The outcome of this election will affect your job

By John Risch, National Legislative Director

For those of you who don’t know me, I’m honored to serve as your elected national legislative director. I came from the ranks, starting in the track department on the Burlington Northern and went into train service, spending more than 30 years in freight and passenger service in North Dakota.

My father was a truck driver and my mother was a stay-at-home parent who raised three children and a cousin of mine. We grew up poor, which gave me a real appreciation for the pay and benefits that a good union job provided. My 30-plus years working on the railroad has given me a real perspective of the issues we face, and drives me to protect what we already have and work to make our jobs better.

The outcome of the Presidential Election will determine whether we make progress on improving our jobs or whether we lose ground.

The next President of the United States will set the tone, and will make important appointments to positions that directly affect you.

The head of the Federal Railroad Administration will decide:

• Whether the two-person crew regulation is finalized or discarded
• Whether we enact regulations requiring uniform speed signs on railroads
• Whether there will be limitations on the use of inward facing cameras
• What to do about fatigue in the freight rail industry

Appointees to the National Mediation Board will intervene in our contract negotiations and influence things like wages and work rules. They will also appoint arbitrators who decide if an unjustly fired member returns to work with or without back pay.

The head of the Motor Carrier Administration will decide on how, or if, we will deal with the terrible problem of driver assault.

The next chairman of the Railroad Retirement Board will determine not only how our pension is administered, but how our unemployment, sickness and disability benefits are administered as well.

I’m very concerned about Donald Trump, should he be elected as our next President. He has repeatedly said he will discard regulations and get rid of government bureaucracy. These are good sound bites and none of us want more government rules than are necessary, but when you look at the pending regulations affecting us, like two-person crews, fatigue and locomotive cameras, this rhetoric takes on a different meaning.

I have a note on my desk that says: “My most impor-

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SMART TD members from Louisiana need your help. See page 3.
Member saves life of civilian with tourniquet. See page 3.
Chicago Regional Meeting recap in photos. See pages 6 & 7.
Vote SMART this election with SMART TD endorsements. See pages 10 & 11.
Grandson of SMART TD staff member meets Clinton

Matthew Bankston, grandson of SMART TD Billing Audit Supervisor Barbara Bankston, was chosen to give a guided tour of his high school to Presidential Candidate Hillary Clinton during a scheduled campaign stop. Matthew is in 11th grade at John Marshall High School in Cleveland.

Matthew and Barbara Bankston pause for a photo after he gave the tour to Secretary Clinton.

National Association of State Legislative Directors meet in Cleveland

Above: Members of the National Association of State Legislative Directors met in Cleveland, August 15-18 to discuss legislative issues. SMART Transportation Division President John Previsich and Vice Presidents John England and John Lesniewski were in town for the meetings as well.


Local 202 shares the importance of social media

On July 22, SMART TD Local 202 (located in Denver) created and posted a meme with a link to the SMART Local 202 website informing members that GOP Vice Presidential candidate Mike Pence voted against the Railroad Retirement and Survivors’ Improvement Act of 2001 as a member of the 107th Congress.

The Local 202 Facebook post was seen by over 89,000 people, shared over 6,000 times and brought over 19,000 people to the SMART Local 202 website. Additionally, 76 additional people now follow SMART Local 202 as a result of the post, allowing the Local to take their message further.

“It is truly a testament to social media,” SMART Local 202 Secretary Jeffrey Maxfield explained.

“We must use social media as an avenue to deliver our message to members. Our members do not come to us for information, we must take the information to them,” stressed Maxfield. “With 72 percent of Americans on Facebook, social media is the best avenue to deliver our message, when used correctly.”

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Around the SMART TD

Local 7, North Platte, Neb.

Local 7 had its second annual summer picnic August 6 at the Lake Maloney Ski Club.

“Even with cooler weather, we still had a good meal, play games, listen to music, all while sharing in each others’ company,” Local President Calvin Songster said.

“Local 7 would like to thank Scott Dulin and the Hunegs, LeNeave & Kvas law office (DLC) for their support in making this happen. We would also like to thank Jodi Smith for helping with set up and Dean Dike for providing the music.”

Local 60, Newark, N.J.

Jennifer “Cookie” Doyle reported that Local 60 held a Railmen for Children Charity Bike Run July 16. The Railmen for Children takes approximately 300 disabled children on a train ride with Santa, Mrs. Claus, a Reindeer, Snowman, Elves and Clowns in December of each year. Railmen for Children has been doing this every year for 33 years. Each child receives a box lunch and a gift from Santa. Proceeds that are raised during the year support this event.

“The run was a great success thanks to our members, friends, family and sponsors,” Doyle said. “We have many volunteers that help throughout the year with wrapping presents, decorating the train and on the day of the ride. We have this bike run out of the Truman Harley Davidson located in Hope, N.J. in support of the train ride. We couldn’t do this without Harley Davidson Manager Nancy and her staff. We hope to see more locals join us next year.”

Local 1445, Elizabeth, N.J.

The members of Local 1445 congratulated Legislative Representative Dennis Farrell (pictured seated) on his retirement. Farrell retired from Conrail Shared Assets with 43 years of service.

Local 845, Seattle, Wash.

Local President Earnie Conley reported that Local 845 is mourning the loss of Brother Stuart Freeman, 51, who died August 9.

“Stuart was a greatly respected union brother, switchman, husband, father and friend,” Conley said.

“Those who knew and worked with Stuart agree that the workplace will not be the same without him. His stories filled the yard office with laughter and his work ethic commanded respect from his peers. We love you, Big Man. Rest in Peace.” SMART TD offers their condolences to Freeman’s family, friends and local.

Local 1816, Toledo Ohio

Retired Local Chairperson Hank Holland (Local 1816) reported that William “Bill” Baldwin, 78, died February 14, 2016.

Baldwin served in the Army National Guard and was out on the New York Central Railroad in Elkhart, Ind., as an electrician’s helper following his military service. Baldwin transferred to engine service in 1958 at Toledo, Ohio where he became a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen (BLF&E) until it became part of the United Transportation Union in 1969.

He served his local as local chairperson, secretary and treasurer and as delegate. Baldwin retired after 43 years of service, having worked as an engineer on the New York Central, Penn Central, Conrail, Amtrak and CSX railroads over the course of his career.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Mary Lou; children Leann (Fred) Barker, Bill (Angie) Baldwin Jr., Tom (Debbie) Baldwin and Tony (Shelly) Baldwin; brothers Gary, Dave and Carl, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. SMART TD offers their condolences to the local, friends and family of Baldwin.

To have your local featured on this page, email your submissions to: news_td@smart-union.org

Schmitt’s commitment to safety earns Operation Lifesaver award

Schmitt stands with OL President and CEO Bonnie Murphy.

SMART TD member and Kansas City Southern trainman Thomas J. Schmitt (Local 1974 at Ft. Worth, Texas) is no stranger to receiving accolades for his volunteerism with Operation Lifesaver (OL), and for good reason. He is a tireless advocate on behalf of OL to promote safety.

His most recent honor took place at the Operation Lifesaver Leadership Conference in San Antonio, Texas, May 11-12, 2016. While there, Schmitt, along with several other nominees, was recognized for his dedication to the OL mission by being nominated for the F. Tom Roberts Memorial Volunteer Award.

The F. Tom Roberts Memorial Award originated in 1994 as a memorial donation from the widow of F. Tom Roberts. Roberts was a man known for committing his life to reducing or eliminating deaths and injuries along railroad tracks.

In keeping with this legacy, the F. Tom Roberts Memorial Award honors individuals who demonstrate outstanding dedication to Operation Lifesaver’s mission— which is dedication to reducing collisions, fatalities and injuries at highway-rail crossings and trespassing on or near railroad tracks.

Similarly, and almost a year ago to the day, Schmitt was chosen as the 2015 UTUIA Volunteer of the Year as a result of his charitable work with Operation Lifesaver.

Upon being nominated for the F. Tom Roberts Memorial Award, Schmitt commented, “It is very humbling to be recognized by a national award, and if through this recognition I can help spread the word about safety, then others can do it too; which ultimately saves lives.”

**FTA issues final rule on safety program**

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued the final rule for the Public Transportation Safety Program that establishes procedural rules for FTA to administer a comprehensive safety program to improve the safety of federally-funded public transportation systems.

The final rule formally adopts the Safety Management System (SMS) approach to safety as the basis of the FTA safety program.

"With this action, FTA continues its steady progress in establishing the regulatory framework needed to implement and strengthen our new and existing safety transit oversight and enforcement authorities," said FTA Acting Administrator Carolyn Flowers.

This rule also establishes procedural rules for the FTA open enrollments, investigations, audits and examinations of Chapter 53 grant recipients' public transportation systems, withhold or direct the use of Federal transit funds, and issue directives.

**STB issues two decisions in passenger rail proceedings**

The Surface Transportation Board released two decisions related to its oversight of Amtrak’s operations under the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (PRIIA).

First, the Board decided that it would consider on-time arrival and departure at all stations along a passenger train’s route for purposes of assessing on-time performance. The Board would deem a train “on time” if it arrives at or departs from, a station no more than 15 minutes after its scheduled arrival or departure.

The Board also announced that it is withdrawing its proposed policy statement on issues that may arise, and evidence to be presented in proceedings under PRIIA, in favor of a case-by-case approach to these complex matters.

"Reflecting careful consideration of an extensive public and stakeholder response to our most recent passenger rail proposals, these decisions will better position the Board to implement its responsibilities under the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008," said Board Chairman Daniel R. Elliott III.

"Improved passenger train on-time performance is an important goal, and the Board’s decisions will support that goal by clarifying the time standards for starting a proceeding, while allowing more complex and detailed issues to be resolved in the context of individual cases."

**SMART TD members in Louisiana need your help!**

The Baton Rouge, Louisiana flood waters, caused by an unprecedented, “thousand-year rainfall” have subsided, yet the devastation left behind in loss of life and destruction of property is immeasurable.

Baton Rouge is located nearly 100 feet above sea level, and was not considered a high flood risk area, which left most homeowners without flood insurance. Even those who had flood insurance are realizing nearly all of these insurance policies cap out at $30,000, which barely covers the cost of clean-up.

Some of those affected by the devastation are our Brothers and Sisters of SMART Transportation Division who live in and near the Baton Rouge area. The silver lining is the generosity of citizens around the country who are giving what they can to help those affected to reclaim their lives.

"We are seeking the SMART TD family to rise to the call and give what you can, so that the daunting task of starting over and rebuilding can begin. Your generous donation will help lessen the struggle and bring real hope and relief to our SMART TD members who are suffering from this great loss."

SMART TD will administer donations sent to the UTU Disaster Relief Fund. Questions? Please call 216-228-9400.

**Railroad employees covered under the National Railway Carriers/UTU Health and Welfare Plan or the Railroad Employees’ National Health and Welfare Plan should have been mailed a notification of the open enrollment period that begins Oct. 1 and ends Oct. 31 at midnight. The enrollment site is available 24/7 during the enrollment period. The information should be specific to the current enrollment for you and your eligible dependents.

The online enrollment capability provides the ability to view your personal information, add, delete and update dependent information, view enrollment materials, enroll in benefits for next year, and receive important enrollment information. There is no need to mail in a paper enrollment form. However, if you need assistance, you can answer questions or receive a paper enrollment kit, call Railroad Enrollment Services at 800-753-2692.

The enrollment website can be found at https://www.yourtracktohealth.com.

You are encouraged to visit the online enrollment site and review all the information available. Use the login instructions at the end of this article to access and review your personal information and spend some time learning about the benefits and resources available on the site.

You will also be able to search medical provider networks.

It is required that covered dependent Social Security numbers (SSN) be provided to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to process claims. All CMS applicants will need to provide their SSN on the Dependent Information screen.

If you are currently enrolled in the Health Flexible Spending

account, the election and yearly contribution will not rollover to the new plan year. You must enroll in your Health Flexible Spending Account every year.

Click "Login" located in the upper right corner of the screen. If you have already registered, enter your username and password.

If you have not yet registered, select "New User?" at the bottom of the screen to complete your registration.

Once logged in, select the option to "Enroll Now for 2016," located in the upper left corner of the screen.
Get registered and Vote Union this election season

SMART
General President’s Column
By Joseph Sellers Jr.

With this important election quickly approaching, I cannot stress enough the importance of your involvement in helping decide who will serve as your elected local and federal officials in the course of the next four years.

This Presidential race will determine the future for not only working families, but for every American across the country.

Donald Trump is a dangerous candidate who has already stated his opposition to government regulations designed to protect not only your health and safety, but your job as well.

A Trump administration would appoint individuals to Presidential Emergency Boards, which have intervened when we faced resistance from employers.

Imagine if Donald Trump had appointed the Presidential Emergency Board members that settled the disputes on the Long Island Rail Road or New Jersey Transit.

To get a glimpse of how Trump would run his administration, look at the mindset of the people he puts in leadership positions and his surrogates, like his own Vice Presidential running mate Mike Pence.

While in Congress, Pence was one of only a handful of Republican legislators who opposed changes to improve railroad retirement for our members.

Pence’s track record as Governor is just as bad; his first priority was to eliminate a bipartisan program that had protected the wages of our construction industry brothers and sisters on publicly funded projects.

Pence clearly indicated his stance on working family issues by using his first action as Governor to lower the wages of his constituents.

While in Congress, Pence was one of only a handful of Republican legislators who faced resistance from employers.

Hillary Clinton has spent her entire career striving to better the lives of American working families. From her early days expanding children’s healthcare to advocating for a living wage and access to paid sick leave, Hillary Clinton has fought for working people.

She will invest in our country’s infrastructure and coal industry which has been affected by lower overseas demand, and she is committed to addressing our members’ safety concerns about two-person crews and Positive Train Control.

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She has stated her opposition to bad trade deals like the Trans Pacific Partnership and has an actual economic plan that will keep and promote jobs here in the United States.

To ensure union families have a seat at the table—in your city hall, in your state house, and in Washington—we must make sure that Hillary Clinton and our endorsed local and federal candidates win this November.

There is much too stake at this year’s election to be sitting on the sidelines. Get involved in this election, get your family involved, and use your Union’s resources at www.smartvote2016.org.

Go to our election tool at: www.smart-union.org/voter-registration to ensure you, your family and friends are registered to vote or have your ballot delivered to you, if applicable in your state.

I know, as a condition of your work, you may be traveling far away from home during Election Day, so use our site to identify the early voting options you have in your state to ensure your voice is heard.

Get registered and Vote Union this election season.

Fraternally,

Joseph Sellers Jr.
SMART General President

Great Lakes Airlines announces new flights, in negotiations for more

Great Lakes Airlines will begin to provide daily year-round service from Denver to Telluride, Colo.

For these flights, Great Lakes will continue its relationship with United Airlines, allowing travelers to utilize United’s network and book directly through United.com.

“Commercial air service to Telluride Regional Airport (TEX) is hugely important to both visitors and residents alike, and we have been diligently working on its return for the past two years, exploring every possible option,” Colorado Flights COO Matt Skinner said. “Ultimately, we are more than pleased to have our original partner, who knows the airport and the operation, back flying here.”

For flights to Los Angeles in the works

Great Lakes Airlines and the city of Modesto, Calif., are in negotiations to provide flights from Modesto to Los Angeles.

Modesto’s airport has not had passenger flights since June 2014, when SkyWest Airlines ended its daily flights between Modesto and San Francisco. A recent market study conducted for Modesto showed Los Angeles as the top destination for the county’s air travelers, with Phoenix coming in second.

Although in the early stages of negotiations, if a contract is reached between Great Lakes and Modesto, flights could begin within six months to a year.

Leadership comes with Responsibility

Dear members,

“The ability of an individual or organization to lead or guide other individuals, teams, or entire organizations,” is the definition of the word leadership. Leadership is the ability to help people achieve things they don’t think is possible. It is the art of serving, being a positive energy and treating people the way you want to be treated.

Leadership has a direct impact on membership. Our leaders have to lead the committee of adjustment and the labor agreement.

Leadership is the ability to help people achieve things they don’t think is possible. It is the art of serving, being a positive energy and treating people the way you want to be treated.

Your local officers and committee of adjustment represent the leadership in your local. The local president is in charge of the local meetings and the general chairperson leads the committee of adjustment and the labor agreement.

Leadership has a direct impact on membership. Our leaders have to make tough decisions daily, and those decisions should always focus on the betterment of our membership.

Effective leaders help guide membership through challenges, and are always on the lookout for solutions to foster the long-term success of the local. Rather than making a situation personal when they encounter problems, or assigning blame to individuals, leaders look for solutions and focus on moving forward.

It doesn’t stop there. Members also have the responsibility to attend local meetings, engage in union activities and encourage new members to become involved in the local.

Achieving our common goal to make SMART TD the best we can be begins with the leadership and membership of each local. This cannot be accomplished without the participation and commitment of each and every one of us.

In Solidarity,

 Hughes
Alternate Vice President Bus East ahughes@smart-union.org 704-816-9568

Aviation Department News
News affecting our aviation membership

Great Lakes Airlines announces new flights, in negotiations for more

Daily flights from Denver

Beginning December 17, Great Lakes Airlines will begin to provide daily year-round service from Denver to Telluride, Colo.

The airline plans to average 10 flights per week. During busier times, Great Lakes will provide two or more flights per day. During less busy times, Great Lakes will provide one flight daily.

For these flights, Great Lakes will continue its relationship with United Airlines, allowing travelers to utilize United’s network and book directly through United.com.

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Bus Department News
A message from your bus department leadership

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In the July/August edition of the SMART Transportation Division News, both SMART General President Previsich and President and Secretary Clinton wrote extensively about the importance of this election cycle. General President Sellers detailed why Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton was the obvious choice for any working man or woman, while illustrating why Republican candidate Donald Trump is not our friend as his legacy is one of divisiveness, reneging on contractual commitments, bankruptcies that leave workers holding the bag, and producing his own brand-name products overseas.

President Previsich’s column elaborated on the importance of a Democratic president, pointing out that the numerous federal agency appointments made by the president directly affects your employment and working conditions on a daily basis. His article also illustrated numerous facts regarding the candidates and their agendas, leaving no doubt that we desperately need to elect a United States president who is labor-friendly. That candidate is Hillary Clinton.

While I certainly concur and echo the sentiments raised by both President Sellers and President Previsich from an employment standpoint, my concerns with the 2016 presidential election are much more elemental. I, too, am a United States president who is labor-friendly. That candidate is Hillary Clinton.

I was a child, and my parents did their best to share their beliefs. It goes to the ease with which he can be manipulated through complacency and to his irresistible impulse to retaliate with full force against anyone who disagrees with him, threatens his authority or disparages him in any manner. While I have not shared common political views with past Republican presidential candidates and presidents, I have never feared their impulsive temperament and lack of sound judgment. I have feared their impulsive temper tantrums and lack of sound judgment. I have feared their impulsive temper tantrums and lack of sound judgment. I have feared their impulsive temper tantrums and lack of sound judgment. I have feared their impulsive temper tantrums and lack of sound judgment.

In the spirit of full disclosure, I have been a Democrat my entire life, although I have voted otherwise when circumstances truly warranted it. I am praying now that my Republican friends, Independents and disenfranchised Democrats recognize the current presidential election as just one of those unique circumstances. My trepidation over Donald Trump goes far beyond his narcissism or his penchant to insult every group, race and religion that doesn’t look like him or share his beliefs. It goes to the ease with which he can be manipulated through complacency and to his irresistible impulse to retaliate with full force against anyone who disagrees with him, threatens his authority or disparages him in any manner. While I have not shared common political views with past Republican presidential candidates and presidents, I have never feared their impulsive temper tantrums and lack of sound judgment. I have feared their impulsive temper tantrums and lack of sound judgment. I have feared their impulsive temper tantrums and lack of sound judgment. I have feared their impulsive temper tantrums and lack of sound judgment.

I was a child, and my parents did their best to shield me from the looming possibility of a nuclear holocaust, they couldn’t fully complicate the distressed look on their faces or the anxiety that permeated the air during those horrific 13 days in October 1962. President Kennedy defused that crisis.

President Kennedy defused that crisis. Among the books I read on the subject was Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr.’s “A Thousand Days: John F. Kennedy in the White House,” where I was awestruck by the realm of knowledge a president must possess about every conceivable issue and contingency, and just as important, understanding the personalities and temperaments of leaders from nations around the world, both small and large. Every decision made by our president affects each and every one of us. I believe there is a direct correlation between the potential reaction to be considered before any and all foreign policy decisions are rendered. No decision can be made on impulse or out of emotion or distress.

I thank God that during those precarious days in October 1962 President Kennedy took full measure of the consequences of his actions before ordering a nuclear response, despite the fact he was being encouraged by many in the military to engage immediately. Had the president overreacted, and he was given ample cause to do so, the results would have been catastrophic. Post-crisis

Continued on page 9

The Indiana State Legislative Board has its bi-annual candidate endorsement meeting Aug. 16, reported State Legislative Director Tim Norman. The board considered can-
didates made endorsements by considering a variety of factors - the most important consideration is being a friend to rail labor. Our PAC funds are finite and therefore must be employed as effectively and efficiently as possible.

New Jersey

The N.J. State Legislative Board endorsed Rep. Chris Smith (R) for his support of our New Jersey Transit members’ efforts to get a new contract. SLD Daniel O’Connell (left) stands here with Smith.

In the spirit of full disclosure, I have been a Democrat my entire life, although I have voted otherwise when circumstances truly warranted it. I am praying now that my Republican friends, Independents and disenfranchised Democrats recognize the current presidential election as just one of those unique circumstances. My trepidation over Donald Trump goes far beyond his narcissism or his penchant to insult every group, race and religion that doesn’t look like him or share his beliefs. It goes to the ease with which he can be manipulated through complacency and to his irresistible impulse to retaliate with full force against anyone who disagrees with him, threatens his authority or disparages him in any manner. While I have not shared common political views with past Republican presidential candidates and presidents, I have never feared their impulsive temper tantrums and lack of sound judgment. I have feared their impulsive temper tantrums and lack of sound judgment. I have feared their impulsive temper tantrums and lack of sound judgment. I have feared their impulsive temper tantrums and lack of sound judgment.

I was a child, and my parents did their best to shield me from the looming possibility of a nuclear holocaust, they couldn’t fully complicate the distressed look on their faces or the anxiety that permeated the air during those horrific 13 days in October 1962. President Kennedy defused that crisis.

President Kennedy defused that crisis. Among the books I read on the subject was Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr.’s “A Thousand Days: John F. Kennedy in the White House,” where I was awestruck by the realm of knowledge a president must possess about every conceivable issue and contingency, and just as important, understanding the personalities and temperaments of leaders from nations around the world, both small and large. Every decision made by our president affects each and every one of us. I believe there is a direct correlation between the potential reaction to be considered before any and all foreign policy decisions are rendered. No decision can be made on impulse or out of emotion or distress.

I thank God that during those precarious days in October 1962 President Kennedy took full measure of the consequences of his actions before ordering a nuclear response, despite the fact he was being encouraged by many in the military to engage immediately. Had the president overreacted, and he was given ample cause to do so, the results would have been catastrophic. Post-crisis
SMART TD: Learning Today - Leading Tomorrow

A Recap in Photos of the 2016 Chicago Regional Meeting

Kentucky State Legislative Director Jared Cassity opens the Chicago Regional Meeting with the National Anthem.

Bus members, officers and legislative directors attend the Bus Legislative Workshop.

Vice General Chairperson and Human Rights Committee member Billy Moyer (left) meets with Bus Vice President Adhi Reddy (right).

Local Secretaries & Treasurers listen at the “S&T Do’s & Don’ts” workshop.

General & Local Chairperson Thomas Malone (front, center) takes notes in the “Local Chairperson Training - Best Practices for New & Experienced Local Chairpersons” workshop.

From left: UTU IA Field Supervisor Greg Hale, Local Chairperson Andrew Mckeeman, UTU IA Field Supervisor Chris Fly and UTU IA President Ken Laugel discuss Mckeeman’s insurance needs.

Jamie Modest, 1st GC A vice chairperson, presents in the local chairperson training workshop.


Local 1290 Chairperson Arnold Maxey (left) and Local 1290 Vice Chairperson Antwan Potts attend workshops together.

UTU IA President Ken Laugel addresses the membership at the luncheon on Monday.

Local 1589 Chairperson Christian Oheimer is on his way to the next S&T workshop.

Transportation Division President John Previsich (left) and National Legislative Director John Risch (right) greet Railroad Retirement Board Labor Member Walter A.summers (center) after his speech to the membership during Tuesday’s opening session.

First GC A Vice Chairperson Rob Warch gives a presentation in the “Local Officer & Member Training Part 1” workshop. He is joined by Alternate Vice President Alvy Hughes, Local Chairperson Larry Griffith, Kentucky State Legislative Director Jared Cassity, SMART TD Associate General Counsel Diya Dukhobors and Vice President Jeremy Ferguson.

UTU IA President Jared Cassity and Bus Legislative Director Chris Fly and UTU IA President Ken Laugel address the membership at the luncheon on Monday.

Local 812 President Patrick Potsen puts on his badge to get credit for his workshop attendance.

Local 1393 Vice Local Chairperson Derek Rohde scans in his badge at the end of a workshop.

Education and training is the focus of all SMART TD regional meeting workshops, including this workshop, which is designed to teach local officers how to properly run a local meeting.

The Auxiliary of the UTU puts on an informational session for spouses and retirees at each meeting. They are joined by speakers from the DLC and Railroad Retirement Board and others.

Vice President Dave Wier sticks around after the conclusion of a workshop to answer membership questions.

Local President Juston Roper (left), S&T Jeremy Lambert (middle) and Local Chairperson Ronnie Knop (right) - of Local 847 - attend workshops together.

Local 924 Chairperson Jason Murrillo, giving him credit for his attendance.

Local 830 Chairperson Gary Petrewicz on his retirement. Petrewicz served as LC for 30 years.

Vice President John Lesniewski, SMART TD President John Previsich and Vice President John England hang on every word of the presentation in the workshop.

Transportation Division President John Previsich congratulates Local 830 Chairperson Gary Petrewicz on his retirement. Petrewicz served as LC for 30 years.

General President Joe Sellers visits with members of the Ohio state legislative board. Pictured from left are Jerry Garner, Sellers, Ohio State Legislative Director Stu Dandur, Alternate State Legislative Director Chas Whitten, Assistant State Legislative Director Ralph Leichliter and Legislative Secretary Jeff Darling.

President John Lesniewski and Minority Leader Tom Hagedorn walk with members of the Ohio state legislative board. Pictured from left are Jerry Garner, Sellers, Ohio State Legislative Director Stu Dandur, Alternate State Legislative Director Chas Whitten, Assistant State Legislative Director Ralph Leichliter and Legislative Secretary Jeff Darling.

SMART TD President John Previsich and Vice President John England hang out of their busy schedule for a photo.
Once you receive your handbook, if you have questions or need help picking the right plan Medicare covers. Your local volunteer staff offers free local insurance counseling to people with Medicare.

Besides one-on-one assistance by phone, SHIP performs face-to-face counseling, and conducts public education presentations. SHIP volunteers are trained to help you with your Medicare rights, complaints about your medical care or treatment, billing problems, and plan choices related to the open enrollment period. SHIP counselors are not connected to any health plan or insurance company.

To find the telephone number of the SHIP in your state, call the Palmetto GBA Beneficiary Contact Center at 800-833-4455, or for the hearing impaired, call 877-866-3572. Customer service representatives are available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. EST.

Railroad Medicare open enrollment begins October 15

The annual open enrollment period for Railroad Medicare begins October 15 and runs through December 7. During this period, you have the opportunity to make changes to your health care and drug plans, which include Part A (hospital insurance), Part B (doctors, labs, ambulance services, etc.), Part C (Medicare Advantage Plans) and Part D (drug coverage). Railroad Medicare is your Part B coverage.

Retirees should soon receive a “Medicare & You” handbook from Palmetto GBA. This handbook explains the services that Medicare covers and includes Part A (hospital insurance), Part B (medical insurance), Part C (Medicare Advantage Plans), and Part D (drug coverage). The handbook contains information about how to sign up for Medicare and how to choose the best plan for your needs.

Important contact information

SMART Transportation Division
- www.smart-union.org/ttd
- (216) 228-9400

UTU Insurance Association (UTUIA)
- www.utui.org
- (800) 586-8842

Railroad Retirement Board
- www.railroadretirement.gov
- (877) 772-5772

Social Security Administration
- www.ssa.gov
- (800) 772-1213

Medicare
- www.medicare.gov
- (800) 633-4227

Railroad Medicare (Palmetto GBA)
- www.palmettogba.com/rr
- (888) 355-9165

Department of Veterans Affairs
- www.va.gov
- (800) 424-4166

Landfall Travel (Alumni Travelers’ Club)
- www.landfalltravel.com
- (800) 835-9233

16th annual rail reunion and retirement dinner in Calif.

The 16th annual rail reunion and retirement dinner is being held Friday, November 11 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Sierra Lakes Golf Course, 1600 Clubhouse Dr., Fontana, CA 92336. The reunion is for all active and retired craftsmen of Southern Pacific, Union Pacific, Pacific Electric, Metro Link and Amtrak railroads.

“Everyone is welcome to come - all crafts of employment with any railroad, working or retired,” said Local 240 Chairperson Harry Garvin. The cost to attend is $40 per person, $75 per couple or $45 per person at the door. The deadline to make reservations at the discounted rate is November 7. Call Garvin at (909) 261-8878 or (909) 481-7261 to RSVP.

The phone number for Sierra Lakes Golf Club is (909) 350-2500.

Alumni Chapter 9 announces monthly meeting

Local 586 retiree Walter Demich, coordinator of Chapter 9 in Lorain, Ohio, has announced that the chapter meets on the second Tuesday of every month.

What: Alumni Chapter 9 meeting
When: Second Tuesday of every month
Where: 4632 Telegraph Rd. (Rte. 113), South Amherst, OH
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Contact: Walter Demich at (440) 233-7801

Former Georgia SLG, Bob Bullington dies

Brother Robert “Bob” Morgan Bullington, died August 18, 2016, at the age of 92. A friend and mentor to countless brothers and sisters of the former UTU (now known as SMART TD), Bullington worked for over 40 years in the rail industry, and served our members with integrity and dedication as the Georgia State Legislative Director.

Bullington was dedicated to family, community, the union and nation, and worked diligently advocating on behalf of workers’ rights, benefits and safety issues for rail and transit workers. Bullington served our country in the U.S. Air Force and was honored with several medals for his service during WWII and the Korean war.

Bullington was preceded in death by his wife of 68 years, Eleanor Floyd Bullington and six of his seven sisters. He is survived by son Stanley Robert Bullington; sister Geraldine Bullington; two grandchildren; five great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

To leave condolences for the family visit www.paulkfuneralhome.com. Memorial donations may be made to Blue and Gray Community Hospice, P.O. Box 1447, Fitzgerald, GA 31750.
Back to basics

Continued from page 5

revealing that the Russians in Cuba already had tactical nuclear warheads for their artillery rockets and bombers, and Castro recibed them by the use of the U.S. invaded, regardless of the devastation it may have caused his own country.

Donald Trump has demonstrated time and time again throughout this campaign that he would not have exercised the same self-control as President Kennedy did in 1962. He lashes out immediately in response to every threat, real or perceived, and tries to justify his reaction later through subordinates. Recently he threatened, “I’ll blow them out of the water” if Iranian boats circled our destroyers and made inappropriate gestures. Really? Does the U.S. really want to trigger a war costing hundreds of U.S. lives over inappropriate gestures? Apparently a President Trump would. It’s sincerely scary.

Also, forget about your guns. There have been some who thought that the terrorists and not one person has taken away your hunting rifles. Forget about abortion, Roe vs. Wade has been here since 1973 and is not likely to change this president’s term, nor is the president likely to change anyone’s feelings on the subject. You need to be, because a vote for Trump is tantamount to playing just such a game; Let us not forsake the most qualified and experienced candidate for president in our lifetime, in favor of the least qualified candidate who has never held so much as a city council seat. Even if you bought into the recent Republican rhetoric about emails or audiences granted to donkeys on the Clinton Foundation, I would much rather have a president who has never had so much as a city council seat. Also, don’t forget that a vote for a third party candidate is a wasted vote, and equivalent to a vote for a Chinese, or perhaps Russian, candidate. There can be no doubt that Hillary Clinton is the only logical choice for president.

Fraternally,

John Lesniewski
Vice President
SMART Transportation Division

FRA files violations against CSX

Acting on a SMART TD formal complaint, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) said it filed multiple formal violations and one defect letter since 1973 and is not likely to change this president’s term, nor is the president likely to change anyone’s feelings on the subject.

While the pilot of a SMART TD train was performing his final qualifying run, the student engineer, SMART TD’s Illinois representative, had been a member since 1977, just shy of 39 years. He was known for having a love of the outdoors and had a passion for skiing, which he believed was the best sport he loved. In his free time, Smith enjoyed scuba diving and driving RZRs.

“While devastated by the sudden loss of Kenny, we intend to spend the upcoming days and weeks remembering the love he had for his family and a good adventure. K.P. took great pride in his 39 years of service with BNSF Railway. He will be missed deeply by those whose lives he touched,” the family said in a statement to Amarinol Globe-News. Smith is survived by his wife Donna Smith, daughter Sarah (Tomas) Wrotten, son Kellen (Tana) Smith, mother Nancy Smith, brother Ricky (Jacquie) Smith, grandchildren Taylor, Kassie, and great-grandson Smith. He was preceded in death by his father Paul Smith.

A celebration of life service was held Saturday, July 2, at the Greater Victory Church in Amarillo. The obituary can be viewed at www.meyersfuneralchapel.com. To view Smith’s official obituary or to leave condolences for the family.

An obituary for Owens can be viewed at www.meyersfuneralchapel.com. To view Smith’s official obituary or to leave condolences for the family.

Discipline Income Protection Program

Below is a summary of the changes to the Benefits and Premiums section of the Benefits and DISP Description, dated March 1, 2015. These changes became effective Sept. 1, 2016. Benefits and Premiums

You may elect to increase your benefit level no earlier than one year after the effective date of your election and your new final on-till effect 90 days after it is received by the DIPP office.

Decrease in Benefits

You may elect to decrease your benefit level at any time and have elections made on the 15th day of the month in which the DIPP office receives the corresponding lower premium amount.

Submit your local or legislative stories to SMART Transportation Division by email to: news_td@smart-union.org.

www.smart-union.org • www.utuia.org

Member died in BNSF crash

Conductor Kenneth Paul “K.P.” Smith Jr. 59, of Local 1313 in Amarillo, Texas, died June 28 when two BNSF trains crashed just outside of Amarillo. Two others, Cody Owens, 52, and Lara Gayle Taylor, 45, also died in the crash. In addition to those who lost their lives, another conductor jumped off the train tracks face down. Wrote his wife, Donna Smith, he had been a member since 1977, just shy of 39 years. He was known for having a love of the outdoors and had a passion for skiing, which he believed was the best sport he loved. In his free time, Smith enjoyed scuba diving and driving RZRs.

“While devastated by the sudden loss of Kenny, we intend to spend the upcoming days and weeks remembering the love he had for his family and a good adventure. K.P. took great pride in his 39 years of service with BNSF Railway. He will be missed deeply by those whose lives he touched,” the family said in a statement to Amarinol Globe-News. Smith is survived by his wife Donna Smith, daughter Sarah (Tomas) Wrotten, son Kellen (Tana) Smith, mother Nancy Smith, brother Ricky (Jacquie) Smith, grandchildren Taylor Wrotten; Averye, Kassie and Ansen Smith. He was preceded in death by his father Paul Smith.

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September/October 2016 SMART TD News
Vote SMART this Election Day!

Congressional Recommendations

Alabama
House of Representatives
Dist. 2: Nathan Mathis (D)
Dist. 3: Rob McEwen (D)
Dist. 4: Britta Aderholdt (R)*
Dist. 5: Dr. Will Boyd Jr.
Dist. 7: Terri A. Sewell (D)*

Arizona
Senate
Don Young (R)*
U.S. Representative, Alaska

Senator: Lisa Murkowski (R)*

House of Representatives
At Large: Don Young (R)*

Arkansas
Senate
Senator: Connor Eldridge (D)

House of Representatives
Dist. 2: Duane Curry (D)

California
Senate
Senator: Kamala Devi Harris (D)

House of Representatives
Dist. 1: Jim Reed (D)
Dist. 2: Jared Huffman (D)*
Dist. 3: John Garamendi (D)*
Dist. 5: Mike Thompson (D)*
Dist. 6: Doris Matsui (D)*
Dist. 7: Ami Bera (D)*
Dist. 8: Paul Cook (R)*
Dist. 9: Jerry McNerney (D)*
Dist. 10: Jeff Denham (R)*
Dist. 11: Mark DeSaulnier (D)*
Dist. 12: Nancy Pelosi (D)*
Dist. 13: Barbara Lee (D)*
Dist. 14: Jackie Speier (D)*
Dist. 15: Eric Swalwell (D)*
Dist. 16: Tom Davis (R)*
Dist. 17: Michael M. Honda (D)*
Dist. 18: Anna G. Eshoo (D)*
Dist. 19: Zoe Lofgren (D)*
Dist. 20: Jimmy Panetta (D)
Dist. 21: Julia Brownley (D)*
Dist. 22: Judy Chu (D)*

Colorado
Senate
Jeff Denham (R)*
U.S. Representative, California

House of Representatives
Dist. 1: Diana DeGette (D)*
Dist. 2: Jared Polis (D)*
Dist. 3: Joe Crowley (D)*
Dist. 4: Rosa DeLauro (D)*
Dist. 5: Jim Himes (D)*
Dist. 6: Elizabeth Esty (D)*

Connecticut
Senate
Richard Blumenthal (D)*

House of Representatives
Dist. 1: John B. Larson (D)*
Dist. 2: Joe Courtney (D)*
Dist. 3: Rosa DeLauro (D)*
Dist. 4: Jim Himes (D)*
Dist. 5: Elizabeth Esty (D)*

Delaware
House of Representatives
At Large: Lisa Blunt Rochester (D)

District of Columbia
House of Representatives
At Large: Eleanor Holmes Norton (D)*

Florida
Senate
Patrick Murphy (D)*

Gary Peters (D)*
U.S. Senator, Florida

House of Representatives
Dist. 5: Al Green (D)*
Dist. 6: Mark Pocan (D)*
Dist. 7: Stephanie Murphy (D)
Dist. 8: Daren Soto (D)*
Dist. 9: Val Demings (D)*
Dist. 10: Kathy Castor (D)*

Georgia
Senate
Jim Bankhead (D)

House of Representatives
Dist. 2: Sanford Bibb Jr. (D)*
Dist. 4: Hank Johnson (D)*
Dist. 5: John Lewis (D)*
Dist. 10: Jaime Collins McGee (D)*
Dist. 12: David Scott (D)*

Hawaii
Senate
Brian Schatz (D)*

House of Representatives
Dist. 1: Colleen Hanabusa (D)
Dist. 2: Tulsi Gabbard (D)*

Illinois
Senate
Tammy Duckworth (D)

House of Representatives
Dist. 1: Bobby Rush (D)*
Dist. 2: Robin Kelly (D)*
Dist. 3: Dan Lipinski (D)*
Dist. 4: Luis Gutiérrez (D)*
Dist. 5: Mike Quigley (D)*
Dist. 6: Amanda Howland (D)*
Dist. 7: Danny Davis (D)*
Dist. 8: Raja Krishnamoorthi (D)*
Dist. 9: Dan Schakowsky (D)*
Dist. 10: Brad Schneider (D)*
Dist. 11: Bill Foster (D)*
Dist. 12: Ch. Bartsac (D)*
Dist. 13: Rodney Davis (R)*
Dist. 15: John Shimkus (D)*
Dist. 16: Adam Kinzinger (R)*

Indiana
Senate
Evan Bayh III (D)

House of Representatives
Dist. 1: Pete Visclosky (D)*
Dist. 2: Lynn Coleman (D)*
Dist. 3: John Dole (D)*
Dist. 5: Angela Demaree (D)*
Dist. 6: Barry Welsh (D)*
Dist. 7: Andre Carson (D)*
Dist. 8: Ron DeNeal (D)*

Iowa
Senate
Sherry Young (D)

House of Representatives
Dist. 1: Dr. Roger Marshall (R)*
Dist. 2: Britani Potter (D)
Dist. 3: Jay Siegel (D)
Dist. 4: Daniel B. Groves (D)

Kentucky
House of Representatives
Dist. 1: Samuel Gaskins (D)
Dist. 3: John Yarmuth (D)*
Dist. 4: Calvin Slade (D)
Dist. 6: Nancy Jo Kemper (D)

Louisiana
Senate
Foster Campbell (D)

House of Representatives
Dist. 2: Cedric L. Richmond (D)*
Dist. 3: Brett Giffin (D)
Dist. 4: Marshall Jones (D)

Maine
House of Representatives
Dist. 1: Chellie Pingree (D)*
Dist. 2: Emily Cain (D)

Maryland
Senate
Chris Van Hollen (D)

House of Representatives
Dist. 3: John P. Sarbanes (D)*
Dist. 5: Steny H. Hoyer (D)*
Dist. 6: John Delaney (D)*
Dist. 7: Elijah E. Cummings (D)*
Dist. 8: Jamie Raskin (D)

Massachusetts
House of Representatives
Dist. 1: Richard E. Neal (D)*
Dist. 2: Jim McGovern (D)*
Dist. 3: Niki Tsongas (D)*
Dist. 4: Joseph P. Kennedy III (D)*
Dist. 5: Katherine M. Clark (D)*
Dist. 6: Seth Moulton (D)*
Dist. 7: Michael E. Capuano (D)*
Dist. 8: Stephen F. Lynch (D)*
Dist. 9: William Keating (D)*

Michigan
House of Representatives
Dist. 1: John Cotta (D)*
Dist. 2: Doug Smith (D)
Dist. 3: Dan Kildee (D)*
Dist. 4: Fred Upton (R)*
Dist. 7: Gretchen Driskell (D)

Terry S. West (D)*
U.S. Representative, Maryland

Senator: Chris Van Hollen (D)

House of Representatives
Dist. 1: Dr. Roger Marshall (R)*
Dist. 2: Britani Potter (D)
Dist. 3: Jay Siegel (D)
Dist. 4: Daniel B. Groves (D)

To vote SMART in your district:

1. Visit www.votesmart.org
2. Enter your zip code
3. Find your elected official
4. Click on name to see campaign contributions and voting record
5. Take action on issues you care about

Vote SMART for a stronger democracy!

www.votesmart.org
www.utuia.org
## Congressional Recommendations

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<th>District</th>
<th>Representative</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dist. 1</td>
<td>Peter King (R)*</td>
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<td>Dist. 2</td>
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<td>West Virginia House of Representatives</td>
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<td>Dist. 10</td>
<td>Wyoming HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES</td>
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* denotes incumbent

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### Vote SMART this Election Day!
Photo of the month

SMART Transportation Division is always looking for good photos, and awards prizes to monthly photo winners.

SMART TD seeks photographs or digital images of work-related scenes, such as railroad, bus or mass transit operations, new equipment photos, scenic shots, activities of your local, or photos of your brothers and sisters keeping America rolling.

Printed photographs should be mailed to SMART TD, 24950 Country Club Blvd., Suite 340, North Olmsted, OH 44070-5333.

High-resolution digital photographs should be in the JPEG format and emailed to “news_td@smart-union.org”.

With each photograph, please include your name and SMART 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 SMART.

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

This photo, taken by Local 1440 Signal Maintainer Stephen Soraci, is of a R44 MTA car taken between Tompkinsville and Stapleton stations on the MTA Staten Island Railway, located on Staten Island, N.Y.