Previsich elevated to asst. president/vice president

John Previsich has been elevated from UTU International vice president to assistant president/vice president by the UTU Board of Directors, succeeding Arty Martin, who retired Sept. 1. UTU International President Mike Futhay said of Martin’s departure, “It is difficult to lose a talent like Arty Martin with all the institutional knowledge he has gained through his years of service to UTU members. We certainly wish him and Cindy the best on their retirement adventure.

“In turn, we are truly fortunate to have someone like John Previsich willing to take on the responsibilities of assistant president/vice president,” Futhay said.

Previsich, age 58 and a member of Local 31 (San Jose, Calif.), began his railroad service with Southern Pacific (now part of Union Pacific) in 1973, working in yard, road and engine service. He currently holds seniority as a switchman, brakeman, conductor, fireman and engineer on UP, and worked in commuter and long-distance passenger rail service for 10 years.

He was elected to numerous positions, including local chairperson, vice general chairperson and general chairperson – the latter to which he was elected five times by acclamation – representing brakepersons, assistant conductors, conductors, firemen, hostlers, engineers and train dispatchers on short lines, passenger lines and Class I railroads.

As an elected Local 31 delegate, Previsich attended International conventions in 1991, 1995 and 1999. Additionally, he served on the peer support committee for UP’s Operation Red-Block (1993 to 1998), UP’s Safety Assurance and Compliance Program, chairperson of the UTU’s Union Pacific General Chairperson Association for three terms (2002-2005), and as the UTU’s representative on Southern Pacific’s 401(k) Plan board of directors.

Previsich was elected an International vice president in 2007 and re-elected in 2011. His assignments have included assisting general committees on UP, BNSF, Kansas City Southern, CSX, CN/IC, Canadian Pacific, Delaware & Hudson, San Joaquin Valley Railroad, Kyle Railroad, Nebraska Central, Birmingham Southern, Amtrak, Progressive Rail, Connex, Terminal Railroad of St. Louis, Louisiana & Northwest Railroad, Dakota Minnesota & Eastern, Great Lakes Aviation and Lynx Aviation pilots’ group.

He also was assigned to assist the National Legislative Office in passage of the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008, and serves on behalf of working families and retirees.

If your job security, safety in the workplace, pension and Medicare are important to you, then you and your voting-eligible family members have a strong incentive Nov. 6 to vote for UTU-endorsed candidates.

Paychecks, benefits, workplace safety and pension are all on the line this Election Day.

The article on page 3 of this issue contrasts the Democratic and Republican Party platforms, offering a chilling warning of what a Romney/Ryan victory and conservative Republican control of Congress would deliver.

On page 10, five state legislative directors speak out. The page also contains a graphic showing how middle-class family income has declined as union membership in America declined, providing a potent warning that an anti-union administration and anti-union Congress could spell significant financial damage for working families and retirees.

Which candidate earned your vote?

See the list of UTU-endorsed candidates inside.

Nov. 6: Vote your paycheck, benefits, safety

Election Day 2012 matters only if the ability to negotiate a favorable contract and your job security, workplace safety, pensions, Medicare, and preservation of Amtrak are important to you.

In ballot choices, working families are presented with one of the clearest contrasts in generations.

The choice is between President Obama and Vice President Biden, who understand, respect and support the agenda of working families; and Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan, who support an anti-union agenda – an agenda that would eradicate collective bargaining, safety regulations and Amtrak, fold Railroad Retirement into Social Security (causing the retirement age to rise to 67), and replace Medicare with a voucher system requiring seniors to purchase health care insurance in private markets and at a higher cost than the vouchers they are given.

The choice also is between labor-friendly congressional candidates and political conservatives who would stand with Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan to introduce and pass anti-labor legislation that undermine our jobs and pensions.

In deciding how to cast your ballot, read the credentials of our candidates, presented on page 4. The centerfold of this issue contains the names of UTU-endorsed candidates, arranged alphabetically by state. Working families have many more friends in the Democratic Party, not just in their numbers, but in the support of labor-friendly Republicans endorsed by the UTU, reflecting our union’s historical bipartisan approach. What matters is that a candidate has a demonstrated record of support for working families and organized labor.

He succeeds Arty Martin, who has retired.

A UTU-represented trainman employed by Canadian National Railway subsidiary Illinois Central was seriously injured at Millington, Tenn., early Sept. 5 when reportedly struck by a passing train on a mainline while performing duties on an adjacent track. Millington is a suburb north of Memphis.

Shawn D. Hall, 34, married with four children, reportedly lost one foot as well as suffering broken arms, ribs and internal injuries in the accident. Hall, a member of Local 753 in Memphis, has eight years of service. He was treated at Regional Medical Center in Memphis.
Local 202, Denver

A new website for members of this joint Union Pacific/BNSF local is online at www.utulocal202.org. Legislative Secretary Jeff Maxfield reports. The site has information about local and general committee agreements, membership rights, the Family Medical Leave Act, state and national legislative updates and local meeting times. Members can also use the site to report unsafe working conditions and protective equipment. “This is a very comprehensive website and I hope all the members of Local 202 will take advantage of the services it provides,” Maxfield said.

Local 240, Los Angeles

Chairperson Harry Gavrin Jr. reports that the 10th annual retirement and retirement dinner for employees of UP, SP, Pacific, Electric, Metrolink, Amtrak and AT&SF (Locals 240, 32, 1422, 1770, 1813 and 1846) will be held Nov. 2, from 5 to 9 p.m. at 111 North Main St., Club House Dr., in Fontana. The cost is $40 per person or $75 per couple, with a reservation deadline of Oct. 26. The cost will be $45 per person at the door. For more information, call Gavrin at (909) 261-8878 or (909) 481-7261. Send checks or money orders to Gavrin at P.O. Box 83986, Alta Loma, CA 91701-0935, or include names, address, telephone number, rail and years of service, as well as your menu choice of tri-tip roast or chicken.

Local 363 & 706, Roanoke, Va.

The 489, 756 and 857 members participated in Roanoke’s first Labor Day parade in more than 50 years, State Legislative Director Pat Corp reports. Included in the UTU contingent were Corp, Local Chairperson Randy Chandler (363), Local Chairperson Jamie Wallace (706) and his son, Bryce.

Local 583, Fond du Lac, Wis.

Local Secretary & Treasurer Andy Hauk has established a fund to assist the family of member Larry Link, who died last month from leukemia. LaVonne Jones, was gunned down in a drive-by shooting while visiting family in Saginaw, Mich. Checks payable to the “LaVonne Jones Memorial Fund” may be sent to the Loving Memory Fund, P.O. Box 342, Fond du Lac, WI 54931, with account number 18321695122 on the memo line. In other news, members of this local last month honored retiring member Neil A. Johnson for his assistance in bringing UP representation to the employees of Wisconsin Central in 1997 and in establishing the earliest agreements on the property.

Local 756, San Antonio

While cooking on Local Chairperson John Danforth’s pit Aug. 21 at San Antonio’s Kirby Yard, officers and members from Locals 489, 756 and 857 were able to grill 60 new UTU PAC contributors. While cooking the PAC drive were State Legislative Director Connie English, Legislative Rep. Russell Castillo (489), Legislative Rep. Brian English (756), Scott Wood (857), Vice President J. Louis Dullose (1857) and Secretary & Treasurer Burt Gonzales (857).

Local 1175, Duluth, Minn.

With the assistance of the state legislative board, this local has established the “UTU Duluth Flood Relief Fund” to assist active and retired members who were affected by severe flooding in June. Contributions can be made at any US Bank or can be sent to US Bank/Spirt Valley Office, 5330 Grand Ave., Duluth, MN 55807. Contact Local Legislative Rep. Geoff Bowen at (218) 349-6849 for more information.

Local 1409, Kansas City, Kan.

This Union Pacific local presented a check for more than $2,000 to the Saint Louis Church of “Fishing for Freedom,” an organization that provides military veterans suffering from post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) a weekend of fishing at no cost, Legislative Director Dan Bonavitiz Jr. reports. Trav- el, lodging, gas, fishing licenses and meals are all provided. The organization’s website can be found at www.fishingforfreedom.us. “This will be a televised event this fall and we have been assured that UTU stickers will be on each of the boats,” Bonavitiz said.

Local 1715, Charlotte, N.C.

General Chairperson Kevin Moss and Vice General Chairperson Hassan Trent won their second arbitration case July 18 since taking office nearly one year ago. Bus operator Wilma Kinard and her fellow workers were pleased to learn that she would be reintegrated to service with full back pay and benefits, Moss said. “All of our members are excited about the news and are standing with the union in its endeavor to achieve better working conditions and job security.”

Local 1741, San Francisco

Local Chairperson Paul Stein, Vice Local Chairperson Shane Hoff and Legislative Rep. David Kush attended a fundraiser Sept. 13 for Tom Ammiano, the representative for the California Assembly’s 13th District. “Ammiano is a very strong supporter of the U T U , especially our San Francisco school bus drivers,” Stein said. “Much thanks goes to State Legislative Director J.P. Jones for his support, and the Futerky administration for recognizing the importance of supporting progressive friends of labor.”

Local 1869, Williamson, W. Va.

The members of this local held their 11th annual family picnic Aug. 11 at Grants Branch Park in Stone, KY., Local Vice President Stephen Mosley reports. “This picnic is something all our members look forward to each year. It is a great opportunity for our families to get to know each other, as well as to see fellow union brothers and sisters who have retired,” Mosley said. Members and their families played games, raffled prizes and ate hot dogs, hamburgers, and other items of their summer favorites. “Our picnic is only possible due to the donations we receive each year and to the hard work of our members who volunteered.”

For more information, contact Kevin Moss at (706) 555-5555 or email kmoss@utuia.org.

Kush, Ammiano and Hoff

Around the UTU

Nortbf Southern conductor Paul Tucker and his wife, Gwen, stand in front of the barbecue grill at the Cornerstone of Recovery’s annual alumni reunion.

Cooking keeps conductor on the road to recovery

Following his recovery from substance abuse that almost cost him his job, Norfolk Southern conductor Paul Tucker just wanted “to give back to the people that really helped me.”

And that is what this Local 865 member has done for the past six years.

After failing to stay available for drug screening when reporting for work six years ago, Tucker was removed from service. The only way to return to work was to enter a substance abuse treatment program, so Tucker packed his bags and left his North Carolina home for a six-month stay at the Cornerstone of Recovery facility in Alexs, Tenn.

Prior to leaving for the facility for a weekend visit home, Tucker asked the administrators if he could bring his barbecue grill with him upon his return. They gave him the green light.

“I just enjoy cooking,” Tucker said. “It is peace of mind for me. I created a sauce that a lot of people seemed to enjoy, so I began cooking more on my grill and catering on the side.”

Tucker returned with his grill and prepared a barbecue for some staff and other facility members.

Following his successful treatment at Cornerstone, Tucker returned to service with Norfolk Southern, and stayed connected to the facility and his new friends through their alumni program. And for the past six years, Tucker, his wife Gwen and his grill have returned to the Cornerstone campus to prepare a barbecue banquet at the alumni’s annual weekend reunion.

“I just wanted to give back to the people that really helped me. They changed my view on life. They helped me learn a lot about myself,” he said.

GO 896 General Chairperson Mark Cook, who attended the latest alumni reunion this past Labor Day weekend, continues to sing Tucker’s praises. And not only for his barbecue.

“Paul is a stand-up, straight-up good person. He has impressed me from the time I met him,” Cook said.

Cook has spoken with NS about using Tucker as a peer counselor, but has not heard back from them. “There is no doubt in my mind that Paul would be a great asset helping others,” he said.

Assistance sought for UTU hurricane victims

In the wake of devastating Hurricane Isaac, which caused significant property damage and loss to scores of UTU members in its path along the Gulf Coast in August, the UTU is soliciting donations to assist those struggling brothers and sisters.

To speed the collection and disbursement of donations, the UTU is using the same special bank account that was established to aid our brothers and sisters in the wake of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Thus, checks to aid UTU brothers and sisters in need of assistance following Hurricane Isaac should be made payable to “UTU Hurricane Victims.”

Democrats vs. Republicans: Where they stand

In comparing the platforms of the Democratic and Republican parties, Steven Greenhouse of The New York Times says the GOP platform “calls for numerous steps that could significantly weaken America’s labor unions — public-sector and private-sector ones — and help speed organized labor’s overall decline.”

Rather than take his word, here are comparisons of the Democratic and Republican platforms on issues of concern to labor-union members and working families.

ORGANIZING AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Democratic Party platform statement: “Democrats believe that the right to organize and collectively bargain is a fundamental American value; every American should have a voice on the job and a chance to negotiate for a fair day’s pay after a hard day’s work. We will continue to fight for the right of all workers to organize and join a union. [We oppose the attacks on collective bargaining that Republican governors and state legislators are mounting in states around the country.]”

Republican Party platform statement: “We support the right of states to enact right-to-work laws and encourage them to do so to promote greater economic liberty. Ultimately, we support the enactment of a national right-to-work law to subject Americans’ guaranteed retirement income to the whims of the stock market through privatization.”

RAILROAD RETIREMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Democratic Party platform statement: “Find a solution to protect Social Security for future generations [and] block Republican efforts to privatize Social Security, significant­ly reducing pension benefits to railroad retirees. The system would be financially crippled and likely force Railroad Retirement to be eliminated and folded into Social Security.”

Republican Party platform statement: “[P]rovide a bill banning foreign outsourcing; [and] support bills to curtail collective bargaining rights.”

AMTRAK

Democratic Party platform statement: “We support long-term investments in our infrastruc­ture including rail and public transit sys­tems…all critical to economic growth, as they enable businesses to grow.”

Republican Party platform statement: “G ov. Kasich’s effort to restrict collective bargaining in Ohio.”

Don’t let others decide our future

“We must not back down in defense of what we have achieved. We must have every member, every spouse and every family member of voting age cast a ballot on Election Day to help protect job security, good wages, safety and retirement.”

Elections have consequences, and this November the stakes are too high to let others decide our future.”

— International President Mike Futhey

JUST THE FACTS

Mitt Romney said what?

“I support…Gov. Kasich’s effort to restrict collective bargaining in Ohio.”

Cincinnati Enquirer, Oct. 26, 2011

“I’ve taken on union bosses before. I’m happy to take them on again.”

Detroit News, Feb. 16, 2012

“I would…encourage more states to adopt right-to-work laws.”


Paul Ryan voted for what?

As a Republican congressman from Wisconsin, Paul Ryan voted:

• To abolish more equitable union election rules for rail and aviation workers;
• Nine times to eliminate or cut funding for Amtrak;
• Against “buy America” laws for publicly fund­ed transportation projects;
• To allow foreign companies to take over U.S. airlines;
• To get flight attendant security training;
• To zero out our security funding for bus companies;
• Against security checks on foreign-based mechanics who repair U.S. aircraft;
• Against public employee funding to prevent layoffs.

<table>
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<th>Mitt Romney did what as Massachusetts governor?</th>
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<td>• Vetoed a bill banning foreign outsourcing;</td>
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<td>• Sent $7.1 million worth of public sector jobs to China;</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Supported bills to curtail collective bargaining rights.</td>
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(Sources: WashTech, Boston Globe, Press Associates, Inc.)

The Obama/Biden record

• Directed $8.4 billion in stimulus funds for transport;
• Directed $8 billion in stimulus funds for high­er and high-speed rail;
• Directed $1.3 billion in stimulus funds for rail projects to states and Amtrak;
• Directed $1.3 billion in stimulus funds for avia­tion improvements;
• Fought Republican proposals to gut mass transit;
• Their Federal Motor Carrier Safety Adminis­trator cracked down on unsafe, low-wage bus companies;
• Their OSHA-appointed officials cracked down on railroad practices of harassing and intimidating workers who report workplace injuries and safety concerns.

(Source: House of Representatives roll-call votes)
Obama deserves your vote: here are the reasons

UTU endorsements for President of the United States and election to Congress are undertaken with considerable thought, responsibility and accountability. Prior to issuing these endorsements, we did an exhaustive job evaluating the candidates’ positions on transportation, collective bargaining, workplace safety, pensions and benefits, and Medicare.

The endorsements for President Obama and Vice President Biden, as well as candidacies (which appear in the centerfold of this newspaper) are based on the following:

• President Obama has demonstrated by action strong support for Amtrak, transit, high-speed rail, Social Security, Railroad Retirement, Medicare, workplace safety, collective bargaining and the right to organize and belong to a labor union;
• President Obama dedicated billions of dollars for high- and high-speed passenger rail and public transportation;
• President Obama supported and approved grant and loan programs for new and expanded freight transportation that railroads have used to improve operations, which have added hundreds of construction and operating jobs;
• President Obama supports a “hands-off” approach to Railroad Retirement, opposes privatization of Social Security, opposes the Republican plan to end Medicare as we know it, and supports public-employee pension plans and collective bargaining rights;
• Vice President Biden, who, as a U.S. senator for 30 years, rode Amtrak more than any other fare-paying person in America, commuting daily between Washington, D.C., and his Delaware home. He has a lifetime U.S. Senate voting record of 97 percent on issues vital to UTU members;
• Mitt Romney, by contrast, emphatically promises to eliminate all funding for Amtrak and high-speed rail;
• Mitt Romney supports the Republican platform approved in Tampa in August, which takes money from transit and rail to pour more concrete for highways;
• Mitt Romney has pledged to eliminate regulations that benefit unions and to regulate unions so they cannot effectively represent their members. He supports national right-to-work (for less) legislation, which would drive down wages across America;
• Mitt Romney’s vice presidential choice, Paul Ryan, is the author of a conservative Republican budget proposal that turns Medicare into a voucher program. Instead of guaranteed lifetime medical benefits, beneficiaries would be given an inadequate lump sum to buy private insurance, and pay the rest out of pocket;
• The Paul Ryan-authored budget proposal would “fundamentally reform Railroad Retirement benefits to those of Social Security.” If this becomes law, our retirement date would move from age 62 to 67, and we would lose our occupational disability and other Railroad Retirement benefits.

UTU News
Contact the UTU: utunews@utu.org
Phone (216) 228-9400; fax (216) 228-5755
John Previsich, Assistant President/Vice President
Jprevisich@utu.org
Kim Thompson, General Secretary and Treasurer
Kthompson@utu.org
James Stem, National Legislative Director
jamessem@aol.com
For the latest news, visit www.utu.org; also, sign up on the UTU website to receive news alerts via email.

Your one vote can make a huge difference

Congressional elections do matter. They make a difference when it comes to our job security, wages, benefits, retirement and our safety in the workplace.

President Obama and labor-friendly congressional representa-tives and senators not only believe in supporting public transit, Amtrak and high-speed rail, they assured funding was available to purchase more equipment, expand service, repair equipment, provide training and enhance minimum safety requirements.

The president chooses who regulates job security and workplace safety

One of the most important responsibilities of a president is to nominate members of federal regulatory agencies. President Obama nominated former UTU Illinois State Legislative Director Joe Stabo to head the Federal Railroad Administration; and former UTU National Legislative Director General Counsel Dan Elliott to chair the Surface Transportation Board, which determines labor protection in rail mergers, line sales and leases. Then, a Democratic controlled Senate assured these nominees were confirmed to their posts.

A “President Romney” will nominate management-friendly individu-al to regulatory agencies such as the FRA, the National Labor Relations Board, the National Mediation Board, the Surface Transportation Board, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, OSHA and the National Transportation Safety Board.

Conservative Republicans who now control the House of Representatives have pushed to reduce, and even eliminate, funding for high-speed rail, Amtrak and transit, with no protections for adversely affected workers who lose their jobs. Some conservative Republicans also want to privatize Social Security, replace Medicare with a voucher program, make it more difficult to join a union, enact a national right-to-work (for less) law, and criminalize worker bills; and Mitt Romney, if elected, will sign them into law.

Yes, elections do matter. This election will make a difference in job security, our safety in the workplace, our pensions and whether transportation workers can effectively bargain collectively.

No matter the result, National Legislative Director James Stem I, with help from state legislative directors and our new SMART partners in the Sheet Metal Workers International Association, will work to educate all elected lawmakers and appointed regulators.

Our efforts to protect UTU member jobs, paychecks, benefits, retirement and workplace safety will be consider-
ably easier if we elect labor-friendly candidates to Congress and return Barack Obama to the White House.

Another way to review the UTU voting recommendations in the centerfold of this issue and recognize the importance to you and your family of voting Nov. 6.

If conservatives control Congress, unions and working families will suffer

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Illinois

State Legislative Director Bob Guy has been appointed by Gov. Pat Quinn to the Midwest InterstatePassenger Rail Commission (MIPRC).

The commission was established by the
Midwestern states to coordi-
nate their passenger-rail development efforts and to advocate for state and federal funding.

Guy said he was pleased with his appointment because
it comes at a time of "tremen-
dous promise" for passenger rail in the Midwest.

“This within two years, Illinois and Michigan each
will have more than 200 miles of 110-mph track
in operation on their busiest rail routes, Chi-cag-o-St. Louis and Chicago-Detroit,” he said, call-
ing the faster new train service “both a challenge
and an opportunity.

“We think what’s going to mean for ridership
and job creation,” he said. “Ridership already
is growing at seven to eight percent per year.

“When the trains start going 30 mph faster
and the on-time performance improves even
more, the ridership is going to shoot through
the roof.

“I expect the Illinois and Michigan passenger-
rail programs to become something of a model
for the rest of the nation — as well as for Mid-
western states such as Ohio, Indiana and Wis-
consin that are still bashful about going all-in
on passenger-rail development,” Guy said.

“IT’S an exciting time and I’m proud to be rep-
resenting our members as we look for-
ward to improving and expanding the rail indus-
try.”

Ohio

The Ohio State Legislative Board was invited
to attend the Columbus Clippers baseball game,
and Sen. Sherrod Brown stopped by to say hello.

“Senator Brown wanted to thank the UTU
for our support of him in this difficult election,”
State Legislative Director Stu Gardner said. “We
discussed our concerns: the attack on Railroad
Retirement, the lack of high-speed passenger rail
development in the state, and the need to pre-
sure FELA. Sen. Brown was most receptive to
our appeals, and I urge all members in the Buck-
eye State to support his re-election.”

Minnesota

Members of the Minnesota State Legislative
Board met with Sen. Amy Klobuchar to affirm
their support for her re-election.

“The UTU has had a longstanding rela-
tionship with Sen. Klobuchar; we helped her get her
political start back in 1996 when she ran for
county attorney,” State Legislative Director Phil
Quayle said. “Her door is always open to us when
we need to speak with her about rail-safety issues.

“I would encourage all members in Minneso-
to support President Barack Obama, Sen.
Klobuchar and all the UTU-endorsed candi-
dates,” Quayle said. “I would also urge members to
reject the voter ID constitutional amendment; it
is bad policy.”

Arizona

Congressional candidate Ann Kirkpatrick
cooked burgers for the members of Local 113,
Winslow, at the group’s annual picnic.

“Members of Local 113, along with myself, will
be featured in the Kirkpatrick campaign’s televi-
sion ad,” State Legislative Director Greg Hynes
said. “Ann Kirkpatrick is sympathetic to the
needs of working men and women, and I urge all
Arizonans to support her with their votes.”

Kansas

State Legislative Director Ty Drago attend-
ed the Demo-

cratic National

Convention.

“As far as I’m aware, I’m the only
UTU member that
was elected to be a
national delegate. I
was elected from a
field of 116 peo-
ple,” he said.

“The fact that
Republicans added language to their platform
against passenger- and high-speed rail is very dis-
turbing. I stressed to the delegates that Demo-
crats should support this crucial mode of trans-
portation, not only for its environmental benefits
but the economic impact rail development brings
in construction, as well as operating jobs.”

www.utu.org / www.utuia.org
H igh-S peed R ail C om m ission. 

abuse prevention program  and served on a 
N ational C ouncil of A lcoholism . H e also helped 
nell U niversity's S chool of Industrial and Labor 
R elations, w here he helped create a collection of 
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1 95 5 , and held the position of U T U  assistant 
F ollowing his retirem ent, C ollins w as appoint - 
m ents that formed the U T U  in 1 969. A t the tim e, he w as 
guesse, where he was elected a general chairperson. 
McNamara stayed current 

The U T U  A lum ni A ssociation is offering 
a nine-day steamboat cruise of the Mississip- 
pi River next year for its members. 

The cruise will depart O ct. 26, 2013, 
from St. Louis and end N ov. 2 in N ew 
Orleans. 

Travel is aboard the American Queen, 
the largest steamboat ever built. 

Although filled with today's modern 
amenities, the American Queen's rooms and 
accommodations display the opulence of the American Victorian era. Glistening woodwork, fresh flow-
eries and antiques adorn her interior spaces. O utside, lacy filigree evokes m em ories of the m any stately 
river steamers that preceded her and so inspired her designers. 

The itinerary includes a welcome-aboard dinner; two days of leisurely "steamboating"; a narrated tour 
of Memphis, T enn., including the N ational C ivil R ights M useum ; stops in N atchez, M iss., and B aton 
R ouge, La.; a tour of the H oumas H ouse, La., plantation and gardens of the "S ugar Palace," a 1 6-room 
antebellum estate, and incomparable N ew Orleans. 

P rices start at $1,995 per person. (I f booked by D ec. 20, save $200 per cabi n.) A ll arrangements are 
being handled by C ollins Travel, the A lum ni A ssociation's designated travel provider. 

For m ore information call (800) 83 5 -92 3 3 , or see the A lum ni A ssociation page at 

You do n ot need to be a m ember of the A lum ni A ssociation to take advantage of this offer.

Two retired UTU International officers die 

Former UTU International officers Daniel W. C ollins and Paul J. M cN am ara have d ied. 

Daniel W. C ollins, age 90, who retired in 1 992 as U T U  assistant general secretary & treasurer, 
was a member of the 40-person committee that 
laid the groundwork for merger of the predicate 
unions that formed the U T U  in 1 969. At the tim e, he was 

Follow ing are the nam es of recently deceased m em bers w ho m aintained annual m em bership in the U T U  A lum ni A ssociation, according to reports received 
at U T U  International Headquarters. T hese brothers and sisters w ill be m issed by their m any friends and by fellow  U T U  A lum ni A ssociation m em bers. 

Paul J. M cN am ara 

Collins helped form UTU; McNamara was vice president 

The Final Call 

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 fellow UTU Alumni Association members.

Collins helped form UTU; McNamara was vice president
Peace of mind for you

Young families have very little discretionary cash. In fact, most young families rely on the income of both spouses to make ends meet.

You’ve thought about how your family would carry on if something happened to you. But you put the thought out of your mind because, after all, you’re young. Nothing’s going to happen to you. Right?

What if something were to happen to you? Would there be enough money to provide for even the barest of necessities, especially since it takes both incomes to make ends meet?

If you could protect the financial well-being of your loved ones for just a few dollars a month, wouldn’t you do whatever it takes to set aside those few dollars to ensure the financial well-being of your family? Of course you would!

The answer is life insurance. Life insurance – especially term insurance – is very inexpensive at young ages and, while you’re young and insurable, you stand the best chance of getting the best rate possible.

We can provide the peace of mind you’re looking for.

Contact us toll-free at (800) 558-8842.

Information, please

I would like more information on UTUIA’s term life insurance.

Please print

Full name
Address
Telephone number with area code
City State
ZIP
UTU local number
Sex: Male Female
Date of birth

Complete and mail to: UTUIA Sales Dept., 24952 Country Club Blvd., Suite 340, North Olmsted, OH 44070-5333

For more information, return the coupon at right, call toll free (800) 558-8842 or email: sales@utuia.org

Show your union pride with union gear

American Products offers line of union-made SMART and UTU gear, clothing

It’s not too early to begin your holiday shopping and the UTU website is just the place to start. Just visit the UTU website at www.utu.org and click on the Gear tile.

All of the SMART and UTU items featured there are sold through American Products and are union-made and/or are made in America.

American Products is offering several new items this fall that were debuted at the regional meetings this summer, including the new SMART/UTU T-shirts and polos, a toddlers sweatshirt and a UTU portfolio. Please be sure to check the website for details on all the new items.

All items carry a 100 percent quality guarantee against defects in materials and workmanship. Volume discounts on customized orders are available to UTU and SMWIA locals.

Watches and clocks carry a two-year manufacturer’s warranty against defects.

All of the featured items can be ordered by credit card directly through the company’s secure website, or by calling the company’s toll-free number: (800) 272-5120.

Members may also download and print a custom order form that can be mailed to UTU Merchandise.com, 1600 N. Clinton Ave., Rochester, NY 14621.

Apparel prices may vary depending on size. Visit the UTU online store for complete details about prices and available sizes.

Black SMART T-shirt
Ash SMART T-shirt
Navy SMART Joplin polo
Green SMART polo
UTU clock
UTU kids sweatshirt
Fitted Navy UTU hat
“Stronger Than Ever” watch
UTU portfolio
Ohio
Railroad Retirement, Medicare, the Affordable Care Act and Amtrak are all on the chopping block, but our progressive leaders gain control of the White House and Congress.

In Ohio, we are a top battleground state, and I urge you to cast ballots for UTU-endorsed candidates: President Obama, Sen. Sherrod Brown, and congressional candidates Mary Kay Hertel, Betty Sutton, Michael Turner, Marcia Fudge, Pat Tiberi, Timothy Ryan, and Steve Silvers, as well as Joyce Healy-Abrams, Charlie Wilson, Joyce Beatty, and Angela Zimmann.

These are our friends and will be with us when we need their help.

— SLD Stuart Gardner

Wisconsin
Each of our votes matters and has the same weight as the vote of a CEO. Nobody will deplore a UTU member of the right to vote except the UTU member and the only way that can happen is by not casting a vote. On Nov. 6, vote your union, paycheck, benefits, affordable health care, workplace safety, retirement and family security. If you cannot go to the polls Election Day, vote early or via absentee ballot by mail.

— SLD Craig Peachy

Florida
Each of us has made commitments to our children, parents, spouses, houses of worship, community and charities. The Declaration of Independence recognizes our right to the pursuit of happiness. The path to those commitments is happiness and health.

Is this your most crucial vote ever?

You can’t expect your union to deliver better wages and benefits while voting for candidates who will weaken working families’ abilities to protect your interests.

— SLD Andres Trujillo

Previsich elevated
Continued from page 1

of the UTU on the act’s safety advisory committee, the FRA Medical Standards Working Group, the Close Call Reporting System (C3RS).

Martin and his wife, Kathy, have four children. Amy Martin, age 66, is a fourth-generation railroader, having been elected assistant president in 2007 and re-elected in 2011. He signed on with Union Pacific in Pocatello, Idaho, in 1966 while attending Idaho State University, where he earned a degree in business administration, with a minor in labor law. An Air Force veteran, he also played minor league baseball as a catcher, including one professional season in Alaska.

Martin was promoted to engineer in 1975. Frustration over railroad treatment of employees encouraged him to run successfully in 1977 for UTU Local 78 vice local chairperson, representing conductors. He was elected vice general chairperson and general chairperson in 1992. Martin merged the engineers general committee with one representing conductors, brakemen and yardmen, and today that general committee represents more than 5,000 UP train and engine workers.

His mother, father and grandfather were UP employees, and his great-grandfather ran steam locomotives on New York Central Railways (now part of CSX).

Martin and his wife, Cindy, have four children, including Brian, who is a UTUIA field supervisor, and Dallas, who is a UP conductor in Portland.

Unscripted Mitt Romney speaks his mind

It is in off-the-cuff comments, rather than scripted press conferences, staged public speaking events or political advertisements on television, that often best reveal the “real” candidate and their thoughts.

These off-the-cuff comments by Mitt Romney, at a $50,000-per-person fundraiser in Boca Raton, Fla., in May, when he didn’t realize a camera was rolling and microphone present, reveal the “real” candidate:

“There are 47 percent of the people who will vote for the president no matter what. All right, there are 47 percent who are with him, who are dependent on government, who believe that they are victims, who believe the government has a responsibility to care for them, who believe that they are entitled to health care, to food, to housing, to you name it…. And the government should give it to them. They will vote for this president no matter what…. These are people who pay no income tax.

“My job is not to worry about these people. I’ll never convince them they should take personal responsibility and care for their lives.”

— SLD Jim Garrett

Iowa
This election will be the most significant most of us will face in our careers. There is no doubt that rail-labor gains have been too much at risk.

It is not just the threat to Railroad Retirement. Mitt Romney’s comments on labor policy make it clear he is ready to gut health care, safety and labor laws to amend the out-dated portions of the existing statutory framework “inappropriate to contemporary conditions.”

Your job, your family and your personal safety depend on your vote Nov. 6.

— SLD Jim Garrett

Members okay contracts on EJ&E, TP&W

If you wonder if your vote matters, remember that a few hundred votes cast in Florida in 2000 changed the course of our nation for a decade. Think of those who went before us who struggled, and even died, to put in place labor laws that allow us to bargain collectively for our wages. That effort paved the way for the lifestyles we enjoy today.

Vote for candidates who will work to preserve our union and our way of life. Vote for UTU-endorsed candidates who have stuck with us. Now is the time to stick with them.

— SLD Patrick Corp

Members okay contracts on EJ&E, TP&W

UTU-represented employees of Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway and Toledo, Peoria & Western Railway have ratified new five-year agreements.

Negotiating assistance on both railroads was provided by International Vice President Dave Wer. On EJ&E, the ratified contract provides that conductors, brakemen and yardmen receive wage increases, back pay, an employment guarantee with back-up protection, guaranteed extra boards, elimination of rate progression for conductors/foremen, and 90 percent entry rates for brakemen and helpers that rises to 100 percent after one year of service.

Also established by the new agreement is a 401(k) plan and disability insurance, more liberal qualification for vacations, and coverage under the National Railway Health and Welfare Plan that includes early retirement and four months of additional health care insurance for dismissed or furloughed employees.

Wier praised the efforts of General Chairpersons Cory Mayberry (GO 329) and Rich Baran de (GO 330), Vice General Chairperson Kevin Wright (GO 329), and Local 740 (Joliet, Ill.)

Members okay contracts on EJ&E, TP&W

Chairpersons Mike Caudillo and Ed Cox for “the exceptional effort put forth during the long and difficult negotiations that resulted in an agreement with dramatic improvements in wages and benefits, and provides employment security and parity for members.”

On TP&W, the ratified contract provides for wage increases with additional compensation for conductors certified as engineers, participation in the RailAmerica Incentive Compensation Plan (with an opt-out provision providing an additional one percent annual wage increase), improved working conditions and special allowances.

Wier congratulated General Chairperson Rob Ferrier (GO TPW) and Local 198 (Peoria, Ill.) Vice Local Chairperson Steve Benedict for “the outstanding effort put forth. The wage increases, coupled with quarterly bonus increases, provide members with outstanding pay increases.”

EJ&E, a Class II railroad and a U.S. subsidiary of Canadian National Railway, operates in Illinois and Indiana suburbs surrounding Chicago.

TP&W, a short line and RailAmerica property, operates in Illinois and Indiana.

Members okay contracts on EJ&E, TP&W

www.utu.org / www.utuia.org
As we consider how we will cast our ballots on Election Day, let us all remember that under the Obama administration and the Affordable Care Act, we have been able to keep our children on our health care insurance policies until age 26, we no longer face a maximum lifetime cap on benefits, contrarion is included in coverage, and we and our children cannot be denied coverage because of pre-existing conditions.

Conservative Republicans Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan are committed to repealing the Affordable Care Act.

Conservative Republicans also are committed to privatizing Social Security and turning Medicare into a voucher program with more costs coming out of retirees’ pockets. By contrast, President Obama is committed to preserving Social Security and Medicare as we know it.

When it comes to collective bargaining rights, conservative Republicans Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan have publicly congratulated the conservative Republican governors of Wisconsin and Ohio who pushed to curtail and eliminate those rights especially for public employees. Contrast that attack on collective bargaining rights with the Democratic Party platform position, which is also the Obama/Biden position:

“Democrats believe that the right to organize and collectively bargain is a fundamental American value; every American should have a voice on the job and a chance to negotiate for a fair day’s pay after a hard day’s work. We will continue to fight for the right of all workers to organize and join a union.”

We in the transit industry have held our own in these difficult economic times because the Obama administration and our labor-friendly allies in Congress – labor-friendly Republicans as well as Democrats – have been at the forefront of advocating new labor agreements that benefit workers and employers alike.

Conservative Republicans Romney and Ryan want to repeal the Affordable Care Act

Even when railroads return workers to their jobs with full back pay after wrongly terminating them for suffering a workplace injury, significant monetary sanctions may still be imposed by the Department of Labor’s occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Norfolk Southern was ordered to pay damages in excess of $580,000 in August after violating the Federal Railroad Safety Act’s worker protections against employer harassment, intimidation, discipline and termination in retaliation for reporting workplace injuries or safety concerns.

Railroad injuries have run into millions of dollars in sanctions by OSHA over the past year for worker protections against such behavior, but this case is significant in that Norfolk Southern was ordered to pay damages in excess of $580,000 in August after violating the Federal Railroad Safety Act’s worker protections against employer harassment, intimidation, discipline and termination in retaliation for reporting workplace injuries or safety concerns.

The unidentified conductor, who suffered a shoulder injury, had been told not to report a workplace injury because OSHA said Norfolk Southern had under-calculated the dollar amount of the injury.

Northwestern later paid $1.5 million to settle a suit against it for violating the Federal Railroad Safety Act.

OSHA expands rail worker harassment enforcement

NS initially claimed the injury was fabricated, and fired the conductor for allegedly making a false injury report. A public law board subsequently ordered the railroad to rehire the conductor with full back pay – 10 months after the workplace injury – and he continues to work for NS.

During those 10 months of unemployment, the conductor endured significant financial distress.

A UTA designated legal counsel, who brought a complaint before OSHA, said NS contended there were no damages to be assessed because the conductor had been put back to work with full back pay. OSHA said the NS arguments were baseless and that the railroad should be punished for violating the conductor’s rights under the Federal Railroad Safety Act.

OSHA then ordered NS to pay the conductor – in addition to the back pay already received – more than $580,000 to cover pain and suffering, punitive damages, loss of employer-paid benefits during the period of unemployment, attorney’s fees and additional lost wages plus interest because OSHA said NS had under-calculated the amount of back pay.

OSHA also ordered NS to provide all workers in its Decatur yard with a copy of an OSHA fact sheet on whistleblower protection, to post in the yard a notice explaining worker rights under the Federal Railroad Safety Act, and to expunge from the conductor’s personnel file all records of his termination and OSHA claim.

“This decision sends a powerful message that terminating an employee for an injury creates financial exposure for the railroad far beyond just having to put him back on the job with back pay,” said UTA International President Mike Futhey. “No longer can a railroad simply calculate the worse-case scenario as having only to provide back pay.”

Bus operators ratify two new contracts

Members of Local 1596, Charlotte, N.C., have finalized new contracts with Transit Management of Charlotte and First Transit of Concord Kannapolis.

The three-year agreements provide for wage increases, improvements in pensions, an increase in the employer contribution to health care insurance, an additional number of personal days and better work rules.

Leading the negotiations with Transit Management of Charlotte were General Chairperson Alvy Hughes, Local Chairperson Concord/Kannapolis.

Leading the negotiations with First Transit of Concord Kannapolis were General Chairperson Alvy Hughes, Local Chairperson Darryl Boykin, Vice Local Chairperson April Rogers, and Local Secretary Ben Bridges.

Hughes praised local officers on the negotiating committees for “expert preparation and tireless efforts to achieve the accomplishments in a difficult economic environment.”

Your jobs, retirement are at stake this election

The airline industry is in a sorry state. From the bungled merger of U.S. Airways with America West, to the efforts by American Airlines to use bankruptcy to cancel union contracts, the industry is seeking to achieve the accomplishments in a difficult economic environment.

UTU seeks arbitration with Great Lakes Airlines

The airline industry is in a sorry state. From the bungled merger of U.S. Airways with America West, to the efforts by American Airlines to use bankruptcy to cancel union contracts, the industry is seeking to achieve the accomplishments in a difficult economic environment.

Bad-faith bargaining by Great Lakes management, the UTU has asked the National Media tion Board (NMB) to declare an impasse in talks and proffer binding arbitration, said Assistant President John Previsich.

If the NMB does make that proffer, and Great Lakes rejects it, the clock will start on a 90-day countdown to a negotiated settlement, presidential emergency board recommendations for settlement or a work stoppage.

The UTU’s desire is that the parties reach a mutually satisfactory agreement and avoid any interruption in service,” Previsich said.

“The airline refuses to pay a living wage while reaping millions in profit. The UTU will do whatever it takes to improve the conditions for our members.”

November 2012 UTU News

www.utu.org / www.utuia.org
The UTU International is always looking for good photos, and awards UTU gear to monthly photo winners.

The UTU seeks photographs or digital images of work-related scenes, such as railroad, bus or mass transit operations, new equipment, photos, scenic views, or memories of your brothers and sisters keeping America rolling.

Printed photographs should be mailed to UTU News, 24950 Country Club Blvd., Suite 340, North Olmsted, OH 44070. High-resolution digital photographs should be in the JPEG format and emailed to "swhitney@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 the use of cameras on the property or during work hours.

This photo was taken in the 1970s by retired member E. Clyde Stickley, a member of Local 1313, Amarillo, Texas. "I was a Santa Fe conductor working out of Amarillo. This is an eastbound train approaching Waynoka, Okla. The brakeman looking up the train is Local 1313 member Sam Jefferson," Stickley said.