Worker input crucial to reducing rail risks

If a congressionally ordered railroad risk reduction program is to be effective, the Federal Railroad Administration must include railroad employees and their labor unions in the process of evaluating and managing the program.

That is the message seven rail labor organizations sent to the FRA Feb. 8 in response to an earlier FRA notice of proposed rulemaking implementing a risk reduction program.

The program was ordered by Congress in the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (RSIA). Its purpose is to reduce the consequences and rates of railroad accidents, incidents, injuries and fatalities.

The UTU was joined by the American Train Dispatchers Association, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, Brotherhood of Railroad Signallers, Brotherhood of Railway Carmen and Transport Workers Union in commenting to the FRA.

Congress specifically concluded that having railroads “unilaterally decide issues of safety would not be in the public interest,” the UTU and the other labor organizations told the FRA. Yet, the notice of proposed rulemaking “undermines” that congressional intent.

To ensure an effective risk reduction program, the FRA must solicit rail labor input and participation, said the labor organizations. Specific to train and engine workers, such participation must include:

- Technology implementation.
- Fatigue management.
- Risks posed by joint operations, including passenger and commuter trains.
- Security risks.
- National Transportation Safety Board recommendations.

‘He ain’t heavy. He’s my brother’

Covington, Va. – The Jackson River, a tributary of the James, meanders east through the hollows of west-central Virginia. Flowing under CSX tracks in Covington, some 100 miles west of Richmond, the Jackson is only about two-feet deep – which partially saved the life of UTU Local 623 member Alvin “A.J.” Boguess.

Partially, because Boguess would not today be alive save for the caring, daring and speed of his UTU brother, Dale Smith, who likely was the fastest human on earth the evening of Feb. 8 as he galloped down a steep embankment and dashed into the partially frozen water to aid Boguess.

Boguess, age 24, had tumbled some 55-feet from the bridge into the river, just after dark, in 19 degree temperature with the wind whipping at 20 mph.

With assistance from engineer and BLET

Federal judge rules on SMWIA merger cases

Washington – U.S. District Court Judge John Bates issued several rulings March 4 in the pending cases regarding the UTU and the Sheet Metal Workers International Association – SMWIA v. UTU and Murphy et al. v. SMWIA.

Initially, Judge Bates granted the motion to consolidate the cases before him. He also ruled that the claims regarding whether the merger ever took place, as well as other merger-related claims, should go before an arbitrator to decide, and that he could make no ruling on those issues.

With regard to Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA) Title I and Title V claims – brought by UTU members and concerning the validity of the merger – Judge Bates found that those were not within the arbitrator’s jurisdiction and would remain with him.

However, he ruled that he will hold those claims in abeyance pending the outcome of the arbitration.

Judge Bates also granted the individual UTU members’ motion to intervene with regard to the LMRDA claims.
Local 281, Milwaukee, Wis.

Former Methodist and UTU member David Miles will participate in the Wounded Heroes Foundation VI from May 18-22 to raise money for the Wounded Heroes Foundation, Inc., reported GO-721 General Chairperson Barry Abbott. The foundation raises funds to assist wounded military personnel and their families. If you would like to contribute to the foundation or sponsor Miles, visit the foundation’s website at www.woundedheroesfund.net. Click on “How You Can Help” to make a contribution by credit card and enter “for David Miles” in the comment field. “Ninety-seven percent of money donated goes to our wounded and their families,” Miles said.

Local 582, Stevens Point, Wis.

Local Legislative Rep. Jeff Thompson is asking fellow members to assist the family of longtime Local Chairperson Wayne Raschka, 501 Green Ave., Stevens Point, WI 54481. Thompson also reports that the annual UTU/ULEI summer picnic will be held here on June 15 at Pfiffner Pioneer Park in Stevens Point. Members will be mailed an official invitation when all details of the picnic have been finalized.

Local 1043, Sparks, Nev.

Conductor Mike Wolicki has retired after more than 32 years with the Southern Pacific and Union Pacific, according to State Director Rod Nelms. “Mike is one of the most dedicated and hard working conductors I ever met. It was a pleasure knowing him all these years. I wish him a long and happy retirement,” Nelms said.

Local 1177, Willmar, Minn.

Members of this local honored former State Legislative Director Willie Crounquist following 35 years of continuous membership. “The list of those who has been a friend and mentor to seems endless. His commitment to unionism and our right to stand together and bargain collectively is as strong today as when he hired out in 1955 on the Great Northern. He’s been a tremendous humanitarian and a great Minnesotan,” State Legislative Director Phil Quady said.

Local 1440, Staten Island, N.Y.

UTU members employed by the Staten Island Railroad congratulate Vice Local Chairperson Darren Jicha on the birth of his first grandson, Calvin. “Calvin David Jicha just may be a future trainman or conductor himself. I have a multitude of stories to tell Calvin to encourage him to become a future UTU member. I hope we will enjoy his passion of railroading as well,” said Jicha, a former local president and UTU member since 1971.

Local 1201, Stockton, Calif.

A meeting of Local 1201 members and the Stroman-Brown family included from left, UTU International Board Member Brown, Mrs. Stroman, Michael Stevens, Local Chairperson Chris Phillips, Ryan Phillips, Kaymyn Phillips, Jennifer Phillips, Local Vice President Jamie Alvarez and Local President Roland Krafft.

Local 1216, Kansas City, Mo.

The members of this local have established a fund to assist Vice Local Chairperson Matthew F. Crawford and his daughter, GO 687 General Chairperson Jason Boswell reports. After suffering from pneumonia, Crawford, 51, was moved to an intensive care unit for weeks with blood clots. Surgery was required and the family’s ability to return to work are still uncertain, Boswell said. Donations may be sent to the Blue Ridge Bank & Trust, Attn: Matt Crawford Fund, 621 N.W. Duncan Rd., Blue Springs, MO 64014.

Local 1760, Detroit, Mich.

Officers of this CSX local have announced the retirement of Dennis Kehoe, who held the position of safety chairperson of the Metro Detroit safety committee for 20 years until his retirement March I. Kehoe leaves with 45 years of service as a conductor, having worked in almost every yard in the state of Michigan. The members of Local 1760 thank Kehoe for his dedication to the safety process and wish him a healthy and happy retirement.

North Dakota locals hosting meetings in April

All active and retired members of North Dakota locals will have the opportunity to visit with UTU International and general committee members of representatives from the Railroad Retirement Board, health-and-welfare benefit providers and designated legal counsel at a series of informational meetings from April 12-15. Members and their spouses are welcome to attend any of the four meetings, according to State Legislative Director Marc Halvorson. For further information, call (701) 231-0061 or send e-mail to utu4ld@gsmail.com. The schedule is as follows:

• Tuesday, April 12, Local 525; 2 p.m. meeting followed by free lunch at Grand Forks Ramada Inn.
• Wednesday, April 13, Locals 887, 980, 1137; 1 p.m. meeting followed by free lunch at Fargo Howard Johnson Inn.
• Thursday, April 14, Local 1344; 1 p.m. meeting followed by free lunch at Indian Eagles Club.
• Friday, April 15, Local 1059; 1 p.m. meeting followed by a 6 p.m. social and 7 p.m. retirement banquet at the Minot Vegas Motel.
CSX-employed yardmasters represented by the UTU have ratified a coordination-operations agreement affecting CSX eastern district (former Baltimore & Ohio) and northern district (former Conrail) lines.

The agreement was negotiated in response to a CSX filing with the U.S. Surface Transportation Board to “transfer, consolidate, coordinate and merge train operations and the associated workforce” in the eastern and northern districts of CSX.

An implementing agreement between CSX and the UTU was required under provisions of so-called New York Dock labor protection.

Members on two rails ratify pacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members on two rails ratify pacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UTU members employed by Florida East Coast Railway (FEC) and the Nebraska Central Railroad have ratified pacts with their employers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members on the FEC have ratified two new four-year agreements affecting wages, benefits and working conditions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conductors, engineers, trainmen and yardmen ratified their tentative agreement by a 75-25% vote. While Florida East Coast yardmasters represented by the UTU were unanimous in ratifying their new agreement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both agreements are retroactive to Jan. 1, 2009, extend through Dec. 31, 2012, and include retroactive pay.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTU negotiators included General Chairperson John Hancock and Vice General Chairperson John Whitaker (both GO 851), Local 903 (Jacksonville, Fla.), Chairperson Jim Bush, and Local 1138 (Miami) Chairperson Jim McCorkle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members of Local 367 in Omaha, Neb., which represents all crafts working on Nebraska Central Railroad, have ratified a wage, rules and working conditions agreement with an 80-percent plurality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The five-year agreement provides for a signing bonus, wage increases, a minimum-hours guarantee, and improved working conditions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assisting Local 367 in the negotiations were UTU International Vice President John Previsich, Union Pacific General Chairperson Rich Draskovich (both GO 951), and Nebraska Central Vice General Chairperson Brent Leonard (both GO 953).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The three praised the efforts of Local 367 Chairperson Brandon Glendy in determining member concerns prior to negotiations, and then assisting with negotiations and explaining to members the tentative agreement prior to its overwhelming ratification.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The local lost one of its members in June 2010 when 38-year-old conductor Jeffrey Scholl died in the collapse of a railroad bridge into the flood-swollen Elkhorn River. Two other members of Local 367 were injured in the bridge collapse.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The UTU negotiating team was assisted by UTU International Vice President Robert Kerley.

Florida East Coast is a Class I, regional, railroad, operating more than 350 miles of mainline track along Florida’s east coast. During 2010, the railroad completed 2,000 consecutive days of on-time service to UPS – a record for any transportation company serving the logistics organization. The agreement impacts approximately 3,000 employees at locations where assignments will be affected by the coordination, prior rights to consolidated work, and an increase to the highest yardmaster pay rates for all positions in the territory not currently at the high rate.

Additionally, the ratified agreement establishes around-the-clock yardmaster coverage at a new CSX intermodal facility at North Baltimore, Ohio, and places the newly acquired work under the jurisdiction of the former B&O collective bargaining agreement.

The tentative four-year agreement is retroactive to July 2009, and may be reopened for negotiation to July 2010.

The agreement was negotiated by General Chairpersons Richard DeGenova (CSX, GO 247) and Robert Keely (CSX, GO 342) “for their commitment and tenacity in seeking improved conditions for their members during the long and difficult negotiating period of this agreement. Their efforts were instrumental in securing enhancements rarely obtained in Section 4 negotiations.”

BNSF conductor loses legs in yard accident

WILLMAR, Minn. – A 31-year-old BNSF conductor, a UTU Local 1177 member, suffered the amputation of both legs in a yard accident here Feb. 3, the second UTU member to endure such an accident in 2011.

Corey Lynn Klaver, the father of three young children, reportedly was making a cut of cars in a snow-covered yard when the accident occurred.

Klaver was airlifted to a local hospital after two surgeons arrived on the scene to free him.

According to local news reports, hydraulic jacks were used to lift the rail car that pinned him.

Amtrak close-call group meets in Chicago

The UTU International has created a special e-mail list so that UTU members may voluntarily sign up to receive periodic e-mails on important UTU news and events.

Register for e-mail alerts by visiting www.utu.org and clicking on the “E-mail Alerts” tile on the UTU home page. Be sure to double check the information for accuracy before sending your e-mail registration.
In the face of adversity, we are stronger than ever

We must fight attacks on collective bargaining

The UTU Political Action Committee (UTU PAC) helps identify labor-friendly candidates, helps finance their election campaigns, and helps to get out the vote for labor-friendly candidates on Election Day.

Please consider joining this voluntary effort and contribute to the UTU PAC. If you already are a member, please consider increasing your contribution. Our job security and the economic security of our families hang in the balance.

UTU PAC helps identify labor-friendly candidates

Let’s not forget that the attacks on labor we are witnessing today have not been seen in generations, and what is happening in Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin and elsewhere is only the beginning if we don’t stand in solidarity to protect the rights labor fought so long, so hard and at such a great cost to achieve.

Mike Futhey, International President
(216) 228-9400; president@utu.org

Kim Thompson, General Secretary and Treasurer
gst@utu.org

James Stem, National Legislative Director
jamesstem@aol.com

Mike Futhey, International President (216) 228-9400; president@utu.org

Kim Thompson, General Secretary and Treasurer gst@utu.org

James Stem, National Legislative Director jamesstem@aol.com

For the latest news, visit www.utu.org; also, sign up on the UTU website to receive news alerts via e-mail.

“Take not from the mouths of labor the bread it has earned.” – Thomas Jefferson
Chestnut Ridge bus drivers ratify new three-year pact

SPRING VALLEY, N.Y. – UTU-represented bus operators on Chestnut Ridge Transportation, all members of Local 153 here, have ratified a new three-year agreement with the company.

The new pact was ratified in late January and will run through the end of June 2013.

The new contract includes wage increases for each of the contract years; the first increase will be retroactive to Sept. 1, 2010.

The new contract also includes improvements in personal days, training, bereavement leave and other improvements.

“Even though the company asked for concessions on issues of the existing contract, none were given,” said State Legislative Director Sam Nasca, who assisted with negotiations.

The negotiating committee consisted of General Chairperson Wilner Baptiste; President Franck Filasime; Vice President Cance Francois; Treasurer Barbara McIntosh and Secretary Wilfred Hatch. They were assisted by Vice President Richard Deser and Nasca.

Chestnut Ridge provides school bus service, buses for special-needs individuals and charter service.

School bus drivers return to UTU

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – School-bus-driver members employed by First Student here have voted to return to the UTU, and an agreement negotiated prior to their departure has been implemented.

First Student also agreed to provide retroactive pay in addition to wage increases, and the 120 drivers covered by the agreement also obtained advancement of seniority pay scales that had been frozen during the period the drivers were represented by another organization.

UTU Bus Department Alternate Vice President Bonnie Moor, who assisted with the negotiations, praised the efforts of First Student drivers Roman Lara and Chris Hubbell. Both had been officers of Local 1496 before its members chose to affiliate with another organization. “They really made a difference,” Moor said. Preparations for new elections are underway.

Deal okays Mexican buses in U.S.

Mexican buses and trucks operated by Mexican drivers would be permitted to cross into and travel through the United States under an agreement reached March 3 between President Obama and Mexican President Felipe Calderon.

Congress, however, must approve the agreement, with details to be worked out between Mexico and the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration should Congress approve the measure.

The Mexican vehicles would be required to meet U.S. safety and environmental regulations, and Mexican drivers would be required to demonstrate an ability to read English.

Kansas

The UTU and the Northern Flyer Alliance recently hosted a meeting to keep legislators and the public updated on the groups’ efforts to expand passenger rail service between Kansas City and Dallas/Fort Worth.

“Expanding Amtrak’s existing Southwest Chief and Heartland Flyer routes would bring a passenger rail line to Wichita and create an important Midwest corridor,” State Director Ty Dragoon said.

“UTU has aggressively lobbied for this expansion,” Dragoon said. “If enacted, it will bring many jobs to the industry in this region and provide a vital link in the national passenger-rail network.”

New Jersey

The father of State Legislative Director Dan O’Connell died Feb. 25 in Mt. Laurel, N.J., at age 89.

Michael L. “Mickey” O’Connell Jr. was a decorated World War II Navy veteran and a brakeman and conductor with Conrail and two of its predecessors, Pennsylvania Railroad and Penn Central. He retired in 1982.

The elder O’Connell was a member of Local 1390, Trenton, N.J., and predecessor Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen. During his retirement years, he frequently attended UTU retiree meetings.

In addition to son Dan O’Connell, Mickey O’Connell is survived by his wife of 66 years, Rita, one daughter, a sister and grandson.

Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin

Sound, left to right, are Wisconsin State Legislative Director Tim Dienes, Indiana State Legislative Director Kenny Edwards; FRA’s Tim McQuaid and Michigan State Legislative Director Jerry Gibson. Standing, left to right, are Minnesota State Legislative Director Phil Quaky. FRA’s Rob Bucher, Dennis Van Horn, James Schuchtenberg, Michael Long, Ed Stallin, Gerry Stout and Illinois State Legislative Director Bob Gray.

Five UTU state legislative directors – from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin – recently met with FRA senior staff members to get an update on safety, regulatory and other issues. They also shared information with the rail officials on areas of concern conveyed to them by numerous UTU members.

“The meeting with the FRA officials was a positive and productive meeting,” Minnesota State Director Phil Quaky said. “We will meet with them at any time, any place, if it helps to make the transportation workplace safer.”

Tough times for transit

These are troubling times for our nation, states and municipalities. Budget problems are forcing cutbacks in a wide variety of public services, and public transit is often targeted for cuts.

At the extreme is the union busting going on in Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio and other states. But even where labor union collective bargaining isn’t under attack, we are facing severe challenges at the bargaining table and with cutbacks in service.

In the not-too-distant past, when the good times seemed as they would never end, government agencies borrowed and committed to future obligations. The future is now here and it is not a pleasant environment.

The UTU has negotiated some of the best contracts out there, but the economic landscape is now very different. Transit systems have laid off thousands of employees and reduced funding for services.

In Los Angeles, where the UTU represents more than 5,000 rail workers and bus operators, negotiations with the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority are slow moving and tense.

The State of California has been furloughing workers, while many cities and counties have frozen wages and benefits as they struggle to pay their obligations. The mood of taxpayers is that taxes should not rise.

Too often, the lawmakers who approve budgets – even those who historically have been union friendly – are turning a deaf ear to the needs of working families, who are struggling to keep their homes and put food on the table.

In this environment, I commend LACMTA General Chairperson James Williams (GO 875) and his negotiating committee, which includes Robert Gonzales, Lisa Arendolino, Ulisses Johnson, Eddie Lopez and John Ellis. They are committed to protecting and preserving everything in our contracts and are working tirelessly to improve working conditions and job security for the membership.

I remain confident in the abilities of our members. They are among the best at the bargaining table, as is evidenced by the contracts produced in the past.

In addition to fighting for members at the bargaining table, Mr. Williams and Local 1603 Chairperson John Ellis have recently won a significant arbitration case on behalf of bus operator Adalid Morgana, who had been terminated following an accident.

Working on Mr. Morgana’s behalf, the UTU prevailed on evidence presented in the arbitration and won for him back pay and benefits.

To report a workplace safety issue, call 1-800-727-7628.
This could be labor’s finest hour.

We’ve heard the stories from our grandfathers and great-grandfathers of the battles, handshakes and setbacks in the struggle to gain a right to organize and strike workers, federal troops using bayonets and hangings because they advocated workplace rights to demonstrate and bullets against fellow citizens exercising their First Amendment rights.

“Without the right to collective bargaining, a union is little more than a social club.” — Chicago Tribune columnist Clarence Page

“We know the result was passage of the 1926 Railway Labor Act and the 1935 National Labor Relations Act, giving private-sector workers the rights for which they risked their lives, economic security and family honor to achieve. It wasn’t until 1959 that state employees — and 1962 that federal workers — gained similar rights.”

“It is better to jay-jaw than to war-war.” — Winston Churchill

“We are public employees, federal workers, or private-sector employees, we know the stakes. If extremest right-wing legislators are successful in repealing collective bargaining and union-management rights of state employees, it will be federal workers and private-sector employees whose interests are put in harm’s way. Their union, engage in collective bargaining and strike will next be attacked. Tens of thousands of union members, joined by equally concerned non-union-member citizens, have taken to streets in cities throughout America in recent weeks demonstrating against these unprovoked and dastardly attacks on organized labor.

“In Ohio, a Republican majority in the House and Senate backed legislation allowing lawmakers to have the final word in ending labor impasses — instead of the current system in which neutral arbitration plays that role.

“It does no one any good when public employees are denigrated or vilified or their rights are infringed upon.” — President Barack Obama

“No, in Ohio, organized labor will have to wait until the next general election to change the make-up of the legislature and, eventually, the governor.

“We can expect losses in other states whose legislatures are dominated by right-wing extremists, but as President Futhy states in his column on page 4 of this newspaper: ‘We are not going away. We will not forget. And thanks to the valiant of the union movement and our members, the UTU is stronger than ever.”

“In the words of Winston Churchill during the dark days of World War II, ‘We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender.’

“As the photos and quotations on this page make clear, organized labor is prepared for the fight.

“Collective bargaining is machinery for peace rather than a manual for war.” — Eugene Debs

“Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker isn’t interested in saving money. He’s interested in crippling the unions that didn’t support him last fall.” — Linda Kuboioloan, Harvard University

UTU members march in solidarity with their union brothers and sisters across the nation who are facing the loss of their collective bargaining rights

UTU allocates funds to fight union busting

The United Transportation Union Board of Directors Feb. 28 voted that funds from the UTU’s Education Fund be made available to assist union brothers and sisters in various states whose collective-bargaining rights, right to strike, union membership and check-off privileges for PAC contributions are under attack by extreme right-wing lawmakers.

“Collective bargaining is machinery for peace rather than a manual for war.” — Eugene Debs

“Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker isn’t interested in saving money. He’s interested in crippling the unions that didn’t support him last fall.” — Linda Kuboioloan, Harvard University

“Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker isn’t interested in saving money. He’s interested in crippling the unions that didn’t support him last fall.” — Linda Kuboioloan, Harvard University

Global Solidarity

Citizens in the following nations pledge solidarity with public employees in Wisconsin:

Albania
Argentina
Australia
Austria
Belgium
Bulgaria
Canada
Czech Republic
Denmark
Egypt
Finland
France
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Haiti
Honduras
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Kenya
Korea
Kosovo
Latvia
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malaysia
Mexico
Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway
Pakistan
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russia
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Serbia
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Taiwan
Thailand
Turkey
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
United States
Uruguay
Venezuela
Vietnam

Labor contributions to American society

Equal pay for equal work
Health care plans
Retirement plans
Equal opportunity
Workplace bias protection
Workplace safety laws
Grievance machinery

Eight-hour day
40-hour work week
Overtime pay
Holiday pay
Vacation pay
Minimum wage
Unemployment insurance

Members in Wisconsin in their scores by hue. SB 11 must not be enacted. From left are retired Local 590 (Prairie du Chien) member Dan Sauter, Tom Dennis (one of State Legislature Director Tim and a surviving combat veteran). CIO/IF Local General Chairperson James Nelson (OIO 263); Local 590 Vice Local Chairperson Leah Sheppard; Tim Dennis and wife Susan Dennis.

Mem bers in Wisconsin (in their scores by hue. SB 11 must not be enacted. From left are retired Local 590 (Prairie du Chien) member Dan Sauter, Tom Dennis (one of State Legislature Director Tim and a surviving combat veteran). CIO/IF Local General Chairperson James Nelson (OIO 263); Local 590 Vice Local Chairperson Leah Sheppard; Tim Dennis and wife Susan Dennis.

UTU International Accounting Department Representatives Carl Morgan traveled to Columbus, Ohio, recently to present efforts to eliminate collective bargaining.

“Collective bargaining is machinery for peace rather than a manual for war.” — Eugene Debs

“Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker isn’t interested in saving money. He’s interested in crippling the unions that didn’t support him last fall.” — Linda Kuboioloan, Harvard University

UTU allocates funds to fight union busting

The United Transportation Union Board of Directors Feb. 28 voted that funds from the UTU’s Education Fund be made available to assist union brothers and sisters in various states whose collective-bargaining rights, right to strike, union membership and check-off privileges for PAC contributions are under attack by extreme right-wing lawmakers.

“Collective bargaining is machinery for peace rather than a manual for war.” — Eugene Debs

“Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker isn’t interested in saving money. He’s interested in crippling the unions that didn’t support him last fall.” — Linda Kuboioloan, Harvard University

“Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker isn’t interested in saving money. He’s interested in crippling the unions that didn’t support him last fall.” — Linda Kuboioloan, Harvard University

Global Solidarity

Citizens in the following nations pledge solidarity with public employees in Wisconsin:

Albania
Argentina
Australia
Austria
Belgium
Bulgaria
Canada
Czech Republic
Denmark
Egypt
Finland
France
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Haiti
Honduras
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Kenya
Korea
Kosovo
Latvia
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malaysia
Mexico
Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway
Pakistan
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russia
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Serbia
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Taiwan
Thailand
Turkey
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
United States
Uruguay
Venezuela
Vietnam

Labor contributions to American society

Equal pay for equal work
Health care plans
Retirement plans
Equal opportunity
Workplace bias protection
Workplace safety laws
Grievance machinery

Eight-hour day
40-hour work week
Overtime pay
Holiday pay
Vacation pay
Minimum wage
Unemployment insurance

Members in Wisconsin in their scores by hue. SB 11 must not be enacted. From left are retired Local 590 (Prairie du Chien) member Dan Sauter, Tom Dennis (one of State Legislature Director Tim and a surviving combat veteran). CIO/IF Local General Chairperson James Nelson (OIO 263); Local 590 Vice Local Chairperson Leah Sheppard; Tim Dennis and wife Susan Dennis.

Mem bers in Wisconsin (in their scores by hue. SB 11 must not be enacted. From left are retired Local 590 (Prairie du Chien) member Dan Sauter, Tom Dennis (one of State Legislature Director Tim and a surviving combat veteran). CIO/IF Local General Chairperson James Nelson (OIO 263); Local 590 Vice Local Chairperson Leah Sheppard; Tim Dennis and wife Susan Dennis.

UTU International Accounting Department Representatives Carl Morgan traveled to Columbus, Ohio, recently to present efforts to eliminate collective bargaining.

“Collective bargaining is machinery for peace rather than a manual for war.” — Eugene Debs

“Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker isn’t interested in saving money. He’s interested in crippling the unions that didn’t support him last fall.” — Linda Kuboioloan, Harvard University

UTU allocates funds to fight union busting

The United Transportation Union Board of Directors Feb. 28 voted that funds from the UTU’s Education Fund be made available to assist union brothers and sisters in various states whose collective-bargaining rights, right to strike, union membership and check-off privileges for PAC contributions are under attack by extreme right-wing lawmakers.

“Collective bargaining is machinery for peace rather than a manual for war.” — Eugene Debs

“Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker isn’t interested in saving money. He’s interested in crippling the unions that didn’t support him last fall.” — Linda Kuboioloan, Harvard University

“Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker isn’t interested in saving money. He’s interested in crippling the unions that didn’t support him last fall.” — Linda Kuboioloan, Harvard University

Global Solidarity

Citizens in the following nations pledge solidarity with public employees in Wisconsin:

Albania
Argentina
Australia
Austria
Belgium
Bulgaria
Canada
Czech Republic
Denmark
Egypt
Finland
France
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Haiti
Honduras
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Kenya
Korea
Kosovo
Latvia
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malaysia
Mexico
Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway
Pakistan
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russia
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Serbia
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Taiwan
Thailand
Turkey
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
United States
Uruguay
Venezuela
Vietnam

Labor contributions to American society

Equal pay for equal work
Health care plans
Retirement plans
Equal opportunity
Workplace bias protection
Workplace safety laws
Grievance machinery

Eight-hour day
40-hour work week
Overtime pay
Holiday pay
Vacation pay
Minimum wage
Unemployment insurance

Members in Wisconsin in their scores by hue. SB 11 must not be enacted. From left are retired Local 590 (Prairie du Chien) member Dan Sauter, Tom Dennis (one of State Legislature Director Tim and a surviving combat veteran). CIO/IF Local General Chairperson James Nelson (OIO 263); Local 590 Vice Local Chairperson Leah Sheppard; Tim Dennis and wife Susan Dennis.

Mem bers in Wisconsin (in their scores by hue. SB 11 must not be enacted. From left are retired Local 590 (Prairie du Chien) member Dan Sauter, Tom Dennis (one of State Legislature Director Tim and a surviving combat veteran). CIO/IF Local General Chairperson James Nelson (OIO 263); Local 590 Vice Local Chairperson Leah Sheppard; Tim Dennis and wife Susan Dennis.

UTU International Accounting Department Representatives Carl Morgan traveled to Columbus, Ohio, recently to present efforts to eliminate collective bargaining.
Palmetto expands services to retirees

Palmetto GBA/Railroad Medicare is offering new and expanded services to rail retirees enrolled in Railroad Medicare.

When you call (800) 833-4455 (TTY: 877-566-3572), weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., eastern time, you can:

- Receive information on claim denials;
- Receive claim status information;
- Order replacement cards;
- Receive information on covered and non-covered services;
- Report address changes;
- Receive information on Medicare Secondary Payer, and Privacy Act provisions.

Palmetto GBA/Railroad Medicare later this year will be launching a Facebook page, providing an interactive forum on Railroad Medicare benefits.

UTU offers tours, cruises for Alumni

One of the benefits of membership in the UTU Alumni Association are discounts on tours. Here are the latest offerings:

- **Genuine Italy tour, May 16 – 25**: Tour includes Venice, Cinque Terre, Florence, San Gimignano/Tuscan, Montalcino, Orvieto, Assisi, Rome.
- **Cruise to Alaska, July 28 – Aug. 7**: This Holland America Cruise Line cruise to Alaska runs 11 days (four days land; seven days cruising). Itinerary includes Denali National Park, McKinley Explorer Rail, Fairbanks, Anchorage, Seward, Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay National Park, and College Fjord Scenic Cruising.
- **Post-convention cruises**: UTU members and retirees may enjoy a Royal Caribbean Cruise Line cruise following the UTU Quadrennial Convention in Hollywood, Fla.
- **Three-day weekend cruise, Aug. 12 – 15**: Aboard the “Queen of the Seas.” Itinerary includes CocoCay and Nassau, Bahamas.
- **Seven-day Caribbean cruise, Aug. 13 – 20**: Aboard the “Queen of the Seas.” Itinerary includes Nassau, Bahama; St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, and St. Maarten.
- **British Isles cruise Aug. 16 – 28**: This Princess Cruise Line cruise of the British Isles aboard the “Crown Princess.” Itinerary includes London/Southampton (departure port), St. Peter Port, Cobb, Dublin, Liverpool, Belfast, Greenock, Invergordon, South Queensferry, Paris.
- **Cruise of Hawaii, Oct. 15 – 22**: This seven-day Hawaiian cruise aboard Norwegian Cruise Line’s “Pride of America.” Itinerary includes Honolulu, Maui, Hilo, Kona and Kauai.

Call Landfall toll free at (800) 835-9233; check out the Alumni Association page on www.landfalltravel.com or e-mail travel@landfalltravel.com for more information. These tours are open to UTU Alumni Association members, family and friends; other UTU members are welcome to join them as space permits.

**RRB adjusts withholding for annuitants**

The Railroad Retirement Board reports it has adjusted benefits – effective with February benefits – for more than 140,000 beneficiaries to reflect new federal income tax withholding rates.

The new rates apply to withholding from the non-Social Security equivalent portion of Tier I, Tier II, vested dual benefits, and supplemental annuity payments, and will remain in use for the remainder of 2011.

The Railroad Retirement Board says that in the absence of a request not to withhold federal income tax or to withhold the tax at specific amounts, the board will withhold taxes only if the combined portions of the non-Social Security equivalent portion of Tier I, Tier II, vested dual benefit, and supplemental annuity payments are equal to or greater than an annual threshold amount.

In that case, the RRB withholding taxes as if the annuitant were married and claiming three allowances.

The annual threshold amount for 2011 is $1,587.99. The threshold amount for 2010 was $2,063.51.

Annuitants can use form RRB W-4P (Withholding Certificate for Railroad Retirement Payments) to request:

- No federal taxes be withheld from their Railroad Retirement payments;
- Federal taxes be withheld based on the marital status and the number of allowances they wish to claim;
- An additional amount be withheld from Railroad Retirement payments.

Form RRB W-4P may be downloaded at www.rrb.gov by clicking on “Benefit Forms and Publications,” and then clicking on “Income Tax.” Annuitants who have questions regarding their tax liability should contact the nearest office of the IRS or visit www.irs.gov.

**W. Va. rail retirees meet**

Railroad retirees in the Charleston, W. Va., area, many from Local 631, meet the second Tuesday of the month at 11 a.m. for lunch at the Hollywood Casino. All members, active and retired, are invited to attend.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City/State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>McKelgor, John A.</td>
<td>Erin, Pa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Camps Jr., Paul</td>
<td>Swanton, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Brummore, Arthur P.</td>
<td>Edgewood, Ky.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98</td>
<td>Basford, John C.</td>
<td>San Luis Obispo, Calif.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>199</td>
<td>Hecht, Duane L.</td>
<td>Otaumwa, Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>202</td>
<td>Saindon, Royce J.</td>
<td>Arcadia, Col.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>259</td>
<td>Kelley, Marion R.</td>
<td>St. Joseph, Mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>265</td>
<td>Friedel, Carl M.</td>
<td>Pocatello, Idaho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>298</td>
<td>Hanzel, Gerald A.</td>
<td>Logansport, Ind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>322</td>
<td>Coutard, George</td>
<td>Racine, Wis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>333</td>
<td>Clark, Robert L.</td>
<td>North Vernon, Ind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>421</td>
<td>Burnham, James A.</td>
<td>Conneau, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>426</td>
<td>Garcia, Francis R.</td>
<td>Spokane Valley, Wash.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>446</td>
<td>Sorin, Daniel P.</td>
<td>Cheyenne, Wyo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>646</td>
<td>Massey Jr., William W.</td>
<td>Huntsville, Ala.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>471</td>
<td>Grover, Owen L.</td>
<td>Eugene, Ore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>483</td>
<td>Stadnyk, Nicholas</td>
<td>Caledon East, Ont.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>610</td>
<td>Dean, Thomas W.</td>
<td>Marion, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>619</td>
<td>Rau, Frederick W.</td>
<td>Upperco, Md.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>645</td>
<td>Rich, James W.</td>
<td>Brentwood, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>679</td>
<td>Thompson, Charles</td>
<td>Richfield Springs, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>756</td>
<td>O’Connell, Robert A.</td>
<td>Fredericksburg, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>769</td>
<td>Parker, Larry J.</td>
<td>Fort Washington, Md.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>792</td>
<td>Hoffman, Robert L.</td>
<td>Broadview Heights, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>792</td>
<td>Swingle, John W.</td>
<td>Wooster, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>832</td>
<td>Tufnell, James J.</td>
<td>Gladstone, Mich.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>835</td>
<td>Wermore, Winifred A.</td>
<td>Fresno, Calif.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>913</td>
<td>Amundson, Gary L.</td>
<td>Soroush, Minn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>913</td>
<td>Bednorz, Howard B.</td>
<td>Hudson, Wis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>950</td>
<td>Briggs, George W.</td>
<td>Southaven, Miss.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>991</td>
<td>Byers, Chase M.</td>
<td>Toronto, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1041</td>
<td>Gibson, Kenneth W.</td>
<td>Oklahoma City, Okla.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1074</td>
<td>Gill, Robert E.</td>
<td>Oskamont, Pa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1106</td>
<td>Mitchell Jr., James W.</td>
<td>Rocky Mount, N.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1106</td>
<td>Arnold Jr., Sam</td>
<td>Lexington, Okla.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1216</td>
<td>Giunta, Pat</td>
<td>Leco Summit, Mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1217</td>
<td>Smith, Kenneth P.</td>
<td>Amatillo, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1361</td>
<td>Gilbert, Jarris C.</td>
<td>Frankfort, N.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1390</td>
<td>McCann, Basil F.</td>
<td>Woodland Park, N.J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1393</td>
<td>Morrell, Douglas P.</td>
<td>Gunterville, Ala.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1462</td>
<td>Patterson, Brent O.</td>
<td>Naples, Fla.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1470</td>
<td>Phillips, Grover W.</td>
<td>Selbyville, Del.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1548</td>
<td>George, William H.</td>
<td>Indianapolis, Ind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1571</td>
<td>Passage, Leon T.</td>
<td>Albanerique, N.J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1597</td>
<td>McLenn, John M.</td>
<td>Tampa, Fla.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1628</td>
<td>Griffin, Thomas E.</td>
<td>Montrose, Pa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1628</td>
<td>Schubert, J. L.</td>
<td>Turtle Creek, Pa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1672</td>
<td>Frazier, Grenville N.</td>
<td>Wakefield, R.I.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1732</td>
<td>Beller, Daniel G.</td>
<td>Stockton, Calif.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1831</td>
<td>Yang, Victor W.</td>
<td>Buford, N.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1883</td>
<td>Frazier, James W.</td>
<td>Riverdale, Ill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1892</td>
<td>Ginn, Albert R.</td>
<td>Tomball, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>Bellant, Jr. Dominic S.</td>
<td>Lackawanna, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Freese, Harry G.</td>
<td>Stanford, Conn.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Retire wisely...

Make your money work for you!

With so many Americans living paycheck to paycheck, some may wonder how it is possible to save for retirement when there is no money left at the end of the week.

The answer is spending less than you earn. There are a lot of ways to reduce expenses. Some may be challenging, but some may be easier than you think.

Determining where to cut corners is an individual decision, but once you free up some cash, it’s important to get that money into a savings vehicle as soon as possible. Even small amounts can make a big difference, given enough time.

Here’s an example: A 20-year-old who invests just $600 per year into a UTUIA IRA can expect a guaranteed annuity value of $69,708 at the end of the year of age 70. Just by investing $600 per year. That’s less than $1.75 per day.

Call (800) 558-8842 today for your free annuity illustration or visit www.utuia.org.

Money-saving tips

✓ Bring your lunch, coffee, pop or bottled water to work with you.
✓ Seek out free entertainment such as museums, parks and free concerts.
✓ Stop impulse buying. Before buying anything, ask, “Do I really need this?”
✓ Borrow movies and books from the library instead of buying books or paying for the theater.
✓ Get rid of the cable movie channels and cut back to basic cable.
✓ Cook your own meals instead of eating out. Buy store brands instead of name brands.

IRA Information, please

I would like more information on retirement savings plans. Please print.

Full name
Address
City State Zip
Date of birth
UTUIA local number
Telephone number with area code
Are you currently working? □ Yes □ No
Mail to: UTUIA, 24950 Country Club Blvd., Suite 340, North Olmsted, OH 44070-5333

NMB honors UP general chair

UTU General Chairperson Rich Draskovich (Union Pacific, GO 953) has been recognized by the National Mediation Board (NMB) for “a special achievement” in helping reduce the agency’s backlog of rail-labor grievances.

In presenting the award, NMB Chairman Harry Hoglander said Draskovich, on behalf of the UTU, and in concert with Union Pacific and CSX, provided “essential support, leadership, dedication and expertise” in helping the NMB launch a program to attract a diversified pool of 91 new rail arbitrators.

Draskovich served as a classroom instructor at a CSX facility and on three multi-facility tours of Union Pacific across Nebraska, explaining rail operations and craft assignments and skills to more than 255 potential new arbitrators who responded to a recruitment drive by the NMB.

Two appointments to UTU executive posts

Two executive vacancies have been filled by the UTU Board of Directors.

General Chairperson John Lesniewski (CSX, GO 149) was elected second alternate vice president – east, to fill a vacancy created by the retirement of now former General Chairperson Jim Huston (BNSF, GO 039).

Also, UTU Local 1422 (Los Angeles) Chairperson Robert Resendez was elected an alternate on the executive board, filling a vacancy created by the resignation of General Chairperson Troy Johnson (Union Pacific, GO 927).

Former Missouri SLD Clark dies

Former Missouri State Legislative Director Dennis P. Clark Sr., a member of Local 469 and resident of Lake St. Louis, Mo., died Feb. 20 at age 67.


Clark is survived by his wife, Mary Jo Clark, two sons and two daughters. The family has asked that memorials be sent in Clark’s name to the American Cancer Society.
LACMTA operator drives home a real deal for statue

LOS ANGELES – A Thursday morning in February started like most for bus operator and Local 1564 member Darwin Dawson – making fruit and vegetable protein shakes for fellow Division 15 workers as part of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority’s health and wellness program.

By afternoon, Dawson was standing on the set of the Jimmy Kimmel Live show in Hollywood, collecting $650 in cash from host Kimmel – and it had nothing to do with buses or fruit and vegetable protein shakes (the latter a southern California thing, so don’t ask).

So let’s back up and sit a spell for this yarn, as Dawson is one fascinating fellow.

It begins in the garage of Dawson’s home in Redondo Beach, which he converted to a private sports bar for his friends and family. On display everywhere were old leather football helmets, antique cleats, brightly colored neon beer signs, five television screens – a memorabilia laden man-cave if ever there was one.

Jimmy Kimmel buys statue as birthday present for Jordan

And, somehow, there was room for Dawson also to restore vintage Chevy pick-up trucks – the source of cash to keep those friends and family in beer and pretzels during Angels, Clippers, and Dodgers games.

Somehow, some hard-to-find ‘49 Caddy parts found their way into the garage – the source of a barter that would lead to the Kimmel show. But let’s not get ahead of this story.

Some years back, in exchange for ‘49 Caddy chrome bumper and other parts, Dawson acquired a 100-pound, 6’7” fiberglass statue of basketball legend Michael Jordan, which fit oh so well in the home sports bar aka Dawson’s garage.

‘He ain’t heavy. He’s my brother’

Continued from page 1

And so, somehow, there was room for Dawson to also sell restored ‘68 Chevy pick-up trucks – the source of cash to keep those friends and family in beer and pretzels during Angels, Clippers, Dodgers and Rams ballgames.

Somehow, some hard-to-find ‘49 Caddy parts found their way into the garage – the source of a barter that would lead to the Kimmel show. But let’s not get ahead of this story.

Some years back, in exchange for ‘49 Caddy chrome bumper and other parts, Dawson acquired a 100-pound, 6’7” fiberglass statue of basketball legend Michael Jordan, which fit oh so well in the home sports bar aka Dawson’s garage.

Man-caves can change, and when Dawson recently decided it was time to redecorate – from a sports bar motif to an auto/bus motif – the Jordan statue become surplus. So Dawson put it up for sale at $650 on Craigslist.

Then came the call from producers of the Kimmel show. Kimmel wanted the statue as a gift to present Jordan on his birthday. So, with help from Dawson’s 12-year-old son, into a Dawson-restored ‘68 Chevy pick-up went the 100-pound statue, and down the road went Dawson and his son to the Jimmy Kimmel Live set in nearby Hollywood – a building but 100 yards from the route of the LACMTA bus Dawson drives.

In his driver’s uniform – at Kimmel’s request – Dawson gained his few minutes of national fame, selling the statue to Kimmel not for the $650 Dawson offered, but the $650 Dawson insisted on receiving. Hey, he’s a UTU brother, and UTU brothers and sisters don’t let even the Jimmy Kimmel of the world get the better in negotiations.

Basketball fans may notice something amiss in the photo. Yes, Jordan’s jersey shows #23, not the #23 Jordan wore with the Chicago Bulls.

Kimmel noticed that discrepancy, and Dawson had the answer. The statue was never “authorized” by Jordan – as were the legendary Nike Air Jordan shoes — but was created in the Philippines, perhaps by a dyslectic sculptor of knock-offs.

While insomniac Americans watched Dawson on Kimmel’s late night show, Dawson was sound asleep. He begins his day with the LACMTA at 4 a.m.

Risk reduction

Continued from page 1

report injuries in order to preserve incentive prizes.

• A carrier’s past response to risk, hazards, defects, near misses and safety complaints reported by employees.

• The effectiveness of operating rules and practices in risk reduction.

• The effectiveness of safety and training programs.

Additionally, the labor organizations asked the FRA to “pay particular attention to railroads that regularly intimate employees to cut corners [and] hold formal hearings and discipline employees whenever accidents or injuries are reported.”

The process for evaluating and managing a risk reduction program must also include direct employee input, said the labor organizations. “There is no substitute for interviewing employees actually doing the work,” and such interviews should mask the identity of employees to ensure “they may speak freely.”

Of special importance to train and engine workers is the implementation of a fatigue management plan. “A human being cannot possibly be rested to work safely unless that human being knows when they must report for service,” said the labor organizations. “Often, safety critical employees are forced to report for service even when fatigued, or [they] face disciplinary hearings and loss of employment.”

“We encourage the FRA to take immediate action to require 10 hours of advance notification for all operating employees not otherwise on assignments with defined start times,” said the labor organizations.

Western Rail Road workers join UTU

Employees of Western Rail Road in Braunfels, Texas, a wholly owned subsidiary of Cemex USA, have voted to be represented by the UTU.

The railroad moves crushed rock, cement and other aggregates for interchange with Union Pacific at Dittlinger and Stonetown, Texas.

UTU International President Mike Furhey praised the work of UTU organizer Mike Lewis in "bringing first-class representation to another hardworking group of railroad workers."

www.utu.org / www.utuia.org
Regional meetings offer education, fraternalism

The 2011 UTU/UTUIA regional meetings have been designed to provide a wide range of fraternalism, lots of worthwhile education and lots of fun for the whole family.

All rooms being held for the UTU at the New York City, July 4-6

All rooms being held for the UTU at the Grand Hyatt New York have been reserved.

All rooms being held for the UTU at the New York City, July 4-6

All rooms being held for the UTU at the Grand Hyatt New York have been reserved.

All rooms being held for the UTU at the New York City, July 4-6

All rooms being held for the UTU at the Grand Hyatt New York have been reserved.

Two spousal tours set

The UTU is arranging two different tours of local attractions at both regional meetings. The tours will take place the day before, as well as the first day of, each meeting. Fees are $15 per registered spouse, guest or child, or $75 per unregistered spouse, guest or child. A tour of local attractions is $75 per registered spouse, guest or child, $90 per unregistered spouse, guest or child in New York. Check www.utu.org for complete details.

UTU Regional Meeting Registration Form

Registering before the regional meetings speeds sign-in procedures, helps organizers plan more accurately, and saves on meeting costs. Each person attending the regional meeting, including family members and guests, MUST be registered in order to attend any event. Please note that these meetings last 2-1/2 days and conclude on the afternoon of the third day. Registration fees are $150 per person; children 11 years of age and under are complimentary. On-site registration is $200 per person. All fees must be paid in U.S. funds. Canadian funds will be returned, possibly delaying your registration. If you have questions, consult your bank. Registration forms with payment must be received at the UTU International by June 6 for the San Antonio meeting or June 20 for the New York meeting for the member/spouse to be considered pre-registered.

Which regional meeting will you be attending?  
San Antonio  
New York

Arrival date:  
Departure date:  

Transportation type:  
Automobile  
Air  
Other

Member registration

Name  
Local  
Title (if any)

City/State/ZIP

Phone number  
Email

Meals:  
Day 1  
Day 2  
Day 3

Breakfast  
Lunch  
Dinner  
No meal

Any dietary restrictions?

Yes  
No

Spouse registration

Name  
Title (if any)

Meals:  
Day 1  
Day 2  
Day 3

Breakfast  
Lunch  
Dinner  
No meal

Any dietary restrictions?

Yes  
No

Spouse/guest tour:  
Day 1  
Day 2  
Day 3

Day

Sunday  
Monday

($35 per registered spouse, $75 per unregistered spouse in San Antonio; $50 per registered spouse, $90 per unregistered spouse in New York)

Child registration

Name  
Age

Meals:  
Day 1  
Day 2  
Day 3

Breakfast  
Lunch  
Dinner  
No meal

Any dietary restrictions?

Yes  
No

Special needs? (Circle appropriate responses):  

Restaurant  
Spouse / child / guest is:  

hearing impaired  
visually impaired  
in wheelchair  
other:

Golf registration

San Antonio

Name  
Handicap

Name  
Handicap

Golf fees are $80 per golfer; include in total payment. Please provide names of others if foursome.

Payment options

Check/money order enclosed (U.S. funds only)  

Credit card  
Visa  
MasterCard

Card number  
Exp. date

Total charged $  

Signature

This form and payment of $150 per person over the age of 11, plus golf registration fees of $80 per golfer (if applicable) and spouse/guest tour fees (if applicable), must be received at the UTU International, 24950 Country Club Blvd., Suite 340, North Olmsted, OH 44070-5332, by June 6 for the San Antonio meeting or June 20 for the New York meeting for the member/spouse to be considered pre-registered. Make checks or money orders payable in U.S. funds to “UTU Regional Meeting.” Those who do not pre-register for the regional meeting but choose to register at the meeting site will be charged a $50 penalty fee. Space on the tours is limited; reservations are first-come, first-served.

www.utu.org / www.utuia.org
Union-busting efforts across the nation have nothing to do with balancing out-of-control budgets, as President Mike Futhey and Assistant President Art Martín explain in their columns on page 4 of this newspaper.

In fact, right-wing extremist legislatures are seeking to turn back the clock.

Following is a sampling of what the workplace was like before the 1926 Railway Labor Act and 1935 National Labor Relations Act gave workers rights to join a union free of employer interference and to bargain collectively.

Previously, the American judicial system was modeled on English common law, which considered any combination of workers seeking wage increases a criminal conspiracy, punishable by prison. Even picketing an employer was considered an unlawful restraint of trade.

Workers typically put in a 12-hour day, six days a week, with no overtime pay, no paid vacations, no employer-provided health care insurance, no process for worker grievances to be heard and no compensation for on-the-job injuries.

In 1855, Chicago railroads hired Pinkerton detectives to spy on workers, blacklisted troublemakers and informed them in writing that if injured on the job, the railroad had no responsibility.

In 1867, Central Pacific financier Charles Crocker responded to a work stoppage by denying workers food, telling them it was he who made the rules and if they did not return to work he would pay them nothing for the work already performed and for which they were owed.

"Robber barons prevailed in their pursuit of endless treasure at the expense of their employees," wrote a federal judge in 2006, describing 19th century working conditions.

During the late 1800s, federal troops were used to put down work stoppages. In 1877, 20 rail workers were killed and another 29 wounded in clashes with 3,000 soldiers brought in to end a work stoppage.

In 1891, the Colorado legislature established 18 consecutive hours – with no overtime pay – as a lawful day’s work for railroad workers.

"Turn back the clock! As President Futhey says, “We are not going away. We will not forget. And, thanks to the values of the union movement and our members, THE UTU IS STRONGER THAN EVER!”

The government does not get to decide if we are a union. We get to decide if we are a union.