## **ESIGNALMAN'S JOURNAL**





## BRS CONVENTION INSIDE



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### A Soldier, a Father, a Son, a Union Brother

Brother Smith, a Technical Sergeant and Special Mission Aviator (SMA) on the HH-60G Pave Hawk, serves with the 101st Rescue Squadron. The Squadron is a unit of the New York Air National Guard 106th Rescue Wing, which is located at the Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base, Westhampton 

#### Horseshoes, Solidarity, and Competition

Congratulations to the winners of Local 183's Annual Horseshoe Tournament — Recording-Financial Secretary Bill Kirkpatrick and retired Local 183 member Mike Cathcart ..... 7



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From the President	



**COVER:** A CSXT train approaches a crossing en route to the coalfields in Elk, West Virginia.

Photo submitted by Local 136 member Daniel Bocook.

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### FROM THE Officers and Grand Lodge Staff







**DENNIS BOSTON** 







.....



CYNTHIA HALEY





**TERESA EMBREY** 





JILLIAN LASKY





**DONICA BOLES** 



# JOHN BRAGG



MIKE BALDWIN



LEONARD PARKER



JIM FINNEGAN



**GUS DEMOTT** 



JOHN MCARTHUR



MICHAELA CLAYWELL





CARA STARKEY





WHITNEY HAMRICK



## Brother's Keeper Am I my brother's keeper?

his is an age old question dating back to the story of Cain and Abel, and it is more relevant in today's culture than ever before. The clear and convincing answer to this question is YES, yes we are our "Brother's Keeper." Being our "Brother's Keeper" is the most crucial, steadfast, and challenging pillar of maintaining the integrity and strength that the United States of America was founded upon.

pit the hard-working Americans of the working class against each other will not prevail. History has shown that the power of a united working class is the overwhelming driving force of change. This was evident for us in our National Agreement negotiations with the freight rail carriers.

The BRS and fellow railroad labor unions in the Coordinated Bargaining Group (CBG), represent-

that the United Sta Throughout history, the Labor Movement has been, and will continue to be, the "Brother's Keeper" for America's working class. As a Union

From the President

4

We should be proud American Union workers, together moving towards a better and brighter tomorrow for all of us. ing a united front of over 58% of railroad workers, were able to acquire a Tentative National Agreement with

brother or sister, it is the role and responsibility of each of us to serve as our brothers' keeper in our workplace and in our society. Throughout 2017, we have seen this question become irrefutably critical, as a country and as a Union.

As a country, we have witnessed the corporate elite and their friends serving in governmental leadership roles launch assaults on their fellow American men and women, our brothers and sisters. From their greedy desire to remove the basic human right of healthcare from millions of the weakest citizens, to them idly standing by as groups of individuals incite violence and repugnant rhetoric upon fellow Americans of different backgrounds. The Labor Movement has seen our country's new Labor Department seek changes to labor laws which would further favor a company, an entity, over a worker, a human. Despite these attacks by the privileged 1%, there is no question that America's working class is the main cog in the machinery of the system that provides them with their spoils. Their years of innovative and greed-driven tactics to divide and

the freight rail carriers on October 4, 2017. The Tentative Agreement came after a challenging and unique round of bargaining with the railroads. We saw, for the first time, the railroads coming together in an attempt to force us to concede and give up rules and reserved work that we spent countless years protecting, as well as conform to unacceptable changes to the railroad's ability to alter our hours and location from where our pay starts with little notice to the employee. This was accompanied with the offering of a wage and healthcare package that would have caused financial harm. (See NCCC Proposal under National Negotiations tab at brs.org) Despite the carriers' emboldened and authoritarian demands, the CBG remained united and stood our ground in denying carriers' arbitrary agreement proposal. It was not until the final hours of mediation that the carriers finally began negotiating honestly and providing more realistic terms for an Agreement. The end result was a respectful Tentative National Agreement, in large part due to the unity displayed by railroad workers.

We were able to be our "brother's keeper" by removing our Brotherhood from the threat of losing the work that has been protected and reserved for our trained membership, the stress of having our reporting locations moved on a moment's notice in order to pay us less for our time, and the damaging effects of astronomical increases to healthcare costs with unrealistic wages increases to compensate. It is up to each one of us to be our "brother's keeper," through educating rather than using baseless assertions in an attempt to persuade, having your brother's best interests in mind and listening to them rather than deciding what you believe is best for them, and doing our part as role models of mutual brotherly love and respect rather than slandering or bringing down people for minimal individual benefit. We should be proud American Union workers, together moving towards a better and

brighter tomorrow for all of us. Let us move forward, not with the question *"am I my brother's keeper"* but with the question *"am I being my brother's keeper?"* 

In the spirit of Unity and togetherness, I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas. May your holiday season be filled with joy, laughter, and moments with your loved ones that can be cherished all year round. May the happiness and hope of the season be carried with you into the New Year.

In Solidarity,

1. Dan Sieke

W. Dan Pickett BRS President



The Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen Grand Executive Council is

Accepting Resumés for Future Grand Lodge Representative(s)

The role of the Grand Lodge Representative is primarily involved in the preparation of submissions for grievance resolution and other labor/employee related functions.

President W. Dan Pickett will assign duties and duties may vary.

**Qualifications:** Only active BRS members are eligible for appointment to these positions. Union activism is a fundamental quality. Successful candidates will be detail oriented and have strong writing, communications, and organizational skills.

Computer skills, including experience with Microsoft Office suite is a plus.

If interested in submitting resumés for future openings, please send to: wdp@brs.org or mail to the address below:

W. Dan Pickett, President Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen 917 Shenandoah Shores Road Front Royal, Virginia 22630

## A SOLDIER. A FATHER. A SON A UNION BROTHER





BRS President Dan Pickett, and Brother Steve Smith at the Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base, in Westhampton Beach, New York.

Brother Steve Smith, Local 56 Local Chairman and member of the New York Air National Guard, receives an on-base visit from BRS President Dan Pickett, BRS Director of Research Jim Finnegan, and Local 56 officers: Chris Natale, Long Island General Committee General Chairman (LIGC) and Jimmy Sokolowski, Long Island General Committee Vice General Chairman and Local 56 Chairman.

Brother Smith is a Technical Sergeant and Special Mission Aviator (SMA) on the HH-60G Pave Hawk with the 101st Rescue Squadron. The Squadron is a unit of the New York Air National Guard 106th Rescue Wing, which is located at the Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base, Westhampton Beach, New York.

The primary mission of the 101st Rescue Squadron is to conduct day or night personnel recovery operations into hostile environments recovering isolated personnel during war time operations. The Squadron is also tasked with performing peacetime operations, including: civil search and rescue, medical evacuation, disaster response, humanitarian assistance, NASA space flight support, international aid and counter-drug activities. Brother Smith performs preflight inspections, weight and balance, takeoff and landing data, emergency procedures, and monitors aircraft systems.

The Pave Hawk is a highly modified version of the UH-60 Black Hawk which features upgraded communications and navigation system and includes an integrated GPS navigation system, satellite communications, two weapon systems — the M2 Machine Gun or Browning .50 caliber Machine Gun ("Ma Deuce"), or the 7.62 Gatling Gun; a retractable refueling probe, forward-looking infrared, and a rescue hoist.

While all Airmen assigned to rescue squadrons throughout the Air Force know and follow the motto "So that others may live," the 101st Rescue Squadron takes it personal — their motto is *"that others may live"*. ■



(L-R) Steve Smith, Dan Pickett, Chris Natale, and Jimmy Sokolowski.



(L-R) Steve Smith, Jimmy Sokolowski, Dan Pickett, and Jim Finnegan.



### **SOLIDARITY AND COMPETITION**





In a tradition that has lasted for decades, Local 183 held its annual *"Horseshoe Tournament"* on September 29, 2017. Many people have played in this tournament over the years and come from miles around to compete. Some of the competitors over the years have included retired and active General Chairmen, FELA attorneys, BRS Vice Presidents, and even President W. Dan Pickett himself. While an exact starting date cannot be pinpointed, this tradition started sometime in the 1990's at a Local 183 Picnic and evolved into a thrilling Tournament that exists today.

Always exciting, this tournament builds solidarity through goodnatured competition as well as a little ribbing among union brothers. The winners enjoy bragging rights for an entire year, possession of one of the coveted Horseshoe Cups; commonly referred to as the Stanley Cup of Horseshoes at Local 183, and their names being engraved into horseshoe history on the Horseshoe Cups themselves. This year's double elimination action saw eight teams consisting of retired and active BRS members and their families battle for the Cups. Local 183 members Bill Kirkpatrick and Mike Cathcart (retired) took the Horseshoe Cups in dramatic fashion eliminating last year's champ with back to back wins in the final round.



## **★ ★ UNION PLUS ★ ★**Scholarship Program

Since 1991, the Union Plus Scholarship Program has awarded more than \$4.2 million to students of working families who want to begin or continue their post-secondary education. Over 2,800 families have benefited from our commitment to higher education. The Union Plus Scholarship Program is offered through the Union Plus Education Foundation, supported in part by contributions from the provider of the Union Plus Credit Card. (You do not need to be a Union Plus Credit Card holder to apply for this scholarship.)

#### Eligibility

Current and retired members of participating unions, their spouses and their dependent children (as defined by IRS regulations). At least one year of continuous union membership by the applicant, applicant's spouse or parent (if applicant is a dependent).

The one-year membership minimum must be satisfied by May 31, 2018.

#### **Evaluation Criteria**

This is a competitive scholarship. Applicants are evaluated according to academic ability, social awareness, financial need and appreciation of labor. A GPA of 3.0 or higher is recommended. The required essays can account for up to half your total score. Scholarship applicants are judged by a committee of impartial postsecondary educators.

#### **Application Timeline**

Applications are available starting in mid-June, and a complete application must be received on or before 12:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) on January 31, 2018. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

#### Scholarship Award Amounts

Amounts range from \$500 to \$4,000. These one-time cash awards are for study beginning in the Fall of 2018. Students may re-apply each year.

#### Introducing Isaiah's Award

Union Plus is proud to announce the creation of Isaiah's Award, to honor the exceptional life of Isaiah C., a beloved child, fostered and adopted by a current, long-time employee of Union Plus. Isaiah was a smart, talented, spiritual, generous and kind young man. It is our wish that his gentle spirit lives on, in part, through this namesake scholarship.

Applicants for Isaiah's Award must have a special connection to the foster care system, and will be asked in their application to describe their personal, employment, volunteer experiences, or career goals related to the foster care system.

#### Award Date

The Scholarship Committee will determine recipients of scholarship awards by May 31 each year. During the first week of June, award recipients will be individually notified by mail, and all applicants will be sent an email with notification that the award list is posted. Please note that due to the volume of applications, we cannot provide any information on the status of an application before award announcements are made.

#### **Outstanding Scholarship Recipients**

The students selected for university, college, trade or technical school scholarships represent a wide sampling of backgrounds, union affiliations, goals and accomplishments. The selection process is very competitive since we receive over 5,000 applications each year.

To receive mobile text alerts about education-related deadlines and information

#### TEXT STUDENT to 22555

www.unionplus.org/benefits/money/ union-plus-scholarships

## BROTHERHOOD OF RAILROAD SIGNALMEN'S 52nd Regular Convention

The Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen's Fifty-Second Regular Convention will convene Monday, August 6 and extend through August 10, 2018, at Westin Copley Place in Boston, Massachusetts.

The Westin Copley Place is located near the Prudential Center, Boston Common, and Newbury Street at 10 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts.

You can visit the Westin Copley Place website at *http://www.westincopleyplaceboston.com*.

The Westin's offerings include a close proximity to shopping experiences, many restaurants, and historical sites from the American Revolution. The onsite amenities include an indoor heated pool, fully-equipped gym, spa, and salon.

Look for reservation information to be posted on *www. brs.org* in the spring of 2018. ■

### **GENERAL CHAIRMEN** OVERWHELMING APPROVE TENTATIVE NATIONAL AGREEMENT



## WASHINGTON REPORT

 Department of Transportation Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Opioid Testing for Transportation Workers

Employees' careers can be on the line.

Someone with a perfect record who has one

false positive can lose his or her livelihood.



#### DOT NPRM — Opioid Testing for Transportation Workers

The Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991 is the law that sets the guidelines for drug and alcohol testing for safety-sensitive transportation employees. It provides for the privacy of the individual being tested, including protection from harassment, disparate treatment, or hindrance upon career development. The Act also emphasizes the importance of the availability of a rehabilitation program for individuals impacted by drug

or alcohol abuse. The Act sets standards and methods for testing and certification of laboratories that perform the testing, and also under

what circumstances an individual would participate in the testing program. It also directs the DOT Secretary to establish a list of minimum controlled substances to be tested for.

On January 23, 2017, the Department of Transportation (DOT) put out a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to revise Part 40 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations to harmonize with the revised Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Mandatory Guidelines for Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs using Urine (HHS Mandatory Guidelines) published on January 23, 2017, effective October 1, 2017. DOT currently requires urine testing for safety-sensitive transportation industry employees subject to drug testing under Part 40.

There are two changes to the HHS Mandatory Guidelines that this notice proposes in order to harmonize Part 40. First, the revised HHS Mandatory Guidelines, in part, allow federal agencies with drug-testing responsibilities to test for four additional Schedule II (of the Controlled Substances Act) prescription medications: hydrocodone, hydromorphone, oxycodone, and oxymorphone. Second, the HHS Mandatory Guidelines remove methylenedioxyethylamphetamine (MDEA) as a confirmatory test analyte from the existing drug-testing panel, and add methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA) as an initial test analyte. In addition to synchronizing with pertinent sections of the HHS Mandatory Guidelines for urine testing, the DOT also proposed to modify certain existing Part 40 provisions that cover the handling of urine specimens and to add clarifying language to other provisions (such as updated definitions and web links where necessary). The DOT also proposed the removal of existing Part 40 requirements related to blind specimen testing. The comment period closed March 24, 2017, and a final ruling has not been made to date.

On March 24, 2017, the BRS along with the American Train Dispatchers Association (ATDA); Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET);

Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes Division (BMWED); Brotherhood of Railway Carmen Division TCU/IAM; and Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation (SMART) submitted comments on the proposed NPRM. The majority of the Labor Organizations' concern is over the elimination of the blind specimen testing that is used as a safeguard against false positives. The DOT has proposed this elimination as a way to offset the cost of expanding the number of drugs tested for by adding the four above-mentioned opioids.

"DOT estimates that savings of \$3.1 million per year will accrue from the proposed elimination of the current requirement for employers to submit blind specimen testing to laboratories (estimated at \$50.00 per test). DOT's proposal to remove blind testing is out of the mainstream. The norm for laboratories that want to pass quality control testing scrutiny is to engage in rigorous quality control testing that includes blind tests. Moreover, the expansion of the panel actually increases the opportunity for human error regarding such common issues as patient misidentification. Other industries and the agencies that regulate them insist on blind testing to ensure laboratory quality assurance and quality control as a part of its procedures. See 10 CFR 26.168.

... it is also true and alarming that drug testing is a sensitive procedure. Employees' careers can be on the line. Someone with a perfect record who has one false positive can lose his

or her livelihood. Worse, if a test is a false positive and is performed as a requirement of a post-accident test regimen, a false-positive test itself can invite criminal charges against a railroad employee...Backing off on laboratory quality control measures for not being cost-beneficial cannot be allowed to tip the scales to drug test on the cheap.

System integrity is currently maintained by making sure the laboratory that performs the testing is deliberate about not making mistakes with a person's bodily fluids. Blind specimen testing is a core element of that process. A system that does not want to expend the resources necessary to ensure and demonstrate its accuracy cannot justify the testing of bodily fluids "volunteered" by an employee who complied simply to overcome the threat of losing their livelihood."

While the Labor Organizations acknowledge that the federal government has the right to determine which controlled substances should be tested for, we do have reservation about the privacy of our members and the procedures by which Medical Review Officers (MROs) will identify legitimate use of these substances by prescription. "Doctors prescribe drugs like hydrocodone, hydromorphone, oxycodone and oxymorphone at a high frequency for various ailments or pain relief, or during post-operative recovery."

On October 10, 2017, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Members Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.), Rick Larsen (D-WA), Michael Capuano (D-MA), Grace Neopolitano (D-CA), John Garamendi (D-CA), and Hank Johnson (D-GA) authored a letter to DOT Secretary Elaine Chao urging her to take up action on the NPRM. Since then, on October 26, 2017, President Trump declared the nation's opioid crisis a Public Health Emergency. While we agree that action needs to be taken to combat the crisis, we submit that that action must be thoughtful and directed at subsets of the American population where data indicates abuse. ■

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

#### WASHINGTON REPORT RESOURCE — EXECUTIVE ORDERS

As of the late, the President has been making or proposing to make executive orders on a number of different issues. Below is some information on executive orders, their purpose and scope, and their limitations.

Article II of the United States Constitution outlines the Executive Office of the President. The oath of office is contained in Section 1, "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States." Section 2 defines the President's role as the Commander in Chief of the military and in making treaties. There is a very short clause in Section 3, "…he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed…" that is the foundation of the Presidential Executive Order.

Executive Orders are issued by the President and are usually directed at an agency or department within the administration to guide them in how to carry out the law. They are subject to judicial review and may be overturned if found to be unconstitutional. Also, Congress may pass a law invalidating an Executive Order. In 1952, the Court declared President Truman's Executive Order No. 10340 unconstitutional in *Youngstown Sheet and Tube v. Sawyer*. The order asserted the President's Commander-in-Chief power to authorize government seizure and operation of the steel mills in order to prevent a work stoppage during wartime. The court stated that it was an attempt on the President's part to create a law rather than enforcing one.

Some Historic Executive Orders include:

- President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863;
- President Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order 9981 on July 26, 1948, abolishing racial discrimination in the United States Armed Forces and eventually led to the end of segregation in the military;
- President Dwight Eisenhower issued Executive Order 10730 sending federal troops to Little Rock, Arkansas, to enforce the integration of Central High School.

## **Objection Procedures For Expenditures Not Germane To Collective Bargaining**

### Advance Reduction Section 1.

Non-members required to pay agency fees as a condition of employment will have the right to object to expenditures on activities not germane to collective bargaining. Those persons filing objections, as required herein, will be entitled to receive an advance reduction of their fees. Although collective bargaining agreements requiring *"membership"* as a condition of employment are legal, it is the payment of all dues, fees, and assessments (agency fees), not actual membership, which is required.

#### **Notice of Objection**

Section 2.

- (a) Non-member agency fee payers wishing to file an objection will do so annually by notifying the Secretary-Treasurer of his or her objection in writing, postmarked during the month of November. The notice of objection will contain the objector's current home address, and he or she will be obligated to keep the Secretary-Treasurer informed of any change in address.
- (b) Employees who resign from membership wishing to file an objection will do so as specified in Section 2(a) above, postmarked within 30 days from tendering their resignation.
- (c) Newly hired employees will receive notice of these procedures. Those opting not to become members who wish to file an objection will do so as specified in Section 2(a) above, postmarked within 30 days of receiving such notice.

### **Chargeable and Non-Chargeable Expenditures** Section 3.

Objectors will be charged for all expenditures which: (1) are germane to collective bargaining activity, (2) are justified by the government's vital policy interest in labor peace and avoiding free riders, and (3) do not significantly add to the burdening of free speech that is inherent in the allowance of an agency or union shop. Objectors will not be charged for expenditures failing to meet these criteria. The following are examples of these types of expenditures:

#### Chargeable Expenditures:

- (a) All funds expended on collective bargaining.
- (b) All funds expended on contract administration, grievance adjustment, and arbitration.
- (c) All funds expended on internal governance and administration.

#### Non-Chargeable Expenditures:

- (a) All funds expended on the election of candidates for public office, including contributions to any political party, political organization, or candidate for public office; expenditures on behalf of and facilities used for any political party, political organization, or candidate for public office.
- (b) All funds expended on efforts to recruit new members.
- (c) All funds expended on lobbying except for lobbying directly related to ratifying or implementing a collective bargaining agreement.
- (d) All dues to the AFL-CIO.
- (e) All contributions to charitable and educational groups.
- (f) A prorated portion of the cost of *The Signalman's Journal* and other Union publications devoted to the coverage of subjects specified in the preceding subsections, or any other non-germane subjects.

#### Audit Report

#### Section 4.

Grand Lodge will retain a certified public accountant to audit its allocation of expenditures into chargeable and non-chargeable categories during each July 1–June 30 fiscal year preceding any fiscal year during which an objector is required to pay an agency fee. A copy of said audit report and a description of chargeable and nonchargeable expenses will be mailed to all non-member agency fee payers on an annual basis in October. In addition, any non-member filing notice of objection under Section 2(b) and (c) will be mailed a copy of the documents listed above at the time of their objection.

### Advance Reduction Calculation Section 5.

The percentage of non-chargeable expenditures will be calculated in accordance with the certified audit report. The amount of the advance reduction will be calculated by multiplying projected fee payments times the non-chargeable percentage. Non-members filing a notice of objection pursuant to Section 2(a) will receive an advance reduction in agency fees during the following calendar year. Non-members filing objections under Section 2(b) will receive an advance reduction in agency fees from the first day of the month following the month in which they tendered their resignation through December 31 of that year. Non-members filing objections under Section 2(c) will receive an advance reduction in agency fees for the period they begin paying such fees through December 31 of that year.

#### Challenge of Calculation Section 6.

Non-members filing a notice of objection pursuant to Section 2 may challenge the calculation of chargeable and non-chargeable expenditures by filing a written challenge with the Secretary-Treasurer postmarked no later than the November 30 following the October mailing of the audit report being challenged. Non-members filing timely objections under Section 2(b) or (c) may also challenge the calculation of chargeable and nonchargeable expenses by filing a written challenge with the Secretary-Treasurer postmarked no later than the deadline set forth in said sections for filing objections; and such challenges will be consolidated for arbitration with those filed under the first sentence of this section.

#### **Selection of Arbitrator**

#### Section 7.

In the event a challenge is filed under Section 6, the Secretary-Treasurer will provide a list of challengers to the American Arbitration Association (AAA). All challenges will be consolidated. The AAA will appoint an arbitrator from a special panel maintained by the AAA for this purpose. The AAA will inform the Secretary-Treasurer and the challengers of the arbitrator selected.

#### **Arbitration Procedures**

Section 8.

- (a) The arbitration will be scheduled expeditiously. The AAA will develop rules that will govern these arbitrations, and, conscious of the need for an informed and expeditious decision, the arbitrator will have control over all procedural matters affecting the arbitration.
- (b) Each party to the arbitration will bear their own costs. The challengers will have the option of paying a pro-rata portion of the costs of the arbitrator's fees and expenses. The Union will pay the balance of such fees and expenses.
- (c) A court reporter will make a transcript of all proceedings before the arbitrator. This transcript will be the official record of the proceedings and may be purchased by the challengers. If an objector does not purchase a copy of the transcript, the Union will, upon request, make a copy available for inspection.
- (d) A challenger may, at his or her expense, be represented by counsel or other representative of his or her choice. The challenger need not appear at the hearing and will be permitted to file written statements with the arbitrator in lieu of an appearance.
- (e) Prior to the start of the hearing, the Union will provide challengers with a list of all exhibits it intends to introduce at the hearing and a list of all witnesses

it intends to call, except for exhibits and witnesses it may introduce for rebuttal. Copies of exhibits will be made available upon request.

- (f) The Union will have the burden of establishing that the reduced agency fee being charged is lawful.
- (g) If the arbitrator determines that more than one day of hearings is necessary, he or she will, to the extent possible, schedule the hearings to continue from day to day until completed. The arbitrator will issue a decision within thirty (30) days after the submission of post-hearing briefs or within such other reasonable period as is consistent with the rules established by the AAA.
- (h) The arbitrator will give full consideration to the legal requirements limiting the amounts that objectors may be charged and will set forth his or her analysis in the decision. The order and decision of the arbitrator will be final and binding on the Union.

#### Escrow Account Section 9.

The Union will establish an escrow account containing the portion of agency fees paid by non-members filing challenges pursuant to Section 6 which reasonably may be in dispute in arbitration. In the event the Union escrow is less than the entire amount of fees so paid, the amount of the escrow will be based on an independent audit, and the escrow figure will be independently verified. After the issuance of the arbitration award, the escrow fund will be distributed in accordance with the arbitrator's decision.

### Administration by Secretary-Treasurer Section 10.

The Secretary-Treasurer will administer this policy in a manner that is completely fair to agency fee payers who wish to object. The Secretary-Treasurer has the authority to determine the amount of the reduced fee each year, to provide proper notice of this policy to agency fee payers, to waive procedural requirements when fairness requires, to informally resolve challenges to the Union's calculation, and to promulgate procedures for accommodating agency fee objections in accordance with applicable state or federal laws.

#### Amendments

#### Section 11.

The Grand Executive Council will have authority to amend this policy as it deems appropriate.

#### **Not Applicable in Canada** Section 12.

This policy is not applicable to members working in Canada. ■



### Acting for Impaired Railroad Retirement Beneficiaries

According to Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) policy, every annuitant has the right to manage his or her own benefits. However, when physical or mental impairments make a railroad retirement annuitant incapable of properly handling benefit payments, or where the RRB determines that the interests of the annuitant so require, the agency can appoint a representative payee to act on the annuitant's behalf. A representative payee may be either a person or an organization selected by the RRB to receive benefits on behalf of an annuitant.

The following questions and answers provide information for family members, or others, who may have to act on behalf of an annuitant.

#### Does the RRB have legal authority to appoint a representative payee for an annuitant?

The Railroad Retirement Act gives the RRB authority to determine whether direct payment of benefits, or payment to a representative payee, will best serve an annuitant's interest. The RRB can appoint a representative payee regardless of whether there has been a legal finding of incompetence or commitment and, depending on the circumstances in a particular case, the RRB can select someone other than the individual's legal representative to be the representative payee.

## What if a person has been given power of attorney by a beneficiary?

Power of attorney is a legal process where one person grants another the authority to transact certain business on his or her behalf; but the RRB, like the Social Security Administration, does not recognize power of attorney for purposes of managing benefit payments for a beneficiary. For this purpose, the RRB uses the position of representative payee.

## Why doesn't the **RRB** recognize power of attorney?

The Railroad Retirement Act protects a person's right to receive benefits directly and to use them as he or

she sees fit by prohibiting the assignment of benefits. Power of attorney creates an assignment-like situation that is contrary to the protections given by this law. The Act likewise gives the RRB exclusive jurisdiction in determining whether to appoint a representative payee for an annuitant. If the RRB recognized power of attorney, it would be deferring to a designation made by someone outside of the agency and would, in effect, be abdicating its responsibility to the annuitant. Also, events often occur which may affect an annuitant's eligibility for benefits. The responsibility for reporting these events to the RRB is placed, by law, directly on the annuitant or the annuitant's representative payee. When benefits are accepted, the annuitant or his or her payee attests to a continued eligibility for such benefits. And if payments are misused, they can be recouped from the payee. This is not true with power of attorney.

#### How are these representative payees selected?

Generally, the RRB's local field offices determine the need for a representative payee and interview potential payees. The field office also advises the payee of his or her duties, monitors the payee, investigates any allegations of misuse of funds, and changes the method of payment, or the payee, when appropriate.

The RRB provides 15 days' advance notice to an annuitant of its intent to appoint a representative payee, and the name of the payee, in order to allow the annuitant a period of time in which to contest the appointment.

## What are the primary duties and responsibilities of a representative payee?

The payee must give first consideration to the annuitant's day-to-day needs. This includes paying for food, shelter, clothing, medical care and miscellaneous personal needs. Beyond day-to-day needs, railroad retirement benefits may be used for other expenses.

The payee is also responsible for reporting events to the RRB that affect the individual's annuity, and is required to account for the funds received on behalf of the annuitant.

In addition, since railroad retirement benefits are subject to federal income tax, a representative payee is responsible for delivering the benefit information statements issued each year by the RRB to the person handling the annuitant's tax matters.

Periodically, the payee will be asked to complete a report which includes questions regarding how much of the railroad retirement benefits available during the year were used for the support of the beneficiary, how much of the benefits were saved, and how the savings were invested. In order to complete the questionnaire correctly, a payee must keep current records of the railroad retirement benefits received and how the benefits were used. The records should be retained for four years.

## What are a representative payee's primary responsibilities for an annuitant's Medicare coverage?

When an annuitant requires covered medical services, the payee must have the annuitant's Medicare card available. The payee must also keep records of the services received and the expenses incurred or paid, just as for any other usage of railroad retirement benefits.

## What if an annuitant is confined to an institution?

When annuitants are in a nursing home, hospital or other institution, their railroad retirement benefit

payments should be used to meet the charges for their current maintenance. Current maintenance includes the usual charges the institution makes for providing care and services.

The payee should use the benefit payments to aid in the annuitant's possible recovery or release from the institution, or to improve his or her living conditions while confined. Payments may be used, for example, to provide clothing, personal grooming supplies, transportation of relatives to visit the patient, trial visits to relatives or to places where the patient can be helped to recover, medical and dental care, and reading materials and hobby supplies.

#### How should railroad retirement benefits not immediately required to meet an annuitant's needs be handled?

Benefit payments which will not be needed in the near future must be saved or invested unless they are needed for the support of the annuitant's legally dependent spouse or child, or to pay creditors under certain circumstances. It is recommended that conserved funds be held in interest-bearing accounts. Preferred investments are federally-insured or stateinsured accounts at financial institutions and obligations of, or those backed by, the federal government, such as U.S. Savings Bonds

Funds should not be kept in the home, where they may be lost or stolen, nor can they be mingled with the payee's own funds or other funds.

#### How can a person get more information about being appointed as a representative payee, or whether the use of railroad retirement benefits for a particular purpose would be proper?

More information is available by visiting the agency's website, www.rrb.gov, or by calling an RRB office toll-free at 1-877-772-5772. Persons can find the address of the RRB office serving their area by calling the RRB's toll-free number or at www.rrb.gov. Most RRB offices are open to the public on weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., except on Wednesdays when offices are open from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. RRB offices are closed on federal holidays. ■

## AUDITOR'S REPORT

As provided for in Article 1, Section 68, of the Constitution, the Chairman of the Grand Board of Trustees caused the examination and audit of Grand Lodge financial records for the fiscal year July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017, by certified public accountants. The firm Haley & Associates, LLC was selected for the task.

#### **GENERAL FUND**

Summary Statement of Income, Expenses, and Capital

<b>INCOME:</b> Per capita tax, initiation fees, dues, donations, refunds Sales of supplies, services, books, advertising, subscriptions Interest	\$ 6,268,325 23,519 448,000	\$ 6,739,844
<b>EXPENSES:</b> Salaries, payroll taxes, insurance Travel expenses Office expenses Association per capita, dues, subscriptions Attorney fees, professional services Depreciation Building expenses Convention, meeting expenses Signalman's Journal Allocation to Contingent Fund	\$ 3,588,822 944,694 421,026 150,811 260,551 108,468 95,412 158,641 80,745 84,908	5,894,078
<b>NET INCOME (LOSS)</b> CAPITAL — June 30, 2016 CAPITAL — June 30, 2017		845,766 <u>8,491,821</u> \$ 9,337,587
CONTINGENT FUND		
Summary Statement of Income, Expenses, and Capital INCOME:		
General fund allocation	\$411,614_	
<b>EXPENSES:</b> Convention credit Bank charges	\$	\$ 411,614 401
<b>NET INCOME (LOSS)</b> CAPITAL — June 30, 2016 CAPITAL — June 30, 2017		411,213 3,783,841 \$ 4,195,054

## **AUDITOR'S REPORT**

The audit was completed and submitted to the Grand Board of Trustees on or before October 17, 2016. Copies were furnished to each Local Lodge and General Committee on or before October 17, 2016. In a written report, the auditors stated:

"In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen as of June 30, 2017 and 2016 and the changes in its net assests and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."

E	nce She	eet			
ASSETS					
CURRENT ASSETS	Combined		General Fund	Cor	itingent Fund
Cash Investments – market value Accounts receivable Prepaid expenses <b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	 1,667,773 11,457,134 79,842 <u>159,641</u> 13,364,390	\$	1,643,680 5,680,020 79,842 <u>159,641</u> 7,563,183	\$	24,093 5,777,114  5,801,207
FIXED ASSETS					
Land, Front Royal, VA Building, Front Royal, VA Land Improvements Office furniture & equipment <b>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</b>	 81,663 1,827,853 14,867 <u>63,219</u> 1,987,602		81,663 1,827,853 14,867 <u>63,219</u> 1,987,602	-	- - - - -
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 5,351,992	\$	9,550,785	\$ _	5,801,207
LIABILITIES					
CURRENT LIABILITIES Accounts Payable Accrued payroll taxes TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$  43,951 (1,366) 42,585	\$	43,951 (1,366) 42,585	\$	_ 
<b>CAPITAL</b> General Fund Contingent Fund Change in fair market value of securities	\$ 9,337,587 4,195,054 1,776,766	\$	9,337,587 	\$	_ 4,195,054 1,606,153
TOTAL CAPITAL Total liabilities and capital	15,309,407 15,351,992	\$ \$	<u> </u>	\$ \$	5,801,207 5,801,207



## Download Our Mobile App!

Available For iPhone & Android

NOW IT'S EASIER THAN EVER TO FIND ...



 Upcoming Events & News
 Forms & Agreements
 Contact Information
 Local Meeting Dates & Times
 Insurance Information and Contacts
 Photo Gallery
 How to Sign-up for a FREE BRS Email Account
 Union-Made Products in The Signalman's Store

LINK TO APP ALSO AVAILABLE AT: www.brs.org

#### FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

Download the BRS GL App for the Apple or Google Play app store.

Once the app is installed, scroll to the 'New User Registration' tab to sign-up.

You will receive an email and have access to the 'Members Only' section within 24–48 hours.







#### AFL-CIO NATIONAL BOYCOTTS

#### HOSPITALITY, TRANSPORTATION & TRAVEL

#### SUBMITTED BY UNITE HERE!

Please support the workers in these hotels by confinuing to boycoll the following properties:

- ANCHORAGE, AK: Hilton: Sheraton
- Hilton LAX—This includes the Crowne Plaza Hotel LAX, Yokoso Sushi Bar, the Landing Restaurant, Century Taproom, and the Boulevard Market Cafe.
- CALIFORNIA: Hyatt Regency Santa Clara, Hyatt Regency Sacramento, Hyatt Fisherman's Wharf San Francisco, Hilton Long Beach, Le Meridien San Diego
- RHODE ISLAND: Renaissance Providence Downtown Hotel
- SEATTLE: Grand Hyatt Seattle and Hyatt at Olive 8 Seattle

#### OTHER

#### SUBMITTED BY Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC)

Reynolds American, Inc., Vuse e-cigarettes

#### FOOD

SUBMITTED BY United Steelworkers (USW)

#### → PALERMO PIZZA

SUBWITTED BY Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union (BCTGM)

 Mondelez International Snack Foods (those made in Mexico)

#### LEGAL

SUBMITTED BY American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees

→ Gleason, Dunn, Walsh & O'Shea

Mcdonald, Lamond, Canzoneri and Hickernell



When some labor disputes with businesses cannot be resolved, the AFL-CIO supports its affiliates by endorsing their boycotts. A boycott is an act of solidarity by voluntarily abstaining from the purchase or use of a product or service.

#### POLICY GUIDELINE FOR ENDORSEMENT OF AFFILIATES' BOYCOTTS

The AFL-CIO Executive Council has developed policy guidelines that regulate how the federation endorses boycotts undertaken by its affiliates. To get AFL-CIO senction, boycotts should be directed at primary employers.

#### THE GUIDELINES INCLUDE THESE PROVISIONS:

- All requests to the national AFL-CIO for endorsement must be made by a national or international union.
- Any affiliated union with a contract in force with the same primary employer will be contacted by the AFL-CIO to datermine whether there is an objection to the federation's endorsement.
- Affiliates will be asked to provide the AFL-CIO with background information on the dispute in a confidential information survey. Prior to endorsement of the boycott, the executive officers, or their designees, will meet with the national union's officers, or their designees, to discuss the union's strategic plan and timetable for the boycott, or other appropriate tactics, and to discuss the federation's role.
- The national or international union initiating the boycott is primarily responsible for all boycott activities; the AFL-CIO will provide supplemental support.
- Boycotts will be carried on the AFL-CID national boycott list for a period of one year, and the endorsement will expire automatically at the end of that time. National and international unions may request one-year extensions of the listings for actions where an organizing or bargaining campaign is actively in place.

(These guidelines were adopted by the AFL-CIO Executive Council in April 2011.)

## <u>BRS</u> DESIGNATED COUNSEL



When Signalmen suffer a work-related injury or illness, BRS members or their families are encouraged to determine their rights and benefits under the Federal Employers' Liability Act before agreeing to any settlement with the railroad employer. The Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen has designated the attorneys listed in this directory to serve as qualified counsel for BRS members in employee injury cases covered by FELA.

Attorneys are listed by state and are designated to serve BRS members living or working in the general region of their offices. Designation of FELA counsel is by authority of the BRS Executive Council only.

BRS members are encouraged to provide information regarding FELA cases, including criticism or commendations regarding the service of designated counsel, and information on injuries and settlements. This information, which will be used in the continuing evaluation of this program, should be sent to W. Dan Pickett, President, Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen, 917 Shenandoah Shores Road, Front Royal, VA 22630-6418.

#### ALABAMA

W.C. Tucker, Jr. Maples, Tucker & Jacobs, LLC 2001 Park Place North Suite 501 Birmingham, AL 35203 Tel. (205) 322-2333 www.mtandj.com

#### ARIZONA

Lloyd L. Rabb, III Rabb & Rabb, PLLC P.O. Box 64040 Tucson, AZ 85728 Tel. (520) 888-6740 (800) 354-3352 www.lstinjurylaw.com

#### ARKANSAS

Chris Christy Law Office of H. Chris Christy 201 W. Broadway Street Suite G12 North Little Rock, AR 72114 Tel. (501) 454-3949

#### CALIFORNIA

Jay A. Kaplan Kaplan Law Corporation 400 Oceangate Suite 1125 Long Beach, CA 90802 Tel. (562) 372-0506 (800) 552-7526 www.kaplanlaw.corp.com

Anthony S. Petru Hildebrand, McLeod & Nelson Westlake Building 350 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza 4th Floor Oakland, CA 94612 Tel. (510) 451-6732 (800) 689-7066 www.hmnlaw.com

#### **COLORADO**

James K. Vucinovich Rossi Vucinovich PC 3801 E. Florida Avenue Floor 4 Denver, CO 80210 Tel. (303) 759-3500 (800) 325-4014 www.railroad-injuries.com

1000 Second Avenue Suite 1780 Seattle, WA 98104 Tel. (425) 646-8003 (866) 357-RAIL (7245)

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Larry Mann Alper & Mann, PC 9205 Redwood Avenue Bethesda, MD 20817 Tel. (202) 298-9191 (800) 747-6266

#### FLORIDA

Howard A. Spier Rossman Baumberger Reboso & Spier, PA 9155 S. Dadeland Boulevard Suite 1200 Miami, FL 33156 Tel. (305) 373-0708 (800) 775-6511 www.rbrlaw.com

#### ILLINOIS

Daniel Petro The Petro Law Firm One North LaSalle Street Suite 3150 Chicago, IL 60602 Tel. (312) 332-9596 (800) 472-5729 www.petrofelalaw.com

#### Daniel J. Downes

Ridge & Downes 101 N. Wacker Drive Suite 200 Chicago, IL 60606 Tel. (800) 572-1136 (800) 624-2121 www.ridgedownes.com

#### MARYLAND

P. Matthew Darby Berman, Sobin, Gross, Feldman & Darby LLP Heaver Plaza 1301 York Road Suite 600 Lutherville, MD 21093 Tel. (410) 769-5400 (800) 248-3352 www.bsgfdlaw.com

#### MASSACHUSETTS Robert T. Naumes

Naumes Law Group, LLC 2 Center Plaza Suite 620 Boston, MA 02108 Tel. (617) 227-8444 (844) 826-8445 www.naumeslaw.com MICHIGAN Arvin J. Pearlman Sommers Swartz, PC 1 Towne Square Suite 1700

Suite 1700 Southfield, MI 48076 Tel. (248) 356-5000 (800) 272-5400 www.sommerspc.com

#### MINNESOTA

Randal W. LeNeave Hunegs, LeNeave & Kvas 1000 Twelve Oaks Center Drive Suite 101 Wayzata, MN 55391 Tel. (612) 339-4511 (800) 328-4340 www.hlklaw.com

6035 Binney Street Omaha, NE 68104 Tel. (402) 341-2020

Gregory T. Yaeger Yaeger & Weiner, PLC 2701 University Avenue SE Suite 202 Minneapolis, MN 55414 Tel. (612) 345-9797 www.yw-law.com

#### MISSOURI

Gene C. Napier Hunegs, LeNeave & Kvas 1712 Main Street Suite 266 Kansas City, MO 64108 Tel. (913) 484-3884

Drew C. Baebler The Baebler Firm, LLC 60 Crestwood Executive Ctr. St. Louis, MO 63126 Tel. (314) 270-9900 www.raillaw.com

#### NEBRASKA

See Minnesota

#### **NEW YORK**

Marc Wietzke Flynn & Wietzke, PC 1205 Franklin Avenue Garden City, NY 11530 Tel. (516) 877-1234 (866) 877-3352 www.felaattorney.com

#### OHIO

Andrew J. Thompson, Esq. Shapero | Roloff Co., LPA 1350 Euclid Avenue Suite 1550 Cleveland, OH 44115 Tel. (216) 781-1700 (800) 321-9199 www.shaperoroloff.com

#### PENNSYLVANIA

Michael J. Olley Coffey, Kaye, Myers & Olley Two Bala Plaza Suite 718 Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004 Tel. (610) 668-9800 (800) 334-2500 www.ckmo.com

#### TEXAS

Weldon Granger Jones, Granger, Tramuto, & Halstead www.jonesgranger.com

> **Robert M. Tramuto** 10000 Memorial Drive Suite 888 Houston, TX 77210 Tel. (713) 668-0230 (800) 231-3359

#### UTAH

Brent O. Hatch Hatch, James & Dodge, PC 10 West Broadway Suite 400 Salt Lake City, UT 84101 Tel. (801) 363-6363 www.hjdlaw.com

#### VIRGINIA

Willard J. Moody, Sr. The Moody Law Firm, Inc. 500 Crawford Street Suite 200 Portsmouth, VA 23704 Tel. (757) 393-4093 (800) 368-1033 www.moodyrrlaw.com

#### C. Richard Cranwell

Cranwell, Moore & Emick, PLC 111 W. Virginia Avenue Vinton, VA 24179 Tel. (540) 904-1621 (888) 635-6304 www.cranwellmoorelaw.com

#### WASHINGTON

See Colorado

## BENEFITS DIRECTORY

#### UnitedHealthcare

#### National Plan — GA-23000

Managed Medical Care Programs (MMCP) & Comprehensive Health Care Benefit (CHCB) **1-800-842-9905** *www.myuhc.com* 

#### **Retiree Claims** — GA-46000 UnitedHealthcare P.O. Box 30985 Salt Lake City, UT 84130-0985 **1-800-842-5252**

**Retiree Supplemental** — GA-23111

UnitedHealthcare P.O. Box 30304 Salt Lake City, UT 84130-0404 **1-800-842-5252** 

#### Aetna Healthcare

Aetna 3541 Winchester Road Allentown, PA 18195 **1-800-842-4044** www.aetna.com

#### **Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield**

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Railroad Dedicated Unit P.O. Box 890381 Camp Hill, PA 17089-0381 **1-866-267-3320** www.bcbs.com

#### Life Insurance

MetLife P.O. Box 6122 Utica, NY 13504-6122 **1-800-310-7770** www.metlife.com

#### Vision Service Plan

EyeMed Member Support **1-855-212-6003** www.eyemedvisioncare.com/railroad

#### **Union Plus**

Mortgage (Wells Fargo) • AT&T Discount Credit Card • Scholarships and much more *www.unionplus.org* 

#### Mental Health and Substance Abuse Benefits

For treatment, claims or inquiries call: United Behavioral Health **1-866-850-6212** *www.liveandworkwell.com* Access code: Railroad

#### Supplemental Sickness Benefits Under Group Policy No. R-5000

Aetna P.O. Box 189145 Plantation, FL 33318-9145 **1-800-205-7651 •** Fax: 954-452-4124 You may file online at: *www.wkabsystem.com* Company identifier: RR

#### Dental Benefits under Group Policy No. GP-12000

Aetna P.O. Box 14094 Lexington, KY 40512-4094 **1-877-277-3368** www.aetna.com

#### Managed Pharmacy Benefit Express Scripts

Retail pharmacy network provides medication for acute, short-term care. Mail-order prescription service provides medication for chronic, long-term care. UnitedHealthcare Plans GA-23000 and GA-46000

**1-800-842-0070** *www.express-scripts.com* 

#### **Railroad Retirement Board**

1-877-772-5772 — Automated Help Line www.rrb.gov

#### Railroad Info — Your Track to Health

*www.yourtracktohealth.com* (**Note**: Information on this site does not apply to Amtrak employees)





The Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen, in recognition of BRS members' contributions to the Signalman's craft and their dedication to the principle of trade unionism, has established a Continuous Service program to honor longtime BRS members. Continuous Service lapel pins are presented to members every five years, beginning with their 25th year of membership.

The following is a list of the active members who recently received Continuous Service pins in recognition of their years as BRS Members:

		L	
<b>50</b> YEARS OL SERVICE	F E	<b>40</b> YEARS O	OF CE
TH Stone	183	JF Warm	19
		DL Stolte	20
<b>40</b> YEARS OF	F	RW Fochtman	77
<b>40</b> SERVICE	3	ER Johnson	108
LC Moser	8	KA Haley	161
RW Powers, Jr.	8	CA Bennett	176

<b>35</b> YEARS O	OF CE	25 YEARS C SERVIC	)F CE
JV Maniscalco	56	DL Peters	8
IB Soderstrom	188	TR Russell	8
SC Pierce	SC Pierce 228		111
		EC Hines, Jr.	141
<b>2 A</b> YEARS	OF	DR Pedroza	156
<b>30</b> YEARS	ĈĒ	KP Huelster	161
WJ Davies	102	GR McLachlan	185
D Kohlmayer	102	TJ Meyer	188
ZA Surowiak	102	RA Long	194

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

#### TITLE 49: TRANSPORTATION — §228.7 HOURS OF DUTY

(a) For purposes of this part, time on duty of an employee actually engaged in or connected with the movement of any train, including a hostler, begins when he reports for duty and ends when he is finally released from duty, and includes—

(1) Time engaged in or connected with the movement of any train;

(2) Any interim period available for rest at a location that is not a designated terminal;

(3) Any interim period of less than 4 hours available for rest at a designated terminal;

(4) Time spent in deadhead transportation en route to a duty assignment; and

(5) Time engaged in any other service for the carrier.

Time spent in deadhead transportation by an

employee returning from duty to his point of final release may not be counted in computing time off duty or time on duty.

(b) For purposes of this part, time on duty of an employee who dispatches, reports, transmits, receives, or delivers orders pertaining to train movements by use of telegraph, telephone, radio, or any other electrical or mechanical device includes all time on duty in other service performed for the common carrier during the 24-hour period involved.

(c) For purposes of this part, time on duty of an employee who is engaged in installing, repairing or maintaining signal systems includes all time on duty in other service performed for a common carrier during the 24-hour period involved. ■

## UNION PLUS OFFERS HELP FOR THOSE IMPACTED BY THE California Wildfires



If you are a union member who participates in certain Union Plus programs and have been affected by the California wildfires, you may be eligible for financial assistance through the Union Plus Disaster Relief Grant program.

Union Plus Disaster Relief Grants of \$500 are available to eligible participants of one of the following programs:

- Union Plus Credit Card Program
- Union Plus Life Insurance
- Accidental Death Insurance
- Union Plus Auto Insurance or
- Union Plus Mortgage Program

#### To qualify for a Union Plus Disaster Relief Grant:

1. Your residence must be in a county qualifying for individual assistance money from FEMA (to check if your county

or Union Plus Auto Insurance for at least 12 months with that account or policy in good standing (be up-to-date on payments).

If you participate in any of the following programs and want to apply for a disaster relief grant, call:

- Union Plus Credit Card: 1-800-622-2580
- Union Plus Mortgage: 1-800-472-2005
- Union Plus Insurance: 1-800-472-2005
- Union Plus Auto Insurance: 1-800-472-2005

In addition, AT&T, the provider of Union Plus wireless discounts, will issue free AT&T PREPAID phones for landline customers without wireless service, while supplies last.

The Union Plus Disaster Relief Fund has provided nearly \$1 million in assistance to union members facing hardships following Hurricanes Sandy and Katrina, floods, wildfires and other natural disasters.

if your county has been designated as an area eligible for individual assistance money.

- 2. You must have experienced a significant loss of income or property within the past six months due to the disaster.
- You must have had a Union Plus Credit Card for at least three months, Union Plus Mortgage, Union Plus Life or Accidental Death Insurance



## **OBITUARIES**

**THOMAS L. ALLEMAN**—retired member of **LOCAL 68.** Brother Alleman retired in 2008 after 32 years of service with the Penn Central Railroad and Norfolk Southern Railway. Brother Alleman was a Signal Maintainer at Elkhart, Indiana, at the time of his retirement.

**ROSS S. BARTHOLOMEW**—active member of **LOCAL 188.** Brother Bartholomew had 16 years of service with the BNSF Railway Company. Brother Bartholomew was a Signal Maintainer at Plymouth, Washington, at the time of his passing.

JOHN K. "DUKE" BLANKENSHIP—active member of LOCAL 161. Brother Blankenship had 3 years of service with the BNSF Railway Company. Brother Blankenship was a Signal Maintainer at Colorado Springs, Colorado, at the time of his passing.

JAMES E. BROWN—retired member of LOCAL 31. Brother Brown retired in 1994 after 27 years of service with the Baltimore & Ohio Railway Company and CSX Transportation. Brother Brown was a Signal Maintainer at West Newton, Pennsylvania, at the time of his retirement.

**FREDERICK E. CLAWSON**—retired member of **LOCAL 31.** Brother Clawson retired in 2003 after 35 years of service with the Baltimore & Ohio Railway Company and CSX Transportation. Brother Clawson was a Signal Foreman at Savannah, Georgia, at the time of his retirement. Brother Clawson served as Local Chairman and First Vice President.

**EARL E. FORD**—retired member of **LOCAL 119.** Brother Ford retired in 1997 after 44 years of service with the BNSF Railway Company. Brother Ford was a Signal Maintainer at Lincoln, Nebraska, at the time of his retirement.

**WAYNE E. GLASS**—active member of **LOCAL 94.** Brother Glass had 18 years of service with CSX Transportation. Brother Glass was a Signal Maintainer at Ottawa, Ohio, at the time of his passing.

**SAMUEL E. HICKMAN**—retired member of **LOCAL 228.** Brother Hickman retired in 2000 after 33 years of service with the Norfolk & Western and Norfolk Southern Railways. Brother Hickman was a Signal Construction Signalman at the time of his retirement.

**WILLIAM T. "BEAR" MCCUISTON**—retired member of **LOCAL 16.** Brother McCuiston retired in 2002 after 37 years of service with the Seaboard Air Line Railroad and CSX Transportation. Brother McCuiston was a Signalman at Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, at the time of his retirement.

**ELIEZER RIQUELME**—active member of LOCAL 56. Brother Riquelme had 2 months of service with the Long Island Rail Road. Brother Riquelme was an Assistant Signalman at the time of his passing. JOHN L. "JACK" SULLIVAN—active member of LOCAL 5. Brother Sullivan had 23 years of service with Amtrak. Brother Sullivan was a Signal Maintainer at Canton, Massachusetts, at the time of his passing.

**NICHOLAS F. VAJDICS**—active member of **LOCAL 102.** Brother Vajdics had 13 years of service with Amtrak. Brother Vajdics was a Signal Foreman on the New York Division at the time of his passing.

**EDWARD M. WAWRYZNIAK**—active member of **LOCAL 53.** Brother Wawryzniak had 45 years of service with the Reading Railroad and Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority. Brother Wawryzniak was a Signal Maintainer at Jenkintown, Pennsylvania, at the time of his passing.

**ROBERT C. YATES**—retired member of **LOCAL 141**. Brother Yates retired in 2009 after 32 years of service with the Missouri Pacific and Union Pacific Railroads. Brother Yates was a Signal Maintainer at Waco, Texas, at the time of his retirement

#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

Please notify Grand Lodge of the passing of retired BRS members. *Email:* membership@brs.org

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

#### **TITLE 49: TRANSPORTATION**

#### §236.11 ADJUSTMENT, REPAIR, OR REPLACEMENT OF COMPONENT

When any component of a signal system, the proper functioning of which is essential to the safety of train operation, fails to perform its intended signaling function or is not in correspondence with known operating conditions, the cause shall be determined and the faulty component adjusted, repaired or replaced without undue delay.

### WHO SHOULD GET THE FLU VACCINE? Tips to Help Keep Your Health on Track!



Different flu vaccines are approved for use in different groups of people. Factors that can determine a person's suitability for vaccination, or vaccination with a particular vaccine, include a person's age, health (current and past) and any relevant allergies.

Flu shots are approved for use in pregnant women and people with chronic health conditions. There are flu shots that also are approved for use in people as young as 6 months of age and up.

CDC recommends use of the flu shot (inactivated influenza vaccine or IIV) and the recombinant influenza vaccine (RIV). The nasal spray flu vaccine (live attenuated influenza vaccine or LAIV) should not be used during 2016-2017.

#### Who Should Not Receive a Flu Shot:

- Children younger than 6 months old
- People with severe, life-threatening allergies to flu vaccine or any of its ingredients.
   NOTE: There are certain flu shots that have different age indications. For example, people younger than 65 years of age should not get the high-dose flu shot, and people who are younger than 18 years old or older than 64 years old should not get the intradermal flu shot.
- People who should talk to their doctor before getting the flu shot:
  - People who have an allergy to eggs or other vaccine ingredients
  - People who have ever had Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS)
  - People who are feeling ill

#### When should I get vaccinated?

You should get a flu vaccine before flu begins spreading in your community. It takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop in the body that protect against flu, so make plans to get vaccinated early in fall, before flu season begins. CDC recommends that people get a flu vaccine by the end of October, if possible. Getting vaccinated later, however, can still be beneficial and vaccination should continue to be offered throughout the flu season, even into January or later.

Children who need two doses of vaccine to be protected should start the vaccination process sooner, because the two doses must be given at least four weeks apart.

#### **Special Consideration Regarding Egg Allergy**

People with egg allergies can receive any licensed, recommended age-appropriate influenza vaccine and no longer have to be monitored for 30 minutes after receiving the vaccine. People who have severe egg allergies should be vaccinated in a medical setting and be supervised by a health care provider who is able to recognize and manage severe allergic conditions.

**SOURCE:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD)

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

### TITLE 49: TRANSPORTATION §236.329 BOLT LOCK

Bolt lock shall be so maintained that signal governing movements over switch or derail and displaying an aspect indicating stop cannot be operated to display a less restrictive aspect while derail is in derailing position, or when switch point is open one-half inch or more. BRS WATCHES — Gold BRS logo on the face.

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**CAPS** — Adjustable headband. Many different styles and colors available.

**NAVY WINDSHIRT** — 100% polyester microfiber with 100% nylon taffeta lining. Includes side seam pockets.

**OXFORD SHIRTS** — Long-sleeve dress shirts contain a double yoke, button-down banded collar, and dress placket with pearl-tone buttons. Constructed from a blend of 60% cotton and 40% polyester material.

**GOLF SHIRTS** — are constructed from wrinkle resistant, snag-proof, fade resistant material.

**CANVAS COAT** — Made of 100% cotton canvas with BRS colorlight logo embroidered in red and green. Available in black or brown.

WOOL/LEATHER BRS JACKETS

— Heavyweight wool shell, nylon lining, with leather sleeves and collar. Embroidered four-color BRS emblem. Available in black only.

**SAFETY KNIT BEANIE** — Made of 100% acrylic with 3M Reflective Thread Band, approximately 8½" long. Lime green/reflective, one size fits all.

Make check or money order payable to: Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen



MAIL PAYMENT AND ORDER TO: Signalman's Store Fulfillment 4801 Viewpoint Place Cheverly, MD 20781

ITEM DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL
BRS Flag (3' x 5')		85.00	
BRS Flag (2'x3')		53.50	
Golf Balls (pack of 3)		9.75	
Coffee Mug		8.00	
Pocket Watch		94.50	
Wrist Watch		115.50	
Mantle/Desk Clock		132.00	

HATS	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL
Cap (pink)		16.00	
Cap (black w/colorlight on brim)		18.00	
Cap (black w/BRS on brim)		14.00	
Cap (black)		11.00	
Cap (blue)		11.00	
Cap (gray)		11.00	
Safety Beanie (lime green)		17.00	
Cap (black dye sub)		18.00	
Cap (brown diamond plate)		18.00	

APPAREL	S	М	L	XL	2X	3X	4X	PRICE	TOTAL
Signal Graphic T-Shirt								14.00	
Union Strong T-Shirt (navy)								16.00	
Union Strong T-Shirt (charcoal)								16.00	
Golf Shirt (black w/logo)								37.50	
Golf Shirt (burgundy w/logo)								37.50	
Golf Shirt (navy w/logo)								37.50	
Golf Shirt (steel blue w/logo)								37.50	
Golf Shirt (women's burgundy w/logo)								37.50	
Oxford Dress Shirt (blue)								48.00	
Oxford Dress Shirt (gray)								48.00	
Oxford Dress Shirt (white)								48.00	
Navy Windshirt								60.75	
Black Wool & Leather Coat								195.00	
Black Canvas Coat								85.00	
Brown Canvas Coat								85.00	
CLEARANCE ITEMS	S	М		ΥI	2¥	3Y	4X	PRICE	TOTAL

CLEARANCE ITEMS	S	Μ	L	XL	2X	3X	4X	PRICE	TOTAL
Black Sweatshirt (quarter zip)								35.00	
Blue Jacket								53.00	
Available sizes in un-shaded boxes								TOTAL	

NAME			
STREET			
CITY		STATE	ZIP
PHONE			
PHONE	EWAIL		CERTIFICATE #

ORDER ONLINE AT WWW.BRS.ORG

## SIGNALMAN'S STORE



## LIFE INSURANCE — For the "What Ifs" in Life

Life can change in an instant. Suddenly, those "what if" situations can become a reality that send a family reeling financially and emotionally.

#### Ask yourself these questions:

What if I died unexpectedly? Could my family continue to live in our home? Would my children have the funds to be able to attend college? Will my family have the funds on hand to pay for my funeral and final expenses?

#### Life insurance is there to provide financial help to those affected by the "what if" situations.

#### There are four basic needs most families have:

- Final Expenses
- Income Protection
- Mortgage Protection
- And College Education

Life insurance from American Income Life Insurance Company can address these needs to help ensure that your family can continue to thrive while remaining in the home you have provided for them. Coverage is available to provide for money to replace a portion of the income they will lose if you are not there. You can make sure your children are able to have a college education. Life insurance helps protect the legacy you have worked so hard to provide.

#### You will soon receive a Benefit Notification Please return the Reply Card or access it online at www.ailife.com/benefits/SGKHR

This will allow you to designate a beneficiary for your no-cost \$3,000 AD&D benefit.

An AIL representative will deliver your certificate of coverage and will perform a no-cost, no-obligation Needs Analysis to evaluate your insurance needs and talk to you about insurance programs for which you may qualify.

#### American Income Life can help provide solutions for life's "what ifs."

www.ailife.com Protecting Working Families George Farenthold Labor Relations 315 730-2698



## MEETING PHOTOS

## Local 49 Meeting • Valdosta, Georgia





















## MEETING PHOTOS



## General Chairmen's Meeting

Dawson, Pennsylvania

























## **MEETING PHOTOS**





ECONOMY \* \* \* **RIGHTS** REGULATION CONSEQUENCES FINANCIAL SECURITY \* \* \* POLITICS RELATIONS CHANGE \* \* \* FEDERAL GOVERNMENT \* \* \*POLICY PLATFORM INVOLVEMENT \* \* \* ECONOMICS KNOWLEDGE

## Have a question about current events, policies, or the political process? — Ask Us!

Each quarter, a small selection of member-submitted questions will be answered and published here in the Washington Report.

#### PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS VIA USPS OR EMAIL

Attn: Washington Report Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen 917 Shenandoah Shores Road, Front Royal, VA 22630

#### washingtonreport@brs.org

## PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS FOR 2017



Signal Maintainer and Local 87 Trustee Leonard Fugle installs a sign on a signal in Shelby, Montana.

Photo submitted by: Scott Marksbury, Local 87 Member and Signal Inspector, Columbia Falls, Montana.



Photograph of one of the oldest active forms of signaling found near Wagon Mound, New Mexico, on the former Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway line.

Photo submitted by: Local 161 member, Danny Chaparro, Assistant General Chairman BNSF General Committee.





Cantilever signal at Canyon Junction installing all new control houses and signals on the cutover at Canyon Junction on the BNSF Slaton Subdivision in Lubbock, Texas.

Photo submitted by: Local 161 Recording-Financial Secretary Robert Malone.

#### 32 The Signalman's Journal 4th Quarter 2017

## 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL 2018 PHOTO CONTEST

*The Signalman's Journal* will conduct its 35th Annual Photo Contest during 2018, accepting entries of signalrelated photographs from Brotherhood members for publication in *The Signalman's Journal* and judging in the popular contest.

*The Signalman's Journal* 2018 Photo Contest prizes include:

- **First Place:** Union-made BRS logo wristwatch and \$100 gift certificate to the Signalman's Store.
- **Second Place:** Union-made black canvas coat with blanket lining and \$75 gift certificate to the Signalman's Store.
- Third Place: \$50 gift certificate to the Signalman's Store.

*The Signalman's Journal* encourages members to submit photographs that feature signal equipment or Signalmen working at their craft. Photographs of Signalmen at work must depict proper safety equipment (for example: hard hats, eye protection, or other necessary safety gear) and other generally recognized safe work practices.

#### The contest rules for 2018 are as follows:

**1.** Photographs should be in color and no smaller than 3 inches by 5 inches in size. Digital pictures are accepted and encouraged, but the photo should be of very high resolution. Negatives or Polaroid photos will not be considered. There is no limit on the number of entries.

**2.** Photographs must include some element of signal work or signal equipment. This can include Signalmen working or signal equipment of any kind incorporated into a scene.

- **3.** The final date for receipt of photographs for consideration in the 2018 contest will be October 1, 2018. Early entries are encouraged. All entries will be considered for publication in *The Signalman's Journal*.
- **4.** All photographs submitted become the property of the BRS which may edit, publish, distribute, and republish them in any form.
- 5. Photographs entered in the contest must be accompanied by the complete information specified on the entry form. Information must include the name, address, and telephone number of the photographer; the identification of any individuals in the photo (i.e., name, title, and local); photo location and the name of the railroad involved including the division and/or subdivision.
- **6.** Participants may include additional information on a separate sheet of paper. **Please DO NOT write on the back of photographs.** Be sure each entry is clearly identified when sending more than one entry.
- **7.** This contest is open only to active and retired members of the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen.
- 8. Mail all entries to:

Editor – *The Signalman's Journal* 917 Shenandoah Shores Road Front Royal, VA 22630-6418

Or email to: tme@brs.org

#### **BROTHERHOOD OF RAILROAD SIGNALMEN** — 2018 PHOTO CONTEST

LOCAL
STATE ZIP
(Evening)
JOB TITLE
R.R. DIVISION

These vehicles are made in the United States or Canada by members of the UAW and Canada's Unifor union, formerly the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW). Because of the integration of United States and Canadian vehicle production, all the vehicles listed made in Canada Include significant UAW-made content and support the jobs of UAW members.

However, those marked with an asterisk (\*) are produced in the United States and another country. The Chevrolet Cruze and Sonic are manufactured in the United States and Mexico. All Cruze hatchbacks and some sedans are manufactured in Mexico. The diesel version is manufactured in the United States by UAW members. The light-duty 1500 model versions of the vehicles marked with a double asterisk (\*\*) are manufactured in the United States and Mexico. When purchasing one of these trucks. check the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). A VIN beginning with "1" or "4" or "5" identifies a U.S.-made vehicle; "2" identifies a Canadian-made vehicle.

Not all vehicles made in the United States or Canada are built by union-represented workers. Vehicles not listed here, even if produced in the United States or Canada, are not union made.

## 2017 UAW Union **Built Vehicle Guide**

#### UAW CARS

- Buick LaCrosse
- Buick Verano
- Cadillac ATS
- Cadillac CTS
- Cadillac CT6
- (excluding plug-in hybrid)
- Chevrolet Bolt (electric) » Chevrolet Camaro
- **Chevrolet** Corvette
- » Chevrolet Cruze\*
- Chevrolet Cruze (diesel)
- Cheviolet Impaia
- » Chevrolet Malibu
- Chevrolet Sonic\*
- » Chevrolet Volt (electric)
- Chrysler 200
- **Oodge Viper**
- » Ford C-Max (full hybrid/electric)
- » Ford Focus
- Ford Focus (electric)
- » Ford Mustang
- » Ford Taurus
- » Lincoin Continental

#### **UAW TRUCKS**

- » Chevrolet Colorado
- » Chevrolet Silverado\*
- Ford F Series
- » GMC Canyon
- » GMC Sierra\*\*
- \* RAM 1500\*\*

#### **UAW SUVS/CUVS**

- » Buick Enclave
- » Cadillac Escalade
- Cadillac Escalade ESV
- » Cadillac Escalade Hybrid
- Cadillac XT5
- Chevrolet Suburban
- Chevrolet Tahoe
- Chevrolet Tahoe (police)
- Chevrolet Tahoe (special service)
- Chevrolet Traverse
- Dodge Durango

#### » Ford Escape

- » Ford Expedition
- » Ford Explorer
- » GMC Acadia
- » GMC Yukon
- » GMC Yukon Hybrid
- » GMC Yukon XL
- » Jeep Cherokee » Jeep Compass
- » Jeep Grand Cherokee
- » Jeep Patriot
- » Jeep Wrangler
- » Lincoln MKC
- » Lincoln Navigator

#### **UAW VANS**

- » Chevrolet Express
- » Ford Transit
- » GMC Savana

#### **UAW SPECIALTY VEHICLES**

» American General MV-1 (for disabled drivers)

#### UNIFOR CARS

- » Buick Regal
- Chevrolet Impala
- » Chevrolet Impala (police)
- » Chrysler 300
- » Dodge Challenger
- » Dodge Charger

#### **UNIFOR SUVS/CUVS**

- » Chevrolet Equinox
- » Ford Edge
- » Ford Flex
- » GMC Terrain

#### UNIFOR VANS

- » Chrysler Pacifica
- » Dodge Grand Caravan

- » Cadillac XTS

- » Lincoln MKT
- » Lincoin MKX