Standing Committees

1 - Civil Rights, Equality, Diversity Committee: The role of this Committee is to promote civil rights, equality and diversity in RWU. Specifically, this Committee is charged with the following:

◼ Promoting equality and diversity on the railroad and in society as a whole.
◼ Building diversity among the ranks of the RWU membership.
◼ Building RWU campaigns such as the Campaign to Make MLK Day a National Holiday for All Railroad Workers.
◼ Acting as liaison to various organizations such as the NAACP, Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) and the Coalition of Black Tarde Unionists (CBTU).

Members: Ike Nahem (Chair); James Wallace, Michelle Burke, Eric Basir.

2 – Fallen Rails Committee: The role of this committee is to further the work of the RWU Fallen Rails Program. Specifically, the Fallen Rails Committee is charged with the following:

◼ Maintaining a listing of all railroad workers (carrier or contract employed) killed on the job.
◼ Publicizing all railroad worker fatalities as they occur through email ALERTS and soliciting support, sympathy, and solidarity from railroad workers.
◼ Maintaining the listing of all railroad workers killed on the job on the RWU website.
◼ Send sympathy cards, flowers, and/or other appropriate contributions as the family may wish.
◼ Raise funds for the Fallen Rails Program.
◼ Work with the National Workers Memorial (now in Washington, D.C.) and the National Railroad Memorial, Inc. (Durand, MI) and other organizations as applicable to remember our fallen brother and sister rails.
◼ Coordinate and promote the annual Railroad Workers Memorial Day.

Members: Michelle Burke; Ed Michael; Andie Bregman, Ron Kaminkow.

3 – Financial Committee: The role of this Committee is to keep the financial records and to maintain the financial solvency of RWU. Specifically, the Financial Committee is charged with:

◼ Keeping a modern set of books with all financial transactions
◼ Performing periodic audits of the books as required by the RWU Bylaws
◼ Working to build income through memberships, Lifetime Memberships, Sustainers, and fundraising efforts

Members: Hugh Sawyer (Treasurer), Ed Michael (Trustee); Chet Whyers (Trustee); Jon Flanders (trustee); Ron Kaminkow (GS).
4 – **Injured Workers Mediation Committee**: The role of this committee is to develop new mediators to work with ORLA to the ends of supporting injured railroaders and potentially providing an income source for RWU. Specifically, the Committee is charged with:

- Developing skills as mediators in order to take on cases of injured workers interested in mediation services.
- Investigating ways that the mediation service can a – provide income for various RWU members who are interested in becoming mediators; b – provide RWU with a future revenue stream to fund organizing activities;
- Expand the current geographical limitations to a greater portion of the country

*Members: Dwight Hardin, Ahern Owen, Mark Burrows, Ed Michael*

5 – **International Rail Labor Solidarity Committee**: The role of this committee is to build solidarity with other railroad workers in foreign countries. Specifically, the International Solidarity Committee is charged with:

- Keeping up with RWU contacts in the UK, France, Italy, Japan, South Korea, China and elsewhere.
- Identifying potential contacts and allies in other countries where we currently have none.
- Proposing and carrying out campaigns of support for rail workers in struggle internationally.

*Members: James Wallace (Chair), Gifford Hartman, Fritz Edler, Mike Boone, Joe Mulligan, Ike Nahem.*

6 – **Labor & Community Alliance Committee**: The role of the Committee is to build the emerging alliance between railroad workers and environment/community activists. The committee is charged with the following:

- Researching and developing future conferences like the ones sponsored in Richmond, CA and Olympia, WA.
- Following up with contacts and building the labor-community network across North America.
- Linking up citizens groups and activists with railroad workers actions including, but not limited to: whistle-blower cases, FELA cases, contract campaigns, rallies, protests, demonstrations.
- Composing flyers, leaflets, press releases, articles for the RWU newsletter, and other print materials.
- Making recommendations to the Steering Committee for RWU actions.

*Members: Joe Mulligan, Steve Ongerth, Ron Kaminkow, Fritz Edler, Abby Brockway, Brian Lewis, Mark Burrows.*

7 – **Labor & Passenger Alliance Committee**: The role of this Committee is to build bridges between rail workers and their unions and passengers and their rail advocacy organizations. RWU is currently affiliated with RPA, RUN and informally to RailPAC. The Committee is charged with the following:

- Attending conferences, conventions and other events of the advocacy groups.
- Serving on Boards and Committees of these organizations.
- Advocating for pro-labor positions within these organizations.
- Providing a rank and file rail worker perspective to the work of these groups.
- Working to bring unions and advocates together to work on issues of common concern.

*Members: Joe Mulligan, Fritz Edler, Ron Kaminkow, JW Madison, Jeff Cashin.*

8 – **Legislation & Regulations Committee**: The role of this Committee is to promote legislation and regulation that is in the interest of railroad workers and their unions. Specifically, the Committee is charged with the following:

- Identifying proposed legislation/regulation that is deserving of support from RWU at the state and federal level
- Soliciting support for such legislation/regulation among RWU members, supports and the general public
- Providing verbal and written testimony and support for such legislation/regulation.

*Members: Jim Garrett, Jason Doering, Ross Grooters, Jeff Kurtz.*
9 – Newsletter Committee: The role of this committee is to produce and distribute the RWU newsletter The Highball. Specifically, the Newsletter Committee is charged with the following:

- Soliciting articles and commentaries from RWU members, and draft others, for the text of each issue.
- Maintaining a photo and graphics library.
- Composing the newsletter using a format that can be read on-line.
- Proof-reading and editing the final copy.
- Submitting copy and instruction to the print shop.
- Maintaining the various mailing lists (current members list; regular gratis list; and bundle distributors list).

Members: Ron Kaminkow (Chair); Mark Burrows; Andy Weir, Scott Taylor.

10 – Organizing Committee: The role of this committee is to build Railroad Workers United. Specifically, the Organizing Committee is charged with the following:

- To build and maintain membership – individuals and local unions - in RWU.
- To plug-in new members (as well as old ones) to the activities and actions of the organization.
- To assist in creating and building Chapters of RWU.
- To train members in basic organizing and maintain a core group of activists who understand “how to organize”.
- To draft a comprehensive “Organizing Plan” for RWU.

Members: Ron Kaminkow, Mark Burrows, Eric Basir, Mark Moylan.

11 – Public Relations & Media Outreach Committee: The role of this committee is to be the official RWU liaison with the public and the press. Specifically, the Public Relations Committee is charged with the following:

- Maintain a data base of press and media contacts across North America.
- Issue press releases as necessary regarding RWU actions, campaigns, issues, resolutions, etc.
- Act as official spokespersons for the organization.
- Respond to press and other public inquiries by email, phone, text, FAX, etc.

Members: Ed Michael, Fritz Edler, Mark Burrows, Jon Flanders, Joe Mulligan, Ron Kaminkow.

12 – Rail Union Unity Committee: The role of this committee is to promote the Campaign for Coordinated Bargaining and to otherwise build unity among the various rail unions. Specifically, the Rail Union Unity Committee is charged with the following:

- Promote the Rail Union Unity Petition by seeking endorsing union locals, lodges and divisions.
- Promote the idea of universal rail union unity and coordinated bargaining.
- Add information to the website and FB Page as needed.
- Promote Resolutions at the various Conventions of the rail unions that support such unity.

Members: Adam Haslag, Brian Elam, Tom Modica, Ron Kaminkow, Tim Miller.

13 – Safety Committee: The role of this committee is to assist with RWU’s effort to build union-based safety on the railroad. Specifically, the Safety Committee is charged with the following:

- Publicize the RWU campaign for real railroad worker safety.
- Work to debunk and discredit the carriers’ “Behavior Based Safety” Programs.
- Coordinate with our allies in the worker safety education (trainers, professors, universities, unions, etc).
- Assist RWU members and others in their efforts to create and to build union-based safety committees.

Members: Jeff Kurtz, Alan Thompson, Ross Grooters, Janet Schultz, Eric Basir.
14 – Solidarity Committee: The role of this Committee is to support and to build solidarity with workers in struggle, including but not limited to transport workers in North America. Specifically, the Solidarity Committee is charged with the following:
- Glean news articles and otherwise keep abreast of workers struggles as they develop.
- Make posts to the list serve, website and social media.
- Issue statements of solidarity to workers who request it.
- Draft resolutions of solidarity to be submitted to the ISC for approval/amendment.
- Keep in touch with allied organizations such as UE, ILWU, TDU, WSAN and others.

Members: Jon Flanders; Michelle Burke, Mark Burrows.

15 – Social Media Committee: This Committee is charged with maintaining RWU on-line Communications.

Website Subcommittee: The role of the Website Sub-committee is to maintain the RWU website. Specifically, the Website Committee is charged with the following:
- Keeping all information on the website current and up-to-date
- Ensuring that the website is paid for and all domain names are kept current.
- Work with various committees so that all resolutions, articles, flyers, press releases, etc. are posted to the site.
- Post current news articles to the site regularly.
- Instruct other RWU members in the workings of the website.

Members: Ron Kaminkow (Chair); Ed Michael; Michelle Burke.

Facebook & Twitter Subcommittee: Specifically, the Facebook Sub-committee is charged with the following:
- Maintaining relevant and informative postings.
- Promoting RWU campaigns and efforts.
- Providing a positive public image for RWU.


List Serve Subcommittee: The role of the List Serve Sub-Committee is the following:
- Maintain both the Constant Contact Contacts Lists.
- Add and delete “members” of lists as necessary.
- Post relevant rail related information to the lists.
- Prepare “RWU Weekly News Summaries” and other “Special Bulletins” as necessary.

Members: Ron Kaminkow, Jon Flanders, Fritz Edler, Ed Michael, Michelle Burke.

16 – Store & Merchandise Committee: The role of this committee is to be caretaker of RWU materials for sale. Specifically, the Store & Merchandise Committee is charged with:
- Placing bulk orders for approved merchandise to have for sale to members and the general public.
- Maintaining an inventory of all Store items and keep them in stock.
- Promote sales to build organizational identity, pride and spirit; publicize and raise funds for RWU.
- Make items available in the on-line RWU Store and also at conferences, conventions, Chapter meetings, etc.

Members: Mark Burrows (Chair); Ron Kaminkow; Ed Michael
Ad Hoc & Special Committees

A – Convention Committee: The role of this committee is to organize and otherwise build for the Biennial Convention in the spring of even-numbered years. Specifically, the Convention Committee is charged with the following:

- Publicizing the Convention and encouraging RWU members to register and attend.
- Soliciting for proposed resolutions and bylaws amendments.
- Inviting and making provision for guest speakers and presenters.
- Working with Labor Notes on the logistics of tabling, hotel rooms, meetings rooms, meals, etc.
- Make provision for food and beverages and hotel rooms for Convention participants.
- Make provision for hospitality and reception rooms, recreation and entertainment.
- Create and work within a budget.


B – Precision Scheduled Railroading (PSR) Campaign Committee: The role of this committee is to promote the Campaign Against Precision Scheduled Railroading. Specifically, the role of this Committee is charged with the following:

- Promoting the RWU Campaign against PSR through articles, flyers, posters, cartons and other propaganda.
- Gathering data on safety, shipper discontent, employment, downsizing, etc. to make the case against PSR.
- Recruiting disaffected rails to join in the campaign.

Members: Mark Burrows (Chair), Ross Grooters, Andy Weir, Jeffrey Hollinsworth, Ron Kaminkow.

C – Train Crew Staffing Committee: The role of this committee is to further the work of the Campaign Against Single Employee Crews. Specifically, the Committee is charged with the following:

- Promote the Campaign and build support among railroad workers and our allies.
- Work with the Organizing Committee and the Public Relations Committee in order to build the Campaign.
- Work with the RWU Store & Merchandise Committee to ensure that flyers, posters, stickers, bumper stickers and other materials are readily available.
- Ensure that regular articles and commentaries are posted to the website, list serve, social media, newsletter, and elsewhere.

Members: Chuck Corsini, Jim Garrett, Jason Doering, Andie Bregman, Nathan Larsen, Phillip Stevenson, James Wallace, Ed Michael, Michael Belton.
Special Reps & Liaisons

- Brandon Bostian Defense Liaison: Tom Nelson
- International Longshore Workers (ILWU) Liaisons: Ron Kaminkow, Steve Ongerth, Brant Mullane, Jamison Roberts, Robert Hill.
- International Solidarity Liaison: James Wallace
- Just Transition Liaisons (to both LNS and TUED): Ron Kaminkow, Fritz Edler, Ross Grooters
- Labor Campaign for Single Payer Health Care Liaison: Chuck Corsini
- Latin America Liaison: Matt Skiba
- National Association of Retired & Veteran Railroad Employees (NARVRE) Liaison: Brian Lewis
- Rail Passengers Association Liaisons: Joe Mulligan, Ron Kaminkow, Fritz Edler
- Rail Users Network Liaisons: Ron Kaminkow, JW Madison
- RailPAC Liaisons: Ron Kaminkow, Gifford Hartman, Joe Berry, Dan Dumont
- Solutionary Rail Liaisons: Ross Grooters, Ron Kaminkow, Fritz Edler.
- Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU) Liaison: Hugh Sawyer, Ron Kaminkow
- United Electrical (UE) Liaison: Shelly Burke
- Worker Defense Special Rep: Fritz Edler
- Worker Solidarity Action Network (WSAN) Liaisons: Shelly Burke, Mark Burrows