



SOUTHERN SYSTEM DIVISION

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 4, 2008

SOUTHERN SYSTEM CONVENTION ELECTION RESULTS SYSTEM OFFICERS

General Chairman: Gary Cox
Vice Chairman: Samuel Alexander
Assistant Chairman: Michael Sellers

EXECUTIVE BOARD

NW Region: Charles Bullen, Board Chairman
NE Region: Warren (Dale) Earnest
SE Region: Marcus Hood
SW Region: Ben Crowe
At Large: James Stith

The Southern System convention was held at Music Road Hotel, Pigeon Forge, and TN. and was called to order by Chairman Cox at 6:00 PM on November 6, 2007 and concluded on November 8, 2007. The Joint protective Board worked tirelessly to approve By-Laws, pass Resolutions and elect System and Executive Board Officers to guide the Southern System for the next four years. The System and Executive Board Officer's took office January 1, 2008.

Hood- Sellers, Alexander- Gibson, Earnest-Godwin, Lane, Win State Legislative Positions

Marcus Hood, Sec-Trea. Local 627, wins second term as Georgia State Legislative Director and **Mike Sellers** Assistant State Director.

Samuel Alexander wins Tennessee State Legislative Director and **Charlie Gibson**, President, Local 645, Assistant State Director.

Dale Earnest, President & Local Chairman, Lodge 524, wins first term North Carolina, State Legislative Director and **David Godwin**, President & Local Chairman, Lodge525, Assistant State Director.

Michael Lane, member Local 1618, wins first term as South Carolina, Assistant Legislative Director.

The Southern System Division members hold 7 legislative positions in 4 states. We are fortunate to have a dedicated group of Legislative Representatives.

SHOULD I USE MY CELL PHONE FOR THE CARRIER?

It's a common practice for our members to use their personal cell phone while at work to conduct Carrier business when authorized to do so. The Carrier has customarily paid the cell phone bill. Now the Carrier wants to reimburse on a percentage **minute** basis for use of your personal cell phone. The employee would have to submit an itemized bill before the Carrier will reimburse you. If you are using your personal phone for Carrier business, you may be setting your self up for the carrier to view all of your cell phone calls. It would be in your best interest to read and review the Carrier's **RULE GR 27**. You could be setting yourself up for discipline under **RULE GR 27**. Why would you want to subsidize the Carrier by using your personal cell phone?

OCCUPATIONAL DISABILITY

TRUST FUND

BMWED members on the Allied Federation, Southern System and Nickel Plate-Wheeling & Lake Erie Federation, formed a Disability Trust Plan to help our members when they become occupationally disabled. On January 1, 2007 the O.D.T.F. went into effect. Members will have to submit a copy of their railroad retirement Annuity along with a letter of application to the office of:

**SOUTHERN ADMINISTRATORS
2001 CALDWELL DR.**

GOODLETTSVILLE, TN. 37072

**Questions: Southern System, Assistant Chairman,
Mike Sellers, Committee Trustee. 800-537-2194**

ACCIDENT / INJURY REPORT FORM 22

If you are injured or if you think you have injured yourself at work you must report it immediately to the Foreman, Supervisor, or a member of the crew, before you leave work. If the injury is minor or of a serious nature, medical attention should be sought immediately and proper authority advised.

Next, fill out an Accident/Injury Report-form 22 in your own words (if possible) and request a copy of the report you have filled out, don't let the supervisor fill it out for you. The form needs to be filled out in your own words. If the injury is of a serious nature and you are not able to fill it out, wait until you have a clear head before you do so.

Remember, it's your job that's on the line, not the Supervisor's

Next call the UNION Office we can help you fill out the injury report and advise you of what to do and what to expect from the Carrier. The Carrier has an elaborate game they will play with you to keep you from filing an accident/injury report or trick you into saying the wrong thing. Remember anything you say, the Carrier will try to twist it around on you.

We've witnessed this first hand of how the Carrier will stop at nothing to discredit your injury. To safeguard yourself, **CALL THE UNION WHEN YOU ARE INJURED ON THE JOB.**

SICKNESS BENEFITS RRB &

SICK BENEFITS ATENA

BMWED members have two sick benefits to file for when you are sick or injured on or off the job. Sickness benefits with the Railroad Retirement Board have to be filled within (10) ten days of the first day you become sick or injured. No benefits are payable for your first (7) seven days of sickness, unless you have already served a waiting period in the benefit year. If you have at least (4) four consecutive days of sickness and (5) five days of sickness overall, you should file a claim for benefits. Even though no benefits may be payable if the claim is your first claim in the benefit year, your claim must be filed in order to satisfy the waiting period requirement.

ATENA has to be notified by phone (1866-867-4096) within (60) sixty days of your sickness or injury. The best policy to take is to call the System office when you become sick or injured. *You can call the Southern System office for sick Benefit forms for the Railroad Retirement Board.*

MILITARY * ACTIVE DUTY

If you are called up for Military service you should contact the Southern System Division and advise us of your departure and your return date. While our members are on **ACTIVE** Military Duty, dues will not be taken out of your supplement pay. Be sure and call the Union. **We support our soldiers.**

BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

Bereavement Leave may be taken not in excess of three calendar days, following the date of death will be allowed in case of death of an **employee's brother, sister, parent, child, spouse or spouse's parent.** In such cases a minimum basic day's pay at the rate of the number of working days lost during bereavement leave. Employee involved will make provision for taking leave with their supervising officials in the usual manner. Any restrictions against blanking jobs or realigning forces will not be applicable when an employee is absent under this provision. **Before taking Bereavement Leave call the System office for specific guidelines.**

DENTAL

New members: Dental insurance for you and your family begins on the first day of your (1) one year anniversary. Aetna does not issue dental cards. Your family Dentist can call Aetna (1-877-277-3368) to verify your coverage with your employee ID #.

HEARING

Examinations to diagnose the cause of hearing loss and charges for a hearing aid. Benefits are payable up to a maximum of \$600 per calendar year.

VISION VSP

Your VSP Well-Vision Exam (no co-pay) is fully covered. If you wear contacts, you need a special contact lens exam to fit them and test your vision. You may have to pay for this exam. Be sure to use VSP doctors.

One eye exam 12 months after your last exam.

New lenses 24 months after the last time you got eye wear.

Prescription Lenses: Single vision, lined bifocal and lined trifocal lenses are fully covered.

Frames: You have a \$115 allowance for any frame. Plus you get 20% off any amount over your allowance.

Contacts: Instead of glasses. You get a 15% discount off the contact lens exam. Plus you get a \$ 105 allowance for your contact lens exam and contacts. Call 1-800-877-7195 Monday – Friday, 5a.m. to 7p.m. Saturday 6 a.m. to 2:30 Pacific Time.

TIME CLAIMS & GRIEVANCES

RULE 42

All claims or grievances **must** be presented in writing to the Southern System office in a timely manor for processing. Time limits for filing a claim are **60 days** from the date of the violation. System officer will file the claim on your behalf and keep you advised of the progress of your claim. From the start to finish, your claim could take a while. Your claim has to go through a three step process of filing. You can get time claim forms on our web site or call the System office. Visit our web site:

sousysdi@charterinternet.com

LIFE INSURANCE

LIFE insurance benefits: \$20,000.

Accidental death and dismemberment: \$16,000.

FREQUENTLY CALL NUMBER

LIFE INSURANCE

System Office	1800-537-2194
United Health GA 23000	1800-842-5252
BC/BS GA 23000	1866-267-3320
Aetna Health GA 23000	1800-842-4044
Aetna Dental	1877-277-3386
Mental Health	1866-850-6212
Substance Abuse VBH	
Met Life	1800-310-7770
Vision Plan	1800-877-7195
Merck Medco	1800-842-0070
(Managed Pharmacy Services)	
Retirement Board	1800-808-0772
(RRB Directory for local #'s)	
Aetna Sickness	1800-205-7651
Sickness Benefit Plan	1866-867-4096
NS Insurance Service	1800-624-4139
Re-activation (EXT. 5252)	

SUPPORT YOUR UNION BY ATTENDING LODGE MEETINGS

Lodge meetings are held quarterly and notices are sent out by the lodge you are assigned to. Your local lodge officers and your System officers are a great source of information to learn about your working agreement.

IT TAKES TWO TO FORM A UNION IT TAKES ONE TO DESTROY IT

SUPPORT YOUR UNION BROTHERS IN SOLIDARITY

SOUTHERN SYSTEM DIVISION

PO BOX 24068

KNOXVILLE, TN. 37933

sousysdi@charterinternet.com

1800-537-2194

IF YOU HAVE ANY ARTICLES OF INTEREST OR IDEAS YOU WOULD LIKE FOR THIS NEWS LETTER PLEASE CALL OR WRITE WITH COMMENTS.

ADDRESS YOU REQUESTED:

**SOUTHERN SYSTEM
DIVISION**

TEAMSTERS RAIL DIVISION

PO BOX 24068

KNOXVILLE, TN 37933

BMWED/Teamsters