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BMWED
TRANSITION TO THE
FUTURE

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Quarterly Newsletter
Volume 17
January 2011

UNIFIED SYSTEM DIVISION
BROTHERHOOD OF MAINTENANCE OF WAY EMPLOYEES DIVISION
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS



Nomination Notice

Local Union Unified System Division BMWED

Nomination of candidates for 5 delegate(s) and 4 alternate delegate(s) to the June 2011 International Brotherhood of Teamsters Convention in Las Vegas, NV, will be held on:

Date: Friday, March 4, 2011

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Location: 100 East Sage Street, Lyman, Wyoming

The expenses of sending the delegates to the IBT Convention will be paid by the Local Union. The expenses of sending 4 alternate delegates will be paid by the Local Union.

Eligibility to Nominate

To be eligible to nominate or second, a member must have paid dues through February 2011.

Dues and arrearages must be paid by 4:00 p. m. on 3/3/2011 at 100 East Sage Street, Lyman, Wyoming.

Eligibility to Run

To be eligible to run for Convention delegate or alternate delegate, a member must:

1. Be a member in continuous good standing of the Local Union, with one's dues paid to the Local Union for a period of twenty-four (24) consecutive months prior to the month of nomination with no interruptions in active membership due to suspensions, expulsions, withdrawals, transfers or failure to pay fines or assessments;

2. Be employed at the craft within the jurisdiction of the Local Union for a period of twenty-four (24) consecutive months prior to the month of nomination; and
3. Be otherwise eligible to serve if elected.

It is strongly recommended that each prospective nominee request advance verification of his/her eligibility to run for delegate or alternate delegate. In order to maximize the opportunity for the Election Supervisor to verify eligibility in advance of nomination, this request should be made in writing to the Election Supervisor as soon as possible, but in no event less than five (5) working days prior to the nomination meeting. The Election Supervisor will not be able to verify eligibility of any prospective nominee who requests verification less than five (5) working days prior to the nomination meeting.

Method of Nomination

Delegate candidates will be nominated and seconded separately from alternate delegate candidates

All nominations for delegate and alternate delegate shall be at large.

Any member may:

1. Be nominated and seconded orally from the floor by members in good standing other than the nominee; or,
2. Be nominated and seconded in writing by members in good standing, other than the nominee, unable to attend the nominations meeting. A written nomination or second must:
 - Be submitted to the Local Union Secretary-Treasurer so as to be received no later than 5:00 p.m. of the day before the day of the nominations meeting;
 - State whether it is a nomination or a second;
 - Identify the name of the person being nominated or seconded;
 - Identify if the nomination or second is for delegate or alternate delegate;
 - Be signed and have the last four digits of the member's Social Security Number; and,
 - Be treated by the presiding officer as if it had been made from the floor.

3. Nominate or second more than one candidate;
4. Be nominated or seconded by more than one member;
5. Decline to be nominated or seconded by a particular person or persons.

Any member who intends to nominate or second a candidate may also request that the Election Supervisor verify his/her eligibility. All such requests must be in writing and must be received by the Election Supervisor no less than five (5) days prior to the nomination meeting.

Acceptance of Nomination

The nominee may accept either:

1. In person at the meeting; or, if absent, in writing.
2. If acceptance is made in writing, the document must be presented to the presiding Local Union officer no later than the time the member is nominated. Any member present at the meeting may produce the written acceptance at the time the absent member is nominated.

No member may accept nomination for both delegate and alternate delegate.

Any candidate for delegate and alternate delegate is permitted to run as a member of a slate, which is defined as any grouping by mutual consent of two or more candidates. To qualify on the election ballot as a slate, a slate declaration form, which is available from the Secretary-Treasurer or the Election Supervisor at the addresses shown below, must be completed and submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer, with a copy to the Election Supervisor, no later than three (3) days after the Local Union's final nominations meeting.

Any attempt by a person or entity to limit, interfere or retaliate against any IBT member for exercising the right to nominate, second or run as a delegate or alternate delegate, may result in disqualification of a candidate who benefits from the violation, imposition of criminal penalties under federal law and/or other consequences or remedy.

For additional information relating to the nomination or election process for IBT International Delegates or Alternates, please contact your Local Union Secretary-Treasurer, the Election Supervisor, or the Election Supervisor Regional Director.

The Election Supervisor may be contacted at:

Office of the Election Supervisor for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters
1801 K Street, N.W. Suite 421-L
Washington, D.C. 20006
202-429-8683
877-317-2011 Toll Free
Facsimile: 202-429-6809

ElectionSupervisor@IBTvote.org

The Election Supervisor Regional Director may be contacted at:

Name Mary A. Campbell
Address 13859 State Road E
De Soto, MO 63020
Phone 636-586-3462 Fax 636-586-0248

MEDICAL PACKETS

Anyone going on a Medical Leave of Absence should contact USD for a Medical Packet. These packets have all the forms needed to protect your seniority, collect Railroad Retirement Sickness Benefits, Supplemental Sickness Benefits and notify United Health Care of your disability for extended insurance benefits. If someone you work with is injured or sick, call the Secretary/Treasurer's office and ask if a Medical Packet has been sent to them.

Call (530) 622-7535 OR Email: Lbelow.usd@att.net

OVER \$2000 FREE

Every week someone calls about filing for Sickness Benefits because their vacation is running out and they've been unable to work due to Sickness or Injury.

Two Railroad Employees both broke a leg on October 1st.

Employee A requested and was granted permission to take four (4) weeks vacation. When the four (4) weeks vacation ended he filed and began drawing his RRB Sickness and Supplemental Sickness benefits. He was finally released to return to work the following February.

Employee B immediately filed for his RRB Sickness and Supplemental Sickness benefits. At the end of the year he requested and was paid his remaining four (4) weeks vacation in a lump sum payment. Employee B was finally released to return to work the following February, the same day as Employee A.

The difference between Employee A and Employee B is Employee B collected an additional 4 weeks of Sickness Benefits than Employee A did by not using his vacation when he could collect Sickness Benefits! This meant Employee B collected over \$2000 more than Employee A although they were off work the same amount of time!



BROTHERHOOD OF
MAINTENANCE OF WAY
EMPLOYEES DIVISION

INJURED
KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

What to do if injured on the job:

- ✓ Ask to be transported to the nearest hospital immediately.
- ✓ Call your union representative as soon as possible.
- ✓ Notify the attending physician that he is not to discuss your medical treatment with anyone but you and do not sign a release of information permitting the physician/hospital to give information to the railroad.
- ✓ Do not allow management official into the examining room.

After treatment:

- ✓ Ask to fill out an accident report.
- ✓ Fill out the report according to your union representative's advice.
- ✓ Ask for an immediate copy of the completed accident report.
- ✓ When questioned by management refer them to your initial answers on the accident report and do not fill out a second accident report.

If you feel your reporting or suffering an injury or accident made you a subject of harassment or retaliation by a railroad manager, you may be entitled to protection under the Federal Rail Safety Act (FRSA), 49 U.S.C. Section 20109 and entitled to damages.

Also, BMWED members who are injured on the job should contact BMWED Designated Legal Council and ascertain their rights and protections under the Federal Employers' Liability Act (FELA) prior to attempting a settlement with a railroad claim agent.

BMWED Retirement Wrist Watch Now Available

What better way to recognize long time members of your Maintenance of Way Local Lodge than with a custom made Retired Member wrist watch? Union made, the 14kt. gold filled handcrafted medallion dial provides that distinctive look of achievement, appreciation and recognition.

You can now provide your retiring member with a memento made to commemorate a great union career. You can also engrave the back case with up to four lines with your local lodge's personal message. Available with either gold tone expansion band, or black leather band.

To order, visit the Brotherhood's website at
www.bmwe.org
and go to the store page.



NATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

The National Carriers Conference Committee (representing the railroads) and the Rail Labor Bargaining Coalition have entered Mediation. The National Mediation Board will assist the two sides on trying to reach a voluntary settlement. Mediation is scheduled to begin on February 9 & 10, 2011. The Rail Labor Bargaining Coalition represents the BMWED, IBB, BLET, F&O, SMW and BRS.

IN ORDER TO STAY UP TO DATE ON NEGOTIATIONS ATTEND LODGE MEETINGS WHEN POSSIBLE AND WATCH FOR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS AND JOURNALS!

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LODGE 1834 DISSOLVED

Lodge 1834 was unable to elect Lodge Officers in excess of twelve (12) months. Lodge 1834 was dissolved in accordance with National Division Bylaws, Article VIII Section 2(a), which states in part:

“should a Local Lodge fail to hold meetings for a period of twelve (12) months, the National Division Secretary/Treasurer may, after consultation with the System Division or federation General Chairman, dissolve the Local Lodge and reclaim its charter”

All members and assets of Lodge 1834 were transferred to Lodge 407 by National Division.

Lodge Officers may be found by visiting the USD Website at:

<http://usdbmwed.org/LocalLodges.html>

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“I am not a Labor Leader; I do not want you to follow me or anyone else ... I would not lead you into the promised land if I could, because if I led you in, someone else would lead you out. You must use your heads as well as your hands, and get yourself out of your present condition.”

-- Eugene V. Debs: Speech in Utah, 1910--

RETIREMENT PACKETS

Anyone planning on retiring should contact USD for a Retirement Packet. These packets have several items in them such as a Check List, Seniority Relinquishment Form, etc. Retirement Packets should be requested 3 to 6 months prior to your anticipated retirement date. To receive a Retirement Packet:

Call (530) 622-7535 OR Email: Lbelow.usd@att.net

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DEATH BENEFICIARY-MET LIFE

Do you know who your beneficiary is? Many of our members signed a beneficiary form for life insurance when their employment began several years ago. Changes come about due to deaths, marriage, divorce, and birth of dependents. If you are unsure who your beneficiary is for this policy, you can obtain a change of beneficiary form by calling Met Life at the toll free number 1-800-310-7770 and listening to the prompts.

This Plan provides minimal life insurance of:
\$20,000 per active employee, an additional \$16,000 if accidental and \$2,000 per retired or disability annuity employees.

Furloughed employees are covered for life insurance for 1 month following the month you last rendered service or received vacation pay and 4 months for Accidental Death & Dismemberment benefits. Coverage for certain accidental loss of limb or vision is also provided for in this policy.

Region 1

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UNIFIED

SYSTEM

DIVISION

PHONE SYSTEM

	1-307-787-7058	
1=Region 1 Former UP	2=Region 2 Former C&NW	3=Region 3 Former SP
1=Lyman Office	1=Brian Rumler	1=Louis Below-S/T
1=Ruth-Financial	2=Galen Owen	2=Ricardo Canchola
2=Teena-Claim/Grievance	3=Jeff Rankin	3=Tony Cardwell
3=April-Membership	4=Rod Mulder-Asst. General Chairman	
2=Mike Gekas		
3=Charlie Hogue	If you do not have pre-paid long distance service;	
4=Dave Scoville	call 1-800-525-1833 for the same options!	