

# THE TRAIN DISPATCHER



## **Executive Board Elected at the 33rd General Assembly**

Left to Right: Vice President Brandon Denucci, Vice President John Salvey, President Leo McCann, Secretary-Treasurer Ed Dowell, Vice President Rory Broyles, Vice President Kevin Porter



## **The ATDA Is Proud to Recognize our Women Delegates to the 33rd General Assembly**

Left to Right: Brittani Sims, Catlin Elison, Jessica Veltri, Angela Wright, Jessica Stone, Tracy Bainum, Erica Ray, Kristie Bowman, Kirstyn Gebhardt

## Legal Notice – Dues

Article 2, Section 4(b) defines the national dues rate. Effective October 1, 2019, the national dues rate is \$106.90 per month. System dues are determined separately by each system committee as shown below. To determine your monthly obligation, add the system dues amount shown below to the national dues rate.

4b. (1) The monthly National dues of all Active members of this Association, except as otherwise provided in this Section shall be determined annually by multiplying the average truck rail traffic controller (train dispatcher) total daily rate of pay (eight hours straight time pay plus allowances) in effect on July 1 by .295 and rounding up to the next five cents, provided such dues shall not be less than what was in effect on the preceding June 30.

(2) The monthly National dues for active members holding positions rated less than \$300.00 per day shall be determined annually by multiplying the average daily rate of pay (eight hours straight time pay plus allowances) in effect on July 1 for each craft by .295 and rounding up to the next five cents.

## System Dues Rates –

Effective October 1, 2019

ALASKA \$20.00	KEOLIS \$14.20	PanAm \$14.20
AMTRAK \$17.20	KIAMICHI \$10.00	PATH \$18.35
BNSF \$20.90	L&I \$9.60	SIRT \$18.65
BRC \$20.15	METRA \$17.00	SOO \$17.55
CONRAIL \$18.25	MRL \$17.40	SUNRAIL \$16.40
CSX – South \$25.00 – East \$19.65	NICTD \$14.65	TRA \$33.40
IHB \$21.15	NJT-P \$16.90	TRI-RAIL \$18.50
KCS \$19.65	NJT-TD \$17.10	WC \$19.45
	NS INT \$19.00	

## Death Benefit Beneficiary

The Executive Board adopted the following policy change:

“If you have not designated a Beneficiary at the time of your death for any amount of benefits payable because of your death, the benefit amount will be paid to:

1. your surviving spouse, if any;
2. your surviving children, if there is no surviving spouse; or
3. your estate, if there are no surviving children.

Any payment will discharge our liability for the amount so paid.”

If you would like to establish a beneficiary or modify an existing beneficiary form, go to our website [www.atda.org](http://www.atda.org) go to member forms and select ATDA Beneficiary Form. Print out the form and once completed, return the form to the Office of the Secretary-Treasurer.

## AMERICAN TRAIN DISPATCHERS ASSOCIATION

**National Headquarters**  
4239 West 150th St  
Cleveland, Ohio 44135  
Telephone: 216-251-7984  
[atda.org](http://atda.org)

*Affiliated with the A. F. L./C.I.O  
and the Transportation Trades  
Department/Rail Division*

## OFFICIAL ROSTER

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## STAFF

**PAUL ARDEN**  
Assistant Director of Research

**DAN LANIGAN**  
Accountant

**AMBER DAVIS**  
Assistant to the President

# From the President



Welcome to the 33rd General Assembly Special Edition newsletter. The Delegates of the 33rd General Assembly, acting in their capacity as the supreme authority of the Organization, set the course of our union for the next four (4) years. Their work

involved amending our Constitution and Bylaws, adopting resolutions, approving the financial budget, and electing our National Officers. Some of the more significant actions taken by our delegates include:

- ATDA updated its Discrimination and Harassment Policy to not discriminate against any of its members or employees because of age, race, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, and national origin.
- Provide education and training to our system officers in the newly developed arbitration software to assist our committees in handling claims and discipline.
- Support for Confidential Close Call Reporting to provide employees a means to self-report certain errors without fear of discipline.
- Participation in the FRA Rail Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC) leading to the certification of train dispatchers.
- Full support for all train movements to be manned by at least one certified engineer and one certified conductor.
- Proclamation against Precision Scheduled Railroading which jeopardizes safety and the overall health of the railroad system.
- Support for full funding for Amtrak as an integral part of the nation's commuter rail lines.
- Honor and protect seniority rights especially in reductions in force and consolidation of offices.
- Increasing the ATDA Scholarship Fund to \$30,000 annually to assist our members in the rising costs of higher education.
- MEMBER DUES. Specific language was added to address dues waivers, including automatic waiver in dismissal cases. Dues will be collected when discipline is reversed, and back pay is included. The member is only liable for the reimbursed period. Dues will now be payable in the current month, not a month in advance. If a member resigns and is behind in his dues, his dues deduction will continue until his debt is satisfied. The Secretary-Treasurer may allow for initial fees and dues to be paid in installments. Also, the system committee can now request a breakdown of the monies received from the National Office.
- The Alternate Vice General Chairman position has been eliminated and any vacancy will now be filled through an election.
- The newsletter, The Train Dispatcher, can now be published in either a digital or hard copy format.
- Before formal charges are filed against another member, the President or his designee shall conduct an investigation to determine if the facts could warrant the filing of charges.
- The "Rules" for Conducting Elections have been clarified.

A special thanks to our sponsors ATDA General Counsel Mike Wolly of Zwerdling, Paul, Kahn & Wolly, P.C., Transportation Communications Union/IAM, President Robert A. Scardelletti, Brotherhood of Locomotive

# From the President *(continued)*

Engineers and Trainmen, President Dennis Pierce, Brotherhood of Railway Signalmen, President Jerry Boles, LEMPCA, President Susan Tukul, The Law Firm of Jones Granger, J. Weldon Granger, Railroad Marketing Insurance Services, President Woody Taylor, Ridge & Downes Attorneys at Law, Daniel J. Downes, Holland Law Firm, Eric D. Holland and Kujawski & Associates, LLC, John Kujawski. We have included their sponsor greetings in this newsletter.

The ATDA was honored to have as guest speakers BLE-T President Pierce, Railroad Retirement Board Labor Member John Bragg, IAM President District Lodge 19 Mike Perry, FELA Designated Counsel John Kujawski and LEMCPA Representative Ron Enos. BRS President Jerry Boles was also in attendance.

ATDA General Counsel Mike Wolly served as Parliamentarian, as he has done in many of our previous conventions. Mike plans to retire at the end of May, 2020. His distinguished service to the Organization has been invaluable and we wish him well in retirement. The organization bestowed on Mike at the 30th General Assembly in 2007 a Lifetime Honorary Membership in the ATDA.

Also retiring at the end of this year is Vice President Paul Ayers who has been a steady and dedicated officer whose relationship with the General Chairmen in offering assistance wherever needed has been unwavering. Soo Line General Chairman Gordon Smith has worked over fifty (50) years in the industry and forty-three (43) years as a train dispatcher. His loyalty and dedication to the Organization is beyond compare. We hope to have detailed biographies on these outstanding officers in our next newsletter.

The National Officer elections resulted in two (2) new Vice Presidents, Brandon Denucci and Kevin Porter, with the three (3) Trustee positions filled by Brothers Barry Cross, Reggie Vincent and Kevin Ketcham.

In closing, I would like to congratulate the newly elected system committee officers who will assume their new positions on January 1, 2020. You will find in this newsletter their names, positions and system committees.

Thank you.



**Leo McCann**  
*President*

American Train Dispatchers Association

# AMENDED PROVISIONS OF THE ATDA CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Approved by the Delegates to the 33rd General Assembly

## PREAMBLE

The purposes of this Association shall be to unite Rail Traffic Controllers and other employees in the transportation industry in one fraternal organization to the end that there may be coordination in the protection of their mutual interests; to promote their social, moral and intellectual standing and general welfare; to secure just compensation for their services and promote the establishment of just and reasonable working conditions, including recognition of seniority.

Recognizing that our rights and interests are interwoven with those of our Government, our fellow citizens, our employers and all members of all crafts, we do hereby acknowledge our responsibility to rigidly adhere to truth, justice, and morality and to practice charity in our dealings with our fellow men; to promote the efficient and economical operation of the railroads and other industries.

The aim of the Association shall be cooperation in the accomplishment of these principles, the cultivation of harmonious relations amongst its members and between its members and their employers and the fulfillment of every obligation it may assume.

The use of any gender-specific term in this Constitution and By-Laws is not intended to restrict the application of its terms to a particular gender, but is solely for the purpose of grammatical convenience and clarity.

## ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

### Sec. 1. Active and Active-Extra.

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- e. In cases where a member's compensation is substantially reduced due to illness, disability, furlough, discipline, other action by an employer, or military leave not compensated by the employer, dues may be waived, upon request by the General

Chairman and approved by the Secretary-Treasurer. This does not apply to seniority retention fees. Dues shall be automatically waived in the event of dismissal. Members whose dues are waived on account of suspensions or dismissal and whose discipline is subsequently reversed with back pay shall pay dues that were waived for the period covered by such back pay.

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### Sec. 4. Initiation Fee and Dues.

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- b. (1) The monthly National dues of all Active members of this Association ("full dues"), except as otherwise provided in this Section, shall be determined annually by multiplying the average truck rail traffic controller (train dispatcher) total daily rate of pay (eight hours straight time pay plus allowances) in effect on July 1 by .295 and rounding up to the next five cents, provided such dues shall not be less than what was in effect on the preceding June 30.
- (2) The monthly National dues for Active members holding positions rated less than \$300.00 per day as of July 1, 2019 shall be determined by multiplying their average total daily rate of pay (eight hours straight time pay plus allowances) in effect each July 1 for each craft by .295, and rounding up to the next five cents.

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- e. System Fund dues established pursuant to Section 15 of Article XI on each road shall be added to the National dues and the full amount remitted to the Secretary-Treasurer. The Secretary-Treasurer shall then send to the custodian of the System Fund on each road all System dues (including seniority retention fees equal to regular System dues), System assessments, and initiation



fees which have been received by him, including a breakdown upon request by the General Chairman or System Treasurer.

- f. Dues are payable monthly but dues of Active and Active-Extra members may be paid annually, semi-annually, or quarterly should a member so elect. For new Active members, dues shall be computed from the first day of the month in which he becomes eligible for membership pursuant to Sec.1 of this Article. New members applying for Active Membership shall make application for same within thirty (30) days of the date he becomes eligible for membership pursuant to Sec.1 of this article. The Secretary-Treasurer may allow for initial fees to be paid in installments in addition to regular monthly dues.

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**Sec. 8. Resignation from Membership.**

- a. A member may resign from membership by submitting a written resignation to the Secretary-Treasurer or through a System Officer. Resignations shall be effective upon receipt of notification in the manner prescribed herein. Resignation in anticipation of charges of misconduct or when such charges are pending shall not absolve a member from responsibility for conduct which occurred prior to the resignation becoming effective. Resignation from membership shall not release a member from any Union Shop Agreement obligations that may govern his employment.
- b. A member who resigns will have their dues deduction canceled upon notification in accordance with subsection 8 a. above provided the resigning member is not in arrears. If the resigning member is in arrears the dues deduction will continue until their dues obligation is met.

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**ARTICLE XI SYSTEM COMMITTEES**

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**Sec. 5. Election of General Chairman, Vice General Chairman, and System Treasurer.**

- a. The members of the Association on a transportation system shall elect a General Chairman from among the members on that system by plurality vote. They also may, by plurality vote, elect one or more Vice General Chairmen and a System Treasurer. If the transportation system is subdivided for the purpose of electing more than one Vice General Chairman and such Vice General Chairmen are to serve only on one such sub-division, their election shall be by a plurality vote of the members on the sub-division on which they are to serve.

*NOTE: Where System Committees have been merged under Section 2 of this Article only one General Chairman and one System Treasurer will be elected within that system.*

- b. Members may be elected to serve in the dual capacity of General or Vice General Chairman and Local Chairman, or Vice General or Local Chairman and System Treasurer.

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**Sec. 8. Special Elections to Fill Intermediate Vacancies on System Committees.**

- a. A General Chairman may resign by presenting his resignation to each member of the System Committee and to the Secretary-Treasurer. The Secretary-Treasurer shall conduct the election of a successor within twenty (20) days of receipt of said resignation.
- b. Vice General and Local Chairmen may resign by presenting their resignation to the General Chairman. Upon accepting this resignation, the General Chairman will notify the Secretary-Treasurer who will then conduct a special election to fill the vacated position within twenty (20) days of receipt of such notification.

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## Article XII Revenue and Funds

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### Sec. 2. Disposition of Funds.

- a. The funds of the Association in excess of Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000.00) shall be invested pursuant to the Investment Policy as adopted by the Executive Board, provided that at least 35% be invested in fixed income securities, including United States Government or Agency securities, and Bank Certificates not to exceed FDIC insurance guarantee limits, in the name of the American Train Dispatchers Association, as directed by the Executive Board.

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## Article XIII Publication of Train Dispatcher

### Sec. 1.

THE TRAIN DISPATCHER shall be the name of the official publication of the Association, which shall be published in hard copy or digital format under the direction and supervision of the Secretary-Treasurer in accord with a policy and publication schedule approved by the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall have the discretion to discontinue or suspend the publication of THE TRAIN DISPATCHER in the event the Association merges or affiliates with another labor organization which publishes a publication in which adequate and sufficient space will be made available for the publication of notices and information relevant to members of the Association.

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### Sec. 4.

- a. THE TRAIN DISPATCHER shall be provided to all members in good standing at no cost.
- b. Members in good standing upon retirement shall receive a complimentary copy of THE TRAIN DISPATCHER.

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## Article XV Charges and Trials of Members

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### Sec. 2. Pre-charge Procedures

Any member believing that another member may have engaged in misconduct described in Article XIV shall notify the President in writing within sixty (60) days of his becoming aware of the facts leading to that belief. The President or his designee shall conduct an investigation to determine whether the facts could warrant the filing of charges. If the President or his designee shall so find, the President or his designee shall attempt to resolve the issues surrounding the potential misconduct via mediation. Should the President determine that mediation could not successfully resolve the issues, he shall so notify the member who brought the situation to his attention.

### Sec. 3. Detail and Procedure.

- a. All charges must be filed within thirty (30) days of receipt of notification from the President that mediation could not successfully resolve or has failed to resolve the situation brought to his attention. Charges must
  - (1) be in writing;
  - (2) be signed by the party preferring the same;
  - (3) contain a statement of the facts out of which such charges originated;
  - (4) refer to the Article, section, and paragraph of this Constitution and By-Laws, the established policies, decisions, laws, rules or regulations which it is alleged have been, or are being violated;
  - (5) State the nature of the violation claimed.
- b. The officer or member preferring such charges shall send a copy of the same by Registered or Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, or other verified method of delivery to the accused and at the same time file such charges in duplicate with the President.

c. The President shall notify the accused and those preferring the charges in writing, by Registered or Certified Mail, or other verified method of delivery of the time and place of such trial. He shall then instruct an Executive Board Officer to select two impartial members in good standing to sit with such Executive Board Officer as a trial board to conduct a trial in the manner hereinafter prescribed. Such trial must start within sixty (60) days from the date of receipt of the charges filed with the President referred to in sub-section a. above.

d. DELETED

**Sec. 4. Conduct of Trial.**

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**Sec. 5. Decision of Trial Board.**

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**Sec. 6. Effect of Resignation from Membership.**

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**Article XVII Local Assemblies  
DELETED IN ITS ENTIRETY**

**Rules Regarding Conduct of Triennial  
Elections of System Committee Officers**

System Committee officers shall be elected in accordance with the requirements of Sections 5, 6, and 7 of Article XI, and such elections shall be conducted as prescribed in these Rules.

**1. Time and Method of Nominations.**

At least thirty days before the triennial elections of all General Chairmen, Vice General Chairmen, System Treasurers, and Local Chairmen during the months of October, November and December, the Secretary-Treasurer shall issue a call to all qualified members on their respective transportation systems for nomination of eligible candidates for the offices above specified. Such nominations may be submitted on the form prescribed and furnished by the Secretary-Treasurer by any

active or active-extra members in good standing within fifteen (15) days following the date of the Secretary-Treasurer's call for nominations. All such nominations must be accompanied by the written consent of the nominees that they accept the nomination and will serve if elected. Upon receipt of all nominations, the Secretary-Treasurer shall prepare suitable ballots listing in alphabetical order the names of all candidates properly nominated for distribution to the members.

**2. Time and Method of Election.**

As provided in Section 7 of Article XI, all elections of System Committee officers shall be conducted during the months of October, November, and December. All elections shall be conducted (a) by secret ballot referendum vote (previously defined and prescribed in A. Rules Regarding Elections of Delegates and Alternates hereof) of the active and active-extra members in good standing or (b) voting by secure electronic means, if permissible by law, that ensures the secrecy and security of the ballot.

**4. Conduct of Voting.**

a. During the three (3) months period provided in Rules 2 and 3 within which to complete nominations and elections, and in time to permit at least thirty (30) days for members to cast and return their ballots, the Secretary-Treasurer shall mail notice of the election, ballot forms and envelopes as hereafter prescribed to each member qualified to vote at his last known home address, along with such instructions as the Secretary-Treasurer considers necessary to insure the secrecy of the ballot and its execution and mailing within the prescribed period.



# Photos from the 33rd General Assembly



BLET President Dennis Pierce addresses the Delegates at the General Assembly





Delegate Charlie Saunier reads a greeting to the Delegates



Delegates Donnell Day and Kirstyn Gebhardt reading over the Constitution and By Laws





President Leo McCann addresses the Delegates



IAM President and Directing General Chairman, District Lodge 19, Mike Perry addresses the Delegates



Delegates voting



Delegates voting



Delegate Caitlin Elison reads a greeting to the Delegates





Delegates working







Railroad Retirement Board, Labor Member, John Bragg addresses the Delegates



Delegate Jeff Turner reads a greeting to the Delegates



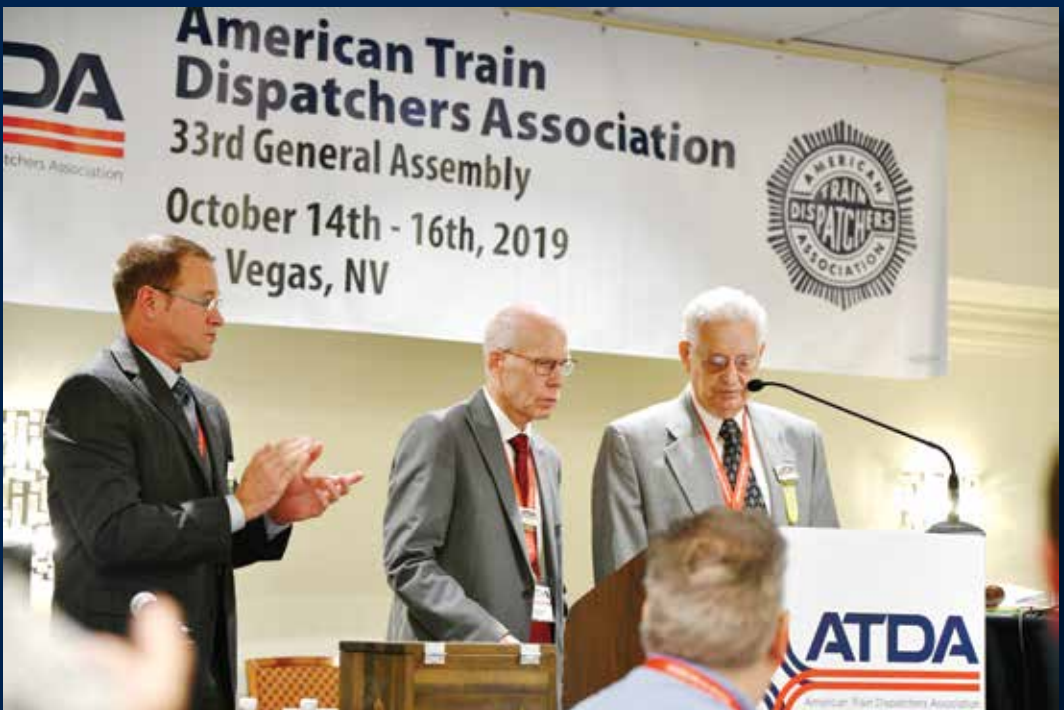
Resolution Committee, David Ursini, Tracy Bainum (Chairwoman), Tim Evans



Delegate Chris Whitt reviewing the Constitution and By Laws



Retired Vice President James Parker conducts the election for President



President Leo McCann is elected by acclamation





Delegate Theodore Daniels nominates Delegate Paul Young



Delegate Dusty McDade casts his ballot



Secretary-Treasurer Ed Dowell addresses the Delegates



Delegate Angie Wright cast her ballot



President Leo McCann swears the newly elected Officers





Parliamentarian Mike Wolly listening to a Delegate's motion



Assistant to the President, Amber Davis, assisting handing out documents to the Delegates



Vice President John Salvey replying to a Delegate's motion



Vice President Rory Broyles replying to a Delegate's motion

# RESOLUTIONS

*Submitted by the Resolutions  
and Legislative Committee*

## RESOLUTION NO. 1

**WHEREAS:** There have been organizing efforts by this Organization to unite transportation employees into the Brotherhood; and

**WHEREAS:** The purpose of those organizing efforts has been to promote and protect the mutual interests of transportation employees as a whole; and

**WHEREAS:** These organizing efforts have resulted in the Train Dispatchers of Tri-Rail uniting with the union membership of this Organization; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED:** This Thirty-Third General Assembly extends its welcome to our new Brothers and Sisters of this system, and we ask those in attendance to rise and join with us in giving these New Brothers and Sisters a welcome round of applause.

## RESOLUTION NO. 2

**WHEREAS:** The Thirty-Third General Assembly of the American Train Dispatchers Association recognizes the sacrifices and commitment made by the members of the United States Armed Services and their families; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED:** This Thirty-Third General Assembly wishes to again express its gratitude to the servicemen and women who proudly serve our Country and continue their vigilant mission to protect lives and freedom. We hope for the safe return of our deployed troops to their families. Now, please stand and observe a moment of silence for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

## RESOLUTION NO. 3

**WHEREAS:** The American Train Dispatchers Association recognizes the exemplary, selfless and outstanding service provided by past Secretary Treasurer Gary Melton, past Vice Presidents Dean Bennett, Ed Mullinax and James Parker; and

**WHEREAS:** This Organization is extremely fortunate and grateful to have had such leadership at the National Level.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** This Thirty-Third General Assembly recognizes the dedication, devotion and wisdom provided to our Organization through many years of service. We wish them good health and look forward to seeing them in the future.

## RESOLUTION NO. 4

**WHEREAS:** To any successful Organization it is required and necessary to maintain a staff of efficient and loyal employees to properly conduct the business of that Organization; and

**WHEREAS:** This Organization is extremely fortunate and proud to have such office staff at its National Headquarters; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED:** This Thirty-Third General Assembly hereby extends to the current office staff at National Headquarters Dan Lanigan, Paul Arden and Amber Davis its heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciation to these employees of this Association.

## RESOLUTION NO. 5

**WHEREAS:** Individual members of this Association are inclined to overlook the important work done by our Executive Board and our Trustees; and

**WHEREAS:** It would be remiss of the Committee if we did not bring to the attention of this Assembly and to the members of this Association the time and effort our elected officers spend on our behalf; and

**WHEREAS:** We wish to acknowledge the difficulties our elected Officers have faced in securing our National and Local working Agreements with the Carriers in spite of the continuing anti-labor atmosphere and the issues involving Health and Welfare; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED:** This Thirty-Third General Assembly extends to the Joint Board our heartfelt thanks and we ask each delegate to rise and join with us in giving these Officers a hearty round of applause.

## RESOLUTION NO. 6

**WHEREAS:** The current salaries paid to our National Officers do not adequately compensate them for the number of hours they work; and

**WHEREAS:** The current salaries paid to our National Officers remain far less than the average salary compared to similarly sized Labor Organization's Officers as reported in Department Of Labor annual reports (these reports indicate the average is \$187,000 per annum); therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED:** This Thirty-Third General Assembly adjusts the salaries of the National Officers as Follows: Effective with the adoption of this Resolution and on each July 1st thereafter, the President's salary is to be fixed at the average truck train dispatcher rate multiplied by one point eight (1.8), based on two hundred sixty-one (261) days per year. The salary of the Secretary-Treasurer shall be ninety-five percent (95%) of the President's salary and the salary of the Vice Presidents shall be ninety-four percent (94%) of the President's salary.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 7

**WHEREAS:** Previous General Assemblies adopted resolutions involving organizing efforts; and

**WHEREAS:** Retaining current members and growing the American Train Dispatcher Association for the future is imperative to the vitality and longevity of the Organization; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED:** This Thirty-Third General Assembly urges the Executive Board to continue to pursue efforts to organize the unorganized in rail and related industries and extends a heartfelt thanks to all those who have participated in past organizing efforts.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 8

**WHEREAS:** Organized Labor has historically been at the forefront in the fight for workplace justice and equality for all workers; and

**WHEREAS:** The ATDA has previously adopted a policy against discrimination and harassment; and

**WHEREAS:** It has become necessary to update the language of such policy; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED:** That it shall be the policy of the Organization not to discriminate against any of its members or employees because of age, race, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, and national origin; and further

**BE IT RESOLVED:** As the Organization strives to promote the establishment of just and reasonable working conditions for all workers, that it also remains committed to providing such working conditions to its employees, including a workplace free from intimidation, hostility or discrimination, and employment that provides a living wage and adequate healthcare benefits for all workers.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 9

**WHEREAS:** This Thirty-Third General Assembly of the American Train Dispatcher Association continues to support the principles of a drug free workplace; and

**WHEREAS:** We support programs which seek to help those with substance abuse issues through treatment, provide a confidential mark-off procedure and encourage Union members to participate in these non-punitive programs with the goal of recovery; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED:** This Thirty-Third General Assembly directs the Executive Board and the System Committees to encourage Carriers to offer support programs which allow members to seek the help they need while maintaining their Railroad employment.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 10

**WHEREAS:** The Organization continually strives to educate, inform, and assist the System Committees with their claims and discipline handling; and

**WHEREAS:** The ATDA has developed a comprehensive database to catalog, organize, and assess past claims, grievances, and arbitral decisions; and

**WHEREAS:** It is in the best interests of the members that all claims and discipline cases have sufficient merit, are properly structured, and are broadly supported before being progressed; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED:** This Thirty-Third General Assembly directs the Executive Board to provide the necessary training in order for the System Committees to fully utilize the claims and grievance software system. We further direct the System Committees to utilize the software system as directed by the Executive Board.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 11

**WHEREAS:** The utilization of computer software and other advancements in technology has begun to reshape the rail industry; and

**WHEREAS:** The ATDA recognizes that these enhancements may assist in the work our members perform; and

**WHEREAS:** Such innovations may also present increased opportunities for the scope of work performed by our membership; and

**WHEREAS:** It is also imperative that we remain guarded in the use of any such technology to ensure that they are proven, safe and dependable, and that it does not diminish the importance of the duties our members perform; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED:** This Thirty-Third General Assembly directs the Executive Board to explore new opportunities for the membership to broaden the scope of the work performed as a result of advancements in technology, and to remain vigilant that such advancements are reliable, but never viewed as a failsafe alternative to work done by our highly skilled members.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 12

**WHEREAS:** This Thirty-Third General Assembly of the American Train Dispatchers Association agrees with the principle of improving rail safety and developing best practices for achieving that goal; and

**WHEREAS:** We support Confidential Close Call Reporting and similar programs which provide a procedure for employees to self-report certain errors without fear of discipline in order to compile data for review and study with the goal of improving safety throughout the industry; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED:** This Thirty-Third General Assembly hereby affirms its commitment to and embraces the concept of these programs and directs the Executive Board to explore ways to prevail upon Carriers which have no such program to collaboratively implement one and to protect the integrity of the program for those Carriers that do.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 13

**WHEREAS:** Many jobs in the Rail Industry require unique qualifications and skills; and

**WHEREAS:** Certification is mandated for other crafts within the industry; and

**WHEREAS:** ATDA believes that the qualifications and skills of a Train Dispatcher should be formally recognized by the industry and regulatory authorities; and

**WHEREAS:** ATDA also believes that certification for Train Dispatchers would serve to codify this recognition and be beneficial to the individuals holding such certification; therefore

**WHEREAS:** The Federal Railroad Administration, through its Rail Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC), has formally accepted the task of Train Dispatcher Certification; and

**WHEREAS:** A working group that will include a contingent from ATDA will soon begin meeting to undertake that task and develop regulatory standards for officially certifying Train Dispatchers; therefore



**BE IT RESOLVED:** This Thirty-Third General Assembly directs the Executive Board to support the work of those Officers who will participate in this working group to establish those standards for that certification of Train Dispatchers.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 14

**WHEREAS:** All of rail labor is deeply concerned with the health and safety of both railroad employees and the general public; and

**WHEREAS:** The ATDA strongly opposes any retreat regarding safety and best practices in the movement of trains, particularly those trains which may be transporting passengers or hazardous materials; and

**WHEREAS:** Carriers have become increasingly emboldened by technology which is both unproven and faulty; and

**WHEREAS:** Tragic events have already occurred involving one-member train crews and autonomous operations; and

**WHEREAS:** Safe train movement can only reliably be achieved under the direct control and supervision of qualified T&E crews aboard those trains; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED:** This Thirty-Third General Assembly directs the Executive Board to support all regulation and legislation which mandates a crew consisting of at least one certified engineer and one certified conductor be required for the movement of all trains.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 15

**WHEREAS:** The rail industry has become increasingly focused on satisfying only the interests of shareholders by maximizing short-term financial gains and lower operating ratios; and

**WHEREAS:** Carriers have sacrificed the livelihoods of railroad workers and deferred critical maintenance in order to artificially inflate profits; and

**WHEREAS:** Direction from Hedge Fund Managers and other Wall Street special

interests has resulted in disruption to operations, threatening interstate commerce; and

**WHEREAS:** The principles of Precision Scheduled Railroading (PSR) jeopardizes the safety, efficiency, and overall health of the Nation's rail network; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED:** This Thirty-Third General Assembly directs the Executive Board to support all legislation and regulations which ensures the long-term overall health of the rail industry and opposes the needless rationalization of resources vital to the rail industry's operability, sustainability, and future prosperity shared amongst Rail Labor.

.....

## RESOLUTION NO. 16

**WHEREAS:** Rail passenger service is an essential part of the nation's transportation system; and

**WHEREAS:** AMTRAK is the largest provider of interstate rail passenger service; and

**WHEREAS:** Many other commuter rail lines form an integral part of this nation's transportation infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS:** The employees of these Roads being essential to the overall well-being of the Railroad Retirement System; and

**WHEREAS:** These employees continue to find themselves under consistent attack from those who would eliminate funding for passenger rail, attempt to contract out existing and/or new work, and otherwise limit or eliminate rights which Labor has fought for and achieved through years of effort and hard work; and

**WHEREAS:** These employees, including our members, have made numerous sacrifices to keep these passenger rail services operating safely and efficiently; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED:** That this Thirty-Third General Assembly directs the Organization to continue to do everything in its power to ensure that AMTRAK and these commuter rail lines continue to receive adequate funding, remain within the Railroad Retirement System, and continue to serve this nation as a safe, efficient and viable link in our transportation system.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 17

**WHEREAS:** The Thirty-Third General Assembly of the American Train Dispatchers Association recognizes that Collective Bargaining is a fundamental right under the Constitution; and

**WHEREAS:** This Assembly takes notice of the distinct anti-union stance of certain political candidates vying for National Office; and

**WHEREAS:** This Organization can not and will not abide by passage of laws inhibiting or denying workers' rights to organize; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED:** This Thirty-Third General Assembly, in an effort to ensure the election of a President and members of Congress who will uphold the rights of American workers to organize for representation and bargain collectively, we implore the System Officers and Delegates gathered at this Assembly to return to their respective offices and encourage the General Membership to financially support The American Train Dispatchers Political League through payroll deduction and vote for a candidate who supports Organized Labor.

---

## RESOLUTION NO. 18

**WHEREAS:** The Seventh and Twenty-Third General Assemblies passed Resolutions regarding the protection of Seniority Rights of Train Dispatchers thereby establishing the Association's official policy with respect to this subject; and

**WHEREAS:** Reductions in force, consolidation of railroad offices and divisions and other adjustments of Train Dispatching staff bring this matter into sharp focus, the need of a fixed principle to address such readjustments remains; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED:** This Thirty-Third General Assembly reaffirms this matter and directs that it shall continue to be the policy of the Association and the duty of its representatives to maintain the seniority rights of Members whenever possible; and further

**BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Association continue to encourage the Surface Transportation Board in all permits authorizing consolidations to protect seniority rights acquired prior to consolidation on those properties as previously established and in line with this policy.

---

## RESOLUTION NO. 19

**WHEREAS:** Political and regulatory activity in Washington D.C. profoundly affects the Membership of this Organization and others; and

**WHEREAS:** Every effort must be made to ensure that legislation and regulation enacted by the Federal Government not be detrimental to this Organization and our Labor affiliates; and

**WHEREAS:** The work of the AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department is essential to the well-being of Labor in general and the ATDA in particular; and

**WHEREAS:** TTD, particularly through its Rail Labor Division, has been extremely effective in protecting and advancing issues important to rail Labor and assisting the various Organizations in their political missions; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED:** This Thirty-Third General Assembly strongly supports ATDA's continued affiliation with TTD and we hereby acknowledge and express our gratitude for the efforts of the entire TTD staff and the outstanding work they do on our behalf.

---

## RESOLUTION NO. 20

**WHEREAS:** Railroad Retirement is a vital benefit for the majority of our Members; and

**WHEREAS:** The Railroad Retirement Board urgently needs to update its technology and hire and maintain adequate staff to properly service those Members and their families who rely on these benefits; and

**WHEREAS:** Current funding provided by the Federal government is insufficient for Railroad Retirement to accomplish its mission; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED:** This Thirty-Third General Assembly directs the Executive Board to maintain its efforts to persuade our elected representatives in Washington to recognize these shortfalls and increase its current support for Railroad Retirement.

.....

## RESOLUTION NO. 21

**WHEREAS:** The Twenty-Ninth General Assembly established The American Train Dispatchers Association scholarship fund in an effort to assist the children of its Members in furthering their educations; and

**WHEREAS:** The rising costs of higher education continues to exceed the economic reach of most average American families; and

**WHEREAS:** The Association wishes to continue to provide that assistance while recognizing those increased costs; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED:** This Thirty-Third General Assembly recommends the total amount of funds available to participating students pursuing undergraduate or trade school degrees be increased to Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) annually, to be divided equally among those who qualify with a maximum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) per individual.

.....

## RESOLUTION NO. 22

**WHEREAS:** And now, The American Train Dispatchers Association would like to recognize the career of one of our own who will retire at the conclusion of this Assembly; and

**WHEREAS:** This Organization is extremely fortunate and grateful to have benefited from his experience and leadership for more than 20 years; and

**WHEREAS:** We consider ourselves lucky to call him a friend as well as a brother; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED:** This Thirty-Third General Assembly would like to acknowledge the dedication, devotion and wisdom provided to our Organization by Vice President Paul Ayers. Please join us by standing and offering a round of applause in recognition of his service.

.....

## RESOLUTION NO. 23

**WHEREAS:** And lastly, The American Train Dispatchers Association would like to recognize the careers of two of our own who have retired since the 32nd General Assembly; and

**WHEREAS:** The Research Department of the ATDA, being so vital to the security and well-being of our members, the unsung heroes of this department work tirelessly to represent this Organization in arbitration matters; and

**WHEREAS:** This Organization is extremely fortunate and grateful to have benefited from their experience and hard work during their many years of service; and

**WHEREAS:** We consider ourselves lucky to call them our friends and brothers; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED:** This Thirty-Third General Assembly would like to acknowledge the dedication, devotion and wisdom provided to our Organization by former Director of Research Bob Sermak and former Assistant Director of Research Kenneth Bennett. Please join us in wishing them a long and happy retirement.

# 2020 Triennial Election Results For Each System Committee

## **Alaska System Committee**

General Chairman, Steven E. Tennison  
System Treasurer, Caitlin Elison

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## **Amtrak System Committee**

General Chairman, Barry Cross  
System Treasurer, Roger Dail  
Vice General Chairman, Anthony Sarno  
Local Chairman, Boston Power Directors,  
Mike Nordin  
Local Chairman, Boston Train Dispatchers,  
James Ogram  
Local Chairman, New York Power Directors, Vacant  
Local Chairman, New York Train Dispatchers,  
Matthew O'Conner  
Local Chairman, Philadelphia Load Dispatchers,  
Vacant  
Local Chairman, Wilmington Power Directors,  
Frederick Serino IV  
Local Chairman, Wilmington Train Dispatchers,  
Jessica Veltri

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## **Belt System Committee**

General Chairman, Anthony Marchi

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## **BNSF System Committee**

General Chairman, David Ursini  
System Treasurer / Vice General Chairman,  
Kevin Ketcham  
Vice General Chairman, Fort Worth, Dave McCall  
Vice General Chairman, Fort Worth, Jessica Stone  
Vice General Chairman, Fort Worth, Angela Wright  
Vice General Chairman, Fort Worth, Nathan  
Thornburg  
Vice General Chairman, Fort Worth, Hector Bas  
Vice General Chairman, Fort Worth, Corey Keller  
Vice General Chairman, Fort Worth, Joe Calderon  
Vice General Chairman, Fort Worth, Chris Whitt  
Vice General Chairman, Fort Worth,  
James D. McDade  
Vice General Chairman, Fort Worth, Joseph  
Roscoe Chandler II

Vice General Chairman, New Westminster,  
Adam (Troy) Elkin

Vice General Chairman, San Bernardino,  
William R. Prescott

Vice General Chairman, Spring, Chad Wood

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## **Conrail System Committee**

General Chairman, Justin Kania  
System Treasurer, Vincent Vaccarella  
Vice General Chairman, Pending

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## **CSXT System Committee**

General Chairman, Colin Thurman  
System Treasurer / Vice General Chairman,  
Jeff Marshall  
Vice General Chairman / Local Chairman,  
Albany, Randy Tate  
Vice General Chairman / Local Chairman,  
Atlanta, Bill Sikes  
Vice General Chairman / Local Chairman,  
Baltimore, Edward Kerns  
Vice General Chairman / Local Chairman,  
Chicago, Gregory Davis  
Vice General Chairman / Local Chairman,  
Florence, Paul Young  
Vice General Chairman / Local Chairman,  
Indianapolis, Brent Barnes  
Vice General Chairman / Local Chairman,  
Jacksonville, Andy Larson  
Vice General Chairman / Local Chairman,  
Louisville, Todd Van Camp  
Vice General Chairman / Local Chairman,  
Nashville, Matt Stewart

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## **IHB System Committee**

General Chairman, Joseph Bissonnette  
System Treasurer / Local Chairman, Robert Bergamo

---

## **KCS System Committee**

General Chairman, Joseph Sparks  
System Treasurer, Eric Ainsworth  
Vice General Chairman, August Miles

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**Kiamichi System Committee**

General Chairman, Andy Brewer  
System Treasurer, C. Chase Collins  
Vice General Chairman, James Cole  
Local Chairman, MOW, Steven Smith  
Local Chairman, TYE, James Cole

**Louisville & Indiana System Committee**

General Chairman, Sol Williams  
System Treasurer, Edward Russell Mobley

**MBCR System Committee**

General Chairman, Joseph Parker  
System Treasurer, Edward Kadlick  
Vice General Chairman, Edward Kadlick  
Local Chairman, Keolis North, Jennifer Brady  
Local Chairman, Keolis South, Ben Sisco  
Local Chairman, PanAm, Vacant

**Metra System Committee**

General Chairman, Beni Calderon  
System Treasurer / Vice General Chairman,  
Nancy Lo Presti

**MRL System Committee**

General Chairman, Kendra Farnes  
System Treasurer, Colby Scott  
Local Chairman Train Dispatchers, Tony La  
Local Chairman Yardmasters, Laurel, Donald Pearson  
Local Chairman Yardmaster, Missoula, Mary Knapp

**NICTD System Committee**

General Chairman, Ryan Chavez

**New Jersey Power Supervisors System Committee**

General Chairman, Charles Saunier  
System Treasurer, Charles Jenner

**New Jersey Train Dispatchers System Committee**

General Chairman, Jared Eagle  
System Treasurer, Eric Burczynski  
Local Chairman, Ronald Bosler

**Norfolk Southern Integrated System Committee**

General Chairman, Reggie Vincent  
System Treasurer / Vice General Chairman, R. P. Bishop  
Vice General Chairman / Local Chairman, Pending  
Vice General Chairman / Local Chairman, Pending  
Vice General Chairman / Local Chairman, Pending  
Vice General Chairman / Local Chairman, Pending  
Vice General Chairman / Local Chairman, Pending

**PATH System Committee**

General Chairman, Ronnie Anderson  
System Treasurer, Dain Yurechko  
Vice General Chairman, Tasheen Teague

**SIRT System Committee**

General Chairman, Michael Cummings

**SOO System Committee**

General Chairman, Robert Mead  
System Treasurer / Vice General Chairman,  
Jesse Kottner  
Local Chairman, Nathan Atkins

**Sunrail System Committee**

General Chairman, Tracy Bainum  
System Treasurer, Vacant  
Local Chairman, Tracy Bainum

**Terminal System Committee**

General Chairman, Christopher Calhoun  
System Treasurer, Dennis Sechrest  
Local Chairman, Vacant

**Tri-Rail System Committee**

General Chairman, Erica Ray  
System Treasurer / Vice General Chairman,  
Dean Robinson

**WC System Committee**

General Chairman, Tim Evans  
System Treasurer, Alexander Sanchez  
Vice General Chairman / Local Chairman,  
Anthony Caturano  
Vice General Chairman / Local Chairman,  
Rey Gonzalez



## The American Train Dispatchers Association would like to thank the following sponsors

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BLET President Dennis Pierce addresses the General Assembly



BRS President Jerry Boles recognized at the General Assembly



LECMPA Representative Ron Enos addresses the General Assembly

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National President

## FRATERNAL GREETINGS

TO THE 33<sup>RD</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AMERICAN TRAIN DISPATCHERS ASSOCIATION

Brothers and Sisters,

On behalf of more than 57,500 members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, it gives me great pleasure to convey these fraternal greetings as the 33<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the American Train Dispatchers Association convenes. For over a century your great Union has led the struggle to preserve and improve the wages, working conditions and benefits for the men and women you represent.

Your leadership also has worked with the rest of Rail Labor to fight for all railroad workers, and the BLET and our members have benefited greatly from the solidarity your leadership has consistently shown over the generations. I am especially proud to call President McCann and Secretary-Treasurer Dowell my Brothers and my friends. Their support has made the BLET a stronger Union.

All working Americans — private sector and public sector, unionized and non-unionized, young and old — are facing a relentless and withering attack on their hard-earned wages, benefits and working conditions, as are labor unions like the ATDA and the BLET. The very foundation of the American middle class is threatened by these attacks, and the American Dream is at grave risk.

In order to restore our great Nation, it is imperative for labor leaders such as you to defend what our forebears sacrificed to gain for us: at union meetings, at demonstrations, on picket lines, and in polling booths. I urge you to leave your Convention reenergized and recommitted to the struggle for working Americans, and we stand ready to continue the fight shoulder to shoulder with you.

In solidarity,  
Dennis R. Pierce, National President  
Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen

— A Division of the Rail Conference—International Brotherhood of Teamsters —



# Best Wishes



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ASSOCIATION

— 33<sup>RD</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY —

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# Transportation Communications Union/IAM

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers



Robert A. Scardelletti  
National President



October 14, 2019

## A Message of Solidarity

from

TCU National President Robert A. Scardelletti

to the

American Train Dispatchers Association

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

On behalf of the officers and members of the Transportation Communications Union/IAM, AFL-CIO, I send greetings of solidarity and friendship as you undertake the work ahead of you here at your 33<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly.

This is an exciting and critical time for union workers everywhere, and especially for those of us whose members work for the railroads. From the anti-union Trump Administration, the labor movement continues to face attacks on our rights that must be answered with unity and determination in the workplace and in the political arena. The time is now to put in place the winning strategy for victory in November 2020, when we will begin to build for future progress instead of having to defend what has already been accomplished.

As you work together now to strengthen your own union, you work as well to strengthen us all. With sincere best wishes, we at TCU hope you will have a productive and successful General Assembly!

In solidarity,

Robert A. Scardelletti  
National President

♦ 3 Research Place ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850-3279 ♦ E-mail-scardellettir@tcunion.org ♦  
Phone-301-840-8701 ♦ FAX-301-948-1369 ♦ Website-www.tcunion.org



**CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO ATDA  
ON ITS 33<sup>rd</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**From**

**Michael Wolly, ATDA General Counsel**

**And**

**ZWERDLING, PAUL, KAHN & WOLLY, P.C.**

**Robert Paul Ingrid Coney**

**J. WELDON GRANGER  
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**ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR  
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