

Brothers & Sisters,

Sun 1/18/2009 10:18 AM

We will be reporting progress to your Division meetings and welcome participation and input. I have asked our National Division for assistance in training our representatives and committee members. Under BLET President Ed Rodzwick they are doing a just what we asked. It falls to each of the membership divisions to fund their representative's training in vital duties.

This year there are 2 two sessions scheduled so far for division officer/representative training. The first at the EUMA Phila., July 5-9, 2009. The topics available include training for Local Chairman, Secretary Treasurer and more. The next on August 23-28, 2009 we will post current training topics and calendars as they become available. It is up to each division to secure funding for their officers attendance. The GCA cannot force division officer training. It would reflect well at division election time for each division officer to support and take advantage of offered training. A candidate's training should be part of his or her qualification for office. Properly funding division education and training is essential for a better, smarter, stronger union.

As a member of Division 373, I expect my elected officers to perform their duties to the best of their ability. As General Chairman I ask and ask again each division to commit to education by funding division participation. We pledge support of your division duties of office education by matching division payments for principal officer (Local Chairman) lost earnings attendance at the August 23 - 28, 2009 Passenger Committee Member training at the NLC, Silver Springs MD. THis is the most important block of training ever scheduled on our issues and it would be a sin go this General Committee not to help fund Committee participation. It is required knowledge for any Passenger Committee Local Chairman. I expect every division officer to represent the best membership interest by supporting and providing division funding for education.

What comes first, strong unions or good contracts?

Fraternally,
R. Darcy
GC BLET NJT