

UTU News

www.utuia.org

www.utu.org

The Official Publication of the United Transportation Union

THE VOICE OF TRANSPORTATION LABOR

“Yes, there will always be rough roadbeds ahead; but working together as one, they will never be impossible to travel.” – *UTU International President Paul C. Thompson*

News & Notes

Des Moines meeting off

CLEVELAND – The UTU regional meeting scheduled for Des Moines, Iowa, Aug. 23-25, has been canceled.

The regional meetings scheduled for Reno, Nev., June 21-23, and for Boston, Mass., July 5-7, are not affected and will be conducted as scheduled.

Members may register for the Reno and/or Boston meetings on the UTU website by clicking on the “Meetings” link on the left side of the home page. Registration information for Reno and Boston also appears on page 11 of this issue of the *UTU News*.

Boyd admits guilt in plea

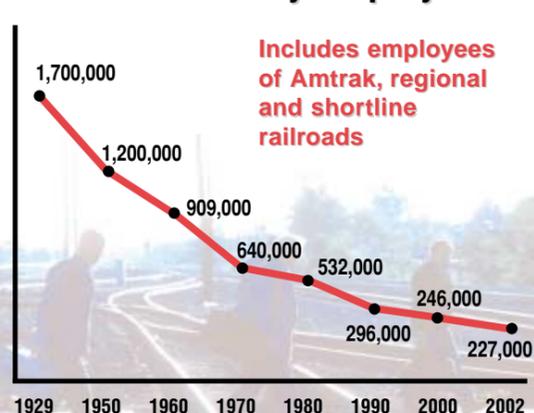
HOUSTON, Texas – Former UTU International President Byron A. Boyd Jr. pleaded guilty in federal court here Thursday, March 11, to one criminal count for which he was under indictment. Boyd also has retired from his positions as UTU International president and president of the United Transportation Union Insurance Association (UTUIA).

Boyd, along with former UTU President Charles Little and two former UTUIA employees – Ralph Dennis and John Rookard – were principally charged last year by federal prosecutors with illegally accepting payments from attorneys who handle, or had hoped to handle, personal injury cases involving UTU members.

“Today is a day of great sadness and personal regret,” Boyd said after pleading guilty. “I take full responsibility for my actions and make no excuses. To all I am truly sorry for the anguish I have put you through.”

Documents detailing the indictments and pleas are available on the UTU website, www.utu.org, under “Houston Proceedings.”

U.S. Rail Industry Employment



Source: Association of American Railroads

Improved benefits to become available July 1 to 43,000 members

UTU gains improved healthcare benefits

Benefits under the UTU national freight railroad healthcare insurance plan have been boosted significantly following interpretation and application of its provisions.

This follows a mid-March meeting between the UTU negotiating committee, led by International President Paul Thompson, and the National Carriers’ Conference Committee, which represents rail carriers.

The enhanced hearing, eye care, life insurance, accidental death and dismemberment benefits, all at no additional cost, accrue to some 43,000 employees on most of the nation’s major freight railroads, plus numerous shortlines.

These employees work under UTU nationally negotiated train and engine service agreements. The affected national healthcare insurance plan was ratified by each of the UTU rail crafts in November 2003.

“The carriers agreed with our interpretation of a provision in the national agree-

ment regarding the healthcare benefits,” Thompson said. “This means our members and eligible dependents are entitled to improved hearing, eye care, life insurance, and accidental death and dismemberment benefits. The additional benefits become effective July 1.”

Added is a hearing benefit with a maximum payout of \$600 annually for covered

Benefits that have been improved include eye care, life insurance coverage, death benefits and hearing benefits, all at no additional cost.

employees and eligible dependents. Covered expenses consist of charges for medically necessary tests and examinations to establish whether and to what extent there is a

hearing loss, and charges for a permanent hearing aid that is medically necessary to restore lost hearing or help impaired hearing.

Also, enhanced vision care benefits will be added, providing greater choices for purchase of frames and lenses. There also will be a substantial increase in the number

Continued on page 10

UTU solves NS engineer problem

MARYVILLE, Tenn. – UTU General Chairperson Paul Emert (GO-898) says the single most important task he can perform for his members is to solve problems.



Emert

So when Norfolk Southern engineers, who had been promoted from conductor, found the carrier was mistakenly deducting healthcare cost sharing from their paychecks, Emert got to work even though they were covered under a contract not administered by Emert or the UTU.

“When someone is in trouble I want to help them,” Emert said.

“Under our UTU agreement, train service

Continued on page 10

Thompson sets new DLC policy

The following statement was delivered by UTU International President Paul C. Thompson to a March 14, 2004, meeting of UTU designated legal counsel:

“By now, all of you are aware that by decision issued March 2, 2004, the UTU Executive Board suspended Byron A. Boyd Jr. from office, and as a result of that suspension, and pursuant to the UTU Constitution, I became International president. On March 11, 2004, Byron retired from the UTU and the United Transportation Union Insurance Association and pled guilty to one count of federal charges in Houston.

As to the future of the UTU Designated Legal Counsel (DLC) program, let me say that I have known many of you for years, and you

Continued on page 10

Around the UTU

News from around the U.S. and Canada

Local 240, Los Angeles, Calif.

Members of this Union Pacific local enjoyed a dinner Feb. 11 honoring recent retirees Don Brown, Pete Carson, Jimmy Chote, Ray House, Murray McMahon, Don O'Neill, Gary Siefken, Jim Waggoner, R.D. Williams and W. Dennis Wilson, who served as the last local chairperson for the old Pacific Electric lodge, according to Secretary & Treasurer Fred G. Comeau.

Local 257, Morrill, Neb.

This Union Pacific local is hosting its fourth annual Powder River Railroaders Information Seminar on May 5 at the Gering Civic Center in Gering, Neb., said Secretary & Treasurer Thomas Jones. The event, to run from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., includes food, door prizes and a variety of speakers, including UTUIA's Ron Tokach, State Legislative Director Ray Lineweber and representatives from the Railroad Retirement Board, United Healthcare and other organizations. The event is supported by Designated Legal Counsel Ronald J. Barczak.

Local 292, E. Syracuse, N.Y.

Members of this CSXT local have set up a fund to help Bruce Daily, who was sidelined by an accident at home, said Local Chairperson Tony Pascarella. For information, contact Pascarella at (315) 699-2179, or send donations to the Terminal Superintendent's Office, 600 Fremont Rd., P.O. Box 367, E. Syracuse, NY 13057.

Local 298, Garrett, Ind.

Special thanks are overdue to retired CSXT employee Artie Miller, who graciously played Santa Claus at the annual Christmas party in December, as well as to Designated Legal Counsel Daniel J. Downes, whose support contributed to the success of the event, said Secretary Rick Mitchener.

Local 471, Eugene, Ore.

This Union Pacific local recently hosted an educational presentation about the union's history for the benefit of newer members, said Local Chairperson and Assistant State Legislative Director Greg Boam. The Federal Employers' Liability Act (FELA) was the topic addressed by guest speaker Jim Vucinovich, a partner of Designated Legal Counsel Ronald J. Barczak.

Local 691, Kamloops, B.C.

Canadian National and Canadian Pacific employees in this local generously donated \$8,300 to striking Canadian Auto Workers walking the picket line at CN, said Local President John Halen, who congratulated all on a job well done. Members also arranged for deli trays and soft drinks for the strikers.

Local 706, Roanoke, Va.

Members of this Norfolk Southern local elected J. P. Spence as local chairperson (trainmen) at a special meeting last month, said Local Chairperson and Delegate Jim Houk. Refreshments were provided by Designated Legal Counsel Willard J. Moody.

Local 838, Philadelphia, Pa.

Amtrak conductor Larry Thomas wants to make sure all members, especially with pre-existing conditions, read medication labels carefully. Thomas, a diabetic, needed im-



Canadian National Conductor Michel Briand (left) and engineer Serge Tremblay, members of Local 4 in Charny, P.Q., found themselves in the limelight after taking action to save a woman's life.

Members' actions save woman's life

JONQUIÈRE, Quebec – A 44-year old woman is alive today thanks to the quick thinking and courageous actions of a pair of UTU members aboard a Canadian National (CN) locomotive earlier this year.

Conductor Michel Briand and engineer Serge Tremblay, members of UTU Local 4 in Charny, P.Q., each with about 25 years of experience, were leaving Arvida-Garneau Yard on Friday, Jan. 30, heading toward Chambord on the Lac St-Jean Subdivision when they spotted a woman lying across the tracks near milepost 200.8.

According to emergency medical workers dispatched to the scene later, the woman was in an advanced state of alcohol intoxication.

"Had it not been for the quick intervention of these two employees, the woman would have been crushed," Sergeant Domenic Corneau of the Saguenay Police Department told a reporter from *Le Quotidien*.

"The crew applied the emergency brakes, but Michel Briand saw the engine wouldn't stop in time," Corneau said. "So Briand jumped from the engine and ran ahead of the locomotive toward the person lying across the rails."

Briand dragged the woman off the rails as quickly as he could, but her feet were wedged beneath the front of the locomotive. "Briand injured his knee jumping off the locomotive, and in spite of the pain, he was able to save the woman's life," Corneau said.

"Brother Briand mostly sustained some bruises, and he's fine now," said Local 4's Secretary Marc Paquet. "And the woman's feet were only compacted into the snow, so she was okay."

Brother Paquet said Briand and Tremblay are modest about their actions. "But everyone in the local is very proud of them. They were shown on all the TV channels in the area because they are heroes!"

diate medical attention after taking Aleve for a headache. The medication sent his blood pressure soaring and may have permanently damaged his kidneys.

Local 1007, Syracuse, N.Y.

A fund has been set up by this CSXT local to aid the family of Robert Scofield, who recently succumbed to leukemia, said Local Chairperson Milt Brill. For information, contact Brill at (315) 656-5700, or send donations to the Terminal Superintendent's Office, 600 Fremont Rd., P.O. Box 367, E. Syracuse, NY 13057.

Local 1059, Minot, N.D.

North Dakota locals are holding educational meetings, said State Legislative Director John Risch, but this BNSF local is combining the meeting with a retirement banquet May 7 at the Embassy Food & Drink in Minot. The meeting begins at 1 p.m., and the banquet begins at 6 p.m. Other locals holding meetings include Local 1344 (May 4, Royal Fork Restaurant, Bismarck, 1 p.m.), Locals 980 and 1137 (May 5, Holiday Inn, Fargo, 2 p.m.) and Local 525 (May 6, Ramada Inn, Grand Forks, 2 p.m.) For information, contact Risch at (701) 223-0061, or send him e-mail at utu@bis.midco.net.

Local 1375, Philadelphia, Pa.

It's been three years since Norfolk Southern (NS) employees in this local have lost a day from an on-the-job injury, and part of the credit goes to NS Superintendent Todd Reynolds, said Local Chairperson Eric Feld and Vice Local Chairperson Richard Hiebsch, who noted Reynolds's ability to communicate and his respect for employees.

Local 1440, Staten Island, N.Y.

Staten Island Railway employees send their best wishes to Louis Russo, who recently retired after more than 30 years of service, said Secretary Kevin J. Hughes. Brother Russo served the local for many years as both vice chairperson and chairperson.

Local 1565, W. Hollywood, Calif.

Los Angeles County MTA employees in this local offer best wishes to Glenn Miley, a decorated Vietnam combat vet and train operator dating back to the Southern California Rapid Transit District Division 20 Red Line, who recently retired, according to Legislative Representative Kevin Devlin.

Local 1628, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Trainmen and yardmasters on the Union Railroad recently ratified nearly identical agreements that run through Dec. 31, 2009, and include lump-sum payments, general wage increases, future COLAs, matching 401(k) contributions and UTU ownership of remote-control operations. Vice President Kim N. Thompson thanked General Chairperson J. J. Tierney, Vice General Chairperson D. J. Arnett, the negotiating committee and the members of the local for making the agreements possible.

Local 1697, Lubbock, Texas

Members working for Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma Coaches last month turned down a proposed contract and are headed back to the negotiating table, according to General Chairperson Marvin White.

Local 1813, West Colton, Calif.

Union Pacific switchmen are holding their 26th annual two-man-scramble golf tournament on April 29, said Local Chairperson Rick Renna. For information, contact Renna at (909) 946-8984.

Local 1900, Miami, Fla.

Members employed by the Florida East Coast Railway are mourning the death of General Chairperson Earl White Sr., who served as secretary of the Florida State Legislative Board and died last month in a boating accident.

Open enrollment is available only once every two years

May 2004 deadline for GA-23111 open enrollment

CLEVELAND, Ohio – UnitedHealthcare said it will be including information in billing statements reminding retirees that the open enrollment period for GA-23111 is **only in May 2004**, and that enrollment forms must be in the mail that month for the application to be considered.

Also noted are the change in payment rates which will go into effect June 1, 2004.

During the open enrollment period for GA-23111 in May, any individual eligible for coverage under one of the GA-23111 plans can enroll and will be accepted for coverage without any medical underwriting or requirement of good health. There are no limitations on pre-existing conditions during the open enrollment period.

Enrollment in May 2004 will be for coverage effective June 1, 2004. **Only those applicants who mail their enrollment form in May 2004 will be considered for open enrollment.**

Open enrollment is being held:

- For persons already enrolled in GA-23111 who want to change their coverage from Plan D to Plan F (which has no prescription drug coverage) or from Plan F to Plan D. **The next opportunity to change plans is scheduled for May 2006;**

- For any individuals who were covered under any railroad health plan and were represented by a railway labor union, and

- For any individuals who are members in accordance with the constitu-

tion or bylaws of one of the participating railway labor organizations when coverage under the employer group health plan which applied to them ends.

Open enrollment for GA-23111 is also available under Plans D or F for parents and parents-in-law, and retirees may enroll their spouse or eligible children if they are not currently covered.

Retirees interested in enrolling themselves, their spouse, eligible children, parents or parents-in-law should call one of the following phone numbers to obtain an enrollment form or to get additional information:

- For persons eligible for Medicare, call (800) 809-0453;
- For persons NOT eligible for Medicare, call (800) 842-5252.

Meanwhile, as a result of a detailed study of the premiums and benefit payments under the various GA-23111 plans, the following payment rate changes would be made for coverage effective June 1, 2004:

- Plans B & C: There will be no changes in the monthly payment rates;
- Plan D: The monthly payment rate will increase from \$300 to \$325;
- Plan F: The monthly payment rate will increase from \$129 to \$140, and
- Plan E: The monthly payment rate will decrease from \$135 to \$130.

Effective June 1, 2004, the individual lifetime maximum applicable to Plan E will be increasing from \$200,000 to \$500,000.

For all plans, payment for June coverage is due May 20, 2004, UnitedHealthcare said.

UnitedHealthcare News

Members no longer required to select a PCP or get a PCP referral

UnitedHealthcare issues new cards, procedures

New identification cards and new identification numbers are in store for active and retired UTU members who have coverage administered by UnitedHealthcare under the NRC/UTU plan, the Early Retirement Major Medical Benefit Plan (GA-46000) and GA-23111.

At the same time, those participating in the Managed Medical Care Program (MMCP) under the NRC/UTU plan will no longer be required to select a primary care physician (PCP) or get a referral from a PCP to see other network specialists, effective May 1, 2004.

UnitedHealthcare said it plans to send letters in late April directly to those affected by these changes with details about the upcoming improvements.

In late April, UnitedHealthcare will be sending out new laminated ID cards to replace the paper cards currently in use. The new, more-durable cards have a magnetic strip on the back allowing medical providers to access UnitedHealthcare's systems to determine deductibles or co-payments. The new card also lists all dependents, so one card can be used for all family members.

To fight identity theft and maintain privacy, a new identification number will be replacing the employee's Social Security number on the new cards. The new ID number will appear on all correspondence and on the explanation-of-benefits letters issued by UnitedHealthcare. The new number will also be used to access records available at www.myuhc.com.

UnitedHealthcare urges those who receive the new ID cards and new member numbers to point out their correct new ID number to all their medical providers so bills can be submitted under the correct number.

Meanwhile, effective May 1, 2004, those in the NRC/UTU plan participating in the Managed Medical Care Program (MMCP) will no longer be required to select a primary care physician (PCP) or get a referral from a PCP to see other network specialists. For those in the MMCP, the new ID card will no longer show the name of a PCP.

UnitedHealthcare said, however, it believes that using a PCP as a primary source of care is a sound practice, and it encourages UTU members to continue their relationships with their PCPs to coordinate their care.

Members will still be required to use network providers to obtain in-network benefits.

In order to remove the requirement to select a PCP, UnitedHealthcare changed the "product" under which coverage is provided. For example, in the upper-right corner of current ID cards for those participating in the MMCP, the "product" name is "UnitedHealthcare Select Plus POS." On the new ID card, the "product" name will appear at the bottom as "UnitedHealthcare Choice Plus." Those who look up network providers at www.myuhc.com should be sure to select "UnitedHealthcare Choice Plus" as the product name in the search criteria.

Almost all the network providers who participate in the Select Plus product also participate in the Choice Plus product. However, there will be some rare instances in which a current network provider (under Select Plus) does not participate under the Choice Plus product. Members may wish to verify that their medical care providers participate in the Choice Plus product by contacting them directly or by looking them up at www.myuhc.com.

GTW pact defeated; Parsec ratified; CP vote affirmed

UTU-represented conductors and brakemen employed by Canadian National subsidiary **Grand Trunk Western** have voted against a tentative agreement reached in February.

Conductors voted 113 to 93 against the tentative contract and brakemen voted 24 to 20 against it.

The railroad sought hourly wages and more flexible work rules in exchange for job guarantees. GTW's main line between Port Huron, Mich., and Chicago is a key link in CN's network between the U.S. Midwest, Ontario, Quebec and Canada's Maritime provinces.

In other news, UTU-represented employees of **Florida East Coast Railway's Parsec** truck/rail intermodal property voted two to one in favor of a new three-year agreement that improves wages in each of the years, increases pension benefits and life insurance and provides stronger contract language.

The agreement was negotiated by the late Local 1900 General Chairperson Earl White Sr., with assistance from Vice Local Chairperson Albert Collie,

Vice Local Chairperson Alvin Greene of Jacksonville (now acting general chairperson) and Committee Secretary Sarge Collier. Roy Arnold, vice president of the UTU Bus Department, also assisted with negotiations.

Arnold praised these officers and members "for their commitment in attaining this contract and for maintaining the good working relationship between UTU and the employer."

Also, the Canadian Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) on March 26, 2004, turned back UTU's objections to the vote held with respect to the **Canadian Council of Railway Operating Unions (CCROU)**.

The UTU disagreed with the board's powers and its interpretation of the vote, which led to the transfer of 2,800 UTU members to the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference.

The CIRB decision affirmed that the former UTU members, as well as 1,600 locomotive engineers, are members of the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference.

Paul C. Thompson, International President
Dan Johnson, General Secretary and Treasurer
James M. Brunkenhoefer, Nat. Legislative Dir.

Contact the UTU:
via telephone at (216) 228-9400
via fax at (216) 228-5755
via e-mail at utunews@utu.org
www.utu.org

A time to unite and build

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven – a time to plant and a time to uproot.

Our union has uprooted and mourned, and with the elevation of Paul Thompson to International president, it is again time to plant and build – and especially to unite. Indeed, there is ample evidence President Thompson already is moving us forward.

Meeting carriers just days into his new job, Thompson provided an unsailable interpretation of the national healthcare insurance plan that means significantly improved hearing, eye care, life insurance, accidental death and dismemberment benefits – all at no cost to 43,000 UTU rail members. (See story, page 1).

Thompson scored another success in Washington, D.C. He coordinated efforts by our National Legislative Department to convince lawmakers to scrap legislative language – inspired by the other organization – that would have required all remote control assignments be given to locomotive engineers. Had that language been passed into law, it would have thrown thousands of ground service employees into unemployment lines.

By contrast, the UTU remote control agreement, negotiated with Thompson's assistance in 2002, protected all members of all crafts. As Paul Thompson's impressive résumé shows (see page 6), he has spent 45 years in the rail-labor movement trenches, learning crucial lessons about protecting seniority and jobs.

As our union enters a new chapter in its long and impressive history, it is time to unite behind our new president and focus all our energies on what trade unionism is all about – better wages, better benefits, better working conditions and better job security.



WASHINGTON WATCH

By James M. Brunkenhoefer

Hopes of nation ride on election of Kerry

I had hoped that after George Bush recognized he did not win a majority of votes in 2000 that he would somehow attempt to bring the nation together.

Instead, he has become the great divider, polarizing the electorate and being the president for the political far right and wealthy.



The most shameful disrespect of the Bush Administration has been shown to three U.S. senators who actually served in the armed forces in combat roles: John Kerry of Massachusetts, Daniel Inouye of Hawaii, and former Sen. Max Cleland of Georgia.

Incredibly, their patriotism was questioned – and solely for political advantage – by critics within the administration. How disrespectful for these Bush Administration officials, who spend their days inside the well-guarded fences of the White House or Capitol, to wrap themselves in the U.S. flag while criticizing decorated war veterans who literally dodged bullets of the enemy. (Sen. Cleland wasn't so fortunate. He lost limbs in combat.)

Another shame of the Bush Administration is to promote specific religious beliefs as the only acceptable set of family values. One self-righteous promoter was asked which set of family values he was promoting – those of his first wife and children, his second wife and children or his third wife and

Looking to the future

By Paul C. Thompson
 International President
 and
 Dan Johnson
 General Secretary and Treasurer

The most difficult challenges facing the UTU over the next few months are not about the unfortunate events of the recent past, but rather securing the future for our members and their families.

As for those unfortunate events, the court system is dealing with them. To dwell on the wrongdoing only diverts our energies from working positively on behalf of our membership.

This union has established itself as an engine of change for the better. The proof is in our agreements. The very worst thing we could do right now – and something our enemies would cheer – is to create an engine failure that sends the UTU into a tail spin.

We must not stop moving forward at a time when Republican control of the House, Senate and White House is encouraging employers to take a tougher line in contract negotiations, reduce healthcare benefits and back away from safety commitments.

We solemnly pledge to re-open lines of communication between our members and their leaders. We ask you to join us in looking and marching forward. The following are tasks we identify as urgent, and if you identify others, we encourage you to share them with us. Our e-mail addresses follow our names at the end of this column.



Thompson



Johnson

Here are the urgent tasks ahead that we have identified:

- Continuing to negotiate contracts that improve wages, benefits and safe working conditions, and assure opportunities for improved training and upward movement through learning of new skills.

- Continuing to defend members against unreasonable and excessive discipline.

- Continuing our enviable record of filing, processing and winning grievances.

- Meeting the challenges of new technology head on so as to protect our jobs and pay and ensure adequate training and safety.

- Continuing to negotiate agreements protecting and expanding healthcare benefits and ensuring members have unmatched and affordable choices rather than a one-size-fits-all plan.

- Continuing a demonstrated history of craft autonomy.

- Achieving adequate funding for Amtrak.

- Restoring trust and pride among our members. The UTU over the years established principles, policies and character that set standards followed by other organizations.

We ask you to give us this opportunity to restore your trust, and we respectfully ask each of you to work with us to restore the UTU as the one union whose bright, shining beacon of progress and prosperity leads the way to better contracts, better standards of living and safer working conditions.

p_thomps@utu.org
d_johnso@utu.org

State Watch *News from UTU State Legislative Boards*

Massachusetts/Rhode Island

The Massachusetts/Rhode Island state legislative board held its reorganization meeting at the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum in Boston last month.

Also in attendance was the Maine state legislative board.

As a result of action taken at the meeting, both boards were consolidated into the UTU New England States Legislative Board. The board will cover Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

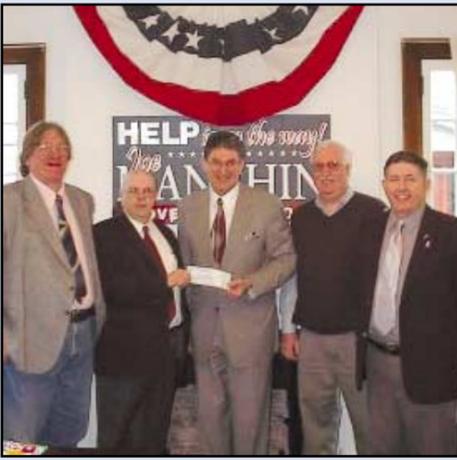
George Casey, a member of Local 1473 at Boston, was elected director and chairperson of the merged board. Brothers **Joe Motte** (L-1462, Boston) and **Greg Geagan** (L-663, Bangor, Maine) were elected as assistant directors. Brother **Tom Driscoll** (L-262, Boston) was elected as secretary.

Cong. Stephen Lynch (D-Mass.), State Senator Steven Tolman (D), State Representative Martin Walsh (D) and State Representative Garrett Bradley (D) attended and addressed the board.



Attending the Massachusetts/Rhode Island legislative board meeting were, left to right, Gene Plourd, retired UTU assistant national legislative director; Harry Malone, retired Massachusetts state legislative director; Casey; National Legislative Director James Brunkenhoefer and Assistant National Legislative Director James A. Stem Jr.

West Virginia



Members in West Virginia recently met with Democratic candidate for governor Joe Manchin to offer their endorsement and a UTU PAC contribution. Pictured above, left to right, are Assistant State Director James Selbe; State Director Mark Mewshaw; Manchin; Local 118 (Hinton) Alternate Delegate and Alternate Legislative Representative Edward Yates and Local 605 (Grafton) Legislative Representative Jeff Greene.

Texas

At the Texas Legislative Board's ninth quadrennial reorganization meeting held in January, the board members elected the following by acclamation:

C.M. "Connie" English Jr. was elected state legislative director; **David M. Arterburn** was elected assistant state legislative director; **Kenneth E. Holman** was elected chairperson; **David J. Bludau** and **James M. Homan Jr.** were elected vice chairpersons, and **Kamron T. Saunders** was elected secretary.

Idaho

The Idaho Legislative Board has elected **George J. Millward** as state director; **Larry W. Morton** as assistant state director, and **Dale Wheeler** as secretary.

Tennessee



Tennessee Assistant State Legislative Director Don Fenrick, left, and UTU International Vice President Mike Futhey, right, last June escorted Democratic Party presidential frontrunner John Kerry, the candidate endorsed by the UTU, around Memphis, Tenn., when he was considering running for president. "He was very nice," Fenrick said. "He thanked us for helping him out." "He will be our next president, I hope," Fenrick added.

Arizona



Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano recently traveled aboard a Burlington Northern Santa Fe train that was giving a ride to disadvantaged children. The train traveled from Phoenix to Wickenburg, Ariz. Above, left to right, are James Girkin (VLC, Local 1081, Glendale, Ariz.); Steve Coffey (PLR, L-1081); Napolitano; Ken Kyer and Rob Diehl (L-1081). Coffey and Girkin volunteered to operate the train without pay, said Scott T. Olson, state legislative director.

Bus Department

By Roy Arnold, vice president-director

Lots happening in bus/transit locals

Let me bring you up to date on happenings within our locals.

Contract negotiations are underway at Local 1589, New Brunswick, N.J. (Suburban Transit); Local 1594, Upper Darby, Pa. (SEPTA); Local 1697, Lubbock, Texas (TNM&O Coaches) and Local 1814, Spartanburg, S.C. (Transit Management of Spartanburg.) Contract negotiations will begin shortly at Local 1670, Laredo, Texas (Laredo Metro) and an arbitration is underway at Local 1582 in Albany, N.Y. (Adirondack Trailways.)

At Local 1814 in Spartanburg, we recently obtained a 100 percent membership following an organizing drive in advance of contract negotiations. This is both exciting and important because the local had been virtually dormant after a contract expired several years ago. It demonstrates bus operators recognize the value of UTU membership.

The UTU welcomes new Local 1495 at Hesperia, Calif. (Laidlaw), where elected officers have been installed.

We have been busy on the West Coast with a variety of training programs for local officers, committees and members, and soon will begin similar training in the east. The purpose of officer training is to demonstrate leaders are not born, but develop through opportunity, training and commitment.

We mourn the loss of Brother Earl White Sr. of Local 1900, Miami, Fla. (PARSEC.) To the world, Brother White might be one person, but to his friends and family, Earl is sorely missed. Alvin Greene of Jacksonville, Fla., was appointed interim general chairperson of Local 1900 to fill Brother White's vacancy.



Yardmasters

By J.R. (Jim) Cumby, vice president

Stand and be proud of our new president

In the wake of negative events affecting our organization, now is not the time to be discouraged. Progress through unity is the foundation of the UTU. This is a time for us to stand proud and unite behind our new president, Paul Thompson.

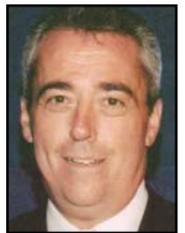
This is also a time to remember how much the UTU has accomplished for us and our families in terms of improved wages, benefits and working conditions.

The UTU is not a one-size-fits-all organization. We are unique in the number of crafts we represent – rail, transit, bus and aviation. We are an organization dedicated to the autonomy of individual crafts. Our constitution, at Article 80, guarantees preservation of craft autonomy.

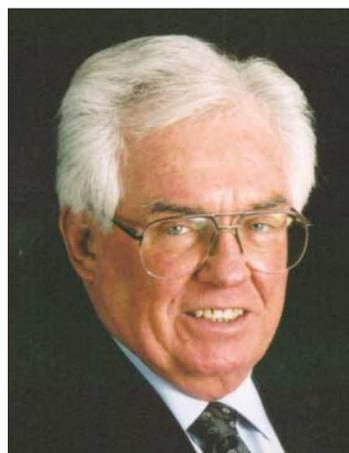
Another UTU core value is an unshakable belief that our members are better served when offered choices. For example, the UTU is the only rail labor union that offers its members a choice of health-care plans and providers. The UTU also has succeeded in providing its members with the best health care plans available. As reported elsewhere in this issue, the UTU national health care plan for participating railroads increased hearing, vision and death benefits without an additional cost to members.

Our legislative department was the leader among rail unions in convincing Congress to lower to age 60 the minimum age for full Railroad Retirement benefits (for those with at least 30 years service). The UTU also has been instrumental in the preservation of Amtrak, the enactment of numerous safety laws and the promotion of employee assistance programs.

As Past President Al Chesser says, we will emerge from these recent unfortunate events "even stronger and larger than ever because of our members' loyalty and character."



Paul Thompson: An experienced hand on the throttle



Paul C. Thompson
International President

Résumé of your new International president

UTU International President Paul C. Thompson, 64, hired out in 1959 as a locomotive fireman on the former Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway – and soon was furloughed as a result of Arbitration Award 282 that eliminated firemen (helpers) with fewer than 10 years of service. He quickly faced a second layoff as a yardman with Kansas City Southern. With a family to support, Thompson learned the importance of job security and the role of a union.

In 1968, Thompson was promoted to engineer and elected president of UTU Local 298. In 1970, he was elected local chairperson – at a \$50 monthly salary – and was a delegate to the 1971 UTU convention. “Many times I represented members without any reimbursement for lost time simply because my local couldn’t afford the costs,” Thompson said.

After his enginemen’s local was voluntarily consolidated with a trainmen’s local – and soon gained 175 new enginemen members – Thompson continued as local chairperson and was elected a delegate to the 1975 and 1979 UTU conventions.

He subsequently was elected general chairperson for engine service employees on Santa Fe lines between Chicago and El Paso. In 1982, he was selected by all rail labor organizations as chairperson of the Employees’ Benefit Association Board of Directors and vice chairperson of Albuquerque and Topeka Memorial Hospital Board of Directors. After creating a “Helping Hands” program to assist furloughed firemen, Thompson was voted Kansas Fraternalist of the Year.

Thompson was elected a UTU International vice president in 1983 and general secretary and treasurer in 1999. He was elevated to assistant president in 2001, elected to the post in 2003, and elevated to UTU International president in March 2004.

Kansas Governor Joan Finney appointed Thompson labor representative to President Clinton’s School/Work Program Committee in 1993. In 1999, he studied the effects of globalization and privatization at Oxford, England.

He and his wife Roberta have a son, daughter and five grandchildren.

Thompson subscribes to the principal that, “Yes, there will always be rough roadbeds ahead; but working together as one, they will never be impossible to travel.”

Labor leaders offer their support



John Sweeney
President
AFL-CIO

“I want to congratulate you on your assuming the presidency of the United Transportation Union. I am sure that the recent changes within your union have been challenging for you and your other top leadership. I would be glad to meet with you when you are next in Washington, just to get to know each other, and discuss what your thoughts are about the UTU’s relationship with the rest of organized labor.”



Robert Scardelletti
International President
Transportation Communications Union

“Paul Thompson is a leader...May God grant him the strength and wisdom to steer the UTU through this very difficult time. Leaders are like eagles. They don’t flock, you find them one at a time.”



Dewey Garland
Vice President
Sheet Metal Workers International Association

“I have known Paul Thompson for many years. He is a man of honor and courage who will be a great leader for the UTU. I look forward to working with Paul and the UTU for the benefit of both our organizations and members.”



G. Thomas DuBose
Past International President

“The dark cloud over our union has been removed.

“We now have a new leader in Paul Thompson, who has always put the UTU first. I have every confidence Paul will lead our union down a new road of greatness and prosperity and return the UTU to the level of integrity and progressive reputation enjoyed since its inception.

“To move the UTU forward, all officers, members and employees must lay aside their personal agendas and support Paul so he can make key decisions necessary to get the union back on track so as to regain our rightful position within the labor movement. Unity is the key to victory.

“To move the UTU forward, all officers, members and employees must lay aside their personal agendas and support Paul ...”

“I will be joining with International President Thompson on the front lines to do what is necessary to move the UTU forward. The UTU is worth the fight. When the UTU moves forward, we all move forward.”



Al Chesser
Past International President

“Our United Transportation Union has recently experienced an act of human frailty for the first time in its history.

“Those individuals responsible for this act are no longer affiliated with, or employed by, our union.

“Through our determination, we will emerge... even stronger and larger than ever because of our members’ loyalty and character.”

“Our union will not permit the wrongdoings of a few individuals to tear down this great institution.

“Through our determination, we will emerge from this act even stronger and larger than ever because of our members’ loyalty and character. Our UTU members are the finest and most patriotic men and women in Canada and America.”



L.W. (Corky) Swert
Former Assistant President

“Now is the time for unity and loyalty to our union.

“However, those are qualities that must be earned. After all, we were all used and misled by our most recent two International presidents – one proclaiming his innocence right up to a guilty plea. The reality is that we all wanted to believe him, so we gave him our trust and loyalty. Our membership cannot and must not be taken for granted.

“Trust, loyalty and unity must be earned. I, for one, believe it can be earned. First, we must resist those

“I believe Paul Thompson and our International officers will provide firm, fair, open and honest leadership.”

who would throw the baby out with the bath water simply to fulfill their own personal agenda. Lastly, firm, fair, open and honest leadership is required. Paul Thompson and our International officers must provide that leadership. I believe they will. The trust and unity will follow.”



united transportation union

www.utuia.org **UTU News** www.utu.org

Events may affect retirement benefits

By V.M. "Butch" Speakman Jr.

Entitlement to benefits under the Railroad Retirement Act also carries responsibility for reporting events that may affect the payment of these benefits.



V.M. Speakman

If these events are not reported, benefit overpayments may occur that have to be repaid, sometimes with interest and penalties. Also, some of these events must be reported so that the Railroad Retirement Board can provide the maximum benefits payable and maintain up-to-date annuitant information.

Railroad Retirement annuitants must notify the board if they:

- work for any railroad employer;
- work in any type of employment, including self-employment, after their annuity begins;
- have changes in their employment earnings;
- file for any Social Security benefits or there is a change in the amount of those benefits (except for the annual cost-of-living adjustment);
- begin to receive a federal, state or local government pension or certain other payments not covered by Railroad Retirement or Social Security, such as from a non-profit organization or from a foreign government or employer;
- are receiving a disability annuity and their condition improves or are told by their doctor that they are able to work;
- receive workers' compensation payments, or any other public benefit based upon disability, or if the amount of those payments changes;
- are imprisoned or confined;
- change their address;
- want to use direct deposit for their payments;
- receive an age and service annuity and become disabled before age 65.

Survivors of an annuitant must notify the board in the event of the annuitant's death.

V.M. "Butch" Speakman Jr. serves as labor member of the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board.

Colorful collection keeps growing

It started innocently enough in the early 1960s, when Percy O. Hill picked up a date nail and put it in his pocket.

Today, his collection of railroad memorabilia includes 672 insulators (including 45 coveted "purples"), 100 kerosene lanterns and lamps, 35 battery-powered lanterns, 250 switch keys, 200 brass and steel switch locks, "lots of public and employee timetables, telegraph stuff, speedbugs, wax sealers, watches, china, soft drink bottles, fruit jars - I don't even know what all I've got," Hill confessed.

In October 1962, after graduating from high school and serving in the Army, Hill began switching for the Illinois Central, and soon after transferred to the road.

"I was a member of Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen Lodge 966, which became UTU Local 1501 in Baton Rouge," he said. "In the 1970s, I served as local chairperson, and in the late 1990s, I got a training program going in the yard to teach the rules to new hires." After 41 years on the rails



Retired member Percy O. Hill of Local 1501 in Baton Rouge, La., displays just a small sample of his collection.

and a back operation, Brother Hill retired in March 2003.

Hill, who said he's planning to build a cabin to serve as a museum, welcomes the chance to meet other collectors and invites them to contact him by calling (225) 388-0306, or by writing to him at 12526 Parklake Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70816.

RETRENDO Club holds dinner, dance

A group of Pennsylvania Railroad and Conrail retirees planning their 22d annual dinner and dance has extended an invitation to rail veterans from all crafts to attend the upcoming event.

The RETRENDO (REtired TRainmen and ENginemen SOcial) Club's gathering will be held Sun., May 16, 2004, at the Lamplighter

Restaurant on Route 22 in Delmont, Pa., according to retired yardmaster A. V. "Jock" Powers, a UTU for Life member from Local 1948, Youngstown, Ohio.

For information, write to Powers at P.O. Box 325, Westmoreland City, PA 15692, or call him at (724) 863-1232.

Retired Gen. Chair J.W. Gilbreath dies

Retired former Missouri Pacific (Texas & Pacific) General Chairperson John W. Gilbreath (GO-927) passed away on March 11, 2004. He was 84 years old.

Brother Gilbreath, a member of Local 243 in Fort Worth, Texas, began his career as a brakeman on the Texas & Pacific and joined Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen Lodge 81 in February 1943. He was elected general chairperson in April 1976 and held that post until he retired in February 1987. Brother Gilbreath is survived by his wife, Emma.

Retiree marks 100th birthday

Retired Southern Pacific conductor Wesley G. Elmore marked his 100th birthday on March 2, 2004, according to the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board (RRB).

Brother Elmore, a member of Local 240 in Los Angeles, Calif., has been on the annuity rolls since March 1969, said the RRB, which recently issued him a congratulatory letter offering best wishes for continued life in good health.

THE FINAL CALL

Following are the names of recently deceased retirees who maintained annual membership in the UTU for Life program (formerly known as the UTU Retiree Program), according to reports received at UTU International Headquarters. These brothers and sisters will be missed by their many friends and by fellow UTU for Life members.

| Local | Name | City/State | Local | Name | City/State | Local | Name | City/State |
|-------|----------------------|----------------------|-------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 | Barret, John E. | Toledo, Ohio | 427 | Kaschak, John | Roseville, Calif. | 1059 | Johnson, Clarence M. | Minot, N.D. |
| 17 | Ward, Vaughn R. | Marshalltown, Iowa | 432 | Black Sr., Glen E. | Urbana, Ill. | 1074 | Wayman, Thomas C. | Bethel Park, Pa. |
| 18 | Copeland Jr., W. T. | Lubbock, Texas | 446 | Scheer, Martin A. | Cheyenne, Wyo. | 1168 | Mangini, A.C. | Raton, N.M. |
| 23 | DaVico, Eugene | Watsonville, Calif. | 453 | Carroll, Leland H. | Evansville, Ind. | 1074 | Keller, William S. | Dallas, Texas |
| 48 | Weaver, Golden G. | Norfolk, Va. | 462 | Mercer, Joe D. | Rison, Ark. | 1252 | Patton, Joe C. | Fresno, Calif. |
| 113 | Chipman, Monti M. | Bandera, Texas | 469 | Pinkerton, Gene A. | Belleville, Ill. | 1252 | Tate, Robert L. | Fresno, Calif. |
| 206 | Reynolds, Donald E. | Rochester, Ind. | 489 | Luker, Carl S. | Lytle, Texas | 1293 | Wagner, Robert L. | Altoona, Wis. |
| 221 | Tucker, Charley S. | Sherwood, Ark. | 577 | Starr, Elwyn L. | Gary, Ind. | 1313 | Heath, Lawrence W. | Laughlin, Nev. |
| 225 | Lauer, Joseph E. | Sandusky, Ohio | 610 | Walls, John C. | Baltimore, Md. | 1348 | Braymer, I.F. | Seattle, Wash. |
| 238 | Edwards, Max J. | Ogden, Utah | 630 | Amburgey, Burl J. | Lexington, Ky. | 1365 | Bunemann, John M. | New Castle, Pa. |
| 243 | Gilbreath, John W. | Ft. Worth, Texas | 631 | Pryor, Glen J. | Frostburg, Md. | 1376 | Bulen, James A. | Columbus, Ohio |
| 262 | Spencer, Harold G. | Bellefonte, Pa. | 634 | Legros, Roland J. | Laval, Quebec | 1376 | Geho Jr., Arthur L. | Pataskala, Ohio |
| 265 | Johnson, Eldon G. | Pocatello, Idaho | 645 | McKenna, James I. | Lake Pleasant, N.Y. | 1393 | Layman, Franklin C. | Franklinville, N.Y. |
| 293 | Nobles, Kenneth E. | Porter, Texas | 674 | Holliman, John S. | Harlem, Ga. | 1418 | Kumanchik, Michael P. | Yellow Springs, Ohio |
| 316 | Klevjer, Harry A. | Oelwein, Iowa | 744 | Pickering, Robert L. | Lima, Ohio | 1529 | Wright, Richard | Centerville, Tenn. |
| 322 | Erickson, Hanford J. | N. Fond du Lac, Wis. | 783 | Brown, Howard H. | Lexington, N.C. | 1557 | Vowell, Carlis B. | Germantown, Tenn. |
| 369 | Nunn, George W. | St. Thomas, Ont. | 807 | Ermi, Louis F. | Tucson, Ariz. | 1564 | Fretwell, Merrill L. | Elkins, W. Va. |
| 386 | DiMarino, Herman J. | Baltimore, Md. | 855 | Lieske, Lloyd F. | Spokane, Wash. | 1565 | Eddo, Harry J. | Santa Clarita, Calif. |
| | | | 933 | Renick, James R. | Jefferson City, Mo. | 1582 | Collado, Antonio | Wells, N.Y. |
| | | | 937 | Freeman, Loyd H. | Burleson, Texas | 1638 | Evans, Richard | Montville, Ohio |
| | | | 965 | Payne, Mont F. | Greenville, Texas | 1831 | Shingler, Ernest M. | Keeseville, N.Y. |
| | | | 980 | Berglund, Arvid W. | Enderlin, N.D. | 1846 | Raymond, John P. | Yucca Valley, Calif. |
| | | | 1006 | Bombrowsky Jr., Frank | New Eagle, Pa. | 1900 | White, Earl | Miami, Fla. |

Protection for your loved ones

Peace of mind for you

Young families have very little discretionary cash. In fact, most young families rely on the income of both spouses to make ends meet.

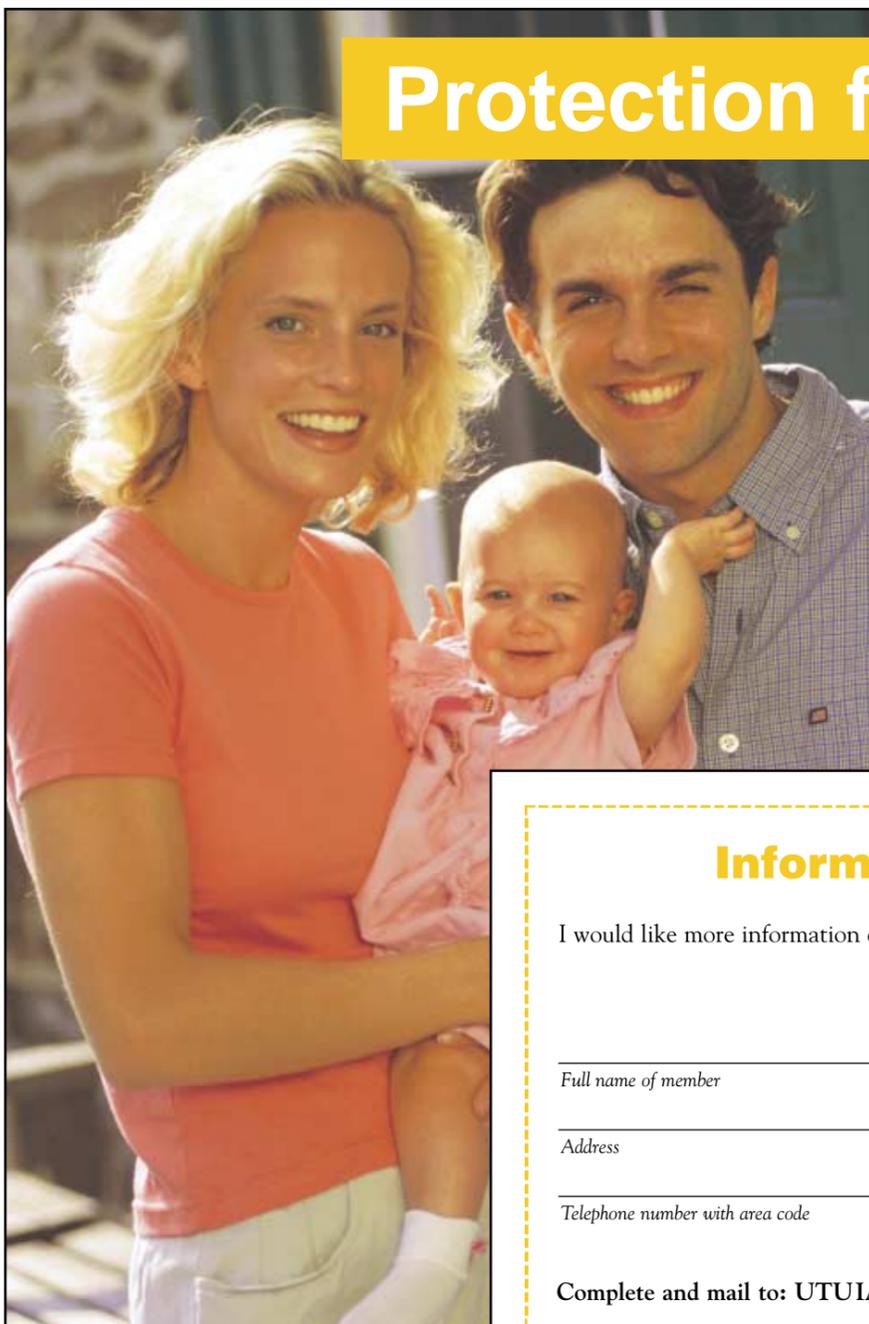
You've thought about how your family would carry on if something happened to you. But you put the thought out of your mind because, after all, you're young. Nothing's going to happen to you. Right?

What if something were to happen to you? Would there be enough money to provide for even the barest of necessities, especially since it takes both incomes to make ends meet?

If you could protect the financial well-being of your loved ones for just a few dollars a month, wouldn't you do whatever it takes to set aside those few dollars to ensure the financial well-being of your family? Of course you would!

The answer is life insurance. Life insurance – especially term insurance – is very inexpensive at young ages and, while you're young and insurable, you stand the best chance of getting the best rate possible.

We can provide the peace of mind you're looking for. **Contact us toll-free at 1-800-558-8842.**



Information, please

I would like more information on UTUIA's Ultimate Term Insurance.



Please print

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Full name of member | Sex | Date of birth |
| Address | City | State ZIP |
| Telephone number with area code | UTU local number | |

Complete and mail to: UTUIA Sales Dept., 14600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44107-4250

04/04



UTU PAC HONOR ROLL

Individuals who have begun contributing to UTU PAC or increased their donations to \$100 or more, per year, during the previous two months

| Name | Local | City | Name | Local | City | Name | Local | City |
|---|-------|---------------------|---|-------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------|---------------------|
| PLATINUM CLUB (\$1,200 OR MORE PER YEAR) | | | McBee, Carroll E. | 610 | Baltimore, Md. | Hill, Larry E. | 823 | Big Spring, Tex. |
| Eldert, Dennis J. | 195 | Galesburg, Ill. | Wyrick Keith R. | 940 | Wichita Falls, Tex. | *Holland Jr., Jack | 830 | Harrisburg, Pa. |
| Arterburn, David M. | 1313 | Amarillo, Tex. | Stine, Richard W. | 1423 | Galesburg, Ill. | Robertson, William N. | 847 | Birmingham, Ala. |
| O'Neal, G. Michael | 1532 | Kansas City, Kans. | Beck III, Hiram R. | 1593 | Brownwood, Tex. | Edwins, William J. | 904 | Evansville, Ind. |
| Thompson, Steven J. | 1709 | Pontiac, Mich. | Koehn, William J. | 1670 | Laredo, Tex. | Moody, Dale W. | 904 | Evansville, Ind. |
| DOUBLE DIAMOND CLUB (\$600 OR MORE PER YEAR) | | | Richardson, Don C. | 1674 | Los Angeles, Calif. | Abbott, Thomas J. | 934 | Alliance, Neb. |
| Ingram, John A. | 20 | Beaumont, Tex. | Taguchi, Edward T. | 1674 | Los Angeles, Calif. | Johnson, Glen E. | 937 | Mart, Tex. |
| Halvorson, Wade A. | 513 | Gainesville, Tex. | Northup, Emmitt D. | 1840 | Glasgow, Mont. | Corley, Robert Brett | 965 | Dallas, Tex. |
| Ingerick Jr., Ronald E. | 782 | Asheville, N.C. | GOLD CLUB (\$100 OR MORE PER YEAR) | | | Fair, Anthony Q. | 965 | Dallas, Tex. |
| Martinez, James | 818 | Ft. Worth, Tex. | *Barrett, Jr., Cyril L. | 78 | Pocatello, Idaho | *Koterba, Joseph R. | 1074 | Freeport, Pa. |
| Leighton, Paul M. | 878 | Greenville, Tex. | Murray, Ronald D. | 195 | Galesburg, Ill. | *Miller, Harry E. | 1074 | Freeport, Pa. |
| Robinson, Charles M. | 1092 | Teague, Tex. | Bagby, Kenneth K. | 226 | Moberly, Mo. | Olson, Richard A. | 1175 | Duluth, Minn. |
| Holman, Kenneth E. | 1524 | Houston, Tex. | Beebe, Kevin F. | 265 | Pocatello, Idaho | Hough, Joe W. | 1202 | Ft. Wayne, Ind. |
| DIAMOND PLUS CLUB (\$400 OR MORE PER YEAR) | | | Henderson, Boyd | 265 | Pocatello, Idaho | Gross, Achim T. | 1258 | Elgin, Ill. |
| Greene, Jeffrey A. | 605 | Grafton, W. Va. | Lamb, Robert C. | 265 | Pocatello, Idaho | *Johnson, Warren W. | 1292 | Proctor, Minn. |
| Valente, Steven J. | 1241 | Richmond, Calif. | Doern, Bart | 283 | Portland, Ore. | *Chesser, Al H. | 1313 | Amarillo, Tex. |
| Kite, At A. | 1593 | Brownwood, Tex. | Haman, Dennis W. | 283 | Portland, Ore. | *Merritt, Earl M. | 1313 | Amarillo, Tex. |
| Lack, Thomas F. | 1593 | Brownwood, Tex. | Phillips, James E. | 283 | Portland, Ore. | *Weaver, Herman R. | 1376 | Columbus, Ohio |
| Jones Jr., Charles N. | 1886 | Houston, Tex. | *Maloney Jr., James J. | 318 | Hornell, N.Y. | Bagley, Everett F. | 1383 | Gary, Ind. |
| DOLLAR-A-DAY CLUB (\$365 OR MORE PER YEAR) | | | Youngs, Charles F. | 367 | Omaha, Neb. | Golden, Thomas R. | 1423 | Galesburg, Ill. |
| Heinz, Michael R. | 78 | Pocatello, Idaho | *Downs, J. Paul | 426 | Spokane, Wash. | Legg, Larry J. | 1423 | Galesburg, Ill. |
| Staples, Daniel D. | 78 | Pocatello, Idaho | Nass, Stephen L. | 446 | Cheyenne, Wyo. | *Walker, Sam F. | 1458 | DeQuincy, La. |
| Phillips, Samuel F. | 257 | Morrill, Neb. | Jaynes, George S. | 469 | Madison, Ill. | Sternfield, Michael D. | 1470 | Edmonston, Md. |
| Hickman, Melvin R. | 293 | Houston, Tex. | Nasello, James A. | 469 | Madison, Ill. | Matlack, John H. | 1505 | Spokane, Wash. |
| Homan Jr., James M. | 524 | Palestine, Tex. | Larsen, Robby J. | 473 | La Grande, Ore. | *Brosmore, Arthur P. | 1517 | Cincinnati, Ohio |
| Ford, William D. | 951 | Sheridan, Wyo. | *Bishop, James L. | 490 | Princeton, Ind. | Berry, Kenneth A. | 1548 | Indianapolis, Ind. |
| Kennedy, Gary S. | 965 | Dallas, Tex. | *Drury, John C. | 490 | Princeton, Ind. | Connors, Brian P. | 1548 | Indianapolis, Ind. |
| Rackley III, Walter J. | 1011 | Hamlet, N.C. | *Turner, Robert E. | 490 | Princeton, Ind. | Ross, Larry W. | 1548 | Indianapolis, Ind. |
| Adams, David | 1166 | Charlotte, N.C. | Martin, Darin Lee | 490 | Princeton, Ind. | Chip Jr., George L. | 1571 | El Paso, Tex. |
| White, Steve M. | 1814 | Spartanburg, S.C. | *Swope, James L. | 490 | Princeton, Ind. | *Brown, William V. | 1628 | Pittsburgh, Pa. |
| Snyder, Gary B. | 1841 | Klamath Falls, Ore. | Wallace, Matthew L. | 490 | Princeton, Ind. | Lambert, Jason M. | 1663 | Indianapolis, Ind. |
| Perrine, Robert M. | 1846 | West Colton, Calif. | Britt, Everett D. | 544 | Havre, Mont. | Taylor, Gary R. | 1674 | Los Angeles, Calif. |
| DIAMOND CLUB (\$300 OR MORE PER YEAR) | | | Nolan, Eric | 577 | Northlake, Ill. | D'Ortenzio, Gerald S. | 1760 | Detroit, Mich. |
| Friel, Philip J. | 195 | Galesburg, Ill. | Major, Herman L. | 610 | Baltimore, Md. | *Gilbert, Walter F. | 1770 | Los Angeles, Calif. |
| McGinn, Michael J. | 195 | Galesburg, Ill. | Sisk, Ronald D. | 610 | Baltimore, Md. | Smith, Joshua M. | 1841 | Klamath Falls, Ore. |
| McGraw, Steven P. | 202 | Denver, Colo. | Williams, Kenneth W. | 610 | Baltimore, Md. | Fuller, Samuel D. | 1846 | West Colton, Calif. |
| Fly, John K. | 265 | Pocatello, Idaho | Barclay, Larry J. | 622 | Birmingham, Ala. | Johnson, Charles A. | 1881 | Baltimore, Md. |
| Wilkerson, Carl V. | 490 | Princeton, Ind. | Carter, Gary K. | 630 | Ashland, Ky. | Richardson, Allen F. | 1881 | Baltimore, Md. |
| Tiller, David G. | 513 | Gainesville, Tex. | Neeley, Cecil | 630 | Ashland, Ky. | *Catalina, Charlie | 1904 | Houston, Tex. |
| Pool, Joe V. | 569 | Ennis, Tex. | *Beavers, Donald R. | 656 | North Little Rock, Ark. | *Sebring Jr., James G. | 1972 | Birmingham, Ala. |
| Cooke, Stephen M. | 610 | Baltimore, Md. | *Blankenship Jr., Troy V. | 706 | Roanoke, Va. | Arrington, Dorothy | Aux 851 | Mineola, Tex. |
| | | | Hensley Jr., James L. | 733 | DeQueen, Ark. | UTU Auxiliary Lodge | 456 | Lincoln, Neb. |
| | | | *Hocker, William A. | 792 | Cleveland, Ohio | UTU Auxiliary Lodge | 474 | Chaffee, Mo. |

* = Retired Member

Healthcare

Continued from page 1

of participating network providers.

Life insurance benefits also have been increased for active employees to \$20,000 from \$10,000, and maximum accidental death and dismemberment benefits have been doubled to \$16,000.

The enhanced benefits become effective the same day – July 1 – that employee cost-sharing drops from \$119.61 to \$100 per month.

“The UTU-negotiated national healthcare plan was the best out there from the get-go,” Thompson said. “The UTU agreement is the only one that offers a choice of providers and

plans, preserves a zero-cost basic option, avoided retroactive payments to the carriers, and did not permanently give up future wage increases or the entire value of future cost-of-living adjustments.

“The addition of these enhanced hearing, eye care, life insurance, and accidental death and dismemberment benefits now makes our agreement head-and-shoulders better than anything else out there,” Thompson said.

Members of the UTU negotiating committee, in addition to Thompson, include General Secretary and Treasurer Dan Johnson, Vice Presidents Jim Cumby, Rick Marceau and Arty Martin, and General Chairpersons Terry Reed (CSXT), John Babler (UP/C&NW) and Pate King Jr. (NS).

Better benefits:

- Enhanced hearing benefits, with a maximum payout of \$600 annually for covered employees and eligible dependents;
- Improved vision-care benefits, providing greater choices for purchase of frames and lenses;
- Life insurance benefits have been increased for active employees to \$20,000, from \$10,000;
- Maximum accidental death and dismemberment benefits have been doubled to \$16,000.

DLC policy

Continued from page 1

know how strongly I feel about the dangerous industry in which our members work. I am firmly committed to a fair recovery for our members who become injured on the job. I believe that in the final analysis, the availability of that recovery causes the railroads to make the workplace safer – and it has saved lives. I also believe it is important for a union to recommend counsel to our members who are both competent and ethical.

However, I am not blind to the allegations in the indictments that have been issued, or to the sad fact that Byron Boyd, Charlie Little, Ralph Dennis and John Rookard have pled guilty to conspiring with certain DLC to solicit and/or accept cash payments. I would be less than candid if I did not tell you that these charges and guilty pleas are devastating to this organization and have placed a black mark on this union and on the DLC program.

While I do not know all the evidence, I have read the indictments and plea agree-

ments, and I have spoken with many of our members, and I will tell you again that this entire matter has done great damage to this union and its credibility.

As the new International president, I intend to ensure that on my watch, and for all time to come, this will never happen to this union again.

“Strong medicine may be needed to heal this union, and I intend to do whatever is necessary to achieve that end.”

I recognize that a number of you have done excellent work in protecting our members and supporting this union. I also appreciate the good work the UTU Board of Ethics has done since it was approved by resolution at our convention last year. And I appreciate your cooperation with that board. I am committed to

maintaining that board’s independence so that it may continue to set and enforce ethical standards.

However, it may be necessary that we do more.

For that reason, I intend to appoint a committee of experienced union officers, counsel from the UTU Board of Ethics, and the coordinator of DLC, which will report to me and recommend such further changes in the relationship between officers of this union and DLC that may be necessary.

I will ask them to review the manner in which DLC, union officers at all levels, and the membership have interacted, and to recommend constructive changes. Strong medicine may be needed to heal this union, and I intend to do whatever is necessary to achieve that end. Our members deserve no less.

Be assured that so long as I am International president, I will treat everyone fairly, and I ask nothing more than that you do the best job possible in representing our members. I intend to move quickly and will work hard to restore what this union has lost. With the help of God, we will move this union forward.”

NS pay problem

Continued from page 1

employees have a choice of UnitedHealthcare or Blue Cross/Blue Shield,” Emert said. “But the contract covering engineers is limited to UnitedHealthcare.

“And under that agreement, health and welfare cost sharing from engineers is deducted not from their paychecks, but from the

annual bonus, if an annual bonus is paid under the engineer contract,” Emert said.

“But some train service employees covered by the UTU agreement were promoted to engineer and remained covered under Blue Cross/Blue Shield,” Emert said.

“Because of a computer problem, it was assumed that any NS train and engine service employee covered by Blue Cross/Blue Shield was similarly covered under a UTU agreement

and should have monthly health care cost sharing premiums deducted from their paycheck.

“When I realized what was happening, I called on the carrier and showed them the problem,” Emert said. “About 300 engineers were affected.”

The refunds now are being made by the carrier. “I had good help from two excellent assistant general chairpersons – Mark Cook and Mike Lydon,” Emert said.

✂ Clip and save

✂ Clip and save

It is impossible to predict the future

(One of a series to help you better understand the role of insurance and annuities in planning your future.)

You work hard to ensure the financial well-being of your family, but even the best-laid plans can be derailed when the unforeseen happens.

You don’t think twice about purchasing homeowners’ and auto insurance. You know how important it is to protect these valuable assets. What about your most valuable asset – your earning power?

Many of us can sustain ourselves for short periods of

time, such as when we become sick with a cold or flu or other short-term illness. But what would you do in the event of a long-term illness? Would there be enough money to pay the mortgage, cover medical bills, auto loans, credit card payments and any number of other necessities?

These are important questions to consider, and insurance is an important option. Over the next few months, we will show you how the right insurance can help you protect the financial well-being of you and your family.

Even though you can’t predict the future, there are ways to protect your most valuable asset – your earning power.

✂ Clip and save

✂ Clip and save



Register now for the Regional Meetings!

The 2004 UTU/UTUIA regional meetings are guaranteed to provide plenty of **fraternalism, education and fun** for the whole family.

Each regional meeting lasts a full three days, with the president's banquet on the evening of the third day.

The Boston regional meeting has been designated the joint U.S./Canadian regional meeting.

All those attending must be registered in order to attend any planned function. Children age 11 and under who are pre-registered are complimentary. The registration form is printed on the right.

A completed registration form listing each attendee, regardless of age, and complete payment in U.S. funds must be received at the UTU International Headquarters, 14600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44107, 30 days prior to the scheduled start of the meetings or the registrant will be charged an on-site registration fee of \$200.

The pre-registration fee for the 2004 regional meetings is \$150 per member, spouse or child over 11. You must make your own room reservations at one of the hotels listed, and certain deadlines apply. One-day registrations also are being offered for those who would like to attend the regional meetings but can't spare the time away from work or family. One-day registrations are \$70.

You may cancel your regional meeting registration 10 days prior to the first day of the meeting or the golf outing without penalty. Please fax any changes or cancellations immediately to the UTU International Headquarters at (216) 228-5755.

Enjoy golf at the meetings

The UTU will hold golf outings at 8 a.m. the day before the start of the two regional meetings.

The dates are Sunday, June 20, in Reno, and Sunday, July 4, in Boston.

In Reno, golfers will play at the Northgate Golf Club in Reno.

In Boston, golfers will enjoy playing the Brookline Golf Club at Putterham, in Brookline, Mass.

The fee, \$80 per golfer, includes transportation from the host hotel, greens fees, a golf cart for every two players, lunch and much more. Register for the golf outings in the space provided on the registration form printed on this page. Be sure to include your golf fee with your registration fee and your true handicap. There is a limit of 144 golfers per outing.

Online registration available at www.utu.org. Click on "Meetings."

June 21-23, 2004, Reno, Nevada

Reno Hilton, 2500 E. Second St., Reno, NV 89595

Hotel reservations: (800) 648-5080 or (775) 789-2000

Reservation code: UTU

Room rate: \$86 single/double; \$10 each additional person

Reservation deadline: May 27, 2004

Parking: Free

July 5-7, 2004, Boston, Mass.

Boston Park Plaza Hotel, 64 Arlington St., Boston, MA 02116

Hotel reservations: (800) 225-2008 or (617) 426-2000

Reservation code: UTU

Room rate: \$110 single/double

Reservation deadline: June 1, 2004

Parking: \$24

UTU Regional Meeting Registration Form

Registering before the regional meetings speeds sign-in procedures at the meeting site, helps organizers plan more accurately, and saves on meeting costs. These savings will be passed on to each pre-registered attendee. Each person attending the regional meeting, including family members and guests, **MUST** be registered in order to attend any planned event. Registration fees are \$150 per person; children 11 years of age and under are complimentary. On-site registration will be \$200 per person. All fees must be paid in U.S. funds. Canadian funds will be returned, possibly delaying your registration. If you have questions, consult your bank. Registration forms must be received 30 days prior to the start of the regional meeting.

Which regional meeting will you be attending?

Reno Boston

Member Registration

Name _____ Local _____ Title (if any) _____

Home address _____

City/State/ZIP _____ Phone number () _____

Spouse Registration Reno Boston

Spouse name _____ Title (if any) _____

Child Registration Reno Boston

Child name _____ Age _____ Child name _____ Age _____

Child name _____ Age _____ Child name _____ Age _____

Guest Registration Reno Boston

Guest name _____ Relationship to member _____

Home address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Golf Registration Reno Boston

Name _____ Handicap _____ Name _____ Handicap _____

Name _____ Handicap _____ Name _____ Handicap _____

Golf fees are \$80 per golfer; include in total payment

Payment Options

Check/money order (U.S. funds only) \$ _____

Credit card VISA MasterCard

Card number _____ Exp. date _____ Total charged \$ _____

Signature _____

Should additional space be needed, make copies of this form and attach to the original. This form and payment of \$150 per person over the age of 11, plus golf registration fees of \$80 per golfer (if applicable), must be received at the UTU International Headquarters, 14600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44107-4250, 30 days prior to the regional meeting. Make checks or money orders payable in U.S. funds to "UTU Regional Meeting." Those who do not pre-register for the regional meeting but instead choose to register at the meeting site will be charged a \$50 penalty fee.

This month's winning photo:

The UTU Public Relations Department awards UTU gear to the union member who submits the best photograph during the previous months.

The winning photo will be published in the *UTU News*. Exceptional photographs will be included on the UTU website.

The UTU would like to see photographs or digital photographs of work-related scenes, such as railroad, bus or mass transit operations, new equipment photos, scenic shots, activities of your local, or photos of your brothers and sisters keeping America rolling.

Printed photographs should be mailed to UTU News, 14600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44107-4250.

High-resolution digital photographs should be in the JPEG format and e-mailed to "utunews@utu.org".

With each photograph, please include your name and UTU local number, the names of the persons in the photo (left to right), where the photo was taken, and all other pertinent information.

All photographs submitted become property of the UTU.

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



This month's winning photograph is a self portrait taken by Alan Kossman, a member of Local 653 at Blue Island, Ill. Kossman is shown with a new Metra locomotive, an MP36Ph, at LaSalle Street Station in Chicago.



www.utu.org / www.utuia.org

APRIL 2004

ISSN 0098-5937

Published monthly (except for combined months of December/January and July/August) by the UNITED TRANSPORTATION UNION, 14600 DETROIT AVE., CLEVELAND, OH 44107-4250 • Periodicals postage paid at Cleveland, Ohio, and additional mailing offices • Paul C. Thompson, International President; Daniel E. Johnson, General Secretary/Treasurer • This publication available on microfilm from UMI, 300 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106 • **POSTMASTER: Send address changes to UTU News, 14600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44107-4250.**



Please recycle

4/04

Volume 36
Number 4

April 2004



www.utuia.org

www.utu.org

The Official Publication of the United Transportation Union

UTU endorses John Kerry for President of United States

Endorsement continues UTU tradition of support for Massachusetts senator

John Kerry is endorsed for President of the United States by the United Transportation Union.

When Sen. Kerry's record is compared with the record of the Bush Administration, there can be no question as to which candidate the UTU should endorse.

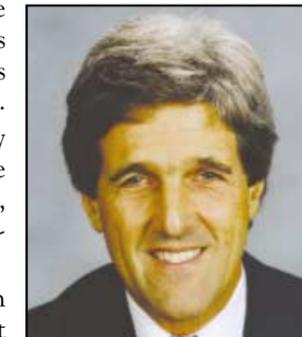
The UTU has never been a rubber stamp for either political party, although the Democratic Party most consistently has developed and supported programs, policies and legislation that benefit working families.

We recognize the UTU has many friends in the Republican Party who have supported this union and working people, and we have supported them and will continue to do so.

George W. Bush became president in 2001 following one of the closest and most controversial elections in history. After more than three years in office, the nicest thing that can be said of the Bush Administration is that it has been disappointing.

The Bush Administration has sought to harm Amtrak, eliminate overtime pay for employees in many industries and denied the right of employees of the Department of Homeland Security to be represented by a labor union.

Under the Bush Administration, millions of jobs have gone overseas and our manufacturing base is eroding at an alarming rate. Administration support for privatization of critical government functions has led to inefficiency and caused dedicated government employees to be replaced by underpaid new hires who receive few benefits.



In contrast, John Kerry has a proven voting record. The UTU supported John Kerry when he ran for his very first political office as lieutenant governor of Massachusetts. The UTU supported John Kerry when he was first elected to the U.S. Senate and has supported him during every re-election.

Sen. Kerry is one of the most senior members of the U.S. Senate and his thousands of votes cast demonstrate forcefully the best record of support in that body for organized labor and working families. His support for Amtrak and the right of employees to organize, and his efforts to improve the living standards of working men and women, cannot be challenged.

The UTU is proud to support the next President of the United States, John Kerry.



Inside this issue of the UTU News:



Two members win praise for saving woman's life. See page 2.



UTU leaders helped John Kerry early in his campaign. See page 5.



Past International President Al H. Chesser urges unity. See page 7.



Retiree Percy Hill has quite the collection of rail memorabilia. See page 8.