

AUXILIARY of UTU TIMES

REACHING FOR THE FUTURE

Volume 9

With the new year--- brings new possibilities!

December 2007

It seems just like yesterday that we were talking about putting the decorations away and starting a new year but here we are again getting ready for the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season. This is always the time of year to stop and reflect on the real reason for Christmas. I pray that the spirit and joy of the new born Christ will find a place in your heart and bring you much joy and happiness in the New Year.

The New Year promises to be interesting as we watch and wait to see the results of the merger between the United Transportation Union and the Sheet Metal Workers. The merger will bring about a stronger and more powerful force as the union will be 230,000 strong. Where the Auxiliary will fit into the scheme of things will have to be seen. I am sure it will require some soul searching and a lot of work but with our rich history I know that we will meet the challenges. Rest assured that our scholarship fund is safe and secure as it was set up as a separate entity outside of the Auxiliary so that the fund would and could operate outside of the Auxiliary and that the moneys could not be used for other purposes.

While it has been a good year at Grand Lodge as we have welcomed 124 new members and established four new lodges. We cannot sit back and wait. We need your help in attracting new members and new lodges. I ask you to contact potential members in your area. If you need help in your area just give us a call. Reach out and welcome the family of the new hires who welcome a friendly face as they start a new life... We have also become more involved with the UTU Legislative Department and as

we work with the state directors we are seeing promise for our work. A big "thank you" goes out to the following UTU State Legislative Directors: Connie English – Texas, Tom Hensler – Indiana, and Phillip Qualy – Minnesota for their help in promoting the Auxiliary in your state. With their help we were able to organize four new lodges.

I wish to take this time to thank Jo Fink for all her years of service to the Auxiliary. Jo and John have retired this fall. "Best of luck" in your retirement, you both deserve it. Jo was a pillar of strength for me through the first years as President. She always knew where to find things and always provided the supporting words when I needed them most. Thanks Jo! With Jo retiring we welcome Angie Lopez to our team she is young, vibrant and is quickly learning the ropes. We are real happy to have Angie with us (see page 2).

I do want to thank all of you for your support this past year. It is difficult spending time away from my family but when I see the progress that we are making and the spirit that each of you has I know that my time is well spent. Take time this Christmas season to enjoy your family. We as the spouses of transportation workers have been the backbone of our families. All our hard work is rewarded in the joy and success of our children and grandchildren.

In Sisterly Love,

Carol S. Menges

International President

New Lodge #117 Wilmar, Minnesota

On September 18, 2007, Carol Menges, International President and Linda Stoffer, Alternate Vice President District 5 initiated the new members of “Northern Lights” Lodge at the Western Lakes Informal Meeting.

Lodge #117 is collecting gifts and donations for the BNSF Christmas Train for charities throughout Minnesota and South Dakota.



The new officers elected are Laurie Pientka – President, Rosa Guderson – V-President, Tammy Mace – Secretary, Patricia Ellington – Treasurer, and Pamela Jean Peterson – Conductress.

New Lodge #163 Princeton, Indiana

On October 16, 2007, Carol Menges, International President and Elaine Clark, Alternate Vice President District 4 initiated the new members of Lodge # 163 “Rail Riders.”



Left to right: Randi Utley UTU Local 490 Leg. Rep., Carrie Utley – Pres., Elaine Clark – Alter. Vice - Pres., Christine Hensler – Vice-Pres., Jackie French – Treasurer, Tom Hensler - UTU Indiana State Leg. Director, Virginia Hensler –Sec./Leg. Rep., and Carol Menges – Int. Pres.

New Lodge #508 Smithville, Texas

On November 7, 2007, Carol Menges, International President and Judy Phillips, Vice-President District #7 were thrilled to initiate the new members and installed the Officers of “Katy Crossing” Lodge # 508.

“Thanks Donna English for your help!”



Left to right: Randi Jenkins, Carole Richards – President, Judy Evanicky – Vice-Pres., Brenda Fehlker – Chaplain, Scott Saunders – Leg. Rep. Carol Menges – Int. Pres., Sharon Foerster, Donna English – Aux. Texas State Leg. Director Kimberly Lowery, Pam Vinklerek, Cydnie Meuth – Sec/Treasurer, Judy Phillips – Vice President Dist. #7.

New Lodge #650 St. Paul, Minnesota

On September 19, 2007, Carol Menges, International President and Linda Stoffer, Alternate Vice President District 5 had the great honor to initiate the new members of “Circle of Sisters” Lodge # 650 at the annual UTU Local 650 Picnic in St. Paul, Minnesota. The new Lodge officers elected are as follows: Brandy Johnson – President, Paula Johnson – Secretary/Treasurer, and Jenny Grannis-Eilerman – Delegate.

Welcome Auxiliary Office Assistant Angie Lopez



A MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Well, the Holiday Season is upon us once again and it won't be long until it's a New Year. With this New Year, there will be some big changes in United Transportation Union, as we know it today.

Effective January 1, 2008, UTU will officially become SMART. This will be the name for our new Union with the merger of Sheet Metal Workers International Association. This merger offers the UTU many benefits. Just to mention a few, this merger will:

1. Increase our membership by approximately 150,000 members
2. Increases the PAC fund (more than double)
3. Members of Congress realize we now speak for three times as many families as before
4. The carriers are feeling our stronger influence in Congress
5. We had the successful passage of H.R. 2095, the Federal Railroad Safety Improvement Act by the House of Representatives
6. Increase and strengthen the Auxiliary
7. Become three times more effective in our legislative work.

Please visit the UTU web site @ www.utu.org, where there is a wealth of information regarding the merger as well as a link to Sheet Metal Worker's International Association, or you may go directly to their web site @ www.SMWIA.org

Also in January 2008, UTU will have a new President, Mike Futhey, elected President (the SMART Transportation Division President), Arty Martin, Assistant President, and Kim Thompson, General Secretary/Treasurer. Congratulations on your newly elected positions.

UTU and Sheet Metal Worker's International/SMART are supporting Senator Hillary Clinton for President. The

following was copied and pasted from the UTU News dated November 18, 2007:

'Hillary in '08,' pledges SMART

"Following the UTU endorsement in August, Clinton said in a letter to UTU members:

-- Amtrak, commuter rail and public transportation should be well funded.

-- There should be a fair way of keeping a commercial driver's license.

-- Labor protections at both the Department of Labor and the Surface Transportation Board should be strengthened.

-- Railroad Retirement and the Federal Employers' Liability Act (FELA) will be supported by her administration.

-- All UTU members should be trained in safety and security.

-- It is important that UTU members should not be abandoned on trains (limbo time) at the conclusion of their runs, or should be required to report to work fatigued. "

Before closing, I want to extend a special 'Thank You' to Jenny Miller of the UTU Legislative Office for writing the article in the last issue. Thank you Jenny for giving us an update from Washington, DC.

As always, if you have any questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact the Grand Lodge or myself.

Have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season.

Yours in Sisterly Love,

Charlie Belden

National Legislative Director
Auxiliary of the UTU
Phone: (540) 972-4627
Email: utuauxnld@aol.com

DEPARTED MEMBERS

Lodge	Name	Date of Death	Lodge	Name	Date of Death
005	Dolores Clarke	10-01-07	398	Irene M. Butler	08-29-07
012	Elizabeth M. Ira	10-01-07	421	Dorothy Diederich	10-08-07
028	Violetta Durnan	07-17-07	430	Elsie L. Watson	00-00-00
028	Ruth D. Hanegan	09-17-07	431	Josephine Medonich	06-00-07
028	Vivian Burroughs	09-11-07	500	Mildred E. Walter	07-06-07
065	Theresa Lindell	09-18-07	519	Theresa Brennan	08-14-07
105	Elaine Gordon	02-11-07	519	Veronica O'Brien	07-14-07
105	Katharine McCray	06-11-07	539	Pauline J. Solberg	05-23-07
156	Clara B. Vacelli	07-03-07	622	Willoise W. Estes	10-07-07
170	Ruby F. Storrer	07-22-07	656	Lula Mayo	00-00-07
213	Shirley M. Swenor	06-09-07	732	Althea M. Bender	10-27-07
219	Mary O. Byrnes	09-28-07	762	Phyllis M. Hale	09-19-07
219	Walburga M. Himes	09-03-07	771	Margaret E. Smith	10-06-07
219	Mable E. Long	08-10-07	778	Paula L. Miall	09-00-07
270	Laura Peterson	08-03-07	779	Frances Yarbrough	03-00-07
289	Barbara A. Karns	09-09-07	793	Ethel G. Lott	09-22-07
314	Agnese M. Daw	06-03-07	846	Mary Jo Craig	09-12-07
314	Margaret E. Spears	09-07-07	846	Frances E. Neumann	10-30-07
328	Thelma M. Gardner	09-26-07	846	Betty M. Wakefield	08-11-07
328	Betty J. Miller	11-06-07	851	Sybil A. Voss	06-00-07
328	Norma M. Miller	09-25-07	851	Helen W. White	09-22-07
353	Inez I. Johnson	09-21-07	914	Shirley Babinger	08-06-07
353	Grace Turrentine	09-09-07	915	Grace Reph	09-28-07
377	Neola K. Boyd	10-23-07	932	Marguerite J. Summey	08-18-07
379	Marilyn L. Supanchick	04-16-07	958	Stella M. Dobbs	10-00-07
383	Josephine M. Golliday	09-21-07	965	Dorothy Schlaghauser	07-26-07

BLESSING OF A SMILE



The soul grows glad and sees it
 And feels its courage strong
 A smile is just like sunshine
 For cheering folks along.

And happy thoughts come crowding
 It's joyful notes to greet-
 A smile is just Like music
 For making Living sweet.

A smile is just like sunshine
 It brightens all the day
 It tips the peak of Life with light
 And drives the clouds away.

A smile is just like music
 It lingers in the heart
 And where it's melody is heard
 The ills of life depart.

From: Walking Through Life's Garden

**AUXILIARY of the UTU
SCHOLARSHIP FUND BOARD**

The Scholarship Fund was established to help provide for the future education of Auxiliary families. Yearly Scholarships will be awarded through this Scholarship Fund.

Thank You for your generous support to the Scholarship Fund. With your continuous contributions, we are able to fulfill our commitment of aiding in the future education of family members of the Auxiliary of the UTU. We greatly appreciate your donations.

Our thanks, appreciation, and gratitude go out to the following for their generous support:

Lodge No. 5	\$ 191.00
Lodge No. 933	\$ 25.00
Lodge No. 960	\$ 100.00

When sending in your donation - Please make check payable to:

“Auxiliary of the UTU Scholarship Fund”

Donations will gladly be accepted from lodges or individuals. When sending your donation - Mail to:

Carol S. Menges
Treasurer - Scholarship Fund Board
3617 Schott Road
Jefferson City, MO 65101-9026

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Please send articles and/or pictures to Grand Lodge (or e-mail to: utuauxilairyintpres@utu.org).

Keep in mind that space may be limited in some issues. We will do our best to get your items in our current newsletter

Be Informed Receive the Newsletter

Please tell your members if they are interested in receiving our bimonthly newsletter to call or write Grand Lodge. We would be more than happy to put their name on our Auxiliary mailing list.

UTU – PAC

The Auxiliary supports this effort to help friends in Congress and in the State Legislature by donating our time and our dollars. The UTU – Political Action Committee recognizes the problems that affect the UTU railroad, bus, and airline workers and their families.

Our thanks, appreciation, and gratitude go out to the following lodge for their generous support:

Lodge No. 391	\$ 50.00
Lodge No. 793	\$100.00

Memorial Contribution in the name of the following sisters:

Mary Connally
Nancy Lema
Elnice Tressler
Mildred Hoehn
Flora Morrow

When sending in your contribution Please make check payable to: *UTU-PAC*

ADDRESS CHANGES

If you or your fellow members have recently moved, please send Grand Lodge the new address so we can keep our records up-to-date. Instead of letting the US Post Office return your mail to us. If the Post Office does not have your forwarding address, we may lose you forever.

U. S. RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

The last of the 2007 Railroad Retirement Informational Conference will be held at the date and location listed below. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. with the programs beginning promptly at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 12:30 p.m.

Dec. 7 **Jacksonville, FL**
Holiday Inn
9150 Baymeadows Road

Please share this schedule with your members so that they have an opportunity to have their retirement questions answered.

Lodge#318 - Christmas in July

On the first Thursday of July of this year, Lodge #318 enjoyed a Christmas Bingo Luncheon at the Antique Mall Café. Not only did the members enjoy the wonderful food, the great gifts, they enjoyed each others company more.



Left to Right: Louise Scott – Past Vice-Pres., Nell Adams, Gladys Waldrop – Legislative Representative, Mary Ann Clements – President, O’Della Smith – Treasurer
Front row left to right, Lonnie Mc Clane, Ethel Lee, and Doris Simmons

Lodge168 Clovis, New Mexico

On August 4, 2007, the First Annual UTU Local 1168 and the “Clovis” Lodge #168 Picnic was a success! With joint efforts of both groups approximately 150 active members, retirees and their families enjoyed hot dogs and hot links with the fixings.

Congratulations: Book Publication

Vice President District 3, Sue Nolen is very proud of her grandson, Jason Jones who had his book of poems published by Publish America entitled “*Reputante.*” The book was dedicated to the house numbers of his family.

If you are interested in your own copy, contact Sister Sue Nolen for the actual cost.

Elections of Officers

Please return the Election of Officers Roster Form to Grand Lodge on or before **December 15, 2007**, even if the same officers are retained. Grand Lodge does not know this if we are not advised.

Makes you think.....

An eye witness account from New York, on a cold day in December, some years ago: A little boy, about 10 years-old, was standing before a shoe store on the road way, barefooted, peering through the window, and shivering with cold.

A lady approached the young boy and said, “My, but you’re in such deep thought staring in that window!”

“I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes” was the boys reply.

The lady took him by the hand, went into the store, and asked the clerk to get half a dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if he could give her a basin of water and a towel. He quickly brought them to her.

She took the little fellow to the back part of the store and, removing her gloves, knelt down, washed his little feet, and dried them with the towel.

By this time, the clerk had returned with the socks. Placing a pair upon the boy’s feet, she purchased a pair of shoes.

She tied up the remaining pairs of socks and gave them to him. She patted him on the head and said, “No doubt, you will be more comfortable now.”

As she turned to go, the astonished kid caught her by the hand, and looking up into her face, with tears in his eyes, asked her
“Are you God’s wife?”

Whenever I’m disappointed with my life, I stop and think about little Jamie Scott.

Jamie was trying out for a part in the school play. His mother told me that he’d set his heart on being in it, though she feared he would not be chosen.

On the day the parts were awarded, I went with her to collect him after school. Jamie rushed up to her, eyes shining with pride and excitement. “Guess what, Mom,” he shouted, and then said those words that will remain a lesson to me.....

“I’ve been chosen to clap and cheer.”

**AUXILIARY of the UTU
UTU SCHOLARSHIP FUND BOARD**

The Auxiliary of the UTU Scholarship Fund Board has been continuing efforts to keep our scholarship fund helping Auxiliary family members to its fullest. As promised a minimum of eight (8) \$1,000.00 scholarships would be awarded annually to Auxiliary family members. The Scholarship is paid directly to the university or college in which the successful applicant is enrolled. The Scholarship award will not exceed four continuous school years.

The Scholarship Fund Board was established to help provide for the future education of Auxiliary families. Yearly Scholarships will be awarded through this Scholarship Fund. **Applications** for the minimum eight (8) Scholarships **will be available after January 1, 2008 for the 2008-2009 school year.**

An applicant must:

- Have attained at least a high school senior level education.
- Be no more than 25 years of age.
- Be enrolled as a full time student in an accredited college or university, and
- Maintain at least a 2.0 GPA while in attendance at said institution,
- Be a child, step-child, grand child or step-grandchild of a living Auxiliary member. (The member must have been a member for at least one (1) year as of March 31 in the year of the Scholarship application and must maintain membership throughout the duration of the Scholarship award).

If your family member has met all these requirements, request an application by contacting:

Jo Fink, Secretary
Scholarship Fund Board
9844 S River Road
Waterville OH 43566-9530

Temporary E-mail address:
shackpat@charter.net

Applications will be accepted from January 1, 2008 through March 31, 2008.

Applications MUST BE POSTMARKED on or before March 31, 2008. Only one application per applicant will be accepted. Photocopies of the application form WILL NOT be honored. The random drawing for

this year's \$1,000.00 Scholarships will be held on April 11, 2008.

Donations for future scholarships will gladly be accepted from any Lodge and/or individual. Make checks payable to: "Auxiliary of the UTU Scholarship Fund." Send your donations to:

Carol S. Menges, Treasurer
Scholarship Fund Board
3617 Schott Road
Jefferson City, MO 65101-9026
Phone: (573) 635-6415

It is now time to start the election process for two (2) Board Members. The nominees must be a member in good Lodge standing to qualify for nomination. The nominee will be contacted directly by a Lodge Officer to give approval that she/he will accept the responsibility of the position, if elected. The elected member of the Board of Directors will serve a three (3) year term from April 11, 2008 until April 2011.

The Scholarship Fund Board requirements are:

- She/He must be available for the Annual April Board Meeting held in Cleveland, Ohio.
- She/He must be available for necessary Conference calls and/or special meetings.
- She/He is responsible for volunteering of her/his time and services to ensure that all annual scholarships are awarded. (**This position is not salaried** – however, expenses involved will be reimbursed in accordance with policy established by the Board of Directors.)

Our past experience has shown that it is beneficial to have access to a computer in order to receive information and be able to reply in a timely manner.

Through the Newsletter nomination forms are being sent to each Lodge Secretary. If someone in the Lodge is interested in running for the position of Scholarship Fund Board Member, a Lodge Officer will fill out the nomination form and return it by January 14, 2008 with the required signatures.

Please send the completed original form to:

Patricia Shacklette, President
Scholarship Fund Board
125 American Inn Road
Villa Ridge, MO 63089-2153
Phone: (636) 451-2890

**Auxiliary of the
United Transportation Union
14600 Detroit Ave 2nd Floor
Cleveland OH 44107-4250**

IMPORTANT

Carol S. Menges **utuauxiliaryintpres@utu.org**
International President Phone: (216) **521-1161**

Dana L. Garvin **utuauxiliaryints&t@utu.org**
International Sec/Treas. Phone: (216) **521-2522**

**INFORMATION
ENCLOSED**