



# UTU News

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The Official Publication of the United Transportation Union

## Situational awareness protects your limbs, lives

During the first six months of 2011, 37 serious injuries occurred during switching operations, resulting in three fatalities and eight amputations; while over the past two years, five rail workers have died in accidents involving rolling rail equipment.

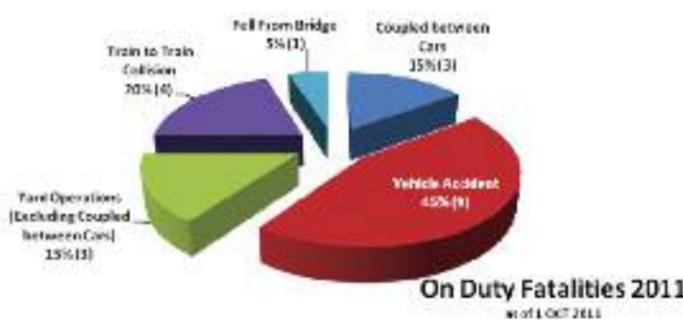
The Switching Operations Fatality Analysis (SOFA) Working Group and the UTU Rail Safety Task Force have been consulting with the FRA to study the causes and prevention of such horrific accidents, leading the FRA Oct. 11 to issue new recommendations aimed at preventing such fatalities and injuries.

The recommendations, published in the *Federal Register*, are intended, says the FRA, to convey to carrier management and rail workers “the critical importance of following key operating procedures when going between rolling equipment.”

These recommendations include:

### SOFA's five lifesaving tips:

- Secure all equipment before any action is taken.
- Protect all employees against moving equipment.
- Discuss safety at the beginning of a job or when work changes.
- Communicate before action is taken.
- Mentor less-experienced employees to perform service safely.



- Review current operating and safety rules that specifically address remote control locomotive and conventional switching operations that require employees to go between rolling equipment, and determine whether those rules provide adequate protection to employees, or need to be updated or revised;

- Develop, implement and monitor sound communication protocols that require employees on multi-person switch crews to notify their fellow crewmembers when the need arises to enter between two pieces of rolling equipment – regardless of whether the employee is the primary RCO or working on a conventional crew;

- Review SOFA Safety Recommendation No. 1 relating to adjusting knuckles, adjusting drawbars and installing end-of-train devices, and communicate procedures implementing that recommendation to employees working in yards or other locations where the possibility of entering between rolling equipment exists;

SOFA Safety Recommendation No. 1 provides: “Any crew member intending to foul track

or equipment must notify the locomotive engineer before such action can take place. The locomotive engineer must then apply locomotive or train brakes, have the reverser centered, and then confirm this action with the individual on the ground.

“Additionally, any crew member that intends to adjust knuckles/drawbars, or apply or remove EOT device, must ensure that the cut of cars to be coupled into is separated by no fewer than 50 feet. Also, the person on the ground must physically inspect the cut of cars not attached to the locomotive to ensure they are completely stopped;

*Continued on page 10*

## UTU member dies in shoving accident

BOTKINS, Ohio – CSX conductor **Dennis A. Hemme**, 59, became the ninth UTU member to die in an on-the-job accident in 2011 when he reportedly was crushed to death here Sept. 8 during a mainline shove of a stalled train. Botkins is some 110 miles north of Cincinnati.



Hemme

Hemme, with some six years of service, was a member of Local 14 (Cincinnati) and is survived by his wife and three children.

Since July 25, six UTU members have been killed in on-the-job accidents.

For more information on UTU members killed on the job in 2011, click on the “Safety” tab on the UTU webpage, www.utu.org.

## Arbitrator rules for SMART merger

An arbitrator has ruled that a merger between the UTU and the Sheet Metal Workers International Association (SMWIA) be implemented and that the presidents of the two unions – or their designees – meet to decide how the implementation is to proceed.

Arbitrator Michael H. Gottesman said the merger agreement to create the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation (SMART) Workers Union is an enforceable agreement.



When Judge Bates ordered binding arbitration to determine if the UTU/SMWIA merger agreement is enforceable, he said the LMRDA claims were beyond the purview of the arbitrator, and that he would decide those claims following the outcome of the arbitration.

Although the SMWIA asked Gottesman to allow the SMWIA to, in Gottesman’s words, “effectively micromanage the implementation of the merger, complete with timelines and very detailed instructions for the behavior of UTU officials,” Gottesman denied the request.

Ruled Gottesman: “It is far better that the parties decide how to implement the merger than to have an arbitrator do so.”

Accordingly, the award simply directs the presidents of UTU and SMWIA (or their designees) to meet “to discuss any and all issues pertinent to implementation of the merger...and to continue meeting on a regular basis until all such matters have been resolved.”

### A complaint by UTU members still must be resolved

Gottesman was named by AFL-CIO President Rich Trumka to decide the question of enforceability after binding arbitration was ordered by Federal District Court Judge John Bates.

Gottesman acknowledged that there is pending before Judge Bates another merger-related case – a complaint by several UTU members that Titles I and V of the Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA) were violated.

## Address changed? Notify the UTU

Have you moved, or has a co-worker moved?

The UTU International and the United Transportation Union Insurance Association (UTUIA) receive back from the postal service each month numerous pieces of mail indicating the address no longer is valid. These returns cost the UTU International and UTUIA hundreds of dollars a month.

Address changes may be made online at the UTU website, www.utu.org.

For members without web access, a change of address may be sent by mail to:

**United Transportation Union  
Suite 340  
24950 Country Club Blvd.  
North Olmsted, OH 44070-5333**

An address change also may be called in to the UTU at (216) 228-9400.

All address changes will be made on both UTU and UTUIA records.

# Around the UTU

## Local 23, Santa Cruz, Calif.

UTU members employed by the Santa Cruz METRO were honored at the fourth annual Community Spinners Lucky 8 Awards Celebration Aug. 27, sponsored by the Special Parents Information Network, Local Chairperson **Bonnie Morr** reports. Assemblyman Bill Monning presented certificates of recognition to Santa Cruz METRO, Local 23 and SEIU Local 521 on behalf of Sen. Joe Simitian and the California Legislature for service provided to disabled riders. Santa Cruz METRO was honored as the 2011 Disability Service Provider of the Year.

## Locals 78, 265, Pocatello, Idaho

Members from these Union Pacific locals attended an "America Wants to Work" rally during the Pocatello Central Labor Council's Labor Day picnic Sept. 17 at Raymond Park, Local 265 Legislative Rep. **Nathan Millward** reports. UTU members and family, dressed in red UTU T-shirts, joined other trade unionists as they listened to speeches from Idaho State Reps. Roy Lacey and Elaine Smith, former Pocatello Mayor Roger Chase and Idaho State Legislative Director **George Millward**, who encouraged attendees to remain united and to vote their paychecks. Nathan serves as president of the council.



## Local 168, Chicago

Former Local President **Edward Dace** died Sept. 3, according to Local Chairperson **Doug Silkowski**. While at Amtrak, he worked with Operation Red-Block and was a member of the Amtrak Safety Committee. He is survived by his wife, Alicia, and sons Yacin White, Larry White, Jason Dace and Edmond. "He was a mentor to many young members and was known for his laugh and wonderful sense of humor. He will be missed by all who had the opportunity to work by his side," Silkowski said.

## Local 240, Los Angeles

Retired conductor **Donnie Fauset** (L-98), 60, and former UTU member and engineer **Mike Aragon**, 63, died Sept. 30 and Sept. 7, respectively, Local Chairperson **Harry Garvin Jr.** reports.

## Local 286, North Platte, Neb.

This Union Pacific local donated \$400 to the first Connie J. Fleck Memorial Golf Tournament, member **Matt Fleck** reports. The tournament was held in honor of Fleck's wife, who died nearly three years ago from breast cancer. Fleck said that donations were still coming in and that all of the approximately \$7,000 raised will be donated to The Gift of Hope Cancer Foundation in North Platte. In other news, Local Secretary & Treasurer **Steven Coleman** reports that retired member **Dale W. Husemoller**, 85, died Sept. 24.

## Local 305, Lincoln, Neb.

The officers and members of this local acknowledge the efforts of Local Chairperson **Ken E. Trauernicht**, who is retiring Nov. 1 after more than 41 years of service. "We extend our congratulations to Brother Trauernicht on his retirement and express our sincere thanks for his many years of dedication and service in representing the members of this local with professionalism and passion that is known and respected," Secretary & Treasurer **Bryan Dance** said. Trauernicht began his career with Burlington Northern in 1970 and served as vice local chairperson for several years before being elected chairperson in 1988. The local also welcomes the return of member **Steven J. Cerny** after 13 months of active duty with his National Guard unit in the Middle East. Welcome home, brother.



Built in 1949, *Virginian Railway Caboose No. 307* is now a railroad museum in downtown Mullens, W. Va., thanks to a number of railroad volunteers.

## General chair hopes to give rail museum permanent home

General Chairperson GO 680 **Luther "Pate" King Jr.** and others are working to ensure that a railroad caboose donated to the city of Mullens, W. Va., remains a reminder of the city's rail history.

The caboose was once part of the rolling stock of the Virginian Railway, which established terminal and yard facilities near Mullens in the first half of the 20th century.

The Virginian merged with Norfolk & Western Railway in 1959, which later became part of Norfolk Southern Railway.

NS donated the caboose to the city about 20 years ago and it holds sentimental value for King, who lives in Mullens.

"I actually worked on this very caboose when it was still in service," King said.

After it was donated to the city, numerous volunteers, including King, helped to restore the caboose.

"I can't remember everyone who was involved, but some of the railroaders who helped out were engineer Bobby Graham, Pete Kirk, **Carl "Trigger" Green** and maintenance-of-way employee **Jessie Tolliver**," King said. "Quite a few other retirees were, and are still, involved."

In fact, King said, the caboose was just given a fresh coat of paint this summer by some of the volunteers.

The inside of the caboose was restored as well and contains numerous pieces of railroadiana.

"We've got locks, keys, oil cans, crank telephones, pinch bars, kerosene lights and some old telegraph equipment inside," King said.

The caboose still sits on a railroad lease and King and the others want to ensure it stays there. They are hoping to purchase the land the caboose rests on and would like to have a fence placed around it.

"Just like everything else, it's hard to get financial assistance. I am talking to the railroad about it. Last time he was here, NS Executive Vice President **Mark Manion** took a tour," King said.

Anyone interested in seeing the inside of the caboose can contact King at (304) 673-0805.

## Local 756, San Antonio

This Union Pacific local, in conjunction with Local 857 also at San Antonio, provided ice cream cones and root beer floats to employees at the railroad's Sosan, East and Kirby yards all day Sept. 14 to recognize the hard work of their members and their fellow employees, Secretary & Treasurer **Mike Araujo** reports. He also thanks conductor **Jimmy Solis** and the other soda jerks who volunteered their service.

## Local 904, Evansville, Ind.

This CSX local held a picnic for members and their families Sept. 8, according to Indiana State Legislative Director **Kenny Edwards**. Those

present were joined by Evansville Democratic mayoral candidate **Rick Davis**, who is endorsed by the UTU. Davis is fourth from the left in the photograph below.



## Local 949, Sherman, Texas

Local Legislative Rep. **Anthony Hendrickson** died Aug. 6 due to heart failure, State Legislative Director **Connie English** reports. He is survived by his wife, Mary, sons Matthew and Eric, and his mother, Helen. Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

## Local 1066, New Orleans

CSX conductor **Jonathan Batieste**, 29, married with four young daughters between the ages of three and 12, died Aug. 22 following a motorcycle accident. Batieste signed on with CSX just 13 months ago. He was recovering from his injuries and was undergoing physical therapy when he developed a blood clot that claimed his life. "This young family is in need of help," said Louisiana State Legislative Director **Gary Devall**. Donations may be sent to the "Jonathan Batieste Donation Account" at Capital One Bank, 3800 General de Gaulle Drive, New Orleans, LA 70114.

## Local 1177, Willmar, Minn.

Legislative Rep. **Brian Hunstad** extends his gratitude to co-workers **Cody Strohbeen**, **Chad Dafoe** and **Lynn Rahn** (BLET), who administered CPR and promptly contacted 911 after Hunstad suffered a medical condition while disembarking from a charter bus July 2. Hunstad has since recovered. "Without the know-how and quick response of my co-workers, things could have been much worse. If a CPR class or first aid program is offered in your terminal, I would strongly suggest participation. It could mean saving a co-worker, or even a friend or family member," Hunstad said.

## Local 1245, Atlanta

Local 931 Chairperson **Kirk S. Porter** contacted *UTU News* to recognize the efforts of Local Chairperson **J.C. Roy**, who for the past five years has been meeting with conductor and engineer trainees at the Norfolk Southern training facility in McDonough, Ga. "When they register at the motel, J.C. meets them and extends a dinner invitation, where he presents an introduction to our union. Many have never belonged to a union before. He addresses any questions or concerns at meetings that sometimes last for several hours. He encourages them to sign authorization cards to join the UTU as soon as they are eligible and forwards information to the locals to which they will be assigned. At last count, he has signed up around 2,500 new members. This information is very important to my local, because we have no way of knowing when new hires will come on to the property," Porter said.

## Local 1700, Perris, Calif.

The members of the UTU's newest local held their inaugural meeting Sept. 21, GO 020 General Chairperson **John England** reports. **Gary Miller** was appointed interim local president and **Lucy Aguilar** was appointed interim secretary & treasurer for the approximately 170 bus drivers, mechanics, and service and office personnel of the Southland Transit Inc. The local's nomination meeting will be held Oct. 19. England added that the local's regular meetings will be held the third Wednesday of each month at Lake Perris Village, 350 E. San Jacinto Ave. in Perris. Meetings times have not yet been established.

# UTU develops Amtrak training manual

The UTU, as a subcontractor to Amtrak, is in the final stages of developing a training manual – “Emerging Incidents Procedures” – for some 8,000 front-line Amtrak employees.



Feltmeyer

“The manual will be used as part of Amtrak’s 2012 Block Training cycle to assist front-line employees aboard trains, in stations and on platforms in developing skills related to situational awareness, observation, communication and response,” said UTU Training and Education Coordinator Bruce Feltmeyer.

These Amtrak employees include conductors, assistant conductors, engineers, lead service attendants and on-board service employees.

## UTU reaches deal with Texas shortline

DITTLINGER, Texas – The UTU has reached a tentative collective bargaining agreement with shortline Western Rail Road on behalf of train, engine and mechanical workers, who will soon vote on ratification.

The negotiations were led by General Chairperson **Doyle Turner** (GO 347), who heads the UTU’s shortline organizing program.

Western Rail Road employees selected the UTU as their collective bargaining agent in February after meeting with UTU organizers **Rich Ross** and **Mike Lewis**.

This tentative agreement, as with others negotiated with shortlines, is intended “to bring parity in wages, benefits and work rules to the thousands of employees in the shortline railroad industry, along with the many other protections offered by union membership,” Turner said.

“The seniority, scope and discipline rules these members now enjoy are what makes union membership valuable.”

Western Rail Road connects a quarry and cement plant at Dittlinger with Union Pacific’s Austin, Texas, subdivision. Dittlinger is four miles south of New Braunfels and about 50 miles south of Austin.

## New rail rate tables now posted online

The standard basic daily and mileage rates of pay negotiated under the new national rail contract are now available at [www.utu.org](http://www.utu.org).

The rate tables pertain to employees in the crafts of conductor, yardman, brakeman, engineer and fireman/hostler who are covered by the national contract and are retroactive to July 1, 2010.

The ratified contract covers some 38,000 UTU members employed by BNSF, CSX, Kansas City Southern, Norfolk Southern, Soo Line, Union Pacific and numerous smaller carriers – all represented in national handling by the rail industry’s National Carriers’ Conference Committee.

To view the rates, select “Documents” in the blue-line menu bar near the top of the UTU homepage, [www.utu.org](http://www.utu.org).

## UTU needs your photos

**The UTU International is seeking good railroad, bus and airline photos for its annual calendar and other uses.**

High-resolution digital photographs should be emailed to [utunews@utu.org](mailto:utunews@utu.org).

Printed photographs should be mailed to UTU News, 24950 Country Club Blvd., Suite 340, North Olmsted, OH 44070-5333.

“In preparation for developing the training manual, we performed an assessment of the Amtrak workplace culture by working with Amtrak police and utilizing electronic surveys and feedback from UTU regional workshops,” Feltmeyer said.

“The assessment revealed the most prevalent problem was employees dealing with unruly passengers, which occurs not only at Amtrak, but at

all ground service public transportation facilities in the United States,” Feltmeyer said.

“The training course will introduce scenario exercises and an array of techniques in understanding and dealing with them,” Feltmeyer said.

In November, the course materials will be delivered to Amtrak during UTU team-administered “train the trainer” sessions for 38 Amtrak facilitators.

## Lawmakers target high-speed rail funding

WASHINGTON – Just when federal funding for high-speed rail appeared dead as a rusted rail spike, Senate Democratic Leader Dick Durbin of Illinois exercised his clout and reopened the door, if only slightly.

On Sept. 20, the Senate Transportation Appropriations Committee voted to zero out all federal funds for high-speed rail. Coming on the heels of a similar House Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee vote, Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.), one of the most ardent congressional supporters of high-speed rail, declared that elimination of high-speed rail funding is “a casualty of the cuts mandated in the debt-limit deal.”

But when the entire Senate Appropriations Committee met Sept. 21, Durbin was successful in having the entire committee overrule the transportation subcommittee and, instead, approve \$100 million for high-speed funding for fiscal year 2012.

True, the \$100 million, while seeming a large sum, is relatively small given the hundreds of billions of dollars required to build a series of high-speed rail lines in America. Consider that President Obama, earlier in the year, had urged \$8 billion for high-speed rail in FY 2012, on top of \$10.1 billion previously approved by Congress,

with \$7 billion of that \$10.1 billion already allocated to numerous high-speed rail proposals nationwide.

With the door for high-speed rail funding reopened, the battle now turns to the House and Senate floors, where more money might be appropriated when the final votes are cast for FY 2012 high-speed rail funding.

Amtrak funding also faces a tough battle in the House and Senate.



In the Senate, appropriators are recommending \$544 million in Amtrak operating subsidies for FY 2012 (\$18 million less than FY 2011 funding) plus \$937 million toward capital spending and debt service (an increase of \$15 million from the FY 2011 appropriation).

But in the House, appropriators are recommending considerably less for Amtrak in FY 2012: \$227 million for operating subsidies and \$899 for capital and debt service.

Also awaiting further House action is a House Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee recommendation to eliminate all federal funding for state-supported Amtrak service in FY 2012. No action on that anti-Amtrak initiative has surfaced in the Senate.

## UTU hosts safety meeting with regulators



Left to right are Brian Hunstad (local legislative representative, L-1177, Willmar, Minn.); FRA Administrator Joe Szabo, FRA Associate Administrator for Safety Jo Strang, National Legislative Director James Stem, Wisconsin State Legislative Director Tim Deneen, Minnesota State Legislative Director Phil Qualy and Joel Anderson (local legislative representative, L-1067, Virginia, Minn.)

The Minnesota Legislative Board recently hosted a safety meeting for members of all rail unions in the area so they could meet with federal and state authorities to learn about safety and the latest regulations.

Hosted by the Minnesota Intercraft Association, meeting participants were able to question FRA Administrator Joe Szabo, Associate Administrator for Safety Jo Strang, National Legislative Director James Stem, as well as regional deputies and inspectors, on a wide range of safety-related topics. The reaction to the meeting was positive, State Legislative Director Phil Qualy reported, and the FRA received very valuable reports and fielded a tough array of questions from railroad workers in Minnesota.

“Speaking on behalf of UTU members in Minnesota, I want to thank FRA Administrator Szabo and Associate Administrator Strang for making this listening session happen,” Qualy said. “This was another positive and productive step by FRA to reach out to railroad workers and hear from us directly.”

**“Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.”**  
**President Teddy Roosevelt**

# Collective bargaining delivers fairness, justice

(For more than six decades, Bill Lucy has been a labor-union foot soldier. In 1968, as an officer of AFSCME Local 1733 in Memphis, Tenn., he collaborated with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the sanitation workers' strike, during which Dr. King was assassinated. In August, Bill Lucy spoke to delegates at the UTU's quadrennial convention in Hollywood, Fla. Following is a summary of his remarks.)

The UTU, through its Collective Bargaining Defense Fund, has demonstrated a solid commitment to trade union principles and solidarity.

President Futhey recognizes there is a daily crisis in the lives



**A message from former American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees Secretary & Treasurer Bill Lucy**

would strip workers of their democratic right to have a union now know you will fight until hell freezes over, and then skate across the ice, to fight to protect those rights.

You have that reputation and you can be proud.

The fact is that it is always the working men and women on whom the weight falls to clean up the mess politicians create.

Working families are victims of the lunacy that has overtaken the political extremists who want to take away our democratic rights

to determine our bargaining representatives.

There is currently an unrestrained effort to end workers' rights to have a voice in the workplace.

It is the collective bargaining process that gives us fairness and justice in the workplace, and we will fight for it every step of the way.

I reject the notion that if God meant for you to be well off he would have made you that way.

We as workers must come together to fight back against the forces that seek to turn back the clock to weaken unions and cheapen the cost of labor.

## Working families are victims of political lunacy

of working families as they struggle to put bread on their tables, clothes on their backs and roofs over their heads.

The crazy governors of Ohio and Wisconsin have seen the solidarity of the UTU as it works to preserve collective bargaining rights and quality health care.

The UTU may be small compared to some other unions, but it is right in the middle of the fight – and that's where you should always be.

The crazy lawmakers who

A question was raised on CNN whether poor people are responsible for our nation's economic condition.

That's an incredible question to ask after we bailed out Wall Street, bailed out the banks and bailed out corporations.

The poor can't pay and the rich won't pay, and who does that leave?

Look across the room at each other and you spot those who are going to bring this nation out of the difficulty it is in.



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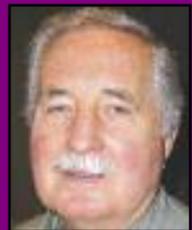
**For the latest news, visit [www.utu.org](http://www.utu.org); also, sign up on the UTU website to receive news alerts via email.**

# UTU Alumni Association aids retirees

So you've invested 40 years of your life working on the railroad or with a bus or transit agency.

You paid your dues – figuratively and literally – to your employer and to your union.

Maybe you were an officer in your local, or just involved. Maybe you even helped with UTU PAC. Now it's time for those young ones you probably helped to train to carry on in your stead. It's time to go fishing, clean out the garage, paint the house, or just take a long break. You have it all figured out.



**A message to UTU members from UTU Alumni Association Coordinator Carl Cochran**

Do you also know that attacks on Social Security and Medicare are on Washington's menu again? Those who want to balance the budget and control the deficits on the backs of

retirees belong – to stay in touch, to learn about the hot-button issues of the day affecting us, and to participate in helping stem the political tide washing over our livelihoods and threatening our retirement security.

UTU Alumni Association meetings and news keeps you informed of

by joining the UTU Alumni Association. In addition to keeping you up to date regarding your union and retirement benefits, the UTU Alumni Association provides additional benefits such as an annual calendar, an embroidered baseball cap, listing in the "Final Call," membership in the nearest Alumni Association chapter, discounts on car rentals, cruises, airline travel and lodging, discounts on cellphone service, and much more.

Membership in the UTU Alumni Association also ensures you continue to receive the *UTU News* in your mailbox.

For more information and to download a membership application form, you should visit the UTU web-

## Do you know there are about twice as many retired railroaders as there are active ones?

I'm with you. I've been retired from the railroad since 2005. And what we have in common is we are all drawing Railroad Retirement or Social Security benefits and we're covered by Medicare.

Do you know there are about twice as many retired railroaders as there are active ones? This is important, because you may also remember how, every so many years, while you were working, politicians wanted to get their hands on your Railroad Retirement? Well, they are at it again.

folks who paid their dues all their lives have their sights and claws all over our present and future retirements.

The business of protecting and improving benefits for you, your family and all those following in your footsteps never sleeps.

Given the threats surrounding us, we need you to stay involved more than ever.

The UTU Alumni Association gives you that opportunity to con-

## The UTU Alumni Association gives you the opportunity to continue belonging, to stay in touch

threats, and provides an opportunity to take collective action.

Retirees can't match the political contributions of our former employers, but we are known to participate in politics and to vote more than any other demographic group in America. Politicians listen to retirees.

Please consider staying involved

site at [www.utu.org](http://www.utu.org), or you can call the UTU Alumni Association administrator at (216) 228-9400, extension 3012, and join by paying with a credit card.

For \$9 annually, membership in the UTU Alumni Association is an investment you can't afford not to make.

# State Watch

## News from UTU State Legislative Boards

### Ohio



State Legislative Director Newsom, left, with State Rep. Michael Stinziano.

State Legislative Director **Glenn Newsom** recently met with State Rep. Michael Stinziano (D-25th, Columbus) in the Ohio State Legislative Board offices to discuss issues of importance to UTU members and their families.

“Representative Stinziano is an up-and-coming Democrat in the Ohio House with a background in the legislative field inherited from his father, Mike, who was also a state representative. Stinziano stands strong with labor. He knows how important unions are for Ohio. He was present at the Ohio Ballot Board meeting when the board certified Issue 2’s ballot language to make a ‘no’ vote signify rejection of Senate Bill No. 5.

“Don’t let Michael’s youthful appearance fool you. He already possesses the knowledge and political suaveness to be a leader for the Ohio Democratic Party in the near future. We are fortunate to call Michael a ‘friend of labor,’” Newsom said.

### Arizona



Arizona State Legislative Director **Greg Hynes** recently met with Labor Secretary Hilda Solis in Phoenix to discuss the importance of UTU members registering to vote and voting in all elections. The two also discussed solutions to high unemployment rates and how the Obama administration’s jobs bill could put more Americans to work.

### New Jersey

The State Legislative Board recently met to make recommendations for the Nov. 8 general election, State Legislative Director **Dan O’Connell** reports. The candidate recommendations are being sent to each local, he said.

Members should be aware of the following voter-registration deadlines:

**Nov. 1:** deadline for mail-in ballot applications by mail for the general election;

**Nov. 7:** deadline for in-person mail-in ballot applications for the general election.

### Illinois



State Legislative Director **Bob Guy**, far right, attending a pro-transit funding rally.

State Legislative Director **Bob Guy** recently joined state and local transit leaders to urge that Congress exempt mass transit from its next round of budget cuts.

Guy is also asking UTU members to make sure the media get the message by writing letters to editors of local publications.

“Our jobs are at stake, and so are the jobs of others who depend on transit to get them to their urban workplaces” Guy said. “Cutting transit will be extremely disruptive to the local and national economy.”

The “Don’t X Out Public Transit” rally was called to protest the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee’s recent proposal to cut 35 percent from federal highway and transportation funding.

“We have to send Congress a very blunt, immediate message: ‘Hands off our transportation systems,’” Guy said.

## Bus, transit and essential-air service funding extended

WASHINGTON – Federal Transit Administration bus-project and other transit funding, in danger owing to political squabbling, will remain in place at least through March 31, 2012, following House and Senate action to extend temporarily, for the eighth time since 2009, highway taxes that fund transit programs. House leaders are seeking a 35 percent cut in transit funding.

The House and Senate also agreed Sept. 15 to a new four-month extension of Federal Aviation Administration taxes that fund the Essential Air Services (EAS) program vital to regional airlines that employ UTU-represented pilots and flight attendants. It was the 22nd temporary extension for this program since 2007.

### House, Senate seek to reach compromise on stalled funding

attempts at reaching compromise on a permanent extension of transit and EAS programs that have been stalled for years.

The highway bill extension ensures that more than \$4 billion from the Highway Trust Fund for Federal Transit Administration formula and bus programs will remain available for spending through March 31. Disagreement between the House and Senate on the number of years to authorize a new highway/transit spending bill is the reason for that stall.

A permanent FAA reauthorization, which includes the EAS program, is stalled over an inability to agree on future EAS subsidies, and an attempt by House Republicans to include in the bill a provision overturning a 2010 National Mediation Board rulemaking.

That rulemaking changed the rules for representation elections from counting those not voting as “no” votes, to determining outcomes based only on those voting.

## Van service fined in wake of deadly BSNF crash

KELSO, Wash. – Shuttle van operator Coach America Crew Transport has been fined more than \$13,000 by the State of Washington for alleged safety lapses in the wake of a train-van accident in March that killed a BNSF engineer, a conductor trainee and the van driver, and seriously injured a UTU-represented conductor.

The shuttle van, transporting BNSF crew members to an away-from-home terminal, was struck by a BNSF train at a private crossing in Kelso.

According to the Vancouver Columbian, Coach America Crew Transport was fined by the state for “failing to tailor its accident prevention program to the types of hazards drivers may encounter” and for “not implementing and enforcing safety training programs for employees and not providing on-the-job instruction to employees about hazards.” Coach America said it would appeal the violations.

## Bus Department

By Bonnie Morr, alternate vice president - bus  
bonniemorr@sbcglobal.net

### We fight for transit funding

As some in Congress seek to slash spending on public transit – the only affordable means for millions of Americans going to and from work – ridership is soaring.

The American Public Transit Association says more than five billion trips were taken via public transit during the first six months of 2011 – up sharply from the same period a year earlier. In fact, transit ridership is at its highest level in more than half a century as Americans continue to abandon the expensive automobile commute in favor of convenient and more affordable public transit.

Public transit has been shown by researchers to benefit local economies. In many communities without effective public transit options, small businesses have difficulty recruiting workers for service jobs as many cannot afford automobiles to take them to and from work.

The American Public Transit Association says that for each \$1 billion invested in public transportation, 36,000 jobs are supported and created.

A study released by the University of Wisconsin found that cuts to bus service in Milwaukee made 40,000 jobs at 1,700 employers inaccessible by public transit. And, concluded the study, proposed new cuts in public transit budgets would put 13,000 jobs out of the reach of workers not owning automobiles.

### Mass transit investments create good-paying jobs

“The very people perhaps most in need of jobs would face another barrier to getting a job,” concluded the study. “That’s no way to rebuild an economy.”

The UTU continues to deliver to Congress the message that public transit is an essential service deserving of full funding support. I encourage members to email and phone their congressional representative with the same positive message.

Budget cuts also are adversely affecting public transit workers, and our UTU organizers are seeing a surge of interest among the unorganized to be represented by a strong labor union such as the UTU.

With demand for public transit soaring in the midst of layoffs, drivers are being asked to work more overtime, limiting their ability to obtain sufficient rest between shifts and spend quality time with their families.

We will continue to reach out to the unorganized. Over the past 43 months, the UTU has organized 24 separate properties.





**MIKE FUTHEY**  
International President

Mike Futhey became a trainman in 1971 with Missouri Pacific Railroad (now part of Union Pacific). He was first elected UTU International president in 2008 after elections to local and general committee posts and as an International vice president. He also is president of the UTU Insurance Association, vice president of the AFL-CIO, and a member of the AFL-CIO Executive Council. He earned a degree in history from the University of Memphis, where he attended law school, and completed courses at the George Meany Center for Labor Studies.



**ARTY MARTIN**  
Assistant President

Arty Martin, a U.S. Air Force veteran and one-time minor league baseball player, was first elected assistant president in 2008. He began his railroad career in March 1966 on Union Pacific Railroad, and later was promoted to locomotive engineer. He earned a degree in business, with a minor in labor law, from Idaho State University. His prior elected offices include vice local chairperson, vice general chairperson, general chairperson, alternate vice president and UTU International vice president.



**KIM THOMPSON**  
General Secretary & Treasurer

Kim Thompson began his railroad career in 1966 as a brakeman on the former Wabash Railway (now part of Norfolk Southern). In 1975, he was elected local president and chairperson of Local 226 at Moberly, Mo., and later served as the local's legislative representative and delegate. In 1989, he was elected general chairperson. In 1995, he was elected first alternate vice president for the South, and elevated to UTU International vice president in 1997.



**JAMES STEM**  
National Legislative Director

James Stem began his railroad career in 1966 as a trainman for Seaboard Air Line Railroad (now part of CSX). He later was elected secretary & treasurer of his local, North Carolina state legislative director and alternate national legislative director. He was elevated to national legislative director in 2009 upon the death of James Brunkenhoefer, and elected in his own right in 2011. Stem was part of the original Positive Train Control Working Group sponsored by the FRA in 1997.



**JOHN RISCH**  
Alternate National Legislative Director

John Risch, who began his railroad career on Burlington Northern in 1978, worked as a switchman, trainman, hostler and fireman before promotion to locomotive engineer. He was elected North Dakota state legislative director in 1986 and was elevated to alternate national legislative director in 2009. Risch is a graduate of Bismarck State College and earned a second degree in labor studies from Antioch University.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD



**STEVE DAWSON**  
Local 811, San Bernardino, Calif.



**MIKE ANDERSON**  
Local 1570, Roseville, Calif.



**STEVE MAVITY**  
Local 298, Garrett, Ind.



**GEORGE MILLWARD**  
Local 78, Pocatello, Idaho



**ROBERT RESENDEZ**  
Local 1422, Los Angeles

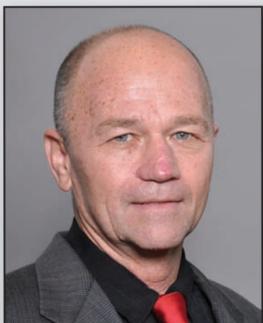


**PHIL CRAIG**  
Alternate  
Local 64, Huron, S.D.

# INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS

## UNITED TRANSPORTATION UNION

Each of these officers was elected to a four-year term at the UTU's 11th quadrennial convention in August and will assume their respective office Jan. 1, 2012.



**ROBERT KERLEY**  
International Vice President  
Local 303, Springfield, Mo.



**DAVID WIER SR.**  
International Vice President  
Local 469, Madison, Ill.



**JOHN PREVISICH**  
International Vice President  
Local 31, San Jose, Calif.



**DELBERT STRUNK**  
International Vice President  
Local 225, Bellevue, Ohio



**PAUL TIBBIT**  
International Vice President  
Local 331, Temple, Texas



**JOHN LESNIEWSKI**  
International Vice President  
Local 1534, Chicago



**BONNIE MORR**  
International Vice President  
Local 23, Santa Cruz, Calif.



**DALE WELCH**  
Local 1092, Teague, Texas



**DON SEYER**  
Local 947, Chaffee, Mo.



**DIRK SAMPSON**  
Local 117, Vancouver, Wash.



**ALVY HUGHES**  
Local 1596, Charlotte, N.C.

## ALTERNATE VICE PRESIDENTS



**LARRY BARRILLEAUX**  
Local 1836, New Orleans



**R.W. "RED" DARE**  
Local 1525, Carbondale, Ill.



**JOHN ENGLAND**  
Local 1674, Los Angeles



**TROY JOHNSON**  
Local 594, Mineola, Texas



**DANIEL YOUNG**  
Local 1081, Glendale, Ariz.



**DOYLE TURNER**  
Local 1962, Toledo, Ohio



**CALVIN STUDIVANT**  
Local 759, Newark, N.J.



**BRIAN DONALD**  
Local 161, Seattle

**"STRONGER  
THAN  
EVER"**



**DALE BARNETT JR.**  
Local 762, Montgomery, Ala.

**UTU**  
*Alumni*

# UTU Alumni Association

**News, information for members of the UTU Alumni Association**

## UTU retiree one of softball's greatest pitchers

Imagine you are in the batter's box, bat at the ready. Now imagine a softball coming at you at 90 mph, launched by a pitcher standing only 46 feet away.

That's what many of UTU member **Doran Geissler's** opponents saw, swung at and missed.

Geissler, 81, a retired member of Local 582 at Steven's Point, Wis., and now living in Eau Claire, Wis., is one of Wisconsin's top fast-pitch softball pitchers in history.

In a 44-year career on the mound, his record shows 1,702 wins against 296 losses. That includes five perfect games and 58 no-hitters.

In 1969, he went 13-0 with six shutouts and an ERA of 1.04.

He also once went seven and a half years without a loss in league play.

Geissler is credited with playing with 31 different teams in Wisconsin and a couple more in Minnesota.

He was recently inducted into the Wisconsin Amateur Softball Association Hall of Fame. He was the only male fast pitch player honored.

He played on three Major League champions and five times was named to the all-state tournament team. One year in the middle 1960s, he compiled a remarkable 74-2 record while traveling between Chippewa Falls and the Twin Cities as a Soo Line railroad conductor, a job he held for 32 years.

"I could work a lot in the winter months," he said. "Then I could take off some time in the sum-



Geissler

mer when I played. I probably couldn't do that now."

"In fast pitch softball, you can make the ball move a lot more because the ball is bigger – a 12-inch diameter versus nine inch for the baseball. I could make it rise, dip, curve and break a lot more than a baseball pitcher could."

Geissler also sported a .300 batting average during his career.

"I pitched until I was about 60, then took up golf. It's a lot easier on the body," he said.

### RRB has new labor member

WASHINGTON – A former secretary & treasurer of the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen – Walt Barrows – is the new labor member of the Railroad Retirement Board following his Senate confirmation Sept. 27. He succeeds Butch Speakman, who chose to retire.



Barrows

Barrows began his railroad career as a signalman with Norfolk & Western Railway (now part of Norfolk Southern) in 1974. Since 2004 – while holding his signalmen post – he has been the labor trustee of the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust, a position earlier held by former UTU General Secretary & Treasurer Dan Johnson.

### Open enrollment starts for Railroad Medicare

This year's open enrollment period for Medicare begins Oct. 15 and ends Dec. 7. Coverage starts Jan. 1, 2012.

Many people investigate choosing a Part D plan to assist in prescription drug coverage. If you select Part D, you do not have to give up your Railroad Medicare Part B benefits.

If you are enrolled in Part C – a Medicare advantage plan that is a substitute for Railroad Medicare's Part B coverage – now is the time to determine if you want to stay with your Part C plan or return to Railroad Medicare.

For more information, visit [www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan](http://www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan) to use the "Medicare Plan Finder," or look at the 2011 "Medicare & You" handbook, which you can download at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

For additional information, contact the Railroad Medicare Beneficiary Contact Center at (800) 833-4455.

### Bay area railroaders to host fourth annual reunion lunch

Retired conductor **John Herrmann** of Local 694, Dunsmuir, Calif., reminds all active and retired railroaders in the San Francisco Bay area of the fourth annual lunch and reunion from 1-5 p.m. Oct. 29 at Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto, 1919 Fourth St. in Berkeley, Calif. The cost of lunch is \$31 in advance, or \$36 at the door. Entrée choices are chicken, pork, salmon or pasta and include a salad, rolls and beverage. To make a reservation, call Herrmann at (530) 926-5180.

"I believe we had a record attendance of 85 last year and surely want to have more than 100 this year," Herrmann said.



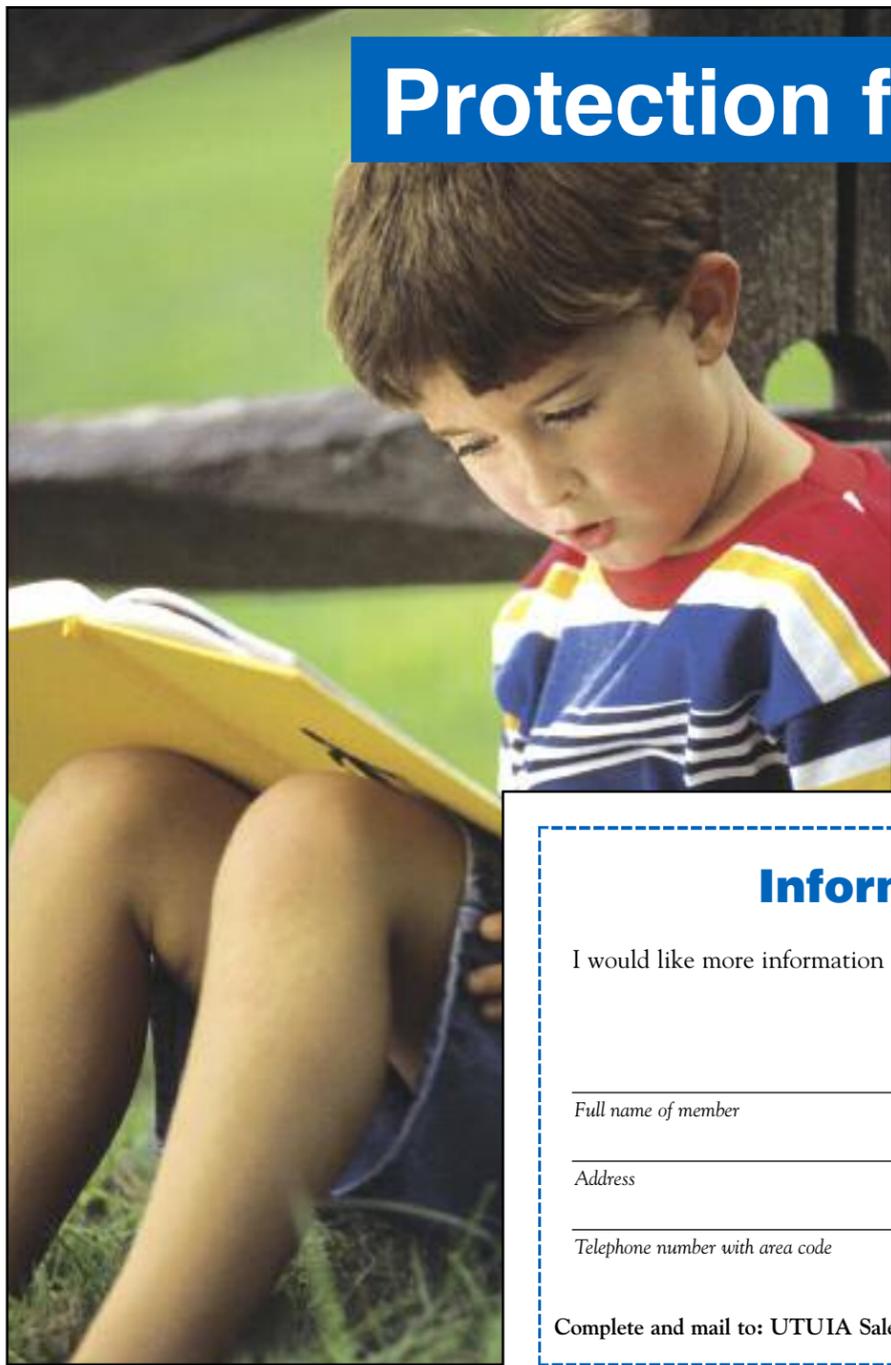
Railroaders, family and friends from SP, UP, WP, AT&SF and Amtrak, as well as other lines, from all crafts, are invited to attend. Those paying in advance should send their check or money order to Herrmann at 20 Rahn Ct.,

Walnut Creek, CA 94597, and indicate the entrée choice.

## 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
168	Dace Jr., Edward	Chicago, Ill.	783	Johnson, Jerry C.	China Grove, N.C.	1313	Horner, H.R.	Cedar Hill, Texas
168	Grubbs, Calvin T.	Zephyrhills, Fla.	792	Fitzpatrick, Paul	Bellefontaine, Ohio	1313	McCloskey Jr., Edgar L.	Amarillo, Texas
265	McCarty, Francis J.	Pocatello, Idaho	830	Hassinger, Charles W.	Sunbury, Pa.	1345	Payne, Wallace S.	Knoxville, Tenn.
298	Sedlacek, Joseph M.	Plainfield, Ill.	830	Stitt, Charles L.	York, Pa.	1382	Caylor, Arnold F.	Nekoosa, Wis.
306	Andrews, Lloyd G.	Estherville, Iowa	832	Kolinski, Stanley J.	Cedar Falls, Iowa	1386	Wilson, Henry E.	Newark, Ohio
306	Ashpole, J.R.	Clarion, Iowa	898	Haley Jr., John F.	Palm Bay, Fla.	1390	Connor, Robert L.	Ventnor City, N.J.
318	Giambrone, Frank E.	Scranton, Pa.	976	Bruno, Bill E.	Shreveport, La.	1470	Pavlos, Nicholas M.	Nottingham, Md.
324	Glandon, Clarence H.	Peoria, Ariz.	1006	Lynn, Rodney E.	Charleroi, Pa.	1470	Summerford, Walter R.	Essex, Md.
432	Pierce, Gene E.	Champaign, Ill.	1031	Smith, Paul B.	Savannah, Ga.	1501	Prestenbach Jr., Clarence	Kenner, La.
464	Strange, William E.	Arkansas City, Kan.	1035	Rogers, William E.	Fernandina Beach, Fla.	1502	Bradley, J.L.	Tampa, Fla.
492	Schaefer, Paul K.	Greenwood, Calif.	1035	Wilson, Herbert C.	Hayesville, N.C.	1532	White, John E.	Overland Park, Kan.
498	Nixon, Joseph C.	Easton, Pa.	1067	Thompson, Peter J.	Virginia, Minn.	1672	Finkle, John J.	Saint Augustine, Fla.
508	Bratcher, Michael H.	Smithville, Texas	1075	Ritchey, Robert E.	Toledo, Ohio	1790	Kisiel, Edward	Shelby Township, Mich.
565	Turner, Donald J.	Cairo, Ill.	1075	Scott Jr., William E.	Monroe, Mich.	1892	Haney Jr., Thomas W.	Houston, Texas
632	Onkst, Walter R.	Hollidaysburg, Pa.	1129	Jennings, Frank B.	Raleigh, N.C.			
655	Scruggs, Robert H.	Rocky Gap, Va.	1129	London, William E.	Clayton, N.C.			
674	Bailey, Wade	Augusta, Ga.	1227	Chatterton, Samuel D.	Yates Center, Kan.			
694	Simonetto, Silvio P.	Dunsmuir, Calif.	1301	Maples, Fred G.	Knoxville, Tenn.			



# Protection for your loved ones

## Peace of mind for you

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

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

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

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

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

We can provide the peace of mind you're looking for. Contact us via email at "utuia-sales@utu.org" or by telephone toll-free at (800) 558-8842.

### Information, please



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

Please print

Full name of member \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone number with area code \_\_\_\_\_ UTU local number \_\_\_\_\_

Complete and mail to: UTUIA Sales Dept., 24950 Country Club Blvd., Ste. 340, North Olmsted, OH 44070-5333 10/11

## CP caboose builder wins UTU Brass Lantern Award

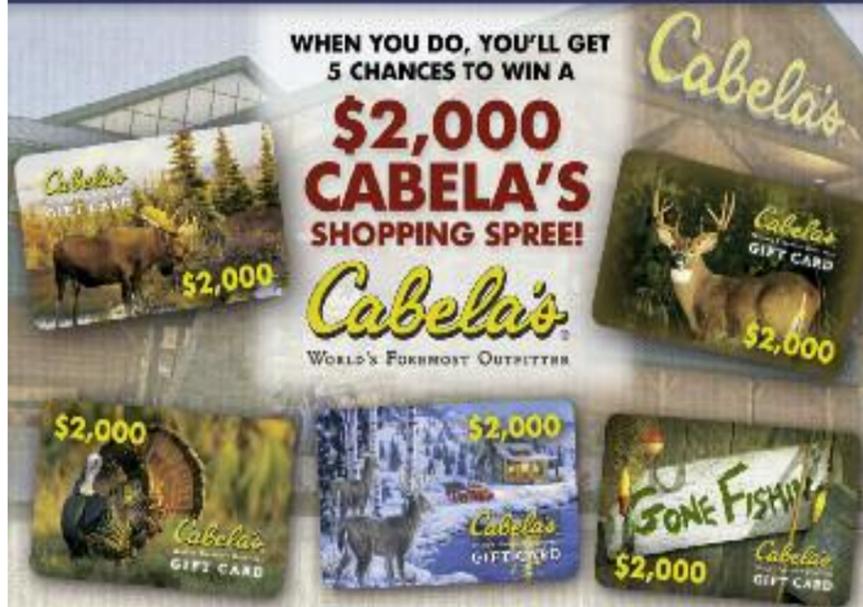


Kyle Gardiner, 67, of Vancouver, B.C., has been honored with the 2011 UTU Brass Lantern Award as the builder of the most authentic model caboose at this year's National Model Railroad Association convention.

Gardiner, a retired mechanical engineer, spent more than 400 hours building the O-scale (quarter inch to the foot) model of a Canadian Pacific caboose that once ran on the Kettle Valley Railway in British Columbia. It is constructed mostly of brass, with very few pre-made parts.

"I am very pleased to receive the UTU Brass Lantern Award," Gardiner said. "It is a great honor. It is one of the two or three most prestigious awards given to model railroaders."

### Join the Union Sportsmen's Alliance Today!



Now there are even more reasons to join the Union Sportsmen's Alliance. Activate your USA membership by Dec. 10, 2011 and, in addition to all the great benefits, you'll receive a chance to win one of five Cabela's \$2,000 shopping sprees.

Join now, it's easy!  
Go to [www.JointheUSA.com](http://www.JointheUSA.com)  
or call 877-872-2211

IT'S WHERE YOU BELONG.

[www.UnionSportsmen.org](http://www.UnionSportsmen.org) 1-877-872-2211



# Arizona SLD helps blunt anti-union extremists

PHOENIX – Arizona State Legislative Director **Greg Hynes** has seen the political attack on organized labor unfold in the Southeast, the Midwest and north in Idaho, knowing it was but a matter of time before the extremists came knocking on the door in the his state. When they did, Hynes and other labor union officers were prepared to fight back.



Hynes

A federal district court in Phoenix listened carefully – and agreed – as organized labor challenged a new state law aimed squarely at diluting the political power of labor unions in Arizona.

An anti-union Arizona legislative majority decreed that some labor unions – but not the ones with which they curry favor; and certainly not employers – should be restricted in making contributions to political candidates or causes.

A First Amendment violation was made clear to the federal court – that the law's intent was arbitrarily to restrict the free speech of targeted labor unions – and the state was ordered by the court not to enforce the law on its effective date of Oct. 1. The court now will now consider imposing a permanent injunction.

In the fashion of the novel "1984" by George Orwell, which probed mass mind control, the law's authors spitefully misnamed it, "Protect Arizona Employees' Paychecks from Politics Act."

The law is intended to restrict targeted labor

unions – presumably those unions that support political opponents and policies of the legislative majority – from using paycheck deductions of its members to fund political activities or causes.

The law does not impose similar restrictions on unions representing police officers, or on employers who make political contributions. As such, the federal district court said the law violates the free speech rights of the targeted unions.

The court held that the law violates the First Amendment by discriminating against "those wishing to express less favored or more controversial views"; and "by imposing its burdens on the political speech of some unions and other organizations and not imposing like costs upon other similarly-situated unions, or on other organizations that can use the funds for political activity, the law is under-inclusive and discriminates according to speaker".

Hynes said the law, put on hold by the court, is "part of a comprehensive legislative campaign to quash speech in Arizona by labor organizations and groups representing employees." One news organization quoted a sponsor of the law as saying it is intended to prevent unions "from taking their First Amendment rights too far and infringing on the rights of employers."

Specifically, the law requires unions collecting dues money through payroll deduction either to "affirm to the employers who process the deductions that none of their general fund is used for political purposes or to specify the percentage of their general fund to be used for political purposes." The term "political purposes" is defined by the law as "supporting or opposing any candidate for public office, political party, referendum, initiative, political issue, advocacy, political action committee, or other similar group."

## Michigan buys NS line, saving rail jobs

The State of Michigan has reached agreement with Norfolk Southern to purchase a 135-mile segment of track between Kalamazoo and Dearborn, which is good news for the UTU members who work the route.

For years, NS had threatened to break up the line and sell or lease it to a Class III non-union railroad, which would put the jobs of many rail workers, including UTU members, in limbo.



Gibson

And, for years, the UTU has been fighting those efforts, in the courts and before the Surface Transportation Board.

This purchase announcement was just the news the UTU was hoping to hear.

"After years of meetings, lobbying, committee and court hearings, we finally got the very same deal the Michigan Legislative Board offered back in 2006," State Legislative Director Jerry Gibson said.

"Michigan will purchase the NS line with grant funds and lease the tracks to Amtrak, which will also maintain and dispatch the lines while increasing the speed and reducing travel times for passenger service (110 mph). Most importantly, NS will maintain the freight service and thus our UTU members' jobs and contracts, as well as provide Class I-level safety and service to the many customers on the line."

Gibson said UTU member involvement,

including their UTU PAC donations, were crucial to saving the line.

"The members of Local 278 in Jackson and Local 1477 in Dearborn stepped up and worked hard to prevent this line sale," Gibson said.

"As these members learned: It may not be now, it may not be next month, but one day your investment in UTU PAC may very well save your job (besides the benefits we are all already enjoying from past UTU PAC success stories). I simply cannot find a better investment than a simple \$10 a month donation, the cost of a fast food lunch, for benefits that last years and years."

## Amtrak general committee elects Sampson chairperson

**Dirk Sampson** has been elected general chairperson of Amtrak general committee GO 769, which represents a large number of passenger-train workers.

Sampson had been serving as acting general chairperson in the wake of the death of former general chairperson **Roger Lenfest**, who died in July.

GO 769 represents UTU conductors and assistant conductors on Amtrak (New York City south to Washington, and on non-Northeast Corridor Amtrak passenger trains nationwide), as well as on Massachusetts Bay Commuter Railroad, Virginia Railway Express, South Florida Tri-Rail and Los Angeles MetroLink.

## Stay alert, alive

*Continued from page 1*

and, if necessary, a sufficient number of hand brakes must be applied to ensure the cut of cars will not move."

- Convey to employees that their own personal safety is their responsibility and that railroad management supports and encourages those employees that make safety their number one priority, regardless of their immediate assignment;

- Convey to employees that they should encourage fellow employees to perform their tasks safely and in compliance with established railroad rules and procedures.

To view the FRA's Federal Register notice, click on the "Safety" box on the UTU website, [www.utu.org](http://www.utu.org), then on the "FRA Advisory: Switching dangers" link in the "Important issues" box. The "Safety" tab also leads you to webpages on the UTU Transportation Safety Team and the UTU Rail Safety Task Force.

### Breaking news as it happens: Register for UTU News alerts

Information is power and your UTU is trying to give you as much information as it can, as soon as possible. Savvy members have learned to log on to [www.utu.org](http://www.utu.org) at least once daily to check the latest transportation news and any important new happenings within the UTU.



We want important UTU news to reach you even faster. So we are updating our special e-mail list by which UTU members may voluntarily sign up to receive e-mail on important UTU events.

Register for e-mail alerts by visiting [www.utu.org](http://www.utu.org) and clicking on the "Email Alerts" tile on the UTU homepage. Be sure to double check the information for accuracy before sending your email registration.

Your email address will be kept confidential. It will not be sold, traded nor given to anyone else.

## Ohio voters: Vote 'NO' on Issue 2



UTU members were active participants in the recent Labor Day rally in Toledo, Ohio. "The Labor Day celebration included a downtown parade and social gathering at the Toledo Zoo of friends and family of labor throughout the greater Toledo metropolitan area," Local 2's Tom Garvin said. "A highlight was the overall support for the defeat of Ohio Senate Bill 5 (which restricts collective bargaining). The members of Locals 2 and 1928 (Toledo) and the brothers and sisters from CSX urge all union members in Ohio to vote 'NO' on Issue 2, which would repeal Senate Bill 5." Standing, left to right, are: UTU Auxiliary Lodge 565 President Dana Garvin; Local 2 (Toledo) Chairperson James Curcio; Designated Legal Counsel and Local 2 member E.J. Leizerman and Dee Curcio.

# Show your union pride with UTU apparel

## American Products offers line of union-made UTU gear and clothing

It's not too early to begin your holiday shopping and the UTU website is just the place to start, without ever leaving your home or going to a busy shopping mall. Just visit the UTU website at [www.utu.org](http://www.utu.org) and click on the UTU Gear tab.

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

American Products is offering several new items this fall that were debuted at the regional meetings this summer, including the new Performer shirts, drawstring backpacks, Sunset polo shirts and cooler bags. Please be sure to check the website for details on all the new items.

All items carry a 100 percent quality guarantee against defects in materials and workmanship. Volume discounts on customized orders are available to UTU locals.

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 website, 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 N. Clinton Ave., Rochester, NY 14621.**

All orders will be processed within days of receipt.

Prices are shown in U.S. dollars and 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.



Iron Cross T-shirt



UTU Clock



Pocket Watch



Black Performer Shirt



White Performer Shirt



Drawstring Backpack



Red Sunset Polo



Transportation T-shirt



Cooler Bag



UTU Flag



Fitted Navy Cap



Kendall Jacket

## H&W enrollment materials in mail

Annual health and welfare enrollment materials for railroad employees and/or dependents covered under the National Railway Carriers and United Transportation Union Health and Welfare Plan are now being mailed by UnitedHealthcare. (Those members covered under the national health and welfare plan should have already received their enrollment materials in the mail.)

Included is a **"Dependent Add Form"** designed strictly for adding dependents to your plan during this open enrollment period **who are not already listed on the "Enrollment Form."**

Certain dependent children under age 26 are eligible for coverage under the plan. Please read this section carefully and, if these children qualify for coverage, they must be **added to the "Enrollment Form"** and that form returned to UnitedHealthcare **no later than Nov. 11** in order to be eligible for benefits beginning Jan. 1, 2012.

It is important that you open this material upon receipt to verify that the information on the enrollment form is correct. If you have opted-out of coverage, you **MUST** renew your opt-out for 2012 and return it by Nov. 11. If you add eligible dependent children, you **must return the "Enrollment Form" no later than Nov. 11** for your elections/changes to become effective Jan. 1, 2012.

## UTU officials sign national rail contract



UTU officials and UTU International employees recently met to sign the national rail contract. Seated, left to right, are Alternate Vice President-East Doyle Turner, Assistant President Arty Martin, International President Mike Futhey, National Legislative Director James Stem, and Alternate Vice President-East John Lesniewski. Standing, left to right, are Administrative Assistant to the President Tim Secord, Vice President Delbert Strunk, Vice President Robert Kerley, Norfolk Southern General Chairperson Pate King, Associate General Counsel Kevin Brodar, Director of Membership Services Jeff Weisbarth, and Executive Director of Finances and Human Resources Stu Collins.

Published monthly (except for combined months of December/January and July/August) by the UNITED TRANSPORTATION UNION, 24950 COUNTRY CLUB BLVD., SUITE 340, NORTH OLMSTED, OH 44070-5333 • Periodicals postage paid at Cleveland, Ohio, and additional mailing offices • Mike Futhey, International President; Kim Thompson, General Secretary & Treasurer • This publication available on microfilm from National Archive Publishing, P.O. Box 998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

**POSTMASTER: Send address changes to UTU News, 24950 Country Club Blvd., Suite 340, North Olmsted, OH 44070-**

Periodicals Postage  
PAID at Cleveland, Ohio,  
and Additional  
Mailing Offices



The Official Publication of the United Transportation Union

## Florida SLD fights to end gerrymandering

In Florida last month, the people prevailed as a federal district court ruled voters have the right to restrict the state legislature's ability to redraw the election map willy-nilly to favor incumbent members of Congress and the state legislature.



Trujillo

Florida State Legislative Director **Andres Trujillo** and his state legislative board were in the thick of the battle, fighting for fair election districts that ensure voters decide their politicians rather than politicians deciding their voters.

Two incumbent Florida politicians unsuccessfully argued before the federal court that the U.S. Constitution gives state legislatures complete discretion in drawing the boundaries of election districts. The federal court ruled otherwise, saying Florida voters can bind their own state legislature through amendments to the state constitution.

Redrawing election districts to accommodate changes in population occurs in every state every 10 years following completion of the U.S. Census.

Frequently, the majority party in the legislature attempts to establish a political advantage for their party by manipulating the geographic boundaries of congressional and state legislature voting districts. The term is known as "gerrymandering" after 19th century Massa-

chusetts Gov. Elbridge Gerry, who led an effort that so contorted congressional election districts in that state that one was said to resemble the shape of a salamander.

Gerrymandering "encourages the politics of division and extremism, and allows for the underrepresentation of Florida citizens' interests, in legal, civil, legislative and government matters," Trujillo said.

### Gerrymandering encourages the politics of division, extremism

Trujillo, with assistance from his state legislative board, arranged for the ballot initiative's spokespersons to appear before public forums and newspaper editorial boards, solicited contributions to help fund state-wide advertising explaining the ballot initiative to voters, and helped organize petition drives to place the initiative before voters last year.

On Election Day, the Florida State Legislative Board helped to get out the vote.

Trujillo noted that the ballot initiative began in response to 430 separate elections for the legislature where only three incumbents were defeated. This was seen as evidence of the effect of past Florida gerrymandering to protect re-election of incumbents.

## 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 was taken by Local 971 (Crewe, Va.) retiree **Jesse Pruden**. "I took this picture of cabooses stored in a siding in Greenville, N.C., in August 2010. I don't know who owns them. The siding is off the Norfolk Southern main line."



Please recycle

### Inside this issue of the *UTU News*:



UTU members save old caboose, create a rail museum. See page 2.



UTU's Bruce Feltmeyer works to aid Amtrak workers. See page 3.



Walt Barrows is new labor member of the RRB. See page 8.



It's not too early to pick out your UTU holiday gifts. See page 11.