

Brotherhood's Relief & Compensation Fund



THE HIGHBALL

Spring 2023

EXCITING NEWS!

365 DAYS OF COVERAGE

At their meeting in January, the board of directors acted to extend the period of time during which new members of the BR&CF are immediately entitled to 365 days of benefit eligibility. All new members effective between February 1, 2023, and August 1, 2023, shall be entitled to 365 days of benefit eligibility. New members effective September 1, 2023, and thereafter shall revert to the progression of maximum days of benefit eligibility as set forth in the BR&CF Constitution.

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

The deadline to apply for a Luther G. Smith Scholarship Award is **March 1, 2023**. The application is available at www.brcf.org. The application process is entirely electronic. Please do not print and mail your application.

Twenty (20) scholarships in the amount of \$2,500.00 each will be awarded. An independent committee of educators will select the recipients. Award winners will be notified in April and funds dispersed via direct deposit in July.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

I am pleased to announce that the board of directors took action at our recent board meeting to extend the *365 Days of Coverage* initiative. This initiative began in June 2022 and had expired January 1, 2023.

There has never been a better time to become a BR&CF member. The combination of a dues reduction of nearly 30% and the extension of 365 days of coverage to all existing and new members is unprecedented and reflects an unrivaled level of responsiveness to the needs of railroad workers. The BR&CF proudly offers the best value by providing the most affordable income protection in the industry at the highest level of service.

MOST AFFORDABLE DUES IN THE INDUSTRY

BENEFIT LEVEL	\$100	\$150	\$200	\$250
BR&CF	\$32.50	\$48.75	\$65.00	\$81.25
LECOMPA No.16	\$44.63	\$65.63	\$87.94	\$110.25
SMART-TD (DIPP)	\$75.00	\$112.50	\$150.00	\$187.50

I frequently invite questions and engage in conversation regarding "Held Out of Service" ("HOS") benefit eligibility while attending rail labor functions throughout the U.S. and Canada. Discussing benefit eligibility is necessary because of widespread misinformation, disinformation, false promises, and outright lies.

As international president, I am tasked with managing member expectations, so I frequently offer the following distinction: If a railroader wants income protection from discipline assessed for operating rule infractions such as PTC Enforcement, Red Signal, Main Track Authority, Speeding, Sideswipe, Run Through Switch, Restricted Speed, Improper Train Handling, Improper Brake Test, Derailment etc., the BR&CF is undoubtedly the best choice. However, if income protection is needed (or the individual is comfortable subsidizing others who want benefits) for Attendance, Missed Call, Late to Work, Sleeping, Dishonesty, Stealing, Altercation, Cell Phone, Rule G etc., I do not recommend membership with the BR&CF.

I can assure each BR&CF member that the vast majority of applications for "HOS" benefits are approved. In fact, for the fiscal year period from 2013 through 2022, ninety-three percent (93%) of all applications for "HOS" benefits received were eligible for payment. I trust the high approval rate for "HOS" applications reinforces your confidence in the BR&CF as THE income protection provider that fulfills its duties and obligations to the membership fairly and consistently.



J. E. Taylor
International President

**BROTHERHOOD'S
RELIEF AND
COMPENSATION FUND**

Statements of Assets, Liabilities, and
Fund Balances – Income Tax Basis
September 30, 2022 and 2021
(Presented in U.S. Dollars)

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<u>Assets</u>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 821,798	\$ 793,086
Interest Receivable	148,204	119,487
Investments	74,051,829	67,833,686
Investments Designated for Deferred Compensation	43,394	47,958
Property and Equipment, Net	<u>97,675</u>	<u>26,401</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 75,162,900</u>	<u>\$ 68,820,618</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 390,816	\$ 429,300
Dues Received in Advance	838,532	1,224,906
Held-Out-of-Service Payable	<u>103,043</u>	<u>169,229</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>1,332,391</u>	<u>1,823,435</u>
<u>Fund Balances</u>		
Fund Balance	73,788,522	66,962,490
Currency Valuation	<u>41,987</u>	<u>34,693</u>
Total Fund Balances	<u>73,830,509</u>	<u>66,997,183</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	<u>\$ 75,162,900</u>	<u>\$ 68,820,618</u>

ANNUAL AUDIT

The Fund engaged the accounting firm of Boyer & Ritter LLC to audit its 2022 fiscal year financial statements. The annual audit is conducted in accordance with Article XXVII of the BR&CF *Constitution*. The financial statements comprise the statement of assets, liabilities, and fund balances.

Boyer & Ritter reported at the January board of directors meeting that there were no exceptions taken or material issues encountered during the audit and an unmodified opinion was provided. The auditors complemented the organization for the strength of its internal controls and high degree of accuracy present in the Fund's accounting system.

The key takeaways of the audit were that the organization's assets outweigh its liabilities by a comfortable margin, and that a strong level of positive net cash flow generated by operations contributed to a healthy net addition to fund balance year over year.

PREPARING YOUR INCOME TAX RETURN

The BR&CF is required by the IRS to issue a 1099-MISC Tax Form if a U. S. resident receives \$600 or more in benefits, or a combination of benefits and referral fees. Beginning in tax year 2020, the IRS created a new tax form, the 1099-NEC. For BR&CF purposes, the 1099-NEC Tax Form is for reporting Referral Fee income. The 1099-MISC is utilized for reporting "Held Out of Service" and "Retirement" benefit payments.

How might this impact you? If you receive Referral Fee payments and "Held Out of Service" or "Retirement" benefits totaling \$600 or more, a 1099-MISC and a 1099-NEC will be issued.

All 1099's were mailed in early January. If you receive a 1099-MISC, we encourage you to visit our website to retrieve your dues payment history. Your tax consultant will likely need this information to properly complete your tax return. After logging in, select 'Actions', and then select 'Dues Payment History'. Your dues payment history may be printed for your convenience. Be sure to make your tax consultant aware of the following:

→ **The BR&CF is NOT an insurance company.** → **Members pay dues NOT insurance premiums.**

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS

The annual meeting of the members is scheduled to convene at 10:00 a.m. on April 22, 2023, in the principal office in Mechanicsburg, PA. If you plan to attend the annual meeting, please contact the BR&CF office and ask for International Secretary-Treasurer Brian J. Penfield. Brother Penfield will provide additional details regarding the meeting, including hotel stay options.

The notice of annual meeting and instruction of proxy assignment will be mailed in early March to all members "In Good and Regular Standing" at the close of business on February 20, 2023, the date of record established in accordance with Article XXI, (Sec. 4), of the BR&CF Constitution.

The Fund must have a quorum of the membership to convene the annual meeting. Please exercise your democratic right and assign your proxy by internet or telephone. The process is simple and will only require a couple of minutes to complete. The Fund may utilize email blast(s) to ensure a quorum is achieved.



REFERRAL PROGRAM

Railroads across the U.S. and Canada are hiring. The current hiring spree plus 365 days of coverage for all new members presents a great opportunity to introduce a coworker to the BR&CF. A simple referral can earn you \$250.00.

Please visit www.brcf.org and select 'Referral Program' for additional information. A supply order form is available if you wish to receive brochures and posters.

Membership Information

Member No: 587654

Current Status: Inactive

Paid Through Date: May 31, 2022

Update Banking Information ←

Payment Method: Direct Debit – 15th

Daily Benefit Level: \$200

Monthly Dues Amount: \$65.00

Reactivate Membership ←

UPDATE YOUR BANKING INFORMATION AND REACTIVATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Changing bank account information or dues debit date is fast and easy. Log in to your account at www.brcf.org, select Membership Information, and click on Update Banking Information.

If you are returning to work and need to reactivate your membership, log in to your account at www.brcf.org, select Membership Information, and click on Reactivate Membership. A dues payment is not required at the time of reactivation.

NOT WORKING?

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

**Furlough – Sick – Injured – Management – Parental Leave
Military Service – Ineligible Occurrence – Leave of Absence**

Visit www.brcf.org, select Electronic Forms, and submit a Complete Relief of Dues Form.

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

**April 17, 2023 - Deadline for Receipt of Proxies
April 17, 2023 - Board of Directors Meeting
April 22, 2023 - Annual Meeting of the Members**

Office Closed

**February 20, 2023 - Presidents' Day
April 7, 2023 - Good Friday
May 29, 2023 - Memorial 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**

