The year is off to a great start. We’ve already had a new lodge open just last month in North Platte Nebraska which happens to be home to the largest railroad yard in the world, that’s pretty exciting! We need to continue this effort to grow, organize and educate our members. You will read later in this issue about a member who was distraught and lost after her husband was fired. Fortunately she was put in contact with the appropriate people to get the case on the road to being settled or arbitrated. I won’t go into too much detail on the importance of being educated since Pam Neal covers that in her article but I will say if you have questions or want more information please contact our office or your Vice President. Also to mention, the lawyers you see advertised in our newsletters are all FELA attorney so you can contact any of them directly for more information, most of them will send literature that you can share with your lodge or they will attend a lodge meeting or send someone to attend for them.

On the topic of educating, it’s come to my attention that many of our members are missing out on or don’t know about some of the amazing benefits and discounts they are eligible for through Union Plus. They offer a wide range of discounts and benefits on travel, cellphone providers, loans, entertainment, vision and dental insurance, gym memberships, pet insurance, moving and they even offer a scholarship just to name a few. You can view these great offers on their website www.unionplus.org. If it is your first time going there you will need to create a login to view the offers. In their list of unions they have both SMART and UTU listed and either will work. Once you’ve selected that you’ll need to designate if you are a spouse or family member and complete the registration from there. We are happy to help if you have further questions.

In closing I wanted to let remind you that scholarship applications are due the end of this month. Have a happy and safe Spring!

Your sister in solidarity,

Kathryn Seegmiller
International President
216-521-1161
kseegmiller@smart-union.org
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ESQ.

Designated Legal Counsel

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Hello to all of you and Happy New Year!! 2019 has proven to be one for the record books… record cold, Record rainfall, and a Record long Government shut down. Hundreds of thousands of people throughout the country were without work and a paycheck for over a month. The TSA Agents across America, that keep our Bus, Airplane, and Train Families safe, were forced to work without pay. Talk about “lack of National Security.”

Just last week, a “National Emergency” was declared by our President so that a wall can be built, even though it’s only a small portion of the Border and even though immigration numbers are at the lowest in over 30 years. Even though most drugs and illegal aliens come through official ports of entry. I ask you all to get involved. Make your voices heard. Educate yourself on the issues and avoid the propaganda and baseless fake news.

Right now, Local/ Municipal elections are revving up across America. I encourage you to run for City council or School Board. Who knows better about what our community needs than us? If you do decide to run, I am happy to help you with your campaign. I have managed many campaigns across the country and have a 94% “elected” rate. I even run my own campaigns and those have been 100% successful.

We have been working on special projects with the SMART-TD National Legislative team in Washington D.C. Most of this consists of outbound calling to confirm phone numbers and birthdates. If you find yourself with some free time… please contact me and we can put you to work.

If you are an Auxiliary State Director, would like to become one, or would like to not be one anymore, PLEASE CONTACT ME. I am working through that list right now and need to make sure we have people in place that are ready, willing, and able to work on GOTV outreach and events.

Unions are under attack every single day, which means, we must resist and continue to fight every single day. Our jobs, families, and future depend on our actions every single day. What an honor it is to be a part of such an amazing organization and I look forward to what we accomplish in the future.

In Solidarity,

Scott Saunders Jr
National Legislative Director
ScottSaundersJr@gmail.com
512-304-8411
Facebook: Smart- TD Auxiliary
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Lloyd (Chip) Rabb
Past-President, ARLA
Former Locomotive Engineer

Matthew Rabb
Attorney
Member-Az Trial Laywer’s Assoc.

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ATTORNEYS@FIRSTINJURYLAW.COM
I hope you all take note of the picture our Lodge submitted for this issue. While we do spend meetings discussing where 2-person crew bills stand in other states and the latest craziness that the Carrier has come up with, we also take time to just enjoy being friends. We made our December meeting a totally fun evening of drinking a little wine, having some amazing homemade treats and talking about our families and all the joy we were looking forward to during the upcoming holidays. And, we got to take home something we’d made!

Then, just a few days after this photo was taken, I received a call from an Auxiliary member in Washington. A young woman in their lodge was distraught and lost. Her husband had been fired and she was frustrated that they weren’t hearing anything on where his case stood. Long story short, the amazing Dawn Voelker put her in touch with me, I gave all the particulars to the General Chairman I work for and he in turn reached out to the proper General Chairman to see what was going on. Research was done, calls were made and now his case is on the road to being settled or arbitrated.

Being in the Auxiliary matters. Being in the Auxiliary is educational. Being in the Auxiliary gives you contacts that might not otherwise be available. Growing our Auxiliaries should be priority number one for each of us so that other spouses are not left blind or clueless when their loved one is injured or dismissed. Knowledge is powerful.

If you haven’t had a FELA attorney (and only a FELA attorney) attend a meeting in a few years or worse, ever, now is as good a time as any. Have them come in and explain what to do should your spouse be injured. We recently had a crew in a van hit head-on. The van driver tried to avoid the accident but wasn’t able to. One crewman was hospitalized with severe injuries. The other crewman was banged up but not hospitalized. Both drivers died. Because of ongoing investigations, I can’t give any other details.

The point is, many union members were at the spouse’s side, most with good advice, but not all with correct advice. That is huge in any accident, whether on the property or not.

FELA attorneys are always available and actually anxious to speak with spouses. When our Auxiliary was just getting going, we worked with the Local and held a joint meeting at the old depot here. We had folks from UnitedHealthcare, the Railroad Retirement Board, Palmetto (for soon to be retirees) and others. We served refreshments and even invited NARVE members to join us. Guys came from and went to work. Some didn’t get to hear everything, but it was educational for all.

You can take information straight off the Auxiliary website and make flyers that local SMART officers can hand out during new hire classes. They can also hand them out at union meetings. If you don’t think you can get a joint meeting or a FELA attorney to a meeting, if a member of your Lodge is married to a Local officer, ask for an invite to a meeting so that you can explain the importance of their spouses joining our Auxiliary. Just always stress, “we don’t want in your business, we just want to know what to do to protect you if something happens.”

In Solidarity,

Pam Neal
Alt. National Legislative Director
utu393@waco.twcbc.com
254-493-3019
Lodge Opened Feb 24th
In the back from left to right is: Hunter Bose, Jody Isabell, Carol Menges, Teresa Creasman, Angie Fisher, Becky Stine, Scott Dulin.
In front: Rebecca Steward, Sara Hou, Mei Hou, and Amy LaVante

Bluebonnet Lodge 331 Christmas Party. Wine, snacks and a great time!!

Left to right Felecia Youngblood, Kimbo Schaaf, Pam Neal, Tonja Adams, Caitlin Dudley, Teresa Schaaf, Tracy Hopkins.
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Steve Fritter, 70, has been retired for 10 years. He lives with his wife, Julie, in Culpepper, VA, a suburb of Washington DC. Steve’s 36 years railroad work included time with Southern Railway, Norfolk Southern and Amtrak. His Union work as District Legislative Director (1996-2008), UTU Safety Team Investigator working with the National Transportation Safety Board (2000-2008) and a member of UTU Constitution Committee in 1999 which was challenging and instructive. Steve also serviced as Delegate at the 2018 Auxiliary Convention as well as being a valuable member of our Constitution Committee.

With the Constitutional changes that went into effect January 1, 2019, the SMART-TD Auxiliary has a unique opportunity to further unite our families by inviting SMART-TD members to join us as lodge members. Yes, active SMART-TD members can now join and participate in Auxiliary Lodge activities. I see this as an important building block for our organization. Just as I was extended an invitation to join the Auxiliary as a retired UTU member 4 years ago, active SMART-TD members can now join their spouse and family members in a lodge and face the future together. By uniting for a better understanding of the issues we confront daily in our working and family life, we will, each of us, be better equipped to handle the difficulties that will inevitably arise and better able to more readily find solutions to our common problems through the support of one another. Let’s grow our organization and unite our families. Visit the Auxiliary web site and print out a membership application today!

TERRI INGERICK
VICE PRESIDENT DISTRICT 3
828-280-6804 | terri.ingerick@ncsmart-union.org
DISTRICT 3 STATES: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia

I am honored to have been given the opportunity to serve as District 3’s Vice President. I am originally from Thousand Oaks, CA. I worked as a paralegal in Los Angeles County for 14 years and have worked in an administrative capacity for the State of NC since 2007. I live in Asheville,
NC with my husband, Ron Ingerick, Jr. (North Carolina State Legislative Director) and our
children - Courtney (22), Alexis (20) and Jason (19).

I have been a member of the Auxiliary since 2012, and Ron has been an active UTU/SMART-TD
Union member for over 22 years. I serve as the President of the Sweet Carolinas, Lodge 782, and
have served as Delegate at the 2018 Auxiliary Convention and as a member of the Constitution
Committee. We opened our lodge in Asheville, NC in 2016 and have worked hard to gain
membership and provide an informative arena for our members, as well as friendship and support
for our railroad and bus families.

GERALYN GARDNER
VICE PRESIDENT DISTRICT 4
419-217-5492 | geralyn_g40@yahoo.com

DISTRICT 4 STATES: Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia
Geralyn is the wife of RR worker and now SMART-TD State Legislative Director for
Ohio, Stuart Gardner, for 36 1/2 years. We have 3 children and 2 grandchildren. I
work part time as an LPN in Bellevue, still doing Tupperware, and taking care of
my 95 year young mother-in-law. In my younger years, I put in 36 years at the Whirlpool plant in
Clyde making washing machines. Geralyn also keeps busy volunteering doing the scrip program at
church and being a money counter there, and being the secretary of the local Auxiliary VFW
Post#1238. I opened my lodge after I attended the Auxiliary Convention in San Diego, realizing we
need more lodges to keep growing and to have more voice representation. I currently am
President and Delegate of my lodge. I have also been on the Auxiliary of the UTU Scholarship
Fund Board for the past 5 years, serving as the Secretary.

NORA GRUTZIUS
VICE PRESIDENT DISTRICT 5
708-805-1147 | nora.grutzius@gmail.com

DISTRICT 5 STATES: Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin
Nora has lived 20 miles in a suburb south of Chicago her entire life. She has
been married 24 years to Larry Grutzius, currently SMART TD Director of
Organizing and a member and Secretary/Treasurer of SMART TD Local 1895.
They have two children in college and are new grandparents for first time in
December of 2018. Nora has been active in girl scouts for 18 years, managing 6 towns of Girl
Scout troops and has a troop of her own. She is an office manager for a tax accountant. Nora
is currently President and Alternate Delegate of her lodge which she started two years ago to
help spouses learn about their benefits.
CAROL MENGES  
VICE PRESIDENT DISTRICT 6  
573-353-0469 | csuemenges@gmail.com  

**DISTRICT 6 STATES:** Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota

As a way of introduction, I am Carol Menges. I have served the Auxiliary in many positions, from Missouri State Legislative Director to Alternate National Legislative Director to International President and currently serve as Vice President of District 6 and Chairperson of the Executive Board of the SMART-TD Auxiliary. I also have served as President of the UTU Scholarship Fund Board and currently serve as an advisory member to the Scholarship Board.

To say my family bleeds union blood would be an understatement! We have been actively involved in union activities most of our adult lives. My Husband, Kenny, was elected Local Chairman of UTU Local 933 in 1983 and so the journey began. We have always worked as a family team, helping each other as we grew in the union movement.

We have many challenges facing us today, as we strive to find interesting ways to attract new members to the Auxiliary in this very fast-paced world and continue to provide value and service to our older members. It is by being active in our communities and supporting one another in our lives as the spouse of a railroader that we can bring understanding and change to our members’ lives. Being the “home” support and keeping the family focused in the often-chaotic life of the railroad family is difficult; but the Auxiliary family is always there to support each of us.

It is by staying positive and energized in the union movement—a movement which is contrary to the belief of individualism. WE become better as a person and an Organization when we help each other become better.

I encourage you to be active in the Auxiliary. We all have a place and the energy of each one of us can make each of our lives better.

---

**APPLICATIONS DUE**  
**MARCH 31**  

**SCHOLARSHIPS**
MATTIE THOMAS  
**VICE PRESIDENT DISTRICT 7**  
281-261-0017 | mattie510@gmail.com  

**DISTRICT 7 STATES:** Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas

I am a retiree from the U. T. M. D. Anderson Cancer Center as Operations Manager with 34 years of experience. I organized Auxiliary 281 based on a need to disseminate information to family members of the UTU. During the last International Auxiliary Convention, I served on the By-Laws and Constitution Committee. I have an extensive background in budget management and policy and procedures guidelines.

As an Auxiliary, we are very active in the community assisting SMART members when called upon. We have hosted annual holiday parties for under privileged children in December by connecting with the community in which we serve.

During my free time I love to bake and listen to music because it keeps me centered.

---

BARBARA PURDON  
**VICE PRESIDENT DISTRICT 8**  
406-749-0279 | bpurdon@q.com  

**DISTRICT 8 STATES:** Arizona, California Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming

Barbara Purdon, Lodge 486. Barbara has an Associate degree in Business Management. She is employed as Marketing Assistant for a financial planner, where she has worked for 19 years. Before that she was the advertising director for the local newspaper. She is the president and legislative representative for her lodge. Barbara lives with her husband of 45 years, Donald in Forsyth, Montana. They have three children, Bettinna, Lynnette, Donald jr. and six grandchildren. Don and Barb have been doing Santa and movie for the BNSF kids in Forsyth for 20 years. Her hobbies are sewing, quilting, crocheting, playing cards, reading, camping, boating and fishing.

---

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST

Save a tree while saving the Auxiliary some money. There are two ways to join. Register online at www.auxiliaryutu.com or email us at: auxiliary_td@smart-union.org
“Rossi Vucinovich did a great job representing my interests in Federal District Court Tacoma. Their thorough preparation, trial strategy, and superb courtroom skills resulted in a jury award of $1.25 Million – one of the largest whistleblower awards on record.”

Mike Elliott, Railroad Whistleblower

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The United States Supreme Court has cautioned railroad workers that: "Injured workers or their families often fall prey on one hand to persuasive claims adjusters eager to gain a quick and cheap settlement for their railroad employers, or on the other to lawyers either not competent to try these lawsuits against the able railroad counsel or too willing to settle a case for a quick dollar."

"Laymen cannot be expected to know how to protect their rights when dealing with practiced and carefully counseled adversaries."

Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen v. Virginia, 84 S. Ct. 1115 (1964)
SMART ARMY and Auxiliary Lodge members all dressed up to support, give love and time to raise money for the Children of Kings Daughters Hospital in Virginia.

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Throughout the course of their career, Bob Myers and Mike Olley have secured numerous seven figure verdicts and settlements for both traumatic injury and occupational injury claims resulting from unsafe workplaces, defective and unsafe equipment and repetitive stress injuries as well as asbestos and diesel fume exposure.

In addition to their railroad practice, they have also represented railroad workers, their families and friends in all types of personal injury actions due to defective products, workplace injuries, motor vehicle accidents and medical malpractice.
The Auxiliary of the UTU Scholarship Fund board members are preparing for their annual meeting (that includes decision on number of scholarships to be given and the drawing for the 2019-2020 Scholarship Awards) to be held at the Auxiliary headquarters in North Olmsted, Ohio in April. The Board is required to give a minimum of eight (8) scholarships each year to meet IRS guidelines. Individuals who have been selected as winners will be sent a congratulations letter in May informing them of their award. A list of winners and their sponsor Auxiliary member will be published in the June Auxiliary Newsletter or can be found online at auxiliaryutu.com and smart-union.org (Auxiliary link).

**DONATIONS**

Morningstar Lodge 851  $3,500.00

Thank you to the Morningstar Lodge in Mineola Texas for their generous support to the Scholarship Fund!

Donations are appreciated and should be made payable to: Auxiliary of the UTU Scholarship Fund

Mail to: Rebecca Allgyre
Scholarship Treasurer
12503 E Co Rd 6
Attica, OH 44807-9435

**REQUEST APPLICATIONS IMMEDIATELY**

Just a reminder that time is quickly running out for submitting a scholarship application for a family member for the upcoming 2019-2020 school year. Applications must be requested by March 15th and return postmarked by the March 31st deadline. You will need to allow plenty of time to have students and sponsor member fill out their information. Only original applications are accepted.

Sponsor members must maintain auxiliary membership throughout the duration of the scholarship award.

For application and / or information contact:

Geralyn Gardner
Scholarship Fund Secretary
5485 Edmonds Road
Bellevue, OH 44811-9711
utuauxscholarsec@gmail.com
419-217-5492

Information needed for request of application:

Your Name
Your Auxiliary Lodge Number
Complete mailing address (street, city, state and zip code) along with phone and email address.

The Lodge Treasurer’s signature is no longer necessary. The practice of confirming to ensure sponsor is in good standings with the Grand Lodge has always and will continue to be deciding factor of acceptance.

**SCHOLARSHIP RENEWALS**

The Auxiliary Scholarship Awards are continuously renewable for up to four years if certain requirements are met.

Students maintain both full-time enrollment and at least a 2.0 grade point average to qualify. The proof of Enrollment form and Official College Transcripts must be returned by the deadline dates to qualify. Renewal paperwork is sent to all recipients in May each year. For the 2019-20 school term, there are 30 (Thirty) renewals possible. When a student does not meet board criteria they forfeit their scholarship. This scholarship is then offered to the next available alternate drawn from that year’s pool of applicants. For the 2018-19 school years, the board used 2 alternates: funds were given out for 36 scholarships – a yearly total of $36,000.00

**REMINDER:** Scholarships are given ONLY in the Fall of each year and are for $1,000.00
AUXILIARY of the UNITED TRANSPORTATION UNION
2019 SCHOLARSHIP FUND APPLICATION

For acceptance of application ALL requested information must be provided
(PLEASE PRINT)

Name of **Auxiliary MEMBER**________________________________________________________ Lodge No. _________

Street Address ______________________ City, State and Zip Code____________________________

Phone Number ______________________ E-mail __________________________________________

Applicant Is:  [ ] Child  [ ] Stepchild  [ ] Grandchild  [ ] Step-Grandchild (place checkmark in square)

Name of **Student’s PARENTS** __________________________________________________________

Complete Address of Parents __________________________________________________________________________

Parent’s Phone Number ______________________ E-mail __________________________________________

Name of **STUDENT**_____________________________ Date of Birth __________________ M/F
(Have you ever applied under a different name? If so, list above.) (circle one)

Complete Address of Student________________________________________________________________________

Phone Number ______________________ E-mail __________________________________________

Summer Contact Information: Phone Number________________________________________________________

Summer Email: ___________________________________________ (if email same, indicate same)

Name and COMPLETE ADDRESS of accredited degree program student plans to attend in 2019-2020:

College Name ________________________________________________________________________________

Financial Aid Office Address______________________________________________________________

Financial Aid Phone #_________________________________________________________________________

Major Course of Study __________________________ Degree Program ( ) yr

College Year in 2019-2020 [ ] 1st year [ ] 2nd year [ ] 3rd year [ ] 4th year [ ] Graduate _________
(please checkmark which grade)

Send Completed Application to: _________________________________________________________________

Auxiliary of the UTU Scholarship Fund
Geralyn Gardner, Secretary
5485 Edmonds Road
Bellevue, OH 44811

Signature of Auxiliary Member ____________________________

Signature of Student ____________________________

*THIS APPLICATION IS NULL AND VOID
IF GRAND LODGE’S ASSESSMENTS AND DUES ARE UNPAID.

SIGNED APPLICATIONS MUST BE MAILED AND POSTMARKED BY MARCH 31, 2019

After the drawing, only the Scholarship winners will be notified.

“Note: In event no funding is available, the Scholarship may be discontinued at any time.”
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MARC A. ZITO, SMART-TD
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The following are Pre-Retirement Seminars being held in March, April and May 2019. The Seminars begin at 8:30 AM and go for 4hrs, doors open 30 mins prior.

Register online at: www.rrb.gov → select “Our Agency” under the menu tab → then “Office of the Labor Member” → then “Pre-Retirement Seminars”

### MARCH

**March 22**  
George H. Fallon Federal Building  
31 Hopkins Plaza  
Room G-33 (ground level)  
Baltimore, MD

**March 22**  
West Covina Library (9am start time)  
1601 West Covina Parkway  
West Covina, CA

**March 29**  
Maidu Community Center  
1550 Maidu Drive  
Roseville, CA

**March 29**  
Birmingham/Jefferson Convention Complex  
2100 Richard Arrington Jr. Boulevard North  
East Meeting Rooms D/E  
Birmingham, AL

### APRIL

**April 5**  
Country Inn & Suites  
4500 Circle 75 Parkway  
Atlanta, GA

**April 5**  
Hilton Garden Inn - Richmond Airport  
441 International Center Drive  
Sandston, VA

**April 12**  
Ronald V Dellums Federal Building  
1301 Clay Street – North Tower  
5th Floor – Room H  
Oakland, CA

**April 12**  
Drury Inn & Suites - St Louis Forest Park  
2111 Sulphur Avenue  
St. Louis, MO

**April 26**  
Holiday Inn Plainview – Long Island  
215 Sunnyside Boulevard  
Plainview, NY

**April 26**  
Patrick V McNamara Federal Building  
477 Michigan Avenue  
Suite 1180  
Detroit, MI
RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD
PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINARS

MAY

May 3
Hilton Garden Inn
2465 Grant Avenue
Billings, MT

May 10
Holiday Inn Denver Lakewood
7390 West Hampden Avenue
Lakewood, CO

May 17
Sheet Metal Workers Local 33
12515 Corporate Drive
Parma, OH

May 3
Richard Bolling Federal Building
601 East 12th Street
Room G-41 (Dogwood Conference Room)
Kansas City, MI

May 17
Jacob K Javits Federal Building
26 Federal Plaza
6th Floor Conference Room
New York, NY

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- Disability Income Replacement
- Cancer Hospital Indemnity
- Whole Life Insurance
- Term Life Insurance
- Child Life Insurance
- Easy Issue Life Insurance

Savings policies available:
- Flexible Deferred Annuities
- Traditional IRA
- Roth IRA

For additional information about any of these policies:
Email sales@utui.org, call 800-558-8842, or complete the attached form and mail to the address listed at the bottom of the form.
Visit the UTUIA website at www.utui.org for more information on these and other policies.
NEW MEMBERS

177 Teresa Creasman
177 Angie Fisher
177 Alecia Hothan
177 Mei Hou
177 Sara Hou
177 Bose Hunter
177 Jody Isabell
177 Amy LaVante
177 Thomas Starr
177 Rebecca Steward
177 Becky Stine
723 Lamar Jones
725 Elizabeth Conley
782 Patrick Steverson
782 Dayna Reggero
782 Krissy Green

OPENING A LODGE

Minimum of 10 members
SMART TD spouses, family members age 16 and older, active SMART TD members and SMART TD/UTU retirees

Hold a Pre-Meeting for planning
Discuss Lodge goals
Connect with SMART TD Local
Contact Grand Lodge
Request a Charter

GOT NEWS?

Do you have some exciting news that you’d like to share? It’s an excellent way to share activities and ideas with other lodges and members.

Please send articles and/or pictures to auxiliary_td@smart-union.org

DEPARTED MEMBERS

3 Lucille Carley
3 Marie McVay
170 Virginia Lipscomb
933 Jean Harrell
933 Mavis Lyon
933 Nellie Frances Sanders
933 Sammie Poe

Find us on social media!

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