



UTU News



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The Official Publication of the United Transportation Union

Close-call reporting system boosts safety

It's confidential and no-fault.

And the result, according to the Federal Railroad Administration, is a significant reduction in rail workplace derailments that too often lead to serious injury and death – plus, as a bonus, better labor/management relationships and improved operational performance.

We are talking about four pilot projects called Confidential Close Call Reporting System (C³RS), whose core value is that railroaders don't intentionally make mistakes, and the most effective means of correcting workplace errors that have the potential to cause death, injury and accidents is to investigate the cause in a non-judgmental environment.

In a review of C³RS pilot projects on Amtrak, Canadian Pacific, New Jersey Transit and Union Pacific, the FRA also determined they result in



supervisors becoming "more fair and cooperative" and placing a greater value on safety relative to productivity, fewer discipline cases, and workers more willing to raise safety concerns with management.

C³RS is a collaborative effort involving the FRA, carriers, the UTU and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen.

The pilot projects encourage engineers, conductors, trainmen and yardmasters to report – without fear of discipline or FRA enforcement action, even if rules violations are involved – close calls that may have resulted in accidents or injuries.

All C³RS reports by employees are collected anonymously and kept confidential. With names

and locations masked, a C³RS peer review team recommends corrective action, such as improved training, changes in physical plant, changes in existing federal safety laws or regulations, changes in carrier operating rules, and improved training and/or education.

Examples of close calls include varying levels of risk, such as leaving pieces of equipment unsecured, improper blocking, operating trains beyond track authority, or violating operating rules.

UTU International Vice President John Previsich spearheads the UTU involvement in the four C³RS pilot projects – systemwide on Amtrak and New Jersey Transit, and at CP's Portage, Wis., yard, and UP's North Platte, Neb., yard.

At UP, which has the most experience with C³RS, the pilot project has led to reformatting track warrants so they are easier to read. One UP officer observed that C³RS "is helping UP move from a blame culture to one that bridges communication gaps between employees and management."

LACMTA driver gunned down; BSNF conductor dead in crash

One UTU member was shot to death on duty in May, a second died in a switching accident and a third member lost a foot in a separate switching accident.

Alan Thomas, 51, a member of Local 1563 and employed as a bus operator by Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA), was murdered by a lone shooter aboard his bus May 20.

The alleged shooter reportedly exited the bus through a rear window and awaited county sheriff's deputies, who placed him under arrest without a struggle. Two weapons – a shotgun and a handgun – reportedly were recovered at the scene.



Thomas

The alleged shooter was jailed on a "suspicion of murder" charge. If convicted, he could face the death penalty under California law.

Thomas began driving for LACMTA in 2007, and became a full-time driver in 2010. He leaves behind a wife, five children and 11 grandchildren.

Fellow bus operator **Victor George**, said, "We always are exposed to mental, verbal and physical abuse by passengers."



Glasgow

General Chairperson **James Williams** (LACMTA, GO 875) said, "I'd like to see more security on buses, such as law enforcement officers riding buses and doing spot checks."

Williams stopped short of calling for protective enclosures for drivers, saying "more study and member involvement is necessary."

Robert J. Glasgow, 38, a member of Local 887, Harvey, N.D., died May 28 while setting out cars as part of a two-person crew at a CP (Soo Line) yard at Kenmare, N.D., which is 50 miles northwest of Minot.

Initial reports are that Glasgow had mounted the lead car of 28 cars being switched conventionally when the lead car sideswiped other cars.

Glasgow was pronounced dead at a local hospital following evacuation by a local emergency medical crew.

The FRA is investigating the incident.

Glasgow had six years' service as a maintenance-of-way employee and had been a conductor for some 10 months.

He is survived by wife Jenny Ann and children Jacob, Carter, Cole, Ethan and Kaylee.

Glasgow is the second UTU rail member killed on duty in 2012. **Michael M. Shoemaker**, 55, a member of Local 1383, Gary, Ind., was killed in a switching accident Jan. 30 in Gary, Ind.

Ten UTU rail members were killed on duty in 2011, eight in 2010 and eight in 2009.

Mike J. Bolen, 50, a member of Local 947, Chaffee, Mo., lost his right foot to amputation at a hospital after reportedly tripping while walking alongside eight cars being conventionally switched May 28 at a BNSF yard in Crystal City, Mo.

He was struck by one of the cars but not run over. He had eight years' service. The FRA is investigating the accident.

For information on yard safety, go to www.utu.org and click on the "Safety" button at the top of the home page.

MBCR car decorated to honor vets



The Massachusetts Bay Commuter Railroad (MBCR) recently rolled out a special rail car decorated to honor Massachusetts service men and women who were killed in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. The car will be used in revenue service all over the MBCR system, New England Legislative Director **George Casey** said.

Around the UTU

Local 60, Newark, N.J.

More than 200 union brothers and sisters, friends and family members of New Jersey Transit employee **Brian “Noodles” Walsh** attended a “beef & beer benefit” April 7 to assist him and his family as he battles cancer, Local President **Mike Reilly** reports. The benefit was organized by fellow UTU member **Troy Largmann**, Walsh’s brother-in-law, and raised approximately \$17,000 for the Walsh family. “Local 60 sincerely thanks all who attended and also those who could not attend, but still donated,” Reilly said.

Local 168, Chicago

Member **Sean Sullivan**, who has provided fellow members samples of his barbecue sauce for quite some time, now has his sauce available in grocery stores, Local Chairperson **Doug Silkowski** reports. The sauce can be found at Jewel, Strack and Van Til, and Ultra grocery stores and will be available in other stores soon. Silkowski said a page about the sauce can be found on Facebook by searching “Sullivan’s Original BBQ Sauce.”

Local 240, Los Angeles

Local Chairperson **Harry J. Garvin Jr.** reports that retired member **Roy J. Herdman**, 74, died May 11. Herdman retired Dec. 31, 2001, after 37 years of service. “He was a hard worker on the railroad and dedicated member of Local 240,” Garvin said. In other news, the 11th Annual FSCV Rail Classic golf tournament was a great success, with 76 golfers participating.

Local 286, North Platte, Neb.

More than 75 members and guests attended the second annual UTU Day at Fonner Park April 13, according to member **Ed Mueller**. The local sponsored a race and the winning horse and owner were presented with a horse blanket bearing the UTU name and logo. Representatives of various designated legal counsel firms were in attendance and helped defray the cost of tickets and dinner. Members are already making arrangements for next year.

Local 367, Omaha, Neb.

Union Pacific engineer **Chris Dittus** was featured in a recent *Omaha World-Herald* newspaper article for assisting law enforcement officers in nabbing rail grade-crossing violators. With an officer on board and numerous others waiting near crossings, Dittus ran a UP locomotive through area crossings looking for automobiles or pedestrians ignoring crossing-gate warnings. “You worry about not hurting somebody,” said Dittus, “because you’re always going to win.”

Local 375, Edgemont, S.D.

Member **Lewis Martin** informs *UTU News* that the address for this BNSF local’s website has been changed. The new address is www.utu375.org.

Local 662, Richmond, Va.

Retired member **Wesley R. “Buddy” Wilson**, 73, died April 25, Secretary & Treasurer **James M. Galbraith** reports. He is survived by his wife, June, daughter Trish, and step-daughter, Vanessa. A floral arrangement on behalf of the members of the local was sent to the Bennett & Barnden Funeral Home.

Local 832, Superior, Wis.



In the above photograph sent to *UTU News* by Local Chairperson **Gary Rutledge**, Soo Line engineer **Jim Chase**, right, hands off a special train hauling a turbine and generator components to his son **Aaron Chase**, a BNSF conductor. The father-to-son switch was made May 8 in Duluth, Minn. Both are members of Local 832 at Superior, Wis.



Massachusetts Bay Commuter Railroad conductor **Frank Teague** holds a commuter train-shaped cookie given to him by regular passenger **Andrea D’Amato** at a going-away celebration for Teague after he was reassigned to a new line on the system.

Commuter conductor honored with Sunday morning send-off

When UTU conductor **Frank Teague** told his regular passengers he was being reassigned, he had no idea it was front-page news. It was in Boston, sort of.

Doug Most, *The Boston Globe’s* deputy managing editor for features, happened to be one of those passengers, and he made it known all around town.

Most wrote a column in *The Boston Globe’s* May 20 Sunday magazine that started out like a teenage girl’s diary entry: “Doesn’t he like us? Was it something we said? How could he leave us?”

A local treasurer for Local 898 at Boston, Teague works as a conductor for the Massachusetts Bay Commuter Railroad. He had no idea what he would find in *The Globe’s* Sunday paper. “I thought it was just going to be a paragraph in the paper,” Teague said.

Most went on to write: “He refused to let us board in silence. ‘Morning, Frank,’ he’d bellow. ‘I’m good, Frank. How are you? Good to see you, Frank.’ Or his favorite: ‘I have feelings, too, you know.’ It was his way of shaming us into brightening up. He wasn’t trying to get us to acknowledge him. He wanted us to acknowledge, well, life. To look around. To see the strangers riding with us and realize there could be more to this ritual if we would only lift our heads from our phones, papers, iPads, Nooks, and books.”

When Most asked if there were plans for his last day, Teague told him “The Corrib. West Roxbury. April 19. Just be there.”

“So I went,” Most wrote. “It’s a dark Irish pub in a neighborhood filled with dark Irish pubs, across the street from the commuter rail station. As I wandered in, I wondered if anyone else would show up to toast their conductor. I shouldn’t have. The 6:10 a.m. train was even better represented than mine.”

Teague, a reserve in the U.S. Marine Corps with more than 20 years of commuter service, said about 60 of his regular passengers showed up. “It’s a really stressful job, but I deal with it by joking with people,” he said. “I’m just a regular Joe. I do everything with a joke. I embarrass people into being positive. Just give me the two seconds of time I deserve, and I’ll give you the same.”

“My father told me, you are no better than anybody else, but nobody is better than you.”

“He makes me smile every morning,” said regular passenger **Andrea D’Amato**, who gave him a train-shaped cookie. “He’s got a great repartee. You can give him your best shot and he’s coming right back at you.”

To read Most’s full column, visit <http://www.bostonglobe.com/magazine/2012/05/20>. It’s worth the trip.

Local 898, Boston

Local Treasurer **Frank Teague** reports that Massachusetts Bay Commuter Rail conductor **Justin T. Harris** died March 5. Harris was only 37 and leaves behind a wife, Paula, and children Jackson and Melina.

Local 1373, Philadelphia

The members of this CSX local received a letter of appreciation from the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia following the local’s donation of \$500 to the facility, Secretary & Treasurer **Greg Brecker** tells *UTU News*. The letter read, in part: “Your gift to CHOP is ensuring that our young patients and their families are receiving the best possible medical care. Above all, your support is giving so many children the greatest gift – childhood.”



Local 1373 President **Robert D. Montgomery**, right, presents a check in the amount of \$500 to Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Development Director **Mary Clooney** May 2.

Local 1409, Kansas City, Kan.

A certificate of appreciation from this local for his many decades of service in safety programs and the safety process was presented to **Dave “Buck” Boyles**, Legislative Rep. **Dan K. Bonawitz Jr.** reports. “Buck has worked tirelessly to improve the safety of his workplace for all his union brothers. His efforts are recognized and greatly appreciated by all,” Bonawitz said. Boyles will retire in July after 41 years of service.

Local 1570, Roseville, Calif.

Former UTUIA field supervisor and International Executive Board member **Wes Berg** has died, according to Assistant California State Legislative Director **Mike Anderson**. Berg hired out as a switchman for Southern Pacific in 1952 and became a vice local chairperson for SUNA Lodge 263. He later became vice local chairperson and legislative representative of Local 1570. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, sons Wes II and Steve, grandchildren and great grandchildren. “He will be missed for his wise council and outstanding support. A finer union man would be hard to find,” Anderson said.

Local 1857, Green River, Wyo.

Union Pacific conductor **Joseph Faigl** is one of two railroad employees named as winners of this year’s Association of American Railroad’s Harold Hammond Award, honoring individual employees who have demonstrated outstanding safety achievement during the preceding year. In his 13 injury-free years with UP, Faigl has led several best-practices efforts at the Green River, Wyo., yard, and earned UP’s highest safety distinction, the 2011 Kenefick Safety Award. He has led local efforts to re-energize participation in UP’s employee-owned Total Safety Culture program, boosting program participation. His guidelines for safe pinning and kicking operations have resulted in an 80-percent reduction in human-factor incidents in the yard.

NS GO 687, Bellevue, Ohio

General committee officers and local chairpersons working on the Illinois Division of Norfolk Southern held a town hall meeting with carrier representatives May 15 in St. Louis, Mo., Local Chairperson **Dan Calhoun** (768) reports. Prior to the meeting, the officers met with Designated Legal Counsel **John Papa** to learn more about whistleblower protections and FELA, and to discuss local issues of concern. In attendance were Calhoun, **Justin Myren** (768), **Mark Asninhurst** (768), **Tom Williams** (768), **Richard Wood** (1216), General Chairperson **Jason Boswell** (206), **Steve Woosely** (768), **Jay Soldi** (206), **Pete Ulery** (206), General Committee Secretary **Gerald Wohlgenuth** (226), **Al Coone** (1216), **Rick Hayden** (1405), **Kale Warnhoff** (1405), Assistant Missouri State Legislative Director **Jason Hayden** (1405) and **Mark Chiolerio** (226).

State directors lobby for more Amtrak service

UTU state legislative directors in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas are backing the expansion of passenger rail service in their states.

The directors are **Ty Dragoo** from Kansas, **Ken Menges** from Missouri, **Dennis Scholle** from Oklahoma and **Connie English** from Texas.

They have joined with the Northern Flyer Alliance to promote the expansion of Amtrak service from Kansas City to Fort Worth, Texas.

The alliance is a group of 49 cities, six counties, and 19 Chambers of Commerce from Kansas City to Fort Worth that have joined together to promote passenger rail in their communities and in the tri-state region that includes Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Four alternatives for state-sponsored passenger rail service between the cities have been proposed.

Start-up costs of the alternatives, which are in 2009 dollars and based on 100 percent on-time performance, range from \$156 million to \$479 million and the annual operating support range from \$3.2 million to \$8 million. Annual ridership estimates of the four alternatives range from 65,900 to 174,000.

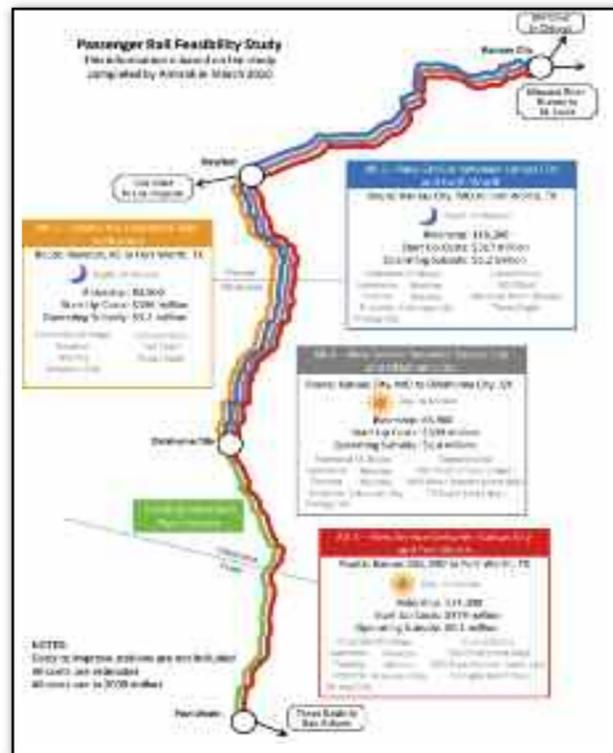
The Alliance recently held a passenger rail symposium, and Federal Railroad Administrator Joe Szabo was on hand with a message of strong support from the Obama administration.



From left: Kansas State Legislative Director Ty Dragoo; FRA Administrator Joe Szabo; Texas State Legislative Director Connie English; Oklahoma State Legislative Director Dennis Scholle and Missouri State Legislative Director Ken Menges.

“As America and Kansas struggle to create jobs, Kansas needs better passenger rail service more than ever,” Kansas State Legislative Director Ty Dragoo wrote to Rep. Dwayne Umbarger, chairperson of the state’s subcommittee on transportation. “A new rail corridor from Kansas City to Wichita to Oklahoma City to Fort Worth will dramatically improve our state’s long-term competitiveness.”

“Now is the time for Kansas to act. The federal government has just committed to investing



\$8 billion to improve our nation’s passenger rail system through the stimulus bill, but Kansas is going to need to make a commitment to compete for these federal dollars,” Dragoo said.

DG&N workers ratify new deal

UTU-represented trainmen and engineers on Dallas, Garland & Northeastern Railroad, all members of Local 965 in Dallas, have overwhelmingly ratified a new five-year agreement.

The contract provides for wage increases with full back pay, an incentive compensation plan with an opt-out provision allowing for additional wage increases, improved working conditions, special allowances, overtime, holiday rules and a seniority maintenance provision.

UTU International Vice President Dave Wier, who assisted with the negotiations, congratulated General Chairperson **Joe Newsom** and Vice General Chairpersons **Bobby Taylor** and **Danny Mahan** for “the outstanding effort put forth in negotiating an agreement with substantial improvements in wages and working conditions. The wage increases coupled with the quarterly incentive payments provide the membership with outstanding pay increases.”

Dallas, Garland & Northeastern Railroad, a RailAmerica property headquartered in Richardson, Texas, is a complex switching terminal railroad made up of a conglomeration of spurs and industrial leads in the Dallas and North Dallas area. It operates 337 miles of rail line in the Dallas and North Dallas area, using a combination of owned and leased lines and trackage rights, and connects with BNSF, Kansas City Southern and Union Pacific.

Colorado shortline workers vote UTU

Train and engine employees on Colorado short line San Luis & Rio Grande Railroad have voted to be represented by the UTU.

This is the 30th organizing win in 53 months for the UTU. International Vice President Bonnie Morr led the organizing effort.

The 150-mile San Luis & Rio Grande, one of three rail properties owned by Iowa Pacific Holdings, is headquartered in Alamosa, Colo., and runs west from a connection with Union Pacific at Walsenburg, Colo., over the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in southern Colorado.

The highest point on the railroad, which primarily hauls grain, minerals and specialty rock products, is at La Veta Pass, 9,242 feet above sea level.

FRA grants railroads greater flexibility on installation of crash-avoidance system

The Federal Railroad Administration has granted railroads greater flexibility to determine on which lines positive train control (PTC) must be installed by the federal deadline of Dec. 31, 2015.

PTC initially was mandated for 70,000 track miles, but 10,000 of those miles are expected to be removed from PTC installation under the new FRA rule.

PTC is a crash-avoidance safety overlay system that utilizes the satellite global positioning system (GPS), wireless communications and central control centers to monitor trains and prevent collisions by automatically applying the brakes on trains exceeding authorized speeds, about to run a red light, violate a work zone or run through a switch left in the wrong position.

While the additional flexibility is expected to save railroads “hundreds of millions of dollars,” according to FRA Administrator Joe Szabo, the FRA’s new rule does not change the Dec. 31, 2015, deadline for PTC installation.



Installation of PTC – on all Class I track carrying at least five million gross tons of freight annually, as well as on lines where intercity passenger trains and commuter trains operate – was required by the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008.

The 10,000 miles represents track over which freight railroads say neither passengers nor dangerous hazmat will be transported by the PTC implementation date. Under the new rule, the total amount of main line track required to have PTC will be less than 40 percent of the total main line miles in the country.

The Association of American Railroads had previously filed a federal lawsuit seeking the 10,000-mile scale back of the PTC mandate.

Railroads contended that the original mandate for PTC installation was based on outdated hazmat traffic data, and that railroads will not be transporting those hazmat cargos over the 10,000 miles of track covered by the latest FRA rule.

UTU PAC working for you



UTU International President Mike Futhey, left, chats about issues important to UTU members with Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) at a Brown fundraiser in Washington, D.C., in May. Brown sits on committees and subcommittees whose jurisdiction is federal appropriations, labor and mass transit.

"Without labor, nothing prospers." – Ancient Greek playwright Sophocles

Register, then vote for worker-friendly candidates

We are just months from one of the most important Election Days in our careers.

Not in our lifetimes has organized labor been under attack as we are today from corporate-funded anti-worker conservatives in state legislatures and Congress who are attacking collective bargaining rights, workplace safety laws and regulations, and the ability of workers to finance their union activities.

They want to turn Medicare into a voucher system and slash payments, raise the age for benefits under Railroad Retirement, eliminate Amtrak and reduce funding for public transit.

We will not back down in



Futhey

A message to UTU members from UTU International President Mike Futhey and SMWIA General President Joe Nigro



Nigro

have curtailed collective bargaining rights, and they engineered the recall of anti-union senators in Wisconsin.

They also succeeded in forcing the Wisconsin governor – the architect of that state's legislation to scrap collective bargaining rights for public employees – to face a recall election.

support of worker-friendly candidates.

The UTU website, at

voter registration and to register to vote if you are not registered.

Your job security, good wages, benefits and workplace safety laws and regulations are directly related to political action by working families. Together, we can defeat the corporate-fueled attack on workers.

Within the UTU and the SMWIA, now is the time for each of us to ensure we are registered to vote, to pledge at least \$1 a day to our respective UTU PAC and

We will not back down in defense of what labor has achieved for working families

defense of what labor has achieved for working families.

The UTU PAC and the SMWIA PAL are collaborating to support worker-friendly candidates at the state and federal levels.

We also point with pride to the successful role played by the UTU Collective Bargaining Defense Fund as well as get-out-the-vote efforts by members of the UTU and the SMWIA.

These activist brothers and sisters helped achieve a ballot-box defeat of an Ohio law that would

While we cannot match the dollars of the corporate elite who are funding anti-worker candidates, we have a more potent weapon: the steadfast eagerness of working families to knock on doors and make phone calls to get out the vote on Election Day.

The men and women in the American labor movement vote in greater numbers than most any other group of voters, and if we are to stop this attack on workers on Election Day, we must energize even more of our friends and family members to register to vote and go to the polls on Election Day in

www.utu.org, provides a button that, with one click, takes you to a website allowing you to verify your

SMWIA PAL, and commit our time and energy in helping to get out the vote on Election Day.

We must energize more of our family and friends to register and vote on Election Day



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For the latest news, visit www.utu.org; also, sign up on the UTU website to receive news alerts via email.

Rail investments key to a better future

It seems like just yesterday, as UTU Illinois state legislative director and mayor of Riverdale, Ill., that I joined other mayors to successfully advocate for more frequent rail service from Chicago to downstate Illinois communities.

At the time, even that modest goal seemed daunting, as conventional wisdom said Americans would no longer ride trains.

Fast forward to 2012 where 30 million people are riding Amtrak each year – more than ever before.

The future looks even brighter.



By Joe Szabo
Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration

paying dividends, as we finally have a president in Barack Obama who understands that our economy is dependent on the quality of our transportation system. President

will reach new communities in Maine this year.

- The Pacific Northwest, where new construction will lead to more frequent service between Seattle and Portland.

- The Midwest, where trips from Chicago to Detroit and St. Louis will be more than an hour shorter by

ing corridors, while the state breaks ground on its high-speed train system later this year.

The Obama administration also invested more than \$3 billion to improve reliability and order new locomotives for the Northeast Corridor, while Northeast states begin planning for the next generation of the service.

In communities I visit, I meet leaders of both political parties who are excited to explain how their town will benefit from a project.

As a former mayor, I relate. At the local level, transportation investments are not about politics – they are about creating new jobs, attracting new investment, and making the

Obama understands that our economy is dependent on the quality of our transportation system

How did it happen? My brothers and sisters in the UTU worked with mayors, business owners, university presidents and environmental groups across the nation to show elected officials at all levels of government how better train service would transform local economies, provide Americans with more transportation options and create new jobs.

Decades of advocacy are finally

Obama invested more than \$10 billion in regional rail networks that will provide a much-needed alternative to congested highways and airports as our nation grows by 100 million people over the next 40 years.

As FRA administrator, I have visited communities across the country as they begin construction projects. Some include:

- New England, where rail service

Transportation investments are about creating jobs, attracting investment and making lives better

2014, and feature next-generation American-made trains.

- The Southeast, where new construction will lead to more frequent and reliable service between Charlotte and Raleigh.

- California, where construction is underway to add capacity to exist-

lives of our friends and neighbors better.

Now is the time for Congress to make the investments we need in passenger rail to create jobs today and provide America with the world-class transportation network we need in the 21st century.

Suicide by rail affects operators

Suicide by rail is no stranger to operators of steel-wheel trolleys on Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority's Victory Division in suburban Philadelphia.

UTU-represented members of this SEPTA property recall having to plead with management to replace the front facing of a trolley displaying a macabre embedded facial image of a man who chose to end his life in front of a moving trolley.

For trolley operator **Waverly Harris**, the horror of an attempted suicide Feb. 11 changed his own life forever. Harris, 42, with 19 years' service, is the property's general chairperson and chairperson of the UTU's Association of General Chairpersons, District 3.

Post-suicide counseling, support can ease anguish of horrific episodes

The time of the incident was 3:40 a.m., and for months following, Harris habitually awakened minutes before that position on the clock, staring until "3:40" appeared.

It was at just prior to 3:40 a.m., Feb. 11, as snow and sleet fell, that Harris was operating an empty trolley whose purpose was to keep the catenary free of accumulated ice. Abruptly, unexpectedly and frighteningly, the trolley headlight captured an individual standing – then racing – down an embankment toward the tracks.

"I laid on the horn," said Harris. "I didn't know if he was being chased. He kept running toward the tracks. I braked. He looked me in the face as I put the



General Chairperson Waverly Harris, left, back at work, at throttle of a SEPTA trolley, alongside Vice Chairperson Curtis Fulmore.

trolley into emergency and he faded from view, underneath my trolley." The man, trapped beneath the trolley, was still alive.

"He asked, 'What time is it?' It was 3:40 a.m. I came to learn from my grief counselor [provided by SEPTA] that the two most common comments made [by those grievously injured in such incidents] are, 'What time is it?' and 'Where am I?'"

It took 90 minutes for emergency crews to free the man, who survived. The steel wheels had not run over him.

Stick with the counseling, do not be judgmental, and accept the support of your union brethren

For Harris, the ordeal was far from over. For several months, he met regularly with a grief counselor to talk through the incident and overcome mental anguish, even though there was nothing Harris could have done to prevent it.

Harris returned to work in May, thankful for the counseling and support of his wife and three children. "I still awaken, occasionally, just before 3:40 a.m.," he said.

If anything positive emerged, it is Harris' ability now to counsel other SEPTA trolley and bus operators who, unfortunately, will experience similar incidents – and they occur several times annually.

"I now know the mental stress, and I will tell them to stick with the counseling provided by SEPTA, not to be judgmental, and accept the support of their UTU brothers and sisters, their family and friends," Harris said.

Calif. bus line workers vote UTU representation



Shown, standing left to right, are SMWIA International Organizer Manuel Gonzalez; UTU Alternate Vice President John England, and bus operator Frank Garcia. Seated, left to right, are UTU Alternate Vice President-Bus Brian Donald; bus operator Rachel Burciaga, and UTU Vice President Bonnie Morr. Not pictured is Ernesto Tolentino, local organizer for SMWIA Local 170.

More than 170 bus operators, mechanics, service employees and store keepers employed by the Los Angeles area Montebello (Calif.) Bus Lines are now UTU members after overwhelmingly voting, "UTU, yes."

This was the UTU's 29th organizing victory over the past 53 months, an average of almost one new property every seven weeks.

In the Los Angeles area, the UTU also represents employees of Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) and Santa Monica Municipal (Big Blue) Bus Lines.

Montebello Bus Lines transports some eight million passengers annually in the communities of Alhambra, Bell Gardens, Boyle Heights, Commerce, downtown Los Angeles, East Los Angeles, La Mirada, Montebello, Monterey Park, Pico Rivera, Rosemead, South Gate and Whittier.

UTU Alternate Vice President John England said, "Since International President Mike Futhey took office in January 2008, the UTU has set a record in organizing, with 29 new air, bus and rail properties organized and two raids on UTU properties turned back."

England was joined in the organizing drive by Bus Department Vice President Bonnie Morr and Bus Department Alternate Vice President Brian Donald, along with Sheet Metal Workers International Association (SMWIA) organizers **Manuel Gonzalez** and **Ernesto Tolentino**. The UTU and SMWIA are now merged as the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation (SMART) Workers.

Praised for their efforts in organizing fellow Montebello Bus Lines employees were bus operators **Rachel Burciaga** and **Frank Garcia**. "Rachel and Frank were an integral part of making this organizing campaign a success and it would not have been possible without their assistance," England said.

Bus drivers turn back Teamster raid



Members of Local 172, which represents school bus drivers employed by First Student in Darby, Pa., recently turned back a raid by the Teamsters and overwhelmingly voted to retain the UTU as their bargaining representative. First Student employs 125 drivers operating some 100 school buses. Above are some of the members prior to taking to the road. Back row, from left: **Leon Williams**, **Tammy Morris**, **Wanda Gatling**, Vice Local Chairperson **Denise Hall**, Treasurer **Jim Gorman** and **Janita Robinson**. Front row, from left: **Kathleen Smith**, **Naomi McCalla**, **Dorothy Sample**, **Yunina Wingfield** and **Cynthia Coppedge**.



Your new road map for... www.utu.org

Menu Bars

There is a red menu bar at the very top of the UTU homepage. The pull-down menu under **About UTU** is explained at right. The links for **Bus, Aviation, Yardmasters** and **Amtrak/Commuter** are for items of interest to those crafts.

iLINK/UTU University is an area of the website limited to local, general committee and International officers. iLINK is the UTU's principal web application, a custom-built program that supports UTU officers at all levels. It also supports many business processes at the International. UTU University is the union's classroom without walls, training officers to better serve their members at the negotiating table and in grievance handling. Access is limited.

The gray menu bar below the website mast contains a variety of pull-down menus, including **Washington, Safety, Insurance (UTUIA), DIPP, Documents, Health Care, Organizing, S&T Tools, Links** and **UTU Gear** (promotional items and UTU logo apparel).

About UTU

There are a number of unseen page links that can be found by placing your cursor on the **About UTU** link and activating the pull-down menu. As can be seen in the pull-down menu on the homepage photo, there are links to the following web pages: **Contact UTU, Designated Legal Counsel, International Officers, UTU PAC, UTU History, Meeting, Promotions, UTU Alumni Association, UTU Auxiliary, UTU Gear, UTU/UTUIA Directory** and **International Staff**.

Although there is a pull-down menu under **About UTU**, clicking directly on the **About UTU** link will take visitors to a web page featuring facts about UTU, online publications and videos, job listings and more. The **Contact UTU** page provides links to telephone number and email addresses for International officers, state legislative directors, special UTU committees and most general chairpersons. The **Promotions** link in the pull-down menu details money-saving discounts for UTU members as well as a link to the union's designated travel agent.



Documents

UTU and UTUIA directories, past and current International agreements, rates of pay, fringe benefits, the UTU Constitution and the Railway Labor Act are all here.

S&T Tools

This link goes to a web page that provides many of the tools necessary for the local secretary & treasurer to do his or her job. Need help understanding your Winstabs program? Your latest guide is here, along with a link to a variety of online videos to make understanding Winstabs easier. So are all of your end-of-year tax forms, instructions for running local elections and many of the UTU office forms you may need. If you still can't find what you're looking for, there is a dedicated link to ask for help. Submit your questions and we'll get you answers.



Disability Insurance

The UTU has renewed its contract with Anthem Life Insurance Co. to provide a national group voluntary short-term disability plan for all bus and rail members. Everything you need to know about the plans can be found here. Detailed explanations of your plan, as well as your policy certificate, opt-out forms and claim forms are available.

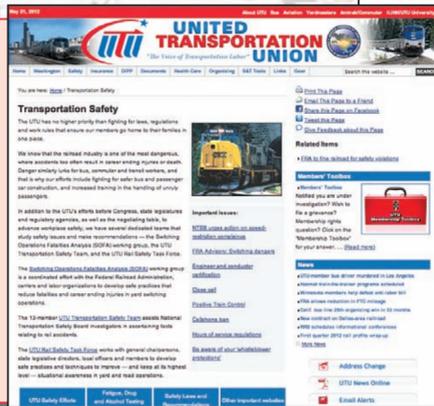
Feedback

The redesigned UTU website includes a feedback option for members to provide UTU officers with their input. Member questions and concerns will be addressed.



Safety

The UTU has no higher priority than fighting for laws, regulations and work rules that ensure its members go home to their families in one piece. The lower-left corner of the website is dedicated to the latest safety information. The website also has a web page dedicated to **Safety** and a link to that page can be found in the gray menu bar near the top of the homepage. To advance workplace safety, we have several dedicated teams that study safety issues and make recommendations – the Switching Operations Fatalities Analysis (SOFA) working group, the UTU Transportation Safety Team, and the UTU Rail Safety Task Force. Links to all can be found here.



One-stop web address for rail health care info

Railroad employees and/or their eligible dependents covered under the national railroad medical, prescription drug, dental, vision, and life insurance benefits plans may now find information about those benefits on a single web page. The Railroad Information Depot web page address is www.rriinfo depot.com, but the easiest way to get there is by clicking the **Health Care** tab under **Updates**. Note that this website pertains only to the nationally negotiated railroad health and welfare plans. Each of the benefits administrators for rail employee health care insurance negotiated under the national railroad medical, prescription drug, dental, vision, and life insurance benefits plans hosts a home page at the Railroad Information Depot.



Members' Toolbox

Notified you are under investigation? Wish to file a grievance? Membership rights question? Click on the "Membership Toolbox" for your answer. Members can likely find answers to their questions here about UTU membership, representation, benefits and more. If the answer to your question cannot be found here, try the **Feedback** option.



News

This new website design responds to member requests for greater emphasis on materials and news of interest to UTU members. The search engine has been improved. See the "Search this website" button on the upper right of the homepage, which will take you to older news stories or topics of interest. For those with Facebook and Twitter accounts, see the links at the upper right, which allow you to share materials from the website on your own Facebook page and via your own Twitter account.

Address Change

This feature allows members to change their mailing address at the click of a mouse. There is no need to write a letter or pay the cost of a postage stamp.

UTU News Online

All issues of the *UTU News* dating back to January 2001 can be found here in PDF format.

Email Alerts

Information is power and your UTU is trying to give you as much information as we can, as soon as possible. We want important UTU news to reach you even faster. By registering to receive email news alerts, you'll have the your union's latest important information sent directly to you. Your email address will be kept confidential. It will not be sold, traded nor given to anyone else.

Features

One portion of the **Features** section is dedicated to leadership messages. These are often articles written by the union's leadership. The other half of the **Features** section is currently dedicated to voter registration. The tabs will change from time to time, alerting members to new UTUIA insurance products, promotional offers or other current issues.

Meetings

This page is normally dedicated to the union's regional meetings, but other meetings may occasionally appear here, also. Planning on attending a regional meeting? All the information you need is right here, including online UTU meeting registration and dedicated links for making online hotel reservations at the UTU discount rate. You'll find summaries of the tours available to your spouse or children while you attend meeting workshops and a meeting agenda, so you'll know what's been planned before you get there.

UTU
Alumni

UTU Alumni Association

News, information for members of the UTU Alumni Association

Retiree honored for 50 years of bowling

For UTU retiree **Gerald Cole Sr.**, life keeps rolling along.

Cole, a member of Local 1477 in Dearborn, Mich., recently became the 148th bowler in United States Bowling Congress (USBC) Open Championships history to reach 50 years of tournament participation.

The Open Championships are bowling contests open to anyone who wants to enter.

Cole, an 82-year old right hander, began bowling about 1942 as a "pin boy" at a bowling lane near his home in Belleville, Mich.

He began railroading in 1956 in the Detroit area as a yard conductor on the former New York Central.

Cole began his USBC Open Championships journey at the 1960 event in Toledo, Ohio, and since retiring from his job as a railroad conductor 20 years ago, he's had the freedom to leisurely drive to many of his tournament appearances. He has competed in 32 cities across 23 states. "These tournaments are my vacations," he said.

Over his career, Cole has bowled 24 perfect 300 games, and has maintained an average of more than 200 a year the last 55 years.

His highest placing in the Open Championships was achieved in a tourney in New Mexico a couple of years ago, when he finished in the top 40 of all competitors, "and these competitions usually attract more than 10,000 bowlers of all ages," he said.

"Last year, when I was 81, I rolled a 791 three-



Retiree *Gerald Cole* with the plaque presented him by the United States Bowling Congress for his 50 years of tournament participation.

game series. That's the highlight of my career," he said.

Cole, who bowls three mornings a week in three different seniors' leagues, will soon be getting his left knee replaced, but don't expect that to put him in the gutter.

"I've been lucky to be healthy enough to bowl all those years, and I've had the chance to see a lot of the country," he said.

Prescription drug purveyor Medco acquired by Express Scripts

Many UTU members obtain their prescription drugs through Medco, which has been acquired by Express Scripts following Federal Trade Commission approval of the corporate combination.

Notwithstanding the acquisition by Express Scripts of Medco, UTU members receiving mail order prescriptions through Medco will continue ordering and receiving their medications as they have in the past, without any changes.

All packaging and labels will remain the same, as will addresses and phone numbers for pharma-

cy-related questions and other information. Nor will there be a need to change retail pharmacies or alter home delivery orders in any manner.

Express Scripts recently launched a program, ScreenRx, which utilizes software to sift through hundreds of factors that affect patients and forecast who is most likely to forget a refill or simply stop taking their drugs.

The company then plans to contact those patients to help them stick with their doctor's orders.

UTU offers fall foliage cruise

UTU Alumni Association members: Get ready to shove off on a cruise excursion of a lifetime.

Landfall Travel, the UTU's official travel provider, has arranged a seven-day voyage on Princess Cruise's Caribbean Princess north along the Eastern seaboard of the U.S and Canada, departing from New York City Sept. 29. Ports of call include Newport, R.I.; Boston; Bar Harbor, Maine; St. John, New Brunswick, and Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Throughout your journey you will be treated to freshly prepared cuisine, great service and the many amenities for which Princess Cruise Lines is famous.

Prices start at \$899 per person based on double occupancy. Air fare, taxes and certain other fees are extra.

You do not need to be a member of the UTU Alumni Association to take advantage of this offer. For more details, contact Landfall at (800) 835-9233 or see the UTU Alumni Association page at www.landfalltravel.com.

Retired alternate VP Hayden dies

Miller D. "Dean" Hayden, retired alternate vice president, has died. He was 87.

Hayden, of Local 1366, Salt Lake City, began railroading in 1949 on Denver & Rio Grande Western and was elected local chairperson in UTU predecessor Switchman's Union of North America (SUNA), eventually becoming general chairperson.

He was elected alternate vice president in 1970 and retired from the position in 1974.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the American Heart Association.

THE FINAL CALL

Following are the names of recently deceased members who maintained annual membership in the UTU Alumni Association, according to reports received at UTU International Headquarters. These brothers and sisters will be missed by their many friends and by fellow UTU Alumni Association members.

| Local | Name | City/State | Local | Name | City/State | Local | Name | City/State |
|-------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 2 | Reardon, Eugene R. | Sandusky, Ohio | 430 | Myers, Homer S. | Aurora, W. Va. | 1081 | Claxton, David L. | Avondale, Ariz. |
| 2 | Scheiba, Donald P. | Oregon, Ohio | 577 | Carter, John F. | Aurora, Ill. | 1221 | Triner, William F. | Lithia, Fla. |
| 14 | Smithson, Edward L. | Warsaw, Ky. | 656 | Williams, Vernon A. | Pine Bluff, Ark. | 1137 | Pankratz, Richard R. | Staples, Minn. |
| 20 | Laque Jr., Henry E. | Vidor, Texas | 674 | Brown, Stephen H. | Hephzibah, Ga. | 1162 | Stewart, Roddey L. | Arlington, Va. |
| 30 | Johnson, Marshall E. | Plant City, Fla. | 694 | White, Thomas L. | Oroville, Calif. | 1312 | Noel, Conrad T. | Pensacola, Fla. |
| 94 | Wear, David J. | Emporia, Kan. | 750 | Houchins, Mary B. | Knoxville, Tenn. | 1337 | Fair, Jerome T. | Brusly, La. |
| 113 | McNaught, T.S. | Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. | 771 | Bender, Richard D. | Needles, Calif. | 1365 | Zejavac, Joseph J. | Meadville, Pa. |
| 117 | Renna, Edward J. | Chandler, Ariz. | 771 | Warner, Donald D. | Topock, Ariz. | 1366 | Abbuhl, Glenn A. | Uhrichsville, Ohio |
| 166 | Cook, Glenn E. | Salt Lake City, Utah | 792 | Wildman, Wilbur E. | Sewickley, Pa. | 1376 | Landes, Wilbur E. | Grove City, Ohio |
| 195 | Behrensmeyer, Earl | Milan, Ill. | 794 | Blodgett, Frank L. | Wellington, Kan. | 1377 | Ruschman, Edward F. | Alexandria, Ky. |
| 298 | Gale, John R. | Logansport, Ind. | 794 | Dick, Buddy E. | Marion, Kan. | 1393 | Bules, Joseph G. | Plant City, Fla. |
| 298 | Kreig, Oscar E. | Carmel, Ind. | 794 | Lusk, Richard D. | Derby, Kan. | 1393 | Sennett, Herbert F. | Alden, N.Y. |
| 298 | Roth, Paul J. | Fort Wayne, Ind. | 800 | Armbruster, Frank E. | Nyack, N.Y. | 1418 | Lovy, George E. | Dillsburg, Pa. |
| 298 | Wisel, Gaylon N. | Garrett, Ind. | 816 | Bruner, Ellis O. | New Bloomfield, Pa. | 1494 | Klos, Robert J. | Green Valley, Ariz. |
| 300 | Dinich Jr., Andrew | Pottsville, Pa. | 847 | Cox, Albert B. | Gardendale, Ala. | 1501 | Laird, Jewel E. | Natchez, Miss. |
| 305 | Lutz, Jon | The Villages, Fla. | 903 | Lundy, William M. | Perry, Fla. | 1570 | Scruggs, Herbert R. | Antelope, Calif. |
| 311 | McKittrick, Charles N. | Holmen, Wis. | 903 | Taylor, Archie T. | Havana, Fla. | 1780 | Davidson Jr., Harold E. | Kansas City, Mo. |
| 313 | Nelson, Theodore W. | Wyoming, Mich. | 904 | Miller, Eugene K. | Evansville, Ind. | 1933 | Hull, Larry E. | Partlow, Va. |
| 316 | Harris, James S. | Atkins, Iowa | 923 | Bollinger, Charles D. | Dalhart, Texas | 1962 | Marino, Lee A. | Clarkston, Mich. |
| 318 | Klinger Jr., Ralph E. | Lykens, Pa. | 1007 | Marsh, Roderick M. | Fulton, N.Y. | 1978 | Donovan, Timothy F. | Golden, Colo. |
| 322 | Karweick, John H. | Appleton, Wis. | 1031 | Bishop, James L. | Savannah, Ga. | | | |



UNITED TRANSPORTATION UNION INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

NOTICE OF PRIVACY POLICY

The reason we collect information about you is to better serve your needs. Having accurate information permits us to provide you with an appropriate range of insurance products.

The non-public personal information that we collect about you varies according to the products, services or benefits you request, and may include:

- ★ Information we receive from you on applications or other forms, such as name, address, Social Security number, assets and income;
 - ★ Information about your transactions with us, our affiliates or others, such as name, address, Social Security number, policy coverage, premiums and payment history;
 - ★ Information we receive from consumer reporting agencies, such as a credit history. We may share the above non-public personal information we have about you with the United Transportation Union.
- Sharing this information assists us in:
- ★ Processing the payment of your insurance premiums;

- ★ Maintaining your insurance policies in force;
- ★ Providing you with better customer service.

We may share the above non-public personal information we have about you with persons or companies that perform services on our behalf and to other financial institutions with which we may have joint marketing agreements.

We may share this non-public personal information with affiliated or non-affiliated third parties as permitted by law. We do not disclose personal medical information about you except as permitted by law or as you may authorize.

We restrict access to non-public personal information about you to those employees who need to know that information in order to provide products or services to you.

We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards to guard your non-public personal information. This privacy policy applies even if you no longer have any policies or a relationship with us.

Talks at impasse between UTU, Great Lakes Aviation

After 53 fruitless mediated bargaining sessions stretching over almost three years between United Transportation Union-represented pilots and Great Lakes Airlines, the union has asked the National Mediation Board (NMB) to declare an impasse in the talks, release the parties from mediation and make a proffer of binding arbitration.

Great Lakes Airlines pilots are members of Local 40 in Denver.

Great Lakes Airlines is based in Cheyenne, Wyo., and serves 48 of its destinations with assistance from federal subsidies provided by the congressionally created Essential Air Service program. The airline is the nation's largest provider of Essential Air Service and those federal subsidies assure air service to communities in rural areas that are without easy access to the nation's transportation network.



In seeking the release from mediation and a proffer of binding arbitration, UTU International President Mike Futhey told the NMB that "the airline has refused even to discuss an acceptable offer, thus creating an impasse."

Airlines, as railroads, are governed by the Railway Labor Act (RLA), which puts the NMB in control of negotiations until such time as it determines there is an impasse and releases the parties from mediation. If either side rejects a proffer of binding arbitration, the Railway Labor Act provides for a series of cooling-off periods, during which the White House may appoint a Presidential Emergency Board (PEB) to make non-binding recommendations for a settlement.

If the sides cannot reach a voluntary settlement based on those recommendations, or if a PEB is not appointed – and PEBs are rare in stalled airline negotiations – then either side becomes free to engage in self-help, which could include a work stoppage by pilots.

A first officer on Great Lakes Airlines earns less than \$15,000 the first year

UTU International Vice President John Previsich, who is assigned to assist in the negotiations, said, "Self-help from either party is not UTU's desired outcome for this process as it would have a significant negative impact on the Essential Air Service provided by Great Lakes Airlines. The UTU's desire is that the parties reach a mutually satisfactory agreement and avoid any interruption to the Essential Air Service."

From the onset of negotiations with Great Lakes Airlines in 2009, the UTU has presented evidence that the current contract is substandard in terms of working conditions and wages that daily puts pressure on Great Lakes pilots whose highest priority is to fly passengers safely.

Under the current contract with Great Lakes Airlines, pilots are among the lowest paid of any scheduled passenger airline in the United States. On Great Lakes Airlines, a first officer can expect to make less than \$15,000 in the first year.

The carrier's latest offer provides that first officers will continue to make less than the flight attendants with whom they are working. In addition, the airline proposed a reduction of 15 percent in the monthly guarantee for all pilots.

These pilots are professionals with extensive training and expertise, and some of them are paid less than entry-level retail and food service jobs.

Difficult negotiations with Great Lakes Airlines are not rare. Great Lakes Airlines flight attendants, now represented by the UTU and also members of Local 40, were in negotiations with the airline for 10 years (initiated prior to the selection of UTU as their bargaining representative in 2009) before a new agreement was reached and ratified. The UTU-negotiated contract for flight attendants is the only ratified agreement the carrier has received with any labor organization since the first contracts were negotiated in the 1990s.

Notice to UTUIA-insured persons with dependent children

If you currently own any accident and health insurance policies with the UTUIA, and any of those policies include a dependent benefit rider to cover your eligible children, now would be a good time to review your policy.

Once you no longer have any children eligible for coverage under the rider, you may be entitled to a modest premium reduction.

Generally, that happens when your youngest child exceeds the age of eligibility. Plans that offer a dependent rider include UTUIA's cancer hospital, accidental death and dismemberment, and accident indemnity plans.

If you have purchased a dependent rider and your children no longer meet the definition of an eligible dependent, as defined below, please contact UTUIA Policyholder Services toll-free at (800) 558-8842 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (EST) to make the necessary adjustments to your policy.

An eligible dependent child is defined as a child, stepchild or adopted child living in your household and under the age of 19. Coverage continues until age 23 if the child is a full-time student. A handicapped child incapable of self-sustaining employment may continue coverage regardless of age.

Online Deals

For union members only—just a click away!

You work hard for your money. Your UTU membership rewards you with special online discounts that help you **save**—and give you **top value** for every dollar you spend. Take advantage of the wide-ranging benefits available right at your fingertips.

Car Rental Discounts

Save up to 25% when you rent from Alamo, Avis, Budget, Enterprise, Hertz or National. Whether it's a car, van or SUV, working families can drive in style for less. And ordering online in advance also means you pay less than at the counter.



Travel Center Deals

Save a minimum of 5% on selected Hawaiian cruises additional cruise savings may be available on Norwegian Cruise Lines. Book the best flights through the largest airfare search engine on the Internet. Get union-member discounts on hotel rooms, vacation condo rentals, international travel packages and more.



ConsumerReports.org

Get an annual subscription at 27% off. Find non-biased Product Reviews, Product Ratings and Buying Guides, compiled by union workers—a great help in making smart decisions!

Union-made Clothing

Take up to 10% off comfortable, quality apparel union-made in the USA. Wide selection for all ages and sizes—everything from jeans, tees, sweats and socks to dresses, shirts and pants. Look and feel great as you wear your union pride! Gift certificates also available for friends.



Goodyear Tire and Service Discounts

Save 10% off the cost of any service, including services that might already be on sale. Save 10% off all Goodyear tires including car tires, snow tires, all-terrain tires and more. Save 5% off sale tires at company-owned Goodyear, Just Tires, or Allied Tires & Service stores.



Entertainment Discounts

Save up to 40% on movie tickets, theme parks, sporting events, restaurants, and more.



Powell's Bookstore

Check out the bargain prices and great selections of new and used books at this unionized internet bookseller. Great source for student textbooks too!



Coupon Center

Find quick, easy savings at the Union Plus Coupon Center! Find savings coupons for: Money and Insurance, Home Discounts, Health, Auto Assistance, Travel, Entertainment and more.



For details about ALL the Union Plus benefits available through your union, visit

UnionPlus.org

State Watch

News from UTU State Legislative Boards

New England states



Left to right are State Legislative Director George Casey; Don Dimairo (Local 1400, South Portland, Maine, board secretary); Jim Falandes (Local 587, Greenfield, Mass., legislative representative); Rep. Keating; Dick Chartrand (Local 254, Fitchburg, Mass., assistant chairperson); Tom Driscoll (Local 262, Boston, assistant director), Joe Motte (Local 1462, Boston, legislative representative).

At the New England legislative board's recent reorganization meeting, the group honored Rep. Bill Keating (D-Mass.) for his continuing support of the UTU and all working families. "Bill Keating is a long-time supporter of UTU and its legislative agenda, from his time in the Massachusetts House and Senate, as a district attorney, and now in the Congress," State Legislative Director **George Casey** said.

"In his capacity as state senate judiciary chairperson, he facilitated the passage of UTU-supported legislation mandating an earnings statement for train and engine-service workers, and for laws governing sanitary conditions on locomotives.

"The congressman's uncle, **Joe Keating**, was a conductor on several railroads – the former New York, New Haven & Hartford, the former Penn Central and the former Boston & Maine, as well as Amtrak. He was a member of Local 898 in Boston," Casey said.

North Dakota



The North Dakota Legislative Board held its quadrennial reorganization meeting in Bismarck recently. **Jim Chase** (Local 1344, Mandan) was elected state legislative director. Other officers include **Don Filler** (Local 887, Harvey), assistant legislative director; **Joe Chesley** (Local 980, Enderlin), chairperson; **Bob Vann** (Local 1059, Minot), first vice chairperson; and **Larry Skroch** (Local 525, Grand Forks), alternate legislative director. **Tessa Burkle** (Local 1137, Fargo) completed her term as acting state legislative director and did not seek election. In the photo above are, front row, left to right: **Ross Podvin** (Local 980, Enderlin); Burkle; Vann; Skroch; back row, left to right: **Don Allard** (Local 1059, Minot); Filler; Chase; Chesley and **Richie Fonder** (Local 887, Harvey).

New Jersey

The New Jersey State Legislative Board recently held its reorganization meeting to elect officers. The results were: **Daniel J. O'Connell** (Local 800, Jersey City), state legislative director; **William F. Braden** (Local 1445, Elizabeth), assistant director; **Nelson Manzano** (Local 710, Newark), alternate director; **James J. Albi** (Local 800), secretary; **McKinley Cuthbert** (Local 60, Newark), chairperson; **Ronald E. Sabol** (Local 1447, Newark), vice chairperson; **Oral McFadden** (Local 1589, New Brunswick), bus representative.

Oregon



The Oregon State Legislative Board recently held its reorganization meeting to discuss items of importance to UTU members and their families and to elect officers. At the meeting were, left to right, **Greg Boam** (Local 471, Eugene), assistant state legislative director; **Josh Johansen** (Local 1574, Portland), secretary; **Glenn Carey** (Local 1841, Klamath Falls), legislative representative; **Matt Iverson** (Local 1573, Klamath Falls), legislative representative; **Mike O'Rourke** (Local 473, LaGrande), legislative representative, and **Randy Russ** (Local 283, Portland), state legislative director.

UTU members seek election

UTU members across the nation are running for office, and they deserve our support.

In Utah, State Legislative Director **Jay Seegmiller** is running for Congress from the state's 2nd District.

In Texas, **Tom Berry**, a retired member of Local 528, Chicago, is running for Congress from the state's 5th District.

In Wyoming, State Legislative Director **Stan Blake** is running for re-election to the state's House of Representatives in the 39th District.

In Missouri, **Jason Kander**, a member of Local 933, Jefferson City, is running for the secretary of state position, and **Thomas Minihan**, also of Local 933, is running for state representative from the 60th District.

In Montana, **Floyd Hopstad**, a retired member of Local 1840, Glasgow, is running for a seat in the state legislature from the 35th District.

In Nebraska, **Rex Adams**, a member of Local 305, Lincoln, is running for re-election as Gage County supervisor.

"We encourage our members to step up to the plate and run for political office, as we are proud that these brave souls have accepted that challenge," International President Mike Futhey said.

Virginia state director Walter Yeatts dead at 51

Virginia State Legislative Director **Walter W. Yeatts**, a member of Local 971, Crewe, died unexpectedly Sunday, May 20.



Yeatts

Yeatts had celebrated his 51st birthday May 12 and was a UTU member for more than 30 years, including service on Norfolk Southern and predecessor Norfolk & Western Railway.

He is survived by his wife, Hardy; sons Whit and Jonathan; daughter Jennifer, and grandson, Caleb.

The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Shriners Children's Hospital, 950 West Faris Rd., Greenville, S.C. 29605, or a charity of one's choice.

"We have all lost a brother, a good friend and a most effective state legislative director," said National Legislative Director James Stem.

UTU employees take daughters, sons to work



"Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day" was celebrated April 26 at the UTU/UTUIA offices in North Olmsted, Ohio. That day, more than 37 million youth and adults participated at more than 3.5 million workplaces, according to reports.

Above, left to right, are: Senior Sales and Underwriting Administrator Erin McKeever with her son Christian Gunnoe; New System Developer Melissa Huff with her daughter Kaitlyn Huff; Director of Information Systems Matt Dolin with his daughter Katie Dolin; New Systems Architect Lou Pogorelc with his daughter Emma Pogorelc, and UTU PAC Administrator Wendy Miller with her son Ashton Conrad.

Records Representative Karyn Hill was instrumental in coordinating the activities of the group and assuring that all had a good day at the UTU/UTUIA offices.



See you in Memphis at the regional meeting

The 2012 UTU/UTUIA regional meetings have been designed to provide a grand sense of fraternalism, lots of worthwhile education and tons of fun for the whole family.

As before, each regional meeting will run for 2-1/2 days, ending early on the afternoon of the third day. The evening of the first day has been left unscheduled so you, your family and friends will be free to explore and enjoy the many offerings of the regional meeting cities.

UTU regional meeting registration and hotel information, as well as web links to make hotel reservations online, can be accessed by visiting www.utu.org and clicking on the "Meetings" box.

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

A completed registration form listing each attendee, regardless of age, and complete payment in U.S. funds must be received at the UTU International, 24950 Country Club Blvd., Suite 340, North Olmsted, OH 44070-5333, by July 9 for the Memphis meeting or the registrant will be charged an on-site registration fee of \$200.

The pre-registration fee for the 2012 regional meetings is \$150 per member, spouse or child over age 11, the same fee charged the last five years. Additional fees apply for the golf outings. You must make your own room reservations, and certain deadlines apply.

The \$150 registration fee covers all workshop materials; a welcoming reception the night before the meeting; three lunches and one evening meal. Those wishing to attend only the workshops do not need to pay the registration fee. No one-day registrations are offered.

You may cancel your meeting registration 10 days prior to the first day of the meeting or the golf outing without penalty. Call the International at (216) 228-9400 or email k_cashin@utu.org immediately regarding any changes or cancellations.

Memphis, Tenn., July 23-25:

The Peabody Memphis, 149 Union Ave.
Memphis, TN 38103
www.peabodymemphis.com

Reservations: (800) PEABODY toll free; (901) 529-4000 direct; reservation code: 721939.

Room rate: \$134 single/double, plus taxes; rates good for three days before and after meeting, depending upon availability.

Reservation deadline: June 18, or until all rooms being held for the UTU are reserved.

Parking: \$15/day valet; \$10/day self park

Golf outing: The regional meeting golf outing will take place Sunday, July 22, at Mirimichi in Millington, Tenn. The cost is \$80 per golfer, which includes golf, lunch and more.

UTU seeking food-bank donations

There will be a donation box at both the Portland and Memphis regional meetings, set up in the registration area, so attendees can donate money to the local food banks in the host cities. The donations will greatly help needy families in those two cities and let people know that UTU members care.

Spouse tours, discounts

At the Memphis regional meeting the UTU is offering tours of Graceland and the National Civil Rights Museum. The union also has arranged discounts on airfare to Memphis and rental cars once there. Go to the "meetings" page of www.utu.org for details.

UTU REGIONAL MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

Registering before the regional meetings speeds sign-in procedures, helps organizers plan more accurately, and saves on meeting costs. **Each person attending the regional meeting, including family members and guests, MUST be registered in order to attend any event. Please note that these meetings last 2-1/2 days and conclude on the afternoon of the third day.** Registration fees are \$150 per person; children 11 years of age and under are complimentary. On-site registration is \$200 per person. All fees must be paid in U.S. funds. Canadian funds will be returned, possibly delaying your registration. If you have questions, consult your bank. Registration forms with payment must be received at the UTU International by June 4 for the Portland meeting and by July 9 for the Memphis meeting for all members, spouses and guests to be considered pre-registered.

Arrival date: _____ Departure date: _____
 Transportation type: Automobile Air Other

Member registration

Name _____ Local _____ Title (if any) _____
 Home address _____
 City/State/ZIP _____
 Phone number () _____ Email _____

Meals: Day 1 Lunch No meal Any dietary restrictions? _____
 Day 2 Lunch Dinner Both No meals
 Day 3 Lunch No meal

Spouse registration

Spouse name _____ Title (if any) _____
 Meals: Day 1 Lunch No meal Any dietary restrictions? _____
 Day 2 Lunch Dinner Both No meals
 Day 3 Lunch No meal
 Spouse/guest tour: Sunday or Monday (\$35/tour per registered spouse; \$75/tour per unregistered spouse)

Child registration

Child name _____ Age _____
 Meals: Day 1 Lunch No meal Any dietary restrictions? _____
 Day 2 Lunch Dinner Both No meals
 Day 3 Lunch No meal

Child name _____ Age _____
 Meals: Day 1 Lunch No meal Any dietary restrictions? _____
 Day 2 Lunch Dinner Both No meals
 Day 3 Lunch No meal

Child name _____ Age _____
 Meals: Day 1 Lunch No meal Any dietary restrictions? _____
 Day 2 Lunch Dinner Both No meals
 Day 3 Lunch No meal

Child name _____ Age _____
 Meals: Day 1 Lunch No meal Any dietary restrictions? _____
 Day 2 Lunch Dinner Both No meals
 Day 3 Lunch No meal

Tour: Sunday or Monday (\$35/tour per registered child; \$75/tour per unregistered child) No. attending _____

Guest registration

Guest name _____ Relationship to member _____
 Home address _____
 City/State/ZIP _____
 Meals: Day 1 Lunch No meal Any dietary restrictions? _____
 Day 2 Lunch Dinner Both No meals
 Day 3 Lunch No meal
 Spouse/guest tour: Sunday or Monday (\$35/tour per registered guest; \$75/tour per unregistered guest)

Special needs? (Circle appropriate responses): Registrant / spouse / child / guest is:
 hearing impaired / visually impaired / in wheelchair / other: _____

Golf registration

Name _____ Handicap _____ Name _____ Handicap _____
 Name _____ Handicap _____ Name _____ Handicap _____
 (Golf fees are \$80 per golfer; include in total payment. Please provide names of others if foursome.)

Payment options

Check/money order enclosed (U.S. funds only) \$ _____
 Credit card VISA MasterCard
 Card number _____ Exp. date _____ Total charged \$ _____
 Signature _____

Should additional space be needed, make copies of this form and attach to the original. Make checks or money orders payable in U.S. funds to "UTU Regional Meeting" and mail to UTU Regional Meeting, 24950 Country Club Blvd., Suite 340, North Olmsted, OH 44070-5333. Persons who do not pre-register for the regional meeting but choose to register at the meeting site will be charged an additional \$50. Space on the tours is limited; reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.



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Photo of the month

The UTU International is always looking for good photos, and awards UTU gear to monthly photo winners.

The UTU seeks photographs or digital images 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, 24950 Country Club Blvd., Suite 340, North Olmsted, OH 44070-5333.

High-resolution digital photographs should be in the JPEG format and emailed 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 photo of the business end of a BNSF consist was taken by locomotive engineer **Kelly McLaughlin**, a member of Local 113, Winslow, Ariz. BNSF engine 6877 was photographed on the carrier's Seligman Subdivision, which handles about 70 trains a day.

VP's niece ends life to escape bullying

Tori Nakol Swoape, a niece of UTU International Vice President Delbert Strunk, was, according to friends, a "beautiful" and "very bubbly" 15-year-old high school sophomore.

She committed suicide in May, the victim, say friends and family, of relentless physical and verbal bullying in her new school in Bloomington, Ind.

This is news not because Tori was Delbert's niece. It is news because one-in-four students has become a victim of bullying, according to statistics, with the result that thousands of children awake afraid to go to school – and too frequently some, tormented beyond their mental capacity to cope, tragically choose to end their lives.

As most states have anti-bullying laws, and most schools have strict policies to combat bullying, victims of bullying – or their parents or friends – should report bullies to school guidance counselors or teachers.

Additional tips are available at this website:
<http://kidshealth.org/parent/emotions/behavior/bullies.html>



Tori Swoape

Following her tragic death, Tori's friends created a Facebook page, "Stop Bullying," and participated in various high-profile community activities intended to make the problem of bullying better recognized. "Tori is going to make a difference in so many people's lives, I just know it," said her grandmother, Vicki Swoape.

"This ordeal is simply heart wrenching and there are no words that we can say to the family that can ease the pain of losing a child or grandchild," said Strunk. "If this article can save one child from harming themselves, then we have made a difference."

Adding to the pain is that Tori's single mom, Lana, in addition to struggling with the details of this inconsolable tragedy, is straining to pay for Tori's funeral.

If you would like to help, contributions may be sent to: Fund for Tori Nakol Swoape, Chase Bank, 3301 S. Madison St., Muncie, IN 47302.

Inside this issue of the *UTU News*:



MBCR conductor gets grand send off to new job. See page 2.



State legislative directors work for more Amtrak service. See page 3.



UTU retiree Cole honored for 50 years of bowling. See page 8.



UTU honors congressman for his years of support. See page 10.