

UTU News

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The Official Publication of the United Transportation Union

THE VOICE OF TRANSPORTATION LABOR

“We will use every ounce of our influence to preserve a national intercity rail passenger network and protect the jobs of the operating crew.”

– UTU International President Byron A. Boyd Jr.

News & Notes

Member killed in crash

NORTH BERGEN, N.J. – CSXT conductor James P. McMahon, 48, a member of UTU Local 394 in Albany, N.Y., was killed and three others were injured November 6, 2002, in an early-morning traffic accident.

The accident occurred when the driver of the van carrying McMahon and others turned into the path of another motorist, according to the *Jersey Journal*.

Brother McMahon was riding with locomotive engineer J.E. Moore, 51, of Selkirk, N.Y. Moore is a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. Moore survived the accident but was hospitalized in serious condition.

The van driver was taking McMahon and Moore to the railroad's Selkirk Yard in Selkirk, N.Y.

UTU General Chairperson Richard C. McVeen said Brothers McMahon and Moore were heading to the yard office from their away-from-home lodging when the accident occurred.

McMahon was married to Deborah. He had two grown children.

Time books, calendars out

CLEVELAND, Ohio – The 2003 edition of the UTU's time books are now available. The books, one for railroad members, a second for bus and transit workers, are great for keeping track of time worked, runs completed, money earned and taxes withheld. Time books have been sent via UPS to all local secretaries and treasurers so they can be distributed to individual members at upcoming local meetings and at crew change points. Contact your local secretary or treasurer if you do not receive your copy. Additionally, the 2003 edition of the colorful UTU calendar is being mailed to all current members of the UTU Retiree Program.

Watch for scholarship form

CLEVELAND, Ohio – The official application form used to apply for a United Transportation Union Insurance Association (UTUIA) college scholarship will be printed in the January 2003 *UTU News*. Completed applications must be received by March 31, 2003. The UTUIA awards fifty (50) continuing \$500 scholarships each year to qualified students drawn at random.

FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION
ON AMTRAK FUNDING
AND CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS,
VISIT THE UTU WEBSITE:
WWW.UTU.ORG

UTU begins lobbying campaign to save Amtrak

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The UTU has begun an intensive lobbying campaign on Capitol Hill to assure continuation of a national intercity rail passenger network and to protect the jobs of operating crews.

The future of Amtrak will be debated by the 108th Congress when it convenes in January.

“Our bi-partisan approach to politics provides the UTU with unique access to the Republican leadership in the House, Senate and the Bush administration,” UTU International President Byron A. Boyd Jr. said.

During the November lame-duck session of Congress, Boyd and UTU National Legislative Director James Brunkenhoefer met with congressional Democratic and Republican leaders to discuss UTU's pro-Amtrak and commuter rail positions.

Boyd also has been meeting with Bush administration officials to explain the importance of Amtrak to America's security and economic well-being.

One of the first Capitol Hill meetings held by

Brunkenhoefer was with Cong. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), just hours after she was elected House Democratic leader to succeed Cong. Dick Gephardt (D-Mo.).

Boyd also has held several meetings with former Amtrak President Paul Reistrup, now vice president for passenger integration at CSX Transportation. “CSX hosts more Amtrak intercity trains than any other railroad” and is working with commuter agencies to improve the quality of transit service over CSXT lines, Reistrup told Boyd.

“In each of my meetings, I am stressing how important conductors are to the operation of the train and, especially, to the security of passengers,” Boyd said. “No one questions the importance of adequate numbers of well-trained flight attendants on passenger aircraft. They are essential to passenger safety during times of emergency.”

“Conductors have a similar safety role on passenger trains – a role made even more important

The future of Amtrak is at stake

Continued on page 10

UTU fighting for safer vans

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Responding in part to United Transportation Union (UTU) pleas, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is proposing that 15-passenger vans be manufactured with greater ability to resist roll-over accidents.

UTU has been urging regulations or legislation on this issue for more than a year.

NHTSA regulators agreed with UTU that the vans are three times as likely to tip over when carrying 10 or more passengers as when they carry fewer people.

Such vans – and more than 500,000 are on the road in the U.S. today – frequently are used by railroads and their subcontractors to shuttle train crews.

Continued on page 10

Death benefits go unclaimed

CLEVELAND, Ohio – Families of deceased UTU members may be eligible to collect \$2,000 in unclaimed death benefits, according to MetLife. The death benefit is included as a group policy under contracts between railroads and various labor unions.

“Many families are unaware of the death benefit and may not have filed to claim it,” said



UTU International President Byron A. Boyd Jr. “The UTU Retiree Program

is working with MetLife to ensure UTU families are aware of the benefit and the possibility that they may be eligible for \$2,000 in unclaimed death benefits.”

To determine if you are eligible to collect the

Continued on page 10

Around the UTU

News from around the U.S. and Canada

Locals 48 & 854, Norfolk, Va.

Members in these Norfolk Southern locals raised \$1,300 at the Third Annual Oyster Roast and Golf Tournament for the late Ben Boyle's family, said Chairperson **Thomas R. Adams** (L-48), who thanked Designated Legal Counsel **Wilson, Hajek & Shapiro, P.C.**, and **Moody, Strople, Kloeppel, Inc.**, for their support.

Local 1374, Newcastle, Pa.

Several hundred CSXT employees are expected to attend the Christmas party set for December 9 at the New Englander banquet facility in New Castle arranged by **Sam Marino**, with support from Designated Legal Counsel **Albertini & Darby**, said Local Chairperson (E) **Art Rayner**.

Local 1375, Philadelphia, Pa.

The local's active and retired Norfolk Southern employees and their dates will gather for their annual holiday celebration at 7:30 p.m. December 7 at the Gladwyne VFW Post, thanks to the support of Designated Legal Counsel **Marvin I. Barish**, said Local Chairperson, Secretary/Treasurer and Delegate **Eric Feld**.

Local 117, Vancouver, Wash.

Members of the local, along with members from **Local 1574**, Portland, Ore. (both Union Pacific locals), recently donated a computer to the Domestic Violence Services of Umatilla County. Presenting the system to Patient Advocate **Terri Cribbs** were Local President **J.B. Collins** and Secretary/Treasurer **J.R. Wolfe** (L-1574) and Secretary/Treasurer **Sam Hendrix** (L-117).

Local 257, Morrill, Neb.

The local's Union Pacific employees elected **Tom C. Jones** as their new secretary/treasurer, said **Dave Martin**, who has held the spot since 1984. Meanwhile, Martin will be taking the duties of local chairperson in the new year.

Locals 262 & 1462, Boston, Mass.

The two locals will get together for their Second Annual Holiday and Retirement Party on December 14, from 7 p.m. until midnight, at the Boston Firefighters' Florian Hall in Dorchester, said Secretary/Treasurer **Dave Bowe** (L-1462). A representative of Amtrak's employee-sponsored toy drive will be on hand to accept donations. For information, call (781) 331-2939.

Local 655, Bluefield, W.Va.

Members out of Williamson, W. Va., along with members of **Local 1869** (Williamson, W. Va.) recently held a raffle to raise \$500 for the "Warm the Children Fund," which supplies coats to needy children, said Local Chairperson **Edward A. Loy**. Joining him in selling tickets were Vice Local Chairperson **Frank Cline**, as well as Local 1869 officers, including Local Chairperson **Jim Browning**, Local President **Erasel Hensely**, Vice President **Steve Hager** and Trustee **Mike May**.

Local 1765, Grand Rapids, Mich.

CSXT employees recently enjoyed their third appreciation dinner attended by active and retired members, including oldest member **Charlie Muys**, 95, said Local Chairperson **Steven B. Kauffman**. Thanks are offered to **George and Sue Merdzinski** for coordinating the event and to Designated Legal Counsel **Harrington, Thompson, Acker & Harrington, Ltd.**, for their support.

Local 1558, Bergenfield, N.J.

Members working for Rockland Coaches send best wishes to **Edward Frost**, who offered positive contributions to the local since 1965 and retired in September, said Treasurer **Michael J. Byrne**.

Two years of effort improve yard safety

When **Steven B. Coffey** meets with other legislative representatives, he urges them to check their local fire codes, have a drill on their property, and see what happens.

When Coffey did so at BNSF's Mobest Yard in Phoenix, Ariz., in February 2000, he was astounded by what he discovered, and nearly as amazed to find it took more than two years to address the deficiencies. After that, it didn't surprise him when the company took credit for the improvements.

Coffey, who chairs the UTU Arizona State Legislative Board, also serves Local 1081 in Glendale, Ariz., as local president and legislative representative. A former aerospace engineer with business and engineering degrees, Coffey keeps one eye on safety contingencies. When the carrier barricaded access to the yard from a major artery, it piqued his curiosity.

"I called the fire department to get their take on the barricade," said Coffey. "Then I asked the yard superintendent for an emergency-preparedness drill, but he wouldn't cooperate. The fire marshal informed me that emergency crews had the right of eminent domain, and I asked them onto the property."

The fire department discovered the yard's plan relied on two old tank cars that were supposed to be filled with water but hadn't been checked since 1979. "The fire crew found one tank car empty, with no capability of holding water," Coffey said. The other tank car had threads on it that were incompatible with modern pumper trucks.

"This is a yard that's less than half a mile from the state capitol," said Coffey. "At any one time, we probably have 40 or 50 cars carrying hazardous materials. I had a meeting with the assistant fire chief, and then began to document everything to protect the workers, including the roundhouse crew, the carmen, and even the contractors who bring things in and out of the yard. This wasn't just a UTU thing, it concerned everybody!"

Coffey attended about 15 meetings with the fire department to discuss the situation. "Only documentation and the threat of fines or a shutdown got anything done," said Coffey. "Getting the company to take action was like taking a screaming kid to the opera."

Following a concerted letter-writing campaign waged by Coffey, the railroad finally took action. "We now have six hydrants that run 40% of the total length of the yard, and arrangements were made so that water from the hydrants on an adjacent street can be tapped in an emergency," Coffey said. "But it took a good two years to do what should have taken less than six months."



Steven B. Coffey

Local 1584, Antelope Valley, Calif.

Agreements have been reached and ratified on all three properties this new local represents, said International Vice President and Bus Department Director **Percy Palmer**, who led negotiations at Antelope Valley and thanked Alternate Vice President **Carolyn Scarsella** and General Chairperson **Jim Harford** for leading the talks on the Hysperia and Riverside properties. With the

assistance of Bus Department Alternate Vice President-West **Robert Gonzalez**, the Antelope Valley property recently elected officers.

Local 1594, Upper Darby, Pa.

SEPTA employees recently held their annual safety banquet, said Local Chairperson **Ron Koran**. Members honored for their years of safe driving were **Koran**, **Stan Bernatowicz**, **Robert White** and **Bob Tracey** (20 years); **Steve Stank** (21 years); **Mel Saddic** (25 years); **Joe Sciammana** (28 years); **Kevin Baldwin** (30 years); **Tom Bisignani** (33 years), and **George Purdie** (34 years).

Local 1614, St. Paul, Minn.

Legislative Representative **Dan Paradise** and the other Union Pacific employees at this local wish all UTU members a happy holiday season.

Local 1628, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Union Railroad employees offered their gratitude to Designated Legal Counsel **Peirce, Raymond & Coulter** for supporting the annual party, said General Chairperson **J. J. Tierney**.

Local 1697, Lubbock, Tex.

Texas, New Mexico & Oklahoma employees recently elected the following individuals to local posts: **Roy Arnold**, general chairperson and delegate; **Richard Kritselis**, committee secretary; **Marvin White**, vice general chairperson and vice chairperson, Lubbock – Position 1; **Joe Briones Sr.**, vice chairperson, Lubbock – Position 2; **Ken Fritsch**, vice chairperson, Amarillo – Position 1; **Roger Compton**, vice chairperson, Amarillo – Position 2; **Greg Hanson**, vice chairperson, Albuquerque – Position 1; **Hubbard Potts**, vice chairperson, Albuquerque – Position 2; **Frank Thompson**, vice chairperson, El Paso – Position 1; **Phil Dominguez**, vice chairperson, El Paso – Position 2; **Barry Lindsey**, vice chairperson, Pueblo; **Pat Tuman**, president; **Bobby Beckham**, vice president; **John Willingham**, secretary-treasurer and alternate delegate; and **James Fader**, **Hoss Hamilton** and **Andy Anderson**, trustees.

Local 1741, San Francisco, Calif.

San Francisco Unified School District drivers working for Laidlaw congratulated **Ange Beloy** and **Laura Cappelletti** on successfully handling their first arbitration, which took two years.

Local 1760, Detroit, Mich.

Active and retired individuals from all crafts are invited to attend this CSXT local's annual Christmas party, to be begin at 8 p.m. on December 17 at the DAV Memorial Hall, said Secretary/Treasurer **Jerry D'Ortenzio**, who thanked Designated Legal Counsel **Harrington, Thompson, Acker & Harrington** for their support. For information, contact D'Ortenzio at (734) 522-1043.

Local 1778, N. Vancouver, B.C.

A small photo gallery of the departure of the last Budd car from North Vancouver is available on the local's website as BC Rail passenger service, which began Jan. 1, 1914, came to an end Oct. 31, 2002, taking with it about 90 jobs, said Secretary/Treasurer **David Moorhouse**. Access the website at <http://www.utubc.com>.

Local 1785, Santa Monica, Calif.

International Vice President and Bus Department Director **Percy Palmer** led negotiations for a contract recently approved by members employed by Santa Monica Municipal Bus Lines. Participating in the talks were General Chairperson **Adhi Reddy**, Vice Chairperson **Martin Guerrero**, Local Committee of Adjustment Secretary **Frank Jones** and Local President **Sergio Lopez**.

State Watch *News from UTU State Legislative Boards*

Wyoming

In a staunchly Republican district, Democrat and former Wyoming State Legislative Director **George Bagby** was elected last month to the state's House of Representatives.

"I was retired for two weeks and decided, this is too boring," said Bagby, who retired earlier this year. "I am a firm believer in Democratic Party politics and believe that if you want to get things done, you've got to get involved."

Bagby, who will represent the state's 15th District, won the seat by only 24 votes.

"My local, 866, is a great local and they really helped me a lot in this election," Bagby said. "So did the engineers of the BLE."

One of Bagby's biggest concerns is the movement of nuclear waste by rail. He said transporting nuclear waste to Yucca Valley on Union Pacific lines is a dangerous precedent to set. "These guys on the UP lines are so overworked."

North Carolina

Following the retirement of Assistant Legislative Director **Jim Valley** in October, two positions on the state legislative board have been filled through elections, reported Director **Richard Westbrook**.

Legislative Board Secretary **Glenn A. Lamm** of UTU Local 1129 at Raleigh was elected, by acclamation, to the office of assistant state legislative director, and **Ron E. Ingerick**, legislative representative of Local 782 at Asheville, was elected secretary of the legislative board.

Wisconsin

The Wisconsin attorney general who successfully defended the state's two-person train crew law when it was challenged by railroads which operate in the state was elected governor in last month's general election, reports State Legislative Director **Tom Dwyer**.

Democratic gubernatorial candidate James E. Doyle Jr., who also defended the state's conductor training law, was elected with 45.2% of the vote over Republican challenger Scott McCallum and Independent Ed Thompson.

"Attorney General Doyle has helped us consistently in the past with both the two-person train-crew bill and in defending our conductor training law. His tenure as governor will be very productive for us in support of Amtrak, railroad safety and railroad growth," Dwyer said. "We've got a good friend in the governor's mansion."

Dwyer added that Doyle's father was a U.S. federal judge who ruled in favor of the state's full-crew law.

Michigan

Michigan Legislative Director **David Brickey** reported that Attorney General Jennifer Granholm, a Democrat, was successful in her bid to become the state's new governor.

"She is a good friend of ours. We had supported her in her election for attorney general and, in fact, she attended our last state board reorganization meeting," Brickey said.

Brickey added that "even though we try to maintain friends on both sides of the aisle, the state legislature is controlled by Republicans, so it is absolutely advantageous to the UTU to have Governor Granholm in office."

Montana

Three investigations by State Legislative Director **Fran Marceau** have resulted in two recommendations for civil penalties and one recommendation for civil prosecution by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) against the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad.

Two of the incidents in which the FRA cited BNSF involved violations of the Federal Hours of Service Act because the railroad failed to consider as time on duty the time spent performing company-required alcohol and drug tests and the time spent providing depositions to carrier officials. Each of those violations of the Hours of Service Act resulted in recommendations of civil penalties.

In the third incident, a BNSF conductor was required to report for duty early and was then required to submit to a random federal drug and alcohol test. The FRA determined that the carrier was allowed to place the employee on duty ear-

ly to perform the required test, but did not document the on-duty time, which resulted in a violation of the Federal Hours of Duty Record Keeping Regulation.

New Jersey

State Legislative Director **Dan O'Connell** attended the first meeting of the state's transportation logistics council, which will meet periodically to discuss the movement of freight in and around the state and the Port of New York/New Jersey.

O'Connell was asked to serve as a labor representative to the council by Governor James McGreevey.

O'Connell said that, according to the deputy commissioner of transportation, freight moving through New Jersey will increase by 400% by the year 2014 and that an estimated \$9 billion in infrastructure improvements will be required to meet that increase in traffic.

"We will study the problems that currently exist and how we can mitigate those problems. These problems not only affect our freight railroads, but the commuter trains that operate on freight lines and vice versa," O'Connell said.

The first meeting of the council was Friday, November 15.

Illinois

Metra conductor **Eddie Washington**, whose campaign for the Illinois House of Representative's 60th District seat was featured in the September issue of *UTU News*, was successful in his election bid, reports State Director **Joe Szabo**.

"I hope all UTU members will use my election as an example of what political involvement and union activism can accomplish," Washington said. "It's not enough to be comfortable and to collect a good paycheck and benefits. There's still a lot of pain out there among our brothers and sisters. But when we're politically active and organized, we can be painkillers."

"Eddie Washington is exactly the kind of working-people's representative we need to see more of in our state legislatures," Szabo said.

Bus Department

By *Percy Palmer*

Make a resolution and stick to it

Brothers and Sisters, it is the holiday season once again. As bus operators we have to mind our p's and q's. We all know that at this time of year the traffic on the roads will increase but your schedule from point A to point B will remain the same. We also have motorists rushing from work to do their shopping, as well as others who do not normally drive on a regular basis rushing around with diminished skills.

Some, if not most, of these folks will also be short tempered. We, as bus operators, must not let them dictate our behavior, with them or our passengers. We must keep the upper hand.

I urge you to make safety your priority each day. Please do not compromise safety in order to keep a schedule. Most of us know what to do when nature calls, so do not compromise your health to keep a schedule.

It's a time for celebration, but keep in mind what your profession entails. Make a daily resolution and live up to it. You will find that with these daily resolutions, they can add up to a year with no accidents and/or other infractions and, eventually, years.

I am not asking you to do something that I have not done and continue to practice.

To you and your family, have a wonderful holiday and we look forward to a more prosperous new year.



Yardmasters

By *Don Carver*

We have gained much this past year

This year the UTU and its Yardmaster Department have brought wages and many new benefits to the members which were not available last year. First and foremost was the overhaul of Railroad Retirement, which enhanced benefits for survivors and restored the full annuity at 60/30, effective January 1, 2002. A national contract was ratified that secures the strength of the UTU well into the 21st century. For yardmasters covered by the national contract, wage increases, enhanced sickness benefit, paid turnover time and 1/52 vacation computation. The Interest Based Bargaining (IBB) process delivered for CSXT yardmasters with wage increases, a 50% 401(k) match, increased personal leave days, equalized lump-sum payments and incentive payments based on carrier annual experience.

Members on the CP Rail (D&H) overwhelmingly ratified a contract reached with the assistance of the National Mediation Board that contained different, but comparable, benefits. The CN/IC (GTW) and the Yardmaster Department are using the IBB process with good progress. We are optimistic the December round of negotiations will produce a final contract.

Yardmaster Department Assistant Director J.R. Cumby has been successful in handling cases before Public Law Boards resulting in seniority restoration, discipline reversal and claim payments.

Jim, Linda, Amanda, Dianna and I wish each of you a joyous, peaceful holiday season and prosperous new year.



Byron A. Boyd, Jr., International President

Paul C. Thompson, Assistant President

Daniel E. Johnson, Secretary/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

via the Internet at <http://www.utu.org>

Members' acts give faith, hope to all

On Christmas Day, the 1946 movie, "It's a Wonderful Life," will be shown on television. Jimmy Stewart plays savings-and-loan manager George Bailey, who struggles against a greedy banker and, with help from trainee-angel Clarence, has his faith and confidence in life restored.

The holiday season abounds in real-life acts of random kindness. In this issue, we learn how yard engineer Charles Mack purchased "a whole bunch of new blankets" for the homeless in Los Angeles.

Joe Allen, local chairperson in Knoxville, Tenn., put aside \$200 to purchase toys for needy children.

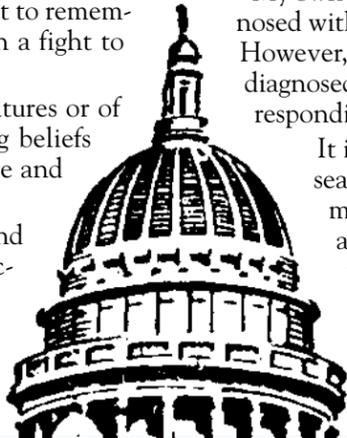
The children of Buffalo, N.Y., bus driver Dorothy Bryant will donate gifts through the Salvation Army.

Assistant Vice President Paul Thompson devised a plan not just to remember loved ones who died of breast cancer, but to engage us all in a fight to eradicate this horrible disease.

UTU families, where husband and wife are from different cultures or of different religions, found ways to celebrate diversity by melding beliefs and customs into a truly American holiday season, rich with love and caring.

"We emphasize being thankful for health and being together and to be gainfully employed," says William Bates, an Amtrak conductor in Washington, D.C.

We add our voice to those of the 125,000 active and retired members of the UTU and their families for peace on earth and goodwill to all mankind.



WASHINGTON WATCH

By James Brunkenhoefer

What we can expect from the 108th Congress

Election results are being reported as a major accomplishment for the Republican Party. I am sure they will be locker-room clippings for the Democrats.

The UTU is a bipartisan union and not involved in the spin one way or the other. But it is important to have a realistic analysis of what to expect in the 108th Congress for the next two years and what the November congressional election results mean to UTU members and their families.



We now have one party – Republican – that controls the executive branch, the House and the Senate. But the rules of the Senate have not changed. Republicans, in spite of their narrow majority, will still need 60 votes to advance their goals or face filibuster.

Obviously, filibusters (not possible under House rules) will be used by Democrats only on the most major issues. So, many of the big items will get stopped in the Senate, but many of the smaller items sought by Republicans will become law.

Among the major legislative issues we expect to see in the new Congress is an attack on the Federal Employers Liability Act (FELA). I have every confidence we shall prevent FELA from being scrapped, but we will use many "chips" defending this vital safety law.

Amtrak presents a problem. No lawmaker has yet to propose a reform plan that does not have some negative impact on our

Help fight breast cancer

By Paul Thompson
Assistant President

The holiday season is a time of reflection. The past year has seen some great accomplishments for our UTU family.

We also have seen sadness.

Two very close friends of mine and members of our UTU family were taken from us. Betts Miller, wife of UTU General Counsel Clint Miller, passed away in October.

In January, David Hotzel's wife, Marcyle, passed away. David is the former secretary/treasurer and delegate from my home Local 94.

Both of these courageous women suffered from breast cancer. They both fought long, hard battles, never showing anything but courage.

Those of us who knew them were blessed by their caring ways toward others.

While they were taken from us at an early age, the fight they fought should not be forgotten.

There probably is not a member in our organization that has not known a friend or loved one diagnosed with breast cancer.

My own wife, Roberta, was diagnosed with this disease in March. However, she was fortunate to be diagnosed at an early stage and is responding well to treatment.

It is my desire this holiday season to create a lasting memory of Betts Miller and Marcyle Hotzel, as well as others in our UTU family who have been lost to, or diagnosed with, breast cancer.



Thompson

There is no better means to honor our friends and loved ones than to join the fight against this horrible disease.

So I am asking each of our UTU members and their spouses to help with a special project.

Help us to prepare a book of your special recipes and helpful household hints.

Dedicate your item in the name of a friend or loved one who has suffered from breast cancer.

The book will be a remembrance, but also will help to remind other women of the need to have regular medical check-ups.

The book will be published and available for purchase. All proceeds from the book will be given to breast-cancer research in memory of those whose names are listed in the book.

Please help to make this a warm holiday for all the families that have had to face breast cancer. Ensure that their battles were not and are not in vain.

I know what UTU members can accomplish when helping each other.

Please send your favorite recipes and helpful household hints to: **Breast Cancer, United Transportation Union, 14600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44107-4250.**

Please remember to include your name and the name of the individual you are remembering.

Roberta and I join in wishing each of you and your family the very best during this holiday season and may 2003 bring each of you and your family the very best in health.

CSX General Chairperson Terry Reed “arrested”

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – CSX General Chairperson Terry Reed was recently “arrested” and, thanks to his friends, co-workers and UTU brothers and sisters who raised his bail, he’s back on the street.

Reed’s charges? “Aiding and abetting the Muscular Dystrophy Association with the intent of helping area residents with Muscular Dystrophy.”

Reed was notified in early October that he would be arrested and incarcerated in early November as part of the Muscular Dystrophy Association’s “MDA Lock Up,” where local business and community leaders agree to be “arrested” (for having a “big heart.”)

Reed’s “bail” was set at \$2,000. With the high bail, a desperate plea for help was dispatched to friends, relatives and UTU members requesting a donation to MDA to “spring” Reed from his predicament.

According to Reed, “The response received to defray the bail was amazing.” He collected \$5,225 in donations to offset the bail and assist MDA in its research and other activities.

According to Suzanne Austin, district director for MDA in Jacksonville, Fla., the bail raised by Reed was the highest amount generated by any single participant in the ten-year history of the event covering 22 Florida counties.

“I want to thank so many people,” Reed said. “The UTU International sent \$500. Designated Legal Counsel Bob Pierce sent \$500. CSX Midwest Service Lane executive John Williams sent \$150. CSX President Michael Ward sent \$100. It was unbelievable.

“I sent 124 letters out and got 86 back. That’s pretty damn good,” Reed said. “I sent a letter to everybody who does not want to upset a general chairperson, and my friends came through.”



An unidentified officer with the Jacksonville, Fla., police department takes CSX General Chairperson Terry Reed into custody following his “arrest” for aiding and abetting the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Reed raised more in “bail” than any participant in the ten-year history of the event in 22 Florida counties.

Amtrak Operation RedBlock committee meets

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. – The Amtrak Operation RedBlock Committee held its 13th annual conference at the Warwick Hotel in Philadelphia, Pa., recently.

Participating in the conference were more than 200 Amtrak Operation RedBlock team captains, Amtrak management officials, Operation RedBlock volunteers, and elected union officers.

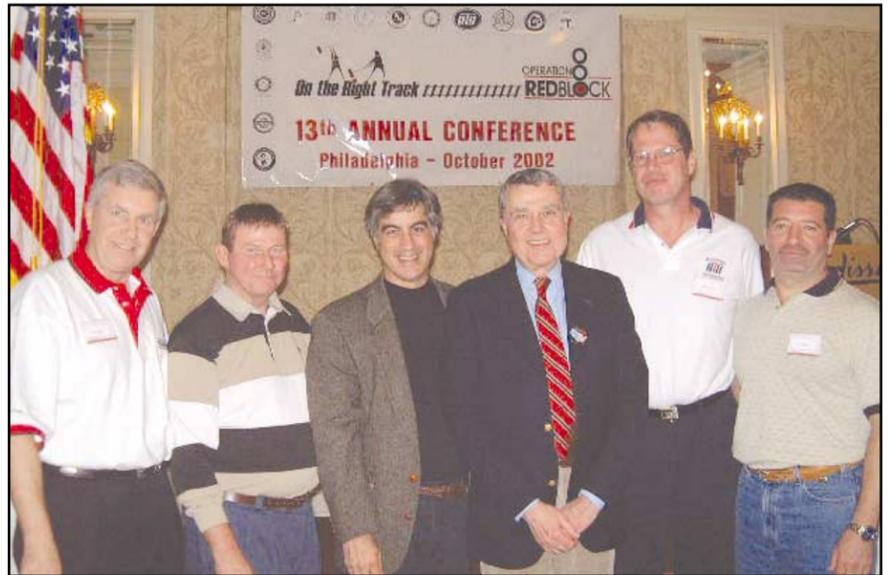
Amtrak President David Gunn participated in the conference to show his continuing support for the Operation RedBlock program. Gunn delivered a very encouraging message that was well received by the participants.

Gunn stated: “Operation RedBlock represents the spirit of partnership and cooperation that Amtrak must have to prosper.” Gunn also stated he was impressed with the effectiveness of the Operation Redblock Program.

Cong. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.) delivered the keynote address to the awards banquet the last evening of the conference.

Rangel’s entire political career has been based on helping workers and disadvantaged people in our society.

Operation RedBlock is a labor-developed, company-adopted drug and alcohol prevention and intervention program. The program emphasizes awareness, education, and prevention of drug use through union-led prevention committees. Operation RedBlock aims to change attitudes, reduce the tolerance of nonusers to job-related drug and alcohol use, and to encourage users to seek assistance.



Pictured above, left to right, are UTU Assistant National Legislative Director James Stem; Amtrak Vice General Chairperson Roger Lenfest; International Vice President Tony Iannone; Amtrak President David Gunn; UTU Board of Appeals Member Dirk A. Sampson (Local 117), and Local 1370 Local Chairperson Sal Prisco (representing Amtrak workers).

International officers visit Alaskan locals



UTU International President Byron A. Boyd Jr. and Vice President Arty Martin visited with UTU members in Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska, in October following ratification of a new agreement with the Alaska Railroad. Above left, Alaska Railroad General Chair-



person Mike Weatherell and his wife, Heather, present a UTU cake they baked for the occasion. Above right are Weatherell, Boyd, Local 1626 (Anchorage) President Clinton “Buddy” Grey and Local 1626 Secretary and Treasurer Mark Bear.



What does Christmas mean to you as an American?

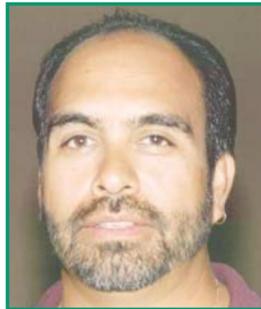


Jay Seegmiller
Local chairperson
Legislative representative
Assistant Utah State
Legislative Director
Local 166
Salt Lake City, Utah
Amtrak

To me, Christmas is the time where families get much closer and reflect on what we are grateful for. It's a shame we need excuses like this, but it's the truth. It's a good opportunity to get closer with my family members.

I'm an Amtrak conductor. I think this year, I will actually be off for Christmas Day. Quite often in the past, my wife has joined me somewhere in a hotel room. I have four children, three of whom are at home and one is on a mission for the church. He has been gone for about a year, and will be gone another year.

If I am at home, we usually open gifts. Later in the day, we go over to my sister's house and join the rest of the family there, including grandparents. Generally, there is a big meal.



Robert Resendez
Local Chairperson
Local 1422
Los Angeles, Cal.
Union Pacific

The holiday season means getting together with family members and celebrating. I am married with two children: a son, 24, and a daughter, 29, and have two granddaughters.

Since we became grandparents, the thrill of the holidays is starting all over again. Our family gets together Christmas eve around 10 p.m. to open gifts. My parents are here and my sister comes in from Michigan.

Christmas day we worship and have a big breakfast.



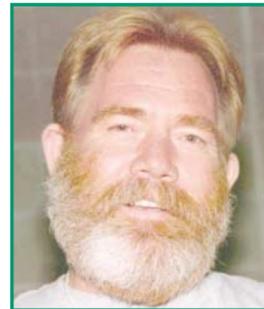
Daniel J. O'Connell
New Jersey State
Legislative Director
Local 800
Jersey City, N.J.

My wife is Jewish and I am Christian and I think it makes the holiday season more fun because we celebrate twice at our home. We have nephews and nieces on both sides of the family and enjoy seeing all the children at the holidays. I've come to appreciate the food at Hanukkah, especially potato pancakes with applesauce and sour cream.

I find both holidays center around the family in a real way. I was raised with immediate and extended family, and we do the same thing with my wife's family, and I find that very enjoyable.

When I was a locomotive engineer, depending on seniority, I would sometimes have to work on holidays. At New Jersey Transit, we didn't have holiday pay. Years ago, the only railroaders that got holiday pay were yard-service employees. Otherwise, holiday was treated the same way. We eventually negotiated holiday pay. At least, thanks to the union, we got a premium negotiated, and it took some of the sting out of being away from the family.

Prior to that, I was a fireman and sometimes worked Christmas Day, but I was single then. What I would try to tell myself was that I was taking people to THEIR families. If you get lemons, you try to make lemonade.



Joe Allen
President
Delegate
Local Chairperson
Local 1301
Norfolk Southern
Knoxville, Tenn.

What does the holiday season mean to me as an American? Freedom. The right to do and say what I please. A time for family gatherings.

When my two children were young, we would take them out on Christmas Eve to look at the lights and maybe do some last-minute shopping. When we got home, Santa Claus had been there, and they opened a few presents. The next morning the kids would wake us up because Santa Claus had come back. I'd spend the day putting toys together and enjoying time with the family.

I live in Knoxville but work in Charleston, Tenn., about 70 miles away. I drive by this house on the way to work and I have seen four little children playing outside, but they never have any toys. This year I decided to buy them a bunch of toys for Christmas. I have put aside \$200 to buy toys, and around Christmas Eve I am going to stop by and drop them off. I will leave them anonymously; I'll just set the presents down, beat on the door and run like heck, and hope I don't get bit by a dog or shot. Some people are too proud to ask for assistance, and I certainly don't want to embarrass the parents, who, I am sure, are good, hard-working people.

It will make me feel good, that I'm privileged enough to do this. That's what the holiday season is all about.



Mohammad A. Mawajdeh
Local 1558
Bergenfield, N.J.
Rockland Coaches

My wife is Catholic and Italian and I'm Muslim and we celebrate each other's holidays.

My wife puts up a beautiful tree. We have a special meal, on Christmas Eve, then we visit my brother, who has four children.

This year, the Muslim holiday, Ramadan, began Nov. 6, and runs for 30 consecutive days. Muslims fast during Ramadan and are prohibited from eating from sunrise to sunset.

The holidays are a good time to socialize with friends and family and to open a new page and celebrate our relationships and gather together.

My wish for this holiday is I would love to see people get together peacefully – to love each other for who they are.



Charles Mack
Local Legislative Representative
Local 1422
Los Angeles
Yard engineer
Union Pacific

My wife and I are doing something a little different during the holiday season this year. I work in a rail yard outside of Los Angeles, along the Los Angeles River. There is a big homeless encampment there. I see the same homeless people every day. My wife and I bought a whole bunch of new blankets, and I will soon start handing them out. I think these people will feel nice to be handed a brand new blanket, rather than just handed some money. Instead of donating money to a charity, I'm going to make this holiday personal.

My wife, who works for Union Pacific as a clerk, really gets into decorating the house. For about a dozen years, I have dressed up as Santa Claus to entertain my grandchildren, nieces and nephews. We have about 20 people over on Christmas Eve (I have eight grandchildren) and we have dinner and open presents. On Christmas Eve we have Honey-baked Ham and Mexican food, because my wife is Mexican and Irish.

On Christmas morning, we go to my mom's house and open gifts with my brother and sister and all their kids. We have turkey and ham and all the fixings, including pumpkin pie. We also have a few Danish pastries, because my grandfather was Danish.



William Bates
Local 1933
Washington, D.C.
Amtrak conductor

My wife Sonya is a social worker and I am an Amtrak conductor. We have three children: an 18-year-old boy in college and boy-and-girl twins who are six.

We observe Kwanzaa, which is the seven days between Christmas and New Years, and each day has a special meaning, with special meals and foods. We started observing it when we had the twins. We had traditional Christmas with the 18-year-old, but we tried to downplay the importance of gift-giving, and emphasized being thankful for health and being together and to be gainfully employed.

The children are very thankful for what God has provided for us.

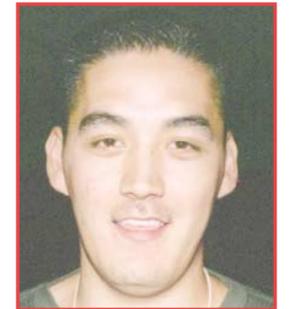


Dorothy Bryant
Vice General Chairperson
Local 1908
Laidlaw Bus
Buffalo, N.Y.

I have a pretty traditional Christmas. I prepare dinner on Christmas Eve, although it's not something I pull together in one day; I've been cooking all week. I make turkey with dressing and pies and cakes and stuff like that. I do a German chocolate cake that everybody insists I do every year because it's so good. Then I wrap and put toys under the tree. On Christmas Day my son and his four children, ages 16, 11, 7, 1, come over. It's all over so quickly. Grandchildren are wonderful, especially when they go home.

I plan for Christmas. I belong to a Christmas club and I save money for the holidays. The economy doesn't matter. I'm ready for the holiday.

The holiday is about sharing. I take the children shopping and each one buys a gift and puts it in the Salvation Army bin for children less fortunate than themselves.



Fred Payne
Vice Local Chairperson
Local 1241
Richmond, Calif.
Burlington Northern Santa Fe

The holiday is my time with my family, no matter what is going on around the world. I take a week off work. I get real tired of not being home and not seeing my eight-year-old son. That is my family time. I am just happy and lucky to be here with my family, because the holiday time is so special.

My wife, son and I travel 410 miles south to Long Beach, Calif., to be with my wife's family. On Christmas Eve we will sit up talking until midnight with my brother-in-law and sister-in-law. If the kids have fallen asleep, we wake them up and let them open presents.

On Christmas Day, one of my wife's uncles, aunts or cousins will host a family gathering of 30 people or more. We open presents and enjoy each other's company. My wife and family are Filipino and they really love to cook. They cook everything; you never have to worry about a variety of food.



Retiree Program News

Generics covered by Together Rx card

NEW YORK CITY – Seven name-brand manufacturers are welcoming generic drugs into the Together Rx program they created that offers discounts on prescriptions to low-income elderly people, according to a *New York Times* report.

Offering discounts through the program are Abbott Laboratories, AstraZeneca, Aventis, Bristol-Myers Squibb, GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson and Novartis.

Together Rx said Eckerd drugstores have started offering discounts of about 30% on generic drugs to those in the program, and said the brand-name manufacturers hoped more drugstores would follow suit. Eckerd said the store is offering discounts on more than 1,000 generic products in addition to the brand-name drugs.

About 380,000 low-income seniors have signed up for the Together Rx card, Heller said, with about 20,000 more signing up each week.

To qualify for the card, seniors must be enrolled in Medicare, not have public or private drug coverage, and have annual incomes of less than \$28,000 for individuals or \$38,000 for couples. For information, call toll free (800) 865-7211.

U.S. releases info on nursing homes

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. government has released data to help consumers judge the quality of care at 17,000 nursing homes around the country, just six weeks after it cut back payments to finance such care.

For each nursing home, the government said it is publishing up to 10 measures of performance or quality, including the percentage of residents who are in physical restraints or have infections, bedsores, pain or symptoms of acute confusion or delirium.

Consumers can get the information by calling 1-800-633-4227, or by accessing the government's website at <http://www.medicare.gov>.

The program is an expansion of a pilot program that began earlier this year in Colorado, Florida, Maryland, Ohio, Rhode Island and Washington state, the government said.

Hundreds gather to express best wishes to retired member

When John M. "Jim" Mullins Jr., 70, retired as a utility clerk from CSXT in August 2002 with 50 years of service, the event became nothing short of an extravaganza.

Hundreds of friends, family members and co-workers, including top CSXT officials, gathered at a local ballpark for a cookout with live music and to make several special presentations to Mullins, a member of Local 1327 in Peach Creek, W. Va.

Local President Roger "Zack" McComas presented Mullins with a gift on behalf of the local, and co-workers from Danville Yard gave him a replica of the watch his father had received when he retired from the railroad.

"This is some special guy," Al Crown, CSXT executive vice president-transportation, told the *Coal Valley News*. "You can be in Detroit or Jacksonville, and you will run into someone who knows Jim."

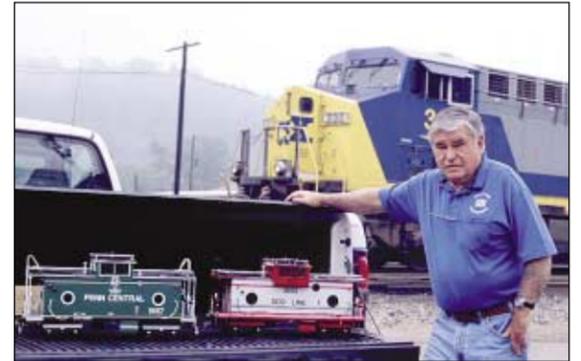
Crown presented a book of letters written by some friends of Mullins, who happen to be among the railroad's top brass, with the first letter from CSXT Chairman and CEO John Snow. In addition, he gave Mullins a poster featuring photographs of many of the people Mullins had touched with his generosity and unique personality.

And CSXT sent a private train so it could host a dinner for Mullins.

The hoopla, in part, can be traced to a half-joking promise Crown made to Mullins several years ago, but for the most part, the festivities grew from genuine feelings of affection.

"I worked for four years as chairman of the company's safety program," Mullins said. "I traveled all over the system conducting safety audits and making friends. Also, I got to know a lot of the officers when they were just regular railroaders."

Mullins also gave away a lot of hand-crafted models of cabooses. "Back in 1988, I had an extra piece of quarter-inch plywood, and just decided to make a caboose," he said. "It came out pretty well, and I've been making them and giving them away ever since. I made a red-white-and-blue one



John M. "Jim" Mullins Jr., a member of Local 1327 in Peach Creek, W.Va., displays some models of cabooses he crafted and gave away to friends.

called 'Spirit of 76' for CSXT President Michael Ward that's sitting in his office."

One of 13 children from a railroading family, Mullins and five siblings ended up railroaders. "I started as a member of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees working on the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad, then went into the Army," Mullins said. "When I got back, there were no maintenance jobs. From 1963 until late 1980, I was a yardmaster. I joined the UTU at the end of 1980."

Throughout his rail career, he remained busy. While a yardmaster, he worked on the railroad from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., then went to work from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the service department of a car dealership.

"For 34 years, I've been president and a coach for Buddy League and VFW basketball," he said, "and my wife of 43 years, Donna, and I were active in scouting, the PTA, and everything our two kids were involved with. I never missed one of their games."

"Friends are your riches as you travel through life," Donna Mullins said, "and my husband is rich! He really enjoys his friends and family."

Despite his years, Mullins said he wasn't ready to retire, "but figured it was time to go," he said. "I enjoyed my career, and miss being out there with the men."

THE FINAL CALL

Following are the names of members of the UTU Retiree Program who have died recently, according to reports received at UTU International Headquarters. These brothers and sisters will be missed by their many friends and by fellow UTU Retiree Program members.

Local	Name	City/State	Local	Name	City/State	Local	Name	City/State
2	Heyneman, Harold L.	Toledo, Ohio	469	Cannella, Anthony	Fond du Lac, Wisc.	1221	Blanchard, James C.	Tampa, Fla.
2	McNally, Thomas W.	Madisonville, Tenn.	483	Corcoran, Patrick	Toronto, Ont.	1241	McKenzie, Edward O.	Greenville, Cal.
5	Dickerson, Thomas J.	Ft. Scott, Kan.	500	Nicholas, George A.	Casa Grande, Ariz.	1294	Walker Jr., John H.	Milford, Utah
29	Everdean, William L.	Riverhead, N.Y.	565	Dunbar, Earl	Centralia, Ill.	1313	Price, Phillip H.	Amarillo, Tex.
60	McKowen, George E.	West Milford, N.J.	656	Wingfield, Arvil N.	N. Little Rock, Ark.	1365	Seidel, Howard L.	Canfield, Ohio
78	Peck, Walter H.	Springville, Utah	662	Mills, Howard R.	Charlottesville, Va.	1376	Latham, Leland L.	Columbus, Ohio
168	Stalter, William R.	Logansport, Ind.	730	Mann, Clarence E.	Great Falls, Mont.	1377	Gough Jr., Frank H.	Ft. Mitchell, Ky.
199	Carl, Carroll C.	Creston, Iowa	774	Hundley, John L.	Concordia, Kan.	1402	Stewart, Oland J.	Bonne Terre, Mo.
206	Whitney, Thomas E.	Peru, Ind.	856	Swazey, Leonard W.	Milo, Maine	1405	Summers, Timothy A.	St. Louis, Mo.
215	Harbst, Merrill C.	Huntingdon, Pa.	856	Walker, Frank E.	Milo, Maine	1491	Scudder, Willis B.	Port Jervis, N.Y.
226	Stubblefield, William M.	Mexico, Mo.	924	Coakley, Walter L.	Ashland, Va.	1525	Wineinger, Robert J.	Worden, Ill.
300	Shatto, Neil R.	Forksville, Pa.	991	Day, Henry A.	Medina, Ohio	1532	Bales, Wilbert S.	Bentonville, Ark.
305	Firestone, Albert H.	Lincoln, Neb.	1117	Kittinger, David E.	Calatia, Ill.	1532	Murphy, John H.	El Dorado, Kan.
313	McIntyre, Marshall H.	Kentwood, Mich.	1177	Thibault, Romuald B.	Minnetonka, Minn.	1597	Ferry, Winfield	Lac du Flambeau, Wisc.
324	Adams, C.M.	Darrington, Wash.	1200	Domingo, Andy V.	Elko, Nev.	1614	Thoemke, A.C.	Cottage Grove, Minn.
412	Stauffer, Kenneth E.	Emporia, Kan.	1202	Wentland, J.J.	Garrett, Ind.	1620	Bussard Jr., Howard M.	Elkhart, Ind.
453	Southwell, Richard W.	Warrensburg, Ill.				1951	Wolfe, John E.	E. Greenbush, N.Y.



Joe Jackson
L-977, Pasco, Wash.

"I'm a conductor on BNSF, and I've been on the railroad for 27 years. A lot of health hazards are tied in with the fatigue issue. It doesn't help in a 24/7 industry that you don't have a normal rest cycle. I don't worry too much about hazmats on the road, but those on industry jobs get exposed to a lot of things. There's more hazardous fumes around shippers' facilities than on the trains. Pinch points and clearances will get you, and railcars and such are not necessarily your best friends. Make a mistake with those, and you get hurt. But there's been improvement over the years. It seems like we see a lot of shoulder and back injuries, but fewer fatalities."



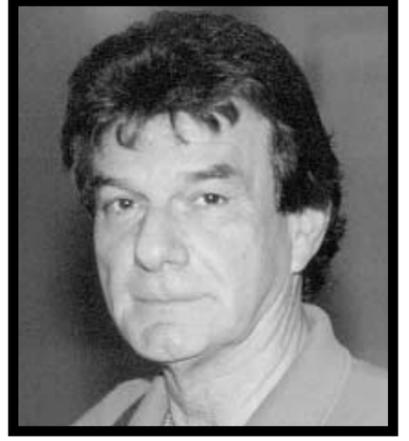
Michael J. Nowatzki
L-835, Bakersfield, Calif.

"I'm the local's president, and work on Union Pacific as a conductor. I've been a railroader for 28 years. Breathing diesel fumes is always in the back of my mind, but it's not a prime concern. I think the lack of maintenance on the right-of-way and the tracks makes things dangerous. We just don't see the daily maintenance we used to see because they don't have the people anymore. I served five years on the Bakersfield safety committee and found they talk a good game, but there's a lack of commitment when it comes to spending money. The priority is such that they're just not doing what they could, or should, be doing to help protect employees."



Ange A. Beloy
L-1741, San Francisco, Calif.

"I'm a school bus driver on a Laidlaw property serving the San Francisco Unified School District. I've been driving for 17 years. We face everything from physical threats and disease exposure to exhaust fumes, all while working in bumper-to-bumper traffic. I've been threatened to be beaten up and shot, and I've had students grab the steering wheel. When you start up 200 buses in one corner of the yard in the morning, the fumes are horrible. We deal with kids carrying lice, ringworm and tuberculosis. There should be video surveillance, but there isn't. Our security is a two-way radio and our own unity. If something happens, the rest of the drivers are there in minutes."



Jack Rackley
L-1011, Hamlet, N.C.

"I've been a railroader for 32 years, and I'm a conductor with CSX. Just being around the equipment is hazardous to your health. The work/rest cycles we experience take a toll on our health, and that's probably a problem on any railroad. If you don't have enough rest, it becomes a health and safety issue. I worry about asbestos and diesel fumes. We all eat a lot of sandwiches and canned foods, so I don't think any of us are eating the way we should. We have a lot of injuries due to walking the ballast. There's a lot of back injuries and twisted knees and ankles. And, at some of the industries, you're exposed to all kinds of hazardous materials."

Statistics indicate these months most dangerous

CLEVELAND, Ohio – The two-month period of November and December is the worst time of year for severe injuries and fatalities in rail switching operations, based on statistics obtained by the Switching Operations Fatality Analysis (SOFA) working group, according to Michigan State Legislative Director David Brickey.

The group, which is composed of members from labor, management and the Federal Railroad Administration, states that the onset of winter has been shown to be particularly dangerous for employees engaged in switching operations.



Brickey

In an effort to reduce injuries and fatalities, the group recommends that employees practice the following five life-savers: secure all equipment before action is taken; protect employees against moving equipment; discuss safety at the beginning of a job or when work changes; communicate before action is taken; and mentor less-experienced employees to perform service safely.

Possible contributing factors in determining the causes of fatalities include poor intra-crew communication about the work in progress, failure to apply handbrakes, improperly lined switches, insufficient training and failure to comply with restricted speeds.

For more information about the Switching Operations Fatality Analysis group and its findings, visit <www.fra.dot.gov/safety/sofa/index.htm>.

On a more positive note, Brickey said that the year 2002, through August, "is the lowest, historically, for SOFA-defined severe injuries and amputations going back to January 1997," the year these types of injuries were identified by the group.

Brickey, who serves as the chairperson of the UTU's National Association of State Directors, represents the UTU on the SOFA committee, along with Georgia Legislative Director Danny Boyles and Minnesota Legislative Director John Smullen.

Mark your 2003 calendar with these meeting dates

Here is preliminary information for the 2003 UTU/UTUIA Regional Meetings and the UTU Quadrennial Convention. Additional details will be announced as they become available. Check the UTU and UTUIA websites for the latest information:

WESTERN REGIONAL MEETING

Mon., June 9, to Wed., June 11, 2003
DoubleTree Hotel, Seattle Airport
18740 Pacific Highway South, Seattle, WA 98188

Reservation code: UTU

Reservation telephone numbers: (800) 222-8733 toll free;

(206) 246-8600 hotel direct

Room rate: \$129/night single/double; \$139/night triple; \$149/night quad

Parking: \$12/day self parking

Reservation deadline: May 6, 2003

UTU QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION

Mon., July 28, to Fri., August 1, 2003
Hilton Anaheim, 777 Convention Way, Anaheim, CA 92802-3497
Reservation procedures will be announced in the near future

EASTERN REGIONAL MEETING

Mon., August 25, to Wed., August 27, 2003
Wyndham Philadelphia at Franklin Plaza
17th and Race Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Reservation code: UTU

Reservation telephone numbers: (800) WYNDHAM

or (215) 448-2000 hotel direct

Room rate: \$99/night single, double, triple, quad

Parking: \$13/day self parking

Reservation deadline: 5 p.m. EST Tue., July 29, 2003

Safer vans

Continued from page 1

More than 400 people died between 1991 and 2000 in 15-passenger van roll-over accidents, according to data obtained by *The Washington Post*.

"Current 15-passenger vans are too large to be subject to most passenger-vehicle standards and too small to trigger other safety measures, such as the standards that apply to school buses and the commercial licenses required for drivers of vehicles carrying 16 or more passengers," according to *The Washington Post*.

Now NHTSA has advised Ford and General Motors that improved braking systems be installed on 15-passenger vans and that more extensive safety testing be done.

Daimler-Chrysler no longer manufactures such vans.

The Washington Post also reported that the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) suggested NHTSA include passenger vans in its

rating system, which tests the rollover resistance of passenger vehicles.

"A new 15-passenger van costs about \$28,000, compared with about \$35,000 for a similarly sized school bus that meets more stringent safety standards," said *The Washington Post*.

NHTSA also is weighing a recommendation that 15-passenger vans be required to have an additional set of rear wheels to make them more stable and that the vans contain other safety features.

"Our position has been that regulations can be put in place more quickly than legislation," said UTU International President Byron A. Boyd Jr. "The NHTSA and NTSB actions validate our position. But the UTU will continue to work with lawmakers on Capitol Hill to ensure that a combination of safety laws and regulations are in place to assure the safety of train crews."

Boyd said legislation introduced in Congress earlier this year to require additional inspections of such vans did not go far enough to cure the roll-over problem. That legislation failed to gain passage.

Death benefits

Continued from page 1

\$2,000 in unclaimed death benefits, it will be necessary to provide MetLife (not UTU) with certain information.

"If you know of a UTU family with a deceased spouse, father, grandfather or other close deceased relative who retired from railroad service, that family may be eligible to collect the death benefit," said UTU Retiree Program Co-Chairperson Larry R. Davis.

An individual can initiate a claim inquiry by calling MetLife toll-free at 1-800-310-7770 or by contacting MetLife in writing. If contacting MetLife in writing, a copy of the death certificate, along with the deceased employee's Social Security number, final address and any available information should be sent to:

MetLife, P.O. Box 6122, Utica, NY 13504

A cover letter should be included indicating you are seeking to determine if you are eligible to collect an unclaimed death benefit from MetLife. MetLife will then conduct an investigation and advise whether it is a valid claim, said Davis.

Save Amtrak

Continued from page 1

now that the federal government has become aware that terrorists may attempt to target railroads," Boyd said.

"The role of conductors is important beyond safety," Boyd said. "Conductors interact with every member of the train crew. For example, orders to start and stop the train come from conductors, who have responsibility for safe-train operations."

"It is essential that policy makers understand the role of conductors as they search for means of assuring adequate funding for Amtrak."

Amtrak has lost money every year since it was created in 1970 and teetered on insolvency earlier this year before Congress provided an emergency appropriation of \$205 million.

But, Amtrak President David Gunn has told Congress that he cannot sustain operations unless Congress provides another \$1.2 billion. Some in Congress would prefer to kill Amtrak – or, at a minimum, scrap its long-distance routes.

"We agree with Amtrak President Gunn that the federal government must treat passenger rail service the same way it treats highways, transit, waterways and airlines," Boyd said. "And, that is to provide Amtrak with capital. Amtrak was important to the nation's transportation system even before 9/11."

"Now it is absolutely crucial. We will continue to deliver that message to Congress. We will continue to meet with lawmakers. We will use every ounce of our influence to preserve a national intercity rail passenger network and protect the jobs of the operating crew," Boyd said.

UTUIA seeks 2003 Volunteer of the Year

The United Transportation Union Insurance Association is looking for a special person to honor as its 2003 Volunteer of the Year.

Do you regularly volunteer at a hospital or nursing home? Do you lead a Boy Scout or Girl Scout troop or work with the handicapped? Are

you involved in some other activity that benefits those in your community?

If so, we would like to know about it.

A panel of judges at the UTU International will review all submissions and select the 2003 Volunteer of the Year.

The individual selected as UTUIA Volunteer of the Year will receive a \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond and a plaque of appreciation from UTUIA.

Additionally, he or she will be honored at the 2003 UTU/UTUIA Regional Meeting nearest his or her home (all expenses paid by UTUIA).

Also, 20 runners-up will be selected to receive certificates of appreciation for their volunteer efforts.

Deadline for submission of nominations is Friday, February 28, 2003.

The outstanding individual will be notified by registered mail, and certificates of appreciation will be forwarded to runners-up as soon as possible.

Decision of UTUIA judges is final. Previous nominees may be nominated again; however, former Volunteers of the Year are ineligible to receive awards.

The Volunteer of the Year program is designed to accomplish many things, not the least of which is the opportunity for UTUIA to let its fraternal light shine. It also provides an opportunity for UTUIA to recognize its volunteers for their outstanding contributions to others.

The nomination form should be mailed to: **UTUIA Volunteer of the Year, Attn.: Sandra Kranick, UTU/UTUIA Fraternal Coordinator, 14600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44107-4250.** Don't forget to include a separate sheet of paper describing your volunteer activities.

UNITED TRANSPORTATION UNION INSURANCE ASSOCIATION 2003 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

Name	_____	Local	_____
Address	_____		
City	_____	State	_____
Telephone Number	_____	Dates of Volunteer Activity	_____
Total Volunteer Time (hours, minutes)	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly	\$	_____

Please attach separate sheet of paper describing volunteer activity.
The more documentation you can provide, the better.

12/02

UNITED TRANSPORTATION UNION INSURANCE ASSOCIATION, 14600 DETROIT AVE., CLEVELAND, OH 44107-4250

Distinguished retired members pass away

CLEVELAND, Ohio – Two retired former general chairpersons and a retired former member of the UTU International Executive Board recently passed away, according to reports received at UTU International Headquarters.

John W. Price, 80, a member of Local 693 in Brewster, Ohio, passed away October 21 in Malone, Fla.

Born Feb. 20, 1922, Price began his career on the Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR) as a fireman and joined Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen (BLF&E) Lodge 630 in September 1941.

He was elected general chairperson in 1964. He continued to serve as general chairperson when the PRR merged with the New York Central in 1968, becoming the Penn Central (PC), and held onto the post through the voluntary consolidation of general committees representing the PC(W) and the Akron and Barberton Belt. He retired in June 1976.

Richard E. Doan, a member of Local 1477 in Dearborn, Mich., passed away August 5 in Manistique, Mich., the day after his 75th birthday.

Doan served in the Army during the Korean Conflict, then began his rail career on the Michigan Central as a fireman, joining the BLF&E in July 1950. He served as local chairperson from 1964 through 1976, when he was elected a Conrail general chairperson. He retained that position until his retirement in July 1989.

Patrick A. Corcoran, 76, a member of Local 483 in Toronto, Ont., passed away October 29.

Born March 14, 1927, Corcoran served in a number of offices, including delegate and yard local chairperson. He joined Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen Lodge 322 in November 1956, and served as vice general chairperson for the Canadian National central yard committee from 1975 to 1983.

In July 1980, he was elected to fill a vacancy that existed on the UTU International Executive Board when a former member retired and the alternate was unable to fill the vacancy.

He served on the board through 1987, and retired in September 1990.

UTU offers protection to those facing discipline

CLEVELAND, Ohio – The United Transportation Union has introduced a new program to help members facing disciplinary action.

The UTU Discipline Income Protection Program, formerly known as the Job Benefit Fund/Income Security Program (JB/ISP), provides monetary payments for a specified period of time to a participating member who suffers a loss in wages because he or she is suspended, dismissed or removed from service by the carrier for alleged violations of rules or operating procedures.



Payments are made provided that such violations do not come within the list of exceptions not covered by the program, such as missing calls or use of drugs while on or subject to duty.

Members who sign up for this protection choose the level of benefits they want, from \$6 per day to \$200 per day, by paying very affordable monthly assessments. The length of benefits, from 200 to 365 days, depends on how long the member has been enrolled in the program.

For example, a member who enrolls in the Discipline Income Protection Program and who pays a monthly assessment of \$18 is eligible to receive \$60 per day up to a maximum of \$21,900 if he or she has been enrolled in the program more than two years.

Participants also may apply for temporary relief of monthly assessments if they are not required to pay dues under Article 49 of the UTU Constitution.

All UTU members in the United States and Canada in good standing are eligible to apply for this protection on a voluntary basis.

For more information, contact your field supervisor or local representative; telephone (216) 228-9400 ext. 207; log on to the UTU website at www.utu.org; e-mail dipp@utu.org, or write Discipline Income Protection Program, UTU, 14600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44107-4250.

In Canada, members should contact the UTU Ottawa office at (613) 747-7979

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus

From the editorial page of The New York Sun, 1897

"We take pleasure in answering thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of *The Sun*:"

I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, 'If you see it in *The Sun*, it's so.' Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.

He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear

apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus? Thank God he lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!!"

Francis P. Church's editorial, "Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus" was an immediate sensation, and became one of the most famous editorials ever written.

It first appeared in the The New York Sun in 1897, almost a hundred years ago, and was reprinted annually until 1949 when the paper went out of business.

Thirty-six years after her letter was printed, Virginia O'Hanlon recalled the events that prompted her letter:

"Quite naturally I believed in Santa Claus, for he had never disappointed me. But when less fortunate little boys and girls said there wasn't any Santa Claus, I was filled with doubts. I asked my father, and he was a little evasive on the subject.

"It was a habit in our family that whenever any doubts came up as to how to pronounce a word or some question of historical fact was in doubt, we wrote to the Question and Answer column in The Sun. Father would always say, 'If you see it in the The Sun, it's so,' and that settled the matter.

And so Virginia sat down and wrote her parents' favorite newspaper.

Her letter found its way into the hands of a veteran editor, Francis P. Church. Son of a Baptist minister, Church had covered the Civil War for The New York Times and had worked on the The New York Sun for 20 years, more recently as an anonymous editorial writer.

Church, a sardonic man, had for his personal motto, "Endeavour to clear your mind of cant." When controversial subjects had to be tackled on the editorial page, especially those dealing with theology, the assignments were usually given to Church.

Now, he had in his hands a little girl's letter on a most controversial matter, and he was burdened with the responsibility of answering it.

"Is there a Santa Claus?" the childish scrawl in the letter asked. At once, Church knew that there was no avoiding the question. He must answer, and he must answer truthfully. And so he turned to his desk, and he began his reply which was to become one of the most memorable editorials in newspaper history.



Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season



Byron A. Boyd, Jr.
Byron A. Boyd, Jr.
International President



Paul C. Thompson
Paul C. Thompson
Assistant President



Dan E. Johnson
Dan E. Johnson
General Secretary/Treasurer

On Behalf of the Officers and Employees
of the United Transportation Union,
We Wish You and Your Family the Most Joyous of Holiday Seasons.



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12/02

PARENTS...GRANDPARENTS...

This Christmas, Give a Gift that Will Last a Lifetime

Have you ever stopped to think about what you *could* have done with the money you spent on Christmas gifts in the past? If you're like most parents and grandparents, you go overboard. But what usually happens to those gifts? Do they end up in the corner, rarely played with – or worse yet, broken? Why not give your little ones a lasting gift this Christmas?



“The best thing I gave each of them was a paid-up \$25,000 life insurance policy.”

– Willis G. Croonquist
Local 1177, Willmar, Minn.

Retired UTU member Willis G. Croonquist and his wife, Rita, pose for their annual Christmas photograph with their seven grandchildren. The Croonquists gave each of their grandchildren a gift that will last a lifetime: a paid-up, \$25,000 life insurance policy from the United Transportation Union Insurance Association.

Permanent life insurance is a wonderful way to provide a lifetime benefit for your youngsters. What better way to show them you care? Permanent life insurance is very inexpensive at young ages, and premium-paying choices are endless, since premiums can be paid in one easy payment or over just about any period of time you select. Give a gift that *keeps on giving* by returning the coupon below, or by calling toll-free, 1-800-558-8842, for assistance from your UTUIA representative.

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Telephone Number with Area Code			UTU Local Number

Please provide full name, sex, date of birth, and relationship of the child for whom the information is requested on the line below.

Full Name	Sex	Date of Birth	Relationship
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