RWU continues to fund its operations primarily from the dues of our members. Without membership dues, RWU would not exist. The dues income is augmented by financial contributions and sales of merchandise in our Store. Income is spent on stickers, copies, postage, etc. RWU continues to be run by railroad workers on their own time. We continue to work towards the day when the organization has the funds to pay a part-time staff person with the office skills necessary to handle the expanding workload required to keep the organization running. For further information, contact RWU Treasurer Chet Whyers at treasurer@railroadworkersunited.org or RWU General Secretary Ron Kaminok at secretary@railroadworkersunited.org.

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On Mother’s Day, 2009, a young conduc-
tor, Jared Boehlke, was killed on the job
in Selkirk, NY while working a single-
employee ROC job in the hump yard.
Like so many other railroad fatalities,
Jared’s death could so easily have been
avoided had the carrier maintained a
safe workplace. In response to this tragic
accident, Railroad Workers United called
for a national day of remembrance a few
weeks later, on Father’s Day Friday.
Urging all railroaders to wear black shirts
to work that day, we proclaimed the day
“Railroad Workers Memorial Day”, and
have pledged the organization to
observe this day every year in honor and
remembrance of those railroad workers
who have died on the job.
For the 5th year now, RWU members
wore RWU T-shirts to work on the third
Friday in June. We asked that all rail-
roaders wear a black shirt and join with
us in standing in solidarity with our fallen
comrades. Help us to make a statement
to the carriers that we will not go along
with business-as-usual corporate spon-
sored safety programs that only look at
our behaviors and fail to take an interest
in alleviating the hazards that lead to
accident, injury and death on the job.
See the RWU website page "Remember
Fallen Rails" for posters, flyers and more.

The Upcoming 4th Biennial Convention

RWU will expand our Convention for
2014 to be a two-day affair. The date is
set for April 3-4 in Chicago, Illinois. As
the organization grows and matures,
there is the need for more time to han-
dle the business of the Convention
while allowing time for needed discus-
sion of strategy and tactics to build
RWU over the next two years. Thursday
will focus on workshops, discussions,
strategy sessions and the like, while
Friday will be devoted more to organi-
zational business – resolutions, bylaws
amendments, elections, etc. Guest
speakers will be on hand both days.

The fractured nature of rail labor has led
RWU to initiate a program to honor each
and every railroad worker killed on the
job, regardless of what craft and what
union the worker was a member of.
When a brother or sister is killed in the
line of duty, it should be the concern of
all of us, whatever craft we happen to
work on or union we happen to pay dues to.
RWU has committed to do the following:
Send cards and flowers to the family of all
victims; Publicize each and every railroad
fatality; Encourage our fellow railroaders
to sign the register at the funeral home as
an act of solidarity with the aggrieved
family; Keep a running tally of all rails
killed on the job and make this informa-
tion available on the web site usually
in the pages of the newsletter; Continue
our annual Railroad Workers Memorial
Day activities each year; Make future
donations to both the National Workers
Memorial and the National Railroad
Memorial as funding allows. We have
established a special memorial fund to
fund these activities See the web Page
Remember Fallen Rails, or contact RWU
Steering Committee Member Rob Huil at
robhui9265@hotmail.com.

Fallen Rails Program

On an individual level, a number of RWU
members have become deeply involved
in the greater labor movement: as dele-
gates to central labor bodies; activists
in their local Jobs with Justice and other
labor groups, etc. RWU continued to
adopt resolutions of solidarity with work-
ers engaged in struggle such as the
Mobile Rail Solutions Workers (IWW),
locomotive builders (UE Local 506 in Erie,
PA); and the Korean railroad workers.
RWU encourages all railroad workers to
ever forget that they are part of the
greater labor movement and to support
and participate in labor actions on
behalf of and any all sections of the
working class. In turn, a number of work-
ers who are not railroad workers but are
associated with the industry – locomo-
tive builders, crew van drivers, seamen,
longshore workers and others – have
joined RWU as “Associate Members.” If
you would like to assist with our solidari-
ity work, contact RWU Steering
Committee member Paul Jenvey at:
paul.jenvey@gmail.com.

RWU Resolutions for 2013

In 2013, RWU adopted a number of res-
olutions on various subjects. The major-
ty of these resolutions focused on the
rail industry: Support for a fired whistle-
blower from the PBOT Steering Committee
Steve Desavouir; support for the UP dispatchers efforts to organize a
union; Backing the struggle of W&LE
workers against single employee crews;
Support for the efforts of workers at
Mobile Rail Solutions to organize a
union. Other resolutions focused on
issues and struggles of concern to rail-
road workers: Support for locomotive
builders at GE in Erie, PA.; Defense of
medicare and social security; and resolu-
tions of support for Pacific Northwest
longshore workers and the workers in
Greece.

These resolutions are all available on
our website and have been mailed/emailed
to the appropriate individuals/organiza-
tions concerned. While we will not
achieve the change we need simply by
adopting resolutions, they set the tone
and outlook of our organization and let
the world (and potential members) know
where we are coming from on
issues of concern to railroaders and the
working class in general. To view the res-
olutions from 2013, see the website link
RWU Resolutions.

Getting the Word Out There!

The Highball Newsletter

The RWU newsletter continues to be
published each season in the standard 8
page 11X17 format. The newsletter con-
tinues to be mailed to all RWU members.
In addition, The Highball is distributed
by a network of rails (members and non-
members alike) throughout North
America. Some download and make
copies on their own nickel, while others
seek reimbursement from RWU.
We continue to mail bundles of the
newsletter to members and supporters
who place orders for bundles in incre-
ments of 25. We ask a  nominal fee to
help cover the costs of printing/mailing.
To assist with distribution or other
aspects of The Highball, please email
info@railroadworkersunited.org.

Our new Squarespace website is easier
and quicker to navigate and utilize. It is
more visually pleasing with the addition of
photographs and graphics. It is easier than
ever for folks to join and maintain their
membership in RWU or to purchase items
from our new Store. We also publish issues of The
Highball in an electronic format along with
all RWU Resolutions adopted by the
Steering Committee since 2008. Campaign materials are available for
download, and there is a wealth of infor-
mation, making it one of the most com-
prehensive and informative websites avail-
able to the working railroaders. Please take
the time to look it over and let us know
what you think. All feedback is appreci-
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On an effort to upgrade the look of offi-
cial RWU communiques, we have begun
to make use of a new service called
Mail Chimp. With it, RWU can now pro-
duce flashy on-line news updates,announcements and other commu-
niques that are more visually appealing,using graphics, photos and links.

In this day and age, most people are
overwhelmed by email. By dispatching
attractive emails that are pleasing to
the eye and easy to read, RWU stands a
better chance of having our emails read
by those who we want to reach — those
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RWU Newsletter web site

- RWU Facebook page
- Men’s Network
- Women’s Network
- JPG, GIF, PNG, PostScript, PDF, etc.
- Online photo sharing
- Other social media

RWU Facebook page

- The RWU Facebook page has grown to
700 members. This is a good place to get
railroad related union info. The page is
moderated by organizer JP Wright. Get
involved in the discussions. The Facebook
page is a great forum to ask questions or
to get connected to like-minded union
folk from all across the rail network.

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to augment The Highball Newsletter quarterly publi-
cation schedule.

- Members and non-members alike con-
tinue to sign up to receive “RWU News Alerts”. We continue to use the google
groups platform to post news of the
rail industry, rail labor, and the labor
movement in general to our members
and supporters across North America.

- Members and non-members alike can
engage in discussion and debate on
issues or simply opt to receive the
posts of others on the list. The interac-
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