

# UTU News

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The Official Publication of the United Transportation Union

## THE VOICE OF TRANSPORTATION LABOR

“You can’t scare me. I’m stickin’ with the union!”

– Assistant President Paul Thompson (See his column on page 4.)

### News & Notes

#### College seeks conductors

WAYCROSS, GA. – Okefenokee Technical College, Waycross, Ga., is seeking experienced railroad conductors with Class I railroad experience to be instructors for its railroad conductor training program.

Instructors will spend at least eight hours daily in classrooms or on railroad equipment teaching basic railroading, safety, operating rules, signals, equipment and other related topics.

For more information, telephone Sue Moore, freight conductor coordinator, at (912) 287-6569, or e-mail: [smoore@okefenokeetech.org](mailto:smoore@okefenokeetech.org).

Other railroad conductor training schools that may have openings for instructors are: AMDG, Atlanta, Ga., (866) 300-5198 or Cincinnati, Ohio, (866) 373-2916, [www.amdg.ws](http://www.amdg.ws); Cincinnati State College, Cincinnati, Ohio, (888) 569-1709, [www.cincinnati.state.edu/training/rr.htm](http://www.cincinnati.state.edu/training/rr.htm); Marshall Community & Technical College, Huntington, W. Va., (800) 525-8033, [www.marshall.edu](http://www.marshall.edu); University of North Florida, Jacksonville, Fla., (888) UNF-RAIL, [www.unf.edu](http://www.unf.edu).

#### Cookbook corrections

There are three minor corrections to the “Labor of Love for the Cure” cookbook published by the UTU to raise money for breast cancer research:

In Betts’ recipe section, the recipe for cheese puffs should include “One-half pound sharp cheddar cheese.”

On page 6, the recipe for the cheese ball should say “10 oz.” Sharp Cracker Barrel cheddar cheese, not “2 oz.”

On page 356, the recipe for Amish sugar cookies should include “Six cups flour.”

UTU regrets these omissions.

## FRA seeks expanded safety partnerships with UTU

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A meeting between UTU International President Byron A. Boyd Jr. and Federal Railroad Administrator Allan Rutter prompted an FRA invitation that the FRA/UTU safety partnership be expanded.



Rutter

Rutter said UTU’s demonstrated leadership at the national and state level has had a “positive impact in driving down the number of deaths and serious injuries among train and engine service employees.”

Additional UTU cooperation at the general committee and local level is now needed to make further progress in making the railroad environment less dangerous, Rutter said.

“There is no better example of UTU’s steadfast commitment to safety than the five years of unwavering support it has given to FRA’s Switching Operation Fatality Analysis (SOFA) working group to prevent fatal acci-

dents among rail employees engaged in yard and switching operations,” Rutter said. “UTU representatives played a vital role in developing the SOFA Lifesavers, five common-sense recommendations for train and engine service personnel to follow to prevent fatal switching accidents.”

UTU took the lead role in publicizing SOFA’s lifesaving tips – reproducing them in UTU publications, on its website, at regional meeting education sessions, and in encouraging carriers to include them on safety gear.

“Despite the fact that 2003 saw the lowest number of employee fatalities on record and an overall decline in the number of train accidents, there were still 10 fatal switching incidents that occurred,” Rutter said.

**“We need the help of the entire UTU leadership to drive home the message of safe switching practices to the thousands of UTU members who work on our nation’s railroads every day.”**

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Rutter praised the efforts of UTU state leg-

*Continued on page 5*

## FRA warns BLET about bullying

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Federal Railroad Administrator Allan Rutter announced the FRA will not discuss locomotive remote control issues with the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) so long as the BLET prefers confrontation to constructive discussions.

Rutter also reaffirmed the federal agency’s conclusion that remote control operations on the nation’s railroads “have not created an emergency situation involving a hazard of death or injury to persons.”

Recently, the BLET sponsored a sidewalk rally outside FRA offices in Washington, D.C., to protest remote control operations. BLET also brought legal action against the FRA in an attempt to halt remote control operations. “Sometimes when you stand outside of some-

*Continued on page 10*

## Two members die in accidents

Two UTU members were killed recently in separate rail-yard accidents.

Jody Allen Herstine, 37, a member of Local 857 at San Antonio, Tex., was killed early Dec. 7 at the Union Pacific’s yard in San Antonio.

Steven H. Hall, 41, a member Local 1003 at Kankakee, Ill., was killed Jan. 14 in a switching accident in Norfolk Southern’s yard there.

Herstine was struck and killed by a locomotive in a remote control assignment. Hall was killed when he was struck by a boxcar while working a conventional yard job.

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) dispatched investigators to San Antonio to investigate Herstine’s death. A UTU Transportation Safety Team member also

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### Bus Data



Buses in operation by major U.S. transit agencies as reported by the American Public Transportation Association (<http://www.apta.com/>):

New York MTA	4,790
Los Angeles County MTA	2,677
RTA (Chicago, Ill.)	2,607
New Jersey Transit	2,197
Metro (Washington, D.C.)	1,430
MTA (Houston, Texas)	1,417
SEPTA (Philadelphia, Pa.)	1,407

# Around the UTU

## News from around the U.S. and Canada

### Local 48, Norfolk, Va.

Members of this Norfolk Southern (NS) local joined last October with employees of the Norfolk & Portsmouth Beltline Railroad who belong to Local 854 in Portsmouth, Va., for an oyster roast and golf tournament that raised more than \$1,900 that was divided between three rail families going through hard times, said Local Chairperson **T.R. Adams**. Meanwhile, \$900 raised at a previous event was presented at the oyster roast by NS General Chairperson **Jim Houk** (GO-679) to his predecessor, **Walter R. Eubanks**, who retired on disability last year following a stroke. Members of both locals thanked **Malcolm "T-Bone" Morrison**, the UTU International, the UTUIA and Designated Legal Counsels **Willard J. Moody** and **Francis P. Hajek** for supporting the events.

### Local 78, Pocatello, Idaho

Members of this Union Pacific local are mourning the death of engineer **Lonnie Freeman**, 57, who passed away Jan. 8, 2004, at his home, said retired former State Legislative Director **Greg Farris**. Freeman was on leave due to an on-duty injury. "Lonnie touched many lives during his years of work at St. Anthony Hospital," Farris said.

### Local 168, Chicago, Ill.

Amtrak employee **Phillip J. Streby** recently was called to active duty with the U.S. Army, said Secretary & Treasurer **Lee Channing**. Meanwhile, members are mourning the death of **John Weyhe**, who perished in a traffic accident near his retirement home in Florida. Brother Weyhe had served as general chairperson on the Central Railroad of Indiana.

### Local 298, Garrett, Ind.

About 250 members and their families attended this CSXT local's Christmas party in December, said Secretary **Rick Mitchener**, who thanked Designated Legal Counsel **James L. Farina** for supporting the event.

### Local 305, Lincoln, Neb.

Members of this BNSF local are mourning the death of **George D. Hitz**, who passed away Jan. 26 at age 74, said BNSF General Chairperson (GO-245) **Randall S. Knutson** of Local 951, Sheridan, Wyo. Brother Hitz had served as GO-245 general chairperson from 1979 until his retirement in 1991.

### Local 367, Omaha, Neb.

This Union Pacific local raffled off a golf club to raise money late last year for its annual Christmas fund drive to help support less-fortunate children, said Secretary & Treasurer **Joe Brown**. As a result, a check in the amount of \$1,200 was presented on behalf of the membership to **Pattie Fidone** of Heart Ministries Charity by Local Chairperson **Dick Casey**, Legislative Representative **Kevin Kresl** and **Brown**.

### Local 469, Madison, Ill.

More than 300 enjoyed the buffet, refreshments and attendance drawings held at the annual Christmas party, said Secretary & Treasurer **John I. Payer**. Prizes included color TVs, hams, knives and fishing gear. Supporting the event was Designated Legal Counsel **John T. Papa**.

## People magazine honors brakeman

UTU members realized **James K. Thornberry** was a hero after they read about him in the June 2003 issue of the *UTU News*. But the obvious was underscored when *People* magazine honored Brother Thornberry with their *Heroes Among Us* award.

A 30-year yard brakeman employed on the Midwest Division, Michigan Zone, of Canadian National, Brother Thornberry found his life taking a turn for the extraordinary at the start of the war with Iraq in 2003, when he saw a telecast one day before heading to work. "It was about the lack of medical care for a teenage Iraqi girl who had been burned on her face, chest and arms when explosions near her home (in Baghdad) knocked an oil lamp off a shelf," he said.

With the help of long-time friend and Local 1709 President **Steven J. Thompson** (who has since been elected a UTU International vice president), Thornberry maneuvered to have the girl, **Hannan Shihab**, brought to the U.S. for medical care, tapping numerous sources to help defray travel costs.

Thornberry also approached the University of Michigan Trauma Burn Unit for their aid and expertise, and the institution graciously donated its services to the girl, who arrived there in May. Six weeks of intensive care were followed by another six weeks of therapy and minor surgeries, and finally **Hannan** was well enough to return home.

Meanwhile, the media picked up the story of the UTU member who made miracles happen through sheer determination, and the story proved a natural fit for *People* magazine.

"In October, *People* magazine flew me and my wife to New York City," said Thornberry. "They paid for our stay in an upscale, mid-town Manhattan hotel near Times Square, gave us tickets to a Broadway show and paid all our expenses for three days. The award was presented to me at a luncheon reception by actor **John Stamos**."

Most gratifying, Thornberry said, was that *People* magazine donated a large ad for his designated charity, the University of Michigan Trauma Burn Unit.

"I've met so many wonderful people as a result of this adventure," said Thornberry, chairperson and delegate for Local 1709 in Pontiac, Mich. "But I'm glad to be back to my regular routine."



James K. Thornberry

### Local 590, Portage, Wisc.

This Canadian Pacific local raised \$911 to assist Tyson Foods employees in Jefferson, Wis., who have been on strike since Feb. 28, 2003, said engineer **Steven James**. UTU members everywhere can help by sending donations to UFCW Local 538 Strike Fund, 2228 Myrtle St., Madison, WI 53704. To learn more, visit [www.tysonfamiliesstandup.org](http://www.tysonfamiliesstandup.org).

### Local 1138, Miami, Fla.

A local road/yard transfer agreement recently has been implemented for CSXT employees on the former Seaboard Coast Line at Hialeah, Fla., said Local Chairperson **Yvonne Hayes**. Under the agreement, members maintain separate road and yard guaranteed extra boards and all the protections that go along with that separation, including short rest and holiday pay on the yard extra board and payment over and above the guarantee for working outside the jurisdiction of the respective boards. Also represented by this local are employees of the Florida East Coast Railroad.

### Local 1397, Columbus, Ohio

CSXT employees recently honored **Tom Walker**, who retired Dec. 19 after 37 years with the railroad, said Secretary & Treasurer **Robert Smith**. Over the years, Brother Walker served the local as president, vice president and road and yard trainmen's local chairperson.

### Local 1594, Upper Darby, Pa.

Members of this SEPTA local have formed a new committee, Club Victory, to organize special events, such as the successful Christmas party held Dec. 13, said General Chairperson **Ron Koran**. The panel, which includes **Anthony Smith**, **Pat Greene**, **Esther Sacks**, **Doris Middleton**, **Kelly McGlone** and **Julius Major**, thanks those who made the party a success and invites suggestions for other events. Meanwhile, with contract talks just around the corner, members are urged to attend the regular meetings, now being held at a new location at the Upper Darby Fire House, 7241 West Chester Pike, Upper Darby, PA 19082.

### Local 1741, San Francisco, Calif.

San Francisco Unified School District bus operators in this local recently held a winter break celebration, and began hosting informational breakfasts where members can learn about the issues to be discussed during upcoming contract negotiations, said Vice Chairperson and Legislative Representative **Ange Beloy**.

### Local 1778, N. Vancouver, B.C.

BC Rail employees joined those from Local 1923 (Prince George, B.C.) in hosting a luncheon in December to honor **Bob Sharpe**, a member of Local 1778, for his many years of service to the union, said Secretary & Treasurer **David Moorhouse**. Brother Sharpe, now an International vice president, began his career in 1968 and has served multiple terms as a local and general chairperson, as well as chairperson of the seven-member Council of Trade Unions on BC Rail.

### Local 1895, Chicago, Ill.

Members of this Norfolk Southern local passed a resolution in December that will provide a first-year membership in the *UTU For Life* program for future retirees of that local, as well as retirees from 2003, said Secretary & Treasurer **Larry T. Grutzius**. The move came in response to a letter suggesting the action sent to all locals by *UTU For Life* Program Coordinator **Jim Shelley** of Local 556 in Tacoma, Wash.

# State Watch *News from UTU State Legislative Boards*

## Arizona



Members of UTU Local 807 at Tucson, Ariz., late last year attended a Democratic Party ceremony honoring four female legislators for their contributions and service to the party. During the affair, UTU members got the chance to meet and speak with Robert Reich, former secretary of labor for the Clinton Administration. Standing, left to right, are Jim Woloshin, Eddie Strom, Ed Smith, Local Treasurer Mike Bording, Reich, John Gibbons, Czar Huang, Assistant Arizona Legislative Director Dave Shearer and UTU Designated Legal Counsel Lloyd L. Rabb III. The honored legislators were Elaine Richardson, Ruth Solomon, Marian Pickens and Heather LaMear.

## Ohio

Terry Anderson, the former journalist who was held hostage in Lebanon for nearly seven years, has announced his candidacy for the 20th Ohio Senate District, according to Ohio Legislative Director **Joseph A. Boda Jr.**

Anderson, an author, professor, former foreign correspondent, former Marine, and



Pictured from left to right are Ohio Legislative Director Joseph A. Boda Jr., former hostage Terry Anderson, Senate Minority Leader Greg DiDonato (D) and Ohio Assistant Legislative Director Luther G. Newsom.

## North Dakota



The UTU was a lead sponsor of a statewide banquet in Bismarck, N.D., in January to hear political candidates. Of some 100 tables set for the event, the UTU had table number one. Above, UTU North Dakota State Legislative Director John Risch visits with U.S. Sen. Kent Conrad (D-N.D.) and Democratic presidential candidate Gen. Wesley K. Clark. From left are Conrad; Risch; Clark; Local 525 Legislative Rep. Darin Knotts; retired UTU Local 1344 officer Ken Clouston (front row in sweater); Local 1344 Legislative Rep. Jim Chase (behind Clouston), and retired Local 1344 officer Nick Zander. UTU members also served as the drivers for General Clark and his campaign staff during his Bismarck visit. The assistance provided Clark does not indicate UTU endorsement. UTU officers continue to meet with political candidates of every stripe to ensure they have knowledge of the UTU, its members and the important jobs they perform.

nationally known speaker, met with Boda, Assistant Ohio Legislative Director **Luther Newsom** and Ohio Senate Minority Leader Greg DiDonato at the Ohio Legislative Board office earlier this year to discuss his candidacy.

Anderson said he is committed "to do whatever I can to make things better for the people I see and admire every day, and like very much. I feel these troubled times demand more of me. It is time for me to work more directly for the things I believe in."

"We are proud to lend our support to Mr. Anderson in his quest to become the state senator in the 20th Ohio Senate District located in Southeast Ohio," Boda said.

## Wyoming

The Wyoming Legislative Board and UTU Local 465 at Gillette, Wyo., are sponsoring a bowl-a-thon on Feb. 28 to raise funds for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

The fundraiser will be held 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Frontier Lanes in Gillette.

There will be various prizes for donations raised per bowler and team, with the grand prize being a chance to win a brand new Ford automobile.

Contact Local 465 President **Billy Montgomery** at (307) 686-2092 if you would like to bowl or sponsor a team, or for more information about this fundraiser.

## California

The California State Legislative Board and the UTU Legislative Department recommend the following candidates in the state's primary election on March 2, 2004:

1 Mike Thompson (D)*	28 Howard L. Berman (D)*
2 No recommendation	29 Adam Schiff (D)*
3 Gabe Castillo (D)	30 Henry A. Waxman (D)*
4 David Winters (D)	31 Xavier Becerra (D)*
5 Robert T. Matsui (D)*	32 Hilda Solis (D)*
6 Lynn Woolsey (D)*	33 Diane E. Watson (D)*
7 George Miller (D)*	34 Lucille Roybal-Allard (D)*
8 Nancy Pelosi (D)*	35 Maxine Waters (D)*
9 Barbara Lee (D)*	36 Jane Harman (D)*
10 Ellen O. Tauscher (D)*	37 J. Millender-McDonald (D)*
11 Richard Pombo (R)*	
12 Tom Lantos (D)*	38 Grace Napolitano (D)*
13 Fortney "Pete" Stark (D)*	39 Linda Sanchez (D)*
14 Anna G. Eshoo (D)*	40 No recommendation
15 Mike Honda (D)*	41 No recommendation
16 Zoe Lofgren (D)*	42 Lewis Myers (D)
17 Sam Farr (D)*	43 Joe Baca (D)*
18 No recommendation	44 Louis Vandenberg (D)
19 James Lex Bufford (D)*	45 No recommendation
20 Jim Costa (D)	46 No recommendation
21 Fred B. Davis (D)	47 Loretta Sanchez (D)*
22 No recommendation	48 No recommendation
23 Lois Capps (D)*	49 No recommendation
24 Brett Wagner (D)	50 No recommendation
25 No recommendation	51 Bob Filner (D)*
26 No recommendation	52 No recommendation
27 Brad Sherman (D)*	53 Susan A. Davis (D)*

## Bus Department

By Roy Arnold, vice president-director

### I am just one phone call away

As I have traveled throughout the country, it has been a pleasure and an honor to meet many of my UTU brothers and sisters.

To bring you up to date on bus department news, Local 759 General Chairperson Nelson Manzano, Local 172 General Chairperson Teresa Zeller and Alternate Vice President Carol Scarcella negotiated contracts for better benefits and wages. Alternate Vice President-Bus-West Robert Gonzales recently negotiated a wage increase for the Alex locals.

In the future, UTU Local 1166 (General Chairperson Craig Patch), Local 1697 (General Chairperson Marvin White) and Local 1670 (General Chairperson Victor Jasso) will be negotiating contracts.

We will be working closely with Local 1785 General Chairperson Adhi Reddy and other officers on training needs.

Do you have training needs? Would you like assistance in improving your skills at handling grievances and improving two-way communication with members? Do you want other answers or assistance? My office in Cleveland is just a telephone call away and that is all that is needed to request our services. We are here to serve you. With each contract we negotiate, each grievance we win and each new member we recruit, we owe it all to you – the brothers and sisters of UTU.

I am reminded of something said by former world heavyweight prize-fighting champion Max Schmeling: "Why did I want to win? Because I did not want to lose!" Brothers and sisters, when we work together we not only make a difference – we all win!



## Yardmasters

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

### UTU welcomes WC yardmasters

The Yardmasters Department continues to move forward in representing its members.

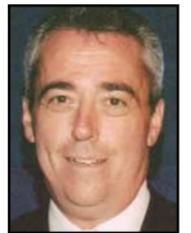
We welcome yardmasters employed by Wisconsin Central, which is part of CN North America. The excellent efforts of General Chairperson John Larson Sr. (GO-987), along with Wayne Raschka, Andy Hauck, Chuck Bennett, Tony Macareo and Don Krejcarek, made it possible for these Wisconsin Central yardmasters to gain the protections they deserve. We already are in the process of negotiating a fair agreement on wages, work rules and benefits for these new members.

At Indiana Harbor Belt, we reached an agreement – ratified by members – that provides for wage increases, a lump-sum payment, improvements to a 401(k) plan, paid turnover time, a guaranteed extra board, a single system roster with prior rights protected and an expanded training agreement. General Chairperson Richard Miller (GO-256) deserves recognition for his efforts.

Negotiations with Amtrak, Illinois Central (Glenwood Yard in Chicago), Soo Line and Union Pacific (a joint council agreement with the Transportation Communications Union) are moving forward. We have confidence that our Section 6 notices are fair as well as progressive and competitive.

The Yardmasters Department has become an industry leader in the use of interest-based bargaining, which is serving the members well.

Success at the bargaining table and in organizing new properties requires time, patience and involvement. When members are involved by attending meetings of their local and communicating suggestions to their local, general committee and International officers, we all benefit. I encourage each of you to be involved in your union to the greatest extent possible.



**UTU News**  
[www.utuia.org](http://www.utuia.org) [www.utu.org](http://www.utu.org)  
**Byron A. Boyd Jr., International President**  
**Paul C. Thompson, Assistant President**  
**Dan Johnson, General Secretary and Treasurer**  
**James M. Brunkenhoefer, Nat. Legislative Dir.**

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**[www.utu.org](http://www.utu.org)**

## A quiz

Which union led the successful fight to improve Railroad Retirement benefits?

Which union's officers visit regulatory agency heads to discuss problems affecting members?

Which union has the most Democratic and Republican friends in Congress?

Which union gained from Congress \$125 million for bus-operator safety training and led the battle for emergency Amtrak funding?

Which union negotiated trip-rates that put to rest forever carrier attempts to increase the basic day to 160 miles, and provide predictable paychecks and an end to grievances over how arbitrators are paid?

Which union negotiated a new national rail agreement providing wage increases exceeding those of every other organization?

Which union negotiated a dramatic boost in rates for dead-heading and brought post-'85 employees to wage parity (without diminishing the earnings capability of pre-'85 employees)?

Which union negotiated a new national rail health-care agreement that beats all others out there?

Which union gained ownership of new technology and unprecedented job security for those affected by it – and gained a congressionally ordered study into remote control safety?

Which union saved jobs in every operating craft by practicing craft inclusion rather than craft exclusion?

In each instance, the answer is: UTU. When the chips are down, your UTU takes a positive approach, delivering improved quality of life for members and their families. It's a record of superior accomplishment of which we all can be proud.



## WASHINGTON WATCH

By James M. Brunkenhoefer

# Elections can cure our health-care crisis

There may be no more important an election-year issue than the health-care crisis facing America.

Many employers export jobs to avoid health-care costs. Others limit employees to fewer than 20 hours weekly to avoid providing health-care coverage. Still other employers reduce the quality of health-care coverage or demand employees pay more of the costs. And many employers are reducing contributions to retiree health-care plans or canceling them.



Accessible, affordable and quality health care is a rare commodity in the richest nation in the world. This issue will be on center stage as we enter the campaign drama leading to November presidential and congressional elections.

What every American family deserves – and what your UTU is working for – is a national health-care plan providing every American access to affordable and quality health care. Hard-working Americans should not have to choose between buying medical care or food.

In an advanced society that spends billions of dollars to explore space and police the world, more than 43 million Americans should not be without health care, nor should tens of millions more families face limited health-care coverage and skyrocketing health-care costs. Health care is an essential safeguard of human life and dignity.

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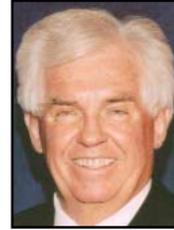
## “I’m stickin’ with the union!”

By Paul Thompson  
 Assistant president

Sisters and brothers, the United Transportation Union and UTU Insurance Association are safe and functioning well, despite the misinformation appearing on the websites of the usual suspects.

The government's investigation in Houston is not about theft of union or UTUIA funds. It is about alleged payments from some designated legal counsel to union and insurance association officers and employees.

Make no mistake: there are those who would use this as a means to attack the Federal Employers Liability Act (FELA).



Thompson

Last spring, the Board of Ethics was created by the current administration; and last summer, convention delegates – at the suggestion of the current administration – approved guidelines for designated legal counsel designed to prevent any such problems in the future.

Neither the union, nor the insurance association, is using its funds to pay the defendants' attorney's fees. The non-UTU websites won't tell you that, even though their authors have been so advised.

Some of those who pled guilty admitted some union-paid trips were taken as part of their scheme, and the union and insurance association are trying to get those relatively minimal expenses back. The non-UTU websites won't tell you that either

because their authors are only interested in vindication of their soundly rejected views. Their philosophy is “rule or ruin.”

They are not concerned about the UTU, UTUIA or you. They are now, as they always have been, concerned about themselves. They are not concerned that their conduct fuels the attack on FELA.

One of those indicted is UTU International President B.A. Boyd Jr., who says he is innocent and will mount a vigorous court defense. The U.S. attorney who obtained the indictments emphasizes everyone is innocent until proven guilty, and such a belief is a cornerstone of this and every union's foundation.

The UTU and UTUIA are working for you. The union has delivered remote control to its members and health and welfare benefits as good or better than anyone else has negotiated during a Republican administration. You know that because both contracts were ratified by the membership.

Also, during the past 90 days, the UTU paid more than \$3 million in strike benefits to our bus and transit members in Los Angeles.

Also, UTUIA continues to offer competitive life, accident, disability and annuity products to our policyholders and continues to prosper.

The way I feel about this whole thing is best summed up in the words of the old Woody Guthrie labor song, “You can't scare me, I'm stickin' with the union!”

You should feel that way too.

**We need to elect  
 lawmakers committed  
 to accessible, affordable  
 health care for all**

The Clinton administration sought to deliver a universal health-care plan, but special interests successfully beat up on the plan with distortions and scare tactics. We missed our chance then, but learned valuable lessons.

With labor-friendly Democrats now out of political power, we must fight even harder – but the lessons learned made us wiser.

To ensure every American family has access to affordable and quality health care, we must send a convincing message to everyone running for office that we are watching carefully what they say and do and will use the ballot box on Election Day to reward or punish their actions.

You should ensure every eligible member of your immediate and extended family is registered to vote in November.

Visit the UTU website at [www.utu.org](http://www.utu.org), and click on the red-letter link, “Voter Registration.” Even your neighbors and friends can use that link to register to vote.

It is time for the working families of America to set the political agenda. Working families have the numbers to elect labor-friendly lawmakers, but we must use the power of the ballot box to make it happen.

Let us once again prove that in union there is strength and unite to cast the ballots that will elect to Congress and the White House those committed to accessible, quality and affordable health care.

Don't let special interests win again – contribute to UTU PAC and vote.

## Canadian running trades choose TCRC

OTTAWA, Ont. – Running trades employees on Canadian lines of Canadian Pacific (CP) Railway voted for single representation by the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference (TCRC).

These running trades employees (equivalent to train and engine service employees in the

U.S.) are currently represented by the Canadian Council of Railway Operating Unions (CCROU).

“I applaud the Canadian Industrial Relations Board for consolidating the representation of operating employees,” said UTU International President Byron A. Boyd Jr. “The

UTU always has had two goals – a single representative for operating employees and employee choice. Those goals were served here. They should be served everywhere in the U.S. and Canada,” Boyd said.

For further information see the website of UTU Canada at [www.utu-canada.com](http://www.utu-canada.com).

## FRA partners

*Continued from page 1*

islative boards and the UTU national legislative office in “championing the SOFA initiative

among your membership. But in light of recent trends, we feel safety may be significantly improved if a greater number of people become involved in the SOFA effort,” Rutter said.

Rutter asked that UTU general and local committee leaders join the effort. “These dedicated men and women have the respect of

their members and their prestige will further enhance the visibility and credibility of the SOFA initiative,” Rutter said.

Boyd pledged to promote the involvement of “both the legislative and protective departments in this worthwhile and productive effort.”

## Safety tips for switching operations

### SOFA Recommendation 1

Any crew member intending to foul track or equipment must notify the locomotive engineer before such action can take place. The locomotive engineer must then apply locomotive or train brakes, have the reverser centered, and then confirm this action with the individual on the ground. Additionally, any crewmember who intends to adjust knuckles/drawbars, or apply or remove the EOT device, must ensure that the cut of cars to be coupled into is separated by no less than 50 feet. Also, the person on the ground must physically inspect the cut of cars not attached to the locomotive to ensure that they are completely stopped and, if necessary, a sufficient number of handbrakes must be applied to ensure the cut of cars will not move.

### SOFA Recommendation 2

When two or more train crews are simultaneously performing work in the same yard or industry tracks, extra precautions must be taken:

*Same track:* Two or more crews are prohibited from switching into the same track at the same time without establishing direct communication with all crewmembers involved;

*Adjacent track:* Protection must be afforded when there is the possibility of movement on adjacent track(s). Each crew will arrange positive protection for (an) adjacent track(s) through positive communication with yardmaster and/or other crewmembers.

### SOFA Recommendation 3

At the beginning of each tour of duty, all crewmembers will meet and discuss all safety matters and work to be accomplished. Additional briefings will be held any time work changes are made and when necessary to protect their safety during their performance of service.

### SOFA Recommendation 4

When using radio communications, locomotive engineers must not begin any shove move without a specified distance from the person controlling the move. Strict compliance with “distance to go” communication must be maintained.

When controlling train or engine movements, all crewmembers must communicate by hand signals or radio signals. A combination of hand and radio signals is prohibited. All crewmembers must confirm when the mode of communication changes.

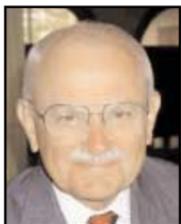
### SOFA Recommendation 5

Crewmembers with less than one year of service must have special attention paid to safety awareness, service qualifications, on-the-job training, physical plant familiarity, and overall ability to perform service safely and efficiently. Programs such as peer review, mentoring and supervisory observation must be utilized to insure employees are able to perform service in a safe manner.

[A message to UTU members from UTU Medical Consultant Dr. Norman Brown:](#)

## Early detection of colon cancer can save lives

Mammograms and Pap tests have saved many lives by detecting early, curable cancers at a reasonable cost and minimal inconvenience. Many more lives could be saved if there were more testing for colon cancer, which is a fairly common disease, but one which can be cured with a high success rate if caught early through testing.



Brown

Although these tests often are uncomfortable or unpleasant, they could well save your life or the life of your spouse. Catching colon cancer early is the surest way of eliminating it completely.

A colonoscopy – looking up the length of the colon with a fiberoptic tube containing a light on the end – has been recommended by the American Cancer Society for all those 50 and older. You should ask your doctor if he/she recommends this test.

A less intrusive test is providing a physician with three small samples of your stool by using what is called a Hemoccult kit. This test, completed at a medical laboratory, detects microscopic amounts of blood in the stool, which is a warning sign of colon cancer. The test is inexpensive and the kit is available through your physician’s office. Many physicians recommend this simple test annually regardless of how well you feel.

You also can do a lot to help yourself to better health through better living habits such as an improved diet, regular exercise and by not smoking.

Additionally, you should always be alert for any suspicious symptoms – such as a change in bowel habits or visible blood in the stool – and report to your physician immediately. Your physician is best equipped to provide you with the tips and tools you need to stay healthy and, in any case, you should obtain a physical examination annually – especially if you are at least 50 years old.

# Push comes to shove: Transit employees suffer when passengers are rude and inconsiderate

## Carrier policies assume passenger complaints legit, employees face discipline for public's rude behavior

This is a dog-eat-dog world. UTU members in airline, bus and rail commuter service see it every day: stressed-out riders, tightly coiled by frustrations at home and work, ready to unload at the slightest provocation. Invariably, some of them do, and, oftentimes, UTU members are on the receiving end of the lash-out.

The vast majority of times, these members react with calmness and understanding. They sympathize with the frustrations of their riders to late trains, buses and airplanes, equipment breakdowns and unforeseen delays. Unfortunately, this bad behavior cannot be reported to the riders' employer, but a snarling rider can report a UTU member to his or her employer for even the most minor of perceived offenses.

Long-held carrier policies often assume that passenger complaints are legitimate, that the UTU member is guilty unless proven innocent. This has often led to harsh discipline of employees that is oftentimes unfounded. It is the employee who, more often than not, is the victim of bad manners, not the passenger.

This point was proven recently with the release of a study of UTU members and other transportation employees. The study on civility and behavior in the travel industry was conducted by the nonprofit, nonpartisan opinion research organization Public Agenda.

The report, "Rudeness and Disrespect: A Problem Among Travelers?" gives credence to UTU assertions that riders' tempers and tensions often cloud their claims of mistreatment.

According to the study, rudeness and bad behavior are major sources of stress and aggravation for both passengers and transportation employees.

The report suggests that stressful travel conditions, a general decline in values and parents who do not control their children while traveling are sore spots for Americans on the move, and no Americans see it more than UTU members.

### How badly do people behave?

- Some 65% of passengers say rudeness is a serious problem in travel these days, and 52% of travelers say rudeness is a major cause of stress. Some 54% of transportation employees (i.e. UTU members) say passenger rudeness is a top cause of their on-the-job stress and tension.

- Nearly half (49%) of transportation employees say they have personally seen a situation where disrespectful behavior threatened to escalate into physical confrontation. And an additional 19% say disrespect had led to a situation actually getting physical.

- Some 62% of travel personnel say they sometimes or often see their fellow employees being rude, and another 50% admit that they have lost patience and been impolite to passengers themselves. But, when this happens, 56% say it is typically because employees were provoked and treated badly by passengers. While most passengers give travel personnel high marks for overall courtesy, 67% say that when they have a run-in with rude travel employees, they are likely to be rude in return.

- Nevertheless, 62% of transportation employees say rude and disrespectful behavior is "mostly limited to a few people," and 45% say

they are often treated with courtesy and respect.

According to Public Agenda President Ruth Wooden, "Incivility is not just a minor daily irritant. In a national study Public Agenda conducted in 2002, we found that 79% of Americans say lack of respect and courtesy is a serious problem. And where do we see some of the worst behavior in everyday life? Where do we see good people go bad? Too often we see it – or cause it ourselves – when we travel. Bad manners and rude behavior can make modern travel

**From this informal research, we see that passengers and travel personnel are very aware that courtesy and manners are a two-way street. Passengers expect, appreciate and generally receive courteous treatment. But when treated badly, they are likely to respond in kind by being rude themselves.**

a trying and sometimes unpleasant experience."

"It's important to keep in mind that 35% of the travelers surveyed said they don't find rudeness to be a serious problem," says Amy Ziff, editor at large at Travelocity. "However as a travel company, we think this is a great opportunity for people to learn from their



Philip Ramirez, a member of UTU Local 1608 at Chatsworth, Cal., and a bus operator with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, says the agency offers a program and a refresher course once a year about how to handle rude passengers. "We are instructed to defuse the situation as best we can and not to make it more explosive. If we, as operators, greet our passengers with a smile, we are often able to disarm them. I don't pay too much attention to them. I don't let them see that I am offended or too interested in their behavior. If they have questions, I answer their questions the best that I can."

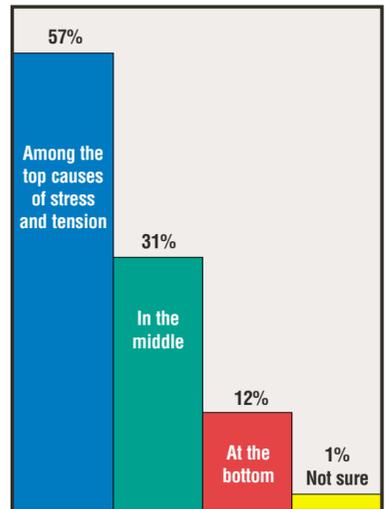
behavior and the behavior of others. The vast majority of travelers say they shrug rude encounters off quickly, but a simple 'excuse me' or a smile can also go a long way."

### Crowds, long lines, unruly children

Crowds, long lines and unruly children are the source of most of these problems.

Both transportation employees and passengers see two trends in travel incivility – a general loss of respect and the practical effects of

### Compared with other causes of stress and tension at your job, would you put passenger rudeness and disrespect:

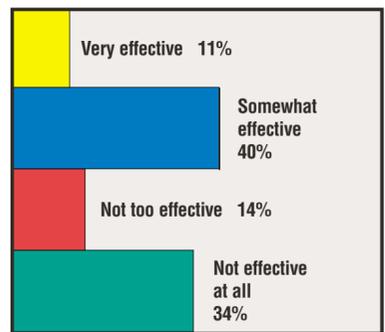


Asked of 179 UTU members employed in transit

### Have you received special training through your workplace on techniques for dealing with rude or disrespectful passengers?

Yes: 49% No: 45% Not sure: 6%

### How effective would you say this training has been?



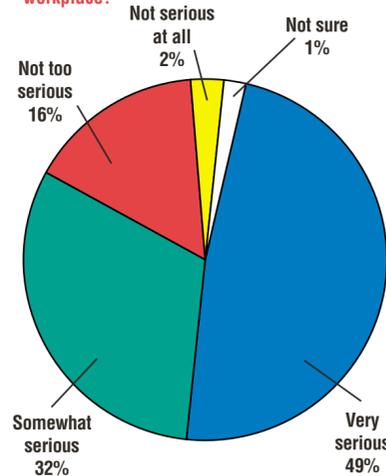
Asked of 179 UTU members employed in transit

working and traveling under tough conditions.

Passengers (52%) and transportation employees (69%) say a decline in values and morality leads people to be less polite and respectful, and 63% of passengers and 72% of travel personnel say the problem is caused by too many parents "failing to teach respect to their kids."

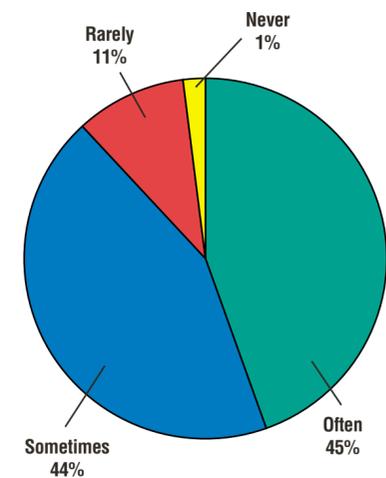
Travel conditions, too, are taking their toll. About seven in 10 (69%) travel workers cite "stress due to lack of adequate staff and resources" as a major source of rudeness, and most (66%) acknowledge that crowds and long lines lead people to lose their cool. Some 51% of travel personnel say that things are so hectic

### How serious a problem would you say that rude and disrespectful passengers are at your workplace?



Asked of 179 UTU members employed in transit

### How often are you treated with courtesy and respect by passengers?



This question was asked of 875 transportation employees in the airline, bus, rail and highway transit industries.

and people so rushed that they forget to be polite.

Parents may not want to hear this, but topping passengers' list of rude behaviors is "uncontrolled children" (80%). Another 80% point to passengers who kick the back of the seat in front, followed by swearing (67%), loud talking (66%) and littering (55%).

### Not good for the travel business

The Public Agenda and Travelocity research point to consequences for rude behavior that go beyond hot words and high blood pressure. Of the passengers responding to Travelocity, 50% say that they have stopped doing business with a carrier where they have encountered rude personnel. Some 36% say they have complained to management and 37% say they have written a letter. And, 72% say they have told their story to friends.

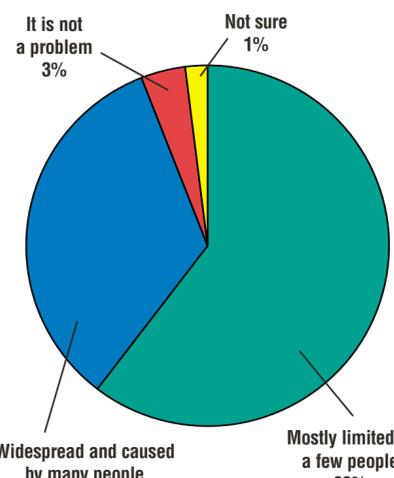
Although a serious issue for the travel industry, fewer than half (46%) of travel employees responding to Public Agenda report that they have received training in how to deal with rude or disrespectful passengers. Of those who have received special training, only 9% call it very effective; 43% say it has been somewhat effective, and 45% say it has either been not too effective or not effective at all.

### Rudeness – it's contagious

According to Ruth Wooden, "From this informal research, we see that passengers and travel personnel are very aware that courtesy and manners are a two-way street. Passengers expect, appreciate and generally receive courteous treatment. But when treated badly, they are likely to respond in kind by being rude themselves. And they are also likely to complain, tell their friends and avoid the offending carrier."

While travel personnel often feel provoked by rude and unreasonable passengers, nearly half of those employees say they sometimes see oth-

### Would you say that the problem of rude and disrespectful passengers is:



This question was asked of 875 transportation employees in the airline, bus, rail and highway transit industries.



Conductor Teresa A. Phillips, a member of UTU Local 61 at Philadelphia, Pa., and a conductor for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), greets passengers with a smile as they board her train in the City of Brotherly Love.

er employees being disrespectful to passengers and 16% say they see this often.

It is also clear that rudeness is contagious. A previous survey found that nearly seven in 10 Americans say they are less likely to be nice when they have to deal with someone who is rude and impolite. But far more (92%) said that respect and courtesy are contagious too; the more people engage in civil behavior, the more it flourishes.

"The members of the UTU have a long-standing commitment to serving the traveling public with courtesy and respect – and to encouraging the public to do the same," Illinois State Legislative Director Joe Szabo said.

### About the travel and civility research

The Public Agenda Feedback Poll of travel industry workers represents the views of 875 airline, bus, train and highway workers who decided to answer the survey and cannot be assumed to represent the views of the general population of people who work in the travel industry. The sample was a nonrandom and self-selected pool of employees who chose to complete the questionnaire.

The Travelocity poll represents the responses of 1,009 Travelocity members who have traveled in the last 12 months.

Public Agenda is a nonprofit organization dedicated to nonpartisan public policy research. Founded in 1975 by former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Daniel Yankelovich, the social scientist and author, Public Agenda is well respected for its influential public opinion polls and balanced citizen education materials. Its mission is to inform leaders about the public's views and to educate citizens about government policy.



# UTU for Life



## RRB's 2003-2008 plan submitted to Congress

By V.M. "Butch" Speakman Jr.

The Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) is required by the Government Performance and Results Act to submit every three years a strategic plan to Congress outlining the board's mission, general goals and objectives – and how the agency will meet those goals and objectives.



V.M. Speakman

The strategic plan for 2003-2008 has two strategic goals, with several strategic objectives for achieving those goals.

The first strategic goal is to provide excellent customer service. To satisfy customer expectations for quality service, our strategic objectives are to pay benefits accurately and timely; provide relevant, timely and accurate information that is easy to understand; provide a range of choices in service delivery methods; and ensure efficient and effective business interactions with railroad employers.

The second goal is to serve as responsible stewards for the Railroad Retirement trust funds and RRB resources. We are committed to ensure that trust fund assets are projected, collected, recorded and reported appropriately; ensure the integrity of benefit programs; ensure effectiveness, efficiency and security of operations, and effectively carry out the responsibilities of the agency under the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2001 with respect to the activities of the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust (NRRIT).

The complete plan is available on the board's website at [www.rrb.gov](http://www.rrb.gov).

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

## UTU for Life chapter founder sees reasons to band together

Keenly aware of the need to band together, **Lawson Chadwick** so firmly believed in the need for a nearby *UTU For Life* chapter that he formed one himself.

A retired member of Local 84 in Los Angeles, Calif., Chadwick convened the chapter on July 7, 2003, in Oceanside, Calif., with State Legislative Director **J.P. Jones** as guest speaker.

"Retirees from as far away as Nebraska and Canada came," Chadwick said. "Crafts represented included bus, engine service and rail employees."

The reason for the chapter just makes sense, Chadwick said. "We should stay connected. It gives the UTU a whole cadre of people to lobby Congress on issues such as Amtrak and Railroad Retirement. We should think of ourselves as a baby AARP."

Chadwick began his career as a laborer in Lincoln, Neb., but, looking to escape the winters, became a Santa Fe conductor out of Needles, Calif. In 1971, he went to work on Amtrak. "The last two years before I retired in 2000, I was a conductor on North County Transit's Coaster," he said.

Today, Chadwick said, his wife Nancy is a trustee to the board of governors for Palomar College and vice chair of the Oceanside Plan-



Retired member Lawson Chadwick (center), a member of the Oceanside Police and Fire Commission, recently attended the graduation of 38 firefighters from Palomar College. With Chadwick is Commission Chairperson C.C. Sanders (left) and newly minted firefighter Jennifer Pursley of the Oceanside Fire Dept.

ning Commission. Meanwhile, Lawson is a commissioner on the Oceanside Police and Fire Commission and president of the Carlsbad/Oceanside Democrat Club.

For information about Chadwick's chapter of *UTU For Life*, contact him at 5059 Nighthawk Way, Oceanside, CA 92056, call him at (760) 945-5365, or send him e-mail at [llchad@cox.net](mailto:llchad@cox.net).

To start a chapter in your area, write to **Jim Shelly**, 21 E. Johnson Dr., Sequim, WA 98382, or call him at (360) 683-5805.

## Arrangements in place for St. Petersburg picnic

Retired railroaders from all crafts, their spouses, companions and friends are invited to join the fun in St. Petersburg, Fla., at the annual picnic begun in 1991 by Indianapolis-based New York Central and Conrail retirees, said *UTU For Life* member **Joe Alenduff** of Local 1963, Louisville, Ky.

This year's retired railroaders' picnic will be

held on Sat., March 20, in St. Petersburg's Ft. DeSota Park at shelter no. 13. The event runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Alenduff said. Coffee and iced tea will be furnished, and participants are urged to bring their own place settings and a dish or two to share.

For information, call Alenduff at (813) 522-6808, or send him e-mail at [joe.pat@verizon.net](mailto:joe.pat@verizon.net).

## 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.

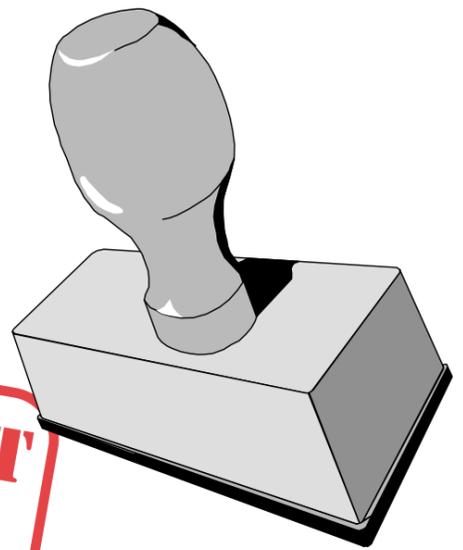
Local	Name	City/State	Local	Name	City/State	Local	Name	City/State
1	Lepir, John N.	Conroe, Texas	602	Hoffman, Robert L.	Northumberland, Pa.	1328	Bronner, Woodrow W.	New Albany, Ind.
2	Redford, Eulin F.	Holland, Ohio	602	Moyer, Harvey F.	Selinsgrove, Pa.	1374	Yakob, Paul J.	New Castle, Pa.
5	Moore, Francis John	Tonganoxie, Kan.	627	Kinney, Merle F.	Lincoln, Neb.	1375	Januszka, Francis S.	Hew Hope, Pa.
9	Johnson Jr., Floyd M.	San Angelo, Texas	631	Phares, Theodore M.	Clarksburg, W. Va.	1377	Mourer, James P.	Russell, Ky.
194	Borosh, Richard D.	Goshen, Ind.	750	Greer, Ronald M.	Knoxville, Tenn.	1388	Brooks, Stanley H.	Scottsdale, Ariz.
195	Johnson, Harry A.	Galesburg, Ill.	823	Cagle, Gary D.	Big Spring, Texas	1390	Herbener Jr., Henry	Ephrata, Pa.
195	Johnson, Wilbur L.	Galesburg, Ill.	891	Foster, Ray K.	Chulavista, Calif.	1390	Stavitski, Francis M.	Trenton, N.J.
204	Moore, Leonard A.	Pueblo, Col.	903	Smart, William B.	Jacksonville, Fla.	1393	Guiher, Harold O.	Sebring, Fla.
258	Allum, Jack L.	Oregon, Ill.	991	Jasper, George D.	McDonald, Pa.	1399	Walker, Robert L.	Terre Haute, Ind.
258	Jones, Charles K.	Hiawatha, Iowa	997	Kohl, Stanley E.	Northumberland, Pa.	1445	Hausser, John J.	Bayonne, N.J.
298	Willison, Charles E.	Elmwood Park, Ill.	997	Swartz Sr., Ivan D.	Richfield, Pa.	1462	Medvecky, Nicholas	N. Providence, R.I.
305	Balkus, Bernard M.	Omaha, Neb.	998	Grantham, Jacky N.	Nicholls, Ga.	1473	Knight, Charles W.	Bath, Maine
333	Grein, Dennis W.	Seymour, Ind.	1011	Hall, Robert L.	Laurinburg, N.C.	1477	Hinds, George E.	Colorado Springs, Col.
333	Wade, Virgil L.	Kissimmee, Fla.	1033	Moore, George B.	Folkston, Ga.	1501	Stauder Jr., John E.	Metairie, La.
386	Reedy, Edward J.	Schuylkill Haven, Pa.	1035	Travers, Henry E.	High Springs, Fla.	1522	Smith, Albert P.	Clearwater, Fla.
421	Stainfield, Lyle J.	Jefferson, Ohio	1059	Lyon, Robert J.	Minot, N.D.	1570	Dumas, James H.	Folsom, Calif.
454	Anderson, Everett R.	Baltimore, Md.	1074	Geisler, Rudolph A.	Sebring, Fla.	1574	Mears, Tarris E.	Milwaukie, Ore.
469	Brazeal Jr., Earl L.	Eastlake, Ohio	1074	Webb, Charles K.	Monroeville, Pa.	1607	Ulmen, Bernard M.	Union Grove, Wisc.
469	Deerhake, Vincent H.	Highland, Ill.	1088	Everett, Robert E.	Toomsaba, Miss.	1638	Buckner, Hugh S.	South Euclid, Ohio
471	McDonough, Delbert L.	Salem, Ore.	1117	Smith, James E.	Las Vegas, Nev.	1638	Hyde, John S.	Bedford Heights, Ohio
490	Hensley, Arthur C.	Princeton, Ind.	1202	Koons, Harold A.	Yorktown, Ind.	1770	Felter, Gordon J.	Sun City, Ariz.
584	Stancel, Donald	Madison, Miss.	1227	Shumate, Paul B.	Erie, Kan.	1780	Kramer Jr., Louis	Lenexa, Kan.
587	Byrne, John P.	Albany, N.Y.	1245	Wilson, Claude E.	Smyrna, Ga.	1801	Boydston, Robert G.	Galt, Calif.
594	Banks, Duke W.	Mineola, Texas	1292	Baril, Richard L.	Lewiston, Idaho	1801	Boyle, E.W.	Tracy, Calif.
			1299	Tooker, George J.	Peotone, Ill.	1918	Rowe, Earl I.	Kaufman, Texas



**NOTE:** Erroneously included in this listing recently were Phillip W. Andrews of Local 663, who resides in Brownville Jct., Me., and Everette W. Johnson Jr. of Local 219, who lives in Center, Mo. The *UTU News* regrets the error.

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02/04



## 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	Name	Local	City
<b>PLATINUM CLUB (\$1,200 OR MORE PER YEAR)</b>											
Alexander III, Joel F.	622	Birmingham, Ala.	*Lavender, Gordon L.	17	Marshalltown, Iowa	*Hicks, Merlyn R.	464	Arkansas City, Kans.	*Banach, John A.	998	Waycross, Ga.
Marceau, Francis G.	891	Whitefish, Mont.	*Lash, Charles R.	18	El Paso, Tex.	*Grover, Owen L.	471	Eugene, Ore.	Mann II, William D.	1033	Atlanta, Ga.
Motes-Conners, James S.	891	Whitefish, Mont.	*Rubeling, Claude A.	28	Cheyenne, Wyo.	*Nord, Frank H.	486	Glendive, Mont.	Richardson, Gary J.	1033	Atlanta, Ga.
McCart, Steven P.	1168	Clovis, N.M.	Hunter, Henry L.	48	Norfolk, Va.	*Davis, Wayne J.	489	San Antonio, Tex.	*Rask, Raymond A.	1067	Virginia, Minn.
<b>DOUBLE DIAMOND CLUB (\$600 OR MORE PER YEAR)</b>											
Heuring Jr., Richard L.	1003	Kankakee, Ill.	*Baker, Cornelius J.	72	Battle Creek, Mich.	Beard, Richard L.	490	Princeton, Ind.	*Bragg, Ingram R.	1081	Glendale, Ariz.
Draskovich, Richard M.	1503	Marysville, Kans.	Valenzin, Lawrence R.	100	Oakland, Calif.	*Russell, Ronald W.	490	Princeton, Ind.	*DeVaun Jr., L.L.	1129	Raleigh, N.C.
<b>DIAMOND PLUS CLUB (\$400 OR MORE PER YEAR)</b>											
Silkowski, Douglas S.	168	Chicago, Ill.	Kaufman Jr., Thomas C.	113	Winslow, Ariz.	*Wagoner, Donald M.	490	Princeton, Ind.	*Gaynor, Robert	1190	Ludlow, Ky.
Kasecamp, Lawrence E.	600	Cumberland, Md.	Meritt, Daniel L.	113	Winslow, Ariz.	Dixon, Timothy Lee	508	Smithville, Tex.	*Holcomb, Benjamin D.	1245	Atlanta, Ga.
*Lowe, Joseph P.	1760	Detroit, Mich.	*Keller, Orvel J.	117	Vancouver, Wash.	*DuBose, G. Thomas	535	Macon, Ga.	Lawson, Robert H.	1245	Atlanta, Ga.
<b>DOLLAR-A-DAY CLUB (\$365 OR MORE PER YEAR)</b>											
Sears, Becky M.	113	Winslow, Ariz.	Aguillard, Derrick A.	168	Chicago, Ill.	Brown, Lawrence D.	556	Tacoma, Wash.	Korte, Robert N.	1258	Elgin, Ill.
Stewart, Wilford G.	202	Denver, Colo.	Barnes Jr., Mark	168	Chicago, Ill.	Twedell, Gerald W.	556	Tacoma, Wash.	Meyers, Chad	1258	Elgin, Ill.
Gonzales Sr., Joseph R.	257	Morrill, Nebr.	White, Yacin A.	168	Chicago, Ill.	Cummins, Mary M.	577	Northlake, Ill.	*Larson, Clyde P.	1292	Proctor, Minn.
Shaffer, Joshua I.	257	Morrill, Nebr.	*Cox, Walker M.	195	Galesburg, Ill.	*Grayer, Jr., Larry C.	577	Northlake, Ill.	*Bennington, Harry G.	1399	Terre Haute, Ind.
Wheeler, Graydon L.	257	Morrill, Nebr.	*Dagen, Michael G.	195	Galesburg, Ill.	*McDonough, Dennis L.	577	Northlake, Ill.	*Allen, James V.	1400	S. Portland, Maine
Workman, Joseph D.	432	Champaign-Urbana, Ill.	Palmer, Thomas A.	199	Creston, Iowa	Werren, Jason R.	577	Northlake, Ill.	*Lear, Bruce R.	1477	Dearborn, Mich.
Betts, Joseph G.	583	Fond du Lac, Wis.	Stull, Steven	199	Creston, Iowa	Houzner, Joseph E.	590	Portage, Wis.	*Lewis, William L.	1477	Dearborn, Mich.
Lang, Douglas M.	583	Fond du Lac, Wis.	Thatcher, Douglas D.	199	Creston, Iowa	Kingsley, Neal W.	590	Portage, Wis.	*Robinson, James H.	1477	Dearborn, Mich.
Stewart, Charles R.	1261	Atlanta, Ga.	Brucks, Roger D.	202	Denver, Colo.	Perry, Robert L.	602	Williamsport, Pa.	Booth, Michael W.	1501	Baton Rouge, La.
Tkachenko, Lawrence M.	1470	Edmonston, Md.	*Shaver, Jack V.	202	Denver, Colo.	Mullins, Michael M.	630	Ashland, Ky.	Johnson, Everett W.	1501	Baton Rouge, La.
Dare, R.W.	1525	Carbondale, Ill.	*Daniels, Walter A.	212	Albany, N.Y.	Eagle Jr., Harvey G.	631	Brunswick, Md.	Moore Jr., Clyde	1501	Baton Rouge, La.
Fratto, Thomas J.	1534	Chicago, Ill.	*Schild, Roy H.	212	Albany, N.Y.	Holder, Ricky L.	631	Brunswick, Md.	Poirier Jr., Francis J.	1501	Baton Rouge, La.
<b>DIAMOND CLUB (\$300 OR MORE PER YEAR)</b>											
Schipper, Curtis K.	113	Winslow, Ariz.	Ruple, Jimmy T.	221	N. Little Rock, Ark.	Ingram, Everett J.	631	Brunswick, Md.	Robertson, Christopher G.	1501	Baton Rouge, La.
Camp, Michael D.	330	Poplar Bluff, Mo.	*Estez, David C.	225	Bellevue, Ohio	Loy, Gregory A.	631	Brunswick, Md.	Buttell, Gregory M.	1503	Marysville, Kans.
Price, Leo B.	465	Gillette, Wyo.	Fry, Mike W.	258	Rock Island, Ill.	*Conlee, Donald W.	643	Kahoka, Mo.	Tharp, Jeffrey A.	1532	Kansas City, Kans.
*Ewy, Harold L.	477	Newton, Kans.	*Pearson, Warren	259	St. Joseph, Mo.	*Adams, Robert L.	663	Bangor, Maine	Cobb, James P.	1548	Indianapolis, Ind.
Smith, Schuyler V.W.	490	Princeton, Ind.	Carl, Michael E.	305	Lincoln, Nebr.	*Bender, Raymond A.	693	Brewster, Ohio	*Keck, Eugene	1548	Indianapolis, Ind.
George, Thomas A.	631	Brunswick, Md.	Clausen, Adam D.	305	Lincoln, Nebr.	*Jernigan, Donald	771	Needles, Calif.	Palmer, Kevin E.	1548	Indianapolis, Ind.
Hamer, Stephen E.	800	Jersey City, N.J.	Gibson, Sean	305	Lincoln, Nebr.	Turner, Richard A.	773	Galveston, Tex.	Brown, Kraig E.	1554	Ogden, Utah
Dandridge, Barrett A.	867	Des Moines, Iowa	Goodell, Nathan C.	305	Lincoln, Nebr.	*Moseley, Philip L.	781	Shreveport, La.	Perkins, Brady P.	1554	Ogden, Utah
Phillips, Douglas L.	891	Whitefish, Mont.	Griffin, Aaron H.	305	Lincoln, Nebr.	Amberg, Dustin B.	794	Wellington, Kans.	*Willis, Milton W.	1570	Roseville, Calif.
*Graham, Charles P.	891	Whitefish, Mont.	James, Kyle E.	305	Lincoln, Nebr.	*Tucker, Cash M.	807	Tucson, Ariz.	*Kmieciak, Robert J.	1582	Albany, N.Y.
Mack, Charles C.	1422	Los Angeles, Calif.	Kremer, Jeffery S.	305	Lincoln, Nebr.	*Flanagan, Noah H.	847	Birmingham, Ala.	*Paxton, George G.	1590	Frederon, Pa.
<b>GOLD CLUB (\$100 OR MORE PER YEAR)</b>											
*Kane, Harold	5	Kansas City, Mo.	Kruse, Bret M.	305	Lincoln, Nebr.	*Knutson, Lyle P.	855	Spokane, Wash.	Morgan, Terry B.	1628	Pittsburgh, Pa.
Slonka, Kurt A.	5	Kansas City, Mo.	Mazza, Gregory P.	305	Lincoln, Nebr.	*Boysen, Robert	857	San Antonio, Tex.	*Wardleigh, Nathan K.	1629	Phoenix, Ariz.
Vaillancourt, Brent	5	Kansas City, Mo.	Monroe, Lorie	305	Lincoln, Nebr.	Biladeau Jr., James A.	867	Des Moines, Iowa	*Drake, John W.	1730	Richmond, Calif.
*Moore, Ralph O.	9	Slaton, Tex.	Reasland, Scott A.	305	Lincoln, Nebr.	Kulnar, Brian C.	867	Des Moines, Iowa	*Damstrom, Richard F.	1840	Glasgow, Mont.
			Wright, Benjamin Lee	305	Lincoln, Nebr.	*Teepie, Robert W.	872	Omaha, Nebr.	UTU Axiliary Lodge	314	Buffalo, N.Y.
			Everson, Cory J.	311	La Crosse, Wis.	Engler, Timothy P.	872	Omaha, Nebr.	UTU Auxiliary Lodge	431	Pueblo, Colo.
			Hutson, Jason A.	322	Milwaukee, Wis.	*Cote, Kenneth L.	891	Whitefish, Mont.	UTU Auxiliary Lodge	445	Roseville, Calif.
			Hays Jr., Verlin V.	330	Poplar Bluff, Mo.	*Koestler, Marlin	891	Whitefish, Mont.	UTU Auxiliary Lodge	771	Needles, Calif.
			Hays, Jerry D.	330	Poplar Bluff, Mo.	*Lockwood, Charles F.	891	Whitefish, Mont.	UTU Auxiliary Lodge	778	Wilmington, N.C.
			Miller, Michael D.	330	Poplar Bluff, Mo.	*Correia Jr., Earl P.	898	Boston, Mass.	*Hunt, Bob	C	Berkeley, Calif.
			Kresl, Kevin P.	367	Omaha, Nebr.	*Sturgill Jr., Harold D.	924	Richmond, Va.	Knight, Theresa A.	R	Cadillac, Mich.
			*Morrison, William E.	375	Edgemont, S.D.	*Garrett, John B.	933	Jefferson City, Mo.	Beeson, Dorothy Y.	N/A	Tucson, Ariz.
			*Gordon, Leonard L.	412	Kansas City, Kans.	*Shavers Jr., James W.	941	Columbus, Ga.	(in memory of James R., Local 807)		
			*Hamley, Marvin M.	426	Spokane, Wash.	*Bellar, John D.	945	La Junta, Colo.			
			*Ficht, Raymond L.	445	Niota, Ill.	*Rickers, Charles C.	971	Crewe, Va.			

\* = Retired Member

# FRA issues rule on silencing train horns

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has announced publication of a rule to allow local communities to quiet train horns at some 150,000 railroad crossings nationwide if important safety requirements are met.

The interim final rule may be viewed, along with a summary, history, background and FAQs, by clicking: <http://www.fra.dot.gov/Content3.asp?P=1318>.

The agency's "Interim Final Rule" describes specific standards local decision-makers can use to silence locomotive horns, while improving safety at public highway-rail grade crossings, and allowing many communities with existing whistle bans to maintain those prohibitions.

Under the rule, local governments will have the opportunity to establish quiet zones in certain areas where there is a low risk of collision, or to make specific upgrades meant to lessen

the risk where the hazards are greater.

The upgrade options include the installation of crossing gates that block both lanes of traffic in both directions or some type of approved

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## Standards give guidelines to cities that want to create "quiet zones"

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median divider to prevent drivers from crossing lanes to go around a lowered gate, the temporary closure of a crossing, or a one-way street with gates and lights.

The rule also allows use of an automated

horn system to be installed at the crossing as a substitute for the train horn.

For communities with whistle bans, the rule outlines specific steps local jurisdictions can take to maintain those restrictions, provided they notify FRA of their plan to create a "pre-rule quiet zone" and take the steps required to qualify them as such.

By law, the final rule will take effect Dec. 18, 2004, one year following the date of its publication, but communities with existing whistle bans will have at least five years to implement the requirements.

The rule will pre-empt existing state and local laws governing the sounding of locomotive horns.

FRA will not require that locomotive horns be sounded at private highway-rail crossings, instead leaving those decisions to the states.

## UTU PAC paves way for bus law

TRENTON, N.J. – UTU-backed legislation in New Jersey is aimed at making the job of operating buses less stressful and more safe.

Modeled after a similar law in California, the statute requires motorists to yield to a bus signaling to return to traffic from a bus stop, or from a stopped, standing or parked position where it was receiving or discharging passengers.

The law also instructs the New Jersey Transit Corp. to conduct a public education program to inform motorists of the requirements relating to the new bus rights-of-way.

Signed into law Jan. 5 by Gov. James McGreevey, the legislation was submitted at the request of the New Jersey State Legislative Board.

UTU New Jersey State Legislative Director Dan O'Connell praised the support and assistance of two fellow board members: Alternate Director Ralph Styverson (L-1558) and Vice Chairperson Nelson Manzano (L-759).

"The request for the legislation was brought to us by employees of Rockland Coaches, who are members of Local 1558," O'Connell said.

Roy Arnold, vice president and director of UTU's Bus Department, said, "New Jersey has some of the most congested highways in the nation and this new law is expected to make the workday of our members and all bus operators in New Jersey just a little easier."

O'Connell added: "An important element in winning legislative support for this measure was participation in UTU PAC by our New Jersey members. We proved once again that UTU PAC opens the doors for us in Congress and in state capitals and allows UTU to deliver for members what few other labor organizations are able to do."

## BLET warned

*Continued from page 1*

one's office and shout for an answer with a bullhorn, you may not get the answer you like," said UTU National Legislative Director James Brunkenhoefer after reading Rutter's six-page, single-spaced letter.

The Rutter letter was sent to Edward Wytkind, a lobbyist for the Transportation Trades Department of the AFL-CIO. Wytkind earlier had written Rutter on behalf of the BLET, urging the FRA to act favorably on a BLET petition to limit remote control operations. Wytkind – also on behalf of the BLET – sought an emergency order from the FRA "stopping all remote control operations."

The BLET has taken dual positions on remote control operations. Where the BLET has a contract to operate remote control – such as on Montana Rail Link – the BLET is comfortable with remote control. But where the UTU has a contract to operate remote control operations, the BLET has sought either to halt those operations or gain the work for its own members without an interest in protecting UTU-member jobs.

By contrast, the UTU's agreement on remote control provides labor protection for operating employees.

Recently, a BLET engineer who operates remote control on MRL, told a journalist, "Personally, I don't miss being in the cab. If I'm in the cab, I'm somewhat disconnected to the whole mission of the day... And with the remote, I'm not as concerned about harming someone."

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## BLET allows remote-controlled locomotives where it holds the contract

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FRA Administrator Rutter said that "based on current safety data available to FRA, there is nothing that would indicate that RCL operations are any less safe than conventional operations.

"Further, FRA has developed accident/injury reporting codes for RCL operations to ensure that any future safety hazards related to such operations can be easily identified, investigated and analyzed for the purpose of discovering any potential safety risks associated with this evolving technology."

Responding to a BLET assertion that 40 "incidents" involving death, injury or accidents have resulted from remote control operations, Rutter

said, "To date, none of the FRA reportable accidents or incidents concerning RCL operations have been the result of RCL technology (although a few have been the result of non-RCL equipment failures...)"

More specifically, Rutter said that a tragic death of an RCL operator in Dewitt Yard in Syracuse, N.Y., last February, did not appear to be RCL related. "Although FRA has not yet issued its final report regarding the investigation of this accident, at this point there is no indication the operation of the RCL caused the incident."

Boyd and other UTU officers continue to meet with Rutter and other FRA officials in constructive discussions on remote control safety.

Shutout from discussions, the BLET has been lobbying local communities symbolically to ban remote control operations in rail yards. It is symbolic because under federal law, only the FRA has authority to regulate remote control operations. Locally passed bans have no legal effect.

## Two killed

*Continued from page 1*

was assigned to assist the NTSB in its investigation. The FRA also was investigating Hall's death.

Hall, 41, was a four-year employee of NS. According to the Associated Press, Kankakee County Deputy Coroner Bob Gessner said Hall died while switching cars on a 13-car train. Gessner said Hall was found between

two cars of the train. Gessner said he had apparently been hit by one of the train car's wheels.

"At this time, nobody knows exactly what took place," said General Chairperson Delbert Strunk.

Hall is survived by a wife and four children. A trust fund has been established for Hall's family. Those wishing to donate should send checks to Steve Hall Trust, Municipal Trust and Savings Bank, 228 N. Dixie Hwy., Momence, IL 60954.

UTU International President Byron A. Boyd Jr. said he was "extremely concerned about these fatalities," and pledged to promote the involvement of the legislative and protective departments in order to boost the effectiveness of the Switching Operation Fatality Analysis (SOFA) working group.

"SOFA's educational efforts have shown to have value in reducing yard and switching accidents, injuries and fatalities," Boyd said.

(See related yard-safety stories on page 5 of this issue of the UTU News.)

# Members overwhelmingly ratify new contracts

UTU members employed on the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD), the South Florida Tri-County Commuter Rail Authority (Tri-Rail) and the Union Railroad have ratified new contracts.

## Los Angeles County MTA

Bus drivers and rail operators of the MTA voted overwhelmingly on Dec. 28 to ratify a three-year labor agreement that would help preserve their existing health-care benefits while providing pay increases.

The employees had worked without a contract since July 1. Of the UTU members who voted, 87% favored the deal.

"Right now, throughout California, it seems all the employers are taking away health benefits ... treating people like robots rather than people," bus driver Peter Bueras Jr., (L-1563, El Monte, Cal.) who voted for ratification, told the Los Angeles Times. "We feel the union provided us with the best contract they could muster for us. Because of the economy, we can't be too greedy."

The new agreement will freeze hourly wages until July but permit pay raises totaling 5% in the following years. The top hourly rate for an experienced bus driver or train operator, now \$22.45, would increase to \$23.59 by July 2005.

Medical benefits, a key sticking point during negotiations, would be safeguarded. The MTA also has agreed to shore up the union's health-care fund by increasing its contributions by 38% in the first year of the contract.

## N. Indiana Commuter

UTU-represented engineers and conductors employed by the NICTD overwhelmingly ratified a new six-year agreement Dec. 22.

The ratification vote by train and engine service employees of UTU Local 1526 was 68-6 and followed two years of negotiations. The members gained improved wages and benefits, gave back no work rules, and gained a new supplemental pension plan and crew consist agreement.

"NMB Mediator Sam Cognota was able to keep both sides focused through these difficult negotiations," said UTU Vice President Tony Iannone, who assisted Local 1526 with the negotiations. "With direct input from our UTU legal and legislative departments, we initialed a tentative agreement in Washington, D.C., and the ratification vote demonstrates this is an excellent agreement. Members gain so much when train and engine service employees bargain together in a positive manner."

Iannone praised the work of General Chairperson Anthony Wojasinski, Vice General Chairperson Darwin Oaks and Legislative Representative Dennis Burke. Also assisting in the negotiations was UTU Vice President David Hakey. Iannone also thanked UTU International President Byron A. Boyd Jr. for assuring Local 1526 "had all the resources it considered necessary during the lengthy bargaining period to make this agreement happen."

NICTD operates commuter service between South Bend, Ind., and Chicago, carrying more than 5,000 passengers daily in each direction.

## S. Florida Tri-Rail

UTU-represented conductors on Tri-Rail ratified a new agreement with Herzog, the operator of the service. Tri-Rail operates a 70-mile commuter line between Palm Beach through Ft. Lauderdale to the Miami airport.

The two-year agreement includes pay hikes in each year of the contract, the payment of a lump sum benefit and retroactive pay, and excellent health care coverage.

Vice President Pete Patsouras, who assisted in the negotiations, commended General Chairperson Al Suozzo and Local 30 (Jacksonville, Fla.) Chairperson Juan Fernandez. "They did an outstanding job in representing the membership," he said.

## Union Railroad

UTU negotiators also have reached a tentative agreement on wages and work rules for train service employees with Union Railroad, which serves the steel, coal and coking coal industries in the Pittsburgh area and whose principal connections include CSX, Norfolk Southern and Wheeling & Lake Erie. Union Railroad operates 65 miles of mainline and some 200 miles of yard track.

"Contract details will be released after language is perfected and submitted to the membership for ratification," said UTU Vice President Kim Thompson, who assisted with negotiations.

Thompson praised the "hard work and guidance" of General Chairperson J.J. Tierney Jr., along with the efforts of Vice Chairperson D.P. Arnett and the other members of the general committee "who lent support throughout the negotiation process."

# UTUIA seeks 2004 Volunteer of the Year

The United Transportation Union Insurance Association is looking for a special person to honor as its 2004 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 2004 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 2004 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 Monday, March 15, 2004.**

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

### 2004 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Local \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_ Dates of volunteer activity \_\_\_\_\_

Total volunteer time (hours, minutes)  Weekly  Monthly  \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Value of contribution (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach separate sheet of paper describing volunteer activity. 2/04  
The more documentation you can provide, the better.

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

# 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 was taken by Dale Mowder, a conductor and member of Local 1344 at Mandan, N.D. Mowder's photo is of a CP Rail grain train on the Newtown sub near Drake, N.D. "This is the only branch line that the CP Rail has left in North Dakota that is still manned by CP Rail crews," he wrote.



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## UTU calls for probe of abuses by railroad police officers

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The United Transportation Union has successfully called upon Congress to investigate the role of railroad police and allegations of abuse of their police power.

"Rather than acting as surrogate trainmasters and spying on operating employees, these armed officers, with extraordinary police powers, should be focusing on protecting railroads, their employees and the general public from terrorist activities," UTU International President Byron A. Boyd Jr. said.

Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) assisted the UTU in convincing the leadership of the Senate Commerce Committee to demand an immediate federal investigation into the proper role of railroad police.

Railroad police officers "answer to private-sector employers and are not directly accountable to the public like most law enforcement officers," Lautenberg told the Senate. "I am mindful that this could present potential for abuse – that under the guise of state law enforcement authority, these railroad police officers could engage in activities unrelated to law enforcement, such as enforcing railroad company policies or even labor agreements."

Senate Commerce Committee Chairman John McCain (R-Ariz.) and the committee's senior Democrat, Fritz Hollings of South Carolina, agreed the situation warrants immediate action.

McCain and Hollings wrote Department of Transportation Inspector General Kenneth Mead to begin

an immediate assessment of the matter and to make "recommendations you may have about what steps the railroads, the Federal Railroad Administration or Congress should take to address any problems you identify during your analysis." They asked that preliminary findings be provided by the end of February 2004, and that a final report be provided by late May.

"Instead of performing traditional law enforcement functions, railroad police too often investigate the railroads' own employees, who have already gone through extensive background checks before being hired," Boyd said. "Sometimes railroad police are taken off their law enforcement duties to deliver charge letters, monitor personal activities of injured employees, investigate alleged rules violations and even investigate why employees are late for work. Recently, on one eastern railroad, a manager admitted that railroad police performed illegal wiretaps," Boyd said.

UTU Assistant President Paul Thompson and UTU National Legislative Director James Brunkenhoefer said the UTU would seek a legislative remedy if the inspector general's investigation confirms railroad police have been abusing their state and federal police powers. "The role of railroad police is to supplement local, state and federal law enforcement – especially during these troubled national security times," Brunkenhoefer said. "Railroad police should not be trainmasters in disguise."



Inside this issue of the *UTU News*:



UTU member James Thornberry earns recognition. See page 2.



FRA chief Rutter urges expanded safety partnership. See page 5.



Commuter employees often victims of public's rudeness. See page 6.



Lawson Chadwick hosts a UTU for Life chapter. See page 8.