



The
**SIGNALMAN'S
JOURNAL**

VOLUME 107 • 2ND QUARTER 2026

54TH REGULAR CONVENTION — ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Celebrating 125 Years



You're NEVER too Young to Join **NARVRE**

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED
AND VETERAN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

Protecting your Railroad Retirement Rights is Your Duty!

Join the thousands of NARVRE members who fight to protect the retirement and disability benefits you are entitled to.

Don't let Congress take these rights away from you.

Please Join NARVRE NOW!



GO TO NARVRE.US OR CONTACT THE NATIONAL OFFICE AT 1.800.551.2588

The purpose of NARVRE is to fight to protect and preserve your Railroad Retirement for you and future generations. We are the only Federally Chartered organization whose sole purpose is to protect and preserve the Railroad Retirement System. Please help us with this very important fight by joining TODAY!



N.A.R.V.R.E.

National Association of Retired and Veteran Railway Employees

The SIGNALMAN'S JOURNAL

Official Publication of the
BROTHERHOOD OF RAILROAD SIGNALMEN
WWW.BRS.ORG

VOLUME 107 • 2ND QUARTER 2026



DIRECTORY

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS:

917 Shenandoah Shores Road
Front Royal, VA 22630-6418
Phone: (540) 622-6522
Fax: (540) 622-6532
signalman@brs.org

Mike Baldwin, President
(ext. 525) • msb@brs.org

Brandon Elvey, Secretary-Treasurer
(ext. 527) • b.elvey@brs.org

Justin Pier, Vice President NRAB
(ext. 524) • j.pier@brs.org

Matt Trujillo, Grand Lodge Representative
(ext. 531) • m.trujillo@brs.org

FIELD VICE PRESIDENTS:

Tim Tarrant, Vice President Commuter/Passenger
(ext. 528) • tmt@brs.org

Cory Claypool, Vice President West
(ext. 528) • ctc@brs.org

Doug VanderJagt, Vice President East
(ext. 528) • drvanderjagt@brs.org

Kurt Mullins, Vice President Midwest
(ext. 528) • kmullins@brs.org

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS:

Chris Hand, Vice President Headquarters
(ext. 525) • c.hand@brs.org

Mike Efaw, National Legislative Director
(ext. 528) • mle@brs.org

Jeremy Farr, Director of Research
(ext. 568) • j.farr@brs.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Mike Sullivan, Chairman
60 Oak Place, Babylon, NY 11702
(631) 432-4760

Andy Webb, Secretary
P.O. Box 304, Hohenwald, TN 38462
(931) 628-4129

Aaron Carter, Member
923 NE Woods Chapel Road
Lees Summit, MO 64064
(816) 564-8262

OFFICER EMERITUS:

W. Dan Pickett, President Emeritus

The Signalman's Journal (ISSN-0037-5020) is published quarterly by the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen 917 Shenandoah Shores Road, Front Royal, VA 22630-6418.

Periodicals Postage Paid at Front Royal, VA, and additional offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
The Signalman's Journal
The Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen
917 Shenandoah Shores Road, Front Royal, VA 22630-6418.



Brandon Elvey



Jim Finnegan



Justin Pier



Jeremy Farr

ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENT, & RETIREMENT AT

Grand Lodge

| | |
|--|---|
| Brandon Elvey, Secretary-Treasurer | 5 |
| Justin Pier, Vice President NRAB | 6 |
| Jeremy Farr, Director of Research | 6 |
| Jim Finnegan, Secretary-Treasurer Retires | 7 |

DID YOU SERVE in a Branch of the Military?

If so, please send in your photo(s) for inclusion in a special edition of The Signalman's Journal honoring BRS members who are veterans, reservists, and active-duty service members

| | |
|---|----|
| 54th Regular Convention, Orlando, Florida | 3 |
| Union Members Deserve a Fair Contract — LIRR | 8 |
| Local Updates | 9 |
| Local Financial-Secretary Training — May 2026 | 18 |
| Local 5 Meeting Highlights | 19 |
| Town Hall, Zone 3 Group Highlights | 20 |
| Belonging to a Union | 20 |
| Local 183 Meeting Highlights | 21 |
| Shenandoah Valley Career Showcase | 21 |
| From the President | 2 |
| From the Secretary-Treasurer | 4 |
| Obituaries | 10 |
| Continuous Membership | 11 |
| Washington Report | 12 |
| Designated Legal Counsel | 14 |
| Benefits Directory | 15 |
| Signalman's Store | 16 |



COVER: A Norfolk Southern train rolls through the railroad crossing at Happy Creek and Shenandoah Shores Roads near the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen Grand Lodge, in Front Royal, Virginia. The crossing serves as a key access point for the Shenandoah Shores area near the headquarters at 917 Shenandoah Shores Road.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

— *Michael S. Baldwin, BRS President*

Quadrennial Convention

Solidarity is Action!



Sisters and Brothers,

The Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen's (BRS) Regular Quadrennial Convention is not a formality. It is not a ceremony built on titles, procedure, or tradition alone. It is where the will of the membership becomes policy. It is where Signalmen come together to decide what kind of union we are going to be: passive or powerful, cautious or courageous, divided or united.

The BRS was not built by people waiting for someone else to solve their problems. It was built by workers who understood that solidarity is not just a word we print on banners or speak from podiums. Solidarity is action. It is sacrifice. It is the understanding that an injury to one Sister or Brother affects all of us, and that the only real power working people have is the power we build together.

Every right we have today was fought for by the generations that came before us. Fair agreements, safer working conditions, protections on the job, and respect for our craft were not gifts handed down by carriers or corporations. They were won because Signalmen stood together and demanded dignity, fairness, and a voice in their future.

That is why our Convention matters.

Delegates do not fall from the sky. They are elected by the membership of each Local and entrusted to carry the voices of the Sisters and Brothers they represent. And when those Delegates vote at Convention, they are doing far more than deciding resolutions or electing officers. They are helping shape the direction of this Organization for years to come.

In July 2026, the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen will gather once again in Convention at an important

time for railroaders. The industry continues to change. Technology continues to evolve. Carriers continue to look for ways to cut costs, reduce labor, and weaken the power of organized workers. In moments like these, unions cannot afford complacency. We cannot afford division. We cannot afford silence.

A strong union is built by engaged members willing to participate, willing to speak up, and willing to stand together even when the challenges in front of us are difficult. Democracy only works when members are involved. The strength of this Brotherhood has never come from one officer, one local, or one voice alone. It comes from members across this Organization standing shoulder to shoulder in common purpose.

Convention is where that purpose becomes visible.

It is where ideas are debated openly and respectfully. It is where members from every part of this Brotherhood come together to decide what priorities we will fight for, what principles we will defend, and what future we want to leave for the next generation of Signalmen. We may not agree on every issue, but solidarity does not require uniformity. It requires commitment to one another and to the belief that we rise or fall together.

The carriers are organized. The corporations are organized. The forces that threaten working people every day are organized. The only thing stronger than corporate power is workers standing together with unity, purpose, and determination.

That is what Convention represents.

It is democracy in action. It is the membership exercising its voice. It is Sisters and Brothers coming together to protect the craft, defend our agreements, preserve our jurisdiction, and strengthen the Organization that generations before us sacrificed to build.

The future of the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen will not be decided by outside forces. It will not be decided by the carriers. It will not be decided for us.

It will be decided by us.

And in July 2026, Signalmen will gather in Convention once again to show what solidarity truly looks like.

In Solidarity,



Michael S. Baldwin — *BRS President*



54TH REGULAR CONVENTION ORLANDO, FLORIDA

In accordance with BRS Constitution Article I, Section 88, the 54th Regular Convention will convene on Monday, July 20, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the Hilton Orlando Buena Vista Palace, Disney Springs area in Lake Buena Vista, Florida.

If you have questions regarding Convention please contact:

Jillian Ramsey — *Executive Assistant to the President*
540-622-6252 or via email at jillian@brs.org.

DID YOU SERVE

in a Branch of the Military?



If so, please send in your photo(s) so you may be included in the annual “special edition” of *The Signalman’s Journal*. The issue will highlight BRS members who are veterans, reservists, etc., 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



FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

— *Brandon E. Elvey, BRS Secretary-Treasurer*

Quadrennial Convention

Solidarity is Strength!



As we reflect on 125 years of our union's progress, the challenges and growth, we are reminded of the principles that our founders held to be true. Free speech, economic freedom, truth, justice and brotherly love. These same principles are the driving force in the work we do to carry on the cause of our union.

Two important foundations of those principles are accountability and stability which apply to many of the duties associated with the Secretary-Treasurer's office. We will work with our team at Grand Lodge to ensure accountability to BRS members and stability for the financial future of the BRS and its members. We will prioritize the local lodge officers. This means refining and distributing the tools and resources they need to be successful in their roles while ensuring the local lodges are functioning at their highest level.

The local lodge is the foundation and strength of our union, we must strive to strengthen our roots. With the focus on aligning and equipping each level of our union, we will ensure more effective representation of BRS members while building a culture that encourages and develops the leaders that our union will need in the future.

Our team in the Secretary-Treasurer's office is made up of skilled and experienced professionals; I look forward to the opportunity to work with and learn from each of them. We will collaborate and continue handling financial matters, membership tracking, and benefit advocacy effectively for each BRS member. Additionally, I look forward to the oppor-

tunity to collaborate with our general committees and local lodges to find new ways to address the changing landscape and challenges we encounter.

Our 54th Regular Convention is approaching. From the first meetings of Signalmen and the founding of our union, our mission has been to provide dignity to each BRS member, safety on the job, and a proper share of the wealth that our labor creates. This is the same focus that each Delegate will bring to the 54th Regular Convention in July.

As the sovereign body of our union, the Delegates and Grand Lodge Officers assembled in Convention will discuss

and debate issues of internal governance and external strategies. Our shared interests and craft unite us, and from that shared experience we will set our sights and vision on the progress to be made over the coming years. This gathering is the embodiment of our collective voice, as a member you have the opportunity to engage your Delegates and ensure they are your voice at Convention.

Thank you for the opportunity to continue serving you and our union.

In Solidarity,

Brandon E. Elvey — *BRS Secretary-Treasurer*

BRANDON ELVEY Elected Secretary-Treasurer

On May 8, 2026, the BRS General Chairmen and the Grand Executive Council elected Brandon E. Elvey to fill the unexpired term of James M. Finnegan following Brother Finnegan's retirement on May 1, 2026.



Before being elected Secretary-Treasurer, Brother Elvey served as Vice President NRAB for the BRS. He has guided and overseen the BRS Arbitration Department since being elected to his role in 2019. As

Vice President NRAB he managed the arbitration case load and processes, including case reviews and consulting for General Committees, and advocated for BRS members at the National Railroad Adjustment Board and Public Law Board hearings under the National Mediation Board. He has also developed and conducted Local Chairman, Local Officer, and General Chairman trainings during his tenure. He has assisted in the development and distribution of informational and educational materials for rank-and-file membership. Prior to

his role as Vice President NRAB, Brother Elvey worked as a Grand Lodge Representative and Director of Research, where he focused on advocacy for BRS members in the regulatory arena and served on various committees involving railroad safety and oversight.

Brother Elvey has been a member of BRS Local Lodge 48 since 2012, where he served as Recording-Secretary and Local Chairman for the Local Lodge. He was working as a Signal Maintainer for Amtrak in Baltimore, Maryland at the time of his appointment to Grand Lodge Representative in 2016. ■





JUSTIN PIER
Vice President NRAB

JUSTIN PIER Elected Vice President NRAB

On May 8, 2026, the BRS General Chairmen and Grand Executive Council elected Justin Pier to fill the unexpired term of Brandon E. Elvey as Vice President NRAB. Brother Pier is currently assigned to the Brotherhood's Headquarters in Front Royal, Virginia.

Prior to his election, Brother Pier served as BRS Director of Research and previously supported the Arbitration

Department as a Grand Lodge Representative while assisting with communications initiatives. Appointed Communications Chairman in 2024, he introduced the BRS Bulletin and BRS Trouble Call, helped reintroduce Signalman Sam®, and supported the development of the Communications Coordinator initiative.

Brother Pier hired on with BNSF Railway in 2013 as an Assistant Signalman and later served as a Signalman, Foreman, and Signal Maintainer. In 2020, he was elected Local Chairman of Local 161.

A graduate of Shelby County High School in Columbiana, Alabama, Brother Pier served in the United States Air Force as a Weapons Loader for the B-1 Lancer. He also holds a degree from the Community College of the Air Force and completed an Advanced Communications certificate program through the University of Colorado Boulder. ■



JEREMY FARR Appointed Director of Research

On May 8, 2026, BRS President Michael S. Baldwin announced the appointment of Jeremy Farr as Director of Research. Brother Farr, currently assigned to the Brotherhood's Headquarters in Front Royal, Virginia, previously served as a Grand Lodge Representative from 2022 to 2026.

Brother Farr began his railroad career in 2007 with Union Pacific Railroad as an Assistant Signalman in Ogden, Utah, later advancing to Signalman and Zone Construction Gang Foreman in Nampa, Idaho. A member of Local 111, he served in several leadership roles before his appointment as Grand Lodge Representative, where he specialized in Arbitration submission writing.

He also serves on the IBT Rail Consortium HAZMAT Advisory Board, participates in the BRS Government Affairs Office, and manages a \$12 million DOT/FRA CRISI Grant, NexGenPOST2. ■



JEREMY FARR
Director of Research

JIM FINNEGAN

BRS Secretary-Treasurer Retires

On May 1, 2026, James M. Finnegan retired from the office of Secretary-Treasurer of the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen after serving in the role since December 1, 2021. His retirement marks the conclusion of nearly three decades of dedicated service to both the railroad industry and the Brotherhood.

Brother Finnegan began his railroad career in 1996 with the Southern Pacific Railroad as an Assistant Signalman. He later advanced through positions as a Signal Maintainer and Electronic Technician on Union Pacific Railroad while becoming deeply involved in union leadership. Throughout his career with the BRS, he served as Local Chairman, Vice General Chairman, Grand Lodge Representative, Director of Research, Vice President Commuter/Passenger, and ultimately Secretary-Treasurer.

Beyond his leadership within the Brotherhood, Brother Finnegan shared his knowledge and experience through participation in several Rail Safety Advisory Committee working groups, the FAMES Committee, and National Transportation Safety Board accident investigations. Prior to entering the railroad industry, he proudly served in the United States Air Force from 1987 to 1994.



JIM FINNEGAN

Brother Finnegan's dedication, leadership, and commitment to the principles of the BRS leave a lasting impact on the Organization and its members.

Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen

Our Dedication Extends Beyond the Tracks

As Signalmen, we are not just committed to excellence in our craft; we're equally passionate about enriching and supporting the communities we call home.

We would like to showcase the strength and compassion of our Brotherhood. Share your stories and photos of giving back — through community service or the moments where you have made a difference.

Signalmen are not only leaders on the rails, but also champions in their communities.

Send photos and stories to info@brs.org
Attention: Justin Pier

UNIONS MEMBERS DESERVE A FAIR CONTRACT



On Saturday, May 9, 2026, the BRS joined the BLET, IAM, TCU, and IBEW to rally for a fair contract. As the clock ticks down on a potential strike and after two Presidential Emergency Boards, the LIRR has yet to not make a meaningful offer to settle the dispute.

BRS General Chairman Mike Sullivan and Vice President Tim Tarrant joined labor leaders and local politicians, and spoke to hundreds of union members to let LIRR and the MTA know the BRS will not rest until a fair contract is attained.

Mike Sullivan noted the Unions are, *“serving notice to the MTA of their dereliction of duty”* by not negotiating a fair contract. *“We followed the law. We respected the process. We made our argument. We won twice. Not once, but twice.”*

Tim Tarrant went on to note, *“It’s time the MTA and Long Island Rail Road stop messing around and offer our members a contract that keeps up with the cost of living in New York. We’ve earned it, we deserve it, and we will not rest until it is achieved.”*

These union members have not had a wage increase in over three years and we are just over 24 hours from a strike. The clock is ticking down, and we call on the MTA and LIRR to settle the dispute and offer a fair contract. ■



Local Updates

Local 5 — Amtrak Holds Officer's Training

February 6, 2026 — Amtrak Local 5 held a Local Officer's Training led by BRS Vice Presidents Tim Tarrant and Brandon Elvey covering local responsibilities, Union benefits, and claim filing procedures. Sean Constable, representing BRS Designated Legal Counsel Marc Wietzke's office, also presented on FELA and Whistleblower protections. The training gave local officials an opportunity to discuss issues affecting their members and strengthen their understanding of Union representation.

Local 183 — Agreement Ratified for BRS Members at Metra (Local 183)

April 9, 2026 — BRS Local 183 members working for Metra ratified a seven-year Collective Bargaining Agreement covering January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2032. The Agreement provides historic wage increases, annual supplemental pension contribution increases, improved vacation benefits, the addition of Juneteenth as a paid holiday, and continued health coverage under the National Health and Welfare Plan.

The Agreement was reached through a coalition of seven Rail Labor Organizations: ARASA, BMWED, BRS, IAMAW, IBEW, SMART-MD, and TCU. The BRS Bargaining Committee included General Chairman Kevin Lavin; Local Chairmen Jim Hansen, C.L. Cross, and Brian Coady; along with Vice President Commuter/Passenger Tim Tarrant. The ratification demonstrates the strength and effectiveness of unified bargaining.

LIRR Contract Dispute Moves Closer to Self-Help

April 29, 2026 — Following three years of stalled negotiations and two Presidential Emergency Boards siding with Rail Labor, the Long Island Rail Road Bargaining Coalition (LIRRBC) is preparing for a possible strike. The coalition, consisting of BLET, BRS, IAMAW, IBEW, and TCU, represents a majority of LIRR's

unionized workforce, which has gone without a pay raise since April 2022.

Both PEB 253 and PEB 254 supported wage increases for workers and rejected the carrier's proposed work rule changes. The BRS continues to call on LIRR management and the MTA to negotiate a fair agreement before self-help provisions under the Railway Labor Act become effective.

SEPTA Rail Labor Unions Form Regional Rail Labor Council

April 1, 2026 — The BRS joined several Rail Labor Organizations at SEPTA in forming the SEPTA Regional Rail Labor Council (SRRLC), a coalition created to strengthen communication, solidarity, and collective action among Rail Labor crafts.

The SRRLC brings together representatives from BLET, SMART-TD, BMWED, BRS, TCU, IAMAW, SMART-MD, IBEW, TWU, and BRC to address shared concerns including safety, workplace policies, operational changes, and future bargaining efforts. The Council continues to meet regularly and work toward strengthening the voice of Rail Labor at SEPTA. ■

Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen

— *Our Dedication Extends Beyond the Tracks* —

As Signalmen, we are committed not only to our craft but also to supporting our communities. Share your stories and photos of giving back or making a difference.



*Signalmen are not only leaders on the rails
but also champions in their communities.*

Send photos and stories to info@brs.org
Attention: Justin Pier

OBITUARIES

LLOYD "BILL" R. BRETHOUWER, JR.—retired member of **LOCAL 119**. Brother Brethouwer retired in 2012 after 17 years of service with the Burlington Northern Railroad and the BNSF Railway Company. Brother Brethouwer was a Signal Maintainer at the time of his retirement. Brother Brethouwer is a U.S. Army and U.S. Army National Guard Veteran.

JOHN E. BRODT—retired member of **LOCAL 240**. Brother Brodt retired in 2014 after 30 years of service with the New York, Susquehanna and Western Railway. Brother Brodt was a Signal Maintainer at the System, at the time of his retirement. Brother Brodt served as Local President.

MARK A. DUFFEE—retired member of **LOCAL 72**. Brother Duffee retired in 2007 after 28 years of service with the Missouri-Kansas-Texas and Union Pacific Railroads. Brother Duffee was at the Signal Shop at Sedalia, Missouri, at the time of his retirement.

MARK W. DURHAM—retired member of **LOCAL 157**. Brother Durham retired in 2017 after 44 years of service with the Cotton Belt and Union Pacific Railroads. Brother Durham was a Signal Maintainer at Malden, Missouri, at the time of his retirement.

JERRY M. ELLIS—retired member of **LOCAL 157**. Brother Ellis retired in 2001 after 31 years of service with the St. Louis Southwestern Railway and Union Pacific Railroad. Brother Ellis was a Signalman at Jonesboro, Arkansas, at the time of his retirement. Brother Ellis served as a Grievance Committee Member.

JACK R. HARRIS—retired member of **LOCAL 72**. Brother Harris retired in 1993 after 26 years of service with the Missouri Pacific and Union Pacific Railroads. Brother Harris was a Signalman at Monroe, Louisiana, at the time of his retirement.

EDWIN E. JONES—retired member of **LOCAL 94**. Brother Jones retired in 1992 after 41 years of service with the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and CSX Transportation. Brother Jones was a Signal Maintainer at the time of his retirement. Brother Jones is a U.S. Army and U.S. Army National Guard Veteran.

DAVID C. KEEN—retired member of **LOCAL 1**. Brother Keen retired in 1993 after 34 years of service with the Pennsylvania Railroad and Conrail. Brother Keen was an Electronic Technician at Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, at the time of his retirement. Brother Keen served as Local Chairman. Brother Keen is a U.S. Air Force Veteran.

KENNETH "KEN" "COUNTRY" R. LAMB—retired member of **LOCAL 16**. Brother Lamb retired in 2022 after 45 years of service with the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad and CSX Transportation. Brother Lamb was a Signal Technician in the Savannah Signal Shop at Savannah, Georgia, at the time of his retirement. Brother Lamb served as Local Chairman, Grievance Committee Member, and General Committee Trustee.

RICHARD "RICK" W. LEFLER—retired member of **LOCAL 20**. Brother Lefler retired in 2013 after 44 years of service with the Erie Lackawanna and Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroads, and BNSF Railway Company. Brother Lefler was a Signal Inspector at Toluca, Illinois, at the time of his retirement.

JOHN W. McCLOSKEY—retired member of **LOCAL 1**. Brother McClosky retired in 1990 after 27 years of service with the Lehigh Valley Railroad and Conrail. Brother McClosky was a Signalman at Pittston, Pennsylvania, at the time of his retirement. Brother McClosky served as Recording-Financial Secretary and Local Chairman.

JOE A. ROBINSON—retired member of **LOCAL 157**. Brother Robinson retired in 2023 after 46 years of service with the Cotton Belt, Southern Pacific, and Union Pacific Railroads. Brother Robinson was a Signal Maintainer at Tyler, Texas, at the time of his retirement. Brother Robinson served as Local Trustee.

DAVID A. SMITH—retired member of **LOCAL 16**. Brother Smith retired in 2009 after 32 years of service with the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad and CSX Transportation. Brother Smith was a Signalman at the time of his retirement. Brother Smith is a U.S. Marine Corp. Reserves Veteran.

ROBERT "BOBBY" R. TUCKER—retired member of **LOCAL 72**. Brother Tucker retired in 1998 after 30 years of service with the Missouri Pacific and Union Pacific Railroads. Brother Tucker was a Signal Maintainer at the time of his retirement.

KENNY "WAYNE" W. UNDERWOOD—retired member of **LOCAL 16**. Brother Underwood retired in 2012 after 38 years of service with the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad and CSX Transportation. Brother Underwood was an Electronic Signal Technician at Savannah, Georgia, at the time of his retirement.

JIMMIE "J.W." W. WILKS—retired member of **LOCAL 72**. Brother Wilks retired in 2006 after 30 years of service with the Missouri Pacific and Union Pacific Railroads. Brother Wilks was a Signal Technician at Sedalia, Missouri, at the time of his retirement. Brother Wilks served as Recording-Financial Secretary.

IN MEMORY

of those who are forever in our hearts.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Please notify Grand Lodge of the passing of BRS members.

email: membership@brs.org

Continuous Membership



The Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen, in recognition of BRS members' contributions to the Signaller'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:

40 YEARS OF SERVICE

Doug Porter _____ 33

35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Allen Morey _____ 123
 Chris Childers _____ 129
 Floyd Tibbs _____ 77
 John Varney _____ 77
 Mark Fuller _____ 123
 Matt Newsom _____ 156
 Peter Gross _____ 183
 Peter Swendsrud _____ 226
 Robert Mohrbacher _____ 183
 Tom Humble _____ 8
 Udel Peets _____ 56

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Blake Coleman _____ 188
 Bryan Rhodes _____ 161
 Carlos Smith _____ 84
 Charles Burgess, Jr. _____ 228
 Charles Lawrence _____ 132
 Christopher Van Lue _____ 129
 Darin McFerron _____ 129
 David Coggins _____ 110
 Dennis Thompson _____ 157
 Don Bulla _____ 110
 Douglas Nicholson _____ 157
 Edward Piguet _____ 77
 Frank McCabe _____ 16
 Fredys Taveras _____ 56

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Greg Seiler _____ 97
 Hermilo Camacho _____ 19
 Jackie Fortenberry _____ 157
 Jeremy Duree _____ 19
 John Brown _____ 228
 John Carter _____ 111
 John Vorderbrueggen _____ 188
 Karl Morris _____ 53
 Lee Bonos, II _____ 174
 Manuel Acosta _____ 130
 Matthew Helson _____ 183
 Nathan Spencer _____ 111
 Norman McCrone _____ 129
 Patrick Padgett _____ 188
 Paul Clark _____ 20
 Paul Eby _____ 19
 Phil Morton _____ 185
 Randy Countryman _____ 43
 Richard Gold _____ 229
 Robert Johnson _____ 8
 Roger Strecker _____ 72
 Roger Williams _____ 33
 Salvador Rodriguez _____ 239
 Steven Scott _____ 49
 Timothy Tarrant _____ 183
 Todd Riggs _____ 87

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Bob Harrison, Jr. _____ 21
 Bob Thornton _____ 185
 Brian Ingold _____ 157

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Brooks Bowser _____ 99
 Byron Steward _____ 157
 Cedric Holloway _____ 129
 Cody Curlee _____ 121
 Greg Pope _____ 234
 James Wilson _____ 87
 Jeremy Rine _____ 119
 Joseph Coughlan _____ 120
 Kevin Sanders _____ 72
 Kip Russell _____ 119
 Labostrie McGee _____ 183
 Leon Hardin, Jr. _____ 110
 Marc Fason _____ 56
 Mark Beattie _____ 72
 Mark Laznovsky _____ 56
 Matt DeRisi _____ 16
 Matt Nicks _____ 33
 Matthew Calley _____ 126
 Michael Sullivan _____ 56
 Mike Coles _____ 157
 Nathan Sutton _____ 106
 Richard Padgett _____ 49
 Rick Cuellar _____ 206
 Robert Colvin _____ 72
 Ryan Dawson _____ 229
 Scott Barbosa _____ 56
 Tony Martin _____ 206
 Travis Harrop _____ 119
 Vance Morelan _____ 72
 Warren Shepard _____ 185



LEGISLATION & ADVOCACY



MIKE EFAW
*National
Legislative Director*

Signal Modernization

Since my last Washington Report, our legislative and advocacy efforts in Washington have accelerated significantly as the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen continues leading the fight to protect proven railroad safety standards and ensure Congress understands the importance of preserving human oversight of railroad technology.

The largest issue before us remains the Federal Railroad Administration's proposed "Signal Modernization" package. As many of you know, the Association of American Railroads has urged the FRA to weaken long-standing federal inspection and testing requirements governing railroad signal systems and highway-rail grade crossing warning systems under 49 CFR Parts 234 and 236. These proposals would allow railroads to reduce in-person inspections and rely more heavily on remote monitoring, automated diagnostics, and cameras.

BRS has been aggressively pushing back against these efforts on Capitol Hill and within the Department of Transportation. We have made it clear that while technology can assist railroad safety, it cannot replace trained Signalmen physically inspecting, testing, maintaining, and verifying the real-world performance of the systems that keep trains on the correct routes and protect communities at grade crossings. Remote systems can only detect what they are programmed to identify. They cannot independently recognize developing field conditions, contamination, wear, environmental impacts, or mechanical degradation before failures occur.

Over the last several months, I have participated in numerous meetings with members of Congress, committee staff, labor organizations, coalition partners, and transportation stakeholders regarding these issues and the upcoming Surface Transportation Reauthorization

bill. Our primary legislative goal remains getting language included in the reauthorization bill that codifies the current inspection, testing, and oversight requirements for railroad signal systems and highway-rail grade crossings. Simply put, we are fighting to preserve the status quo safeguards that already exist and are already being performed throughout the industry.

I am proud to report that support for our efforts continues to grow. New Jersey Senator Andy Kim has taken up BRS priorities and has two bills ready to go in the Senate if we can secure a Republican co-lead. The Continued Reporting of Signal Systems, Inspections, Notifications, and Grade Safety (CROSSINGS) Act and the Stop, Look, and Listen Act are helping frame the national conversation around preserving proven rail safety requirements and ensuring human oversight remains part of railroad operations.

I am also proud to report that Congressman Pat Ryan of New York's 18th Congressional District is taking up BRS-supported legislation in the House of Representatives. Congressman Ryan's involvement marks another major step forward in building support for preserving proven railroad signal and grade crossing safety requirements and ensuring human oversight remains central to the operation, inspection, and testing of critical rail safety technologies. We are continuing to work to secure a Republican co-lead in the House to partner with Congressman Ryan and further strengthen bipartisan support for these common-sense rail safety measures.

In the House, BRS has continued working closely with members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to identify strong bipartisan support for our priorities. Congressman Rob Bresnahan led a letter signed by several Republican members of Congress urging Secretary Sean Duffy and the Department of Transportation to reject efforts to weaken current railroad safety standards. That letter represented a major

step forward in building bipartisan awareness of the dangers associated with reducing hands-on inspections and testing. We are hopeful Congressman Bresnahan will continue as a champion for us and co-lead the bills in the House.

Our coalition-building efforts have also expanded considerably. BRS has continued coordinating with the AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department, IBEW, the Teamsters Rail Conference, IAFF (firefighters), and other labor and public safety stakeholders. We are also engaging organizations representing first responders, local governments, school transportation interests, and public safety advocates who understand the importance of maintaining strong grade crossing protections and signal system oversight.

In addition to our defensive efforts against regulatory rollbacks, BRS continues advocating for modern safety improvements that include workers as part of the solution. We have continued advancing discussions surrounding defect detector standards, predictive technologies, and telematics while emphasizing that these technologies must complement, and not replace the highly skilled railroad workers responsible for maintaining the nation's rail safety infrastructure.

BRS also continues moving forward with the CRISI

grant project awarded in partnership with HUM Industrial Technology and the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. This project demonstrates that our union supports technological advancement when it is implemented responsibly, properly tested, and paired with trained railroad workers who can ensure the systems function safely in the field.

As always, I want to thank our officers, members, retirees, and allies for your continued support and engagement. The coming months will be critical as Congress moves deeper into Surface Transportation Reauthorization discussions and as the FRA continues evaluating proposed regulatory changes. BRS remains fully engaged in defending the proven safety protections that have safeguarded railroad workers, passengers, first responders, and communities for generations.

Finally, I want to encourage all BRS members to continue supporting our legislative and political efforts through contributions to the Signalmen's Political League (SPL). The work we are doing in Washington requires strong engagement and resources to ensure railroad Signalmen have a voice at the table when critical safety and transportation decisions are being made. Every contribution helps strengthen our ability to fight for rail safety, protect our members' interests, and advance policies that keep our railroads and communities safe. ■

VISIT BRS.ORG ◆ VISIT BRS.ORG ◆ VISIT BRS.ORG

Legislative
Information, Updates, & More!



VISIT BRS.ORG ◆ VISIT BRS.ORG ◆ VISIT BRS.ORG

BRS DESIGNATED COUNSEL

ON-THE-JOB INJURY | FELA | RAIL LABOR | INFO | LAW
RAILROAD SIGNALMEN | CLAIM
EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

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

W.C. Tucker, Jr.
Maples, Tucker & Jacobs, LLC
2001 Park Place North
Suite 1325
Birmingham, AL 35203
Tel. (205) 322-2333
(855) 617-9333
www.mtandj.com

F. Tucker Burge, Sr.

Burge & Burge, PC
2001 Park Place
Suite 1350
Birmingham, AL 35203
Tel. (205) 251-9000
(800) 633-3733
www.burge-law.com

ARKANSAS

Chris Christy
Christy • Ferguson
201 W. Broadway Street
Suite G12
North Little Rock, AR 72114
Tel. (501) 758-0278

CALIFORNIA

Jay A. Kaplan
Kaplan Law Corporation
1901 Avenue of the Stars
19th Floor
Century City, CA 90067
(800) 552-7526
www.kaplanlawcorp.com

Anthony S. Petru
Hildebrand, McLeod & Nelson
5335 College Avenue
Suite 5A
Oakland, CA 94618
(800) 447-7500
www.hmnlaw.com

COLORADO

Jeffrey Chod
Chod Law Office
P.O. Box 17727
Denver, CO 80217
Tel. (314) 541-5862
www.chodlawfirm.com

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) 900-5493
www.rbirlaw.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.petrofelalaw.com

Daniel J. Downes

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

MARYLAND

P. Matthew Darby
Darby Law Group, LLC
201 International Circle
Suite 200
Hunt Valley, MD 21030
Tel. (833) 601-3473
www.darby-lawgroup.com

MASSACHUSETTS

Robert T. Naumes
Naumes Law Group
2 Granite Avenue
Suite 425
Milton, MA 02186
Tel. (617) 227-8444
(617) 820-4987
www.naumeslaw.com

MICHIGAN

Benjamin J. Wilensky
Sommers Swartz, PC
1 Towne Square
Suite 1700
Southfield, MI 48076
Tel. (248) 746-4024
(866) 520-1649
www.sommerspc.com

MINNESOTA

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

Fredric A. Bremseth

Bremseth Law Firm
601 Carlson Parkway
Suite 1050
Minnetonka, MN 55305
Tel. (952) 475-2800
(800) 545-3733
www.bremseth.com

MISSOURI

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

Drew C. Baebler

The Baebler Firm, LLC
11878 Gravois Road
St. Louis, MO 63127
Tel. (314) 270-9900
www.raillaw.com

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,
Shapero | Roloff Co., LPA
1111 Superior Avenue East
Suite 1310
Cleveland, OH 44114
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

Don P. Palermo

Palermo Law Offices
111 North Olive Street
Media, PA 19063
Tel. (215) 499-2957
www.palermolaw.org

TEXAS

Weldon Granger
Jones Granger

Robert M. Tramuto

Jones Granger
10000 Memorial Drive
Suite 888
Houston, TX 77210
Tel. (713) 668-0230
(800) 231-3359
www.jonesgranger.com

VIRGINIA

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

WASHINGTON

James K. Vucinovich
Rossi Vucinovich, PC
1000 Second Avenue
Suite 1420
Seattle, WA 98104
(425) 646-8003
(866) 357-7245
www.rvflegal.com

WISCONSIN

Nicholas D. Thompson
Casey Jones Law Firm
3520 Cherryvale Avenue
Suite 83
Appleton, WI 54913
Tel. (612) 293-5249
www.caseyjones.law

BRS members are encouraged to provide information regarding FELA cases, including criticism or recommendations 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.

BENEFITS DIRECTORY

INSURANCE | CLAIMS | GROUP POLICIES | INFO
HEALTH | RAILROAD RETIREMENT | PLANS
PHARMACY BENEFIT

Your Track to Health

www.yourtracktohealth.com



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

Optum Rx®

Optum Rx® works with your plan to help you get the medication you need. Use your online account to find a network pharmacy, set up home delivery, view your ID card and more. UnitedHealthcare Plans GA-23000 and GA-46000.

1-844-368-8736

optumrx.com

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Automated Help Line

1-877-772-5772

www.rrb.gov

UNION PLUS

Union Plus Mortgage Company • AT&T Discount Credit Card • Scholarships Insurance Discounts, and more.

www.unionplus.org



SIGNALMAN'S STORE

BRS WATCHES — Gold BRS logo on the face.

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

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

| ITEM DESCRIPTION | QUANTITY | PRICE | TOTAL |
|------------------------|----------|--------|-------|
| BRS Flag (3' x 5') | | 85.00 | |
| BRS Flag (2'x3') | | 54.50 | |
| Golf Balls (pack of 3) | | 10.50 | |
| Coffee Mug | | 8.00 | |
| Pocket Watch | | 94.50 | |
| Wrist Watch | | 120.00 | |
| Mantle/Desk Clock | | 136.00 | |
| Magnet | | 6.00 | |
| Keychain/Bottle Opener | | 4.00 | |

| HATS | QUANTITY | PRICE | TOTAL |
|---------------------|----------|-------|-------|
| Cap (camo/orange) | | 20.75 | |
| Cap (black dye sub) | | 18.00 | |

| APPAREL | S | M | L | XL | 2X | 3X | 4X | PRICE | TOTAL |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|---------|-------|
| NEW—Union Proud T-Shirt | | | | | | | | \$20.00 | |
| NEW—Golf Shirt (black w/logo) | | | | | | | | 50.00 | |
| NEW—Golf Shirt (blue w/logo) | | | | | | | | 50.00 | |
| NEW—Golf Shirt (sage w/logo) | | | | | | | | 50.00 | |
| NEW—Golf Shirt (rust w/logo) | | | | | | | | 50.00 | |
| NEW—Golf Shirt (olive w/logo) | | | | | | | | 50.00 | |
| NEW—Half Quarter Zip | | | | | | | | 55.00 | |
| Navy Windshirt | | | | | | | | 57.50 | |
| Black Wool & Leather Coat | | | | | | | | 201.00 | |
| Black Canvas Coat | | | | | | | | 90.00 | |
| Brown Canvas Coat | | | | | | | | 90.00 | |
| Grey Sweatshirt | | | | | | | | 31.50 | |
| Navy Softshell Jacket | | | | | | | | 96.50 | |

| CLEARANCE | S | M | L | XL | 2X | 3X | 4X | PRICE | TOTAL |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|-------|-------|
| Service T-Shirt (burgundy) | | | | | | | | 18.00 | |
| Service T-Shirt (grey) | | | | | | | | 15.00 | |
| 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 | |

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____ CERTIFICATE # _____

ORDER ONLINE AT WWW.BRS.ORG

SIGNALMAN'S STORE



UNION PROUD T-SHIRT



DESIGN ON BACK
OF SWEATSHIRT



GREY SWEATSHIRT



QUARTER ZIP



GOLF SHIRT (BLACK)



GOLF SHIRT (BLUE)



GOLF SHIRT (SAGE)



GOLF SHIRT (RUST)



GOLF SHIRT (OLIVE)



BROWN CANVAS COAT



**BLACK WOOL
& LEATHER COAT**



**NAVY SOFT
SHELL JACKET**



BLACK CANVAS COAT



CAPS



POCKET WATCH



WRIST WATCH



MANTLE CLOCK

TRAINING PHOTOS



Local Financial-Secretary Training

MAY 2026 — Front Royal, Virginia



TRAINING PHOTOS



Local 5 Meeting Springfield, Massachusetts



Amtrak's Local 5 held a Local Officer's Training on February 6, 2026. The training, provided by BRS Vice Presidents Tim Tarrant and Brandon Elvey, covered each position in the Local and their respective responsibilities, reinforced key provisions such as the benefits of belonging to a Union as well as the basics on what it takes to file a successful claim. Sean Constable, representing BRS Designated Legal Counsel Marc Wietzke's office, led a session on how to protect BRS Members' rights under FELA as well as Whistleblower provisions. The training provided Local 5's elected officials with an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the issues facing their members. Keep up the good work Local 5!



MEETING PHOTOS



Town Hall — Zone 3 Group

Tucson, Arizona



Belonging to a **UNION**



*What do my dues pay for?
The Union doesn't do anything for me!
What good is the Union?*



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

MEETING PHOTOS



Local 183 Meeting

Worth, Illinois



Shenandoah Valley CAREER SHOWCASE



The Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen recently participated in the Shenandoah Valley Career Showcase at John Handley High School, in Winchester, Virginia, engaging with students from Winchester City and Frederick County public schools interested in entering the workforce after graduation. The event provided an opportunity to connect with students looking to build on the technical skills they developed in high school and explore careers in the railroad industry.



SOLEID GROUND

REAL PEOPLE. REAL TRADES. REAL TRADITIONS.

COMING THIS SUMMER

▶ WATCH *for Your Chance to Win!*

Highlighting union members whose outdoor traditions reflect the same hard work, pride, brotherhood and values they carry onto the job.



Subscribe to the USA YouTube channel to watch the premiere episode.

[YouTube.com/unionsportsmen](https://www.youtube.com/unionsportsmen)

Proudly sponsored by

