



Railroad Workers United

Solidarity • Unity • Democracy

The Rank & File in Action!

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January 6th, 2023

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Edward Hall, President
Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen
7061 East Pleasant Valley Road
Independence, OH 44131

Dear President Hall:

Congratulations and best wishes for a positive and productive Presidency of the BLET. We hope there is a smooth transition of power from the previous administration, and that you are able to lead with support from other Executive Board members of the union. Please do not hesitate to call on RWU if there is anything we can do to assist.

As you may know, RWU is committed to principles of democratic unionism and fought hard to achieve one-member-one-vote for top officers in the BLET. When that new found right was threatened to be taken away by an initiative four years after being won, RWU went all out to defend the right of every member to vote, and the initiative that would have destroyed this democratic process was soundly defeated. Your election victory last month is the fruit of this previous struggle for union democracy.

In addition to our fervent belief in union democracy, RWU also is a proponent of cross-craft solidarity and trade union unity. For the last 15 years we have pushed for all rail unions to work together and to actively cooperate. Ultimately we believe that rail workers - like so many other industrial workers - need to have ONE powerful union. In the meantime, we will continue to advocate for universal cooperation and coalition between the myriad craft unions. There have been some positive steps in recent years in this direction, including the alliance between the operating crafts and the near universal bargaining coalition that was established this past year. While an advance over previous years, this movement towards unity and solidarity must be nurtured and pushed forward as the only way for the individual crafts to succeed and win. United we stand, divided we fall!

Finally, we believe that we can best further our agenda for better wages, benefits and working conditions (including the preservation of the two-person train crew) when the membership is informed, encouraged and otherwise involved in all aspects of running the union. A union is only as strong as its membership, and an active membership ensures a strong and democratic union.

We hope you agree with these ideas and principles, and find them as useful guideposts in the years ahead. Again, RWU stands ready to aid and assist in any way that we can for you to succeed in building a stronger and more vibrant, membership led BLET going forward!

Yours in Solidarity,

The Railroad Workers United Steering Committee