

Brotherhood's Relief & Compensation Fund



The HIGHBALL

Summer 2021

Highball Newsletter goes Digital!

The Summer 2021 newsletter will be the final edition distributed to the membership via the postal service. All future newsletters will be transmitted via email. The Highball is also available at the web site.

The Fund has made tremendous progress minimizing mailings during the past eighteen months. By utilizing email technology, it is anticipated that mailings and postage costs will be reduced by ninety-five percent (95%) beginning fiscal year 2022.

Please log in at www.brcf.org and verify/update your email address to ensure your receipt of all electronic communications.

ANNOUNCEMENT

By action of the BR&CF Board of Directors at their July meeting, the scholarship award has been increased to **\$2,500.00** effective the 2022-2023 academic year. The Fund will continue to award twenty (20) one-year scholarships.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

It is both an honor and a privilege to serve this Brotherhood. I enjoy daily interactions with the membership, and I relish the constant challenge of implementing service improvements that expand upon what is already the best value in job income protection. I take great pride in the fact that this Brotherhood provides the best service and the best value to railroaders in the United States and Canada, which can be easily proven by carefully examining any meaningful measure.

I wish to congratulate the 2021 Luther G. Smith Scholarship recipients. Your hard work and dedication to your studies deserves to be recognized. I encourage each of you to continue to focus on your educational goals and to follow your dreams. There is no guarantee in life that hard work and dedication will pay off; however, you may take pride in knowing that you gave it your very best effort. "Bravo Zulu", and keep up the good work.

I am pleased to report that ninety percent of the membership have transitioned to the Direct Debit/Deposit Payment Plan (DD/D). I am confident this enhancement will allow for better service to the individual as well as the entire membership on many fronts. For example, the number of members expelled monthly for non-payment of dues has already declined significantly. This is an expected benefit of the DD/D plan: Far fewer members lose their valuable income protection because of missed dues payments. At the same time, a decline in expulsions increases member retention and supports membership growth, adding to the continued strength of the Fund. The benefits resulting from this decision will be reaped for many years to come. The transition has not been without challenges. We sincerely appreciate your cooperation in this endeavor.



J. E. Taylor
International President



Congratulations are offered to Brothers Patrick Perea (left) of Albuquerque, New Mexico and Michael McCrory II (right) of Buffalo, New York. They were each reelected to 5-year terms on the board of directors at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Members.



Annual Meeting of the Members

Per the provisions of Article XX of the BR&CF *Constitution*, the Annual Meeting of the Members was held at the Mechanicsburg office on Saturday, April 24, 2021. Attendance was understandably constrained by the health concerns and travel restrictions stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. A quorum was achieved via the assignment of proxies. The proxy assignment process protects the interests of the membership and allows the organization to conduct business. Two director positions stood for election. Patrick H. Perea and Michael T. McCrory II were each elected to five (5) year terms. The Officers gave presentations detailing progress made on several fronts, including the transition of the membership to the Direct Debit/Deposit Payment Plan, service improvements made possible by the increased implementation of technology, and membership enhancements such as the increase of the referral fee to \$250.00. A review of the annual financial report revealed growth in the fund balance and confirmed the continuing strength of the Fund.

THE VALUE OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP

A recent sampling of occurrences that were determined **ELIGIBLE** for “Held Out of Service” benefits:

Railroad	Cause of Discipline	Assessment
UP	1.6 Careless and negligent, restricted speed, shoving movements	Dismissal
UP	1.6 Careless, reporting and complying with instructions	Dismissal
UP	Occupying main track without authority	30 days
BNSF	Failure to perform a Class III brake test	30 days
BNSF	Failure to properly communicate how shove move was protected	Dismissal
BNSF	Stop Signal	Dismissal
KCS	Speeding (5mph over) - PTC Enforcement	5 days
NS	Speeding (5mph over) - PTC Enforcement	30 days
CSX	Improper train handling resulting in derailment	7 days
CN	Entered foreman’s limits without permission	Dismissal
AMT	Duties of crew members – safety and efficiency of operation	6 days
CP	Riding shove move past close clearance	21 days

Congratulations to the 2021 Luther G. Smith Scholarship Recipients

Letters of congratulation were mailed to this year's Luther G. Smith Scholarship winners. For their efforts, each student received \$1,000.00 in educational assistance. Many applicants earned outstanding grades while working part-time and participating in special school programs, community service projects, and sports.

We were grateful to have the same team of distinguished educators serving on the Scholarship Committee again this year: Christel L. Ertel, former Dean of Admissions, Roger Williams University; Gary Dolbin, retired Supervisor of Cooperative Education, Dauphin County Technical School; and Dr. Donald Holtzman, retired Senior Director of Student Life and Enrollment Services, Penn State Harrisburg. Correspondence for Mr. Dolbin, Ms. Ertel and Mr. Holtzman may be sent in care of the BR&CF, 300 Sterling Parkway, Suite 105, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050.

We enthusiastically applaud all the applicants for their efforts in pursuing a college education. It was truly inspiring to learn of the accomplishments of so many talented young people. If your child was not selected to receive a scholarship this year, we encourage you to have him or her apply again next year.

The 2022 Luther G. Smith Scholarship application will be available October 1, 2021, at www.brcf.org.



Jared L. Bisbikis

University of San Francisco
Son of Kathleen and Jason Bisbikis

Jared is pursuing international studies with a focus on the Middle East. He is currently an intern with the housing rights committee of San Francisco.

Jared's plans include pursuing a career as a foreign service officer.

His mother, Kathleen, is the National President of the BLET Auxiliary.
His father, Jason, is a conductor for BNSF.



Heather Dash

Clinton Community College
Daughter of Eileen and Terry Dash

Heather participated in sports, FBLA, and SADD in high school. She is employed by the Clinton Parks and Recreation Department.

Heather plans to transfer to the University of Northern Iowa to study psychology.

Her mother, Eileen, is a judicial specialist. Her father, Terry, is a conductor for UP.



Josiah Druhl

University of Georgia
Son of Sandra and Howard Druhl

Josiah has been active in many school clubs and community activities. When not working, he enjoys reading and watching and playing sports.

Josiah's career ambitions include dentistry or becoming an orthodontist.

His mother, Sandra is a substitute teacher. His father, Howard, is an engineer for NS.



Austin Elliot

Oklahoma State University
Son of Amanda and Randy Elliot

Austin has many interests ranging from outdoor activities to coin collecting. He served as a counselor at Camp War Eagle and is a member of the Honors College.

Austin wants to use his education in math and science in a career involving automotive aerodynamics.

His mother, Amanda, is a postal worker. His father, Randy, is a conductor for UP.



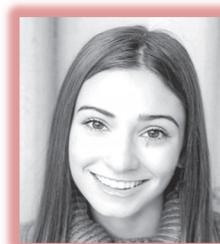
Kelsie Ford

University of Saskatchewan
Daughter of Stacey and Dave Ford

Kelsie is entering the third year of her Kinesiology studies. She keeps busy as a cheerleader for the university team and by working part time.

Kelsie plans on attending graduate school with a career goal of becoming a chiropractor.

Her mother, Stacey, is a dispatcher. Her father, Dave, is an engineer for CP.



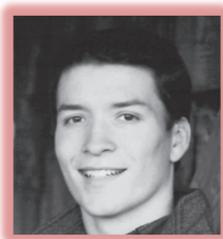
Lux Frank

University of Colorado - Boulder
Daughter of Courtney and Ryan Bojanac

Lux held several leadership roles in high school, notably as captain of the swim team and class president.

Lux plans on majoring in psychology, then continuing her education by attending law school.

Her mother, Courtney, is a homemaker. Her stepfather, Ryan, is an engineer for NS.



Dedric Frese

Kansas State University
Son of Amber and Matt Weeks

Dedric has an on-campus job in information technology. In his spare time, he enjoys playing and watching sports, as well as coaching youth teams.

Dedric is an accounting major. After graduation, he plans on becoming a CPA and joining a firm close to home.

His mother, Amber, is a nurse. His father, Matt, is an engineer for UP.



Abbey Gagnon

University of Tennessee - Knoxville
Daughter of Nancy and Reynold Gagnon

Abbey was busy in high school with cheer teams and clubs and was a member of the National Honor Society. She also held a part-time job.

Abbey intends to pursue pre-pharmacy studies as an undergraduate, and then advance to a Doctor of Pharmacy degree.

Her mother, Nancy, is a homemaker. Her father, Reynold, is an engineer for CSX.



Cameron Geddie

University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Son of Stephanie and Duane Geddie

Cameron was school president and a scholar for the INROADS college links program while in high school. He enjoys cooking and spending time with friends.

Cameron will pursue a major in agribusiness management.

His mother, Stephanie, is an instructional facilitator. His father, Duane, is an engineer for NS.



Madelyn Harris

Bowling Green State University
Daughter of Paige and Mark Harris

Madelyn enjoys working out, listening to music, and spending time with her family and friends.

Madelyn is studying to obtain a bachelor's degree in nursing. She plans to pursue a master's in nursing in order to become a Nurse Practitioner.

Her mother, Paige, is a secretary. Her father, Mark, is an engineer for NS.



Jillian Hendrix

Tarleton State University
Daughter of Cynthia and Harley Hendrix

In addition to being a huge Disney nerd, Jillian earned credit hours toward college while being active in theater, choir and culinary arts in high school.

Jillian plans to study engineering and find a job that she enjoys.

Her mother, Cynthia, is an executive assistant. Her father, Harley, is an engineer for UP.



Malcolm Johnson

Rochester Institute of Technology
Son of Patricia and Lee Johnson

Malcolm is the State Executive President of the Family Career and Community Leaders of America. He plays field hockey and soccer in his free time.

Malcolm's educational aspirations include earning a master's degree in business administration.

His mother, Patricia, owns her own business. His father, Lee, works for NS.



Brigid Krbec

University of North Texas
Daughter of Laura and Scott Krbec

Brigid was involved in multiple clubs and sports in high school. She has continued to compete in diving for her university swim team.

Brigid is majoring in kinesiology. Her career goals include pursuing a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree.

Her mother, Laura, is a homemaker. Her father, Scott, is a conductor for UP.



Trey D. Potter

Evangel University
Son of Jennifer and Eric Potter

Trey has earned an associate degree from James River College. He is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in church ministries.

Trey's career goal is to become a worship pastor at his church.

His mother, Jennifer, is an administrative assistant. His father, Eric, is an engineer for NS.



Kaitlyn Reifsteck

Eastern Illinois University
Daughter of Jennifer and Tim Reifsteck

Kaitlyn was active in several clubs in high school and served as an officer for two. She also played softball and plans to continue her athletic career in college.

Kaitlyn's career goal is to become a Physician's Assistant.

Her mother, Jennifer, owns her own business. Her father, Tim, is an engineer for CN.



Rhianna Ruxton

Dutchess Community College
Daughter of Deborah and
W. Scot Ruxton

Rhianna spends most of her time involved with art, as she feels most fulfilled when doing something creative. She also loves to read and write.

Rhianna wants to become a high school teacher so she can inspire kids with art.

Her mother, Deborah, is a homemaker. Her father, W. Scot, is a conductor for Metro-North.



Bailey Stoker

Berry College
Daughter of Tammy and Corey Stoker

Bailey was active in several clubs and co-editor of her high school's yearbook. She generously devoted time to community service projects.

Bailey will be majoring in elementary education and plans to teach in her hometown.

Her mother, Tammy, is a homemaker. Her father, Corey, is an engineer for NS.



Madeline Stroup

University of Wisconsin - Superior
Daughter of Lyila and Dan Stroup

Madeline has a passion for both science and nature. Her hobbies include reading, hiking, swimming, and painting.

Madeline will study broad field science this fall. She plans to teach middle or high school science.

Her mother, Lyila, is a special education assistant. Her father, Dan is an engineer for CN.



Barbara Villarreal

Lone Star College - North Harris
Daughter of Barbara Marie and
Quirino Villarreal

Barbara's favorite hobby is drawing. She finds it helps her relax after a hard day of classwork. She has a keen interest in teeth and their care.

Barbara's wants to be a dental hygienist.

Her mother, Barbara Marie, is a homemaker. Her father, Quirino, is an engineer for UP.

**Luther G. Smith
Scholarship Program**



An all-electronic application system will be in place for the 2022 Luther G. Smith Scholarship Program. The application may be accessed at www.brcf.org beginning October 1, 2021.



Lilith Wood

Grand Canyon University
Daughter of Monica and James Wood

Lilith volunteered at a hospital during high school. She holds down two part-time jobs to help save for college. She enjoys spending time with friends.

Lilith plans to major in nursing this fall and hopes to work in a neonatal intensive care unit.

Her mother, Monica, is a homemaker. Her father, James, is an engineer for UP.

Not Working?

If you are off work a complete calendar month, except when “Held Out of Service”, you can be relieved of dues for the following reasons:

- Furlough
- Injured
- Parental Leave
- Resignation
- Sick
- Management
- Military Service
- Leave of Absence

To apply for a relief of dues, visit www.brcf.org, select Electronic Forms, and submit a Complete Relief of Dues Form.

Referral Program

BR&CF does not employ a sales force. Each member of this organization is its spokesperson. Please mention your positive experiences as a member to new hires and coworkers. Brochures are available from the Referral Program section of the web site to help you demonstrate the value of membership in the Fund. BR&CF delivers value by providing the best service at the lowest cost. A referring member receives \$250.00 each time a coworker is approved for membership as a thank you for introducing others to the Fund. No sales pitch is necessary!

MANAGING YOUR MEMBERSHIP HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER!

The officers and directors of the BR&CF are railroaders who understand the 24/7/365 demands of working in the railroad industry. That’s why so much effort continues to be made to allow the membership to conduct their business whenever and wherever it is convenient to them. Our web site, www.brcf.org, is fully stocked with tools that allow you to accomplish a wide variety of tasks, including:

- Applying for “Held Out of Service” benefits
- Applying for a complete relief of dues
- Submitting a Direct Debit/Deposit authorization
- Submitting an AD&D beneficiary designation
- Canceling membership
- Reducing daily benefit level
- Applying for “Retirement” benefits
- Requesting referral brochures

An increasing number of features at the web site will require logging in as programming enhancements continue. A log-in will enable a faster, more intuitive and accurate user interface that will result in better service to the membership. Functions that require a log in today include:

- Application for daily benefit level increase
- Reinstatement of membership
- Reactivation from inactive status
- Canadian “Held Out of Service” application



Brotherhood's Relief & Compensation Fund
300 Sterling Parkway, Suite 105
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Division Meetings

Please contact the office if you would like a BR&CF officer to attend a division meeting. Our attendance is an opportunity for an officer of the Fund to answer questions and address any concerns of the membership. Please provide as much advance notice as possible to avoid scheduling conflicts.

Update Personal Information

It is important that your contact information is complete and up to date to ensure your receipt of important communication from the organization. Please log in to your account and select personal information to review and update your email, street address and mobile telephone number.

Dates to Remember

October 1, 2021 - Scholarship Application Available

October 18, 2021 - Board of Directors Meeting

Office Closed

September 6, 2021 - Labor Day

October 11, 2021 - Columbus Day

Contact the Office

Canada: (800) 233-7080

US: (717) 657-1890

**Address: 300 Sterling Pkwy, Suite 105
Mechanicsburg PA 17050**

Website: www.brcf.org

**Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Eastern Time**