

Brotherhood's Relief & Compensation Fund



THE HIGHBALL

Summer 2023

365 Days of Eligibility

The board of directors extended 365 days of eligibility to new and current members. This initiative is set to expire August 1, 2023.

There has never been a better time to join the BR&CF. Enhanced days of eligibility coupled with the lowest dues in the industry results in the best value in job income protection. Please speak with your fellow coworkers about this limited time opportunity. A simple referral can earn you \$250.00.

Text an Application

The "Text an Application" feature is proving to be very popular. This feature allows a member to text a coworker a link to a membership application that has the referring member's name and member number automatically inserted in the referral section. This ensures the referring member receives credit for the referral. So far in 2023, ninety-two percent (92%) of approved applications listed a referring member. By comparison, from 2013 through 2022 the percentage of applications received that listed a referring member averaged just forty-seven percent (47%). Please click this link to submit a [Supply Order Form](#) and request the text link.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

50

I had the honor and pleasure of recognizing Rodney S. Boling at the 2023 annual meeting of the members. Brother Boling surpassed fifty (50) years of membership in 2021. I presented him with a plaque and expressed my appreciation for his long-standing support and loyalty to this organization. I also had the pleasure of meeting his lovely wife, Debra. I want to thank Rod and Deb for making the trip from Missouri to Pennsylvania. It was truly a memorable occasion.



5

Congratulations are offered to Brother Despines, Brother Penfield, and Brother Plant. Each was elected to a 5-year term at the annual meeting of the members. Their passion and dedication for serving the membership of this Brotherhood is remarkable. It has been my privilege to work with these brothers and I look forward to working with them in the years to follow.

365

If you have previously considered increasing your daily benefit level, I encourage you to do so prior to August 1, 2023, to take advantage of the enhanced days of eligibility. If your application for increase is approved prior to August 1, 2023, you will receive 365 days of eligibility for the increased daily benefit level.

180

An incident that causes a second revocation of certification within a twenty-four (24) month period can result in a 180-day revocation of your engineer or conductor certificate.

250

I encourage you to speak to new hires about the benefits of membership. The BR&CF offers the best value and provides a level of service to the membership that is unmatched in ANY industry. Additionally, you will receive \$250 for each new member you refer.



J. E. Taylor
International President

Annual Meeting of the Members

The 2023 annual meeting of the members was held April 22, 2023, at the principal office in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania in accordance with the provision of Article XX of the BR&CF Constitution. Thank you to each BR&CF member who exercised their proxy to ensure a quorum of the membership was achieved. The BR&CF board of directors welcomed members from across the U.S. and Canada. The officers gave presentations that addressed last year's dues reduction, 365 days of benefit eligibility, the current discipline environment, progress made on various information technology projects, general and administrative cost reductions, and member service.

Three board of director positions stood for election: D. J. Despines, Jr. was reelected to a 5-year term as Assistant International President; B. J. Penfield was reelected to a 5-year term as International Secretary-Treasurer; and B. W. Plant was reelected to a 5-year term as Assistant International Secretary-Treasurer.



Donnie Despines, Jr. hired on with Norfolk Southern in 2002 at Mingo Junction, Ohio. One year later, he transferred to Conway yard. He relocated his wife and two children to the Harrisburg area to begin working in the principal office in 2015.



Brian Penfield hired on with Norfolk Southern at Conneaut, Ohio in 1995. He worked most of his career in unassigned pool service out of Buffalo, NY. He relocated to the Harrisburg area in 2017 to begin working in the principal office.



Bernard "Bernie" Plant hired on with Canadian Pacific Railway in 1987 at Cranbrook, B.C. He is among a long line of family members who have worked in the rail industry, which includes his son, Isaac. Bernie has served the BR&CF as a director since 2017.



Teamster's Canada Rail Conference

The BR&CF offered its boardroom to facilitate Teamsters Canada Rail Conference (TCRC) holding their second quarter executive board meeting. TCRC graciously accepted the offer and conducted their business on April 20th and April 21st. The BR&CF, NARF, and TCRC have a long history of working together advancing rail labor interests. The organizations share a common bond of service to their memberships. The board of directors extend a special thank you to National President Paul Boucher and the TCRC executive board for allowing the BR&CF to host your meeting.





“By The Numbers”

Discipline Assessed	Monthly Dues	Daily Benefit Level	Benefits Received	Equivalent Years of Dues
30 Days	\$81.25	\$250	\$7,500	8
180 Days	\$81.25	\$250	\$45,000	48
Dismissal	\$81.25	\$250	\$91,250	93

The benefits received for a 30-day suspension or revocation are the equivalent of eight (8) years of dues payments. If dismissed, a member with 365 days of benefit eligibility receives the equivalent of ninety-three (93) years of dues payments. That’s a great return on investment!



“93 to 1”

The dollar value of 30-days of “Held Out of Service” benefits is the equivalent of ninety-three (93) members’ monthly dues payments at the same benefit level.

REFER A COWORKER



Low dues, great service, and enhanced days of eligibility make a BR&CF membership the best value for railroad job income protection. Referring a coworker can earn you **\$250.00** when they are approved for membership. Using brochures, posters, and applications via text that include your member number will ensure you receive **\$250.00** for each new member. Referral fee payments are directly deposited every Thursday. Please visit www.brcf.org and select “Referral Program” for additional information.

Congratulations to the 2023

Luther G. Smith Scholarship Recipients

Letters of congratulation were emailed to this year's Luther G. Smith Scholarship recipients on April 13th. Many applicants earned outstanding grades while working part-time and participating in special school programs, sports, and community service projects. Each scholarship recipient received economic assistance in recognition of their efforts to excel in academics, athletics, and community service.

Established in 1990, the Luther G. Smith Scholarship program has helped the children of hundreds of BR&CF members defray the costs of higher education. In recognition of these ever-increasing costs, the board of directors increased the award amount to \$2,500.00 for the 2022 academic year.

We are grateful for the efforts of the team of distinguished educators serving on the Scholarship Committee again this year: Gary Dolbin, retired Supervisor of Cooperative Education, Dauphin County Technical School; Christel L. Ertel, former Dean of Admissions, Roger Williams University; 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 applaud all the applicants for their outstanding efforts and wish them the best in their pursuit of their educational goals. We encourage candidates who were not selected to receive a scholarship this year to apply again next year. Past recipients are also eligible but must submit a new application each program year. Scholarship applications must be submitted electronically and are available only by selecting the link that will appear on the homepage of the website on October 1, 2023. The application period will close on March 1, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. eastern time.

We hope you enjoy reviewing the photographs and biographical information of this year's recipients contained on the following pages. We wish each of these accomplished young scholars the best of luck in their future endeavors.

**The 2024 Luther G. Smith Scholarship application will
be available at www.brcf.org on October 1, 2023.**

2023 Luther G. Smith Scholarship Recipient



Nathan G. Adams

Texas Tech University
Son of Wesley and Leslie Adams

Nathan is majoring in political science. He hopes to attend law school after earning his undergraduate degree.

BR&CF member Wesley Adams is an engineer for BNSF.

2023 Luther G. Smith Scholarship Recipient



Emma L. Ammons

Louisiana Tech University
Daughter of Christopher and Elizabeth Ammons

Emma majors in human development and family science. She plans to work as a licensed family and marriage therapist.

BR&CF member Christopher Ammons is an engineer for UP.

2023 Luther G. Smith Scholarship Recipient



Kinsey R. Baldwin

Labette Community College
Daughter of Monte and Luann Baldwin

Kinsey plans to transfer to Pittsburg State University to pursue a degree in chemistry. Her career goal is to become an anesthesiologist.

BR&CF member Monte Baldwin is an engineer for UP.

2023 Luther G. Smith Scholarship Recipient



Bryn E. Bennett

The Ohio State University
Daughter of Tom and Jill Bennett

Bryn majors in biochemistry. She plans to pursue a graduate degree to further her career path in clinical pathology.

BR&CF member Tom Bennett is an engineer for CSX.

2023 Luther G. Smith Scholarship Recipient



Kaleigh Blades

Washburn University
Daughter of Gaylon and Audrey Blades

Kaleigh will be finishing her undergraduate work and beginning graduate studies. Her career goal is to be a licensed clinical social worker.

BR&CF member Gaylon Blades is a conductor for UP.

2023 Luther G. Smith Scholarship Recipient



Austin J. Bridenbaugh

University of Pennsylvania
Son of Grant and Alicia Bridenbaugh

Austin studies real estate and finance. He is interested in a career involving acquiring and investing in properties across the country.

BR&CF member Grant Bridenbaugh is an engineer for NS.

2023 Luther G. Smith Scholarship Recipient



Talissa J. Cannady

Southern Wesleyan University
Daughter of James and Stephanie Cannady

Talissa is pursuing a degree in business administration.
After graduation she plans to study law.

BR&CF member James Cannady is an engineer for CSX.

2023 Luther G. Smith Scholarship Recipient



Andrew B. Chavis

North Carolina State University
Son of Kevin and Shelly Chavis

Andrew will be majoring in computer engineering with a minor in business administration. He aspires to start his own tech company.

BR&CF member Kevin Chavis is an engineer for CSX.

2023 Luther G. Smith Scholarship Recipient



Thomas C. Cheff

Gallatin College - Montana State University
Son of Justin and Jenni Cheff

Thomas is pursuing business management and commercial aviation studies.
His career goal is to become a commercial airline pilot.

BR&CF member Justin Cheff is an engineer for BNSF.

2023 Luther G. Smith Scholarship Recipient



James S. Driggers

Erskine College

Son of James and Alison Driggers

James is considering information technology and English. He believes he will find his calling at college while enjoying film and photography.

BR&CF member James Driggers II is a conductor for CSX.

2023 Luther G. Smith Scholarship Recipient



Matthias W. Druhl

Georgia Institute of Technology
Son of Howard and Sandra Druhl

Matthias will major in computer science. His career plans include working as a software engineer in artificial intelligence and owning a business.

BR&CF member Howard Druhl is an engineer for NS.

2023 Luther G. Smith Scholarship Recipient



Kimzey Godbey

Tarleton State University
Daughter of Paul Godbey

Kimzey is an elementary education major.
She hopes to teach kindergarten or first grade.

BR&CF member Paul Godbey is an engineer for UP.

2023 Luther G. Smith Scholarship Recipient



Kevin P. Hanson

Fairfield University
Son of Robert and Kimberly Hanson

Kevin will be majoring in business. He wants to chart a career path that involves helping others.

BR&CF member Robert Hanson is an engineer for Long Island Railroad.

2023 Luther G. Smith Scholarship Recipient



Alassandra A. Jones

Liberty University

Daughter of Timothy and Annette Jones

Alassandra is pursuing an undergraduate degree in biomedical sciences. She plans on attending medical school to become a radiologist.

BR&CF member Timothy Jones is an engineer for NS.

2023 Luther G. Smith Scholarship Recipient



Breanna Pye

Georgia Southern University
Daughter of Michael and Jamie Pye

Breanna is pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice, a goal she set for herself in the fifth grade.

BR&CF member Michael Pye is an engineer for CSX.

2023 Luther G. Smith Scholarship Recipient



Brooke M. Rankin

University of Texas at San Antonio
Daughter of Christopher Schimelpfening and
Jessica Rankin- Schimelpfening

Brooke will be majoring in biology. She plans to complete a master's degree in pursuit of a career as a dermatology physician assistant.

BR&CF member Christopher Schimelpfening is an engineer for UP.

2023 Luther G. Smith Scholarship Recipient



Dominic A. Scheerer

University of Arkansas

Son of Mike Scheerer

Dominic studies business supply chain management. He aspires to contribute to the betterment of the economy and his community.

BR&CF member Mike Scheerer is a conductor for BNSF.

2023 Luther G. Smith Scholarship Recipient



Olivia T. Swigert

University of Akron

Daughter of Lonnie and Andrea Swigert

Olivia is pursuing a major in graphic design with a minor in illustration. She plans on working in publishing.

BR&CF member Lonnie Swigert is an engineer for W&LE.

2023 Luther G. Smith Scholarship Recipient



Cassandra M. Valle

California Baptist University
Daughter of Paul and Jennifer Valle

Cassandra will major in actuarial science. She plans to work as an actuary after earning her bachelor's degree.

BR&CF member Paul Valle is an engineer for BNSF.

2023 Luther G. Smith Scholarship Recipient



Lilith M. Wood

Grand Canyon University
Daughter of James and Monica Wood

Lilith is pursuing a bachelor's degree in nursing. She hopes to work in oncology after graduation.

BR&CF member James Wood is an engineer for UP.

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**

Click this link to 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 Your 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

**July 17, 2023 – Board of Directors Meeting
October 1, 2023 – Scholarship Application Available
October 16, 2023 – Board of Directors Meeting**

Office Closed

**July 4, 2023 – Independence Day
September 4, 2023 – Labor 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**

