

THE TRAIN DISPATCHER



POST 34TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY EDITION

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Legal Notice – Dues

Article 2, Section 4(b) defines the national dues rate. Effective October 1, 2023, the national dues rate is \$125.75 per month. System dues are determined separately by each system committee as shown below. To determine your monthly obligation, add the system dues amount shown below to the national dues rate.

4b. (1) The monthly National dues of all Active members of this Association, except as otherwise provided in this Section shall be determined annually by multiplying the average trick rail traffic controller (train dispatcher) total daily rate of pay (eight hours straight time pay plus allowances) in effect on July 1 by .295 and rounding up to the next five cents, provided such dues shall not be less than what was in effect on the preceding June 30.

(2) The monthly National dues for active members holding positions rated less than \$300.00 per day shall be determined annually by multiplying the average daily rate of pay (eight hours straight time pay plus allowances) in effect on July 1 for each craft by .295 and rounding up to the next five cents.

System Dues Rates

Effective January 1, 2024

Alaska: \$21.50	KRR MOW: \$10.00	NS: \$22.75
Amtrak TD/PD: \$20.00	KRR TY&E: \$11.35	PATH: \$24.20
Amtrak LD: \$20.95	L&I BO: \$9.55	SIRT: \$20.70
Berkshire & Eastern: \$17.70	L&I TD: \$14.55	SOO: \$20.50
BNSF: \$24.95	Keolis: \$18.20	SunRail: \$18.65
BNSF (MRL): \$23.15	Pan Am: \$17.70	TRRA: \$28.50
BRC: \$24.10	NICTD: \$14.75	TRRA extra: \$14.25
Conrail: \$21.85	Metra: \$18.95	Trinity: \$17.40
CSX – East: \$22.65	Metra extra: \$9.50	Tri-Rail: \$20.40
CSX – South: \$25.00	NJT RiverLINE: \$16.50	WC: \$23.25
IHB: \$25.30	NJT TD: \$20.80	
KCS: \$23.45	NJT PD: \$20.80	

Death Benefit Beneficiary

The Executive Board adopted the following policy change:
"If you have not designated a Beneficiary at the time of your death for any amount of benefits payable because of your death, the benefit amount will be paid to:

1. your surviving spouse, if any;
2. your surviving children, if there is no surviving spouse; or
3. your estate, if there are no surviving children.

Any payment will discharge our liability for the amount so paid."

If you would like to establish a beneficiary or modify an existing beneficiary form, go to our website www.atda.org go to member forms and select ATDA Beneficiary Form. Print out the form and once completed, return the form to the Office of the Secretary-Treasurer.

AMERICAN TRAIN DISPATCHERS ASSOCIATION

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Telephone: (216)251-7984
atda.org

*Affiliated with the A. F. L./C.I.O
and the Transportation Trades
Department/Rail Division*

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Director of Research

DAVID W. URSINI
Executive Asst to the President /
Asst Director of Research

DAN LANIGAN
Accountant

AMBER DAVIS
Membership and Member
Benefits Specialist

From the President



L. Ed Dowell, President

Brothers and Sisters,

As your new ATDA President, I believe it is important to share with you the message I shared with the Delegates to the 34th General Assembly after I was elected. The words that follow are taken directly from

the Assembly transcript and represent my vision for the future of the ATDA:

So, before we adjourn, I'd like to take a moment at the privilege of the Chair.

It's important to recognize that our union and the American Labor Movement are founded upon the principle that each of us as members are equal, valuable, and worthy of opportunity. Indeed, we will never be divided by race, heritage, preference, or gender. To the contrary, it is our seniority that unites us. Upon this foundation, we will not only stand together, but celebrate the strengths that our differences offer. And to that end, I would like to recognize five strong leaders of this organization. They have ascended to the office of General Chairwoman; General Chairwoman Tracy Bainum, General Chairwoman Susie Inman, General Chairwoman August Miles, General Chairwoman Erica Ray, and General Chairwoman Jessica Veltri. They are pioneers and trailblazers. We should all stand and give them a round of applause.

So, I thank you for entrusting me to lead our great organization. I recognize the magnitude and the task that's before us. And I want to assure you that I will work relentlessly to protect and strengthen our union.

As we leave this 34th General Assembly, I ask each of you to take a message back to your members, and that message is, I have heard them loud and clear. I have heard their calls for change and their pleas for more information. The desire for more engagement from their national officers. And as President, I will immediately begin to work to bring this change.

To our System Committee officers, know this. I have heard you. I agree with you. No one should be elected as a representative of this organization and not be properly

equipped to represent our members. As long as I'm President, training will always be a priority and never neglected.

And to our General Chairmen, I have heard you as well. By the end of this year, I will begin hosting a quarterly video call with each General Chairman who wants to participate. The calls will represent an important early step in bolstering the flow of information between national and those representing our members across the country. There's much work to do, and significant change is on its way.

I've learned a lot over the years from President McCann. We have the same goal, that's to protect our members and protect our organization. We may have different paths to that goal, but that's always been our goal. I've learned a lot. I've learned a lot of things that I like about what he's done. I can tell you this one thing he's taught me; Is let's sleep on it. Don't reply immediately with your gut feeling. Sleep on it. Then respond the way you should respond. I thank him for everything he's done for this organization and all the help that he [has given me and] I know he will give me going forward.

But tonight, let's celebrate. Let's celebrate the work you've done. I thank our court reporter, I thank our IT technicians, I thank Josh Williams, our UnionTrack person who's here. Brother Baldwin in the back. He and I go a long way back. He was elected as a national officer in 2010, I was elected in 2011. He became Secretary-Treasurer; I became Secretary-Treasurer. He was a CRLO subcommittee member; I was too. He became President recently, and now I have. We have similar paths. We get along well. I can't wait to work with him, lean on him.

All the healthcare people that are here. It's been great working with you as a subcommittee member. I look forward to working in a different capacity.

But just know I will do everything I can for you. Engagement is coming, I know that's what our members want.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Ed Dowell'.

L. Ed Dowell

President

American Train Dispatchers Association

MORE FROM PRESIDENT DOWELL ON THE 34TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FAREWELL TO OUTGOING PRESIDENT LEO MCCANN

As most of our members already know, Brother Leo McCann retired after serving 6 terms as ATDA President. Simply put, there are not enough pages in our newsletter to list all that Leo did for our organization. Leo is only partially retiring as he will now begin a new chapter of his life, serving as Trustee on the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust. The ATDA wishes President McCann, his wife Karen, and their beloved dog Murphy a wonderful and happy retirement.



DELEGATES ELECT NEW NATIONAL OFFICERS

In addition to electing a new President, Delegates at the 34th General Assembly also elected new Executive and Joint Board officers. To start, Bill Sikes was elected to fill the vacated Secretary-Treasurer position. Incumbent Vice Presidents Brandon Denucci, Kevin Porter, and Barry Cross were reelected, while Colin Thurman was elected to fill the executive board's remaining VP

position. Incumbent Vice President Paul Arden chose not to seek reelection, but will continue to serve as the ATDA's Director of Research. Additionally, Assembly Delegates elected Kevin Ketcham, David Ursini, and Andy Brewer to serve as Trustees. Those elected to serve as Alternate Trustees were Tim Evans, Paul Young, Jared Eagle, and Tracy Bainum.

SPECIAL THANKS FROM THE ATDA

In response to the tremendous support of its 34th General Assembly, the ATDA would like to give a special thank you to all of our sponsors; President Eddie Hall on behalf of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, President Mike Baldwin on behalf of the Brotherhood of Railway Signalmen, Eric Holland on behalf of the Holland Law Firm LLC, Special Assistant to the International President, IAM Division Josh Hartford on behalf of International Association of Machinist and Aerospace Workers, President Al Russo on behalf of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, The Moody Law Firm, Division President Jeremy Ferguson on behalf of SMART-Transportation Division, President Arthur Maratea on behalf of the Transportation Communications Union/

IAM, and The Law Firm Rossi Vucinovich. Additionally, the ATDA was honored and greatly appreciated our guest speakers; AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department President Greg Regan, BRS President Mike Baldwin, NCFO President Dean Devita, Railroad Retirement Board Labor Member John Bragg, SMART-TD Division President Jeremy Ferguson, Lifetime Honorary Member Mike Wolly. BLE/T President Eddie Hall, BLE/T Assistant to the President John Fink, and IAMAW Special Assistant to the International President, IAM Division Josh Hartford, ATDA Scholarship Committee members Gordon Smith and Reggie Vincent were also in attendance.

AMENDED PROVISIONS OF THE ATDA CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Adopted by the Delegates to the 34th General Assembly

ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

...

Sec. 1. Active and Active-Extra.

- b. A person who receives compensation in a craft represented by the Association is eligible for active membership only, except as provided in sub-section c below.

...

- e. In cases where a member's compensation is substantially reduced by more than thirty (30) percent due to illness, disability, furlough, discipline, other action by an employer, or military leave not compensated by the employer, dues may be waived upon request by the General Chairman and approved by the Secretary-Treasurer. This does not apply to seniority retention fees. Dues shall be automatically waived in the event of dismissal. Members whose dues are waived on account of suspensions or dismissal and whose discipline is subsequently reversed with back pay shall pay dues that were waived for the period covered by such back pay.

ARTICLE IV PRESIDENT

...

Sec. 8. Authorization of Strike Action.

- d. If two-thirds of the ballots cast favor withdrawal of service, the President, with the approval of the Executive Board, may authorize a strike. Conduct of any strike shall be under the supervision and direction of the President and he shall, upon approval of the Executive Board, have authority to command the entire resources of the Association to bring such strike to a successful conclusion.

ARTICLE V SECRETARY-TREASURER

...

Sec. 1. General Duties and Authority.

- b. He shall deposit on at least a weekly basis all funds of the Association in his possession in an account in a bank or trust company in the name of the Association. No withdrawals from such account(s) shall be made unless authorized by the Secretary-Treasurer or by such person as may be selected by him and approved by the Executive Board. Two signatures (the Secretary-Treasurer and the President or such other officer so designated by the Executive Board) shall be required on all checks for one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more.

ARTICLE XI SYSTEM COMMITTEES

...

Sec. 2. Merging System Committees.

- a. Separate System Committees may merge, subject to ratification by a majority vote of each of their respective members, and approval by the President. In the event of such merger, the so-called minority transportation systems shall be entitled to representation on the combined System Committee.
- b. In the event of a merger, acquisition, or other transaction by one or more carriers which results in multiple transportation systems being governed by a single collective bargaining agreement, such committees shall be merged to form a single System Committee. Members of the respective committees shall draft and adopt By-Laws or regulations governing the merged System Committee in accordance with Article XI, Sec. 16.

...

Sec. 10. Duties and Authority of General Chairman.

The General Chairman will be the chief authority on all matters pertaining to the business of the System Committee, including economic matters, the interpretation of System Committee By-Laws and applicable agreements, and will decide all questions passed to him for decision subject to appeal to the President. He shall preside at all the meetings of the System Committee and assign such duties that will permit the work of the Committee to be handled in the most efficient manner. He shall handle all dealings with the employing Carriers under his jurisdiction. He shall perform such other duties as required by the laws and rules of the Association, or as may be assigned by the President. In the event of failure to adjust any grievance that has been referred to him for handling, he shall submit a full report to the President together with all records in the case.

...

Sec. 15. Establishment of System Fund and Payment of System Dues.

b. Effective December 1, 2023, each System Committee shall establish minimum monthly System Dues in an amount determined by multiplying the average trick train dispatcher daily rate of pay (eight hours straight time pay plus all daily allowances) by .05 and rounding up to the next nickel. On those Systems covered by more than one agreement, System Dues will be based on the trick train dispatcher rate under the applicable agreement. In cases where other crafts are represented by the Association, system dues will be determined using the average daily rate of pay of each craft. On those Systems where System Dues exceed this minimum monthly amount, System Dues shall not be reduced except by action of the members on the System in accordance with the Rules Regarding Referendum Voting set forth in this Constitution and Bylaws. These amounts shall be adjusted every October 1 thereafter using the same methodology.

...

A. Rules Regarding Elections of Delegates and Alternates

...

2. Time and Method of Nominations.

a. As provided in subsection a. of Article X, Sec. 3. of this Constitution and By-Laws, any delegates and alternates in addition to General Chairman and Vice General Chairmen to which members of a transportation system are entitled shall be nominated and elected in accordance with the procedures contained herein.

...

e. Nominations shall be submitted via U. S. mail, fax, or e-mail on the form furnished by the Secretary-Treasurer and returned within the period prescribed by him. Upon receipt of all nominations as aforesaid, the Secretary-Treasurer shall prepare suitable ballots listing the names as listed on the nomination form of all candidates properly nominated for distribution to the members of the respective transportation system. Such nominees shall be placed on the ballot in alphabetical order.

3. Time and Method of Election.

a. All elections of delegates and alternates to the General Assembly shall be commenced by the Secretary-Treasurer as soon as possible following nominations during the fifth month and distribution of ballots as heretofore provided in Rule 2 and such elections shall be completed within three (3) months except when a runoff election is required. Any election not so conducted will be an invalid election. Such election shall be conducted by secret ballot vote of the active and active-extra members in good standing who are entitled to participate therein. No vote shall be valid or recorded except for candidates whose names appear on said ballot. "Write-in" votes are not permissible. The requirement of a secret ballot means the expression by ballot

or otherwise of a choice by a member cast in such a manner that such member cannot be identified with his vote. In all instances where nominees for delegates or alternate are unopposed, the secret ballot election need not be conducted notwithstanding any other provisions of this Constitution and By-Laws and the unopposed nominees shall be declared elected and the System Committee of the respective transportation system so notified.

- b. No funds or resources of the Association, any System Committee or of an employer of any members of the transportation system or any other employer shall be contributed or applied to promote the candidacy of any person for delegate or alternate delegate.

4. Conduct of Voting.

- a. During the three (3) months period prescribed in Rule 3, and in time to permit at least thirty (30) days for members to cast and return their ballots, ballot forms and envelopes as hereafter prescribed shall be mailed by the Secretary-Treasurer to each member qualified to vote at his last known home address, along with such instructions as the Secretary-Treasurer considers necessary ensure the secrecy of the ballot and its execution and mailing within the prescribed period. The instructions shall include directions that there shall be no voting by proxy.

...

B. Rules Regarding Conduct of Triennial Elections of System Committee Officers

...

1. Time and Method of Nominations.

At least thirty (30) days before the triennial elections of all General Chairmen, Vice General Chairmen, System Treasurers, and Local Chairmen, the Secretary-Treasurer shall issue a call to all qualified members on their respective transportation systems for nomination of eligible candidates

for the offices above specified. Such nominations may be submitted via U. S. mail, fax, or email on the form prescribed and furnished by the Secretary-Treasurer by any active or active-extra member in good standing within fifteen (15) days following the date of the Secretary-Treasurer's call for nominations. All such nominations must be accompanied by the written consent of the nominees that they accept the nomination and will serve if elected. Upon receipt of all nominations, the Secretary-Treasurer shall prepare suitable ballots listing in alphabetical order the names of all candidates properly nominated for distribution to the members.

2. Time and Method of Election.

All elections of System Committee officers shall be conducted as provided in Section 7 of Article XI by (a) secret ballot vote as prescribed by Rule 4 hereinafter of the active and active-extra members in good standing or (b) voting by secure electronic means, if permissible by law, that ensures the secrecy and security of the ballot.

3. Rights of Candidates.

- b. No funds or other resources of the Association, System Committee or of an employer of any members of the transportation system or any other employer shall be contributed or applied to promote the candidacy of any person for office; provided, however, that the System Committee may make expenditures for notices, factual statements of issues, and other expenses necessary to conduct nominations and elections so long as they do not involve promotion of any candidate.

4. Conduct of Voting.

- a. During the period provided within which to complete nominations and elections, and in time to permit at least thirty (30) days for members to cast and return their ballots, the Secretary-Treasurer shall mail notice of the election, ballot forms and envelopes as hereafter prescribed to each member qualified to vote at his last known home address, along with such instructions as the Secretary-Treasurer considers necessary to ensure the secrecy of the ballot and its execution and mailing within the prescribed period.
- b. After the member has executed the ballot in accordance with the instructions thereon, and without affixing any signature or other identification on such ballot he shall place it in the envelope provided by the Secretary-Treasurer bearing the printed designation "Official Ballot." After being securely sealed by the member, this envelope shall then be placed in an outside plain envelope provided by the Secretary-Treasurer and such outside envelope also securely sealed. The member shall then sign his name and address on the outside of this envelope in the space provided therefore. The envelope shall then be mailed by the member within sufficient time to reach the Secretary-Treasurer by the date specified by him for the return of all ballots. Failure of the member to affix his signature and address on the outside envelope will invalidate the ballot, as will any signature or other means of identification on the ballot itself or on the inside envelope containing the ballot. In the event an official ballot or inside envelope containing the ballot is lost, defaced, or incorrectly executed

by a member, or if a member fails to receive a ballot, additional ballot and envelopes must be secured by request to the Secretary-Treasurer and must be made within time to permit the return of the ballot by the prescribed date.

(NOTE: Each succeeding paragraph under Rule 4 shall be reidentified based on the addition of the new paragraph as c., d., e., and f.)

- f. No vote shall be valid or recorded except for candidates who have been properly nominated as aforesaid. "Write-in" votes are not permissible. There shall be no voting by proxy. Notwithstanding any other requirements of this Constitution and By-Laws, a secret ballot need not be conducted where nominees are unopposed. Unopposed nominees shall be declared elected and notifications shall be made by the Secretary-Treasurer as set forth in paragraph d. of this Rule.



IAM RAIL DIVISION
Congratulates **ATDA**
on your **34th**
General Assembly

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS
AND AEROSPACE WORKERS**

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT Robert Martinez, Jr. **GENERAL SECRETARY-TREASURER** Dora Cervantes

GENERAL VICE PRESIDENTS
Gary R. Allen • Rickey Wallace • Brian Bryant • Steve Galloway
David Chartrand • David Sullivan • Richie Johnsen

**SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE INTERNATIONAL
PRESIDENT, IAM RAIL DIVISION**
Josh Hartford



ATDA MEMBERS AND GUESTS
OF THE 34TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

CONGRATULATIONS ON A SUCCESSFUL EVENT!



FROM THE BLET EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Edward A. Hall
BLET NATIONAL
PRESIDENT

Mark L. Wallace
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT & TEAMSTERS
RAIL CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

David P. Estes
NATIONAL
SECRETARY-TREASURER

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PHOTOS FROM THE 34TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Building solidarity between the systems



In this photo the Trinity Rail General Chairman (Jason Corley) and System Treasurer (Preston Marlar) enjoy a moment chatting with Amtrak Local Chairman Chris Pardini. Moments like these provide opportunity for Delegates from across the many ATDA properties to meet, build rapport, and strengthen solidarity.

General Chairmen from 5 different System Committees



In this photo, the General Chairmen from the METRA (Chad Looby), NS (Nick Serrano), CSX (Colin Thurman, sitting), Kiamichi (Andy Brewer), and New Jersey Transit-TD (Jared Eagle) system committees are shown together.

Press and Greetings Committee Member Mike DePue goes on record



Amtrak Delegate Mike Depue served on the Press and Greetings Committee at the 34th General Assembly, responsible for reading messages of support from other organizations into the official record. This led to a special moment for Brother Depue, when he read a message to the ATDA from the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees. His father was a 35-year member of that Organization, who served as a its District Council 33 Executive Board Delegate.

General Chairwoman Tracy Bainum makes a selfless move



Leading up to the 34th General Assembly, SunRail System Committee General Chairwoman Tracy Bainum resigned her role as ATDA Trustee, because her Committee's Delegate to the General Assembly could not attend. She selflessly stepped down to instead serve as Delegate, ensuring that SunRail members would have a vote on all issues and elections.

Delegates respond with a unanimous vote



While some issues presented at the General Assembly are debated and ultimately decided by narrow votes, this is not always the case. Many decisions are made through unanimous or near unanimous agreement. This photo captures one such moment from the 34th General Assembly, as the Delegates are shown raising their hands as a collective “YES”.

Suspense builds as election votes are tallied



As National Officer elections were conducted on the General Assembly floor, votes were counted for each candidate by tellers Shanam Williams (Delegate from the NS System Committee) and Tasheen Teague (Delegate from the Port Authority Trans-Hudson System committee).

Amtrak Delegates Michael & Jessica Veltri



At the General Assembly, Amtrak System Committee General Chairwoman Jessica Veltri (right) served alongside her husband and fellow Delegate Michael Veltri. As Delegates from one of several ATDA properties where the work is predominantly related to passenger rail, the Veltris provided an important perspective to the General Assembly.

Riverline System Committee participates in its first General Assembly



In this photo, NJT RiverLINE System Committee General Chairwoman Susie Inman addresses the General Assembly. Although this was the NJT RiverLINE System Committee's first General Assembly, General Chairwoman Inman was active in making their voices heard.

Newly elected ATDA Executive Board with its General Counsel



Following the conclusion of National Officer elections, the newly elected ATDA Executive Board posed for a photo with the Organization's General Counsel. From left to right, this included General Counsel Kevin Broadar, Vice President Kevin Porter, Secretary-Treasurer Bill Sikes, President Ed Dowell, Vice President Brandon Denucci, Vice President Barry Cross, and Vice President Colin Thurman.

BNSF Delegates discuss the issues at hand



In the picture above, ATDA Delegates from the BNSF System Committee discuss the day's events at the General Assembly. With so much work to do over three days, Delegates confer at every opportunity as they seek to best represent the members.

The Parliamentarian and Executive Board members awaiting election results



As each vote was read aloud, the General Assembly's Parliamentarian, General Counsel Kevin Broadar (pictured front row, left) kept a personal tally. In this picture, he is flanked by eager onlookers, including retiring President Leo McCann (back row, left), new President Ed Dowell (back row, middle), Vice President Kevin Porter (back row, right), and Vice President Brandon Denucci (front row, right).

New ATDA President Ed Dowell sworn in by outgoing President Leo McCann



In a historic passing of the torch, this photo captures the moment new ATDA President Ed Dowell was sworn into office by outgoing President Leo McCann. Having served for an unprecedented 24 years in the office of President, McCann's departure and Dowell's accession truly represent a generational changing of the guard.

Different crafts, one ATDA



In this picture, IHB System Committee General Chairman Jordan Snodderly (right) talks with Kiamichi Vice General Chairman James Cole (foreground left). Although Snodderly represents Dispatchers and Cole represents Maintenance of Way, Train & Engine and Yardmasters, they share the common ground of ATDA solidarity.

Delegate Hufschmidt thanks outgoing President McCann



This was the moment that Conrail Delegate Steven Hufschmidt addressed the General Assembly to recognize outgoing President Leo McCann for his many years of service to the Organization. Like Hufschmidt, President McCann also once had seniority on the Conrail System.

Retired National Officers provide insight at the General Assembly



Valued for their experienced perspective, the ATDA's Retired National Officers are invited to both attend and contribute insight at the General Assembly. In this picture, retired Vice President John Salvey (far left) offers perspective to current Kiamichi System General Chairman Andy Brewer (2nd from left), retired Vice President Paul Ayers (3rd from left), retired Vice President James Parker (4th from left), and retired Secretary Treasurer Gary Melton (far right).

Delegates welcome the election of new President Dowell



Following the election of new President Dowell, Delegates responded with a standing ovation of support. Those pictured include (from left to right), CSX System Treasurer Ed Kerns, BNSF General Chairman David Ursini, SOO Line General Chairman Jesse Kottner, Wisconsin Central General Chairman Tim Evans, Tri-Rail General Chairwoman Erica Ray, Keolis General Chairman Ed Kadlick, CSX Vice General Chairman Paul Young, and CSX Vice General Chairman Ben Craft.

RESOLUTIONS

*Submitted by the Resolutions
and Legislative Committee*

The following 29 resolutions were adopted by the 34th General Assembly:

RESOLUTION NO. 1

WHEREAS: There have been organizing efforts by this Organization to unite transportation employees into the Brotherhood; and

WHEREAS: The purpose of those organizing efforts has been to promote and protect the mutual interests of the transportation employees as a whole; and

WHEREAS: These organizing efforts have resulted in the Train Dispatchers, Conductors and Engineers on Trinity Rail Express and the Rail Traffic Controllers on NJT RiverLine to proudly become ATDA members and; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: This Thirty-Fourth General Assembly extends its welcome to our new Brothers and Sisters, and we ask those in attendance to rise and join us in giving these New Brothers and Sisters a welcome round of applause.

RESOLUTION NO. 2

WHEREAS: The ATDA continues to organize properties within rail industries not under the Railway Labor Act; and

WHEREAS: It is in the best interest of new members on a recently organized property to allow time for the best agreements to be negotiated; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: Members will not be obligated to pay union dues until a first agreement is ratified.

RESOLUTION NO. 3

WHEREAS: Previous General Assemblies adopted resolutions involving organizing efforts; and

WHEREAS: Retaining current members and growing the American Train Dispatcher Association for the future is imperative to the vitality and longevity of the Organization; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: This Thirty-Fourth General Assembly urges the Executive Board to continue to pursue efforts to organize the unorganized in all rail-related crafts and extends a heartfelt thanks to all those who have participated in past organizing efforts.

RESOLUTION NO. 4

WHEREAS: The Thirty-Fourth General Assembly of the American Train Dispatchers Association recognizes the sacrifices and commitment made by the members of the United States Armed Services and their families; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: This Thirty-Fourth General Assembly wishes to express its' gratitude to the members who proudly serve our Country and continue their vigilant mission to protect lives and freedom. We hope for the safe return of our deployed troops to their families. Now, please stand and observe a moment of silence for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

RESOLUTION NO. 5

WHEREAS: The American Train Dispatchers Association would like to recognize the career of one of our own who retired this year; and

WHEREAS: This Organization is extremely grateful to have benefited from his experience, leadership, and articulate writing for more than a decade; and

TCU/IAM SUPPORTS THE AMERICAN TRAIN DISPATCHERS ASSOCIATION'S 34TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY



*BEST WISHES FOR A
PRODUCTIVE
&
SUCCESSFUL
EVENT!*

ARTHUR P. MARATEA
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

STANLEY L. BOYD
NATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER



WHEREAS: We are incredibly fortunate to have had his legislative efforts in Washington DC; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: This Thirty-Fourth General Assembly recognizes the retirement of Vice President John T Salvey, and wishes to thank him for his wisdom and leadership in promoting the Organization's activities, and we ask that all delegates stand and applaud these efforts.

RESOLUTION NO. 6

WHEREAS: The American Train Dispatchers Association recognizes the exemplary, selfless, and outstanding service provided by past Secretary-Treasurer Gary Melton and Vice Presidents Paul Ayers and James Parker; and

WHEREAS: This Organization is extraordinarily fortunate and grateful to have had such leadership at the National Level; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: This Thirty-Fourth General Assembly recognizes the dedication, devotion, and wisdom provided to our Organization through many years of service. We wish them good health and look forward to seeing them in the future.

RESOLUTION NO. 7

WHEREAS: Former General Counsel Mike Wolly faithfully served this Organization for three (3) decades before retiring in June 2020; and

WHEREAS: In 2007, at the 30th General Assembly, the delegates unanimously passed Resolution No. 6, bestowing upon Mike the title of Honorary Lifetime Member; and

WHEREAS: His knowledge and experience of the Railway Labor Act was beyond compare; and

WHEREAS: His continual counsel, loyalty, sacrifice, expertise and professionalism to the Organization was unquestionable; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: This 34th General Assembly will never forget his countless contributions and outstanding service to the Organization,

and we now ask our delegates to offer Mike a heartfelt thanks by standing and providing him a round of applause for his many years of service to the ATDA.

RESOLUTION NO. 8

WHEREAS: To any successful Organization it is required and necessary to maintain a staff of efficient and loyal employees to properly conduct the business of that Organization; and

WHEREAS: This Organization is extremely fortunate and proud to have such office staff at its National Headquarters; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: This Thirty-Fourth General Assembly hereby extends to the current office staff at National Headquarters Dan Lanigan, and Amber Davis its heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciation to these employees of this Association, and we ask that all delegates stand and applaud their service to the organization.

RESOLUTION NO. 9

WHEREAS: Individual members of this Association are inclined to overlook the important work done by our Executive Board and our Trustees; and

WHEREAS: It would be remiss of the Committee if we did not bring to the attention of this Assembly and the members of this Association the time and effort our elected officers spend on our behalf; and

WHEREAS: We wish to acknowledge the difficulties our elected Officers have faced in securing our National and Local working Agreements with the Carriers, including preserving our premiere Health and Welfare Plans, despite the continuing anti-labor atmosphere; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: This Thirty-Fourth General Assembly extends our heartfelt thanks to the Executive Board and Trustees, and we ask each delegate to rise and join us in giving these Officers a hearty round of applause.

RESOLUTION NO. 10

WHEREAS: COVID-19 evokes different emotions and meanings in all of us based on our different experiences and respective regions; and

WHEREAS: The critical nature of all of our craft within this industry went unreported and greatly overshadowed by other transportation industries; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: The Thirty-Fourth General Assembly recommends that we take a moment of silence for the members and any family and friends of members that we lost to this horrible virus; and

BE IT RESOLVED: The Thirty-Fourth General Assembly recommends a heartfelt round of applause to recognize our members' dedication and selflessness in keeping this country moving during these unprecedented times.

RESOLUTION NO. 11

WHEREAS: The Organization continually strives to educate, inform and assist the System Committees with their claims and discipline handling;

WHEREAS: The ATDA has developed a comprehensive database to catalog, organize, and assess past claims, grievances, and arbitral decisions; and

WHEREAS: It is in the best interests of the members that all claims and discipline cases have sufficient merit, are properly structured, and are broadly supported before being progressed; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED: This Thirty-Fourth General Assembly directs the Executive Board to continue providing the necessary training for the System Committees to utilize the claims and grievance software system fully. We further direct the System Committees to utilize the software system as directed by Executive Board.

RESOLUTION NO. 12

WHEREAS: Communication with the membership remains vital; and

WHEREAS: Our members deserve and desire timely information; and

WHEREAS: Quarterly, in-person meetings are no longer the preferred method of communication when considering work/life balance, and

WHEREAS: Technology now affords options such as push notifications via email and text and 24-hour access to information; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: The American Train Dispatcher's Association national website, ATDA.ORG, will be further explored to allow each committee to communicate via those mentioned above.

RESOLUTION NO. 13

WHEREAS: The ATDA recognizes that the utilization of computer software and other advancements in technology has begun to reshape the rail industry; and

WHEREAS: These enhancements may assist in the work our members perform, and such innovations may also present increased opportunities for the scope of work performed by our membership; and

WHEREAS: We must remain guarded in the use of any such technology (including Artificial Intelligence) to ensure that they are proven, safe, dependable and do not diminish the importance of the duties our members perform; and

BE IT RESOLVED: This Thirty-Fourth General Assembly directs the Executive Board to maintain its vigilance and understanding of possible impacts of Artificial Intelligence and other technologies that would negatively impact our crafts; furthermore

BE IT RESOLVED: The Executive Board will continue to explore new opportunities for the membership to broaden the scope of the work performed due to advancements

in technology but remain vigilant that such advancements must be reliable and safe and never viewed as a failsafe alternative to work done by our highly skilled members.

RESOLUTION NO. 14

WHEREAS: Organized Labor has historically been at the forefront of the fight for workplace justice and equality for all workers; and

WHEREAS: The ATDA has previously adopted a policy against discrimination and harassment; and

WHEREAS: It has become necessary to update the language of such policy; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: It shall be the policy of the Organization not to discriminate against any of its members or employees because of age, race, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, or national origin; and further

BE IT RESOLVED: As the Organization strives to promote the establishment of just and reasonable working conditions for all workers, it also remains committed to providing such working conditions to its members and employees, including a workplace free from intimidation, hostility, and discrimination.

RESOLUTION NO. 15

WHEREAS: The Seventh, Twenty-Third and Thirty-Third General Assemblies passed Resolutions regarding the protection of Seniority Rights of Train Dispatchers, thereby establishing the Association's official policy with respect to this subject; and

WHEREAS: Reductions in forces, consolidation of railroads offices and divisions, and other adjustments of Train Dispatching staff bring this matter into sharp focus, the need for a fixed principle to address such readjustments remains; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: This Thirty-Fourth General Assembly reaffirms this matter and directs that it shall continue to be the policy of the Association and the duty of its representatives to maintain the seniority rights of Members whenever possible; and further

BE IT RESOLVED: The Association continues to encourage the Surface Transportation Board in its' authorization of all permits regarding consolidations to protect seniority rights, as previously established and in line with this policy.

RESOLUTION NO. 16

WHEREAS: This Thirty-Fourth General Assembly of the American Train Dispatchers Association agrees with the principle of improving rail safety and developing best practices for achieving that goal; and

WHEREAS: We support Confidential Close Call Reporting and similar programs which provide a procedure for employees to self-report certain errors without fear of discipline in order to compile data for review and study with the goal of improving safety throughout the industry; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: This Thirty-Fourth General Assembly hereby affirms its commitment to and embraces the concept of these programs and directs the Executive Board to explore ways to collaborate with Carriers that have no such program to implement one and protect the integrity of the program for those Carriers that do.

RESOLUTION NO. 17

WHEREAS: Many jobs in the Rail Industry require unique qualifications and skills; and **WHEREAS:** Certification is mandated for other crafts within the industry; and

WHEREAS: The FRA has determined the safety sensitive nature of the Train Dispatcher position warrants certification

WHEREAS: ATDA believes that certification for Train Dispatchers would serve to reaffirm this recognition and be beneficial to the individuals holding such certification; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: This Thirty-Fourth General Assembly directs the Executive Board to continue supporting the work of those Officers who will establish the standards for the certification of Train Dispatchers.

RESOLUTION NO. 18

WHEREAS: Paid time off for Parental Leave has successfully been negotiated on Amtrak and Metra for our members; and

WHEREAS: Lack of paid Parental Leave continues to be a tremendous financial burden on all members; and

WHEREAS: Many new railroaders start families within a few years of hiring on into a stable career; and

WHEREAS: Our newest members that do not have the ability to earn any type of paid leave necessary to start a family; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: This Thirty-Fourth General Assembly urges the Executive Board to continue to seek out every opportunity to expand this much needed benefit to all members.

RESOLUTION NO. 19

WHEREAS: This Thirty-Fourth General Assembly of the American Train Dispatcher Association continues to support the principles of a drug-free workplace; and

WHEREAS: We support programs that seek to help those with substance abuse issues through treatment, provide a confidential mark-off procedure and encourage Union members to participate in these non-punitive programs with the goal of recovery; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: This Thirty-Fourth General Assembly directs the Executive Board and the System Committees to encourage Carriers to offer support programs, including long term, that allow members to seek help while maintaining their Railroad employment.

RESOLUTION NO. 20

WHEREAS: Marijuana has been adopted for medical use in 40 States and the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS: Marijuana has been legalized by 23 states for recreational use; and

WHEREAS: The Railroads have elected to continue to dismiss these facts and exhibit no interest in pursuing an ability to test for immediate intoxication effects; and

WHEREAS: The ATDA will continue to encourage the FRA to push for developing a test for accurate, under the influence, positive testing for marijuana use; and

BE IT RESOLVED: This Thirty-Fourth General Assembly urges the Executive Board to support efforts to seek out reasonable testing to determine if an individual is under the influence of marijuana that would prohibit his/her ability to properly perform his/her safety sensitive duties.

RESOLUTION NO. 21

WHEREAS: The rail industry has become increasingly focused on satisfying only the interests of shareholders by maximizing short-term financial gains and lower operating ratios; and

WHEREAS: Carriers have sacrificed the livelihoods of railroad workers and deferred critical maintenance in order to artificially inflate profits; and

WHEREAS: Direction from Hedge Fund Managers and other Wall Street special interests has resulted in disruption to operations, threatening interstate commerce; and

WHEREAS: The principles of Precision Scheduled Railroading (PSR) jeopardize the safety, efficiency, and overall health of the Nation's rail network; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: This Thirty-Fourth General Assembly directs the Executive Board to support all legislation and regulations which ensures the long-term overall health of

the rail industry and opposes the needless rationalization of resources vital to the rail industry's operability, sustainability, and future prosperity shared amongst Rail Labor.

RESOLUTION NO. 22

WHEREAS: All of Rail Labor is deeply concerned with the health and safety of both railroad employees and the general public; and

WHEREAS: The ATDA strongly opposes any retreat regarding safety and best practices in the movement of trains, particularly those trains which may be transporting passengers or hazardous materials; and

WHEREAS: Carriers have become increasingly emboldened by technology that is both unproven and faulty; and

WHEREAS: Tragic events continue to occur involving one-member train crews and autonomous operations; and

WHEREAS: Safe train movement can only reliably be achieved under the direct control and supervision of qualified T&E crews aboard those trains; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: This Thirty-Fourth General Assembly directs the Executive Board to support all regulation and legislation which mandates a crew consisting of at least one certified engineer and one certified conductor be required for the movement of all trains.

RESOLUTION NO. 23

WHEREAS: Rail passenger service is an essential part of the nation's transportation system; and

WHEREAS: Amtrak is the largest provider of interstate rail passenger service; and

WHEREAS: Many other commuter rail lines form an integral part of this nation's transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS: The employees of these Roads are essential to the overall well-being of the Railroad Retirement System; and

WHEREAS: These employees continue to find themselves under constant attack from those who would eliminate funding for passenger rail, attempt to contract out existing and/or new work, and otherwise limit or eliminate rights that Labor has fought for and achieved through years of effort and hard work; and

WHEREAS: These employees, including our members, have made numerous sacrifices to keep these passenger rail services operating safely and efficiently; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: That this Thirty-Fourth General Assembly directs the Organization to continue to do everything in its power to assure that Amtrak and these commuter rail lines continue to receive adequate funding, remain within the Railroad Retirement System, and continue to serve this nation as a safe, efficient and viable link in our transportation system.

RESOLUTION NO. 24

WHEREAS: Railroad Retirement is a vital benefit for the majority of our Members; and

WHEREAS: The Railroad Retirement Board urgently needs to update its technology and hire and maintain adequate staff to properly service those Members and their families who rely on these benefits; and

WHEREAS: Current funding provided by the Federal government is insufficient for Railroad Retirement to accomplish its mission; and

WHEREAS: Covid-19 exacerbated the already strained staffing needs; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: This Thirty-Fourth General Assembly directs the Executive Board to maintain its efforts to persuade our elected representatives in Washington to recognize these shortfalls and increase its current support for Railroad Retirement.

RESOLUTION NO. 25

WHEREAS: The Thirty-Fourth General Assembly of the American Train Dispatchers Association recognizes that Collective Bargaining is a fundamental right under the Constitution; and

WHEREAS: This Assembly takes notice of the distinct anti-union stance of specific candidates; and

WHEREAS: This Organization cannot and will not abide by the passage of laws inhibiting or denying workers' rights to organize; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: This Thirty-Fourth General Assembly, in an effort to ensure the election of a President, as well as other candidates, who will uphold the rights of American workers to organize for representation and bargain collectively, we implore the System Officers and Delegates gathered at this Assembly to return to their respective offices and encourage the General Membership to financially support the American Train Dispatchers PAC Fund through payroll deduction and vote for a candidate who supports Organized Labor.

RESOLUTION NO. 26

WHEREAS: Political and regulatory activity in Washington D.C. profoundly affects the Membership of this Organization and others; and

WHEREAS: Every effort must be made to ensure that legislation and regulation enacted by the Federal Government are not detrimental to this Organization and our Labor affiliates; and

WHEREAS: The work of the AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department is essential to the well-being of Labor in general and the ATDA in particular; and

WHEREAS: TTD, particularly through its Rail Labor Division, and more specifically TTD President Greg Regan, has been highly effective in protecting and advancing issues important to Rail Labor and assisting the various Organizations in their political missions; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: This Thirty-Fourth General Assembly strongly supports ATDA's continued affiliation with TTD, and we hereby acknowledge and express our gratitude for the efforts of the entire TTD staff and the outstanding work they do on our behalf, and we ask those in attendance to rise and join us in thanking Brother and President Regan and all his staff for their outstanding work for all Rail Labor, and especially, the ATDA.

RESOLUTION NO. 27

WHEREAS: The Twenty-Ninth General Assembly established The American Train Dispatchers Association Scholarship Fund in an effort to assist the children of its Members in furthering their educations; and

WHEREAS: The rising cost of higher education continues to exceed the economic reach of most average American families; and

WHEREAS: The Association wishes to continue to provide that assistance while recognizing those increased costs; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: This Thirty-Fourth General Assembly recommends the established amount of available funds to participating students pursuing undergraduate, graduate, or trade school degrees are to be awarded to the top 12 applicants. The Scholarship Committee will evaluate and select awardees based on the criteria determined by the Joint Board. Each scholarship awarded will be at the Review Committee's discretion and include a lifetime maximum of six awards, including past scholarship awards.

RESOLUTION NO. 28

WHEREAS: There are no words to capture the emotions and impacts that Brother Broyles had on the American Train Dispatchers Association and its members; and

WHEREAS: Those of us fortunate to know him and call him a friend, brother, mentor, or many other roles, it was his personality and dogmatic approach to ensuring no one was ever excluded or overlooked that no one can ever deny; and

WHEREAS: The American Train Dispatchers Association Scholarship Fund celebrates its 30th year of assisting the children of its Members in furthering their education and bettering the lives of generations to come; and

WHEREAS: Former Vice-President Broyles' unwavering support of this generous program remains as unquestionable as the impact it has made on our membership's families; and

WHEREAS: His exemplary and selfless dedication to this Organization and its members shall never be forgotten; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: This Thirty-Fourth General Assembly recommends that The American Train Dispatchers Association Scholarship Fund be officially renamed The Rory Broyles ATDA Scholarship Fund.

RESOLUTION NO. 29

WHEREAS: The American Train Dispatchers Association recognizes the exemplary, selfless, and outstanding service provided by retiring President Leo McCann; and

WHEREAS: This Organization is extremely fortunate and proud to have such leadership at the Local and National levels of our Organization. Brother McCann has worked in the railroad industry for 49 years and is a 35-year member of ATDA; he served as Local Chairman and General Chairman of the Conrail System Committee; in 1995, he was elected National Secretary-Treasurer, and then in 1999, he was elected to his first of 6 terms as President serving in that post for 24 years – the longest tenure of any National President in the history of the Organization; and

WHEREAS: Brother McCann, in his capacity as National President, was instrumental in keeping Train Dispatching in the United States when some railroads attempted to transfer

the work to Canada in 2002; he was tireless and instrumental in Rail Labor's efforts to improve the Railroad Retirement System, which led to the approval of Railroad Retirement legislation in 2001 that not only stabilized the Railroad Retirement Board's trust fund but also restored the retirement age to 60 with 30 years of railroad service and improved benefits for widows of railroaders; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: This Thirty-Fourth General Assembly recognizes the retirement of President Leo McCann and wishes to thank him for his tenacity and leadership in promoting the Organization's activities, and we ask that all delegates stand and applaud these efforts.

IN MEMORY OF BOB FONTANA



Robert "Bob" D. Fontana passed away unexpectedly on August 27, 2023, at the age of 73. Bob was the beloved husband of Ellen Hawley, loving father of Christina and Elizabeth, and stepfather to Erika, Torrey,

Alex, and Sarah. He was also the dear brother of the late Alan (Lydia) Fontana. Professionally, Bob worked for the Illinois Central and the Chicago, Missouri and Western Railroads before joining CP Rail as a Train Dispatcher. Then, in 1999, Bob joined CSX Transportation in Chicago where he continued to work as a Train Dispatcher.

An active ATDA member and Union Representative, Bob served as Vice General Chairman during his time at CP Rail. When not at work however, he was an avid model train enthusiast and proud Penn State Alumni who never missed a Nittany Lions football game. We remember Bob was happy man who always had a smile on his face and kind words for everyone. He will be dearly missed, always loved, and forever remembered.

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GUEST SPEAKERS



John Bragg – The Railroad Retirement Board's Labor Member of the Board



Dean Devita – President of the National Conference of Firemen & Oilers



Mike Baldwin – President of the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen



Greg Regan - President of the Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO



Jeremy Ferguson – President of SMART Transportation Division

WE ARE THE ATDA

A Conversation with General Chairwoman Erica Ray

As the ATDA enters a new era, we're going to shine a light on members from across the country who make a difference. In this installment, we interviewed Tri-Rail System Committee General Chairwoman Erica Ray. Her enthusiasm is infectious and we here at the ATDA appreciate her eagerness to make an impact!



ATDA: Erica, as the General Chairwoman of the Tri-Rail System committee, you serve in an important role at one of the ATDA's most-recently organized properties. Can you share some first-hand insight on how organizing has impacted the lives of your members?

GC Ray: *One of the best ways organizing has impacted the members is by providing protection. Unfortunately, the previous management we had was extremely difficult to work under and had no issue with terminating employees. Or just bullying and throwing his position around to make employees extremely uncomfortable. By organizing, a lot of the unnecessary things they were previously able to get away with were no longer allowed. Also, we have seen better pay, healthcare, work rules established, and more work/life balance.*

ATDA: Although we are all ATDA, the type and flow of work we do on one property can be very different from that on others. What crafts are represented by the ATDA at Tri-Rail and what kind of challenges does your workday bring?

GC Ray: *Currently on the Tri-Rail property, ATDA represents all of our Train Dispatchers/ Rail Traffic Controllers. Although we are one of the smaller properties, we are responsible for all Tri-Rail commuters, CSX Freight, and Amtrak-Passengers getting to and from their destinations in a timely manner. With our tracks being within the city, there is a constant challenge of vehicles on or near the tracks, and trespassers along the right of way.*

ATDA: At the ATDA's recent 34th General Assembly, you worked as part of the Resolutions and Legislative Committee. What was it like to fulfill that committee role and what were your impressions of the General Assembly?

GC Ray: *So, the 34th General Assembly was only my 2nd time in attendance since Tri-Rail ratified and I thought the first time (the 33rd General Assembly) was overwhelming. But I must say, this time I somewhat knew what to expect. Then I was given the honor of serving on the Resolutions and Legislative Committee, and I did not take that lightly. We had the responsibility of working as a team to adopt resolutions that would properly guide the future of the ATDA. This was definitely a learning experience in so many ways. I thought the General Assembly turned out awesome! There were some hard decisions that had to be made, but in the end, deserving members were honored, and others were promoted to well-deserved positions.*

ATDA: President Dowell recently appointed you as the ATDA's Civil, Human, and Women's rights liaison to the AFL-CIO's Transportation and Trades Division. Can you tell us what that means to you personally and as an ATDA member?

GC Ray: *It is a huge honor which was unexpected and will not be taken lightly. In this day and age, the way the world is reverting to old ways, it is my responsibility to have a huge overshadowing voice for those who may feel they don't have one. Being a young black female in what is considered a male-dominated industry, I have the opportunity to move mountains. Women are often seen and not heard, not given the roles to make a substantial impact, and often not given seats at the table. Thank you for seeing the spark in me that will set a blaze in the industry!*

ATDA: As someone so active in contributing to the Organization, what motivates you? Also, what advice would you share to other members who thinking about getting involved?

GC Ray: *My family and those coming behind me. My mother-in-law, "Ms. Marilyn Marie Ray" was Vice President for the South Florida Letter Carriers Branch 1071, National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) and was the 1st African American woman appointed and voted as a full-time officer of her branch. With her passing in October 2021, I hope I am making her proud by potentially carrying on the legacy. She served for 27 years as a representative and I can only hope to serve as she did. To those thinking about getting involved, I would say "Don't think.... Just do it!" There will be bumps along the way, but the outcome of your hard work will be worth it in the end.*

ATDA: *If you could share an important thought or two with our brothers and sisters from across the nation, what would that be?*

GC Ray: *Take Politics out of everything and treat everyone as a human. We all bleed the same and want to be treated with respect and dignity.*

IN MEMORY OF PHIL HOULE

Brother Philip Houle (65), passed away unexpectedly on November 5, 2023, at his home in Ravena, NY. He was born in Massena, NY on March 7, 1958, the son of the late Robert and Margaret Houle.

Phil hired out as a Conrail block operator in 1976, working from Massena, covering positions in Northern New York state and Quebec. He later established Train Dispatcher seniority in the Utica Dispatcher's office, prior to the September 1987 relocation of that office to Selkirk.

For many years after, he primarily worked the Mohawk, Hudson and St. Lawrence desks, retiring off the 1st trick NC desk in early 2018.

During much of that time, Phil served as Selkirk Local Chairman, Vice General Chairman and eventually General Chairman for the American Train Dispatchers Association (ATDA) union members in Selkirk, NY and Indianapolis, IN. He stood for fairness and respect for all his union brothers and sisters and continued serving on the ATDA Scholarship Committee into his retirement. All those who worked with him described him as a genuinely "nice guy", who was both kind and thoughtful. Indeed, Phil proved to be consistently trustworthy, reliable and humble.

Phil is survived by his spouse Patricia, four children, Sarah, Joshua, Seth, and Garrett, also, by his beloved grandchildren, Sadie, Savannah (predeceased), Julian, Liem, Josephine, Carson, and Gemma; along with

Phil's siblings Bill, Kathy, Karen, Alan, Karol, and Todd. A private service for the family was held at Babcock Funeral Home in Ravena, NY. A celebration of Phil's life, for family and friends, will be held at a later date.

The family has requested that memorial donations be made to the American Train Dispatchers Association Scholarship Fund. Please make check or money order payable to "ATDA" with "Scholarship Fund" noted on the memo line and mailed to: ATDA c/o Scholarship Fund, 4239 West 150th Street, Cleveland, OH 44135.



ATDA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

The ATDA extends fraternal greetings to its newest members, who are listed below. As an organization that has represented Rail Workers for 106 years, we will never forget those who paved the way before us, those who now stand together, or those still to come.

New Member	System Committee	New Member	System Committee
David J Vonk	Alaska System Committee	Frankie A Vasquez	BNSF System Committee
Ryan L Young	Alaska System Committee	Michael W Zagozda	BNSF System Committee
Luis Herrera	Alaska System Committee	Thomas J Ferris	BNSF System Committee
Jawan L Mansfield	Alaska System Committee	Angel L Lassere	BNSF System Committee
Ming T Ng	Alaska System Committee	Chad G Lindsey	BNSF System Committee
Erick R Adkins	BNSF System Committee	Alexander M Stone	BNSF System Committee
Susan L Barrett	BNSF System Committee	Scott R Stone	BNSF System Committee
Daniels Benavides, Sr	BNSF System Committee	Jacob M Lewis	IHB System Committee
Brian C Butcher	BNSF System Committee	Skylar W Bohall	Kiamichi System Committee
Gina R Chance	BNSF System Committee	Triston J Ingram	Kiamichi System Committee
Brandon K Chanthavong	BNSF System Committee	Devontae J Jefferson	Kiamichi System Committee
James L Christensen	BNSF System Committee	Javoris O Threadgill	Kiamichi System Committee
Kayla M Davis	BNSF System Committee	Aaron R Woodall	Kiamichi System Committee
Benjamin D Dibben	BNSF System Committee	David M Duffley, Jr	MBCR System Committee, Keolis
Robert A Dominick-Warren	BNSF System Committee	Jean J Maillet	MBCR System Committee, CSXT
Erica Estrella	BNSF System Committee	Benjamin L Morin	MBCR System Committee, Keolis
Garrett M Falcon	BNSF System Committee	Justin C Williams	MBCR System Committee, Keolis
David R Farrier	BNSF System Committee	Mason E Fatovic	NJT - PS System Committee
Joseph S Foss	BNSF System Committee	Kaazim M Baskerville	NJT - TD System Committee
Seth C Gilbert	BNSF System Committee	Robert W Bronson	NJT - TD System Committee
Dana E Gilliam	BNSF System Committee	Justin R Cruz	NJT - TD System Committee
Holly E Hammons	BNSF System Committee	Zachary A Hryniowski	NJT - TD System Committee
Hector E Hernandez	BNSF System Committee	Jamison R Amis	Norfolk Southern Integrated System Committee
Anthony L Jenkins	BNSF System Committee	Rodney E Bailey	Norfolk Southern Integrated System Committee
Andrea N Johnson	BNSF System Committee	Sharlie M Bouchard	Norfolk Southern Integrated System Committee
Ryann K Lavy	BNSF System Committee	Hunter D Calhoun	Norfolk Southern Integrated System Committee
Jonathan M Lawrence	BNSF System Committee	John P Dennis	Norfolk Southern Integrated System Committee
Barry J Leach	BNSF System Committee	Jason M DiPrima	Norfolk Southern Integrated System Committee
Michaela N Marioni	BNSF System Committee	Gabriel E Ferrell	Norfolk Southern Integrated System Committee
Brianne A Martinez	BNSF System Committee	Oakley A Gonzalez	Norfolk Southern Integrated System Committee
Helen R Martinez	BNSF System Committee	Jeriann Hall	Norfolk Southern Integrated System Committee
Jeremy A Mason	BNSF System Committee	Edward J Kennedy	Norfolk Southern Integrated System Committee
Brandon A Moss	BNSF System Committee	Desha D McIntyre	Norfolk Southern Integrated System Committee
Jeffrey T Newstrom	BNSF System Committee	Shalondia Y Russell	Norfolk Southern Integrated System Committee
Daniel R Ortega	BNSF System Committee	Brandon R Smith	Norfolk Southern Integrated System Committee
Brian M Potocnik	BNSF System Committee	Chiquita M Spradley	Norfolk Southern Integrated System Committee
Hannah P Quintas	BNSF System Committee	Justin K Tucker	Norfolk Southern Integrated System Committee
Jontathan Quirarte	BNSF System Committee	Matthew C Wyckoff	Norfolk Southern Integrated System Committee
Brandon M Sanchez	BNSF System Committee	Brett D Easton	S00 System Committee
Sean W Sanders	BNSF System Committee	Jakob Eiffert	S00 System Committee
Bradley H Siedel	BNSF System Committee	Jakob Eiffert	S00 System Committee
Zdena G Sinkhorn	BNSF System Committee	Matthew W Fairchild	S00 System Committee
Jacob D Snider	BNSF System Committee	Teveon D Jackson	S00 System Committee
Cristhian Sosa	BNSF System Committee	Joshua S Limauro	S00 System Committee
Robert A Stirling	BNSF System Committee	James T. Samples	S00 System Committee
		Nicole L Walker	S00 System Committee
		Randy W Skiles	Sunrail System Committee
		Devon D Bobo	Trinity Rail System Committee
		Elliott T Stox	Trinity Rail System Committee

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STATUS OF DISPUTES

Docket #	Carrier	Claimant	Subject	Status
PLB-8025-1	NS	W. D. Slone	Discipline	Denied by Arb. Yurek on November 17, 2023
PLB-8025-2	NS	C. P. Farmer	Discipline	Denied by Arb. Yurek on November 17, 2023
PLB-8025-3	NS	J. M. Carey	Discipline	Denied by Arb. Yurek on November 17, 2023
PLB-8025-4	NS	R. C. Vannier	Discipline	Denied by Arb. Yurek on November 17, 2023
PLB-8025-5	NS	C. Wright	Discipline	Discipline reduced by Arb. Yurek on November 17, 2023
PLB-8025-6	NS	C. Wright	Discipline	Denied by Arb. Yurek on November 17, 2023
PLB-8025-7	NS	M. A. Waters	Discipline	Denied by Arb. Yurek on November 17, 2023
PLB-8025-8	NS	T. T. Daniels	Discipline	Sustained by Arb. Yurek on November 17, 2023

PLB-7769-5	Keolis	J. Lincoln	Discipline	Denied by Arb. Simon on December 11, 2023
PLB-7769-6	Keolis	K Mellix	Discipline	Denied by Arb. Simon on December 11, 2023

PLB-7494-151	CSX	D. McDaniel	Discipline	Sustained in part by Arb. Phillips on November 30, 2023
PLB-7494-152	CSX	D. McDaniel	Discipline	Sustained in part by Arb. Phillips on November 30, 2023
PLB-7494-153	CSX	L. D. Riley	Discipline	Sustained by Arb. Phillips on November 30, 2023
PLB-7494-154	CSX	T. L. Wolfe	Discipline	Denied by Arb. Phillips on November 30, 2023
PLB-7494-155	CSX	T. Denmark	Supplemental sickness	Sustained by Arb. Phillips on November 30, 2023
PLB-7494-156	CSX	T. G. Saxton	PLD entitlement	Denied by Arb. Phillips on November 30, 2023
PLB-7494-157	CSX	J. F. Mitchell	Denied PLD	Sustained by Arb. Phillips on November 30, 2023

PLB-7644-48	WC	J. Borter	Discipline	Denied by Arb. Phillips on December 22, 2023
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PLB-7153-10	Kiamichi	J. Garrison	Failure to allow exercise of seniority	Assigned to Arb. Benn - Hearing held November 7, 2023
PLB-7153-11	Kiamichi	T. Testerman	Discipline	Assigned to Arb. Benn - Hearing held November 7, 2023

PLB 7560-54	BNSF	L. Bernard	Discipline	Assigned to Arb. Dent - Hearing held on December 7, 2023
PLB 7560-55	BNSF	L. Harvey	Discipline	Assigned to Arb. Dent - Hearing held on December 7, 2023
PLB 7560-56	BNSF	A. G. Lincoln	Discipline	Assigned to Arb. Dent - Hearing held on December 7, 2023
PLB 7560-57	BNSF	J. Vidal	Discipline	Assigned to Arb. Dent - Hearing held on December 7, 2023
PLB 7560-58	BNSF	M. L. Penney	Discipline	Assigned to Arb. Dent - Hearing held on December 7, 2023

PLB-7299-54	NS	E. S. Louis	Discipline	Assigned to Arb. Phillips - Hearing held on January 9, 2024
PLB-7299-55	NS	B. R. Bullington	Discipline	Assigned to Arb. Phillips - Hearing held on January 9, 2024
PLB-7299-56	NS	A. Robinson	Discipline	Assigned to Arb. Phillips - Hearing held on January 9, 2024
PLB-7299-57	NS	T. T. Daniels	Discipline	Assigned to Arb. Phillips - Hearing held on January 9, 2024
PLB-7299-58	NS	T. T. Daniels	Discipline	Assigned to Arb. Phillips - Hearing held on January 9, 2024

STATUS OF DISPUTES

Docket #	Carrier	Claimant	Subject	Status
PLB-7576-76	BNSF	A. J. Blackford	Discipline	Assigned to Arb. O'Brien - Hearing held on January 11, 2024
PLB-7576-77	BNSF	T. E. Joneson	Discipline	Assigned to Arb. O'Brien - Hearing held on January 11, 2024
PLB-7576-78	BNSF	K. Hughes	Discipline	Assigned to Arb. O'Brien - Hearing held on January 11, 2024
PLB-7576-79	BNSF	K. Hughes	Discipline	Assigned to Arb. O'Brien - Hearing held on January 11, 2024
PLB-7576-80	BNSF	S. Settle	Discipline	Assigned to Arb. O'Brien - Hearing held on January 11, 2024
PLB-7576-81	BNSF	E. J. Armitage	Discipline	Assigned to Arb. O'Brien - Hearing held on January 11, 2024
TD-230340	CSX	B. Haney	Medical qualification	Assigned to Arb. Phillips - Hearing held on January 12, 2024
PLB-7494-158	CSX	D. O. Marcovsky	Discipline	Assigned to Arb. Phillips - Awaiting NMB funding
PLB-	CSX	D. Taylor	Compensation	Case settled on the property
PLB-7494-159	CSX	A. C. Johnson	Discipline	Assigned to Arb. Phillips - Awaiting NMB funding
PLB-7494-160	CSX	R. Yorro	Order of call	Assigned to Arb. Phillips - Awaiting NMB funding
PLB-7153-12	KRR	M. Metzger	Discipline	Assigned to Arb. Benn - Awaiting NMB funding
PLB-	NS	K. C. Moore	Order of Call - OT	Awaiting assignment to a Public Law Board
PLB-	BNSF	N. Atkinson	Discipline	Awaiting assignment to a Public Law Board
PLB-	BNSF	D. Crawford	Discipline	Awaiting assignment to a Public Law Board
PLB-	BNSF	L. Chaison	Discipline	Awaiting assignment to a Public Law Board
PLB-	BNSF	K. Cartner	Discipline	Awaiting assignment to a Public Law Board
PLB-	WC	C. Stuckey	Discipline	Awaiting assignment to a Public Law Board

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NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE BENEFIT DIRECTORY

United Healthcare

National Plan-GA-23000

Managed medical Care
Programs (MMCP) &
Comprehensive Health Care
Benefit (CHCB)
1-800-842-9905
myuhc.com

Retiree Claims-GA-46000

UnitedHealthcare
P.O. Box 30985
Salt Lake City, UT 84130-0985
1-800-842-5252

Retiree Supplemental- GA-23111

UnitedHealthcare
P.O. Box 30304
Salt Lake City, UT 84130-0404
1-800-842-5252

Aetna Healthcare

3541 Winchester Road
Allentown, PA 18195
1-800-842-4044 aetna.com

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield

Railroad Dedicated Unit

P.O. Box 890381
Camp Hill, PA 17089-0381
1-866-267-3320
bcbs.com

Life Insurance

MetLife

P.O. Box 6122
Utica, NY 13504-6122
1-800-310-7770 metlife.com

Vision Service Plan

EyeMed

Member Support
1-855-212-6003
eyemedvisioncare.com/railroad

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Benefits

For treatment, claims or inquiries call:

United Behavioral Health
1-866-850-6212
liveandworkwell.com
Access code: Railroad
Company identifier: RR

Dental Benefits under Group Policy No. GP-12000

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P.O. Box 14094
Lexington, KY 40512-4094
1-877-277-3368
aetna.com

Managed Pharmacy Benefits

Express Scripts

UnitedHealthcare Plans GA-23000 and GA-46000

1-800-842-0070
Express-Scripts.com