

BLET AUXILIARY

BLET AUXILIARY WELCOMES NEW NATIONAL OFFICERS AND TWO NEW AUXILIARIES IN THE SUNSHINE STATE

By Anita J. Caruso, National President, BLET Auxiliary

The BLET Auxiliary held its First Quadrennial National Convention October 4-6, 2010, in Reno, Nevada with eight national officers and 22 delegates in attendance.

It is a daunting task to serve as a delegate to a National Convention and our members were well prepared, full of enthusiasm, and ready to work. This is the sign of a devoted group of officers and delegates. Many in attendance were there for the first time as representatives of their respective auxiliaries or region. Their insightful questions and courtesy shown during the proceedings were truly appreciated.

Elections for national officers are held at each National Convention. I am honored to have been elected to serve as National President and I congratulate all of our new officers who will represent the National Auxiliary for the next four years: National Vice President/National Legislative Representative Sereena Hogan; National Secretary Linda D. Maher, National Treasurer Helen Brand; National 1st Vice President/ National Outreach Coordinator Gina Forman, National 2nd Vice President/ Assistant National Legislative Representative Kathy Hurst, National Chaplain Darla Fent, National Alternate Secretary Lawana W. Poss, National Alternate Treasurer Terri Fleming, and National Past President Becky Schneider.

We are very proud to now have two auxiliaries in the state of California! Nor-Cal Auxiliary 39, in the Stockton, California area, was organized on February 13, 2010, by Past President Becky Schneider, with 14 charter members. Many thanks to Nor-Cal Auxiliary President Susie Burrola who worked hard to get this auxiliary started and continues to be the driving force behind this dynamic group of ladies. Susie attended the National Convention to serve as a proxy for the Pride of 316 Auxiliary 7, Atlanta, Georgia, as they were unable to send a delegate. Nor-Cal Auxiliary member Kathleen Bisbikis was also in attendance at the National Convention as their elected delegate. We were very glad to have both of these ladies participate in the proceed-

ings at a National Convention during their first year of membership in the Auxiliary. I hope it was a great learning experience for both of them.

Last month I had the privilege of appointing Nor-Cal Auxiliary's Legislative Representative Candace Blue to serve as the California State Legislative Representative for the BLET Auxiliary at the recommendation of our National Vice President/National Legislative Representative, Sereena Hogan. We are excited to have a new state legislative representative amongst our ranks and look forward to Candace working with Tim Smith, California State Legislative Board Chairman, on whatever issues may arise, both locally and nationally. Look for future articles in this publication from Candace.

On December 15, 2010, Sereena Hogan and I traveled to Bakersfield, California, to organize Central California Auxiliary 865, which was spearheaded by Tracey Eldridge. The organizing meeting was held at the Mexicali Restaurant where we administered the installation oath to 10 charter members. We are pleased to welcome these new members who were in attendance at the meeting: Tracey Eldridge, Karen Brewer, Debi Benson, Roya Eubanks, Tracy Baca, Debbie Hosken, Michele Bryant, Kris Renick, Claudia Grisedale, and Leah Baldwin. A couple more members who were unable to attend the organizational meeting will be given the oath at their next monthly auxiliary meeting, at which time the election for officers will be held.

Many thanks to Mr. Bob Ricou, Field Representative for Hildebrand, McLeod & Nelson, LLP, who attended the meeting on behalf of BLET-designated attorney Ed Pfister of that law firm and provided dinner for us as well as some educational materials for BLET spouses.

Things are really jumping in California and we are very happy to have these two auxiliaries working with us to help enrich the lives of our members and do what they can to educate railroad spouses and their families about issues of importance to them.

