Program eligibility is contingent upon union participation.

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<th>PROGRAM</th>
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<td>800-393-0864, unionplus.org/accidentinsurance</td>
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<td>unionplus.org/att, use discount code 3508840</td>
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<td>Auto Insurance</td>
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<td>unionplus.org/cashback</td>
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<td>Credit Cards</td>
<td>800-522-4000 (to apply), theunioncard.com</td>
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<td>Credit Counseling</td>
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<td>Flower &amp; Gift Discounts</td>
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<td>unionplus.org/rentersinsurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Save My Home Hotline</td>
<td>866-490-5361, unionplus.org/savemyhome</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scholarship</td>
<td>unionplus.org/scholarships</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Term Life</td>
<td>800-393-0864, unionplus.org/lifeinsurance</td>
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<td>Vacation Tours</td>
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Did You Serve in a Branch of the Military?
If so, please send in your photo(s) so you may be included in the 3rd quarter “special edition” of The Signalman’s Journal. The issue will feature BRS members who are veterans, reservists, etc. ................................. 9

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COVER: In support of rail safety, BRS Officers joined IAM District Lodge 19 at the Los Angeles Union Station on February 22, 2024, for an informational picket.
A Trustee ensures that all Local or General Committee funds and assets are properly accounted for and used for legitimate purposes solely for the benefit of the Local or General Committee and its members, as authorized by the membership in accordance with the BRS Constitution and Bylaws. It is the job of the Trustee to check the union’s records to ensure all funds and assets have been handled properly and that accurate records have been maintained.

A Trustee ensures that a Local is complying with legal requirements for financial reporting, recordkeeping, and bonding, and is properly submitting per capita taxes to the General Committee and Grand Lodge.

Trustees may not be able to prevent an incident from happening, but they should be able to discover any problems and be able to bring them to the attention of the Financial-Secretary or the Local/General Committee leadership as necessary.

The BRS Constitution requires that each Local and General Committee have a Board of Trustees with no less than three members. The Trustee is a crucial position in the organization; they are the gatekeepers of financial stability. At the very minimum, the Board of Trustees should be performing annual audits and sending the report to the Secretary-Treasurer at Grand Lodge. Exit audits also need to be performed when the person holding the office of Financial-Secretary or General Secretary-Treasurer changes.

Where in the BRS Constitution?
- Local Trustee Duties: Article II, Section Nos. 47–55
- General Committee Trustee Duties: Article III, Section Nos. 15–22 & 30

What Else do You Need to Know?
- Local Financial Secretary Duties: Article II, Section Nos. 30–43
- Information in your Local or General Committee Bylaws:
  - Dues & Membership Fee Rates
  - Special Funds or Expenditures, such as memorials or picnics
  - Mileage Rates
  - Salaries and How Lost Time Is Paid
  - Expense Reimbursement Policy

If you would like to play a part in strengthening your union, I encourage you to contact your local leadership about serving as a Local Trustee. If you need a Trustee Audit Guide, please contact my office at (540) 622-6527. This Guide is designed to be an easy-to-use reference and will take you step-by-step through the audit process, help you identify your responsibilities during each step, and provide suggestions to make your job easier.
Resources to help children feel their best

Sometimes, it can be hard to know if a behavior change — especially in children — is due to an off day or a sign of something serious. As part of The National Railroad Plans – Health & Welfare Benefits, you and your covered family members can access United Behavioral Health, whether you’re enrolled in an Aetna, Highmark or UnitedHealthcare medical plan.

Start here – Connect with an Advocate

Your dedicated team of Behavioral Health Advocates is available 24/7 to provide immediate support, help you and your family find care with in-network providers and make in-person appointments. Call 1-866-850-6212 anytime.

Use Behavioral Health Telemedicine to access virtual visits

Through your benefit plan, you can connect virtually with a behavioral health provider through United Behavioral Health or Teladoc™ using your phone, computer or tablet. Just like with in-office visits, each virtual visit is subject to any applicable copay, deductible or coinsurance amounts.

Your benefits include a network of behavioral health clinicians who offer confidential care for:

- Stress, anxiety and depression
- Alcohol and substance use
- Eating disorders
- Autism spectrum disorder (ASD)
- And more

Your privacy is important

Your benefits administrators protect the privacy of your personal health information as required by law. Your personal information and use of this service will never be shared with your Railroad employer or Labor Union.

To find in-network providers, call an Advocate or go to liveandworkwell.com. Then, contact your chosen provider to make an appointment.

Register on the Teladoc app, at member.teladoc.com/railroad or by calling 1-800-Teladoc (835-2362). After registering, you can schedule an appointment.
On March 15, 2024, BRS members working for Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) ratified a one-year Agreement that covers employees until 2025. The Agreement provides for General Wage Increases totaling 7%, a $3,000.00 signing bonus, and $2,500.00 retention bonus for employees who stay an additional year and are Railroad Retirement age eligible.

The ratification process took place on-property which provided the BRS with the opportunity to speak to nearly every member in the bargaining unit.

“While we were not able to address everything we wanted, this short-term deal will bridge the gap until we start negotiations again later this year.” Joint statement from Vice President Commuter/Passenger Tim Tarrant, and General Chairman Rich Clark

The BRS congratulates our members at SEPTA.
On December 18, 2023, after nearly two years of bargaining, BRS members working for TransitAmerica Services Incorporated (TASI) ratified a five-year Agreement covering BRS members until 2027. The Agreement provides for 24% General Wage Increases with full retroactive pay, additional work to be added to the SCOPE Rule, significant increases to training and mentor pay, the establishment of shift differentials, and improvements to paid bereavement leave, minimum call compensation, and CDL differentials.

The Agreement also lowered the cap on monthly cost sharing increases, granted an additional day of Paid Time Off (PTO) each year, and increased the amount of “floating” PTO that can be used yearly.

The BRS congratulates the Negotiating Committee consisting of Vice President Commuter/Passenger Tim Tarrant, General Chairman John McArthur, Vice General Chairman Ron Rich, and Local Chairman George Lopez, as well as all TASI members on finishing this hard-fought contract.

These are all questions we may have asked ourselves or heard others asking.

The truth is, “there is power in a union” and it takes the dues and involvement of all members to maintain that power, strength, and solidarity; a fundamental involvement includes an understanding from all members.

Sign-up at WWW.BRS.ORG
Under MEMBERS click on the Training & Labor Education tab for more information
Solidarity, marksmanship, and fun was the theme on March 21, 2024, when Local 183 (Metra) held its annual shooting range outing. Local 183 officers and members alike, attended and displayed their shooting skills and collections. The event was well attended, and whether a newcomer or skilled marksman, a good time was had by all. Local 183’s planning committee holds several events per year to promote unionism and build solidarity which ensures the future of the Union Movement; well done Local 183.
Operation RedBlock (ORB) is a union-based, company-supported program designed to prevent employee drug and alcohol use while on duty. The program utilizes peer involvement and intervention to curb risks and provide a safe workplace for railroad employees all while helping to ensure safer railroads for the general public. ORB allows employees who may have drugs or alcohol in their system to “mark-off” for the day rather than reporting for duty and possibly risking the safety of themselves, their co-workers, or the public. The program also allows employees to “mark-off” a co-worker believed to be under the influence. Given the on-call nature of the railroad industry, programs like ORB have proven essential, especially with the highly unpredictable nature of employee schedules in the industry. “RedBlock is there to ensure that our members remain Safe, Healthy, Happy, and Employed” — Mike Jackson, CSX Operation RedBlock System Coordinator.

Operation RedBlock was founded on CSXT in 1984 through a partnership with the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and was later joined by nine more unions representing employees on CSXT. The Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen participates in the program through the utilization of ORB Captains, as well as informational sessions held annually at CSXT’s Safety Certification meetings.

Over the past 40 years, ORB has arguably become the leading peer prevention program in the industry, largely due to its union volunteers and partnership, and cooperation between the Organizations and the carrier. The program has positively affected the lives of many employees and has been an invaluable means of providing information on drug and alcohol abuse and treatment for those in need. Since its inception, ORB’s positive impact on employees, their families, and the public is immeasurable and steadfast.

The Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen would like to recognize and congratulate Operation RedBlock on celebrating 40 years of partnership on CSX Transportation.

Did you serve in a Branch of the Military?

If so, please send in your photo(s) so you may be included in an upcoming “special edition” of The Signalman’s Journal. The issue will feature BRS members who are veterans, reservists, etc. in a special edition of the Journal featuring your photos and honoring your service to our country.

Name: ______________________
______________
Local: ______________________
______________
Branch of the military: ______________________
______________

Please email your photos to tme@brs.org or mail prints to the address below.

Also, we would love to display your military unit patches at Grand Lodge. If you would like your unit to be included in this display, please send your patch to:

The Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen
917 Shenandoah Shores Road
Front Royal, VA 22630
On April 5, 2024, Local 183 held its first Local Officer’s Training in Tinley Park, Illinois. The one-day training consisted of presentations on the benefits of belonging to the BRS, how Union Dues are used to represent members, and the different functions performed at the Local and General Committee levels. There were also sessions on each elected position of the Local that highlighted the duties as well as the obligations required for each position as provided in the Constitution.

Additionally, there were sessions on what is required to file a successful claim or grievance, including the role each member must play in acquiring the necessary information. FELA Designated Counsel Dan Petro also led an advanced discussion on the provisions contained in the Whistleblower statute which included examples of what is covered and what is not. The session wrapped up with a session on how to engage and educate the membership on the BRS and how there is power in solidarity. Congratulations and good luck Local 183.
Am I registered to vote?
- Many states let you check your registration status online.
- Most states will send you a voter registration card within a few weeks if you’ve successfully registered to vote or a notification if there is a problem with your application.
- Check with your state or territory election office for procedures for your location.

Where do I register?
- You can start your voter registration online at Vote.USA.gov. Depending on your state’s rules, the site can help you register online, download the Voter Registration Form, or find guidance for states and territories with different registration procedures.
- You can call your state or territory election office to have a mail-in voter registration form sent to you.
- You may be able to register to vote in person at public facilities, such as state or local voter registration and/or election offices, the Department of Motor Vehicles, armed services recruitment centers, and state or county public assistance offices. Check with your state or territory election office before heading to any of these locations.

How can I find out what state I’m registered in? I have moved several times.
- You must register to vote in the state or territory where you legally reside. You cannot be registered to vote in more than one place at a time.
- If you don’t know whether you’re registered under your current legal address, check with your state or territory election office. Many states let you check your registration status online.
- When you register to vote in a new location, you’ll be asked for the address where you were last registered to vote. Your new election office will send a cancellation form to your previous election office. Your voter registration record should always reflect your current residence.

How do I update my name or address for my voter registration?
- If your state has online voter registration, you can usually do this online.
- In most cases, you can use the National Mail Voter Registration Form to report a change of name or address. A few states and territories require you to use their state/territory form.
- Some states let you report a change of name or address by phone.
- Check with your state or territory election office for procedures in your area.

What party am I registered with?
- You may be able to find this information on your voter registration card or in an online voter registration look-up.
- You can contact your state or territory election office for help finding this information.
- It’s possible that you’re not registered with any political party, either because your state doesn’t accept party affiliations or because you didn’t indicate a party preference when you registered to vote. You can register to vote and participate in general elections and nonpartisan primary elections without ever choosing a party affiliation.
- In some states, you must register with a party if you want to take part in that party’s primary election, caucus, or convention.

When is the general election?
The 2024 general election will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. If you cannot vote on election day, check with your local election office for information regarding early or absentee voting.

How to Research Candidates
When evaluating candidates for public office, it’s important to decide what strengths you’re looking for in a candidate, to research their positions on the issues, to learn about their leadership abilities, and to recognize any distortions in the information and opinions they express.
A SNAPSHOT OF CURRENT AFFAIRS

Navigating the Railroad Landscape:

MIKE EFAW
National Legislative Director

In the realm of railroad politics and labor, recent events have sparked significant attention and debate. From the upcoming presidential election to congressional maneuvers and legislative initiatives, the railroad industry finds itself at a critical juncture. Here’s a snapshot of the latest developments shaping the railroad landscape.

Presidential Election Rematch:
Former President Trump and President Biden are poised for a likely rematch in November, setting the stage for a high-stakes electoral showdown. With six months until the General Election, the campaign marathon has already begun, with polls indicating a tight race between the two.

Congressional Dynamics:
In a surprising move, Senator Mitch McConnell announced his resignation as Minority Leader, triggering speculation about his successor. Initially, Senators John Thune (R-SD), John Cornyn (R-TX), and John Barrasso (R-WY) emerged as possible candidates for the post. Senator Barrasso then said he would not run for the top position and, instead, would run to replace Senate Minority Whip Thune as the No. 2 Senate Republican if Thune gets the nod for the No. 1 post in the Conference. Senator Markwayne Mullin (R-OK) has advised Trump to stay out of the leadership race to succeed McConnell.

Meanwhile, Senate Democrats are pushing for legislative action on various fronts, including rail safety and paid sick leave, while House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) faces challenges in passing key legislation amid internal party tensions. Additionally, Leader Schumer is being urged to bring bills to the floor, including the rail safety bill introduced by Senators Sherrod Brown and J.D. Vance.

We are hoping to get the REEF Act passed, which may have some hurdles in both the Senate and House. This is important legislation because it takes railroaders’ unemployment and sickness benefits out from under sequestration. To finish any of those bills will take up a decent amount of floor time. There’s also pressure to rebuild the bridge in Baltimore; experts have stated that the project could take years and cost at least $400 million.

Legislative Initiatives:
Several important bills are making waves in Congress, including the Railway Safety Act, which will help get important regulations passed to enhance safety, and the REEF Act, both of which face hurdles but hold promise for significant impact. Additionally, Congressman Seth Moulton’s (D-MA) High-Speed Rail Legislation and Senator Bob Casey’s (D-PA) Railroad Retirement Act amendments are gaining traction, signaling potential changes in the railroad landscape.

There is no threat of a government shutdown, for now. Congress passed all 12 bills to fund the government, very much along the lines of the McCarthy-negotiated deal that got him ousted from the Speaker’s seat. The next anticipated funding fight will come this September.

There are roughly 11 weeks of floor time in the Senate before the election. The question now is “Do Republicans have much interest in doing any legislation at this point in the calendar?” Funding the government will eat up some time at the end of September.

As I mentioned earlier, the Railway Safety Act and the REEF Act are facing some challenges, but we are hopeful to get these pieces of legislation to the floor. For the REEF Act, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY), being known as a budget hawk, could possibly object. Surprisingly, Senator
Ted Cruz (R-TX), who has a poor record with labor, has signed on, and we are hoping his endorsement might bring along House Republicans Jodey Arrington (TX), Michael Burgess (TX), and Chip Roy (TX). All three Representatives are on committees influential in getting the bill passed.

On March 8, 2024, Congressman Seth Moulton officially introduced his High-Speed Rail Legislation (the American High-Speed Rail Act). Nearly every rail labor union endorsed the legislation. The bill number is H.R.7600.

Senator Bob Casey drafted legislation to include certain stock options as compensation that would be subject to taxation under the Railroad Retirement Act. This legislation would reverse a 2018 United Supreme Court decision, Wisconsin Central Ltd. v. United States, in which the Supreme Court found that “employee stock options are not taxable ‘compensation’ under the Railroad Retirement Tax Act.”

Railroad Retirement Board:
On March 29, 2024, President Biden submitted a letter to Congress informing them that he was removing the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) Inspector General (IG) Martin Dickman.

Effective that day, RRB Inspector General Dickman was placed on administrative leave for 30 days and then permanently removed after the 30-day period. The President has appointed Ben Wagner, the current IG for the Tennessee Valley Authority, to be the interim RRB IG while he nominates a replacement in the future.

Railroad Labor and Safety:
Recent developments in railroad labor and safety have also garnered attention. The Federal Railroad Administration’s new rule mandating two-person crews on most routes represents a milestone victory for safety advocates. Meanwhile, roundtable discussions led by congressional leaders underscore the ongoing importance of rail safety legislation.

Paid Sick Days:
On Tuesday, April 9, 2024, BRS National Legislative Director Mike Efaw spoke at President Biden’s rally for healthcare on the importance of paid sick days for rail road workers, and all workers for that matter. He also touched on the importance of caregivers in the speech.

Senator Sanders (I-VT) introduced the Healthy Families Act (HFA) in the Senate, and it will not likely meet the threshold to pass. Senator Braun (R-IN) was a Republican cosponsor on the Senate HFA at the beginning, making it the slimmest of a bipartisan bill, but he appears to have backed off now that election season has ramped up.

Two-Man Crew:
Major freight railroads will have to maintain two-person crews on most routes under a new federal rule that was finalized on April 2, 2024, in a milestone in rail labor’s long fight to preserve the practice. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) released the details of the rule after working on it for two years. Out of more than 13,000 comments on the rule, about 60 opposed it.

The final rule codifies train crew staffing rules at a federal level, ensuring that freight and passenger rail operations are governed by consistent safety rules in all states. This is an on-going issue as Ohio, Virginia, and Colorado, among others, have recently considered legislation to require two-person rail crews. In addition, the final rule contains some differences from the initial notice of proposed rulemaking in how it treats freight railroads, especially Class II and III freight railroads. In limited cases, the rule permits exceptions for smaller railroads to continue or initiate certain one-person train crew operations by notifying the FRA and complying with new federal safety standards.

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LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

IAM District Lodge 19 held an informational picket at the Los Angeles Union Station, on February 22, 2024, in support of rail safety. President Mike Baldwin, Vice President Commuter/Passenger Tim Tarrant, Vice President West Cory Claypool, National Legislative Director Mike Efaw, UPGC General Chairman John McArthur, and UPGC Assistant General Chairman Aaron Carter were in attendance representing the BRS.

Mike Baldwin, President of the BRS, thanks Congressman Jimmy Gomez (D-CA 3rd District) for his strong support for Signalmen and all rail labor at the IAM’s rally for rail safety in Los Angeles.

Members of the BRS and other rail labor crafts listen to comments from Congressman Don Bacon (R-NE 2nd District) at a BRS-hosted labor breakfast. Congressman Bacon is a dedicated advocate for rail labor and attentive to the concerns raised by Signalmen and other rail crafts.

BRS President Mike Baldwin converses with the Brightline founder, Wes Edens, at the groundbreaking ceremony of the innovative high-speed rail line.
Legislative Activities

On April 6, 2024, Congressman Don Bacon (R-NE 2nd District) had a discussion with rail union members, many of whom are his constituents. The conversation took place during a breakfast event hosted by the BRS at American Legion Post 1 in Omaha, Nebraska.

After a brief conversation at the ground breaking ceremony for the Brightline West High-Speed Rail line, BRS President Mike Baldwin pauses for a photo opportunity with Congressman Steven Horsford (D-NV 4th District).

Rail union members gather for a group photo with Congressman Don Bacon (R-NE 6th District) during the rail labor breakfast event.

BRS members in attendance: Local 8 Recording Financial Secretary Ryan Foreman, Local 8 UPGC Vice General Chairman Dusty Ward, Local 119 Trustee Mike Morey, Local 119 Member Tom Schmiedt, and National Legislative Director Mike Efaw.

Jeremy Farr, Grand Lodge Representative, listens as Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY 8th District) responds to his remarks during a discussion.
**LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES**

BRS President Mike Baldwin shares a laugh with the Chair of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), Jennifer Hominy at a celebration honoring women in labor at the AFL-CIO building in Washington, D.C.

BRS National Legislative Director Mike Efaw shares his personal journey and the challenges his family has faced since his diagnosis with Multiple Sclerosis at President Biden’s rally for healthcare and caregivers. Brother Efaw advocates for paid sick leave for all railroad workers, emphasizing the importance of achieving a healthy work-life balance. He expresses confidence that with President Biden’s support, obtaining sick days for railroaders will become a reality.

BRS Grand Lodge Representative Jeremy Farr engages in a conversation with Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY 8th District) about railroad safety and emphasizes the significance of Signalman Certification.

BRS President Mike Baldwin talks with Senator Jacky Rosen (D-NV) at the ground breaking ceremony of the Brightline West High Speed Rail Line, linking Las Vegas, Nevada to Rancho Cucamonga, California.
BRS President Mike Baldwin addresses participants, supporters, and onlookers during IAM District Lodge 19’s informational picket at Los Angeles Union Station on February 22, 2024.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Baltimore & Ohio General Chairman John Heise, Grand Lodge Representative Jeremy Farr, Local 31 Signalman Glen Jones, Jr., Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, National Legislative Director Mike Efaw, Local 216 Signalman Damon Walker, FRA Administrator Amit Bose, and Vice President Headquarters Quinn Norman, gather at the U.S. Department of Transportation for the announcement of the Two-man Crew Rule. During the event, the group emphasized the importance of implementing the Signalman Certification Rule for advancing their craft and overall rail safety to Secretary Buttigieg.

BRS National Legislative Director Mike Efaw participates in a panel at the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials – Council on Rail Transportation (AASHTO-CORT) legislative conference. The panel focused on building coalitions and partnerships to advance passenger, commuter, transit, and high-speed rail. Brother Efaw stood as the sole representative for Labor at the conference, which drew over 300 State Rail Transportation Officials from across the country.

BRS Grand Lodge Representative Matt Trujillo captures a moment with Congresswoman Mary Petola (D-AK) following their conversation about railroad safety and the REEF Act.
The following is a list of the active members who recently received Continuous Service pins in recognition of their years as BRS Members:

**50 YEARS OF SERVICE**

John McArthur __________ 179

**45 YEARS OF SERVICE**

Gary Leonard __________ 138
Shawn Bonham __________ 72

**35 YEARS OF SERVICE**

Dave Ingersoll __________ 18
Douglas Shelburn __________ 5
Gregg Jones __________ 20
Jean Moreau __________ 102
Luis Huertas, Jr. __________ 102
Michael Tarity __________ 18
Samuel Badessa, Jr. __________ 102
Steve Thurmond __________ 19
Timothy Anderson __________ 121
Todd Dauplaise __________ 213

**30 YEARS OF SERVICE**

Bill Carel __________ 18
Brian Thompson __________ 208
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Chris Womack __________ 208
Christine Nelson __________ 84
Dan Hollingsworth __________ 188
Dan Huss __________ 119
Denise Vitaletti __________ 84
Dustin Kurz __________ 20
Gary Stockwell __________ 129
Howard Forte __________ 56
John Mathews __________ 77

**30 YEARS OF SERVICE**

John Willard __________ 108
Joseph Smierciak __________ 81
Larry Carter, Jr. __________ 77
Leroy Freckleton __________ 56
Michael Petrella __________ 2
Michael Stanfill __________ 137
Michael Tillmon __________ 183
Pedro Villalta __________ 56
Raymond Wilborn __________ 55
Robbie Thornton __________ 49
Robert Schnier __________ 56
Ron Childress __________ 130
Santos Velez __________ 84
Troy Pate __________ 178
Troy Spence __________ 136

**25 YEARS OF SERVICE**

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Bill White __________ 56
Bob O’Rourke __________ 3
Brian Miller __________ 56
Brian Prater __________ 161
C. Reed __________ 136
Chad Carolan __________ 154
Chris Caballero __________ 72
Chris Mellage __________ 72
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Chispian Ashby __________ 228
Clinton Borron __________ 111
Cory Thormahlen __________ 87
Dave Orchard __________ 156
Dave Sandlin __________ 3
David Blue __________ 141

**25 YEARS OF SERVICE**

Don Larsen __________ 155
Ernest Saasto __________ 56
Felipe Rios __________ 130
Frank Monaco __________ 75
Frank Thoard __________ 3
Gary Brown __________ 237
George Callaghan __________ 56
Jacob Sweat __________ 147
Jaime Amador __________ 16
James Creaser __________ 119
James Hubbs __________ 56
James Shaskas, III __________ 53
Jeff Payne __________ 49
Jerry Moore __________ 20
Joe Galati __________ 56
John DiDonna __________ 56
Kevin Walker __________ 239
L. Prichard __________ 129
Laymon Jackson __________ 183
Mario Del Regno __________ 84
Mark Brown __________ 156
Mark Cupo __________ 56
Martin McLaughlin __________ 56
Matt Carner __________ 154
Matt Legg __________ 56
Matthew Solomon __________ 56
Mike Wiese __________ 154
Reggie Cole __________ 130
Salvador Avelar __________ 56
Shane Smith __________ 8
Steven Smith __________ 31
Victor Martinez __________ 121
Willie Johnson __________ 20
Winston Chin __________ 84
Danny Sullivan, of BRS Local 56, passed away on April 18, 2024, after a long battle with his health. To those who knew him, his attitude towards the end was that he lived a good life — he was accepting of his situation and was at peace.

Danny's journey in the railway industry began as a Coach Cleaner in 1985. However, he wanted to move beyond cleaning coaches and become either a Maintenance of Equipment Electrician in the car support shops — or a Signalman. He entered the Assistant Signalman program in 1987 and gave the craft his all from day one, right up until his retirement in 2007.

It’s not uncommon to find oneself surrounded by highly skilled Signalmen (like former General Chairman and Signal Maintainer Chris Natale), and the pressure to keep up can be daunting. However, Danny’s response was not defeatist; instead, it fueled his determination. His approach was simple and effective: learn something new every day. Danny demanded that the senior guys impart their knowledge, regardless of their willingness. This desire for learning and growth propelled him forward, turning each day into an opportunity for personal development.

“Danny School,” as the Block Operator dubbed it, was an impromptu classroom. Whether it was a routine day of FRA testing or an unexpected relief shift, Danny would step into the role of mentor without hesitation. In moments of crisis, Danny was calm and patient; in an emergency, Danny would step up and instruct and guide others to proceed in the correct manner.

Danny was also intense about the care of his interlocking, something that is a bit of a lost art. Before going on vacation, he would speak to the Vacation Relief Inspector, typically someone new and low on the roster and say, “My tests are on time, my maintenance is just the way I like it. Take grounds and put down a little bit of graphite, don’t touch no valves, don’t adjust no circuits.” It wasn’t advice, it was a Maintainer directive.

Rail Safety:
On March 13, 2024, Ranking Member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Rick Larsen (D-WA) and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Donald Payne, Jr. (D-NJ) held a Democratic Roundtable titled, “Listening to Rail Workers and Communities.” During the roundtable, members heard a range of perspectives from rail workers and communities on the need for Congress to pass rail safety legislation.

Looking Ahead:
As the railroad industry navigates these dynamic developments, stakeholders must remain vigilant and engaged. The upcoming presidential election, congressional dynamics, legislative initiatives, and ongoing efforts to ensure the integrity of railroad labor and safety will continue to shape the railroad landscape in the months ahead.

The railroad industry faces a multitude of challenges and opportunities on the horizon. By staying informed and actively participating in the political process, stakeholders can help shape the future of the railroad industry for years to come.

In Remembrance
DANNY SULLIVAN — 1954–2024

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Washington Report

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JOHN W. HOGAN
1937–2024

John W. Hogan passed away on January 15, 2024. Brother Hogan began his railroad career on the Long Island Rail Road in February 1970. Brother Hogan served Local 56 in the capacity of Local Chairman and a Health & Welfare Representative. Most notably, Brother Hogan served as General Chairman of the Long Island General Committee. Brother Hogan retired in 1990 after 20 years of service. He was an Assistant Staff Engineer-Material at Jamaica, New York, at the time of his retirement. Brother Hogan is a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran.

CAREY S. HARWELL
1963–2024

Carey S. Harwell passed away unexpectedly on January 6, 2024. Brother Harwell began his railroad career on the Belt Railway of Chicago in October 2002. He was an active member of Local 194, holding the position of Local Trustee from 2015–2021. Brother Harwell had 21 years of service. Brother Harwell was known for his smile, sense of humor, and positivity when interacting with others. Brother Harwell had a strong bond with his Brothers and Sisters who he thought of as family. He was a Signalman on a Construction Gang at the time of his passing. Brother Harwell leaves behind two children, as well as extended family and friends.

EDITOR’S NOTE:
Please notify Grand Lodge of the passing of BRS members.

email: membership@brs.org
OBITUARIES

WILLIAM “BILL” E. ANDERSON—retired member of LOCAL 24. Brother Anderson retired in 2007 after 37 years of service with the Denver & Rio Grande Western, Southern Pacific, and Union Pacific Railroads. Brother Anderson was a Signal Maintainer at Grand Junction, Colorado, at the time of his retirement.

RAYMOND “RAY” I. ANDREWS—retired member of LOCAL 62. Brother Andrews retired in 2010 after 34 years of service with the Providence & Worcester Railroad. Brother Andrews was a Tamper Operator at the time of his retirement. Brother Andrews served as Recording-Financial Secretary.

RONALD “RONNIE” K. BAKER—retired member of LOCAL 49. Brother Baker retired in 2013 after 40 years of service with the Central of Georgia and Norfolk Southern Railroads. Brother Baker was a Signalman with a System Signal Construction Gang at the time of his retirement. Brother Baker served as Local First Vice President, Local Second Vice President, and Local Trustee.

LAVERN B. BLACKBURN—retired member of LOCAL 188. Brother Blackburn retired in 2002 after 38 years of service with the Great Northern Railroad and BNSF Railway Company. Brother Blackburn was a Signal Foreman at Everett, Washington, at the time of his retirement. Brother Blackburn served as Local President and Local Chairman.

WILLIAM “BILL” A. BOUTTE’—retired member of LOCAL 99. Brother Boutte’ retired in 2005 after 32 years of service with the Southern Pacific and Union Pacific Railroads. Brother Boutte’ was an Electronic Technician at Houston, Texas, at the time of his retirement. Brother Boutte’ served as Recording-Financial Secretary. Brother Boutte’ is a U.S. Navy Veteran.

WILLIAM “BILL” F. COX—retired member of LOCAL 141. Brother Cox retired in 1999 after 43 years of service with the Rock Island, Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas, and Union Pacific Railroads. Brother Cox was a Signal Maintenance Foreman at El Reno, Oklahoma, at the time of his retirement.

PHILLIP W. DARITY—retired member of LOCAL 185. Brother Darity retired in 2010 after 30 years of service with the Kansas City Southern Railway. Brother Darity was a Signal Maintainer at Sulphur Springs, Texas, at the time of his retirement. Brother Darity served as Local Chairman, Local President, Local First Vice President, Local Second Vice President, and Local Trustee. Brother Darity is a U.S. Army Veteran.

ARTHUR “CHIP” E. DeNULLY—retired member of LOCAL 84. Brother DeNully retired in 2016 after 41 years of service with the Erie Lackawanna Railway and New Jersey Transit. Brother DeNully was an Inspector at the time of his retirement.

RUDOLPH “RUDY” GOMEZ—retired member of LOCAL 10. Brother Gomez retired in 2009 after 35 years of service with the Penn Central Transportation Company, Conrail, and Norfolk Southern Railway. Brother Gomez was a Signal Maintainer at Detroit, Michigan, at the time of his retirement.

DONALD R. HOSTETLER—retired member of LOCAL 55. Brother Hostetler retired in 2005 after 35 years of service with the Norfolk & Western and Norfolk Southern Railways. Brother Hostetler was a Signal Maintainer at Andrews, Indiana, at the time of his retirement.

LeROY “BUTCH” I. JESSEN—retired member of LOCAL 226. Brother Jessen retired in 1989 after 45 years of service with the Milwaukee Road and Soo Line Railroads. Brother Jessen was a Signal Maintainer at Sparta, Wisconsin, at the time of his retirement. Brother Jessen served as Local President and Local Trustee.

SCOTT P. JUNE—active member of LOCAL 13. Brother June had 12 years of service with CSX Transportation Company. Brother June was a Lead Signal Maintainer at Louisville, Kentucky, at the time of his passing. Brother June served as Local Chairman and Local Trustee.

THOMAS “TOM” J. LARKIN—retired member of LOCAL 62. Brother Larkin retired in 2013 after 34 years of service with the Providence & Worcester Railroad. Brother Larkin was a Locomotive Electrician at Worcester, Massachusetts, at the time of his retirement. Brother Larkin served as Recording-Financial Secretary. Brother Larkin is a U.S. Coast Guard Veteran.

KENNETH “KENNY” R. MAGNETT—retired member of LOCAL 8. Brother Magnett retired in 2006 after 42 years of service with the Union Pacific Railroad. Brother Magnett was a Relief Signal Maintainer at Belvue, Kansas, at the time of his retirement. Brother Magnett served as Local Trustee.

CLARENCE H. MINIX—retired member of LOCAL 99. Brother Minix retired in 2020 after 42 years of service with the Southern Pacific and Union Pacific Railroads. Brother Minix was a Signal Foreman with a Zone Signal Construction Gang at the time of his retirement.

RONALD “RON” F. MITDAL—retired member of LOCAL 154. Brother Mitdal retired in 1995 after 43 years of service with the Great Northern and Burlington Northern Railroads. Brother Mitdal was a C.T.C. Signal Maintainer at Campbell, Minnesota, at the time of his retirement. Brother Mitdal is a U.S. Army Veteran.

SCOTT R. RENNINGER—retired member of LOCAL 57. Brother Renninger retired in 2017 after 42 years of service with the Lehigh Valley Railroad and the Norfolk Southern Railway. Brother Renninger was a Signal Maintainer at Reading, Pennsylvania, at the time of his retirement. Brother Renninger served as Recording-Financial Secretary and on the Local Grievance Committee.

ELLIS SMITH—retired member of LOCAL 228. Brother Smith retired in 1998 after 27 years of service with the Norfolk Southern Railway. Brother Smith was a Gang Signalman at the time of his retirement.
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 (FELA) 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.

**ALABAMA**

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**
Larry Mann Alper & Mann, PC 9205 Redwood Avenue Berbera, MD 20817 Tel. (202) 298-9191 (800) 747-6266 www.alperlaw.com

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**
Arvin J. Pearlman Sommers Swartz, PC 1 Towne Square Suite 1700 Southfield, MI 48076 Tel. (248) 356-5000 (866) 520-1649 www.sommerspc.com

**ARIZONA**
Lloyd L. Rabb, III Rabb & Rabb, PLLC 7442 N. LA Cholla Blvd. Tucson, AZ 85740 Tel. (520) 888-6740 (800) 328-4340 www.2ndinjurylaw.com

**ILLINOIS**
F. Daniel Petro Petro & Harrington, LLC 150 S. Wacker Drive Suite 2400 Chicago, IL 60606 Tel. (312) 332-9596 (800) 472-5729 www.petroilaw.com

**ILLINOIS**
Daniel J. Downes Cavanagh Law Group 161 N. Clark Street Suite 2070 Chicago, IL 60601 Tel. (312) 425-1900 www.cavanaghlawgroup.com

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

**MINNESOTA**
Gene C. Napier Hunego, LeNeave & Kvas 1712 Main Street Suite 266 Kansas City, MO 64108 Tel. (913) 484-3884 www.hlnlaw.com

**OHIO**
Andrew J. Thompson, Shapero | Roloff Co., LPA 111 Superior Avenue East Suite 1310 Cleveland, OH 44144 Tel. (216) 781-1700 (800) 321-9199 www.shaperoroloff.com

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

**WISCONSIN**
Michael S. Baldwin, President Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen 917 Shenandoah Shores Road Front Royal, VA 22630-6418

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:

Michael S. Baldwin, President
Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen
917 Shenandoah Shores Road
Front Royal, VA 22630-6418

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.
Whether you want to better understand your plan and coverage, access a form, add a dependent, or research retirement benefits, it’s easy to find the information you need on this site.

(NOTE: Information on this site only applies to employees under National Handling.)

**HEALTH & WELFARE PLANS**

- **National Health & Welfare Plan** — GA-23000
  Managed Medical Care Programs (MMCP) & Comprehensive Health Care Benefit (CHCB)

- **United Healthcare**
  1-800-842-9905
  www.myuhc.com

- **Retiree Claims** — GA-46000
  UnitedHealthcare
  1-800-842-5252

- **Retiree Supplemental** — GA-23111
  UnitedHealthcare
  1-800-842-5252

- **Aetna**
  1-800-842-4044

- **Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield**
  Railroad Dedicated Unit
  1-866-267-3320
  www.bcbs.com

**LIFE INSURANCE**

- **MetLife**
  1-800-310-7770
  www.metlife.com

**MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE ABUSE BENEFITS**

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

**SUPPLEMENTAL SICKNESS BENEFITS**

- **The Hartford**
  1-800-205-7651
  https://abilityadvantage.thehartford.com

**VISION BENEFITS**

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

**DENTAL BENEFITS**

- **Aetna**
  1-877-277-3368
  www.aetna.com

**MANAGED PHARMACY BENEFIT**

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

**RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD**

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

**UNION PLUS**

- **Union Plus Mortgage Company** ▪ **AT&T Discount**
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  www.unionplus.org

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**Your Track to Health**

[www.yourtracktohealth.com](http://www.yourtracktohealth.com)

Your Track to Health

Whether you want to better understand your plan and coverage, access a form, add a dependent, or research retirement benefits, it’s easy to find the information you need on this site.

(NOTE: Information on this site only applies to employees under National Handling.)
BRS WATCHES — Gold BRS logo on the face.

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.

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

MAIL PAYMENT AND ORDER TO:
BRS Online Store
P.O. Box 220690
Chantilly, VA 20153
(703) 788-2566

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NAME__________________________________________

STREET__________________________________________

CITY __________________________ STATE __________ ZIP __________

PHONE __________________________ EMAIL __________________________ CERTIFICATE # __________

ORDER ONLINE AT WWW.BRS.ORG
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<th>SIGNALMAN’S STORE</th>
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<td><strong>OXFORD SHIRTS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>STEEL BLUE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>GOLF SHIRTS</strong> (<em>Women’s sizes available in Burgundy only</em>)</td>
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<td><strong>ASSORTED CAPS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>FLAG</strong></td>
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RALLY PHOTOS

Rail Safety Rally
Los Angeles, California

Railway Safety NOW
SUPPORT THE RAILWAY SAFETY ACT

Rail Labor Demands
PAID SICK LEAVE NOW!

CPKC
MEETING PHOTOS

Local 56 Committee Meeting & Election
Babylon, New York

Financial Secretary Training
Front Royal, Virginia — March 2024
MEETING PHOTOS

Local 137 Meeting
Biloxi, Mississippi
MEETING PHOTOS

Local 53 Meeting
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
MEETING PHOTOS

Local 102 Meeting
Metuchen, New Jersey

Local Chairmen’s Training
Front Royal, Virginia — March 2024
On April 11–12, 2024, BRS Commuter/Passenger General Chairmen held their second annual meeting at the New York City Central Labor Council Headquarters to discuss strategy and issues facing BRS members working on the nations Commuter and Passenger Railroads. The two-day meeting had speakers from the FRA, AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department (TTD), International Transportation Learning Center, and the New York City Central Labor Council.

President Baldwin and Vice President Tarrant kicked off the meeting with an update on current events and issues, and how BRS is working to address them. The meeting also included a roundtable discussion with FRA Director of Safety Karl Alexi on the safety concerns occurring on the nations Commuter and Passenger Railroads. There were also townhall discussions on building momentum for coalition bargaining, labor's involvement on Commuter and Passenger Rail at the national and state levels, effective techniques in discipline cases, and new ways to communicate with the membership. The BRS National Legislative Director and Director of Research also gave reports on legislative and regulatory issues facing the BRS. The meeting concluded with a hands-on tour of Long Island Rail Road’s signal training facility.

This meeting provided an opportunity for Commuter/Passenger General Chairmen from across the country to come together and work collectively to solve problems and offer the best representation possible to the membership. The BRS will continue to have the Commuter/Passenger General Chairmen’s meeting annually.
Financial Secretary Training
Memphis, Tennessee — April 2024

Local Chairmen’s Training
Memphis, Tennessee — April 2024
UNITE HERE!

UNITE HERE represents members at 21 MLB ballparks across the U.S. and Canada. Head to a unionized ballpark this baseball season!

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East
- Baltimore Orioles, Oriole Park, Baltimore, MD
- Boston Red Sox, Fenway Park, Boston, MA
- New York Yankees, Yankee Stadium, Bronx, NY
- Toronto Blue Jays, Rogers Centre, Toronto, ON

Central
- Chicago White Sox, US Cellular Field, Chicago, IL
- Detroit Tigers, Comerica Park, Detroit, MI
- Minnesota Twins, Target Field, Minneapolis, MN

West
- Los Angeles Angels, Angels Stadium, Anaheim, CA
- Oakland Athletics, O.co Coliseum, Oakland, CA
- Seattle Mariners, Safeco Field, Seattle, WA

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East
- Miami Marlins, Marlins Park, Miami, FL
- New York Mets, CitiField, Flushing, NY
- Philadelphia Phillies, Citizens Bank Park, Philadelphia, PA
- Washington Nationals, Nationals Park, Washington, D.C.

Central
- Chicago Cubs, Wrigley Field, Chicago, IL
- Pittsburgh Pirates, PNC Park, Pittsburgh, PA
- St. Louis Cardinals, Busch Stadium, St. Louis, MO

West
- Colorado Rockies, Coors Field, Denver, CO
- Los Angeles Dodgers, Dodgers Stadium, Los Angeles, CA
- San Diego Padres, Petco Park, San Diego, CA
- San Francisco Giants, AT&T Park, San Francisco, CA

Don’t forget—the players on the field are members of the MLB Players Association (MLBPA) and many of your favorite ballpark snacks are union-made too.
Local 53 Retirement Party
John Caro • John Blizzard • Phil Clement • Lou Dalessandro

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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 sanction, 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 determine 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-CIO 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.

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.
Local 110 members, Jesse Holder and Geoff Danner work on resetting a crossing signal that was destroyed by a vehicle on the K-Line on the Blue Ridge Division, North Carolina.

Photo submitted by Local 110 Bryan Shoffner, Vice General Chairman of the Southern Joint Committee.
NEW LOWER RATES!

The best coverage and member benefits at the lowest rates in the industry!

- 20% Discount when you pay annually.
- 10% Discount when you pay semi-annually.
- $100 cash reward for referring a co-worker!
- Our new No. 365 policy gives you 365 days of coverage immediately. No waiting.
- Accidental Death coverage on-and-off the job, for you and your beneficiary at no extra charge.*
- Generous Loyalty Appreciation program with rewards at retirement.

Hear it from the source...

“LECMPA has helped my members significantly. There are many ambiguous reasons why our members are disciplined on the job. Good, hardworking members can be targeted for no reason. This is when LECMPA can help. They can give you a paycheck in the times when the company you work for decides not to. LECMPA has always been there to help and is a great way to provide income protection.”

- John Heise, BRS B&O General Chairman