



PUBLISHED BY THE BLET, A DIVISION OF THE RAIL CONFERENCE, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS



SKYKOMISH RIVER BRIDGE Approaching the long grade towards the summit of Steven's Pass, a BNSF Railway locomotive travels eastbound over the Great Northern Skykomish River Bridge near Gold Bar, Wash., on February 2, 2012. Photo courtesy: Eric Williams

VOTE WISELY IN NOVEMBER

REPUBLICANS, ROMNEY TARGET AMTRAK, RAILROAD RETIREMENT

At the Republican National Convention in Tampa on August 28, the Republican Party approved a platform that calls for the elimination of funding for Amtrak.

The 62-page document calls for "the federal government to get out of way [sic] and allow private ventures to provide passenger service to the northeast corridor. The same holds true with regard to high-speed and intercity rail across the country."

"Adopting a policy that calls for the outright demise of Amtrak is an eye-opener for all railroad workers in the United States," BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce said. "The fate of our Railroad Retirement system is tied to steady employment levels in the railroad industry over a long period of time. The sudden elimination of 20,000 Amtrak jobs could likely sound the death knell for Railroad Retirement as we know it."

The Republican platform comes a

few weeks after Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney himself called for the elimination of Amtrak. In an interview with Fortune magazine, published on August 15, he said: "There are three major areas I have focused on for reduction in spending," Romney said. "So first there are programs I would eliminate. Obamacare being one of them but also various subsidy programs — the Amtrak subsidy, the PBS subsidy, the subsidy for the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities."

On August 29, Wisconsin Representative Paul Ryan accepted the Republican party's nomination as its candidate for Vice President. Ryan is the architect of the infamous Ryan Budget, which would have devastating effects on the retirement security of all active and retired railroad workers.

"Remember in November," President Pierce said. "Don't support politicians who are actively seeking to destroy your pension and way of life." ©

THE RYAN BUDGET PROPOSES TO:

» **Eliminate** the "60/30" provision, which allows railroad employees to retire with full benefits at 60 years of age with 30 years of service;

» **Eliminate** the Railroad Retirement Occupational disability program for rail workers who can no longer perform their railroad duties due to disability;

» **Increase** the minimum retirement age for railroad workers to 62 years of age with a reduction in benefits;

» **Increase** the minimum age for spousal annuities with a reduction in benefits;

» **Eliminate** Medicare as we know it and increase the Medicare eligibility age to 67 with drastically reduced coverage;

» **Increase** the annual out-of-pocket medical costs paid by railroad retirees and cause the costs of railroad retiree health insurance under GA-46000 to soar; and

» **Replace** Medicare's guaranteed benefits with a voucher system that is not guaranteed to cover the cost of equivalent care currently provided under Medicare.



REMEMBER IN NOVEMBER

In July, the BLET's Advisory Board voted unanimously to endorse Barack Obama for reelection as President of the United States. The Republican nominee stands on a decidedly anti-rail worker platform. Mitt Romney has promised to slash Amtrak's budget, which would endanger the jobs of thousands of unionized Amtrak employees, thereby undermining the stability of the Railroad Retirement System. Romney has also voiced public support for the infamous Ryan Budget, which would eliminate important Railroad Retirement Tier 1 benefits. For more information, visit: www.ble-t.org/ryanbudget

Election 2012

SEE PAGE 5 FOR LIST OF BLET-ENDORSED CANDIDATES



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BLET PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY DENNIS R. PIERCE

MISTAKES, MISINFORMATION OR MENDACITY?

About five months ago we began reporting on an attack on our pension and occupational disability benefits initiated by passage of House Concurrent Resolution 112, which is commonly known as the "Ryan Budget," named after its author, House Budget Committee Chairman and Republican Vice Presidential Candidate Paul Ryan (R-WI). Accompanying the Resolution was House Report No. 112-421, which states — on page 101 — the following:

"Conform Railroad Retirement Tier 1 Benefits to Social Security Benefits. Tier 1 benefits for railroad retirees are supposed to mimic Social Security benefits, but they are more generous than Social Security in many ways. This option would conform Tier 1 so that its benefits would equal those of Social Security, with an estimated savings to taxpayers of \$2 billion over 10 years."

As all BLET members should know, Tier 1 Railroad Retirement benefits include the "60/30" early retirement annuities and occupational disability annuities, important benefits for all railroaders. These benefits are wholly paid for by railroads and rail workers, and — contrary to the erroneous assertion in the House Report — reducing these benefits would result in no financial savings whatsoever for the federal government to reduce the national debt.

Our reporting of the Ryan Budget's threat to "60/30" early retirement and occupational disability created a firestorm of response, from claims by railroads and others that "there's nothing to worry about" because such changes wouldn't be enacted "by this Congress" to allegations that we simply had fabricated the threat. We, in turn, provided links on our website to the actual documents that supported our reporting so the membership could make an independent judg-

ment of the facts.

Since then, several rank-and-file members of the BLET have contacted their members of Congress regarding the impact of the Ryan Budget on Railroad Retirement benefits. Those responses, which have been shared with the National Division, vary widely and display a fundamental lack of understanding of how Railroad Retirement works, an effort to sow misinformation, or a deliberate attempt to deceive BLET members and others regarding the proposal and its impact.

In a May 14, 2012, letter to a constituent in California, Rep. Ryan wrote: "As you know, Tier 1 Retirement Benefits are funded through a payroll tax and are invested in special non-marketable bonds, just like with Social Security. Further, these benefits are supposed to mimic Social Security benefits, and one potential reform would be to conform Tier 1 Retirement Benefits, so that its benefits would be equal to those of Social Security." By this letter, Rep. Ryan admits that he proposes to eliminate the "60/30" early retirement and occupational disability benefits.

In August, Rep. Adrian Smith (R-NE) held a Town Hall meeting in North Platte, Nebraska. According to the local newspaper, the North Platte Bulletin, the Congressman issued a statement regarding the Ryan Budget which read in part: "As a member of the Ways and Means Committee, which has jurisdiction over trust fund operations relating to the Railroad Retirement System, I supported a deficit reduction package required by the House budget, which did not alter Railroad Retirement benefits." Rep. Smith's statement begs the question whether he even read House Report 112-421 or — being elected from a district that contains the nation's largest freight rail yard — he thought he could get away with a semantic sleight-of-hand.

RYAN BUDGET INFO CENTER

CHECK OUT THE BLET WEBSITE FOR THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION
BLE-T.ORG/RyanBUDGET

Paul Ryan letter to California constituent, May 14, 2012

North Platte Bulletin article regarding Rep. Adrian Smith meeting:

Rep. Robert Hurt letter with factual inaccuracies regarding Railroad Retirement finances

Railroad Retirement Board press release documenting financial strength of system

Earlier this month, another Republican — Virginia Representative Robert Hurt — responded to a BLET constituent with information that is utterly and blatantly false. Hurt wrote:

"The House Budget, H. Con. Res. 112, makes a number of reforms that would cut spending, reduce the size and scope of the federal government, and reform unsustainable health and retirement security programs to make them viable for future generations. Tier 1 railroad retirement benefits are designed to mimic Social Security benefits, but, like Social Security, the program risks going into default and must be changed to keep it solvent. Currently, the general federal Treasury is already covering shortfalls in the Railroad Retirement Trust Fund, which will only grow as more railroad workers retire."

According to the Railroad Retirement Board's published summary of its July 2012 Financial Report puts the lie to Rep. Hurt's claims:

"As of September 30, 2011, total railroad retirement system assets, comprising assets managed by the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust and the railroad retirement system accounts at the Treasury, equaled \$23.6 billion. ... [B]arring a sud-

den, unanticipated, large drop in railroad employment or substantial investment losses, the railroad retirement system will experience no cash-flow problems during the next 23 years. ... No financing changes were recommended at this time by the report."

Also within the past couple of weeks, a post from a self-proclaimed blogger named John, who supports the Romney/Ryan ticket, has been circulating inside the BLET. This post admits that the House Report 112-421 proposed change "would have been to hold the retirement to 62 and older, as social security currently does, verses (sic) allowing full retirements at 60 for those with 30 plus years in, as the tier I benefits currently allow." However, it also includes the following falsehoods:

- The unions are reporting "that Gov. Romney plans to move the railroad retirement system into social security."

- The reporting on the Ryan Budget's plans for Railroad Retirement "is an untrue rumor by the democrat-aligned unions in the important coal and railroad regions in Virginia and West Virginia."

- That "the unions never [provide links to the relevant documents], since they are lying about it."

- That "unions are spreading big, false rumors based on innuendo and congress proposing ... combining the railroad retirement with social security and removing all the tier II benefits."

This blogger has shown the textbook application of the Big Lie theory: take a fact (we are warning BLET members about the Ryan Budget attack on Railroad Retirement by proposing to conform Tier 1 with Social Security), coat it with one huge lie (that we're claiming Ryan seeks to merge Railroad Retirement into Social Security and eliminate Tier 2, which we've never claimed), and then hang a few smaller lies on the huge lie as adornments (that the reporting is based in the coal region and that we're hiding the relevant documents from BLET members).

Mark Twain is reported to have once said that "A lie can run around the world six times while the truth is still trying to put on its pants." The way the blogosphere works, we can expect more mistaken information, more misinformation, and more mendacity as Election Day draws near. You can also rest assured that the BLET will not be swayed by those who attempt to misrepresent our honest and straightforward reporting of the facts, all for their own political purpose. It's been said by many who are working to destroy the middle class that they won't be controlled by fact checkers. What they really meant is that they won't let the facts get in the way of their misrepresentations and outright lies. Beware of spin, from politicians and talking heads alike. Do your own research and your own homework by finding the actual relevant documents, reading them and then drawing your own conclusions... and then remember in November.

Fraternally,

DENNIS R. PIERCE
BLET NATIONAL PRESIDENT

66 Do your own research and your own homework by finding the actual relevant documents, reading them and then drawing your own conclusions... and then remember in November. 99

BLET NATIONAL DIVISION ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

Official communications between BLET members and the National Division require a hard copy of the correspondence, bearing a signature, being received by the National President to be considered an "official communication." This is to provide that the actual question(s) are addressed, and ensures that when official

interpretations are made they have reference to a specific request and can be used in future correspondence.

The volume of e-mails received makes it impossible for the National President to answer all unofficial communications. Therefore, it is the policy of the BLET that e-mails addressed to the National President will be reviewed and forwarded to

the appropriate officer or staff for a timely response; however, an e-mail message is not considered an official communication.

Moreover, anonymous e-mails and e-mails that do not provide sufficient information concerning the sender to enable National Division staff to confirm the sender's membership status will not receive any reply or acknowledgement. This poli-

cy is intended to allow the National President to be aware of the opinions and suggestions of the membership, while at the same time providing a timely response to the member's unofficial communication, if a response is necessary, without needlessly expending limited BLET resources.

ADOPTED AT CLEVELAND, OHIO ON JULY 22, 2010. ©



GENERAL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY JAMES P. HOFFA

REBUILDING THE MIDDLE CLASS

The Greatest Generation won two World Wars, put a man on the moon, built the interstate highway system and created the most dynamic economy on earth.

Between 1946 and 1973, the U.S. economy was a powerhouse. The middle class grew strong and millions of Americans rose out of poverty. The words "Made in America" meant something — something the world envied.

The Greatest Generation recognized that if people have a right to capitalize their ideas and their country's resources, then people also have the right to capitalize their labor. When the Greatest Generation ran the country, workers bargained collectively for the fair share of the prosperity they created.



Collective bargaining built America's great middle class after World War II. It created a virtuous loop that strengthened the American economy. Los Angeles and Detroit had the highest percentage of homeowners after World War II for one reason: Collective bargaining rights were protected for workers in the automotive and aerospace industries.

Collective bargaining also allowed employers and employees to negotiate their differences productively, to work together to solve problems, to find efficiencies and to build better products.

Those rights have been weakened by job-killing trade deals that let employers pit American workers against low-paid, unskilled foreign workers. "Made in America" now means that a U.S. manufacturer managed to survive despite the onslaught of cheaper goods from China or Mexico.

Collective bargaining rights are under attack, threatening our middle class. It's no coincidence that the middle class is shrinking as collective bargaining rights are being taken away.

We're all painfully familiar with the difficulty of surviving

in this economy, but here are some statistics that should scare you: The U.S. Census Bureau says the middle class makes up 51 percent of adults, down 16 percent from 1971. In the past decade, the median income for the middle class fell to \$69,847 from \$72,956, and median wealth fell 28 percent.

It's time to rebuild our middle class by going back to the values of the Greatest Generation. It's time to protect collective bargaining rights the way we did in the '40s, '50, '60s and early '70s.

Fraternally,

JAMES P. HOFFA
TEAMSTERS GENERAL
PRESIDENT

66 The Greatest Generation recognized that if people have a right to capitalize their ideas and their country's resources, then people also have the right to capitalize their labor. 99

Geisler elected General Chairman of Union Pacific-Eastern District GCA

Dave L. Geisler was elected General Chairman of the Union Pacific-Eastern District General Committee of Adjustment at the GCA's quadrennial meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, from August 6-9, 2012.

Brother Geisler is a Union Pacific locomotive engineer and member of BLET Division 133 (Denver, Colo.). He first joined the Brotherhood on December 1, 1996. Outgoing General Chairman Mike A. Young is retiring and did not seek reelection.

Also elected during the quadrennial meeting was: 1st Vice General Chairman Mark F. Chenchar, Division 115 (Cheyenne, Wyo.); 2nd Vice General Chairman Cory J. Borm, Division 115 (Cheyenne, Wyo.); and 3rd Vice General Chairman Chad M. Lambert, Division 364 (Wichita, Kan.). Secretary-Treasurer James A. Thompson, Division 115 (Cheyenne, Wyo.), was reelected by acclamation, while Alternate Secretary-Treasurer Patrick F. Nealon, Division 142 (Rawlins, Wyo.), also was elected by acclamation.

Officers representing the National Division at the quadrennial session were: National President Dennis R. Pierce; First Vice President E. Lee Pruitt; National Secretary-Treasurer William C. Walpert; and National Vice President Michael D. Twombly. Each officer addressed the delegates on issues of importance on the national level.

"I offer sincere thanks and congratulations to these Brothers for their hard work and dedication to the membership of our great Organization," Presi-



Officers of the Union Pacific-Eastern District General Committee of Adjustment, from left: Cory J. Borm, 2nd Vice Chairman; Chad M. Lambert, 3rd Vice Chairman; Mark F. Chenchar, 1st Vice Chairman; Dave L. Geisler, General Chairman; James A. Thompson, Secretary-Treasurer; and Patrick F. Nealon, Alternate Secretary-Treasurer.

dent Pierce said. "I have every confidence that Brother Geisler will do an outstanding job as General Chairman."

Retiring General Chairman Mike Young has held continuous membership in the Brotherhood since joining Division 115 (Cheyenne, Wyo.) on March 1, 1977.

He began serving the UP-Eastern District as General Chairman on July 1, 1998.

"On behalf of the National Division, I extend a heartfelt thank you to Mike Young for his many years of service to the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen," President

Pierce said. "I wish him and his family a happy and healthy retirement."

The BLET's Union Pacific-Eastern District General Committee of Adjustment represents approximately 1,100 active members in 16 different Divisions. @@

SIGN UP FOR BLET NEWS FLASHES!

REGISTER AT WWW.BLE-T.ORG TO GET BROTHERHOOD NEWS EMAILED TO YOU

Stay up-to-date with the latest Brotherhood news by going to the BLET website and signing up to receive BLET News Flash alerts via email.

The News Flash alerts are news articles from the BLET National Division website that are sent automatically emailed to you.

TO REGISTER, JUST GO TO WWW.BLE-T.ORG. In the lower right hand corner of the page, you will find an area to

enter your email address to begin receiving the most current news from the BLET National Division.

It is a great way to keep informed on the most recent issues impacting your job, your contract and your Brotherhood.

EUMA 2012 PHOTO ALBUM ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.

PRESERVING AMERICA'S MIDDLE CLASS and protecting Railroad Retirement were key themes during opening ceremonies of the 74th annual meeting of the BLET's Eastern Union Meeting Association (EUMA) on August 21 in Atlantic City, N.J.

EUMA Chairman Mark Kenny opened the ceremonies while Arrangements Chairman Matt Kronyak welcomed everyone to Atlantic City on behalf of the members of Division 235.

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce delivered remarks regarding the need to get union members involved and participating at the ballot box in November.

"There can be no American Dream without a strong middle class, and there can be no middle class without a strong union movement," President Pierce said.

Also addressing BLET members were New Jersey Representatives Frank A. LoBiondo (R, 2nd District) and Bill J. Pascrell Jr. (D, 8th District). John Tolman, BLET Vice President and National Legislative Representative, introduced both Congressmen. The Representatives gave rousing presentations and each speaker received standing ovations from the membership.

Walt Barrows, Labor Member of the Railroad Retirement Board, also addressed the membership, along with Anita Caruso, National President of the BLET Auxiliary.

The week-long meeting continued with intensive training workshops for BLET members and concluded the evening of August 23, where members of the EUMA Committee announced the names of the annual scholarship winners. @@



BLET Legislative Board Endorsements 2012

EDITOR'S NOTE:

These endorsements are based on recommendations from the various BLET State Legislative Boards. They represent the candidates who your elected BLET officers believe best represent the interests of railroad workers and middle class Americans.

**Due to Federal Election Commission (FEC) regulations, our 2012 endorsements are viewable in the members-only area of the BLET website:
www.ble-t.org/members.**

EXPRESS SCRIPTS AND MEDCO ARE NOW ONE COMPANY

Express Scripts and Medco Health Solutions, Inc., have come together as one company to manage your prescription benefit. Express Scripts will be the new prescription drug provider to many BLET members. Members should experience no change in the quality of service as a result of this merger.

Please continue to refill your prescriptions as you normally would by using your current prescription drug ID card, member ID number, mail-order refill forms, www.medco.com, and the toll-free member services telephone number on your ID card.

The combined company is also in the process of changing the name on all of its communications to Express Scripts. Until the renaming process is complete, you may see messages from both Express Scripts and Medco.

Frequently Asked Questions:

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: WHO IS EXPRESS SCRIPTS?

A: Express scripts, like Medco, is a prescription benefit manager that helps make the use of prescription drugs safer and more affordable for tens of millions of people. Express Scripts recently merged with Medco Health Solutions, Inc. The combined company will now be known as Express Scripts.

Q: WHY ARE THE TWO COMPANIES COMBINING?

A: Combining Express Scripts and

Medco will allow the new company to do even more to help improve patient health while driving down the cost of prescription drugs.

Q: HOW DID EXPRESS SCRIPTS GET MY PRESCRIPTION INFORMATION?

A: Since Medco and Express Scripts have come together as one company to manage your prescription drug benefit, the information Medco had on file for you is now available to the merged company. Please be assured that Express Scripts will protect your private health information with the same level of security you've always received.

Q: IF I NEED TO CALL MEMBER SERVICES, DO I USE THE SAME PHONE NUMBER I'VE ALWAYS CALLED?

A: Yes. Continue to call the number on your prescription drug benefit ID card.

Q: WILL MY MEMBER ID NUMBER CHANGE?

A: No. Continue using your current prescription drug benefit ID card and the member ID number on the card.

HOME DELIVERY

Q: CAN I CONTINUE ORDER NEW PRESCRIPTIONS AS I NORMALLY WOULD?

A: Yes. Please continue to submit new home deliver prescriptions by mail or have your doctor send them via fax or ePrescribing. Also, continue using your member ID number, order forms, www.medco.com, and the toll-free Mem-

ber Services number on your ID card.

Q: CAN I STILL ORDER REFILLS ON THE MEMBER WEBSITE OR BY PHONE?

A: Yes. Please continue to use www.medco.com or call the toll-free number on your ID card. You can also use the refill forms enclosed with your prescription orders.

Q: WILL MY HOME DELIVERY PACKAGES LOOK DIFFERENT?

A: The packaging may look different because your medications may be shipped from an Express Scripts Pharmacy or the Medco Pharmacy, depending on factors including weather, medication supply, and the distance between the pharmacy and the delivery address. There may be differences between bottle caps, bottle colors, and the labels used. You may also notice changes in the materials used to package temperature sensitive medications. There will be no changes to your medications or the merged company's delivery methods.

PARTICIPATING RETAIL PHARMACIES

Q: CAN I STILL USE THE SAME PARTICIPATING RETAIL PHARMACY THAT I DO TODAY?

A: Yes. You can still use the pharmacies in the current retail network.

TRANSITION TO THE EXPRESS SCRIPTS NAME

Q: WHAT NAME CHANGES MIGHT

I EXPECT TO SEE?

A: The Express Scripts name and brand will begin appearing on most member communication soon or around September 1. Some communications may still reference Medco along with Express Scripts until the name transition is complete. Below are some examples.

- Website. The address will remain www.medco.com. The branding on the website will change to Express Scripts.

- Letters. Most letters to members will reflect the Express Scripts branding.

- Literature enclosed in home delivery packages. Information related to prescription orders will refer to Express Scripts and Medco.

- Member Services greeting. When you call, you will hear reference to Medco is now part of the Express Scripts family of companies.

Q: WHAT WON'T REFLECT A NAME CHANGE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1?

A: Certain communications and organization names such as those listed below won't change on September 1, but will likely change over time.

- The Medco Pharmacy
- Accredo Health Group, Inc. (specialty pharmacy)
- Prescription drug ID cards for existing Medco cardholders

Any questions or concerns regarding this matter should be directed to your prescription drug provider, whose number can be found on the back of your prescription ID card. @@

BLET SAFETY TASK FORCE INVESTIGATES TWO MAJOR INCIDENTS IN JULY

The BLET's Safety Task Force was granted Party Status to help assist the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) with on-scene investigations at two

major rail incidents in July.

On July 31 at approximately 3 a.m., a trainman received fatal injuries while performing switching duties at the Union Pacific yard in Mason City, Iowa. Brother Tom Hebert (BLET Division 312) was assigned as STF Primary Investigator for this incident.

On July 12, the BLET National Division has dispatched members of its Safety Task Force to the scene of a major derailment in Columbus, Ohio. Around a dozen cars of a 98-car Norfolk Southern freight train derailed near Co-

lumbus, Ohio at approximately 2 a.m. on July 11, causing a large fire. Preliminary reports indicate there were no train crew injuries, but residents within a one mile radius of the crash site were evacuated. Columbus fire officials have reported to the media that some cars carrying ethanol ruptured during the derailment. Carl W. Fields, Coordinator of the Safety Task Force, and Brother Hebert were assigned to assist the NTSB.

The Safety Task Force is the rail industry's first union-based accident investigation team. @@

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LECMPA provides job insurance to union transportation workers, protecting members and their families from wage loss.

- Generous Loyalty Appreciation Program that rewards long-time members.
- Accidental Death Benefit included in most plans. You are protected on and off the job. It also covers your beneficiary at no extra cost.



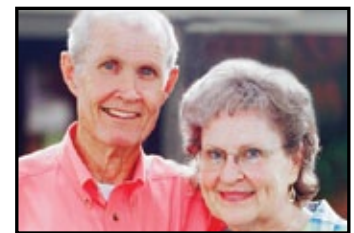
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(800) 514-0010
www.lecmpa.org

Transportation workers protecting each other since 1910.

Open Enrollment Period Begins October 15, 2012!

TEAMStar
MEDICARE PART D
Prescription Drug Program (PDP)



The International Brotherhood of Teamsters is proud to announce the open enrollment period for the TEAMStar Medicare Part D Program. This annual open enrollment period will begin on October 15, 2012 and end on December 7, 2012.

Teamster retirees and spouses who are currently enrolled in Medicare Parts A and/or B qualify for TEAMStar Medicare Part D coverage. Enrollment packets will be arriving in the mail soon. If you didn't receive an enrollment packet or need another one, please call us and we will send you one. Don't wait! The open enrollment period is for a limited time.

Enjoy the following TEAMStar Part D Program benefits:

- **Competitive union group rates** – TEAMStar Medicare Part D is not available to the general public. The rates and benefits are set by your union.
- **Union Preferred Pricing** – certain Preferred Generic drugs are available for as low as \$2 at a Union Preferred Pharmacy.
- **Coverage Options** – three unique plans that offer different levels of security to Teamsters.
- **Coverage through the donut hole** – if you select the Platinum Plan you can get coverage for most generics at a low copay after you get to the Coverage Gap.



To get additional information or an enrollment packet, visit our website at www.teamstarpdp.com or call 1-866-524-4173.

2012

Calendar & Events

October 12, 2012

U.S. Railroad Retirement Board Informational Conferences

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., AND PITTSBURGH, PA.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. The program Begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 12:15 p.m. In Little Rock at the Comfort Inn & Suites Downtown, 707 Interstate 30. In Pittsburgh at the Greater PA Regional Council of Carpenters Union Hall, 650 Ridge Road

October 19, 2012

U.S. Railroad Retirement Board Informational Conference

WICHITA, KAN.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. The program Begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 12:15 p.m. At the Best Western Airport Inn and Conference Center, 6815 W. Kellogg (U.S. Hwy. 54)

October 26, 2012

U.S. Railroad Retirement Board Informational Conferences

PHILADELPHIA, PA., AND MATTHEWS, N.C.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. The program Begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 12:15 p.m. In Philadelphia at the Sheet Metal Workers Local 19 Union Hall, 1301 S. Columbus Blvd. In N.C. at the Hampton Inn Matthews, 9615 Independence Pointe Parkway

November 16, 2012

U.S. Railroad Retirement Board Informational Conference

METARIE, LA.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. The program Begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 12:15 p.m. At the Four Points by Sheraton, New Orleans Airport, 6401 Veterans Memorial Blvd.

December 7, 2012

U.S. Railroad Retirement Board Informational Conference

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. The program Begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 12:15 p.m. At the Holiday Inn (I-95 Baymeadows), 9150 Baymeadows Road

PLAN AHEAD FOR 2013

June 23-28, 2013

86th Annual Southeastern Meeting Association (SMA)

RICHMOND, VA.

Arrangements Chairman Troy Bryant, Local Chairman of Division 532, welcomes all BLET members to historic Richmond/Short Pump, Va., for the 2013 SMA. More details to come!

July 28-August 1, 2013

75th annual Eastern Union Meeting Association (EUMA)

BALTIMORE, MD.

Arrangements Chairman Fred Cox, Local Chairman of BLET Division 52, welcomes all BLET members to Baltimore for the 2013 EUMA. More details to come!

SAFETY TASK FORCE HOTLINE



(800) 306-5414

Report major accidents when they happen

Important changes for the 2013 calendar year open enrollment period

Railroad Enrollment Services has announced an upgrade to the upcoming open enrollment process, which will be switched to online open enrollment for the first time.

The open enrollment process for railroad employees, scheduled for this coming September/October, may be accessed using the Railroad Information Depot home page (www.rriinfo depot.com) within the "Alerts and Important Dates" section. During the enrollment period, you will be able to link directly into the Railroad Enrollment Services secured portal.

In September, you will receive a personalized letter with information about how and when to access the Railroad Enrollment Services portal. Members who have qualified for their same benefits and who wish to keep their current benefit options the same are advised that they do not need to do anything.

Instructions on how to obtain a paper kit will be available to those who are unable to complete the web-based enrollment process in the September mailing. Again, you will not need to access the Railroad Enrollment Services portal if you elect to keep your current benefit options for the 2013 calendar year or do not want to opt out.

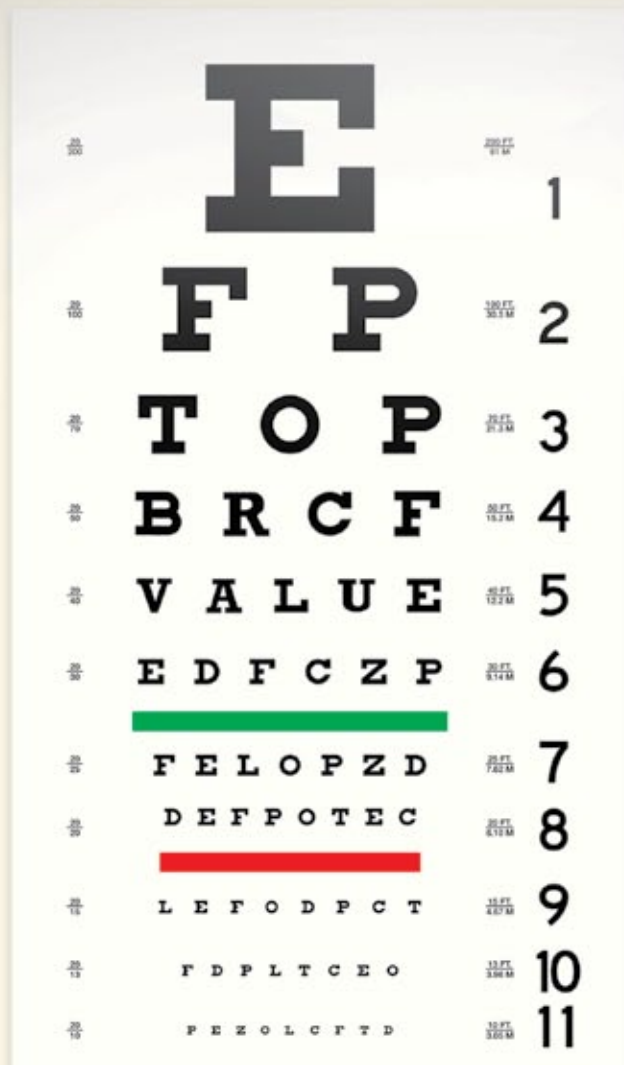
If you have questions, or for assistance with the online enrollment website, please call Railroad Enrollment Services at (800) 753-2692. ©

The new web-based online enrollment portal will be available 24/7 during the designated online enrollment period this fall and will provide the following capabilities without all the paper of the traditional enrollment kit.

- A step-by-step review of personalized benefit election choices with quick links to everything needed to enroll for the upcoming year.
- Links to your medical provider's network.
- A quick and easy way to update your information.
- The ability to add,* delete, and/or change dependent information.
- The option to review enrollment information in Spanish.
- Flexibility to make multiple changes during the open enrollment period.
- An immediate confirmation statement once you complete your selections.
- If you use the online portal, there is no need to mail any paper enrollment forms.

(* - If you're adding a dependent who is not listed, you will be required to send in the specified documentation before the dependent can be added to the Plan. Information on what is needed and where to send this information will be provided on the site.)

FOCUS ON VALUE



Daily Benefit Level	\$100 (\$102*)	\$150	\$200 (\$201*)	Difference on \$200. With BR&CF You Save.
BR&CF	\$38.00	\$57.00	\$76.00	
LECMPA (*)	\$59.50	\$87.50	\$117.25	\$41.25 every month
UTU	\$66.00	\$99.00	\$132.00	\$56.00 every month

The BR&CF is the least expensive protection when disciplined for eligible occurrences. We are affordable. You could save up to \$672 each year. A BR&CF membership offers you the best price, value and service. To apply for membership... act today... ask a BR&CF member where you work for an application or visit our web site at www.brcf.org or call us toll free at 800 233-7080.

LECMPA and UTU rates are accurate and effective on date of print.





Locomotive Engineers And Trainmen News
Brotherhood Of Locomotive Engineers And Trainmen
A Division Of The Rail Conference,
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Photo of the Month: September 2012



SOUTHERN THUNDER: An E-8 Southern Railway locomotive rests at the roundhouse of the North Carolina Transportation Museum during a violent thunderstorm. Photo taken at Spencer, N.C., on June 11, 2011. Photo courtesy: BLET Member D.W. Younts, Division 849 (Raleigh, N.C.)



Are you a photographer? The National Division's Public Relations Department, which produces the Newsletter each month, has received numerous inquiries lately from BLET members volunteering to contribute their

images to the "Photo of the Month" section of the Newsletter. If you'd like to submit a photo for consideration, you may call Editor John Bentley at (216) 241-2630, ext. 248, or you can email: Bentley@ble-t.org.

Please note only high resolution images can be used. Members are also encouraged to review their employer's policies regarding the use of cameras and other electronic devices while on duty.

Advisory Board June & July 2012 Activity

In accordance with the BLET Bylaws, summaries of BLET Advisory Board members' activities are published monthly:

NATIONAL PRESIDENT DENNIS R. PIERCE: National Division Office, Cleveland; General supervision of BLET activities; General office duties; Correspondence and telephone communications; Supervision of Office Administration; General Supervision of Special Representatives; President, Teamsters Rail Conference; Policy Committee, Teamsters Rail Conference; Union Pacific-Southern Region General Committee of Adjustment quadrennial meeting, Fort Worth, Texas; State Legislative Board Chairmen class, Washington, D.C.; Southeastern Meeting Association, Orlando, Fla.; Union Pacific-Western Region GCA quadrennial mtg., Boise, Idaho; National Democratic Committee function, Washington, D.C.; Kansas State Legislative Board meeting, Kansas City, Kan.; International Western Convention (IWC), Billings, Mont.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT E.L. "LEE" PRUITT: National Duties include but not limited to: Director, Passenger Dept.; Shortline Organizing Dept.; Trainmen's Dept.; National Publications Committee; National Legislative Board; Teamsters Rail Conference Policy Committee; PRAC; and National Negotiations; UP-SR GCA mtg., Fort Worth, Texas; State Legislative Board Chairmen workshop, Washington, D.C.; Montana State Legislative Board mtg., Billings, Mont.; SMA mtg., Orlando, Fla.; Vacation; July 4 holiday; Democratic National Convention mtgs., Baltimore, Md.; Kansas State Legislative Board mtg., Kansas City; IWC mtg., Billings, Mont.

NATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER WILLIAM C. WALPERT: General supervision of accounting dept., records dept., online services dept., tax compliance dept.; Education & Training Dept.; Internal Organizing, Mobilizing & Strategic Planning Dept.; Safety Task Force; Meetings with vendors and financial institutions; Publications Committee; Teamsters Rail Conference Policy Committee; Trustee, National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust (NRRIT); UP-SR GCA mtg., Fort Worth, Texas; State Legislative Board Chairmen workshop, Washington, D.C.; Montana State Legislative Board mtg., Billings, Mont.; SMA, Orlando, Fla.; National Democratic Club event, Rockville, Md.; Kansas State Legislative Board mtg., Kansas City; NRRIT mtg., Washington, D.C.; IWC mtg., Billings, Mont.

VICE PRESIDENT & NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE JOHN P. TOLMAN: Assigned to BLET Washington, DC office; BLET Security Officer; General office duties, telephone, correspondence communications; Coordinate content of NLO website; Weekly Drive Committee and Legislative meetings; State Legislative Board Chairmen's workshop, Washington, D.C.; Montana State Legislative Board mtg., Billings, Mont.; RSAC Critical Incident Task Force; Gary Watkins retirement, Fresno, Calif. SMA, Orlando; Kansas State Legislative Board mtg., Kansas City; IWC, Billings, Mont.; IBT Political Coordinators information mtg.; Hearings, receptions and various mtgs. with U.S. Representatives, Washington, D.C.

VICE PRESIDENT MARCUS J. RUEF: Vice Chairman, full NRAB; Labor Member, 1st Division; Labor Member, National Mediation Board Arbitration Advisory Forum; Director of Arbitration Dept; Assigned to Illinois Central; Wisconsin Central; Grand Trunk Western; Duluth Missabe & Iron Range; Elgin, Joliet & Eastern; Indiana Harbor Belt; and Belt Railway of Chicago; WC Section 6 discussions, Minneapolis, Minn.; National Academy of Arbitrators, Minneapolis; Conference call w/ GC Reynolds, WC, and GC Hobbs, EJ&E, re: NYD; Assist GC Cundari, IHB; RSIA waiver conference call, CN; Assist GC Reynolds, WC, PLB 7236; Assist GC Craddock, IC, re: discipline issues; Prep for mtg. w/ NMB to address arb. Workspace issues; Assist GC Hobbs, EJ&E, NY Dock issues, Chicago; LMRC mtgs., WC, Green Bay; Division 520 mtg., Chicago; Assist GC Reynolds w/ arb. Submissions, Chicago; Assist GCs Reynolds and Hobbs with WC/EJ&E NYD Section 4 negotiations, Chicago; Mtg. w/ NMB arbitrator, re: workspace issues, Washington, D.C.; Hearing w/ Referee Meyers, NRAB, Chicago; Section 3 administration issues, NRAB, Chicago; Section 6 talks, WC, Green Bay; Section 6 talks and adoption session, IC/NRAB, Chicago; Assist GCs Reynolds and Hobbs w/ Seniority issues, WC/EJ&E; Advisory Board conference call.

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE TWOMBLY: Assigned to all Union Pacific GCAs (Eastern District, Northern Region (former C&NW), Western Lines (Pacific Harbor Lines), Western Region (Portland & Western, Eastern Idaho), Central Region, Southern Region (New Orleans & Gulf Coast); Tacoma Belt RR; Utah RR; and Longview Portland & Northern and Longview Switching; UP-SR GCA mtg.,

Fort Worth, Texas; UP-Western Lines Article 9 IDR negotiations, Omaha, Neb.; Portland & Western Division 416 mtg. and contract ratification informational mtgs. at Salem and Newberg, Ore.; Tacoma Rail contract negotiations, Tacoma, Wash.; SMA mtg., Orlando, Fla.; UP-Western Lines GCA mtg., Boise, Idaho; UP-SR GCA PLB 7158, Ft. Meyers, Fla.; Tacoma Rail negotiations, Tacoma, Wash.; IWC mtg. and Advisory Board mtg., Billings, Mont.

VICE PRESIDENT WILLARD E. KNIGHT: Assigned to: All Norfolk Southern General Committees; Wheeling & Lake Erie; Chicago; Fort Wayne & Eastern; New York, Susquehanna & Western; New England Central; Connecticut Southern; Western New York & Pennsylvania; Indiana & Ohio; Ohio Central; Grand Trunk Western; General office duties, telephone, correspondence communications, prepare for PLBs, etc.; PLB 7553 with General Chairman Wallace and Vice GC Cox, Norfolk, Va.; Conference call w/ President Pierce and CN General Chairmen, re: Hours of Service; W&LE negotiations w/ GC Linsey, Cleveland; SMA mtg., Orlando, Fla.; Democratic National Committee event, Baltimore, Md.; Expendable operations training for BLET VP; Vacation; Assist GC Karakian w/ Discipline conference, GTW, Troy, Mich.; Attend CN grievance tracking system training w/ GC Karakian and all GTW Local Chairmen, Troy, Mich.

VICE PRESIDENT GIL GORE: Assigned to all CSX; Union Pacific-Southern Region GCA special assignment; Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) issues, CSXT; General office duties, paperwork, correspondence, telephone calls, etc.; Alabama State Docks contract negotiations, Mobile, Ala.; Work on GC issues Rick Finamore's office, Jacksonville, Fla.; Executive Session w/ Referee McDougle, PLB 7363; Indiana Railroad negotiations, Indianapolis, Ind.; SMA mtg., Orlando, Fla.; Vacation; Democratic National Committee event, Baltimore, Md.; Kansas State Legislative Board mtg., Kansas City; IWC mtg., Billings, Mont.

VICE PRESIDENT MICHAEL D. PRIESTER: Assigned to all BNSF (former ATSF, former C&S, CRI&P, FWD, former STL-SF, BNSF/MRL), Panhandle Northern, Missouri & North Arkansas, Montana Rail Link, Austin Western RR, Great Western; General office duties, telephone, correspondence communications, etc.; Ongoing prep work regarding PLBs 7493, 7383, 5939, 7503, 7092, 7477 and 7530; SMA mtg., Orlando, Fla.; MRL contract negotiations w/ GC Wilson and MRL labor relations, Billings, Mont.; "Triangle" discussions w/ GCs and BNSF labor relations, Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas; Democratic National Committee event, Baltimore, Md.; MRL contract w/ GC Wilson, Billings, Mont., and Missoula, Mont.; Conference call w/ all BNSF GCs, re: mark up, Henderson, Nevada; IWC mtg., Billings, Mont.

VICE PRESIDENT COLE W. DAVIS: Assigned to: Kansas City Southern (MidSouth Rail, SouthRail, Gateway Western, Illinois & Midland), Texas Mexican Rwy.; CP Rail System/US (Indiana Southern, Iowa, Chicago & Eastern, Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern); Springfield Terminal (St. Lawrence & Atlantic, Montreal, Maine & Atlantic, Delaware & Hudson), Cedar River, Louisville & Indiana, Huron & Eastern; General office duties, telephone, correspondence communications, etc.; Assist GC Craddock, GC issues; Assist GC Lorenz w/ contract negotiations and other Huron & Eastern issues, Detroit; Assist GC Parker, KCS issues; Assist GC Semenek, CP issues; Assist GC Moore, Springfield Terminal issues; Assist GC Rodriguez w/ Tex-Mex issues and arbitration prep; Division 327 mtg. w/ GC Lorenz, Frankenmuth, Mich.; SMA mtg., Orlando, Fla.; Assist GC Craddock w/ KCS issues; Kansas State Legislative Board mtg., Kansas City; Tex-Mex arbitration w/ GC Rodriguez, Chicago; IWC mtg., Billings, Mont.

VICE PRESIDENT STEPHEN J. BRUNO: Assigned to various Rail Safety Advisory Committees (RSAC); Regulatory duties as assigned by the President; Amtrak; Long Island Rail Road; New York & Atlantic; Metro North; New Jersey Transit; PATH; SEPTA; Metra; Union Railroad; Birmingham Southern; Telephone calls, correspondence, general office duties, etc.; RRP RSAC GoTo mtg., Philadelphia; FMP & RRP RSAC mtgs., Washington, D.C.; Metra contract negotiations and Section 6 proposal, Chicago; Division 71 monthly mtg., SEPTA, Philadelphia; PLB 5210, PATH, Newark, N.J.; SMA mtg., Orlando, Fla.; Conference call RRP WG, Philadelphia; FMP WG Task Force GoTo mtg., Commuter committees; Philadelphia; Democratic National Committee event, Baltimore, Md.; Vacation; Discussions w/ Metra labor relations, Chicago; Mtg. w/ SEPTA GCA officers, Philadelphia; IWC mtg., Billings, Mont.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: REGISTER TO VOTE!

With just under 90 days until Election Day, the BLET's National Legislative Board is reminding all members to register and vote in the upcoming November elections. National elections will be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2012.

Members can use the Teamster website to find voter registration information in their state: www.teamster.org/content/register-vote-2

Members can also use the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (www.eac.gov) website to download the National Mail Voter Registration Form. The form allows you to register to vote, update registration information due to a change of name, make a change of address, or register with a political party. The

National Form also contains voter registration rules and regulations for each state and territory. It is available here: www.eac.gov/assets/1/Documents/National_Mail_Voter_Registration_Form_English_2%2015%20201212%20Cor.pdf

Additionally, members are advised that different states have recently passed voter identification laws, which require voters to produce some sort of identification when showing up at the voting booth. The BLET National Legislative Board strongly urges you to familiarize yourself with your state's regulations prior to the November elections. For information on voter ID laws in your state, please visit the National Conference of State Legislatures web-

site: www.ncsl.org/legislatures-elections/elections/voter-id.aspx

BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce advised all members of the importance of voting, particularly in the current political climate.

"This year's national election is the most important in our lives," President Pierce said, "because we are faced with two very different choices, with vastly different outcomes for the economic security for our families, loved ones and friends. It is imperative that every BLET member vote in November, and any member who may possibly be working that day needs to arrange to cast an early or absentee ballot." ©©