

**Teamsters Hall**  
**1-9-2012 0900**

Open meeting without due form.

Reading of previous minutes, motion to suspend reading of minutes by S Caruso, seconded by C Yarbrough, unanimous.

**BLE 183 Report:**

RE01:24 turns on, calls for 26; 2 turns added today.  
RE10:34 turns on, calls for 31.67; 2 turns cut this morning.

We are trying to absorb cut turns to the Extra Boards, if the Carrier permits. We lost 25 coal sets (equivalent to 50 coal trains per month) in recent contracts. The Council Bluffs Mid-America coal contract doesn't come up for renewal until December 2012. We did keep the American Presidential Lines (APL) contract for intermodals, however.

**BLE 699 Report:**

14 turns on.

699 members should now have access to 183's web page so they can access agreements, message boards, etc.

December averaged 21 trips on 13 turns, of 2760 miles each. By way of comparison, November had 19 trips on 13 turns, of 2590 miles each. RE58 will hold at 14 turns as business has picked up a bit

**Legislative:**

Tier 2 of Railroad Retirement is presently at 4.2% and will be thus for another 2 months, then will go back up to 6.2% unless the payroll tax decrease is renewed.

Train length limitations laws are being sought after in the Iowa state legislature but nothing so far. If you have trains over 8,000 feet in length and have had problems, e-mail Tim Smith (California State Legislative Representative) at [Tsmith@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Tsmith@sbcglobal.net) with those problems...if California adopts a train length limitation law, that is something that can be adapted for other states.

A rules exam breaks your start clock, if you have 4 starts prior to rules class, it resets you to 0 starts just like a deadhead does.

Health and Welfare portions of our contract have been ratified with a 70% majority and now we are negotiating Wages and Rules, but that negotiation is expected to go quickly now that we have agreed on H&W. W&R is still being negotiated on-property.

**New Members:**

Jeramie Thompson has sought to enter BLET 183; motion to accept by G Sprinkel, seconded by S Caruso, unanimous. Welcome to the club, Jeramie.

**Financial Report:**

\$10,586.90 and 109 members (105 active engineers/1 trainman/3 managers). Motion to accept made by C Yarbrough, seconded by S Caruso, unanimous.

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### **Unfinished Business:**

The 4 peer trainer positions in Council Bluffs and 4 in Fremont came down for bid on 12-27 to 1-3; 10 engineers bid these 8 positions and they were awarded to Bob Billings, Dale Heiman, Jeff Mimick, Kevin Myers, Sam Caruso, Randy Smith, Wayne Keefer, and Brian McCoy. You can expect to see these gentlemen at the yard offices to train you on the New York Cab screens for 3 weeks, beginning January 19. Positive Train Control has been postponed to 2015, but you'll still be expected to turn it "on" when you are on-duty, even though it won't actually force you to do anything.

Make-whole agreements of set amounts of \$1,036.08 for RE01 and \$886.10 for RE10 (based on current rates and not yet adjusted for the new rates to go into effect when our contract is approved) is in effect as of 1-1-12. A summary of the agreement will be posted on the website.

If you're bumped and in LB status, you can place your bump yourself using the PowerPoint tutorial on CMTS. This is a pilot program only, so don't abuse it.

### **New Business:**

The new depot at California Junction is expected to begin construction in August.

Discussed placement after being bumped off of your assignment by yourself, on the computer. If you don't place yourself before your 48 hours is up, you could face being frozen for 30 days on the Extra Board that protects your last assignment instead of using a Sadie Hawkins day to place yourself AFTER 48 hours. Motion made by C Colley and seconded by W Keefer that letting your bump expire results in a 15-day freeze on the protecting Extra Board from being able to use a Sadie day. This is the second of three meetings in which this will be discussed before this policy is adapted, so come and make your voice heard. In addition to the 14 who voted in favor of this proposition last month, an additional 7 (Stalker, Benisek, Reyes, Brickell, McGruder, Moller, Caruso) voted in favor this month.

If you sign a letter for absenteeism, you are admitting guilt and complicity, so fight it and force them to clarify the absenteeism policy. For purposes of absenteeism, being in LB status (Bumped) isn't considered absent, but EA (Evading Assignment, which you'll be in past 48 hours from your bump notification) does.

### **Sick:**

Sick...Max Eckert

**Motion to suspend reading of minutes by C Yarbrough, seconded by T Stalker, unanimous, meeting adjourned at 1101. See you on 2-13, guys; be safe.**

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**Teamsters Hall**  
**2-13-2012 0900**

Open meeting without due form.

Reading of previous minutes, motion to suspend reading of minutes by S Caruso, seconded by C Yarbrough, unanimous

**BLE 183 Report:**

RE10:30 turns on, calls for 30.47.

RE01:28 turns on, calls for 30. We will let them ride for this short month.

**BLE 699 Report:**

No officers present, so no report.

**Legislative:**

The new bill in Congress that would allow heavier trucks on roads that might cut into our business has had that heavy truck portion kicked into a three-year study, so even if the rest of the bill is approved, that portion shouldn't hurt us for awhile. We caution members NOT to use your cell phones or other electronic devices while on-duty to access the U.P. website to see when your train is called or check your boards. There's no easier way to get busted.

**New Members:**

Steve Boyle, Chris Dittus and Scott Nielsen have petitioned to enter BLET 183; motion to accept Boyle by S Caruso, seconded by C Yarbrough, unanimous; motion to accept Dittus by E Abboud, seconded by M Call, unanimous. Motino to accept Nielsen by Mimick 2<sup>nd</sup> by Yarbrough. Welcome to the club, guys.

**Financial Report:**

\$10,720.60 and 109 members (105 active engineers/1 trainman/3 managers). Motion to accept made by C Yarbrough, seconded by J Mimick, unanimous.

**Unfinished Business:**

Discussed placement after being bumped off of your assignment by yourself, on the computer. If you don't place yourself before your 48 hours is up, you could face being frozen for 15 days on the Extra Board that protects your last assignment instead of using a Sadie Hawkins day to place yourself AFTER 48 hours. Motion made by C Colley and seconded by W Keefer that letting your bump expire results in a 15-day freeze on the protecting Extra Board from being able to use a Sadie day. This was the third of three meetings before this policy is adapted. In addition to the 14 who voted in favor of this proposition in January and 7 who voted in favor in February, an additional 3 (Sweeney, Abboud, Herbert) voted in favor this month. The final tally was 24 in favor, 1 opposed, motion carries. If you let your 48 hours of bumped status expire, you will be placed on the extra board that protected your last assignment, seniority permitting, and not allowed to use a Sadie Hawkins day for 15 days. You CAN, however, bid for a turn and if a new turn is added, you can then take it, but otherwise no Sadie move can be made.

If you miss-call (MC) on the extra board, you are off a minimum of 12 hours, just as if you LS'd or LK'd. You cannot be marked-up. Some guys have MC'd and then sweet-talked the MTO or MYO into putting them first-out; that practice stops now. McCutchen and O'Hara have been notified of this and

they will be communicating this to the other managers.

When tying down a train at 20<sup>th</sup> Street and the locomotives are equipped with electronic handbrakes, once the electronic handbrakes are tight then take the power switch and turn it to Manual, and you can get an extra 4-5 cranks out of the system.

**New Business:**

One of the Council Bluffs YOS personnel told a crew enroute to go to another train. We work for the dispatchers when we dogcatch, NOT the YOS. Someone's going to get disciplined for failure to comply if they listen to her, so whatever you are told, double-check with the dispatcher first. The YOS job is to assign you a driver, not to tell you where to go. Cover yourselves, gentlemen.

The eastbound signal on #2 main at milepost 207 is missing a number plate but should still be treated as an intermediate, not an absolute signal. They are working on it.

If you have issues with vans and/or a van driver, Terry needs the van ID number, the driver's name, and the date and time of the problem, ESPECIALLY if the driver answers the cell phone while the van is in motion. We don't care if they're using a Bluetooth device. They're not supposed to be on the phone while the van is in motion.

On 2-28 in Fremont, an FRA representative will be available to assist with tie-up questions. No longer are you supposed to tie-up on the CMTS green screen but you are supposed to tie-up on the UP website. We have had problems with getting the new system to get past locomotive inspection, but have been informed that putting the UP 1000 in there will allow you to get past that section for the time being. The service unit will begin auditing tie-ups so don't get caught on a failure-to-comply. There is supposed to be a hotline number in the Superintendent bulletin that governs this particular issue.

Nothing new on the contract negotiations, other than the negotiating team is supposed to meet with the carrier teams in early March.

This year's rules exam is a tough one, so study it thoroughly, guys.

You cannot mark-off Operation Redblock once you have been told you are going to be tested, or if there has been an incident. If you're dirty, just lay-off.

**Sick:**

Max Eckert

**Motion to suspend reading of minutes by C Yarbrough, seconded by J Sweeney, unanimous, meeting adjourned at 1046. See you on 3-12, guys; be safe.**

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**Teamsters Hall**  
**3-12-2012 0900**

Open meeting without due form.

Reading of previous minutes, motion to suspend reading of minutes by B McCoy, seconded by C Yarbrough, 11 for, 2 opposed.

**BLE 183 Report:**

RE01:31 turns on, calls for 30. 38 deadheads thus far in March so will stay as-is for now but if deadheads drop off, will have to cut.

RE10:28 turns on, calls for 29.6. Terry will call to add one today

**BLE 699 Report:**

February had 14 turns averaging 2655 miles; by way of comparison, January had 14 turns averaging 2581 miles.

**Legislative:**

The FRA granted the carrier a waiver to go from having CCS inspected every 60 days to 92 days, to get most cab signal repairs done in major shops (as opposed to field fixes or repairs at minor terminals), but CCS will go away when PTC placed into effect in a few years. The DLC (Designated Legal Counsel) program was ended by BLET President Pierce and replaced by the ARLA (Academy of Rail Labor Attorneys), which actually expands the availability of lawyers. A list of ARLA participants will soon be published in the BLET Journal that you get in the mail, and we'll try to put that list on the website when we get it. The NTSB recently sent out recommendations regarding the Restricted Speed rule, so look for additional testing on RS soon.

**New Members:**

No new members.

**Financial Report:**

\$11,758.53 and 114 members (108 active engineers/1 trainman/3 managers). Motion to accept made by S Caruso, seconded by G Sprinkel, unanimous.

**Unfinished Business:**

As noted in last month's minutes, per a motion by B Herbert we sought to make adjustments to the way that vacation weeks were allocated by seniority. We regret to inform you that per the National Agreement, Mark Chenchar said no changes can be made. They have been attempting to move the dates of the "year", a la conductors and their PL "year" from August 1 to July 31, a move that would possibly allow young guys to get a chance at vacation other than the first 3 months of the year, but no further progress as of yet. See "Wish List" in New Business, below...

**New Business:**

We have a tentative National Agreement at this time. It is in the process of being gone over by the International, but look for ballots or electronic instructions to ratify it by early summer. There is a summary of the Agreement on the website. Lump sums are due to us 90 days from the date of ratification. If we DON'T ratify this contract, they'll be likely to assign a new PEB, which is VERY unpalatable. There were many recommendations known as "Robinson Rules" which would have

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essentially gutted the Extra Boards, for starters; it's not as good a deal as we thought we could negotiate on-property, but it's what we got. When you get your balloting instructions in the mail, take the time to vote...we only had about a 40% turnout when the Health and Welfare portion of the contract got voted on a few months back.

Along with this contract came a notification that International dues were going up \$1.00, so your dues are going from \$102 to \$103, effective April 10<sup>th</sup>'s paycheck.

The General Committee of Adjustment is meeting in August, so by May 1 we need to have items on our local's docket available for Terry to take out there with him. If you have items on a "Wish List" (i.e. changes in vacation or personal leave, a firm resolution of the various issues surrounding Zone Rule Dogcatch, FR docking of guarantee, etc), we will soon have a section of the local's webpage for you to post those up.

Motion made by B McCoy/seconded by C Yarbrough to give the Local Chairman a \$1.00 per member raise. As it stands right now, the LC is compensated for expenses at the rate of \$7.00 per member per month, which averages about \$730-ish a month for Terry. We are looking at boosting it to \$8.00 per member per month, given all of the work he does. This is the first of three meetings in which this change to the standing rules regarding compensation will be discussed. At this meeting, 13 were in favor of the raise (C Yarbrough, J Mimick, B McCoy, E Abboud, M Call, C Lehman, S Caruso, G Sprinkel, J Brown, R Schwarzlander, D Heiman, S Tippery, and R Schrack) and 1 opposed (D Van Dorn).

**Sick:**

Max Eckert

**Motion to suspend reading of minutes by G Sprinkel, seconded by E Abboud; 15 for/1 opposed, meeting adjourned at 1043. See you on 4-9, guys; be safe.**

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**Teamsters Hall**  
**4-9-2012 0900**

Open meeting without due form.

Reading of previous minutes, motion to read minutes by J Mimick, seconded by D Shultz, unanimous.

**BLE 183 Report:**

RE01:30 turns on, calls for 27, cutting 3 today.

RE10:29 turns on, calls for 30.3, 1 being added today.

12-15 coal sets are laid down right now as some coal plants aren't taking trains; said plants are finding it cheaper to buy power from natural gas plants for the moment

**BLE 699 Report:**

No officers present, so no report.

**Legislative:**

No legislative report.

**New Members:**

No new members.

**Financial Report:**

\$12,858.64 and 115 members (111 active engineers/1 trainman/3 managers). Motion to accept made by C Yarbrough, seconded by B Herbert, unanimous.

**New Business:**

If the contract is ratified (ballots should already be mailed out; call the International at 216-241-2630 if you have not received one), the first raise of 4.5% will go into effect on 5-1 and the next raise of 4.3% will go into effect on 7-1.

We've recently had safety issues with taxi cabs carrying crews. If you feel the cab or the driver is unsafe, you can refuse to ride with an unsafe driver or in an unsafe cab.

Make sure your track warrants cover the territory that you are working on today, per Rule 15.1. One of our guys was hit with a Level 3, plea-bargained down from a 4, because his dogcatch warrants said Fremont-North Platte and not Fremont-Council Bluffs, and they didn't have a Form B that they encountered. Check them out, guys. We are trying to get the HDC to establish a specific set of track warrants for dogcatches, rather than having them create the warrant on the spot.

Additionally, a crew was recently disciplined for making a blind shove that resulted in a run-through switch, which didn't reveal itself until the next crew took charge of the train, started to pull, and put cars in the dirt. The camera from the second unit revealed the crew member who was supposed to be protecting the shove actually riding the ladder of that unit, where the engineer could have seen him and known the shove wasn't actually being protected, thereby robbing him of plausible deniability.

Especially out of North Platte, check your isolated units to be sure they are shut down. Diesel forces aren't always doing it, and the responsibility rests with you.

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### **Unfinished Business:**

This is the second of three meetings in which a raise of \$1.00 per member would be approved for the Local Chairman. As it stands right now, the LC is compensated for expenses at the rate of \$7.00 per member per month, which averages about \$730-ish a month for Terry. We are looking at boosting it to \$8.00 per member per month, given all of the work he does. This raise would come out of the existing dues of \$103 per month and would NOT result in a dues increase; the dues raise of \$1.00 from \$102 to \$103, taking effect on 4-10's paycheck, was to reflect the dues increase from the International for the new contract and has nothing to do with the proposed raise for the LC. During the first discussion last month, 13 were in favor of the raise (C Yarbrough, J Mimick, B McCoy, E Abboud, M Call, C Lehman, S Caruso, G Sprinkel, J Brown, R Schwarzlander, D Heiman, S Tippery, and R Schrack) and 1 opposed (D Van Dorn); during this month, another 3 (D Shultz, J McGruder, B Herbert) voted in favor.

### **Sick:**

Max Eckert

**Motion to suspend reading of minutes by D Shultz, seconded by B Herbert, 11 for/1 opposed, meeting adjourned at 1058.**

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**Teamsters Hall**  
**5-14-2012 0900**

Open meeting without due form.

Reading of previous minutes, motion to read minutes by J Sweeney, seconded by R Schrack, unanimous.

**BLE 183 Report:**

RE01:28 turns on, calls for 27.5, 1 cut today (was 29 before cut).

RE10:28 turns on, calls for 28.3, leaving alone for now.

**BLE 699 Report:**

12 turns on, calls for 11.6, 2 recently cut to reduce to 12. South Neal plant shut down at present for repairs, North Neal is only taking a handful of cars daily when they have to. The MKCVP is no more.

**Legislative:**

No legislative report.

**New Members:**

No new members.

**Financial Report:**

\$12,431.99 and 115 members (111 active engineers/1 trainman/3 managers). Motion to accept made by D Heiman, seconded by B Lohr, unanimous.

**New Business:**

There will be no separate check for the contract back-pay. It will probably be on 6-25's check, if not before.

Check your Kearney Subdivision GOs for the new quiet zone established at the west end of the GI yard, downtown. There have already been a few near-misses at those crossings (between the Post Office and the BN viaduct) and the Service Unit is aware of the problem.

PTC (Positive Train Control) has been pushed back by the feds to 2020, but UP wants it by 2015. Problem is, the New York Leader program is having issues at present. We will keep you posted on PTC.

If you are on an Extra Board and your guarantee is reduced or affected by Federal Rest, be sure to claim lost wages. If you are declined, give it to Terry. Technically, you don't go on FR until you are legally rested, so if you're not rested before midnight, they shouldn't be taking that calendar day's guarantee.

If you want to learn about how Railroad Retirement works and what the schedule for that is, go to [www.rrb.gov](http://www.rrb.gov). They have a Railroad Retirement and Survivor Benefits handbook as well as sickness benefits for employees.

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### **Unfinished Business:**

This was the third of three meetings in which a raise of \$1.00 per member would be approved for the Local Chairman. As it stood previously, the LC was compensated for expenses at the rate of \$7.00 per member per month, which averages about \$730-ish a month for Terry. We looked at boosting it to \$8.00 per member per month, given all of the work he does. This raise comes out of the existing dues of \$103 per month and would NOT result in a dues increase; the dues raise of \$1.00 from \$102 to \$103, taking effect on 4-10's paycheck, was to reflect the dues increase from the International for the new contract and has nothing to do with the proposed raise for the LC. During the first discussion in the March meeting, 13 were in favor of the raise (C Yarbrough, J Mimick, B McCoy, E Abboud, M Call, C Lehman, S Caruso, G Sprinkel, J Brown, R Schwarzlander, D Heiman, S Tippery, and R Schrack) and 1 opposed (D Van Dorn); during the second discussion in the April meeting, another 3 (D Shultz, J McGruder, B Herbert) voted in favor. In this third meeting, another 4 (J Sweeney, B Lohr, D Zahnnow, and D Carman Sr) voted in favor of the raise. The motion carries, 20-1, and the LC pay is being boosted accordingly.

Gregg Sprinkel retired 5-1 and his remaining vacation weeks will open on Sunday, 5-20. Those weeks are beginning 9-17, 10-8, 10-18, 11-12, and 12-24.

The MNPVP is no longer doing pick-ups in Fremont on the westbound train. That work has shifted over to the MCHNP.

Zone Dogcatch warrants are supposed to be fixed, per last month's minutes...but verify them when you get them to be sure you have them all.

Northbound trains for the Sioux City crews that come out of Kansas City are frequently relieved at 20<sup>th</sup> Street, even if they have work to do in the Bluffs. It isn't fair that they don't have to do the pickups/setouts, but the Service Unit's reasoning is that since there are a lot of younger-seniority guys working out of the KC Hub that don't necessarily know where they are going, they don't want to spend the money or time to bring the KC crews into CB to instruct them on where to go and in the process cause safety issues. The fairness issue has been raised with the Carrier.

### **Sick:**

Max Eckert

**Motion to suspend reading of minutes by C Yarbrough, seconded by J Sweeney, 9 for/1 opposed, meeting adjourned at 1011. Next meeting on 6-11, guys, be safe.**

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**Teamsters Hall**  
**6-11-2012 0900**

Open meeting without due form.

Reading of previous minutes, motion to read minutes by C Yarbrough, seconded by D Heiman, unanimous

**BLE 183 Report:**

RE01:27 turns on, calls for 27.5.

RE10:29 turns on, calls for 30; will look at it on Tuesday 6-12 to see if need to add.

There is a new Senior MOP in the CBSU, Jim TenKate. They have been testing on job briefings, so consider this your job briefing that they are testing on job briefings.

**BLE 699 Report:**

14 turns on, calls for 13.1, will hold at 14. On the Sioux City pool, engineers are supposed to get overtime after 8 hours even, regardless as to claiming 130 the short way or 135 the long way through the bluffs. It was explained that overtime is currently being paid after 8:16 but that is a glitch caused by the rate increases and is in the process of being fixed, so put in non-service time claims for the missing overtime until they get it fixed. Additionally, since you don't depart the OMC until you go through Modale, show your time through Modale as your departure time.

**Legislative:**

No legislative report.

**New Members:**

No new members.

**Financial Report:**

\$12,685.48 and 115 members (111 active engineers/1 trainman/3 managers). Motion to pay D Carman Jr \$18.57 for meeting doughnuts/beverages made by J Mimick, seconded by D Heiman, unanimous. Motion to accept financial report by C Yarbrough, seconded by M Call, unanimous.

**New Business:**

General Chairman Mike Young attended today's meeting and shared some things with us. You will get your back pay on 6-25's paycheck. The Carriers wanted the Unions to pay for overtime for post-1985 employees, matching 401-K, and all of the other goodies we wanted in the last contract negotiations out of cuts to our pay so that the Carriers wouldn't have to pay anything more. Additionally, with Extra Board cuts due to pool turns being held for LV and PL, etc, as well as modifications they wanted to the Sadie Hawkins systems, the Extra Boards would have been decimated. Basically, they made us a take-it-or-leave-it offer with no significant room for negotiating additional benefits; everything we wanted we would have to have paid for ourselves with pay cuts. Bonuses were discussed but we were told we'd have to give up general wage increases to get bonuses. A bonus plan is NOT a profit-sharing plan, and we would have to fund the bonus plan ourselves, so the Unions felt that having the general wage increases in the hand were worth more than bonus plans in the bush, so to speak. The Blair Subdivision work will be completed where they've moved dirt, but UP is not putting any more money into the Blair Sub at the moment; the new river bridge and double-tracking through Blair proper is on hold, and so is the yard office at California Junction. The ultimate goal, however, appears to be runs from Clinton to Missouri Valley to North Platte, eliminating Fremont and Boone as crew change points.

PTC is postponed to 2020 via waivers, but UP is dumping money into the PTC to try and have it ready by 2015. FRA has made new interpretations to the Hours-of-Service laws (without prompting either from the Unions or the Carriers); a 24-hour start clock will take place instead of starts by calendar day and the changes will go into effect in December. Again, we have tried to improve crew scheduling but have been stymied by the HDC. New locomotive seats are beginning to come online, some with headrests. There will be new claims language forthcoming for claiming Extra Board guarantee losses due to FR as well as waiting for rooms. The Carriers are regulating the Extra Boards by dollars, NOT by need. Congress has been making waves about raiding our Railroad Retirement fund, but as it's funded by us and the carriers, they are (supposedly) not legally able to touch it. That doesn't mean they won't try, so we must be vigilant.

There will be a dues increase of \$2.00 per month beginning with 6-10's paycheck, boosting it from \$103 per month to \$105, as the International raised dues by \$2.00 in accordance with the new contract raise that takes effect on 7-1. As far as we know, in conjunction with the \$1 increase two months back, that's it for dues increases for awhile but will keep you posted.

**Unfinished Business:**

No unfinished business.

**Sick:**

Max Eckert. Jim Janovsky passed away on 6-1 from cancer complications.

**Motion to suspend reading of minutes by D Heiman, seconded by D Van Dorn, 4 for/1 opposed, meeting adjourned at 1120. Next meeting on 7-9, guys, be safe.**

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**Teamsters Hall**  
**7-9-2012 0900**

Open meeting without due form.

Reading of previous minutes, motion to read minutes by J Mimick, seconded by R Adams, unanimous.

**BLE 183 Report:**

RE01:29 turns on, calls for 29.

RE10:31 turns on, calls for 30.5; will leave it alone for now.

**BLE 699 Report:**

13 turns on, calls for 13.7. It was thought that overtime after 8 hours even was supposed to be restored, but discussions with Timekeeping revealed that it was indeed supposed to be overtime after 8 hours 16 minutes and should have been that way since trip rates were established. In essence, the RE58 pool had been overpaid since it began paying OT after 8:00, but the Carrier will not go back and recapture the overages previously paid to engineers. One of the components of the trip rate is initial/final delay as calculated back when we had a lot of protected engineers up here and which accounts for some \$22 of the trip rate, and any attempt to renegotiate trip rates or establish a new test period would pretty much shave \$22 off the existing trip rate right off the bat. We should leave well enough alone. The North and South Neal trains ostensibly belong to the BN, but we will get them on UP property at Northport and deliver to the Neal plants, so essentially that aspect of delivering/removing trains from the Neal plants won't really change for us.

**Legislative:**

No legislative report.

**New Members:**

No new members.

**Financial Report:**

\$13,024.44 and 111 members (106 active engineers/1 trainman/4 managers). Motion to accept financial report by C Yarbrough, seconded by J Mimick, unanimous.

**New Business:**

We are discussing a plan with the Carrier to get crews in proper place at the far-terminal via a computer program that will handle crew balancing and take it out of the Corridor's hands and will keep you posted

If you sign a locomotive inspection card, be sure to enter it in your locomotive inspection portion of the CMTS tie-up. If you don't use the unit (such as an engine idled for fuel conservation), you don't have to sign it. Do NOT sign an inspection card using another employee's ID number...recently an FRA inspector saw this occur and although it was handled in-house, it could have caused significant difficulties for all involved. Tie-ups should be done via CMTS and not the old green-screen...if CMTS is acting up, you should call OSS to try and remedy the situation before using the green-screen.

What is said in the meetings should stay among us and not be reported to the Superintendent's office or to managers or other company officers. They don't need to know what we talk about.

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Superintendent Burchfield was recently promoted to Assistant VP for the Northern Region, and we will have Reuben Lopez from Wichita as our new Superintendent. From what we have been told of him, he appears to be someone we can work with.

There are no new details about the big fiery head-on crash in Oklahoma a short time ago. Since the cameras are not remote-downloadable and footage has to be taken off the locomotive's black box and all of the engines were severely banged up, it may be some time before the NTSB releases its report.

If you are eastbound on the Blair Subdivision and you get an Approach at Duffy (the new control point west of the westernmost crossing in Blair, where double track converges to single track), hang back until you get a better signal. An eastbound stacker was asked if they had enough time to make it to Mo Valley on their hours-of-service, was told they'd get a signal after two westbounds, and after the wests they took the Approach at Duffy with the unspoken implication that they'd get better signals enroute. Rounded the curve at CPB341 at 29 MPH they did, and lo and behold what should appear but a red Absolute. Even though they plugged it they got by it by nearly two hundred feet. Be mindful.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Some folks are still running with cell phones on, engineers and conductors alike. In particular, some have logged onto the UP website while in motion. The Union has lost every cell-related arbitration and law board. There is, quite literally, no defense. Shut 'em off.

If you have waited over 30 minutes at the Oak Tree for a room, there is new claims language on the website instructing you on how to fill out a 130-mile basic day claim for excessive wait.

If there are issues with RCX drivers with bad body odors and/or vans with funky smells, we were instructed to take those issues to the YOS named Sandy in Council Bluffs for resolution. We dunno if they're going to scrub the less-than-fragrant offenders down with giant long-handled brushes like they do with elephants at the circus or what, but take those issues to her.

### **Sick:**

Max Eckert.

**Motion to suspend reading of minutes by C Yarbrough, seconded by H Volquartsen, unanimous, meeting adjourned at 1015. Next meeting on 8-13, guys, be safe.**

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Teamsters Hall  
**8-13-2012 0900**

Open meeting without due form.

Reading of previous minutes by J Sichta; motion to accept reading of minutes by J Mimick, seconded by C Yarbrough, unanimous.

**BLE 183 Report:**

RE01:32 turns on, calls for 32.

RE10:33 turns on, calls for 35 but will leave it alone for now.

**BLE 699 Report:**

13 turns on, calls for 13.4, will leave alone for now

**Legislative:**

No legislative report.

**New Members:**

No new members.

**Financial Report:**

\$15,925.65 and 110 members (105 active engineers/1 trainman/4 managers). Motion to accept financial report by C Yarbrough, seconded by J Mimick, unanimous.

**New Business:**

At our next monthly meeting on September 10, the nominations for the upcoming elections will take place. If you will not be present and wish to write in a nomination form for your candidates, blank forms can be found at the depots; please make a copy for yourself and put the original back on the wall. Additionally, let me know ([jsichta@cox.net](mailto:jsichta@cox.net)) and I will mail you a blank nomination form to send back to me. If any of you guys have moved in the past six months, please e-mail your current address to me. The following is the list of the 14 positions...

President

Vice-President

Local Chairman (who is also the Delegate to the General Committee of Adjustment)

First Vice-Local Chairman (and First Alternate Delegate to GCA)

Second Vice-Local Chairman (and Second Alternate Delegate to GCA)

Secretary-Treasurer

Alternate Secretary- Treasurer

Legislative Representative (and Delegate to State Legislative Board)

Alternate Legislative Representative

Delegate to the National Division

First Alternate Delegate to ND

Second Alternate Delegate to ND

Guide

Chaplain

None of these offices may be combined. Nominations are at the September meeting and nominees

must be members in good standing; additionally, nominations must be made, and seconded, by members in good standing. Trainmen cannot run for the position of Local Chairman but may run for any other officer position, whether they be an actual trainman or a qualified engineer cut back working as a trainman. An Election Committee will be formed at the meeting. At least two weeks before the December meeting, you'll receive ballots and instructions in the mail and you must BE SURE to follow the instructions, which are very exacting and particular, in order for your vote to be counted. During the December meeting, the Election Committee will tabulate and announce the results. New officers take charge during the January 2013 meeting and serve a 3-year term..

LC Brooner attended the General Committee of Adjustment meeting in Cheyenne recently. General Chairman Mike Young elected not to run again and was replaced by Dave Geisler from Denver. Mark Chenchar retained First Vice-Local General Chairman. The GCA is working on computerized timeclaims; the Local Chairman will load relevant rule information into an electronic timeclaim, which then goes to the General Chairman's office and hence to Labor Relations. We hope that once this system is up and running it will mean a greatly reduced number in denied claims as well as a faster turnaround on claims. There are 26,673 active BLET members as of the end of July, of which 1,803 are trainmen. There are 17,000 retired members. Although a dues raise of \$4.00 was initially called for, the GCA voted to raise dues by only \$2.00 (see below), to go into effect on your October 10 paycheck; however; the expensive Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance program which had been depleting GCA funds and triggered the dues raise will be replaced in short order by a new disability program, with details to be forthcoming.

Regarding the aforementioned dues raise of \$2.00 to go into effect on 10-10's paycheck, a motion was made by LC Brooner and seconded by C Yarbrough to absorb \$1.00 of that \$2.00 into the union, which would be paid for out of the \$5.00 per member per month surplus that we maintain. Additionally, the \$1.00 per member per month Local Chairman raise that we voted upon earlier this summer comes out of that \$5.00 per member per month surplus, so if this motion is enacted, the surplus then drops to \$3.00 per member per month. We have nearly \$16k in the account at present, so we are in no danger of dipping into red ink. This is the first of three meetings in which this motion will be discussed, so come and make your voices heard. Motion was unanimous, with all 15 members present (T Brooner, M Call, D Carman Jr, M Elske, R Flom, D Heiman, R Helms, M McCullough, J McGruder, J Mimick, R Murray, D Rangel, J Sichta, C Yarbrough, D Zahnow).

The annual dinner is scheduled for Thursday, October 18, at Pizza King.

New Union Pacific ID cards are in the process of being sent out and will replace existing ID cards.

A motion was made by D Heiman and seconded by C Yarbrough, voted upon unanimously, to look into pricing for a document scanner that would enable more union documents to be able to be posted to our website for our education. Used diligently, a document scanner would enable a great amount of correspondence that Cleveland and Cheyenne send us to be made available to you guys to help keep things current and up-to-date.

A motion was made by D Heiman and seconded by D Zahnow, voted upon unanimously, to look into increasing company officer dues (which engineers promoted to company officers pay to maintain their seniority) from \$50 to full member dues; there will have to be some looking into this matter because if it were that simple it would have already been done, but if so, this is the first of three meetings we will be discussing this issue before finalizing it.

A motion was made by D Heiman and seconded by T Brooner, voted upon unanimously, to send a letter of thanks and a \$100 gift card to outgoing General Chairman Mike Young for all of the effort he put out over years of service in his capacity.

The Cross-Function safety meeting representatives have been changed from W Keefer and D Carman Jr to P Ponce and D Zahnw. Phil and Dwight cover safety issues in the yards as well as the main line between CPB 009 and CPB 347, so if you have issues they should be aware of, let them know.

### **Unfinished Business:**

There will be meetings with the Harriman concerning crew balancing in the near-future; right now lineups and deadheads are forecast about 12-14 hours into the future but we are looking at being able to do that 16-24 hours ahead of time. In the first half of August, there were 55 RE22 deadheads compared to 7 RE10 deadheads. We are trying to fix this.

No one has been filling out time claims for cuts to XE01 guarantee caused by Federal Rest status. We need to be getting claims from individuals so affected, so we can forward them to be conferenced. We don't know how it will be arbitrated or conferenced, but the first round of some 40-50 claims will be conferenced in September.

If you have waited over 30 minutes at the Oak Tree for a room, there is new claims language on the website instructing you on how to fill out a 130-mile basic day claim for excessive wait. Recently some members were given keys and then discovered the rooms were not yet clean. Your 30 minute wait begins when you get to the hotel, so ASK if your room is clean; if it isn't, begin the 30 minute wait. Additionally, you have to call CMS to get your rest adjusted, which is another portion of that claim that you need to do. The Howard Johnson's is the designated overflow, not the Super 8 on the south side of the Interstate. They should be walking you to the HoJo's.

### **Sick:**

Max Eckert, Kevin Kinney

**Motion to suspend reading of minutes by D Heiman, seconded by C Yarbrough, 14 for/1 against, meeting adjourned at 1124. Next meeting on 9-10, guys, don't forget about the nominations, and be safe.**

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Teamsters Hall  
**9-10-2012 0900**

Open meeting without due form.

Reading of previous minutes by J Sichta; motion to accept reading of minutes by C Yarbrough, seconded by B McCoy, unanimous.

**BLE 183 Report:**

RE01:30 turns on, calls for 30.

RE10:33 turns on, calls for 33.7 but will leave it alone for now.

**BLE 699 Report:**

13 turns on, calls for 13.2, will leave alone for now.

**Legislative:**

No legislative report.

**New Members:**

No new members.

**Financial Report:**

\$13,747.03 and 111 members (106 active engineers/1 trainman/4 managers). There will be a dues increase of either \$1.00 or \$2.00 (see Unfinished Business, below) on 10-10's paycheck due to the increase from the General Committee of Adjustment. Motion to accept financial report by C Yarbrough, seconded by J Mimick, unanimous.

**New Business:**

Nominations for the upcoming elections were held today. Here are your nominees, followed in parenthesis by who nominated them and who seconded the nomination....

President...Mike Call (E Abboud/J Sichta) and Curt Klopping (J Mimick/J McGruder). Dana Carman Jr was also nominated by J McGruder/R Flom, but declined as he is running for Second Vice Local Chairman.

Vice-President...Jeff Nourse (B McCoy/E Abboud) and Steve Tippery (J Mimick/C Klopping).

Secretary/Treasurer...Matt McCollough (J Nourse/B McCoy). Jeff Sichta was also nominated by J McGruder but declined to run. As there were no other nominees, Matt McCollough was elected by acclamation and will begin his 3-year term in January 2013.

Alternate Secretary/Treasurer...Dan Westfall (R Schrack/J Sichta). Jeff Sichta was also nominated by C Yarbrough/J Mimick but declined to run. As there were no other nominees, Dan Westfall was elected by acclamation.

Guide...Randy Adams (J Sweeney/C Yarbrough). As there were no other nominees, Randy Adams was elected by acclamation .

Chaplain...Rick Schrack (B McCoy/J Nourse). As there were no other nominees, Rick Schrack was

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elected by acclamation.

Delegate to the National Division...Sam Caruso (J Sweeney/C Yarbrough). As there were no other nominees, Sam Caruso was elected by acclamation.

First Alternate Delegate to the National Division...John Sweeney (B McCoy, E Abboud) and Randy Smith (J Mimick/C Klopping).

Second Alternate Delegate to the National Division...Rick Sandel (J Mimick/R Schrack). As there were no other nominees, Rick Sandel was elected by acclamation.

Legislative Representative...John Sweeney (J Sichta/C Yarbrough). As there were no other nominees, John Sweeney was elected by acclamation.

Alternate Legislative Representative...Sam Caruso (B McCoy/C Yarbrough). As there were no other nominees, Sam Caruso was elected by acclamation.

Local Chairman (who is also the Delegate to the General Committee of Adjustment)... Terry Brooner (J McGruder/C Yarbrough) and Dale Heiman (J Mimick/C Klopping).

First Vice-Local Chairman (and First Alternate Delegate to GCA)...Brian McCoy (J Nourse/E Abboud) and Jeff Mimick (C Klopping/J McGruder).

Second Vice-Local Chairman (and Second Alternate Delegate to GCA)...Dana Carman, Jr (J Mimick/J Sweeney). As there were no other nominees, Dana Carman, Jr was elected by acclamation.

A 3-man Election Committee was formed (Rick Flom, Dennis Rangel, and Chuck Yarbrough), under the supervision of S/T Sichta. Prior to the December meeting, you'll receive ballots and instructions in the mail and you must BE SURE to follow the instructions, which are very exacting and particular, in order for your vote to be counted. During the December meeting, the Election Committee will tabulate and announce the results. New officers take charge during the January 2013 meeting and serve a 3-year term.

A motion was made by T Brooner and seconded by J Sweeney, voted upon unanimously, to allow the three-man Election Committee to hold their pool turn for the December meeting in order to tally the votes.

A unanimous vote was made in favor of a new discipline agreement side-letter from the GCA regarding that paid time lost for disciplined employees will NOT be reduced by job insurance payments, unemployment benefits, or other outside earnings.

The GCA is still looking into a new disability insurance to replace the expensive insurance we had previously.

The TRT will start on October 16 and continue until the ground freezes, starting from East Grand Island and moving east on Main #1.

Bedbugs have been reported at the Sioux City Hotel and have been rumored as well as the Oak Tree Inn in North Platte. If you find bedbugs or believe you have been bitten, be sure to turn into the Safety

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Hotline!

For a brief time, the Carrier was paying the Zone breaks the old way. That was done in error and has been stopped. The Union still maintains the old way should take precedence, however.

If you are instructed by the Dispatcher to put more power online, ask for a Form C like they put out for the Z-trains, to insure you are covered in the event of the powers-that-be auditing your tapes and learning you have more power online than the BU calls for.

For those having difficulties with tie-ups, Timekeeping representatives will be in Fremont on Thursday, 9-13, to assist with tie-ups.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Regarding the Financial Report's aforementioned dues raise of \$2.00 to go into effect on 10-10's paycheck, per New Business last month a motion was made by LC Brooner and seconded by C Yarbrough to absorb \$1.00 of that \$2.00 into the union, which would be paid for out of the \$5.00 per member per month surplus that we maintain. Additionally, the \$1.00 per member per month Local Chairman raise that we voted upon earlier this summer comes out of that \$5.00 per member per month surplus, so if this motion is enacted, the surplus then drops to \$3.00 per member per month. We have nearly \$16k in the account at present, so we are in no danger of dipping into red ink. This is the second of three meetings in which this motion will be discussed, so come and make your voices heard. The motion was unanimous in the August meeting, with all 15 members present (T Brooner, M Call, D Carman Jr, M Elske, R Flom, D Heiman, R Helms, M McCullough, J McGruder, J Mimick, R Murray, D Rangel, J Sichta, C Yarbrough, D Zahnow)., and unanimous in this meeting, with an additional 8 members heard (E Abboud, R Schrack, K Clopping, J Nourse, B McCoy, J Sweeney, D Van Dorn, C Colley).

The annual dinner is scheduled for Thursday, October 18, at Pizza King.

A motion had been made by D Heiman and seconded by C Yarbrough in August, voted upon unanimously, to look into pricing for a document scanner that would enable more union documents to be able to be posted to our website for our education. Prices for document scanners range from \$400 to \$4,000. While such a device may be helpful, (1) most of the important documents we receive end up in some form on the BLET 183 web page nonetheless, and (2) the BLET Constitution and bylaws require us to keep hard-copies as it is, so purchasing a document scanner would not only be wasteful of union funds at this time, but also unnecessary.

A motion had been made by D Heiman and seconded by D Zahnow in August, voted upon unanimously, to look into increasing company officer dues (which engineers promoted to company officers pay to maintain their seniority) from \$50 to full member dues. The subject of officer dues is an issue for the National Division to deal with, and there is nothing we can do about it at the local Division level. Unless the ND decides to change it themselves, officer dues will remain at maintenance dues level.

### **Sick:**

Max Eckert, Kevin Kinney

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**Motion to suspend reading of minutes by C Yarbrough, seconded by J Sweeney, 8 for/1 against, meeting adjourned at 1118. Next meeting on 10-8, guys, be safe.**

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Teamsters Hall  
**10-8-2012 0900**

Open meeting without due form.

Reading of previous minutes, motion to suspend reading of minutes by J Sweeney, seconded by D Shultz, unanimous.

**BLE 183 Report:**

RE01:33 turns on, calls for 32.8.

RE10:29 turns on, calls for 29.4.

**BLE 699 Report:**

No report.

**Legislative:**

No legislative report.

**New Members:**

No new members.

**Financial Report:**

\$13,417.47 and 109 members (104 active engineers/1 trainman/4 managers). Motion to pay D Carman Jr \$71.22 for expenses made by D Heiman, seconded by D Shultz, unanimous. Motion to accept financial report by D Van Dorn, seconded by R Schrack, unanimous.

**New Business:**

D Shultz reports there are no whistle boards in Columbus. G Moller reports call OSHA if there are safety problems. D Heiman reports that managers in the CB Service Unit are conducting locomotive shut-down audits. R Adams reports that Senior MOP Jim Ten Kate wants engineers to begin sounding the horn for crossings at the whistle boards. A motion was made by D Heiman and seconded by D Van Dorn to spend \$200 for dinner prizes at the annual dinner on 10-18.

**Unfinished Business:**

Regarding the Financial Report's aforementioned dues raise of \$2.00 to go into effect on 10-10's paycheck, per New Business in August a motion was made by LC Brooner and seconded by C Yarbrough to absorb \$1.00 of that \$2.00 into the union, which would be paid for out of the \$5.00 per member per month surplus that we maintain. Additionally, the \$1.00 per member per month Local Chairman raise that we voted upon earlier this summer comes out of that \$5.00 per member per month surplus, so if this motion is enacted, the surplus then drops to \$3.00 per member per month. We have nearly \$16k in the account at present, so we are in no danger of dipping into red ink. This was the third of three meetings in which this motion was discussed. The motion was unanimous in the August meeting, with all 15 members present (T Brooner, M Call, D Carman Jr, M Elske, R Flom, D Heiman, R Helms, M McCullough, J McGruder, J Mimick, R Murray, D Rangel, J Sichta, C Yarbrough, D Zahnow), unanimous in the September meeting, with an additional 8 members heard (E Abboud, R Schrack, K Clopping, J Nourse, B McCoy, J Sweeney, D Van Dorn, C Colley), and unanimous in the October meeting with an additional 3 members heard (D Shultz, R Adams, B Herbert). The motion carries, 26 for and none opposed.

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The annual dinner is scheduled for Thursday, October 18, at Pizza King in Council Bluffs. Social hour from 5-7, dinner at 7. The meal is paid for but alcoholic beverages are not. The food's pretty decent and a good time is had by all, so this is a good opportunity to bring a spouse/mistress/significant other, leave the kids with a sitter, take in a dinner and let the wives socialize with other rail wives. There will be NO dancing atop the tables this year, thank you.

**Sick:**

Max Eckert, Kevin Kinney

**Motion to suspend reading of minutes by D Shultz, seconded by D Heiman, 12 for/1 against, meeting adjourned.. Next meeting on 11-12, guys, be safe.**

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Teamsters Hall  
**11-12-2012 0900**

Open meeting without due form.

Reading of previous minutes, motion to suspend reading of minutes by J Mimick, seconded by C Colley, unanimous.

**BLE 183 Report:**

RE01:25 turns on, calls for 25.5.

RE10:28 turns on, calls for 27.7.

**BLE 699 Report:**

12 turns on, calls for 10.6 but will leave alone for now. Rumors that the RE58 will move to CB or Cal Junction are untrue. The new yard office at Cal Junction was supposed to be ready in 2013 at CPB 335, as well as a new yard office in Fremont at County Road 26, but both projects are on hold until early 2014 at the earliest. The carrier is negotiating with the Stoney Creek for new lodging, so we'll see. The carrier is required to give the Sioux City hotel 60 days to fix issues. Bedbugs are a safety issue, but the union needs proof of bedbugs. If you have been bitten, you need to step forward. Orkin has hit 2 rooms and found nothing. The point person for corporate lodging issues is Pat Anderson and she is at 402-591-3007.

**Legislative:**

The BLET 183 elections are upon us. Ballots will be mailed out shortly and should be returned promptly. Very exacting instructions are on the ballots themselves and I know it's not your first rodeo, but let's cover some key points. (1) Use PEN, not pencil. (2) Once your ballot is complete, fold it and put it in the smallest envelope, the ballot envelope. (3) SEAL THE BALLOT ENVELOPE. (4) Put the ballot envelope in the return envelope, which already has postage. (5) If your name and address is NOT on the return envelope, put it on the return envelope...we can't count your ballot if there's no address and name on the return envelope, as we have to verify that it came from a member of BLET 183. The Election Committee will be excused during the December meeting to go get the ballots from the post office and bring them to the meeting hall, where they will verify, tabulate, and announce the results. New officers take their positions in the January meeting.

**New Members:**

Brian Young. Motion to accept Brian by C Yarbrough, seconded by J Sweeney, unanimous. Welcome to the club, Brian

**Financial Report:**

\$15,581.04 and 109 members (103 active engineers/2 trainman/4 managers). Motion to accept financial report by S Caruso, seconded by C Colley, unanimous

**New Business:**

You should begin receiving election ballots shortly. Follow the instructions precisely. See the Legislative Report above for further information.

Vacation forms are due back to Jeff Mimick by 12-1. You have until January 31 to pick out single-day vacation weeks, however.

Terry and Jeff, as well as Casey and Vaughn on the UTU side, are handling crew-balancing duties for 30 days, which will end on 11-27. Due to their efforts, lineups have become more reliable, unnecessary deadheads are way down, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> District is working with us to get it done. We have hopes that once implemented it will continue to be administered once the 27<sup>th</sup> arrives.

Do NOT call the corridor managers. If you have some issue that requires a corridor's attention, call Terry or Jeff or Chuck; they take it to the corridor.

The final TRT cycle will be November 16-21, a 5-day cycle, after which they will be relocating to Texas. They hope to have CPB 147-CPB 110 done in its entirety before the 21<sup>st</sup>.

If you believe you should have a Brakeman and it is a crew consist issue, the CONDUCTOR is responsible for calling Casey, et al to have the issue fixed. Engineers don't have a crew consist agreement; that's strictly UTU business.

Engineers have to repeat verbatim ALL Red Zone information that is said by the conductor. They have been testing on this recently.

There are some management trainees that are being given management responsibilities and instructions to crews. Even though they're trainees, they're still considered management and have to be obeyed as such. Don't subject yourself to an insubordination charge just because you have a legitimate question of this individual's position in the hierarchy of command.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

There have been issues with hard beds and thin pillows at the lodging facilities, causing pains and aches. If you feel the need, fill out an ON-duty injury form, NOT an off-duty injury form. The Oak Tree in North Platte is in the process of bringing in new (and hopefully softer) beds and possibly new pillows.

The Coal Board in Council Bluffs has 5 engineers but will reduce in January as we are losing Mid-America to the BN on January 1. The CBSU wants to keep 2-3 coal jobs on.

If you are instructed to go to the grain facility south of Central City on the NCRC, ask for a pilot and a NCRC timetable. Ideally, we should not be going down there, or on the NCRC territory at all, even just to wye power at Central City..

#### **Sick:**

Max Eckert has gone on disability.

**Motion to suspend reading of minutes by J Sweeney, seconded by C Yarbrough, 8 for/2 against, meeting adjourned.. Next meeting on 12-10, guys, be safe**

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Teamsters Hall  
**12-10-2012 0900**

Open meeting without due form.

Reading of previous minutes, motion to suspend reading of minutes by D Heiman, seconded by J Nourse, unanimous.

At this time, the Election Committee (R Flom, D Rangel, C Yarbrough) was excused from the meeting to go to the Post Office to pick up election ballots.

**BLE 183 Report:**

RE01:23 turns on, calls for 27. 2 were added, but no more due to concerns over miles.  
RE10:31 turns on, calls for 29. 2 were cut today.

**BLE 699 Report:**

12 turns on, calls for 12. There were some make-up turns but miles cannot justify adding any more turns at this time. As of 12-6, we are now staying at the Ramada in downtown Sioux City, which was the old Best Western for those who remember those days.

**Legislative:**

No legislative report.

**New Members:**

C J Salas and Randy Chamberlain. Motion to accept C J by J Sichts, seconded by T Brooner, unanimous. Motion to accept Chamberlain by J Nourse, seconded by R Schrack, unanimous. Welcome to the club, guys.

**Financial Report:**

\$12,986.25 and 109 members (103 active engineers/2 trainman/4 managers). Motion to accept financial report by D Zahnow, seconded by J Nourse, unanimous.

**New Business:**

Elections results were tabulated and announced today. New officers will be installed at the January meeting. Of the 14 positions, there were only 5 contested races, for Local Chairman, First Vice-Local Chairman, President, Vice-President, and First Alternate Delegate to the National Convention; the remaining positions were filled by acclamation in a previous meeting. Today's votes were as follows:

Local Chairman... Terry Brooner 77, Dale Heiman 8.

First Vice-Local Chairman... Brian McCoy 54, Jeff Mimick 32.

President... Mike Call 60, Curt Klopping 26.

Vice-President... Jeff Nourse 59, Steve Tippery 27.

First Alternate Delegate... Randy Smith 57, John Sweeney 26

The acclamated positions are Second Vice Local Chairman: Dana Carman, JR,

Secretary/Treasurer:Matt McCollough, Alternate S/T:Dan Westfall, Legislative Representative:John Sweeney, Alternate Leg Rep as well as Delegate to the National Division:Sam Caruso, Second Alternate Delegate:Rick Sandel, Guide:Randy Adams, Chaplain:Rick Schrack.

There were some 115 ballots mailed out, of which we received 91 back. 3 ballots could not be opened or counted as those members were ineligible per National Division rules at the time of the election. 1 ballot was returned as undeliverable and could not be opened or counted. 1 ballot could not be counted as it was discovered the member had invalidated it by putting the member's name and return address on the inner ballot envelope directly. Of 86 eligible ballots, 1 had no selection for Local Chairman, and 3 more had no selection for First Alternate Delegate, which is why there were 85 votes for Local Chairman instead of 86, and 83 for First AD instead of 86. After results were announced and winners declared and certified by the Election Committee, ballots and materials were sealed in a box before the membership. All records are to be maintained for one year before disposal.

The officers of BLET 183 would like to thank the membership who participated in the election, as well as Brothers Flom, Rangel, and Yarbrough for their diligence in the Election Committee work. Much effort and cooperation was made to keep the democratic process as transparent as possible.

Motion was made by T Brooner and seconded by D Zahnow to allow incoming Secretary/Treasurer Matt McCollough to hold his turn or place a counter on his turn so he and outgoing S/T Sichta could effect the turnover when they could in December or January.

The XE15 (Lincoln Subdivision) is presently working out of Valley instead of Council Bluffs. A motion was made by J Mimick and seconded by D Zahnow that we explore the possibility of getting the Carrier to move the XE15 back to Council Bluffs.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

Regarding Zone Rule dogcatch, we are still working to get a final answer from the Carrier on whether the Old Zone or New Zone is the legally applicable rule. This issue was not furthered under Mike Young's tenure, and Dave Geisler, the new General Chairman of U.P. Eastern District, is aware of this situation so we hope to see some traction soon. No one has been turning in claims to the local Committee in regards to Zone breaks, so this issue isn't showing up on the radar very often. If you break the Old Zone and are declined, turn it in to Terry.

The Coal Board in Council Bluffs has 5 engineers but will reduce in at some unspecified point after the first of the year to 2 engineers.

Crew balancers are certainly needed. The pilot project was a success, having local union officers take over the crew balancing duties from the Harriman. The pilot has now ended, but the necessity was proved.

Safety Committee...D Zahnow reports that as of January 1 of 2013, locomotive doors will be required to be locked when train is secured.

#### **Sick:**

none.

**Motion to suspend reading of minutes by J Mimick, seconded by R Flom, unanimous, meeting adjourned at 1103. Gentlemen, it's been an honor to serve you. I'll do my best to give Matt**

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**McCollough a good turnover. Next meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup>, guys, be safe.**

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