

UTU News

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The Official Publication of the United Transportation Union

THE VOICE OF TRANSPORTATION LABOR

"If we are to walk a common path to a bright future, we must exercise our power at the ballot box and help to elect labor-friendly members to Congress." – *UTU International President Paul Thompson*

Your job + your family + your future = YOUR VOTE. Support the candidates who support you!

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

The national-agreement negotiating teams from the UTU and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen met jointly last month with the National Carriers' Conference Committee, which represents most of the major railroads and many smaller ones.

"This was an unprecedented show of operating-craft solidarity," said UTU International President Paul Thompson, who sat beside BLET President Don Hahs, while other members of the UTU and BLET negotiating teams sat interspersed for the talks with the carriers.

Thompson termed the session "sufficiently productive to have caused us to schedule a second joint UTU/BLET negotiating session with the carriers for October."

News & Notes

Regional meeting dates

The dates and locations for the UTU's 2007 regional meetings and quadrennial convention have been finalized.

The regional meetings will be held June 11-13 at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center in Kansas City, Mo., and July 16-18 at the Hilton in downtown Pittsburgh, Pa.

The tenth convention of the union will be held Monday to Friday, Aug. 13-17, at the Westin Diplomat Resort and Spa, 3555 South Ocean Dr., Hollywood, Fla.

Convention room reservations will be made through the UTU. Delegates will receive more detailed information within the next few months.

Watch the *UTU News* and the UTU Web site (www.utu.org) for more details as they become available.

Amtrak seeks addresses

Amtrak will be holding its annual benefits open enrollment between Oct. 23 and Nov. 10. Amtrak employees wishing to receive important information regarding their 2007 medical, dental, prescription, life insurance and flexible spending accounts should ensure their residential address is up to date with Amtrak.

Amtrak employees needing to update their address on file with the carrier should contact their local human resources office or call the Amtrak Benefits Service Center directly at (800) 481-4887.

Help yourselves: Support labor-friendly candidates

Congressional elections have direct consequences for each of us and our families.

This Election Day, Nov. 7, is going to be a test for labor. Those who control the new Congress seated in 2007 will have a direct influence on our job security, our health care, our pensions and our workplace safety.

If working families unite to vote for labor-friendly candidates, we can begin to reverse a legislative course that has adversely affected every working family in America.

However, we cannot accomplish that change in direction unless labor families vote, vote for labor-friendly candidates, and encourage friends and neighbors similarly to cast ballots for labor-friendly candidates.

The current congressional leadership has demonstrated itself to be anti-union. The Senate, for example, has consistently confirmed anti-union federal judges and regulators, while both the House of Representatives and the Senate have embraced legislation harmful to working families.

Consider some of the policies embraced by the current congressional leadership:

- Tax cuts for corporations and the rich;
- Privatization of Amtrak and the Social Security System;

- Export of jobs;
- Weakening of laws that protect workers' rights to organize.

In the centerspread of this issue of *UTU News* is a listing of labor-friendly candidates as determined by UTU state legislative directors and our national legislative office. The list is bi-partisan. The UTU supports its friends in both political parties.

"Congress should work for all Americans, not just the wealthy," said UTU National Legislative Director James Brunkenhoefer. "Working families deserve a Congress that builds opportunity and prosperity for all."

"Inflation-adjusted working-family income has been declining since 2001 as executive compensation has soared. Pension plans have been collapsing. And tens of millions of families have no health-care insurance."

"We can be sure that carrier executives and their families and friends will be going to the polls to re-elect their friends."

"Unless working families vote, and vote for labor-friendly candidates, we are going to face a Congress more committed than ever to destroying labor unions and the quality of life of working families."

New Amtrak head faces problems

Amtrak's revolving-door presidency has ousted interim president David Hughes and replaced him with 46-year-old Alexander Kummant.

Hughes succeeded David Gunn, who was fired by the Amtrak board in November 2005.

Kummant arrives as contract-renewal negotiations with Amtrak's unions are in their seventh year, and handling of Amtrak trains by freight railroads continues to be rated as poor.

Unlike Gunn – and previous Amtrak presidents George Warrington and Tom Downs – Kummant does not arrive with a Northeast transit background. He has limited freight railroad experience at Union Pacific, but most of his career has been outside the railroad industry.

Kummant has held seven separate jobs with

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UTU supports labor memorial

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – Seventeen engraved bricks recognizing the United Transportation Union will be part of a \$1.3-million labor memorial here.



Debs

The Spirit of Solidarity memorial includes a plaque honoring labor leader Eugene V. Debs, a founder of a UTU predecessor union.

The Spirit of Solidarity memorial is being constructed at the entrance to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum. Ford and United Auto Workers President Owen Bieber are co-chairpersons of the Spirit of Solidarity.

The engraved bricks, representing and purchased by UTU locals and members, will be

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Around the UTU

News from around the U.S. and Canada

Local 1, Buffalo, N.Y.

Members of this local, which represents employees of Conrail, CSXT and East Erie Commercial Railroad, are mourning the recent death of CSXT Local Chairperson **Joseph M. Kozma**. The 59-year-old was a UTU member for 27 years.

Local 196, Beardstown, Ill.

The members of this BNSF Railway local now have their own Web site featuring pool checks, copies of agreements, links to other UTU locals, updates on safety meetings, links to BNSF resources, a roster of important phone numbers and a message board. View the site at www.utu196.com.

Local 243, Fort Worth, Texas

Members of this Union Pacific local are mourning the death of Local President **Gene Reynolds**, 56, who succumbed to pancreatic cancer on Sept. 23. A locomotive engineer, Reynolds began his career as a switchman on the Missouri Pacific in October 1979. He served as a UTU organizer and UTUIA assistant field supervisor, and held the post of local president for four consecutive terms. He is survived by a son and two grandchildren.

Local 643, Kohoka, Mo.

A retired member of this BNSF Railway local, **Virgil R. Lindberg**, was the guest of honor last month when the Minerville Country Village Museum hosted its annual Railroad Days celebration, which marked the 80th birthday of the museum's CB&Q #507 Doodlebug, as well as Brother Lindberg's 80th birthday (which actually was marked on May 19, 2006). Lindberg, once featured in the *UTU News* for his activities as a community volunteer, now lives in LaPlata, Mo., and makes the drive each year to volunteer as a conductor, the same job he held with the former Santa Fe Railway when he hired out in 1944. He retired in 1986, according to BNSF locomotive engineer **Douglas Beckman**, general manager of the Minerville Country Village and a member of Local 195 in Galesburg, Ill.

Local 1043, Sparks, Nev.

Members of this Union Pacific local are mourning the death of conductor **Leon Busch**, 56, who lost his long battle with cancer on Sept. 11, said Local Chairperson and Legislative Rep. **Rod Nelms**, who also serves as assistant state legislative director. Brother Busch was a past local chairperson, legislative representative and delegate.

Local 1470, Edmonston, Md.

This local, which represents Amtrak conductors and assistant conductors, held a special meeting Sept. 5 dedicated to railroad security that gave Local President **Bill Link** a chance to give special recognition to Local Chairperson **Dave Brooks**, who recently signed up more than 40 new UTU PAC members. Like father, like son, Vice Chairperson **Dave Brooks Jr.** signed up an additional 21 members, increasing the local's monthly UTU PAC contribution to \$1,900, said International Vice President **Tony Iannone**. Guests at the meeting included Iannone, Alternate U.S. National Legislative

Stroke reveals folly of 1-person crew proposal

Add **John Hasenauer** to the long and growing list of those who know from experience that one-person rail crew operations are a bad idea whose time should never come.

An FRA working group on collision avoidance, which includes representatives of labor, carriers and the FRA, recommends two sets of eyes and ears in the cabs of all trains. Brother Hasenauer recently learned why while working as a conductor aboard one of Union Pacific's fast "Z" trains heading from North Platte to Fremont, Neb.

"This train, which was hauling hazardous materials, runs as fast as 70 mph and was about a mile-and-a-quarter long," said Hasenauer, who serves as secretary, treasurer and delegate of Local 286 in North Platte. "It would take a mile or two to stop under the best of circumstances."

As the train departed North Platte, Hasenauer's engineer "began to have some serious health problems, starting with a headache and quickly progressing to a loss of feeling in his left arm and leg and disorientation."

It was later determined the engineer was suffering a stroke. "He had difficulty writing job data in his time book, as well as following slow-speed restrictions where rail gangs were performing track work. He just couldn't focus on handling the train. With coaching from me, he was able to slow down as required, but I had to keep assisting him and reminding him to blow the horn for public crossings."

Convinced the symptoms pointed to a life-threatening condition, Hasenauer urged the engineer to phone the dispatcher. The engineer tried calling, but couldn't dial the number. Hasenauer got the dispatcher on the line and handed the phone to the engineer. "His speech became garbled, and he couldn't communicate, so I took the phone, explained the situation and advised the dispatcher we'd be stopping where we could meet with help," Hasenauer said.

"By now, this normally very professional engineer was so upset and disoriented, he asked me to take over and bring the train to a safe stop," said Hasenauer.

"To say the least, this was all a bit unnerving for a crew of two," Hasenauer said. "Now, imagine the dangers to the public, other crew members and track and mechanical workers if we had one-person crews. Many disasters lie ahead if the railroads are allowed to pull this off. They are totally nuts!"



A near-tragic experience recently convinced John Hasenauer, a Union Pacific conductor and member of Local 286 in North Platte, Neb., that proposed one-person crews are an invitation to disaster.

Director **James Stem** and special guest speaker **Denise Krepp**, who is counsel and committee coordinator on Homeland Security in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Local 1548, Indianapolis, Ind.

This CSXT local now has its own Web site where members can get updates, check pay codes and schedules, and more, said **Kyle Brooking**, who noted the site is still a work in progress. Take a look at www.utulocal1548.org.

Local 1778, N. Vancouver, B.C.

The fall issue of *The Meeting Point* newsletter is now available on the Web site shared by this local and **Local 1923** in Prince George, B.C., said Secretary & Treasurer **David Moorhouse**. Both locals represent Canadian National Railway employees. This issue includes a moving tribute to **Tom Dodd** and **Don Faulkner**, who lost their lives in a tragic accident June 29 when their locomotive plunged into the Fraser Canyon. View or download the PDF by visiting www.ututbc.com.



Tammy Duckworth (center), Democratic candidate for the 6th Congressional District seat being vacated by Rep. Henry Hyde, joined the members of Local 577 (Northlake, Ill.), Local 528 (Chicago, Ill.) and Local 597 (Des Plaines, Ill.) at the 31st annual Labor Day Family Picnic on Sept. 3 at Busse Woods Forest Preserve in Elk Grove, Ill. Also on hand were carmen belonging to TCU Lodge 6176, said Local 577 President P.J. McNamara, bringing total atten-

dance to more than 400. Pictured with Duckworth are (from left) McNamara; Dennis Austin (L-528); Robert Smith (L-528); Dean Moose (L-577); David Wells (L-528); Tom Berry (L-528); Union Pacific General Chairperson Mike Reedy (GO-225); Al Bertolani (L-577); Ron Parsons (L-528); Illinois State Legislative Director Joe Szabo; Bob Blomgren (L-577); Warren Wrobel (L-577); Harry Lewis (L-597) and Tim Riddle (TCU Local 6176).

Members reach tentative pact on Grand Trunk

Ballots went out on Sept. 18 to some 400 UTU members working on the Grand Trunk portion of the Canadian National Railway, giving them an opportunity to vote on a new five-year pact, according to General Chairperson David Hiatt.

Results of the vote should be known in mid-October, Hiatt said. Those who will vote work on CN in Michigan, as well as in a Chicago terminal and a terminal in Toledo, Ohio. All are represented by General Committee of Adjustment GO-377.

The proposed contract would include a year and a half of back pay and would boost wages, Hiatt said.

"We didn't give up any work rules and removed the penalties on the extra board guarantee," Hiatt said.

"The proposed contract would deliver personal leave days for new hires, it increases held-away meal allowances, and includes reimbursements for passport expenses for those whose work takes them across the border between the U.S. and Canada."

Hiatt also said the pact would improve health and welfare benefits.

The contract was open for negotiation last July. "We got a Harris COLA in the last contract, and I think it forced CN to talk with us a bit more quickly," Hiatt said. Tentative agreement on the new pact was reached on Aug. 25.

Hiatt expressed gratitude to UTU International President Paul Thompson for his support, as well as International Vice President Carl Vahldick, "who's always a great help to us," Hiatt said.

National health & welfare plan changes ahead

The annual health and welfare re-enrollment materials were mailed during the week of Sept. 18, and included with the usual material was an important announcement pertaining to plan changes affecting UTU members, which will become effective Jan. 1, 2007.

UTU members covered under The Railroad Employees' National Health and Welfare Plan (formerly GA-23000) will have employee and/or dependent Mental Health/Substance Abuse (MH/SA) benefits administered by United Behavioral Health (UBH) effective Jan. 1, 2007. UBH replaces ValueOptions as the managed care company administering MH/SA benefits.

This change will not affect those UTU mem-

bers and/or their eligible dependents covered under The National Railway Carriers/United Transportation Union (NRC/UTU) Health and Welfare Plan. ValueOptions will continue to provide MH/SA manage care benefits under the NRC/UTU Plan.

In addition, effective Jan. 1, 2007, both the national plan and the NRC/UTU plan have authorized a new disease management program applicable to all UTU members and/or their eligible dependents.

This new disease management program is designed to give employees and dependents more information on health related issues as well as professional advice on personal issues or health conditions they may have.

As a reminder, if the information documented on the re-enrollment form is correct and you do not wish to change your benefit program (MMCP or CHCB) or your benefit provider (UHC, Aetna, Highmark BCBS), there is no need to return the re-enrollment form.

However, if you have "opted-out" of the plan for 2006 and wish to continue the "opt-out" for 2007, you must complete and return the enrollment form for your "opt-out" to continue in effect.

If there are any changes to the documented information, or if you wish to change benefit programs and/or benefit providers, you must note the desired changes and return the form as soon as possible.

Illinois pins hopes on Amtrak expansion

Amtrak trains will soon be chugging across Illinois more often thanks to a bigger state subsidy, and local officials said last month they hope increased service translates into economic growth.

State support for Amtrak is doubling to \$24 million this year. The money will support seven round-trip trains from Chicago to St. Louis, Carbondale and Quincy, up from three trains now.

For the cities along those routes, more trains mean more connections to Chicago – some-

thing that can help local businesses and even attract new ones.

"We would definitely use that as a marketing tool to demonstrate a little more accessibility and convenience, both for the businesses and their customers," said Charles Bell, manager of the entrepreneurship center at Quincy's Great River Economic Development Foundation.

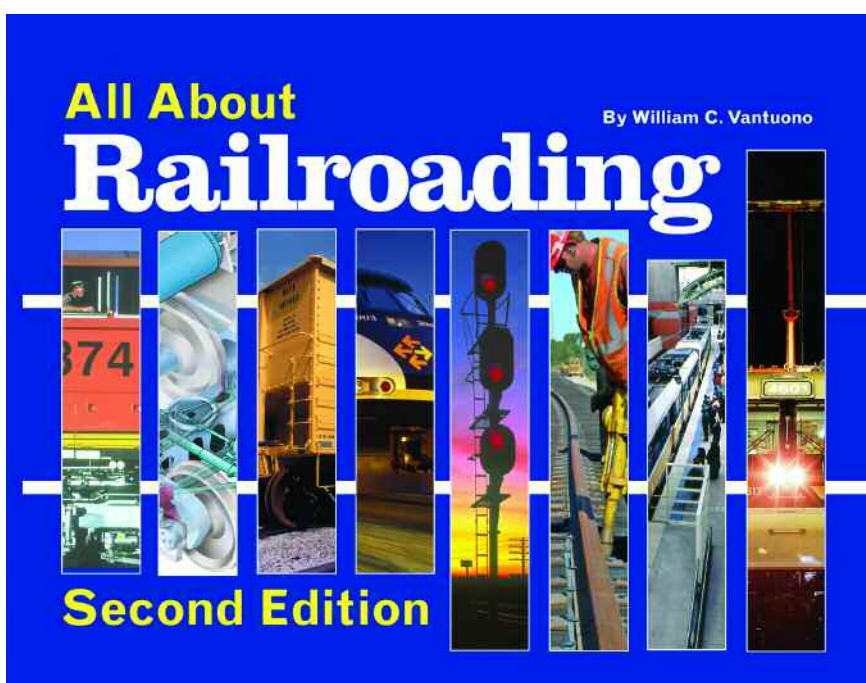
St. Louis will have three state-supported trains to and from Chicago, up from one now. Carbondale and Quincy each will have two,

instead of one. In addition, Amtrak has other trains passing through those cities that don't get any state support.

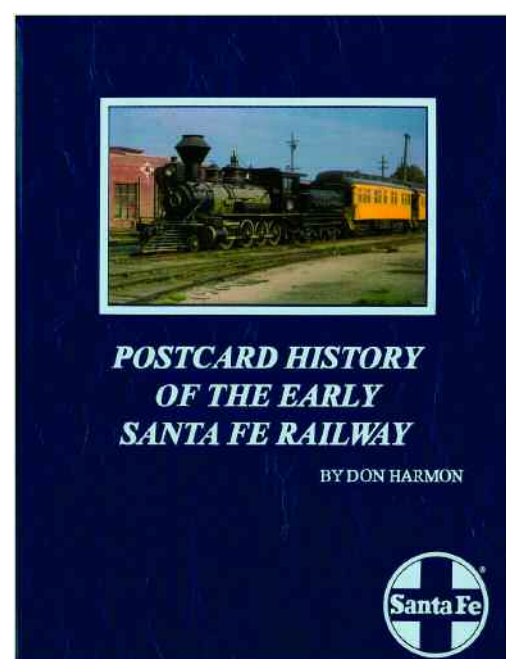
Nearly one million passengers used Amtrak lines subsidized by the state last year, setting a new record. The total was up 12.5 percent from a year earlier and 40.8 percent from 2003.

"Amtrak is an affordable travel option, and in many communities it's the only form of public transportation," Gov. Rod Blagojevich said in a statement.

Two new books will educate, delight railroaders



Thousands of new train and engine service employees are joining our ranks, many with no knowledge of railroad history, industry structure, the role of other crafts, equipment construction, and commonplace technology such as centralized traffic control. Railway Age editor William C. Vantuono has updated his illustrated book, "All About Railroading," which is a primer for new hires and a valuable refresher course for veteran railroaders. At 112 pages, this basic-training manual also can be used to help explain railroading to spouses and children. The second edition of "All About Railroading" is available for \$28.95, plus shipping and handling, from Simmons-Boardman Books at www.transalert.com, or by calling (800) 228-9670.



A great gift idea for Santa Fe Railway veterans, those working on today's BNSF Railway or for history buffs interested in the changes brought by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway, this unusual 236-page hardcover book by Don Harmon contains 654 color and black-and-white postcard images of depots and other Santa Fe facilities, as well as a section devoted to Fred Harvey enterprises. Postcards are arranged by topics, featuring engines, trains, and weather-related items; roundhouses; depots, offices and facilities (arranged by state); reading rooms, and Fred Harvey hotels and restaurants. "Postcard History of the Early Santa Fe Railway" is available for \$49.95 plus \$7.05 for shipping, handling and postage from Harmon Publishing Company, P.O. Box 14806, Shawnee Mission, KS 66285-4806. Call (913) 268-6149.

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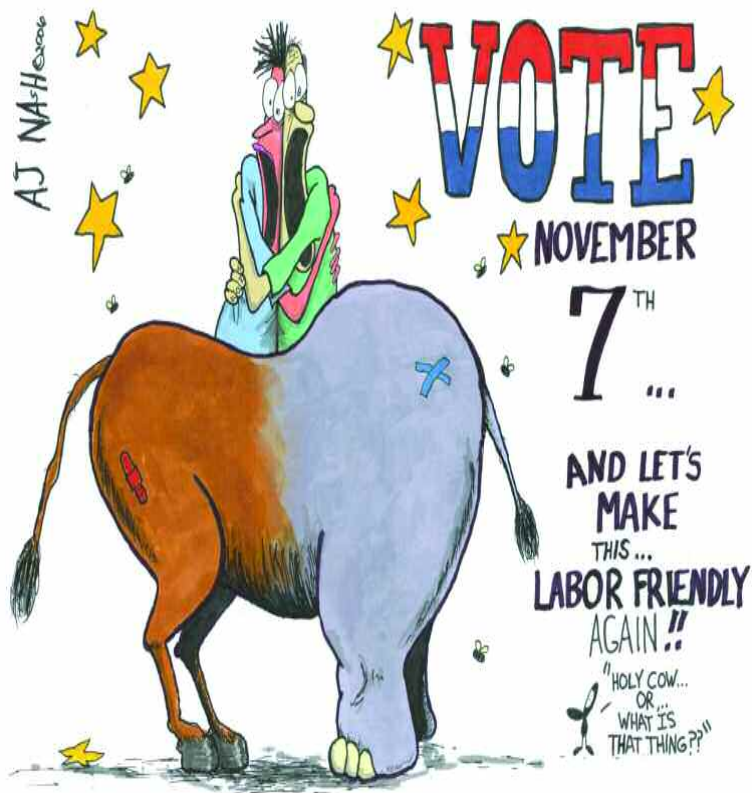
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(Cartoon courtesy of Alan Nash, a Union Pacific engineer and member of Local 257, Morrill, Neb.)



WASHINGTON WATCH

By James M. Brunkenhoefer

Only you can right the wrongs of Congress

If you believe Congress is doing nothing – you are wrong. Congress is very busy doing the wrong thing.

Significantly, Congress is not rewarding those who live by the rules and work hard every day. Instead, Congress has been passing laws that benefit a handful of special interests – their friends – at the expense of everyone else.



Brunkenhoefer

As recently as earlier this year, the railroads thought they had you in a vise and if the UTU didn't capitulate at the bargaining table, their friends in Congress would take care of the job for them.

Many carrier executives believed God to be on their side and the side of anti-union conservatives, and that anyone who didn't support the conservative agenda was evil.

The chummy relationships between anti-union conservative lawmakers and carrier executives were fueled by big-money contributions. Many carrier executives held personal fundraisers and delivered hundreds of thousands of dollars into the pockets of lawmakers.

Not surprisingly, some carrier execs or railroad board members – and many of the carriers' personal friends – found themselves in positions of great authority within the government, where they could personally make decisions that ultimately benefit the carriers. Must I say more than: Dick Cheney?

Those who want to see you out of work will be voting. Will you?

Take back Congress

By Paul Thompson
International President

Both major political parties are fond of quoting founding father and our nation's third president, Thomas Jefferson.

Now, if only more lawmakers would read President Jefferson's first inaugural address from 1801, in which he said, "A wise and frugal government shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned."

Does that sound like the Congress of the United States, which has been handing tax cuts to the rich while exporting jobs overseas?

Does that sound like the Congress of the United States, which has created policies to help corporate executives stuff their pockets with exorbitant pay and bonuses while 46 million Americans suffer without health-care insurance?

Does that sound like the Congress of the United States, which embraces employer efforts to weaken workers' rights to join unions?

Does that sound like the Congress of the United States, which consistently declines to toughen workplace safety standards and fines for non-compliance?

Congressional leaders may embrace Thomas Jefferson, but they don't honor his memory with their policies. It is a disgrace that the congressional leadership – supposedly elected of the people, by the people and for the people –

casts a blind eye toward working families of America.

How much longer until the jobs, health-care insurance and pensions lost by unionized autoworkers and airline employees become the jobs, health-care insurance and pensions lost by unionized rail workers and bus operators and mechanics? Make no mistake that the conservatives who currently control Congress do not like unions.

On Election Day, Nov. 7, working families have the opportunity and responsibility to change the leadership of Congress and restore a labor-friendly majority.

For sure, anti-labor lawmakers will try to capture your vote on a variety of non-workplace issues. But what issues could possibly be more important than job security, a living wage, adequate health-care insurance, a secure pension and workplace safety?

Those are the issues of crucial importance to America's working families, because without economic security and a safe workplace, every other issue raised in this campaign means very little.

It is that simple, and that important.

This election is about economic security and workplace safety. And the only way we are going to stop Congress from taking from workers' mouths the bread they have earned is to restore a labor-friendly majority in Congress.

If we are to walk a common path to a bright future, we must exercise our power at the ballot box and help to elect labor-friendly members to Congress on Nov. 7.



Thompson

You cannot let this happen.

If, for any reason, you think you will not be at home to vote Nov. 7, you need now to apply for and obtain an absentee ballot. Otherwise, ensure you do vote on Election Day. Be a pest and encourage everyone you know to vote.

We will not tell you how to vote, but hope you will vote for UTU-endorsed candidates. (See pages 6 and 7.)

Remember: Those who want to see you lose your job are definitely voting. Those who want you to pay higher health-care costs are definitely voting. Those who believe the boss needs a raise and you don't will definitely come out to vote.

If you don't vote, then you should be afraid – very afraid – of the outcome.

State Watch *News from UTU State Legislative Boards*

Colorado



Colorado State Legislative Director Rick Johnson is urging members in the state to support Bill Ritter for governor. "This picture was taken on a retired Colorado & Wyoming engine at a recent fundraiser for Ritter," Johnson said. "The members in Colorado contributed hard-earned UTU PAC funds to Ritter. He is a former construction trade-union member and Denver district attorney. He is now running for the highest office in Colorado and has earned UTU's support because of his strong union values, his dedication to working families, and his vision for the future of the state." Above, left to right, are Johnson, Ritter and Assistant State Legislative Director Charlie Skidmore.

Florida

The Florida State Legislative Board has established a Web site. The address is www.utufloridastatelegislativeboard.org.

"The Web site is a work in progress, with additional documents and improvements coming soon," State Legislative Director **Andres Trujillo** said. "Additionally, we will be adding news and documents as they develop to keep the site current on relevant issues of interest and importance to members.

"If you find a problem or an error within it, please contact our office at (305) 819-7796 or e-mail me at fltrujilloUTU@aol.com."

Indiana



Indiana State Legislative Director Tom Hensler recently attended a fundraiser for 9th U.S. Congressional District Candidate Baron Hill at which he met former President Bill Clinton. "Like Clinton, Baron Hill has the endorsement of the UTU," Hensler said. "Hill is a strong supporter of the UTU and also is a friend of Amtrak and rail passenger service. We urge members in the state to support him." Above, from left, are Clinton, Hensler, Hill and wife Betty.

Michigan

Michigan State Legislative Director **Jerry Gibson** has lit a fire under members in the state with a letter recently mailed them.

"Let there be no mistake: We are in an ongoing battle for our rights and livelihoods," Gibson wrote. "The real question you need to ask is: How do I save MY job and who can and will fight for OUR issues? The answer is: by donating NOW to your state's PAC fund and allowing your state and national legislative directors the opportunity to defend your rights and privileges! The lines have been drawn; the time is NOW that we as individuals must do our part to ensure our job security.

"The carriers are hoping you won't contribute, because then they automatically win! You are saving them hundreds of thousands of dollars for additional bonuses.

"Please do your share: Vote for those candidates that are endorsed by YOUR union. The job you save may very well be your own!"

North Carolina



North Carolina State Legislative Director Dickie Westbrook recently completed a week-long hazardous-materials course at the National Labor College in Silver Springs, Md.

The course was the "Hazmat Transportation Chemical Emergency Response Training at the Awareness Level," Westbrook said.

"The week-long course was offered to union members in the rail industry through a federal grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and the North American Railway Foundation.

"Eight UTU members completed the class, which included three college credits.

"Other union members attending the class were from the BLET, BMWED, and the TCU. A big portion of this class, including myself, are planning to go back for a week-long 'Train the Trainer' course next month," Westbrook said.

Above, left to right, are Robert Goldsbary (LC, L-385, Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y.); James Ashely; Joe Rassa (L-454, Baltimore, Md.); John Whitaker (L-1106, Rocky Mount, N.C.); Yvonne Hayes (LC, L-1138, Miami, Fla.); Alex Bowles (L-1081, Glendale, Ariz.); Billy Moye (L-1971, Atlanta, Ga.); UTU U.S. Alternate National Legislative Director James Stem and Westbrook.

Support the candidates who support UTU!

Bus Department

By Roy Arnold, vice president/director

Not voting? Then do not complain

It has been said that "a citizen of America will cross the ocean to fight for democracy, but won't cross the street to vote in a national election."

I remember, as a youngster, reading in my "Weekly Reader" that many foreign countries had only one name on their ballot. Naturally, the same person's name appeared on the ballot each election. They called it a democracy; we call that a dictatorship.

I did not give it much thought then, and many people do not give it much thought now. Yet, this has relevance to each of us. This is because, notwithstanding serious economic and other issues affecting us and our families, many Americans do not vote.

When we fail to cast a vote, we might as well have but one name on that ballot. And even though we do have multiple names on our ballots, failing to cast a vote gives others an opportunity to make ballot-box decisions for us.

Each of us should be taking an interest in every candidate's stance on issues important to us. In congressional elections Nov. 7, we certainly should be taking measure of whether the candidate is union friendly.

We also have LCA elections coming up. Each of us should be taking an interest here, too, and casting a vote for the person you think will best represent you.

Whether the opportunity is a congressional election or a local election, never forget the battles fought and blood spilled to earn that right to vote. To preserve our democracy, we have a duty to be informed and to cast an informed ballot.

Make your voice count. Your vote does make a difference.



Yardmasters

By J.R. "Jim" Cumby, vice president

10 reasons to vote for friends of labor

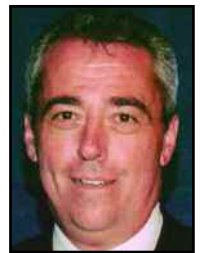
Election Day is Nov. 7.

Which party controls the Senate and House of Representatives is going to make a meaningful difference to every union member and every union family the next two years.

If each union member – and members of their family, as well as their friends – votes for union-friendly candidates, we will see an end to the anti-union policies that are making it so difficult for working families to survive today.

Here are 10 reasons to cast a ballot for the union-friendly candidates recommended by the UTU. Share them with others at work. Discuss them with family and friends.

- 1) Job security.
- 2) Affordable health-care insurance.
- 3) Workplace safety.
- 4) Preservation of Railroad Retirement and Social Security.
- 5) Workplace privacy.
- 6) Support for Amtrak.
- 7) Respect for the role unions play in America.
- 8) A Senate that won't rubber stamp White House nominations of anti-union federal judges and regulators.
- 9) Regulatory agencies not controlled by the carriers.
- 10) An end to policies that encourage the export of jobs.





These candidates deserve your vote!

Congressional Recommendations

- Alabama**
House of Representatives
 Dist. 3 Greg A. Pierce (D)
 Dist. 4 Barbara Bobo (D)
 Dist. 5 Robert "Bud" Cramer (D)*
 Dist. 6 Spencer Bachus (R)*
 Dist. 7 Artur Davis (D)*
- Alaska**
House of Representatives
 At Large Don Young (R)*
- Arizona**
Senate
 Jim Pederson (D)
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 Ellen Simon (D)
 Dist. 4 Ed Pastor (D)*
 Dist. 5 Harry Mitchell (D)
 Dist. 7 Raul Grijalva (D)*
 Dist. 8 Gabrielle Giffords (D)
- Arkansas**
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 Marion Berry (D)*
 Dist. 2 Vic Snyder (D)*
 Dist. 3 Woodrow Anderson (D)
 Dist. 4 Mike Ross (D)*
- California**
Senate
 Dianne Feinstein (D)*
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 Mike Thompson (D)*
 Dist. 3 Bill Durston (D)
 Dist. 4 Charlie Brown (D)
 Dist. 5 Doris Matsui (D)*
 Dist. 6 Lynn Woolsey (D)*
 Dist. 7 George Miller (D)*
 Dist. 8 Nancy Pelosi (D)*
 Dist. 9 Barbara Lee (D)*
 Dist. 10 Ellen Tauscher (D)*
 Dist. 12 Tom Lantos (D)*
 Dist. 13 Fortney "Pete" Stark (D)*
 Dist. 14 Anna Eshoo (D)*
 Dist. 15 Mike Honda (D)*
 Dist. 16 Zoe Lofgren (D)*
 Dist. 17 Sam Farr (D)*
 Dist. 18 Dennis Cardoza (D)*
 Dist. 19 T.J. Cox (D)
 Dist. 20 Jim Costa (D)*
 Dist. 21 Steven Haze (D)
 Dist. 22 Sharon Beery (D)
 Dist. 23 Lois Capps (D)*
 Dist. 24 Jill Martinez (D)
 Dist. 25 Robert Rodriguez (D)
 Dist. 26 Cynthia Matthews (D)
 Dist. 27 Brad Sherman (D)*
 Dist. 28 Howard Berman (D)*
 Dist. 29 Adam Schiff (D)*
 Dist. 30 Henry Waxman (D)*
 Dist. 31 Xavier Becerra (D)*
 Dist. 32 Hilda Solis (D)*
 Dist. 33 Diane Watson (D)*
 Dist. 34 Lucille Roybal-Allard (D)*
 Dist. 35 Maxine Waters (D)*
 Dist. 36 Jane Harman (D)*
 Dist. 37 Jaunita Millender-McDonald (D)*
 Dist. 38 Grace Napolitano (D)*
 Dist. 39 Linda Sanchez (D)*
 Dist. 40 Florice Hoffman (D)
 Dist. 41 Dual: Louie Contreras (D)
 Jerry Lewis (R)*
 Dist. 43 Joe Baca (D)*
 Dist. 44 Louis Vandenberg (D)
 Dist. 45 David Roth (D)
 Dist. 46 Jim Brandt (D)
 Dist. 47 Loretta Sanchez (D)*
 Dist. 48 Steve Young (D)
 Dist. 49 Jeeni Criscenzo (D)
 Dist. 50 Francine Busby (D)
 Dist. 51 Bob Filner (D)*
 Dist. 52 John Rinaldi (D)


- Colorado**
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 Daniel DeGette (D)*
 Dist. 2 Mark Udall (D)*
 Dist. 3 John Salazar (D)*
 Dist. 4 Angie Paccione (D)
 Dist. 5 Jay Fawcett (D)
 Dist. 6 Bill Winter (D)
 Dist. 7 Ed Perlmutter (D)
- Connecticut**
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 John Larson (D)*
 Dist. 2 Robert Simmons (R)*
 Dist. 3 Rosa DeLauro (D)*
 Dist. 4 Diane Farrell (D)
 Dist. 5 Chris Murphy (D)
- Delaware**
Senate
 Tom Carper (D)*
House of Representatives
 At Large Michael Castle (R)*
- District of Columbia**
House of Representatives
 At Large Eleanor Holmes Norton (D)*
- 
- Corrine Brown (D)**
 U.S. Representative, Florida
- Florida**
Senate
 Bill Nelson (D)*
House of Representatives
 Dist. 2 Allen Boyd (D)*
 Dist. 3 Corrine Brown (D)*
 Dist. 4 Ander Crenshaw (R)*
 Dist. 5 John Russell (D)
 Dist. 6 Cliff Stearns (R)*
 Dist. 7 John Mica (R)*
 Dist. 8 Charlie Stuart (D)
 Dist. 9 Phyllis Busansky (D)
 Dist. 10 C.W. "Bill" Young (R)*
 Dist. 11 Kathy Castor (D)
 Dist. 12 Adam Putnam (R)*
 Dist. 13 Christine Jennings (D)
 Dist. 14 Connie Mack (R)*
 Dist. 15 Dave Weldon (R)*
 Dist. 16 Tim Mahoney (D)
 Dist. 17 Kendrick Meek (D)*
 Dist. 18 Ileana Ros Lehtinen (R)*
 Dist. 19 Robert Wexler (D)*
 Dist. 20 Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D)
 Dist. 21 Lincoln Diaz Balart (R)*
 Dist. 23 Alcee Hastings (D)*
 Dist. 25 Mario Diaz Balart (R)*
- Georgia**
House of Representatives
 Dist. 2 Sanford Bishop (D)*
 Dist. 3 Lynn Westmoreland (R)*
 Dist. 4 Hank Johnson (D)
 Dist. 5 John Lewis (D)*
 Dist. 8 Jim Marshall (D)*
 Dist. 12 John Barrow (D)*
 Dist. 13 David Scott (D)*

- Hawaii**
Senate
 Daniel Akaka (D)*
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 Neil Abercrombie (D)*
- Idaho**
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 Larry Grant (D)
 Dist. 2 Jim Hansen (D)
- Illinois**
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 Bobby Rush (D)*
 Dist. 2 Jesse Jackson Jr. (D)*
 Dist. 3 Daniel Lipinski (D)*
 Dist. 4 Luis Gutierrez (D)*
 Dist. 5 Rahm Emanuel (D)*
 Dist. 6 Tammy Duckworth (D)
 Dist. 7 Danny Davis (D)*
 Dist. 8 Melissa Bean (D)*
 Dist. 9 Jan Schakowsky (D)*
 Dist. 11 Jerry Weller (R)*
 Dist. 12 Jerry Costello (D)*
 Dist. 13 Joseph Shannon (D)
 Dist. 14 J. Dennis Hastert (R)*
 Dist. 17 Phil Hare (D)
 Dist. 18 Ray LaHood (R)*
- Indiana**
Senate
 Richard Lugar (R)*
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 Peter Visclosky (D)*
 Dist. 2 Joe Donnelly (D)
 Dist. 3 Thomas Hayhurst (D)
 Dist. 4 David Sanders (D)
 Dist. 5 Katherine Fox Carr (D)
 Dist. 6 Barry Welsh (D)
 Dist. 7 Julia Carson (D)*
 Dist. 8 Brad Ellsworth (D)
 Dist. 9 Baron Hill (D)
- Iowa**
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 Bruce Braley (D)
 Dist. 3 Leonard Boswell (D)*
- 
- Dennis Moore (D)**
 U.S. Representative, Kansas
- Kansas**
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 Jerry Moran (R)*
 Dist. 2 Nancy Boyda (D)
 Dist. 3 Dennis Moore (D)*
- Kentucky**
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 Ed Whitfield (R)*
 Dist. 2 Mike Weaver (D)
 Dist. 3 John Yarmouth (D)
 Dist. 4 Ken Lucas (D)
 Dist. 6 Ben Chandler (D)*
- Louisiana**
House of Representatives
 Dist. 3 Charlie Melancon (D)*

- Maine**
Senate
 Jean Hay Bright (D)
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 Thomas Allen (D)*
 Dist. 2 Michael Michaud (D)*
- 
- Harold Ford (D)**
 U.S. Senate candidate, Tennessee
- Maryland**
Senate
 Benjamin L. Cardin (D)
House of Representatives
 Dist. 2 C.A. "Dutch" Ruppersberger (D)*
 Dist. 3 John Sarbanes (D)
 Dist. 4 Albert R. Wynn (D)*
 Dist. 5 Steny H. Hoyer (D)*
 Dist. 6 Andrew Duck (D)
 Dist. 7 Elijah E. Cummings (D)*
 Dist. 8 Chris Van Hollen (D)*
- Massachusetts**
Senate
 Edward M. Kennedy (D)*
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 John Olver (D)*
 Dist. 2 Richard Neal (D)*
 Dist. 3 James McGovern (D)*
 Dist. 4 Barney Frank (D)*
 Dist. 5 Marty Meehan (D)*
 Dist. 6 John Tierney (D)*
 Dist. 7 Edward Markey (D)*
 Dist. 8 Michael Capuano (D)*
 Dist. 9 Stephen Lynch (D)*
 Dist. 10 William Delahunt (D)*
- Michigan**
Senate
 Debbie Stabenow (D)*
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 Bart Stupak (D)*
 Dist. 5 Dale Kildee (D)*
 Dist. 7 Sharon Renier (D)
 Dist. 8 Jim Marcinkowski (D)
 Dist. 9 Nancy Skinner (D)
 Dist. 11 Tony Trupiano (D)
 Dist. 12 Sander Levin (D)*
 Dist. 13 Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D)*
 Dist. 14 John Conyers (D)*
 Dist. 15 John Dingell (D)*
- Minnesota**
Senate
 Amy Klobuchar (D)
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 Tim Walz (D)
 Dist. 3 Jim Ramstad (R)*
 Dist. 4 Betty McCollum (D)*
 Dist. 6 Patty Wetterling (D)
 Dist. 7 Ken Lucas (D)
 Dist. 8 James Oberstar (D)*
- Mississippi**
Senate
 Trent Lott (R)*

- House of Representatives**
 Dist. 2 Bennie Thompson (D)*
 Dist. 3 Charles Pickering (R)*
 Dist. 4 Gene Taylor (D)*
- Missouri**
Senate
 Claire McCaskill (D)
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 William Lacy Clay (D)*
 Dist. 3 Russ Carnahan (D)*
 Dist. 4 Ike Skelton (D)*
 Dist. 5 Emanuel Cleaver II (D)*
 Dist. 6 Sara Jo Shettles (D)
 Dist. 8 JoAnn Emerson (R)*
 Dist. 9 Duane N. Burghard (D)
- Montana**
Senate
 Jon Tester (D)
House of Representatives
 At Large Monica Lindeen (D)
- Nebraska**
Senate
 Ben Nelson (D)*
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 Maxine Moul (D)
 Dist. 2 Jim Esch (D)
 Dist. 3 Scott Kleeb (D)
- 
- Ben Nelson (D)**
 U.S. Senator, Nebraska
- Nevada**
Senate
 Jack Carter (D)
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 Shelley Berkley (D)*
 Dist. 2 Jill Derby (D)
 Dist. 3 Tess Haften (D)
- New Hampshire**
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 Carol Shea-Porter (D)
 Dist. 2 Paul Hodes (D)
- New Jersey**
Senate
 Robert Menendez (D)*
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 Robert Andrews (D)*
 Dist. 2 Frank A. LoBiondo (R)*
 Dist. 3 Jim Saxton (R)*
 Dist. 4 Christopher Smith (R)*
 Dist. 6 Frank Pallone Jr. (D)*
 Dist. 7 Linda Stender (D)
 Dist. 8 Bill Pascrell Jr. (D)*
 Dist. 9 Steve Rothman (D)*
 Dist. 10 Donald Payne (D)*
 Dist. 12 Rush Holt (D)
 Dist. 13 Albio Sires (D)
- New Mexico**
Senate
 Jeff Bingaman (D)*
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 Patricia Madrid
 Dist. 3 Tom Udall (D)*

Congressional Recommendations

- New York**
Senate
 Hillary Rodham Clinton (D)*
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 Timothy Bishop (D)*
 Dist. 2 Steve Israel (D)*
 Dist. 3 Peter King (R)*
 Dist. 4 Carolyn McCarthy (D)*
 Dist. 5 Gary Ackerman (D)*
 Dist. 6 Gregory Meeks (D)*
 Dist. 7 Joseph Crowley (D)*
 Dist. 8 Jerrold Nadler (D)*
 Dist. 9 Anthony Weiner (D)*
 Dist. 10 Edolphus Towns (D)*
 Dist. 12 Nydia Velazquez (D)*
 Dist. 14 Carolyn Maloney (D)*
 Dist. 15 Charles Rangel (D)*
 Dist. 16 Jose Serrano (D)*
 Dist. 17 Eliot Engel (D)*
 Dist. 18 Nita Lowey (D)*
 Dist. 19 Sue Kelly (R)*
 Dist. 20 John Sweeney (R)*
 Dist. 21 Michael McNulty (D)*
 Dist. 22 Maurice Hinchey (D)*
 Dist. 23 John McHugh (R)*
 Dist. 24 Michael Arcuri (D)
 Dist. 25 James Walsh (R)*
 Dist. 26 Thomas Reynolds (R)*
 Dist. 27 Brian Higgins (D)*
 Dist. 28 Louise Slaughter (D)*
 Dist. 29 Eric Massa (D)
- North Carolina**
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 G.K. Butterfield (D)*
 Dist. 2 Bob Etheridge (D)*
 Dist. 4 David Price (D)*
 Dist. 5 Virginia Foxx (R)*
 Dist. 7 Mike McIntyre (D)*
 Dist. 11 Heath Schuler (D)
 Dist. 12 Mel Watt (D)*
 Dist. 13 Brad Miller (D)*
- North Dakota**
Senate
 Kent Conrad (D)*
House of Representatives
 At Large Earl Pomeroy (D)*
- 
- Sherrod Brown (D)**
 U.S. Senate candidate, Ohio
- Ohio**
Senate
 Sherrod Brown (D)
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 John Cranley (D)
 Dist. 2 Victoria Wells Wulstin (D)
 Dist. 4 Richard Siferd (D)
 Dist. 6 Charles Wilson (D)
 Dist. 7 William Conner (D)
 Dist. 9 Marcy Kaptur (D)*
 Dist. 10 Dennis J. Kucinich (D)*
 Dist. 11 Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D)*
 Dist. 12 Robert N. Shamansky (D)
 Dist. 13 Betty Sutton (D)
 Dist. 14 Steve C. LaTourette (R)*

- Dist. 15 Mary Jo Kilroy (D)
 Dist. 16 Ralph Regula (R)*
 Dist. 17 Timothy J. Ryan (D)*
 Dist. 18 Zack Space (D)
- Oklahoma**
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 Alan Gentges (D)
 Dist. 2 Dan Boren (D)*
 Dist. 3 Sue Barton (D)
 Dist. 4 Hal Spake (D)
 Dist. 5 David Hunter (D)
- Oregon**
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 David Wu (D)*
 Dist. 2 Greg Walden (R)*
 Dist. 3 Earl Blumenauer (D)*
 Dist. 4 Peter A. DeFazio (D)*
 Dist. 5 Darlene Hooley (D)*
- Pennsylvania**
Senate
 Robert P. Casey (D)
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 Robert Brady (D)*
 Dist. 2 Chaka Fattah (D)*
 Dist. 3 Philip English (R)*
 Dist. 4 Jason Altmire (D)
 Dist. 5 John Peterson (R)*
 Dist. 6 Lois Murphy (D)
 Dist. 7 Joseph Sestak (D)
 Dist. 8 Mike Fitzpatrick (R)*
 Dist. 9 Bill Shuster (R)*
 Dist. 10 Chris Carney (D)
 Dist. 11 Paul Kanjorski (D)*
 Dist. 12 John Murtha (D)*
 Dist. 13 Allyson Schwartz (D)*
 Dist. 14 Mike Doyle (D)*
 Dist. 15 Charles Dent (R)*
 Dist. 16 Lois Herr (D)
 Dist. 17 Tim Holden (D)*
 Dist. 18 Timothy Murphy (R)*
 Dist. 19 Todd Platts (R)*
- Rhode Island**
Senate
 Sheldon Whitehouse (D)
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 Patrick Kennedy (D)*
 Dist. 2 James Langevin (D)*
- South Carolina**
House of Representatives
 Dist. 5 John Spratt (D)*
 Dist. 6 James Clyburn (D)*
- South Dakota**
House of Representatives
 At Large Stephanie Herseth (D)*
- Tennessee**
Senate
 Harold Ford Jr. (D)
House of Representatives
 Dist. 2 John J. Duncan Jr. (R)*
 Dist. 4 Lincoln Davis (D)*
 Dist. 5 Jim Cooper (D)*
 Dist. 6 Bart Gordon (D)*
 Dist. 8 John Tanner (D)*
 Dist. 9 Steve Cohen (D)
- Texas**
House of Representatives
 Dist. 9 Al Green (D)*
 Dist. 15 Ruben Hinojosa (D)*
 Dist. 16 Sylvestre Reyes (D)*
 Dist. 17 Chet Edwards (D)*
 Dist. 18 Sheila Jackson Lee (D)*
 Dist. 20 Charles Gonzalez (D)*
 Dist. 22 Nick Lampson (D)

- Dist. 25 Lloyd Doggett (D)*
 Dist. 27 Solomon P. Ortiz (D)*
 Dist. 28 Henry Cuellar (D)
 Dist. 29 Gene Green (D)*
 Dist. 30 Eddie Bernice Johnson (D)*
- Utah**
House of Representatives
 Dist. 2 Jim Matheson (D)*
 Dist. 3 Christian Burridge (D)
- Vermont**
Senate
 Bernie Sanders (I)
House of Representatives
 At Large Peter Welsh (D)
- Virginia**
Senate
 James Webb (D)
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 Jo Ann Davis (R)*
 Dist. 2 Phil Kellam (D)
 Dist. 3 Bobby Scott (D)*
 Dist. 5 Al Weed (D)
 Dist. 6 Bob Goodlette (R)*
 Dist. 7 Jim Nachman (D)
 Dist. 8 Jim Moran (D)*
 Dist. 9 Rick Boucher (D)*
 Dist. 10 Frank Wolf (R)*
 Dist. 11 Tom Davis (R)*
- 
- Maria Cantwell (D)**
 U.S. Senator, Washington
- Washington**
Senate
 Maria Cantwell (D)*
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 Jay Inslee (D)*
 Dist. 2 Rick Larsen (D)*
 Dist. 3 Brian Baird (D)*
 Dist. 4 Richard Wright (D)
 Dist. 5 Peter Goldmark (D)
 Dist. 6 Norm Dicks (D)*
 Dist. 7 Jim McDermott (D)*
 Dist. 8 Darcy Burner (D)
 Dist. 9 Adam Smith (D)*
- West Virginia**
Senate
 Robert C. Byrd (D)*
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 Alan B. Mollohan (D)*
 Dist. 2 Shelley Moore Capito (R)*
 Dist. 3 Nick Joe Rahall III (D)*
- Wisconsin**
Senate
 Herbert Kohl (D)*
House of Representatives
 Dist. 1 Paul Ryan (R)*
 Dist. 2 Tammy Baldwin (D)*
 Dist. 3 Ron Kind (D)*
 Dist. 4 Gwen Moore (D)*
 Dist. 6 Thomas Petri (R)*
 Dist. 7 David Obey (D)*
 Dist. 8 Steve Kagan (D)
- Wyoming**
Senate
 Dale Grountage (D)
House of Representatives
 At Large Gary Trauner

UTU for Life

UTU for Life chapter meets early success

When retired conductor **Bill Stewart** decided to start a chapter of the *UTU for Life* program in the Wildwood, Fla., area, he figured renewed contact and regular meetings would produce something good. He just didn't consider how quickly the effort would make a difference.



Bill Stewart

Last month, notices went out to retired members within a 50-mile radius of Wildwood inviting them to the first meeting, set for Oct. 25 at the Ole' Coffee House on State Route 301 in Wildwood (across from the CSX/Amtrak rail depot). Among those attending the event will be *UTU for Life* Coordinator **Carl Cochran** and Florida State Legislative Director **Andres Trujillo**.

Stewart received a reply to the invitation from the widow of retired member **Ralph Reighard**.

"She needed help with her Medicare Part B," said Stewart, a member of Local 30 in Jacksonville, Fla. After explaining things to her over the phone and directing her to the Railroad Retirement office in Tampa, Fla., "she called back 30 minutes later to tell me I was a lifesaver," he said. "She got her problem solved, and all she could say was, 'God bless the UTU.' This one phone call made my efforts worthwhile."

The 66-year-old Stewart was 22 when he began on the Akron, Canton & Youngstown Railroad as a brakeman, conductor and yardmaster. Ten years later, he was working for Burlington Northern, but cold weather chased him to Florida, where he became an engineer on the Seaboard Coast Line. Taking a buy-out in 1986, Stewart missed railroading and went to work on Tri-Rail, where he stayed until retiring in October 2005.

For information about the *UTU for Life* chapter he's starting, contact Stewart by calling (352) 637-5403, or send him e-mail at saundraa@earthlink.net.

RRB describes appeals, reconsideration process

Those claiming Railroad Retirement, disability, or survivor as well as unemployment or sickness benefits from the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) have the right to appeal unfavorable determinations on their claims through a three-stage review and appeals process within the RRB.



V.M. Speakman

Those dissatisfied with the initial decision on their claims have 60 days from the date of the initial denial notice to file a written statement requesting reconsideration from the RRB unit that denied the claim. In cases involving overpayments, requests for waiver of recovery of the overpayment must be filed within 60 days of the date of the overpayment notice.

While a request for reconsideration of an initial decision must be in writing, it does not have to be on any specific form. The appropriate form for waiver of recovery of a benefit overpayment is ordinarily enclosed with the overpayment notice.

If appellants disagree with the reconsideration or waiver decision on their claims, they have 60 days from the date of the reconsideration or waiver decision notice to file an appeal with the agency's Bureau of Hearings and Appeals, which is independent of those units responsible for reconsideration decisions.

Finally, if not satisfied with the Bureau of Hearings and Appeals' decision, an appellant may further appeal to the three-member board 60 days from the date of the notice of the Bureau of Hearings and Appeals' decision.

Failure to request reconsideration or to file an appeal within the allocated time period will result in forfeiture of further appeal rights, unless there is good cause for the delay, such as serious illness or a death or serious illness in the appellant's immediate family.

Appellants who dispute the board's final decision may file a petition for review outside the board with a U.S. Court of Appeals.

For more information about the appeals process, contact the nearest office of the Railroad Retirement Board. The address and phone number of the office serving your area may be obtained by calling the automated toll-free RRB help-line at 1-800-808-0772, or go to the RRB website at www.rrb.gov.

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

Medicare Part B rise includes sliding scale

The basic Medicare Part B premium will rise next year to \$93.50 a month, an increase of \$5, while more affluent beneficiaries would have to pay a new surcharge, from \$12.50 to \$68.60 a month, depending on their incomes, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

The surcharge applies to 1.5 million people with annual incomes exceeding \$80,000 for individuals or \$160,000 for married couples filing joint tax returns.

Medicare officials said the standard premium for 2007 was lower than they had predicted. In May and again in July, they estimated that the monthly premium, now \$88.50, would climb to about \$98 in 2007.

Part B of Medicare covers doctors' services, diagnostic tests and outpatient hospital care for 40 million people who are 65 and older or disabled. It shot up 50 percent from 2003 to 2006.

The premium is set each year to cover about 25 percent of projected spending under Part B. If Congress had eliminated the cut planned for doctors and frozen their Medicare fees in 2007, it would have required a further increase of roughly \$1.50 in the monthly premium.

Congress established the surcharge under a little-noticed provision of the 2003 law that added a prescription drug benefit to Medicare.

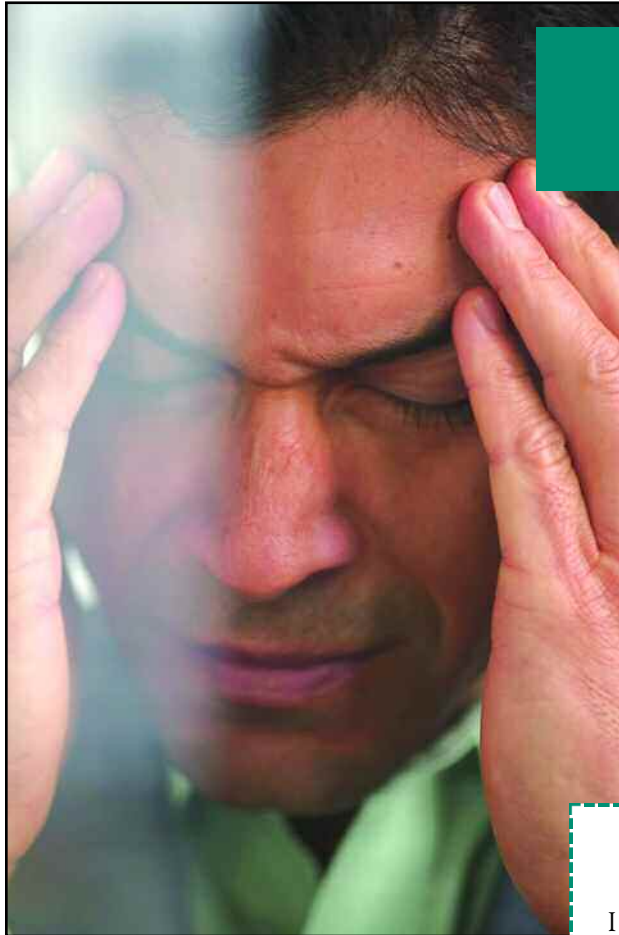


THE FINAL CALL

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	Kosma, Joseph M.	Depew, N.Y.	528	Barkwill, W. H.	Woodstock, Ill.	1299	Taylor, Joseph E.	Morgan Park, Ill.
2	Smith, Frank C.	Clyde, Ohio	544	McLarnon, Paul L.	Laurel, Mont.	1312	Pendleton, Benjamin L.	Pensacola, Fla.
6	Myers, James C.	Terre Haute, Ind.	577	Baumann, Alfred J.	Roselle, Ill.	1344	Nelson, Eugene R.	Bismarck, N.D.
118	Buster, Hubert H.	Rainelle, W. Va.	622	Russell Jr., T. G.	Trussville, Ala.	1344	Wanner, Arnold F.	Dickinson, N.D.
194	Elliott, Marshall	Terre Haute, Ind.	632	Hughes, John R.	Osceola Mills, Pa.	1361	Silva, John	Cibola, Texas
206	Long, Fredrick C.	Rochester, Ind.	655	Blankenship, Ronald S.	Myrtle Beach, S.C.	1393	Sikora, John C.	Buffalo, N.Y.
239	Hesketh, Millard R.	Oakland, Calif.	744	Dunahay, Lowell V.	Elida, Ohio	1393	Zuppa, Anthony W.	West Seneca, N.Y.
281	Cherney, Gerald J.	Tomahawk, Wis.	769	Hicks, Robert C.	Lynchburg, Va.	1403	Scott, Jackie D.	Independence, Mo.
305	Beran, Joe	Lincoln, Neb.	811	Van Horn, Leonard K.	Fontana, Calif.	1422	Holliday, Barry J.	Lawndale, Calif.
318	McCollum, Donald J.	Hornell, N.Y.	830	Derr, Lester F.	Thompstontown, Pa.	1423	Penrod, Richard D.	Ottumwa, Iowa
338	Spangler, Hugh E.	Jasper, Tenn.	867	Thomas, Henry A.	Apache Junction, Ariz.	1458	Miller, Junious A.	Thibodaux, La.
363	Brown, William M.	Roanoke, Va.	903	Murphy, John T.	Jacksonville, Fla.	1477	Warrick, Daniel E.	Dearborn, Mich.
376	Harrell, Arthur R.	Carrabelle, Fla.	903	Poole, Nehemiah	Jacksonville, Fla.	1501	Sonnier, Amos J.	Woodworth, La.
440	Luttrell, Clark E.	Sharonville, Ohio	903	Wall, Walter H.	Jacksonville, Fla.	1538	Obarski, Harry T.	Longville, Minn.
454	Bender, Howard J.	Parkville, Md.	903	Wilkison Jr., Bennett L.	Lawtey, Fla.	1558	Sigrist, Robert J.	Teaneck, N.J.
486	Nord, Frank H.	Brooklyn Park, Minn.	904	Ransom Sr., Richard R.	Evansville, Ind.	1563	Deford, Glen R.	Anaheim, Calif.
489	Taylor, James L.	Houston, Texas	977	Dillon, John J.	Burbank, Wash.	1589	Finne, Ralph	Sand Lake, N.Y.
489	Thomas, Clifford W.	San Antonio, Texas	1006	Piplica, Nick	McKeesport, Pa.	1614	Ross, Michael G.	St. Paul, Minn.
498	Weaver, Clarence L.	Fullerton, Pa.	1038	Ivie, Bert A.	Magna, Utah	1620	Bloom, Ray B.	Elkhart, Ind.
			1092	Gilliam, Vernon R.	Woodland, Texas	1760	Wirtz, Arnold E.	Hazel Park, Mich.
			1129	Mann, Selvie L.	Holly Springs, N.C.	1765	Yskes, Gerrit C.	Grandville, Mich.
			1188	Blackstone, Joseph H.	Purcell, Okla.	1780	McLeroy, Robert W.	Hilo, Hawaii
			1293	Kasperec, Gerald J.	Spooner, Wis.	1957	Bean, Samuel L.	Beaumont, Texas
			1293	Monsour, Michael P.	St. Paul, Minn.	1957	Shaw, Elmo	Tatum, Texas
			1299	Hitzeroth, Roger P.	Carol Stream, Ill.	1971	Nash, Worth	Hamlet, N.C.





Got Stress?

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When you are faced with an illness or accident, the last thing you need is the worry over how you will pay the mortgage, car payments, credit cards and other necessities. Sure, your health insurance will cover the medical bills, but how will you pay everything else?

Having a Disability Income Replacement insurance policy can provide you and your family peace of mind should a tragedy strike. It replaces lost income when you are unable to work due to an accident or sickness, helping you on your road to recovery.

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return the coupon at right,
or call toll free
(800) 558-8842
for a free quote.**

Information, please

I would like more information on UTUIA's Disability Income Replacement Insurance.



Please print

Full name	Date of birth	UTU local number
Address	City	State ZIP
Telephone number with area code	Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	

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

10/06



UTU PAC HONOR ROLL

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

Name	Local	City	Name	Local	City	Name	Local	City	Name	Local	City
PLATINUM CLUB (\$1,200 OR MORE PER YEAR)											
Young, L. Steve	20	Beaumont, Tex.	Monk, Lavona S.	200	North Platte, Neb.	Molczyk Jr., Richard L.	493	Waterloo, Iowa	Bowles, Alex A.	1081	Glendale, Ariz.
Van Bree, Frank E.	72	Battle Creek, Mich.	Noonan, Peter M.	200	North Platte, Neb.	*Pennybacker Jr., John R.	504	Wheeling, W. Va.	*Montgomery, Robert W.	1136	Sterling, Colo.
LeNeave, Cortney	1000	Minneapolis, Minn.	Novotny, L.D.	200	North Platte, Neb.	*Eisenman, Stanley	544	Havre, Mont.	Bosch, Allen A.	1137	Fargo, N.D.
Batton, Jerry L.	1088	Jackson, Miss.	Simmons, Anthony A.	200	North Platte, Neb.	*Quinn, Michael D.	544	Havre, Mont.	Boll, Mark	1137	Fargo, N.D.
Gilwee, James F.	1201	Stockton, Calif.	Thalken, Linda M.	200	North Platte, Neb.	Rossich, Edwin N.	545	Tacoma, Wash.	*Cochran, Carl E.	1138	Miami, Fla.
Britt, Donald S.	1570	Roseville, Calif.	*Hill, Donald W.	202	Denver, Colo.	Svedberg, Michael R.	556	Tacoma, Wash.	Miller, Michael R.	1221	Tampa, Fla.
Bruggess, George T.	1620	Elkhart, Ind.	*Nierling, Thomas F.	202	Denver, Colo.	Howard, Paul W.	577	Northlake, Ill.	*Panak, Martin C.	1221	Tampa, Fla.
Heuring Jr., Richard L.	1895	Chicago, Ill.	*Seymour, Winfred W.	202	Denver, Colo.	Klingel, James M.	577	Northlake, Ill.	Milligan, Gordon D.	1290	Chicago, Ill.
Wood, Thomas	1928	Toledo, Ohio	*Shaver, Jack V.	202	Denver, Colo.	Mongelli, Daniel J.	577	Northlake, Ill.	*Johnson, Warren W.	1292	Proctor, Minn.
DOUBLE DIAMOND CLUB (\$600 OR MORE PER YEAR)											
*Huschka, Joseph L.	486	Glendive, Mont.	Amaral, Michael D.	238	Ogden, Utah	Payne, Leroy D.	577	Northlake, Ill.	Meadows, David E.	1312	Pensacola, Fla.
Simpson, Stephen M.	489	San Antonio, Tex.	*Jacobs, Kermit R.	256	Watervliet, N.Y.	Potter, John	583	Fond du Lac, Wis.	Morgan, S. Reed	1337	New Orleans, La.
Beran, Gary J.	1081	Glendale, Ariz.	Patton, Nathaniel J.	281	Milwaukee, Wis.	Grigsby, D. Bruce	643	Kahoka, Mo.	Krohn, Herb	1348	Centralia, Wash.
Spear, John K.	1366	Salt Lake City, Utah	Pautot, Linda C.	281	Milwaukee, Wis.	Palmer, David L.	643	Kahoka, Mo.	*Plourd, Eugene R.	1400	S. Portland, Maine
*Bennett, Jay C.	1629	Phoenix, Ariz.	Bacon, Richard A.	305	Lincoln, Nebr.	Toben, Richard R.	643	Kahoka, Mo.	Thompson, Troy M.	1501	Baton Rouge, La.
DIAMOND PLUS CLUB (\$400 OR MORE PER YEAR)											
Kasecamp, Lawrence E.	600	Cumberland, Md.	Carey, James B.	305	Lincoln, Nebr.	*D'Antonio, Anthony L.	656	Babyton, N.Y.	Bridger, Eric C.	1532	Kansas City, Kan.
Havens, Dennis L.	674	Augusta, Ga.	Doyle, Spencer R.	305	Lincoln, Nebr.	*Matthews, James T.	656	N. Little Rock, Ark.	Sawyer, Thomas L.	1538	Chicago, Ill.
*Croonquist, Willis G.	1177	Willmar, Minn.	Griffin, Gabe J.	305	Lincoln, Nebr.	*Adams, Robert L.	663	Bangor, Maine	Brooking, Kyle J.	1548	Indianapolis, Ind.
Otten, David W.	1962	Toledo, Ohio	Hartshorn, Michael D.	305	Lincoln, Neb.	Woodbridge, Vance A.	740	Joliet, Ill.	Moore, Terry J.	1548	Indianapolis, Ind.
DOLLAR-A-DAY CLUB (\$365 OR MORE PER YEAR)											
Gustafson, Eric	168	Salt Lake City, Utah	Hongsermier, Ronald D.	305	Lincoln, Neb.	*Klotz, James D.	830	Harrisburg, Pa.	Ortega II, Michael A.	1571	El Paso, Tex.
Compton, Clint	581	Green Bay, Wis.	Kruese, Brian D.	305	Lincoln, Neb.	Miller Jr., John O.	830	Harrisburg, Pa.	Hall, James A.	1594	Upper Darby, Pa.
Backer, Fred T.	626	McCook, Neb.	Randall, Jason S.	305	Lincoln, Neb.	Sorrow, Randall E.	830	Harrisburg, Pa.	Bart, Michael J.	1597	Chicago, Ill.
Massey, Danny J.	847	Birmingham, Ala.	Rice, Jeff P.	305	Lincoln, Neb.	Hall, William E.	847	Birmingham, Ala.	Billingham, Carleton F.	1597	Chicago, Ill.
Brown, Jeffrey J.	1366	Salt Lake City, Utah	Weekworth, Luke A.	305	Lincoln, Neb.	Richey, Robert B.	867	Des Moines, Iowa	Fisher, William F.	1597	Chicago, Ill.
DIAMOND CLUB (\$300 OR MORE PER YEAR)											
Maxfield, Jeffrey N.	500	Grand Junction, Colo.	Wilgers, Joel C.	305	Lincoln, Neb.	*Adkins, E. Fred	891	Whitefish, Mont.	Jones, Anthony E.	1597	Chicago, Ill.
Lewis Jr., Harry C.	597	Des Plaines, Ill.	Henderson, Larry D.	306	Eagle Grove, Iowa	Burke, Christopher J.V.	891	Whitefish, Mont.	Windsor, Joshua A.	1597	Chicago, Ill.
O'Donnell, Marjorie E.	1951	Albany, N.Y.	Holgate, Derek A.	306	Eagle Grove, Iowa	*Burns, Eugene R.	891	Whitefish, Mont.	Wingate, Marshall	1608	Chatsworth, Calif.
GOLD CLUB (\$100 OR MORE PER YEAR)											
*McCoy, Robert V.	2	Toledo, Ohio	Kleinberg, J. D.	306	Eagle Grove, Iowa	*Caluori, George M.	891	Whitefish, Mont.	*Davis, Darrell W.	1770	Los Angeles, Calif.
Tyler, Noel L.	5	Kansas City, Mo.	Busch, Richard D.	367	Omaha, Neb.	*Cote, Clifford D.	891	Whitefish, Mont.	*Gilbert, Walter F.	1770	Los Angeles, Calif.
*Fletcher Sr., Joseph M.	30	Jacksonville, Fla.	Hopkins, Thomas M.	367	Omaha, Neb.	*Koestler, Marlin	891	Whitefish, Mont.	*Pyritz, William D.	1800	Tucson, Ariz.
*Stewart, William C.	30	Jacksonville, Fla.	*Sutton, Joseph L.	367	Omaha, Neb.	*Malingo, Joseph E.	891	Whitefish, Mont.	*Damstrom, Richard F.	1840	Glasgow, Mont.
*Reizovic, Frank J.	60	Newark, N.J.	*Day, Walter L.	378	Cleveland, Ohio	Martin, Timothy C.	891	Whitefish, Mont.	Brown, Anthony K.	1846	West Colton, Calif.
Martyn, Ralph	113	Winslow, Ariz.	*Downs, J. Paul	426	Spokane, Wash.	*Shaughnessy, Thomas E.	891	Whitefish, Mont.	Diaz, Refugio J.	1895	Chicago, Ill.
Estes, William K.	196	Beardstown, Ill.	*Hamley, Marvin M.	426	Spokane, Wash.	*Vandeberg, Wayne C.	891	Whitefish, Mont.	Hall Jr., Thomas A.	1895	Chicago, Ill.
Markert, Todd A.	196	Beardstown, Ill.	Singletary, Randy W.	462	Pine Bluff, Ark.	*Wagner, Roger F.	891	Whitefish, Mont.	Orona, David M.	1895	Chicago, Ill.
Pruitt, Gary B.	196	Beardstown, Ill.	Boyk, Zachary J.	473	La Grande, Ore.	*Fox, Charles E.	898	Boston, Mass.	Hamrick, Kelly D.	1933	Washington, D.C.
Davidson, Michael C.	200	North Platte, Neb.	Gabriel, Greg A.	473	La Grande, Ore.	*Hodges, Dennis R.	903	Jacksonville, Fla.	Lloyd, Charles J.	1962	Toledo, Ohio
Jones, Dennis A.	200	North Platte, Neb.	*Glover, Harvey R.	486	Glendive, Mont.	*Rahn, Ronald E.	903	Jacksonville, Fla.	Zaborski II, Michael R.	1962	Toledo, Ohio
Mins, Jay D.	200	North Platte, Neb.	*Nord, Frank H.	486	Glendive, Mont.	Baker, Demetrius J.	904	Evansville, Ind.	*Sebring Jr., James G.	1972	Birmingham, Ala.
			*Adams, John K.	490	Princeton, Ind.	Doering, Sarah K.	934	Alliance, Neb.	Golden, Maxine	Aux 318	Birmingham, Ala.
			Brenner, Alan W.	490	Princeton, Ind.	Foster, Wade	934	Alliance, Neb.	UTU Auxiliary Lodge	474	Chaffee, Mo.
			*Broshears, Rodney V.	490	Princeton, Ind.	Frazer, Jason R.	934	Alliance, Neb.			
			*Drury, J.C.	490	Princeton, Ind.	Roberts, Jeremiah R.	934	Alliance, Neb.			
			*Mayfield, Charles	490	Princeton, Ind.	Gibbon, Daniel R.	937	Mart, Tex.			
			*Russell, Ronald W.	490	Princeton, Ind.	Sliva, Justin J.	937	Mart, Tex.			
			*Swope, James L.	490	Princeton, Ind.	Ammon, Thomas J.	980	Enderlin, N.D.			
			*Tate, Donald C.	490	Princeton, Ind.	Steedman, Duane R.	980	Enderlin, N.D.			
			*Turner, Robert E.	490	Princeton, Ind.	*Rushing, Wilford C.	1053	Selma, Ala.			
			*Wagoner, Donald M.	490	Princeton, Ind.	Baker, Ryan W.	1081	Glendale, Ariz.			
			Wilkison Jr., John E.	490	Princeton, Ind.	Bolden, Arnold L.	1081	Glendale, Ariz.			

* = Retired member

Amtrak

Continued from page 1

seven separate employers over the past eight years.

Kummant was chosen by the Amtrak board of directors. Although Amtrak receives most of its funding from the federal government, the Amtrak board has authority under the law to choose a president without a requirement for Senate confirmation.

For four years until 2003, Kummant was a Union Pacific officer, including vice president of UP's Central Division in Kansas City. His wife, Kathleen Regan, is a former vice president of business development and e-commerce for BNSF Railway.

UTU and other rail-labor organizations have

been in contract negotiations with Amtrak since August 2000. Amtrak continues to struggle for annual federal funding in the face of Bush administration attempts to eliminate federal subsidies and privatize Amtrak.

Kummant will be called upon to deal with the continuing deterioration in relationships between Amtrak and its host freight railroads, over whose trackage most Amtrak trains operate.

Hughes, before he departed, said on-time performance of Amtrak trains on freight-rail tracks dropped by 50 percent since 1999 even though federal law requires that Amtrak trains receive "preference" over freight trains.

According to the National Association of Railroad Passengers (NARP), more than 100,000 Amtrak passengers were delayed more than four hours in June, with the most delays occurring on CSX or Union Pacific tracks.

In August, Amtrak's vice president of operations, William Crosbie, said UP was "in violation" of UP's obligations as a host Amtrak railroad.

Crosbie said that 84 percent of Amtrak trains operating over UP track were more than two hours late, and 66 percent more than four hours late.

NARP says freight railroads are "failing" to properly maintain existing track used by Amtrak and are also engaging in "sloppy" dispatching, "whether due to inexperience, incompetence or negative attitudes toward Amtrak trickling down from top management."

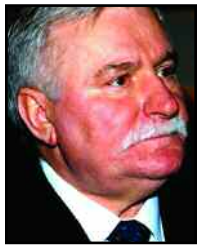
Says NARP, "Terrible on-time performance makes Amtrak's struggle for adequate federal funding tougher," causing "immense damage to Amtrak's brand, reputation, and repeat business."

Labor memorial

Continued from page 1

part of the walkway to the main monument.

"The monument symbolizes the sacrifices, blood, sweat and tears of the American worker and will live on forever as a reminder that when people come together they can accomplish anything," said Michael Johnston, director of the Labor Heritage Society, which is coordinating construction of the monument.



Walesa

Contributions from UTU members and UTU locals are paying for the plaque commemorating the accomplishments and vision of Debs.

The main monument commemorates a bitter strike by furniture workers in Grand Rapids almost a century ago and honors the universal struggle of workers who found the courage to unite and stand up for their rights. The Debs plaque is an integral part of the Spirit of Solidarity.

Debs, who put his own safety and freedom second as he championed the causes of workers and encouraged them to gain strength through



These three, nine-foot-tall bronze sculptures will be part of the labor-movement memorial.

forming unions, helped to organize UTU predecessor Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, and was an international officer of another UTU predecessor, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen.

Historians credit Debs' efforts as leading to laws permitting workers to organize lawfully, to choose their bargaining representatives without employer interference, and to require employers to bargain in good faith over wages, benefits and working conditions.

The Spirit of Solidarity will be in the form of a bowl-shaped area that slopes down to the focal point – three lifelike, nine-foot-tall bronze sculptures depicting early union organizing. The sculptures will stand on a granite island surrounded by a pool of flowing water. Engraved around the pool, on the granite rim, will be quotations from champions of workers' rights.

The entire structure will be clad in rough granite with seating areas along the inside perimeter. The seat backs will be adorned with meaningful quotes relating to the struggles of working people from that era.

Lech Walesa, former president of Poland, Nobel laureate, and the man who showed the world the true spirit of solidarity, visited the site in April.

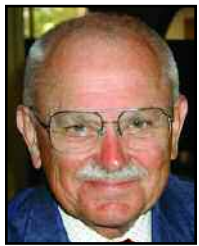
The following UTU locals purchased bricks that will identify them: Locals 100, 168, 194, 313, 349, 367, 597, 807, 845, 1399, 1501, 1730, 1765, and 1971. Also, C.S. (Chuck) Lewis (UTU Local 701); UTU Texas State Legislative Board, and retired UTU Vice President Peter Patsouras.

Your family needs you; exercise, live right for them

By Dr. Norman Brown
UTU Medical Consultant

Baseball legend Mickey Mantle once joked, "If I had known I was going to live this long, I would have taken better care of myself."

I wish more of us, including myself, would look into their crystal balls of the future and find themselves saying this old half joke to others, years from now. I want to try to convince you that your efforts today – no matter what your current age – will pay off for your own health and happiness in future years.



Brown

Some interesting scientific studies recently reported very significant facts:

- People who exercise regularly land in nursing homes less often.
- People who exercise and lose weight are less frail.
- People who are more active physically are less at risk of Alzheimer's Disease.

How do we get ourselves into life-style patterns of more exercise and less weight?

It is not easy, based upon my own personal experience and experience of working with thousands of patients over the years as they made the valiant effort.

There is another study worth mentioning – one of people working to lower their cholesterol levels. All were scanned with an electron beam that identifies cholesterol plaques in their arteries. Each was told of their cholesterol level before starting a program of diet and medication.

Those who had the most severe accumulation of cholesterol plaques were almost twice as likely to be faithful to their diets and medication as those with the least plaques.

Do you have to be frightened to stick to a blood-vessel healthy life style? Maybe, but I hope not – especially if you start early in life to become aware that putting undue stress on your body now may make life a lot less fun for you later.

Extra calories, particularly cholesterol-laden ones – and especially if accentuated by excess

alcohol – put extra stress on your blood vessels and heart system, to say nothing of your bones and joints. Reducing the calorie intake and exercising are a huge benefit.

Now, a word about smoking. Leaving aside the risk of smoking triggering a cancer problem, we also know that smoking may affect the arteries. Many experts believe that the expected weight gain after stopping smoking is less harmful than smoking itself, so please think about this fact and stop if you can – and work on the weight later on. I know that many of you have already quit, so more power to you!

Many studies have shown that emotional stress, depression, or unhappiness in general may correlate with physical medical disorders – so-called psychosomatic diseases.

My goal for each of you is to work toward a healthy life in both body and mind – which are, in fact, inseparable.

Just the fact that you have taken the trouble to read, and get to the bottom of this column, tells me you are on the right path. So, keep it up. Your families need you to be as happy and as fit as possible for as long as possible.



UTU BUS LINES

News items culled from the UTU's Daily News Digest, posted every morning on the UTU Web site, www.utu.org.

L.A. MTA to announce new route maps

The \$3-billion-a-year Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority will finally release in December a long-awaited plan, dubbed Metro Connections, which officials predict will save the MTA millions of dollars and create a more efficient system.

Critics, however, fear the plan will inconvenience regular riders.

While all of the proposed changes, which will be rolled out through 2008, have not been made public, the MTA has announced it hopes to eliminate several redundant bus routes and shorten those that exceed 20 miles.

Officials say shorter routes will make it less likely that buses will get stuck in traffic.

Agency planners believe that eliminating redundant routes or those with low usage will save money. And adding shorter, more manageable routes that take riders directly to major destinations will also attract customers.

"We are trying to achieve two things at the same time: improve the system for the users and achieve efficiencies," said Adi Arieli, an MTA consultant.

"The idea was, why don't we take a look and see the paths where the people want to travel even if they are not going to be down the street."

No decisions can be finalized, however, until public hearings are held. Critics complain that the hearings so far have failed to attract the Spanish-speaking, transit-dependent riders who are the bulk of customers.

DHS grants millions for transit safety

The Department of Homeland Security last month awarded \$191 million in grants to defend bus lines, transit systems and ports from terrorists, increasing funding for major urban areas in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic states whose funds were slashed earlier this year in a controversial decision.

New York received \$25.7 million in security grants, up from \$6.6 million last year; Baltimore was granted \$4.8 million, up from \$1 million; and Hampton Roads, which received none in 2005, was awarded \$3.5 million.

Losers included Los Angeles and Long Beach, Calif., which received \$12 million, down from \$24.2 million; Houston at \$11.6 million, down from \$35 million; and San Diego at \$139,837, down from \$6.5 million.

The grants included \$13 million for commuter rail, bus, and ferry systems; \$9.5 million for bus companies and \$168 million for ports. In July, the DHS awarded \$123 million for transit systems; \$7.2 million for Amtrak; \$4.8 million for trucking companies; \$25 million for chemical plants, and \$48 million for critical infrastructure, such as water and electrical systems.

American Public Transportation Association spokeswoman Virginia Miller said the \$13 million is helpful, but the industry has identified \$6 billion in security needs.

Together with grants announced in July, the DHS has released \$399 million this year to protect critical facilities such as rail systems, nuclear plants, dams and stadiums.

Rockland Coaches employees ratify pact

A new three-year contract delivering wage increases and "excellent health-care benefits" has been ratified by Rockland Coaches employees represented by UTU Local 1558 in Bergenfield, N.J., according to General Chairperson Rich Deiser.

Approved by a 149-to-18 vote, the pact benefits some 250 workers, including bus operators, shop personnel, dispatchers and clerical employees. The contract is retroactive to July 1, 2006, with raises totaling 8 percent by July 1, 2008, Deiser said.

Voting on the property, which is a division of Coach USA, was conducted under the auspices of Federal Mediation & Conciliation Services Commissioner Guy Serota. The outcome was announced Sept. 12, Deiser said.

Deiser, who also serves as alternate vice president-bus (east), offered the local's gratitude to UTU International President Paul Thompson for his support, as well as International Vice President Roy Arnold, director of the union's bus department.

"I want to thank Roy for his invaluable advice and assistance in breaking an impasse which had twice resulted in the membership voting overwhelmingly against the company's proposals," Deiser said.

Also earning Deiser's praise and thanks were the members of the local negotiating committee, including Local President Helaine Parsons, Treasurer Mike Byrne, Legislative Rep. Ralph Styverson and Bob Panarotti.

UTU Gear for your holiday shopping needs

It's not too early to begin your holiday shopping and the UTU Web site is just the place to start, without ever leaving your home or going to a busy shopping mall. Just visit the UTU Web site at www.utu.org and click on the **UTU Gear** tile.

All of the UTU items featured there are sold through American Products and are either union made or are made in America.

All items carry a 100-percent-quality guarantee against defects in materials and workmanship. Volume discounts on customized orders are available to UTU locals and committees. Watches and clocks carry a two-year manufacturer's warranty against defects.

All of the featured items can be ordered by credit card directly through the company's secure Web site, or by calling the company's toll-free telephone number: **(800) 272-5120**.

UTU members may also download and print a custom order form that can be mailed to UTU Merchandise.com, 1600 North Clinton Ave., Rochester, NY 14621.

All orders will be processed within days of receipt.

Prices are shown in U.S. dollars. Canadian members should make payment by check in U.S. funds. When using credit cards, transactions will automatically be billed in U.S. funds. Apparel prices may vary depending on size. Visit the UTU online store for complete details about prices and available sizes.



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 Leon Davis, general chairperson of Texas, New Mexico & Oklahoma Coaches and a member of Local 1697 in Lubbock, Texas. The photo is of a 2006 MCI Model D4505 motorcoach taken at McKenzie Park in Lubbock. The wheelchair-accessible bus has numerous new safety features, Davis said.



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OCTOBER 2006

ISSN 0098-5937

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



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10/06

Volume 38
Number 10

October 2006



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The Official Publication of the United Transportation Union

FRA investigating the death of Alton & Southern switchman

Family members said Mardie Olden had found his dream job as a switchman with Alton & Southern Railway when he was hired six months ago, but it ended tragically Sunday, Sept. 10, according to this report by Denise Hollinshed published by the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

Brother Olden was a member of UTU Local 1929 in East St. Louis, Ill.

The Federal Railroad Administration along with Alton & Southern and East St. Louis Police are investigating an accident in which Olden was fatally crushed between two trains.

Railroad officials said the accident happened at 11:30 p.m. Sept. 10 while Olden was switching locomotives from one track to another.

Olden, 44, of Belleville, was pronounced dead at 12:51 a.m. Monday in the emergency room at Kenneth Hall Regional Hospital in East St. Louis, according to the St. Clair County Coroner's Office.

Mike McCarthy, spokesman for Alton & Southern, said the railway was still trying to piece together exactly what happened in the rail yard when the trains came together and crushed Olden.

"They were just moving them from one track to another; it's basically a simple move," McCarthy said.

McCarthy said Olden was very well thought of.

"He was a conscientious worker," he said. "It will be a big loss for us. We are a small railroad,

and he was a big part of it."

Olden's older brother, Lindsey Olden, 52, of Belleville, believes his brother's inexperience may have sealed his fate.

He said friends who worked at the railroad told him his brother had been making mistakes and should have been pulled off that job.

He wants a thorough investigation into his brother's death.

"I want the truth," Olden said. "In a six-month span my little brother shouldn't have been doing what he was doing. Simple as that."

Investigators worked to solve the mystery of Olden's death by recreating the scene where he lost his life.

Olden was repositioning three locomotives in the Alton & Southern railroad yard at 1000 N. 22nd St., East St. Louis, when the accident occurred.

"We put the locomotives where they were and are re-enacting the moves that were made" before the tragedy occurred, McCarthy said.

McCarthy said investigators have not found anything to suggest there was a mechanical malfunction. But, he would not say whether the facts were leaning more toward human error.

After all of the investigators share information, they will come to a conclusion of the probable cause of the accident, McCarthy said.

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Inside this issue of the UTU News:



Please don't ask John Hasenauer about one-person crews. See page 2.



Member Al Nash draws some conclusions about Election Day. See page 5.



Corrine Brown, and others, deserve our vote. See Pages 6 and 7.



Retiree Stewart stewards retirees in central Florida. See page 8.