

SHEET METAL | AIR | RAIL | TRANSPORTATION

SMART NEWS

TRANSPORTATION DIVISION
A U X I L I A R Y

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." ~Helen Keller



International President Column

By Kathryn Seegmiller

I wanted to start off this issue with a huge thank you to the designated legal counsel that advertise with us. Many of them have been supporting the Auxiliary for several years and we really appreciate them. For those of you that are new and don't know anything about designated legal counsel, "DLC" as we often refer to them, they are the attorneys that work with the union and specialize in FELA law (Federal Employers Liability Act). FELA is a federal law that was enacted in 1908 to protect and compensate rail workers injured on the job. As a result, rail workers do not fall under workers comp, instead they are covered by FELA which provides better coverage. I would recommend getting to know who they and

continued

International President Column

IN THIS ISSUE

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY TREASURER 4

VICE PRESIDENT CORNER 8

NEW AND DEPARTED MEMBERS 20

PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINARS 21

SCHOLARSHIP FUND BOARD 22

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR 26

International President Column continued

become familiar with one so if something were to happen to your SMART TD member you know who to contact. They are available to answer any questions you might have so don't hesitate reaching out to them. Many of them have apps you can download to your phone. Also, their contact info can be found on our website.

Switching gears a bit, it's hard to believe it's almost spring and before we know it, we will be putting together our Constitution Committee for next years convention. This means we will be sending out resolution request forms in the next few months so now is the perfect time to start looking at any items you may want to see updated or changed in our constitution. At our last

convention we made some good progress and I hope that'll be the same this next convention.

As for how we will be holding our convention, we haven't decided just yet. It could be in person or virtual. It's still a ways out and the pandemic should be far behind us. As soon as we've made a decision we will share that with you.

Wishing you all a healthy and happy spring!

Kathryn Seegmiller
International President
kseegmiller@smart-union.org
216-521-1161 office
801-347-8120 cell



Constitution Committee

Would you like to serve on the Constitution Committee?

The committee is comprised of 5 members which are appointed and we're looking for members that may have an interest in serving on it. If you have similar experience, are wanting to be more involved or learning more, please let Grand Lodge know at your earliest convenience.

Convention Committees

We will also be looking for members to serve on the following committees

Salary ~ Reception ~ Resolution

If you have experience in any of those areas, have interest in being more involved or learning more, please let Grand Lodge know.

These positions will be appointed as we get closer to convention next year.

Rabb & Rabb, PLLC

INJURY LAW

Lloyd (Chip) Rabb
Attorney
Former Locomotive Engineer

Matthew Rabb
Attorney
Member - AZ Trial Lawyer's Assoc.



Our Union designations are your assurance of experienced counsel. We will aggressively pursue your interests. In our 35 years of experience, we have successfully handled thousands of cases for railroad workers and their families. Representing Plaintiffs since 1986.

UNION DESIGNATED LEGAL COUNSEL

HELPING RAILROAD FAMILIES IN THE WEST

ARIZONA CALIFORNIA COLORADO MONTANA NEW MEXICO TEXAS



Since 2008



TRIAL LAWYERS FOR ALL YOUR LEGAL NEEDS

AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS DEFECTIVE PRODUCTS TRUCKING ACCIDENTS
NURSING HOME NEGLIGENCE MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENTS MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE

FELA-RAILROAD LAW and much more

PROUDLY SERVING THE LEGAL NEEDS OF RAILROAD WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

1-800-354-3352

www.firstinjurylaw.com • attorneys@firstinjury.com

International Secretary Treasurer Column

By Denise "Niki" Wallace

First Transcontinental Railroad
"NO IRISH NEED APPLY"
Happy St Patrick's Day

It's estimated that 10,000 Irish immigrants worked on the completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad. Many made up at least half of the Veterans of the US Civil War as well as more than half the workers from the Union Pacific Railway Company. The Irish immigrants worked with 15,000 Chinese workers, who were the main workforce on the line from Sacramento, California, to Promontory Summit, Utah. The Irish laborers worked along side as well, a mix of Mormons, European immigrants, Native Americans and the recently emancipated African Americans as the railway line moved from the East coast.

Work on the first transcontinental railroad began after President Lincoln approved the Pacific Railway Act of 1862, a revolutionary law that allowed federal aid to assist in the

railroad (Western). Due to the American Civil War, work was delayed for several years. "By 1866, however, the great race was on between the Central Pacific Railroad, which was charged with laying track eastward from Sacramento, and the Union Pacific Railroad, which started laying track

westward from Omaha, to see which railroad company could lay the most miles of railroad track before the two railroad lines joined up. Because the federal government subsidized at least \$16,000 for each mile of railroad laid as well as generous land grants along the track, each company had a strong financial incentive to lay track as quickly as possible" (Harvard). Government also stepped in due to the fact that neither railroad would chose a meeting point and were headed in all directions except to each other.

"Between 1865 and 1869, the Central Pacific had laid 690 miles of track and the Union Pacific 1,087 miles of track (the Irish). The meeting of the two railroads and the completion of the first transcontinental railroad at Promontory Summit, Utah, on May 10, 1869, was a major national achievement that could not have occurred without immigrant laborers" (Harvard). This took Four (4) years!! 1,777 Miles, the entire rail construction was 1,912 miles from 1863 to 1869. Incredible.

On the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad, May 10th, 1869, was the historical driving of the golden spike, Which come to

find out, the man appointed to drive the goldenspike into the last tie , (Leland Stanford) could not muster the task and a worker (most likely an Irishman) had to finish the task for him. Leland only got a few whacks in before giving up and a worker was call over to finish the job.

continued

International Secretary Treasurer Column



HOWARD A. SPIER, ESQ.

Designated Legal Counsel



ROSSMAN
BAUMBERGER
REBOSO & SPIER

CATASTROPHIC INJURY & WRONGFUL DEATH

FORMER PRESIDENT OF



ACADEMY OF RAIL
LABOR ATTORNEYS

MEMBER OF

American Board
of Trial Advocates



NAMED A TOP-RATED ATTORNEY ON

Super Lawyers

9155 S. DADELAND BLVD. SUITE 1200 MIAMI, FLORIDA 33156 P. 800-775-6511 | SPIER@RBRLAW.COM



2 Granite Avenue, Suite 425

Milton, MA 02186

844-826-8445

617-227-8444

www.naumeslaw.com

Christopher C. Naumes

Robert T. Naumes, Sr.

Designated Legal Counsel

International Secretary Treasurer Column continued

With the obvious rush to finish the railroads, many Irish flocked to these types of jobs due to their high demand of work and the Irish's desperate need of income. In crowded New York City, where jobs became more and more difficult to find, especially due to the "No Irish Need Apply" policies that plagued many cities during this time period that specifically discriminated this ethnic group.

Although the railroad did not discriminate, due to the need of workers, they did so in a different manner. With low and unfair pay, terrible conditions and placing them in the most dangerous conditions and in one of the most dangerous jobs at that time (and remains that way to day) the discrimination persisted.

Those Irish railroad workers were drawn from the six million Irish immigrants who crossed the Atlantic between 1840 and 1900 escaping from famine, persecution and seeking better lives.

Central Pacific reports 137 deaths during four years of construction. But in 1870, a journalist sees a train loaded with the bones of an estimated 1,200 Chinese bodies.

Railway completion means 25,000 Chinese and Irish are now unemployed. Hatred of the Chinese results in the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act ending their immigration. . . (It would be 1898 before Wong Kim Ark

challenged this institutional racism, effectively creating the first Asian-Americans).



Dublin Core Supply Train, Union Pacific Railroad Co



**Dale Creek Bridge Wyoming 650 feet,
Union Pacific Railroad Co**

HUNEGS, LENEAVE & KVAS P.A.



We are a nationally recognized personal injury firm with more than half a century experience representing injured railroad workers throughout the country.

Our attorneys routinely serve clients throughout the Midwest and have successfully tried hundreds of cases ranging from automobile accidents to catastrophic worker injuries and death. Hunegs, LeNeave & Kvas has earned the trust and recommendation of many of the nation's leading unions.

Our union designations are your assurance of skilled and experienced counsel with a commitment to aggressively pursuing your interests. We are here to help you and your family.

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. 1113 (1964)*



**International Secretary Treasurer
Column continued**

*'Twill be long before I get one, tho indeed its hard I try,
For I read in each advertisement, "No Irish need apply."
Alas! for my poor country, which I never will deny,
How they insult us when they write, "No Irish need apply."*

Kathleen O'Neill. "No Irish need apply." J. H. Johnson,
Stationer & Printer, 7 N. 10th Street, Phila. 1862

**Vice President
Corner**



Steve Fritter
Vice President District 2
703-626-6992 | spfritter@gmail.com
**District 2: Connecticut, Delaware,
Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New
Hampshire, New Jersey, New York,
Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont,
Washington D.C.**



Driving the last spike...

Pictures and research: Mary Gallaghe, Irish news times,
Harvard, History of America

Denise "Niki" Wallace
International Secretary Treasurer
dwallace@smart-union.org
216-521-2522 office
715-493-6850 cell



As if there hasn't been enough pain rain down on us during the past 12 months, in October 2020, Amtrak slashed it's passenger train operations and furloughed over 2,000 workers. 700 of those railroaders were Conductors and Assistant Conductors represented by SMART-TD. Amtrak said the 11% reduction of it's workforce came as a direct result of the coronavirus crisis, which had substantially cut into revenue. Ridership fell by 97% in the weeks after the pandemic hit. As of now, revenue remains down 75% compared with a year ago.

**continued
VP Corner - Steve Fritter**

GOT NEWS?

Do you have news to share?
Share activities and ideas with
other lodges and members

Send articles and pictures to
auxiliary_td@smart-union.org

GRANT WRITER

Do you or someone you know have
experience in grant writing?
Would you like to volunteer on a project?
Let Grand Lodge know to
get more information.

Petro & Harrington LLC is pleased to support SMART and its Auxiliary.

Working for a railroad has always been dangerous. The laws that apply to railroad workers are numerous and complicated. As such, it is important for railroad employees to consult and retain knowledgeable and experienced attorneys. Your Designated Legal Counsel (DLC) program was designed to provide access to such attorneys. Consults are free and DLC are not paid unless you get paid. Please consider DLC:

Petro & Harrington, LLC

F. DANIEL PETRO | PATRICK J. HARRINGTON
150 S. WACKER DRIVE, SUITE 2400
CHICAGO, IL 60606
(800) 472-5729
FDPETRO@PETROHARRINGTON.COM
PJHARRINGTON@PETROHARRINGTON.COM

PETROHARRINGTON.COM



Keep it on the Right Track

with

Willard J. Moody, Jr.

SMART-TD Designated Legal Counsel



Scan this code

To enter our contact information into your phone

www.moodyrrlaw.com

1-800-368-1033

VP Corner - Steve Fritter continued

Optimistic expectations for recovery now estimate ridership and revenue will improve to only 40% of pre-pandemic levels sometime this year.

It will come as no surprise to you that advocates for rail passenger service say Amtrak serves small towns across the country and is an economic force in the 500 communities it serves. Pre COVID-19 Amtrak's long distance passenger train network alone generated \$4.8 billion in economic benefits to the U.S. And, that doesn't even include additional billions generated by state supported trains or our Nations' economic aorta, Amtrak's Northeast Corridor.

Daily Amtrak long distance service, which includes 15 routes, has been reduced to 3 times a week. These changes do not allow for convenient same day connections and will further discourage ridership. Train frequency in the Northeast Corridor has been reduced by 30% When will full service return? Amtrak says "our goal is to restore daily service as demand warrants". That may leave the 700 Conductors and their

assistants out of work for the foreseeable future WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

1st. We can contact the United States Congress to encourage an increase and extension of Railroad Unemployment Benefits.

2nd. Those of us who know out of work railroaders can send a note of encouragement to them.

3rd. We can make sure all members of our families get vaccinated as soon as the vaccines become available in your area.

Maybe then we can get on with our lives and recover our livelihoods.

Geralyn Gardner

Vice President District 4

419-217-5492 | geralyn_g40@yahoo.com

District 4: Indiana, Kentucky,
Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia



My hometown, Bellevue, Ohio, has one of the largest railroad museums in the state of Ohio. The Mad River and NKP RR Society in Bellevue, Ohio was founded in 1972 by Mr. Jean Leonard. The group grew from 12-15 people locally to about 125 members in our four-county area within a few years. The Society grew to 400 during the excursion train years, and now settled out to several hundred members throughout the United States. A core of about two dozen people now work on a daily bases to keep the museum and grounds in quality conditions.

On April 10, 1973 the Norfolk and Western donated the first piece of equipment, an ex-Wheeling and Lake Erie wooden cupola type caboose in good condition. This caboose's restoration was started in the winter of 1974.



Matt Darby, Esquire

Designated Legal Counsel

Board Member - Academy of Rail Labor Attorneys

**Proudly serving the legal
needs of Railroad workers
and their families**

Scan these QR codes to download
our Railroad Mobile App today!



(410) 769-5400 | (800) 248-FELA

www.bermandarby.com   



90+ years protecting railroad workers!

Hildebrand, McLeod & Nelson LLP

Call for a Free Case Evaluation at 800-447-7500



- FELA • On-The-Job Injuries • Occupational Illnesses
- Cumulative Traumas • Van Transport Accidents
 - FRSA Whistleblower/Retaliation
- Personal Injuries • Employment/ADA

Injury Information / RR Survivor's Guide / RR Incident Forms
available on our Website and Phone App!

www.hmnlaw.com |    



Find our App by searching HMN or our Firm Name in
your App Store and look for this icon! 

HILDEBRAND
MCLEOD
& NELSON, LLP

VP Corner - GERALYN GARDNER continued



Why the name “Mad River and NKP RR Society”? The Mad River was the first railroad to be chartered (1838) in Ohio and the first to be built entirely within the state.

The first section of the Mad River Railroad ran from Sandusky to Bellevue. The NKP is much better known in the area and the time the Society was formed, it was the last extinct railroad that had headquartered its hub in Bellevue.

The group came alive as an organization in the summer of 1973 as a result of a Southern Railway/Steam Locomotive #4501 trip “steam train” from Chicago to Washington D.C. with a stopover at Bellevue.

Today the museum area hosts over 500 rolling stock (engines and cars). The Mad River Museum became the bicentennial project in 1976 with Jean Leonard and Bill Fuehring starting the project.

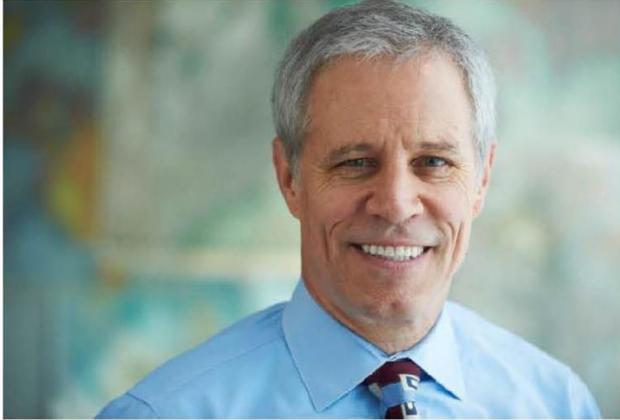
Just last year, a new building was built just to help with restoration projects, funded through a generous donor, Mary Cooper! Currently in for repair shop is the Nickel Plate steam engine 757, Nickel Plate diner car and a signal is getting an update.

Before the Pandemic: The museum would be open daily from Memorial Day to Labor Day (including the holidays) from noon to 4pm.

The months of May, September and October they are opened on weekends only, noon to 4pm. Depending on weather and events, the museum has had anywhere from 4,000 to 15,000 visits a year. A few of the favorite events are the Labor Day car show and “Ghost hunt” in October. The Christmas train rides are the weekend of Thanksgiving and first weekend in December and is a great hit for the kids and parents.



The city of Bellevue’s “trick or treat” would end their parade at the Mad River where local groups would set up around the rolling stock walkway for safe “trick or treat”. Five to six hundred youngsters and parents from the area would go thru for all the fun.



JERRY SCHLICHTER
SMART DESIGNATED LEGAL COUNSEL



**SCHLICHTER
BOGARD & DENTON**
Attorneys at Law

100 South 4th Street, Suite 1200
St. Louis, Missouri 63102
800/873-5297
Toll Free Anywhere
www.uselaws.com



**THE LAW FIRM OF
JONES GRANGER**
and
**MARC A. ZITO, SMART-TD
DESIGNATED LEGAL COUNSEL**

**ARE PLEASED TO SUPPORT THE
SMART TD AUXILIARY
NEWSLETTER**

**JONES GRANGER IS GRATEFUL TO THE
SMART TD AUXILIARY MEMBERS FOR
THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT**

P.O. Box 4340
Houston, TX 77210
Toll Free: 800.231.3359
www.jonesgranger.com

VP Corner - GERALYN GARDNER continued

One of the famous fundraisers Mad River has had was “Dinners in the Diner”. This event is enjoyed by many train enthusiastic people! Advanced sales are required.

The Mad River functions on all volunteer hours, no one gets paid. Some events will use 40-50 volunteers, so calls are made to fill the spots. Oh my, I think my husband and I will be added to their volunteer list!



It will take 1½ to 2 hours to go tour the Mad River and make an enjoyable day for you. A gift shop, oh yes, will end your trip at the Mad River Museum. Check them out on their Facebook page Mad River Museum, or at MadRiverMuseum.org.

Bellevue is definitely a railroad town. My grandfather Leo Fritz worked on the Nickel Plate as a flagman in Bellevue. My husband’s father, Wilmer Gardner, also worked in Bellevue with the Nickel Plate, then merging into Norfolk Western (on October 16, 1964) and retiring with Norfolk Southern. By the time my husband, Stuart Gardner, went to work for the railroad, it



was Norfolk Western, then in 1982 it became Norfolk Southern.

The museum sells a book, “An Anthology”, and I used part of their work in my writing (check their website for your copy, they mail). Other information was obtained by talking with the president of their board to clarify some of my questions.

After the pandemic is over... if you are checking out the state of Ohio and trains, come to visit us, we would love to see you!



**continued
VP Corner**

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST

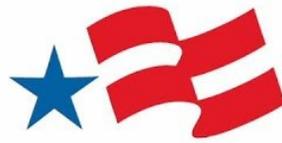
Register online at:

www.smarttdauxiliary.org

or email us at:

auxiliary_td@smart-union.org

BENEFITS AND DISCOUNTS



UNIONPLUS

Working hard for union families since 1986

Auxiliary members are eligible for a variety of benefits, discounts and perks through Union Plus (AFL-CIO) such as:

- **Computers**
- **Moving Assistance**
- **Tires**
- **Cell Phones & Service**
- **Entertainment**
- **Hardship Assistance**
- **Pet Services**
- **Credit Counseling**
- **Low-Cost Loans**
- **Health Clubs**
- **Hotel & Rental Cars**
- **Theme Parks**
- **Prescription, Dental & Vision**
- **Tax-Preparation Services**
- **Scholarships-\$500-\$4000**
- **Will and Estate Planning**
- **Automobile Insurance**
- **And many, many more**

REGISTER TO RECEIVE THESE DISCOUNTS AT UNIONPLUS.ORG

**VP Corner
continued**



Nora Grutzius
Vice President District 5
708-805-1147 | nora.grutzius@gmail.com
District 5: Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota,
Wisconsin

Salad-in-a-Jar-Party



With the hope of spring arriving soon, I think of sunshine, gardening, and vegetables. And I think of a fun idea, having a Salad-in-a-Jar-Party. The idea arose when my daughter told me she went to a party like this of an acquaintance of hers. I thought it would be such a fun and healthy way to start the new year with our Lodge and Auxiliary Friends. We were able to have our party before the global shut down. It was so much fun; my husband and I make our lunches like this occasionally. And surprisingly, salads stay fresh all week long, some salads depending on ingredients can last longer!

The idea is that everyone brings containers, a few salad creating items, and everyone takes a turn creating colorful, yummy, healthy, and cost-saving salads for a week. It is fun to socialize and have something to bring home. Of course, right now we cannot exactly do this with a virus running its course and upsetting our in-person connections, but we can do this with family. We can make a week full of lunches with our children or spouse or other family members. We can explore Pinterest and find salad ideas that suit our tastebuds. Hopefully in the future we can have a Salad-in-a-Jar-Party with our Auxiliary Friends!

To start a party, plan a day, like a Sunday afternoon, invite your guests, have a way to share (sign-up sheet, signupgenius.com, BAND, excel spreadsheet, etc.) what everyone is bringing to create a variety of salads. You can even pick a theme like Italian, Greek, or Taco Salads. Everyone brings 4-5 containers (32 oz. wide mouth mason jars work best). Each guest should bring enough to share (large amount) of 2-3 salad items for a large party, or 3 – 5 salad items for a small party.

The guests should pre-clean, chop, prepare the salad items so they will be ready to add to your jars. The Host provides the greens and salad dressings. Guests can bring their own salad dressings as well. Costco and Sam's club have those large containers/bags of mixed greens and spinach that work great for about 3 – 4 people. I usually buy one container of each for about 4 people to

VP Corner - Nora Grutzius continued

make 4 – 5 salads. As guests arrive, sort all the goodies according to the directions for building a salad.

Here's how to build the salads:

Step 1: Bottom of Jar – Salad dressing

Use approximately 2 – 4 tablespoons of your choice of dressing. Some people leave out the salad dressing and bring in a separate container especially if they are using flat bottom containers instead of mason jars. I like how long my salads last in mason jars, so I use them, and add the dressing, especially a homemade vinaigrette. I also like using an Italian dressing with fresh broccoli, cauliflower, or asparagus as my first ingredient, as the dressing starts to soften the veggie. Popular salad dressings include Italian, Greek, Balsamic Vinaigrette, Ranch, and Avocado Ranch.



Step 2: Hearty non-absorbent Vegetables

Here you will add those cruciferous vegetables, like broccoli, cauliflower, purple cabbage, Kale, saved Brussel sprouts, radish, asparagus (try fresh you will be amazed). Other vegetables carrots, corn, peas, bell peppers, banana peppers, pepperoncini, olives, etc.

Step 3: Other Vegetables, Fruit, Grains

Here you will add vegetables and softer ingredients that you do not want to touch your salad dressing. Veggies and fruit, like cucumbers, onions - purple or green, mushrooms, celery, beets, cooked sweet potato or butternut squash, zucchini, jicama, micro greens, avocado, apples, nectarines, peaches, strawberries, blueberries, and oranges. You can roast veggies for a different flavor too. A fun grain to add is quinoa, you can add it plain, or create a quinoa salad to add to the mix. Other grains to add brown or white rice, bulgur, wheat berries, millet.

Step 4: Protein – Meat, Beans, Peas, and Cheese

Ideas for meat include chicken, salmon, anchovies, or ground beef with taco seasonings to create a taco salad. Hard-boiled eggs, black beans, peas, chickpeas, bacon, pepperoni, and lunch meat cubed are other great toppings. You can add your cheese like feta, blue cheese, goat's cheese, cheddar, mozzarella, Parmesan, etc. here. Beware some cheese tends to soften next to more absorbent vegetables.



We are honored to represent the members of SMART and their families.

Cogan & Power are experienced and dedicated trial attorneys that are committed to providing the highest level of legal representation available. The Attorneys at Cogan & Power prioritize meaningful and consistent client communications. Our firm believes in a collaborative approach to legal representation, which allows us to provide our clients with a wide breadth of experience and skill, but maintain a small-firm level of client service and attention.

COGAN & POWER, P.C.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

1 E. Wacker Dr., Suite 510 • Chicago, IL 60601
Tel: (312) 447-2500 • Fax: (312) 447-2501

www.coganpower.com

VP Corner - Nora Grutzius continued

Step 5: Leafy Greens!

Romaine, Iceberg, Arugula, Red Leaf Lettuce, Mixed Greens and Spinach are some of my favorites! Pack them down into the jar so you have enough.

Step 6: Toppings – Nuts and Seeds and Dried Fruit and Herbs

Top your leafy greens with fresh herbs, like parsley, basil, or mint. Nuts and seeds, such as, pecans, walnuts, pistachios, sunflower seeds, pumpkin seeds, and dried fruit, such as, raisins, dried cranberries, dates, and dried cherries are all tasty. Bring your croutons, tortilla strips, or other dry carbs in a separate container as they will absorb too much moisture.



Make it fun, make it your way! When you are ready to eat, dump your jar ingredients into a large bowl, eat up and enjoy!

I hope when we can go out to socialize you try this fun idea, even with just a couple of neighbors. It will reset your diet, friendships, and adventurous nature to explore new foods!



Carol Menges

Vice President District 6

573-353-0469 | csuemenges@gmail.com

District 6: Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota

An old man walked on the shore littered with thousands of starfish, beached and dying after a storm. A young man was picking them up and flinging them back into the ocean. “Why do you bother,” the old man scoffed. “You’re not saving enough to make a difference.” The young man picked up another starfish and sent it spinning back to the water—“made a difference to that one,” the young man said!

I have always been drawn to this short story.

Who can make difference?

What can we do to make a difference?

Where can we make a difference?

How can we make a difference?

It has been a difficult year with being somewhat isolated because of all the necessary COVID restrictions. However, making a difference is not necessarily doing something big—sometimes it is the small things that make a difference-like throwing the one starfish back to save its life!

The one small phone call to a lonely friend!

The one small note to say I care!

The kind word that says you are loved!

VP Corner - Carol Menges
continued

Often as an organization, we look to do grand things, when in fact we accomplish grand things by doing little things that become grand! Often the small things in life end up making the difference – so take the chance and pick up that starfish and hurl it back into the ocean-and make a difference to that ONE!

WANT TO OPEN A LODGE?

- **It only takes 10 members**

members can be active or retired SMART TD members, their family (age 16 yrs & older) or their spouse

- **Hold a pre-meeting to discuss lodge goals and connect with the SMART TD local**
- **Contact Grand Lodge and request a charter**

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



SMARTTDAuxiliary



SMART TD Auxiliary



SMARTTDAux



SMARTTDAux



SMART TD Auxiliary

DEPARTED MEMBERS

Cheryl Pritchard

Linda Lou Fogo

Kathleen Cole

Evelyn Mortinser

Carol Markiewicz

Barbara Crouse

Claire Grady

Elizabeth Vozzola

Beulah Cook

NEW MEMBERS

Celest Rowland

Karen Edwards



RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINAR

YOU CAN NOW VIEW THE PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINAR ONLINE

www.rrb.org

- **from homepage select "Our Agency"**
- **from dropdown menu select "Office of the Labor Member"**
- **then select "Pre-Retirement Seminar"**
- **other educational materials can be found on their website as well** ●



Robert E. Myers, Esquire
Designated Legal Counset
rmyers@ckmo.com



**Two Bala Plaza , Suite 718
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004**

Members of Academy of Rail Labor Attorneys



Michael J. Olley, Esquire
mjolley@ckmo.com

**Nationwide: 800-334-2500 Philadelphia area: 610-668-9800
Facsimile: 610-667-3352 www.ckmo.com**

Representing railroad workers and their families for over 30 years throughout the Eastern United states in claims brought under the Federal Employers' Liability Act and the Federal Rail Safety Act.

Throughout the course of their career, Bob Myers an 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.

Auxiliary of the UTU Scholarship Fund News

BOARD'S ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD

The Auxiliary of the UTU Scholarship Fund Board members are preparing for their annual meeting (that includes decisions on the number of scholarships to be given, and the drawing for the 2021-2022 Scholarship Awards) to be held in April at the Auxiliary headquarters in North Olmsted, Ohio or a possible online meeting to keep our board safe through social distancing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 and on the Auxiliary website www.smarttdauxiliary.org

DONATIONS

Lodge 28 \$30.00 in memory of Kenneth Wildhaber

Patricia and Norbert Shacklette \$25.00 in memory of Kenneth Wildhaber

For the 2020-21 school years, the board used 16 alternates: funds were given out for 45 scholarships – a yearly total of \$45,000.00

REMINDER: Scholarships are given ONLY in the FALL of each year and are for \$1000.00.

ONLINE APPLICATIONS ONLY

Just a reminder that the deadline is quickly approaching to submit scholarship applications for family members for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. Applications must be submitted by the March 31st deadline. Make sure you allow plenty of time to have student and sponsor member fill out their information. Scholarship applications are now only submitted online.

Online Applications

This year the Auxiliary 2021-2022 Scholarship Application is online only. It can be found on the SMART TD Auxiliary website in the News section on the homepage or under the Scholarship tab. Eligible students must fill out the application online and everything must be complete otherwise an error message will appear stating that it was not submitted and indicates what needs to be corrected or completed. When the application is successfully submitted you will see confirmation. This new online application is easy to complete and will help prevent any mistakes. Between the Coronavirus and delays with the US mail this is a better way to submit and receive applications. If you need help filling it out, please contact Scholarship Fund Board Secretary, Barbara Purdon at utuauxscholarsec@gmail.com or 406-749-0279 or the Scholarship Fund Board President, Marilyn Spangler at utuauxscholarship@gmail.com or 216-502-7226



Union insurance founded by YOUR union ... for YOU!



Kenneth Laugel
President/CEO UTUIA



Jeremy R. Ferguson
*President,
SMART
Transportation Division*

UTUIA has served the members of **SMART-TD** for **over 150 years**. Through wars, depressions, strikes, and pandemics, we continue to provide your family with the protection they deserve.

UTUIA is a Fraternal Benefit Society that is owned by its members. We pay back our policyholders with low rates on these products:

**Life / Disability / Accident /
Cancer Insurance / Retirement**

IN ADDITION ...

UTUIA provides our members with over **300 scholarships awarded** to the children of our members **every year** in addition to **memorial scholarships** to children of members killed in the line of duty.

With over **226 million in assets**, **UTUIA** is prepared to **stand by our members** wherever and **whenever we are needed** including **donations** for **disaster relief efforts**.

Working together in solidarity for the **welfare of our members** is why we recommend every member to check out **UTUIA...it's the smart choice**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

**UTUIA • 800-558-8842 •
www.utuia.org**



Auxiliary of the UTU Scholarship Fund News



SCHOLARSHIPS

About

The Auxiliary of the United Transportation Union Scholarship Fund Board will award a minimum of eight (8) four-year scholarships of \$1,000 each school year. Our scholarship program allows a portion of Auxiliary funds to be preserved for the future education of families of Auxiliary members.

Eligibility

Scholarships are awarded to applicants drawn from a pool that includes children, stepchildren, grandchildren and step-grandchildren of living SMART TD Auxiliary members in good standing. When applying for scholarship, the Auxiliary member must have been a member for at least one year as of March 31 in the year of the scholarship application and maintain membership throughout the duration of the scholarship award.

Scholarship Requirements

All Auxiliary scholarship applicants must be accepted for admittance or already enrolled for 12 credit hours or more, per semester or quarter, in a two-or four-year accredited college or university. The applicant must maintain a minimum yearly 2.0 grade point average throughout the scholarship period. Renewal of the scholarship in a second, third or fourth year (continuous) is predicated upon proper enrollment and achievement of a yearly grade point average of no less than 2.0. Proper document of enrollment and grade point average from the college or university (by official school transcript) is required by the scholarship fund in advance of the future distributions of the scholarship in years two, three and four. If the recipient does not meet these criteria or otherwise fails or refuses to provide documentary Proof of Enrollment and grade point average, the scholarship payment (which goes directly to the college or university) will not be made. The scholarship will continue for each winner as long as the criteria is maintained but will not exceed four continuous years. Anyone over the age of 25 is not eligible.

Awards

Scholarships are awarded on the basis of chance, not grades. An Auxiliary scholar is expected to maintain a satisfactory academic record to keep the scholarship for the four continuous years.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY ON THE RAILROAD APP

AT YOUR APP STORE NOW
SEARCH FOR "RAILROAD INJURY"



**LOOK FOR THIS IMAGE
IN YOUR APP STORE**

APP CONTENTS

- *WHAT YOUR FAMILY NEEDS TO KNOW*
- *WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE INJURED*
- *RAILROAD INJURY REPORT*
With comments to assist in completing report
- *DOCTOR LETTER TO PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY*
- *WHISTLE BLOWER FACT SHEET*

Brought to you by:

Lloyd (Chip) Rabb III
UNION DESIGNATED LEGAL COUNSEL
LRABB@FIRSTINJURYLAW.COM

**Rabb
& Rabb, PLLC**
INJURYLAW



THE YOUNGDAHL LAW FIRM, P.C.

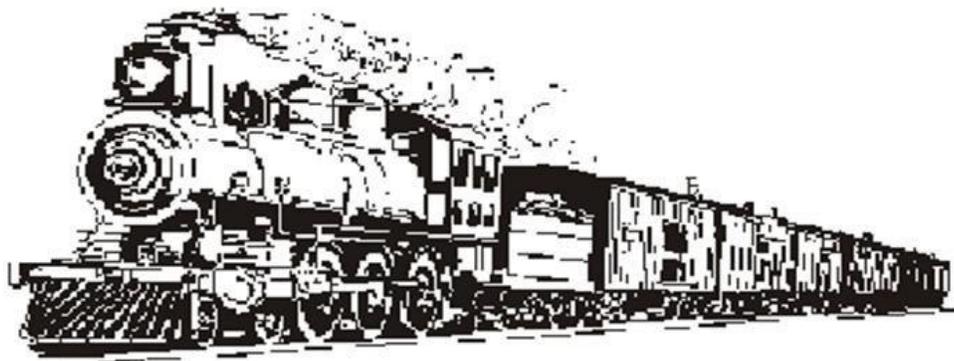
DESIGNATED S.M.A.R.T. Legal Counsel

4203 Montrose Blvd., Suite 280, Houston, TX 77006

866-996-0750

www.youngdahl.com

**Proudly Serving Railroaders and Their Families
for more than 65 years**



National Legislative Director Column

By Scott Saunders Jr

Well, we have a new President, but the political temperature is still red hot. The house and senate are still at a stand-still, (effectively broken) and President Biden has been throwing out Executive Orders constantly trying to enact his ideas and programs.

One of the biggest impacts so far to the Rail industry is the appointment of the new Transportation Secretary, Pete Buttigieg. President Biden has already signaled that he will be one of the most pro-union, pro-labor presidents in a very long time.

Reversing America's decades-long decline in union membership, however, will be a difficult task for even the most labor-friendly administration. Just over 10 percent of workers were represented by unions last year, according to Labor Department data — a share that has been cut in half since 1983.

The effect of COVID-19 is widespread, and unions have not been spared, however, union members could hold on to their jobs because they can negotiate more creative solutions to economic challenges—furloughs or reductions in hours or even early retirement or other programs to try to avoid mass layoffs. This has spurred wide support and thrust the importance and effectiveness of collective bargaining in the spotlight.

NOW is the time to make sure that your Locals are communicating with the workers. Make sure that your Legislative Reps. within your locals are informed and available to the members. It is imperative that the members understand how important a union is and what exactly it has to offer.

We have a Labor/ Union friendly voice back at the top of the Whitehouse. We must help amplify that voice and support legislation to further our cause. It is time for us all to unite together towards a common goal. The goal of securing our future.

Recently, the US House of Representatives passed the most significant worker empowerment legislation since the Great Depression by creating a much fairer process for forming a union. It is called the Protecting the Right to Organize Act, or PRO Act. After an anti-worker majority blocked it in the Senate, reintroducing the PRO Act, passing it in both chambers of Congress and getting Biden's signature is vital to our economic recovery. The PRO Act would protect and empower workers to exercise their freedom to organize and bargain. It would make sure that workers can reach a first contract quickly after a union is recognized, end employers' practice of hiring permanent replacements to punish striking workers and finally hold corporations accountable by strengthening the National Labor Relations Board and allowing it to impose penalties on employers who retaliate

**National Legislative Director Column
continued**

against collective bargaining. It would also repeal so-called "right to work" (FOR LESS) laws, which make it harder for working people to form unions and collectively bargain for better wages, benefits and working conditions. This is a generational opportunity and one we need to get behind and encourage our elected officials to support.

In the meantime, stay involved and active. Our work is far from over. Let me know if I can be of assistance in any way.



Scott Saunders Jr
National Legislative Director
scottsaundersjr@gmail.com
512-304-8411
Facebook: Smart- TD Auxiliary

RIGHT TO WORK IS WRONG



KNOW THE FACTS

UNITED WE STAND DIVIDED WE FALL

Advertising Volunteers Needed

Do you or someone you know have experience in advertising and would like to volunteer time towards a new project with the Auxiliary? If so, please contact your District Vice Presidents or Grand Lodge.

GET CONNECTED

SMARTTDAUXILIARY.ORG

REGISTER TO RECEIVE OUR EMAILS
ON THE [CONTACT US](#) PAGE

STAY INFORMED ON LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

VISIT OUR LEGISLATIVE PAGE
SELECT "TAKE ACTION"



STAND UNITED FOR TWO-PERSON CREWS!

Safety First!

Contact your legislators now!
Ask them to support Two-Person Crews!