Houston, Tex.
Shumate, Adam W.	305	Lincoln, Nebr.	Nevills, Johnnie R.	1524	Houston, Tex.
Bassinger Jr., Richard L.	340	Connellsville, Pa.	Randle, Roderick L.	1524	Houston, Tex.
Golobish, Michael P.	340	Connellsville, Pa.	Richey, Joseph L.	1524	Houston, Tex.
Quairiere, Barry R.	340	Connellsville, Pa.	Robertson Jr., Ronald W.	1524	Houston, Tex.
Sproat, Michael A.	340	Connellsville, Pa.	Tacquard, Bryan S.	1524	Houston, Tex.
Baldwin, Dwain S.	363	Roanoke, Va.	Tuttle, Stephen L.	1524	Houston, Tex.
*Sobina, John F.	421	Conneaut, Ohio	Wolny, Mike	1524	Houston, Tex.
Allen, Steven R.	427	McComb, Miss.	*Boston, Arthur W.	1532	Kansas City, Kans.
Fletcher, Imari C.	427	McComb, Miss.	Head, Donnie D.	1567	Corbin, Ky.
*Liniger, Dean E.	490	Princeton, Ind.	Williams, James R.	1736	Flint, Mich.
Skinner, Ryan L.	500	Grand Junction, Colo.	Thomson, Marshall W.	1741	San Francisco, Calif.
Gholson, Thomas P.	573	Danville, Ky.	Anthony, Dane T.	1840	Glasgow, Mont.
Bianchi Jr., James	577	Northlake, Ill.	Baillargeon, Robert W.	1840	Glasgow, Mont.
Taylor, Steve	620	Chicago, Ill.	Bell, Walter E.	1840	Glasgow, Mont.
Ayers Jr., David S.	706	Roanoke, Va.	Brandt, James R.	1840	Glasgow, Mont.
Cavanaugh, John	773	Galveston, Tex.	Campbell, Robert C.	1840	Glasgow, Mont.
Cook, Billy P.	773	Galveston, Tex.	Galland, Samuel J.	1840	Glasgow, Mont.
Copeland Jr., Donnie F.	773	Galveston, Tex.	Gardner, Garret L.	1840	Glasgow, Mont.
Craft, Derrick	773	Galveston, Tex.	Hicks, Anthony O.	1840	Glasgow, Mont.
Horn, Patrick	773	Galveston, Tex.	Hockhalter, Larry D.	1840	Glasgow, Mont.
Jones, Ian M.	773	Galveston, Tex.	Israel, Todd D.	1840	Glasgow, Mont.
Labauve, Christopher L.	773	Galveston, Tex.	Johnson, Travis	1840	Glasgow, Mont.
McDaniel, Ricky G.	773	Galveston, Tex.	Knierim, John M.	1840	Glasgow, Mont.
McGee, Marshall C.	773	Galveston, Tex.	Lee, David R.	1840	Glasgow, Mont.
Norton Jr., Roy L.	773	Galveston, Tex.	Long, Jay L.	1840	Glasgow, Mont.
Penn, Brian D.	773	Galveston, Tex.	Morken, Garrett E.	1840	Glasgow, Mont.
Thomas, Jermaine	773	Galveston, Tex.	Murch, Gerald L.	1840	Glasgow, Mont.
			Murr, Kent M.	1840	Glasgow, Mont.
			Schindler, Kent A.	1840	Glasgow, Mont.
			Teskey, Robert R.	1840	Glasgow, Mont.
			Vilhauer, Larue A.	1840	Glasgow, Mont.
			Hunt, David C.	1841	Klamath Falls, Ore.
			UTU Auxiliary Lodge	915	Chattanooga, Tenn.

* = Retired member

UnitedHealthcare sends enrollment information

United Transportation Union members last month received their annual re-enrollment information from UnitedHealthcare that outlined the health plan and health benefit provider options available under the NRC/UTU Health and Welfare Plan.

One important change to note is that effective Jan. 1, 2005, those employees selecting Blue Cross Blue Shield as the benefit provider for employee and/or dependent health benefits will have those benefits administered by Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Pittsburgh, Pa., rather than by Regence Life and Health Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oregon.

There will be no change in any of the current benefits provided under the NRC/UTU Health and Welfare Plan, but effective Jan. 1, 2005, the Blue Cross Blue Shield benefits will be administered by Highmark.

In addition, UTU engine-service members not currently eligible to select Blue Cross Blue Shield as a medical benefit provider under the National Health and Welfare Plan will now have the opportunity to do so under the engine-service agreement, and their selection of Blue Cross Blue Shield will become effective Jan. 1, 2005.

Any questions you may have about participating doctors and/or hospitals should be referred to Highmark by calling toll-free (866) 267-3320 or by visiting the website at www.highmark.com.

Soo Line strike

Continued from page 1

Line. During the walkout, the Soo Line brought in scabs from Canada in violation of U.S. immigration law and the North American Free Trade Agreement. Those Soo Line scabs and "King Scab" McLaughlin's order that engineers cross the UTU picket lines and work with the scabs failed to sway the battle.

On Aug. 29, 1994, President Clinton appointed Presidential Emergency Board (PEB) 225, which rejected the Soo Line's claims of financial hardship and recommended wage increases, lump-sum payments and cost-of-living increases along the lines of the 1991 national agreement negotiated by the UTU with most of the other major U.S. railroads.

Following the report of PEB 225, the Soo Line settled the strike largely along the lines of those recommendations, giving the UTU a solid victory.

Thompson recognized the efforts of UTU Vice President Bruce Wigent – who with then-Soo Line general chairpersons Gene Von Essen and Jim Beyer, and with full support from then-UTU International President G. Thomas DuBose – provided the strike leadership that culminated with the UTU victory. He also thanked current General Chairperson Dennis Baker for helping to organize the victory celebration.

"As trade unionists, we share with our forefathers a great history," Thompson told the celebrants. "Almost everything that makes us a rich nation flows from successful struggles of

the working men and women of the U.S. who comprise the so-called middle class. The middle class was one of the original goals of the labor movement. Organized labor was responsible for the abolishment of child labor, the achievement of the eight-hour day, overtime pay, safety laws, paid vacation, paid holidays, health-care insurance, laws that recognized the right of workers to organize and choose their own bargaining representatives, and worker pension plans," Thompson said.

"As union members, we share a huge responsibility to continue the fight to protect those accomplishments – and the UTU did just that in 1994 against the Soo Line," Thompson said.

"Every day, George W. Bush, many conservative Republicans and corporate America are threatening to eliminate the middle class," Thompson said. "Enemies of labor want to eliminate overtime pay, weaken labor laws and export good-paying jobs.

"In fact, the Bush Administration is considered by railroad management as crucial to delivering new punishing blows to railroad workers," Thompson said. "Burlington Northern Santa Fe Chairman Matt Rose, one of George Bush's top fundraisers, recently boasted, and I quote, 'Achieving one-man crews to operate a relatively large proportion of through trains will be hard fought and will only be possible if a Republican administration remains in the executive branch.'

"If George W. Bush is re-elected, and the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate remain in Republican control, we will have a tough fight on our hands that will include an all-out attack on the Federal Employers' Liability Act (FELA)," Thompson said.

BNSF will seek one-person crews if Bush is re-elected



UTU International President Paul Thompson, right, and International Vice President Bruce Wigent relate how many BLE members and TCU President Robert Scardelletti displayed solidarity with the UTU after the BLE ordered its members to scab against the UTU in 1994.

"Ten years ago, during that 47-day successful strike against the Soo Line, all of rail labor helped in keeping labor's agenda alive," Thompson said. "The fight is not over. It will never be over.

"Our will is the will of the disinherited, the forgotten and the oppressed," Thompson said. "We must remember our roots, recall our battles that created a middle class, and rededicate ourselves to organizing and unifying," Thompson said. "Only through our unified strength, sense of purpose and unswerving resolve shall we continue to fight the successful fight of the middle class.

"God bless those brave and dedicated trade unionists who fought the fight in 1994 against the Soo Line. God bless all our brave and dedicated trade unionists today," Thompson said.

Members support

Continued from page 1

George Bagby, retired conductor, former Wyoming legislative director and member of UTU Local 866, Rawlins, Wyo: "John Kerry is in favor of unions and collective bargaining; Bush is not. Kerry does not cross picket lines; Bush would. Bush has done all he can to destroy unions. Bush is not union friendly. If we had a wage problem, we would be able to talk to President Kerry; his door would always be open to us. The railroads want one-person crews and Bush would probably support them on that."

Missouri State Legislative Director Larry Foster: "Legislation that we need to improve our working conditions and safety laws will pass only if we have the Democrats in



Foster

control, at both the state and federal levels. If we continue to have a Republican-controlled Congress, we will need a Democrat in the White House who can use his veto power to halt some of the bad legislation. With Kerry in the White House, if we went on strike, Kerry would appoint a fairer presidential emergency board than you would get with Bush."

Nancy Drummond, Wyoming UTU Auxiliary legislative director: "My dad worked in the automobile industry and I was raised Democratic, so I know from experience that when we have a Democrat in the White House, wages improve for the working men and women of the country. Democrats take care of people; Republicans take care of corporations. The carriers



Local 951 (BNSF, Sheridan, Wyo.) Local Chairperson Bruce "Bulldog" Drummond and wife Nancy at the Democratic National Convention.

know that under a Republican administration, they have greater success at public law boards. Under a Democratic administration, these law boards will generally favor the employees."

NMB fees

Continued from page 1

burden unions with inequitable costs when, in fact, carriers are the primary beneficiary of most arbitration actions as unions are not permitted to strike over so-called minor disputes, which include interpretation of contracts.

The UTU told the NMB that the rules it proposes are beyond its statutory authority, would violate specific statutory commands

and are just plain inequitable. Indeed, in 1934, rail labor gave up the right to strike over so-called minor disputes in exchange for government funding of arbitration.

"The NMB's sole functions in the mandatory arbitration process" are the appointment of referees and the setting of compensation for referees at the National Railroad Adjustment Board, the UTU told the NMB. The role of the NMB is not to impose fees upon unions for arbitration services.

The UTU said the proposed fee schedule does not make clear that carriers would also

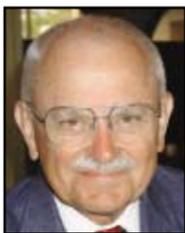
share with unions the costs the NMB wishes to shift to the parties. "If fees are to be imposed, both parties should pay them," the UTU said.

"The carriers are the beneficiaries of the mandatory arbitration system under the Railway Labor Act," the UTU said. "Mandatory arbitration is the basis for enjoining unions from striking over minor disputes. Railroads are richer than unions and they should not benefit from a mandatory arbitration system that limits the right to strike without paying equally."

Your biggest investment? Your brain

By Dr. Norman Brown
UTU Medical Consultant

Most of us would agree that we should do all we can to preserve and protect the working of our brains, the part of us that makes us who we are and different from each other.



Brown

Aside from head injuries, the most common damage to our brain comes from circulation difficulties. These difficulties can occur from too little blood flowing to one area of the brain because of a clot in the blood vessel, or too much blood flowing to one place because of a sudden blood vessel leak, or hemorrhage. Both are commonly referred to as "strokes."

There are steps each of us can and should be taking to reduce the chances of our having either of these types of strokes.

A cholesterol deposit in a brain artery triggers the most common clot-type injury. So, just as we can watch our diets (weight), engage in exercise,

reduce or eliminate smoking, and control blood pressure and diabetes to protect our hearts, there are programs to protect our brain's blood vessels.

It is always difficult to start and to stick to such programs, but your doctor will always be pleased to try to help you. Medications for both cholesterol reduction and blood pressure control are available to bolster your efforts. These medications have advanced greatly in effectiveness over the past 20 years.

The occurrence of the hemorrhagic or bleeding type of stroke, which is less common, is also reduced by attention to "blood vessel/heart healthy" programs – such as control of blood pressure.

Once the possibility of a stroke is present, there are some newer techniques for treating strokes that give us new hope – in particular, medications or lasers that help break up or dissolve blood clots and even devices such as snares and blades that are being developed to attempt removal of clot material. These last methods are still experimental, but for some people the results have been encouraging. In

all cases, the time from the onset of symptoms to when treatment begins is extremely important.

When I say the sooner the better, I am talking about three to six hours maximum after the first symptoms. Former President Bill Clinton saved his own life by not waiting too long in the presence of symptoms of potential heart-muscle damage.

Let's review some of the symptoms of early or threatened strokes:

- Sudden onset of weakness or clumsiness or numbness in an arm and/or leg, usually without pain;
- Walking or balance problems;
- Speech difficulty;
- Sudden vision loss;
- Sudden onset of very severe headaches.

If any of these happen to you or a loved one, please seek medical help immediately.

Your health will always be way ahead if you think prevention because protecting your heart and the blood vessels throughout your body will help you to a longer, healthier life.

UTU 35th Anniversary watch now available



Each UTU 35th Anniversary limited-edition gold watch features a brilliant, die-struck, 14-karat gold-filled watch face and a number of certification on the back.

The UTU has commissioned a **35th Anniversary Limited-Edition union-made watch** for the members of this great union. The watch, created by American Time, features a brilliant, die-struck, 14-karat gold-filled watch face that captures the detail of the union logo in proof-coin brilliance.

Sequentially numbered from 1 to 1,000 (men's) and 1 to 500 (ladies'), this limited-edition members' watch will provide you with an heirloom that will be treasured forever.

The timepieces are created by union-represented watchmakers at the American Time Company in Rochester, N.Y., so you know these watches guarantee you quality and reliability in the tradition of the great railroad watches of yesteryear.

The watches are available with either an expansion bracelet or leather band. The cost is \$125 for either the men's or ladies' style, plus \$6.95 for shipping and handling.

Also, 20 percent of the purchase price will be donated to the UTU PAC fund, so your purchase gives twice!

Honor this historic event and reserve your limited-edition 35th Anniversary UTU watch today.

To order call (800) 272-5120. You also may download an order form from the UTU website, www.utu.org.

If you prefer, you can fax your order to American Time at (585) 295-8004; please include your choice of men's or ladies' watch, band desired, credit card number and expiration date.

UTU cookbook makes a great holiday gift

Looking for a tasty holiday gift? The UTU cookbook created to raise funds for breast cancer research, *Labor of Love for the Cure*, suits any palate.

The book is a compilation of recipes and helpful household hints submitted by UTU members and others, collected by volunteers at the UTU International office. Proceeds from the sale of the book are donated to the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center of the University Hospitals of Cleveland and Case Western

Reserve University for breast cancer research.

"The *Labor of Love for the Cure* cookbook finally became available for distribution late last year," said UTU International President Paul C. Thompson. "I would like to take this time to thank everyone who made this project possible and thank you in advance for purchasing this cookbook. Together, we can help fund the research necessary to eradicate this dreaded disease."

Thompson's wife Roberta was diagnosed with

breast cancer last year. Following surgery at the Cleveland Clinic, she received successful follow-up treatment at the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Also last year, Betts Miller, the wife of UTU General Counsel Clint Miller, passed away after a long-fought battle with the disease. Marcyle Hotzel, the wife of former Local 94 Secretary-Treasurer and Legislative Representative David Hotzel, also died from breast cancer. The book is dedicated to their memory and to others in the UTU family who have suffered as a result of the disease.

To order a cookbook and to help raise funds for breast cancer research, please complete the order form at left. Be sure to include your name, complete mailing address and telephone number. On the order form, please indicate the number of books you wish to purchase. The cost of each book is \$25, which includes shipping and handling. Write the total amount of your enclosed check in the appropriate space.

Checks and money orders, along with your order form, should be mailed to: UTU Cookbook, Attn: Cheryl Sneed, 14600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44107-4250.

Remember that the proceeds from the sale of this book will be donated to breast cancer research.

Labor of Love for the Cure Cookbook

Make checks payable to **UTU Cookbook**. Cost of the cookbook is \$25, which includes shipping and handling for each book ordered. Please indicate the number of books desired and the total cost of your order.

_____ x _____ = \$ _____
Quantity Cost per book Total amount enclosed

Full Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone Number with Area Code _____

Complete and mail to: UTU Cookbook, Attn: Cheryl Sneed, 14600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44107-4250

This month's winning photo:

The UTU Public Relations Department awards UTU gear to the union member who submits the best photograph during the previous months.

The winning photo will be published in the *UTU News*. Exceptional photographs will be included on the UTU website.

The UTU would like to see photographs or digital photographs of work-related scenes, such as railroad, bus or mass transit operations, new equipment photos, scenic shots, activities of your local, or photos of your brothers and sisters keeping America rolling.

Printed photographs should be mailed to UTU News, 14600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44107-4250.

High-resolution digital photographs should be in the JPEG format and e-mailed to "utunews@utu.org".

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

All photographs submitted become property of the UTU.

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



This month's winning photograph was taken by member **Matt Corbett**, a CSX conductor and member of Local 1473 in Framingham, Mass. The photo, of a Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) GP-9 that had been repainted with an old Boston & Maine paint scheme and dedicated in memory of a former MBTA commuter rail employee, was taken in the early 1990s at Boston's South Street Station.



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Locals donating \$250 or more will be recognized with walkway brick

UTU locals urged to support 'Spirit of Solidarity' plaque

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – Individual UTU locals have an opportunity to sponsor a plaque honoring labor legend Eugene V. Debs as part of a project here honoring the universal struggle of workers who found the courage to unite and stand up for their rights. Locals donating at least \$250 toward the tribute will be recognized with a walkway brick.

The Debs plaque is an integral part of the Spirit of Solidarity, a \$1.275-million tribute to organized labor in the form of a monument at the entrance to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. Half a million tourists annually will have an opportunity to tour the monument, which is the only labor monument in North America in front of a presidential museum. Former United Auto Workers President Owen Bieber is the active union co-chair of the project.

Debs, who put his own safety and freedom second as he championed the causes of workers and encouraged them to gain strength through forming unions, helped to organize one UTU-predecessor union, the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, and was an international officer of another UTU predecessor, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen.

Historians credit Debs' efforts as leading to laws permitting workers to organize lawfully, to choose their bargaining representatives without employer interfer-

ence, and to require employers to bargain in good faith over wages, benefits and working conditions.

UTU locals are encouraged to contribute to the Debs plaque. Checks made out to the "United Transportation Union, Spirit of Solidarity," should be sent to: United Transportation Union, Attn: Dora Wolf, 14600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44107. Each local contributing \$250 or more toward the Debs plaque will be honored with its local's name on a main walkway brick.



Eugene V. Debs

The not-for-profit organization coordinating the project is the Labor Heritage Society of West Michigan, whose executive director, Michael Johnston, is a former organizer for the United Farm Workers.

The Spirit of Solidarity will be in the form of a bowl-shaped area that slopes down to the focal point, three lifelike, nine-foot-tall bronze sculptures depicting early union organizing. The sculptures will stand on a granite island surrounded by a pool of flowing water. Engraved around the pool, on the granite rim, will be quotations from champions of workers' rights.

"The intent is to represent all workers who struggled and fought for our middle-class standard of living today," said UTU International President Paul Thompson. "The purpose is to educate visitors to organized labor's struggles. I encourage each of our locals to make a contribution and join in this spirit of labor solidarity."



Inside this issue of the UTU News:



Member, wife attend Democratic National Convention. See page 1.



Local 1421's Daniel Cicuto accepts UTU PAC honor. See page 2.



FRA Acting Administrator Monro urges safety. See page 3.



UTU members in Missouri assist John Kerry. See page 5.